



FAHS Awards Scholarships to Three Applicants

(See page 2)

Scholarship Committee in Transition

by Sandra Ahola

No doubt you have seen the application for the Annual FAHS Scholarship in the newsletter every year, and know that the program has continued since its inception November 2000. The primary purpose of the scholarship is to perpetuate Finnish-American heritage through support of relevant educational initiatives. These initiatives can be related, but not limited to music, the arts, health, education, the environment, architecture or engineering. Over 40 scholarships have been awarded to very deserving applicants, and in 2023 the FAHS Scholarship Committee was able to convene in person once again to select the new recipients.

The committee consists of four long-standing members (truly originals) led by Ann Gruenberg, Matti Huhta, Marcia Huhta, and Sean Tate. Earlier membership also included Aili Galasyn, and the late Karla Tate. All these members have worked tirelessly to establish and keep the scholarship going. I recently joined the committee and agreed to be its chairperson. At our meeting at the Finnish Hall, everyone arrived in great spirits to be able to once again convene, and Ann joined us on speaker phone. It was generally accepted that this committee is “in transition,” with members seeking to continue to be active, but knowing that we are all victims of the aging process, and are in need of adding younger members to our fold. If, after reading the inspiring stories of the recipients on the next pages, you are interested in nurturing the youth of FAHS by becoming a member of the Scholarship Committee, please send a message to us via: info@fahs-ct.org.

Short-term goals established by the committee include: sustaining the fund through better investments, securing additional yearly donations, and possibly adding a yearly fund-raising activity – all of which led to much discussion. The fund balance currently is \$20,000+ and invested in CDs now paying at a higher rate. Committee members are determined to develop a long-term plan to stabilize the Scholarship Fund and will present more information to the Board for adoption. Also in need of revision are the Policies and Procedures. Hopefully, all of this will be accomplished within the next few months. The first change to take effect will be to move the application deadline to April 30, with the goal of awarding the scholarship by June 30 each year.

Most importantly, the committee expresses its appreciation to all FAHS members who have continued to support the scholarships and thanks them for their generosity.

Join us at the Finnish Hall to Discover the Beauty and Wonder of Finland
Via a presentation with Anita Smiley Saturday, November 4 -2:30 p.m.
76 North Canterbury Road (Rte. 169), Canterbury, CT

FAHS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THREE AWARDS

by Sean A. Tate

The FAHS Scholarship Committee is proud to announce that it is honoring three students with its annual scholarship awards for 2023. The Scholarship Committee is now led by its new chairperson, Sandra Ahola. Committee members also include Ann Gruenberg, Matti and Marcia Huhta, and Sean Tate.

The primary purpose of the FAHS Scholarships is to support the mission of the organization and to perpetuate cultural heritage through educational initiatives. This is an endowed fund and those eligible for scholarships are FAHS members and their families with valid membership effective for at least one year. The Scholarship Committee does not discriminate based on age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, disability, beliefs or any other condition.

This year's awards, now with consolidated funding for one set of general scholarships, totaled \$2,400, and were awarded on the basis of need and the quality of carefully reviewed essays submitted by the applicants. All three applicants received monetary awards; funding amounts were at the discretion of the Committee. The three awardees are Aila Gutierrez, Justin Bacon and Erika Waters:



Aila Gutierrez of Brooklyn, CT, daughter of Julie and Arturo Gutierrez, and granddaughter of Jean and Stan Karro, graduated from Killingly High School and is now enrolled in Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Aila said she had long been aware of her Finnish heritage as she grew up learning about the culture from her family and spending time at the FAHS. During her junior year in high school, she developed a passion for engineering and became involved in a competitive robotics team. Throughout her junior and senior years, the team was awarded multiple championships at regional, national and international levels. *"I began to see the world with*

the mind of an engineer," she said, and began to see how Finland plays a part in engineering innovation. *"Finland is at the forefront of new technology, and as a young engineer with Finnish heritage, I hope to use my love for engineering to represent Finnish heritage and bring attention to the future progress of innovation in Finland."* Aila is using her award for books and tuition. Scholarship award: \$1,000.



Justin Bacon of Fort Myers, Florida, is the son of Cheryl Smiley, and grandson of Anita Smiley of Preston, CT. He is now a student at Auburn University in Alabama and is pursuing his passion for landscape design and longs *"to incorporate the simplistic yet powerful beauty of nature in all my design endeavors."* He is majoring in Turf Grass Management with a minor in Business at Auburn. Justin states that his motivation for this career path stems from a combination of personal experiences and a genuine passion for Finnish heritage. Growing up in a Finnish-American household and having visited Finland for a summer, led him to be inspired by *"the simplicity and elegance that characterize Finnish design, along with its sustainable practices and integration with nature."* *"Nature to the Finns is not a disposable tool or an imperfect thing that needs fixing. Instead, it is a key aspect of design, which is celebrated and often the focal point of the end product."* Justin is using his award for tuition, books, room and board, health insurance and electronics equipment. Scholarship award: \$700.

Erika Waters is now enrolled in West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. She is the daughter of Minna and Aaron Waters of Quaker Hill, CT, and the granddaughter of Nellie and Jerry Fyke of Pensacola, FL. Her hope is that with the assistance of the scholarship she can *"progress towards (her) goal of attending medical school and creating programs for women's health."* Erika feels that *"whether it's bettering (my own life) through financial success or bettering the lives of others through community service, I see life as a chance to keep moving forward. My intended career also serves as a chance to help people, and to change outdated practices for a safer environment for women."* Erika would like to spend a year abroad in Finland and says that her passion for Finnish culture extends beyond her career passion and is exemplified by her artistic hobbies. Both her creative and practical sides have found motivation through Finland. *"The transcendental disposition of Finland agrees with my own, and I have been able to find peace and passion in the natural scenes Finnish wildlife provides. I've painted lakes, birch trees, reindeer, and the northern lights, each a special nod to my background."* She is using the scholarship funds for textbooks, a computer and art supplies. Scholarship Award: \$700.



The Committee is grateful for the work of all the applicants in submitting the required essays and other application information. Each is very deserving and the Committee was pleased with the quality of the essays. These are exceptional students and the Committee wishes them well as they pursue their respective education and career paths.

3rd Annual FAHS Yard Sale a Rousing Success!

by Patti Folsom

We asked and you delivered—by the carful! Word went out in mid-July that gently used items were needed for the annual yard sale. For the next several weeks, FAHS members and their friends dropped off small furniture, appliances, yard tools, children's toys, books, holiday decorations, clothing, linens, jewelry, etc. The hall was bursting at the seams with banquet tables piled high with the donated items. Larger items were placed outside at the edge of the driveway in front of the hall.

On the first day of the yard sale, August 26, a dozen or more people were waiting outside the hall up to an hour before the opening time. When the doors opened, the group made their way in and found many treasures to purchase. A steady stream of buyers continued that day. The second day of the yard sale, September 2, brought a smaller crowd; however, this smaller crowd included an enthusiastic group of buyers who made the day a success. The third day of the yard sale, September 23, was advertised as a "bargain day" with the enticement to "make an offer" or perhaps find an item labeled as free.

Yard sale Co-Chairs, Eric "Rick" Arnio of Canterbury and Richard "Rich" Robertson of Old Lyme, worked diligently behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to the event dates. Assisted by FAHS members Patty Arnio, Arlene Baril, Katrina Bousquet, Patti Folsom, Stan Karro, Karen Lovequist, Anita Smiley, and Jodie Wagner, Rick and Rich spent countless hours organizing and pricing items in addition to working during the three days of the event.

The yard sale dates were well advertised on posted flyers, Facebook, WINY radio, and in the Turnpike Buyer. The diligence of the yard sale group paid off with a final profit of more than \$2500 for the three days. And, yet, this may not be the final tally. Rick and Rich have plans to sell some remaining items online through eBay or at an upcoming auction and during a town-wide yard sale in Canterbury.

Many thanks to Rick and Rich for their hard work to make this year's yard sale such a success. And a huge thank you to all those who contributed items for the sale. Your generous donations were the reason that FAHS was able to realize such a sizable profit.

It's not too early to start putting aside your items for next year's yard sale!



Jasper Knight and Mom, Katherine, find treasures. Photo from Stan Karro.



Jacob (Patti Folsom's grandson) eyes a bag of balls while his mother shops. Photo by Patti Folsom.



Lynne Williamson considers a dish while yard sale volunteer Karen Lovequist looks on. Photo by Patti Folsom.



Rich Robertson (L) and Rick Arnio meet to plan the yard sale. Photo from Rick Arnio.

The 1952 Helsinki Summer Olympics and a Shipwreck

by Frances Galasyn Miller

In the summer of 1952, my mother Aili Häkklä was just graduating from college and planning to begin teaching in the fall. It just so happened that the summer Olympics were being held in Helsinki that year. Also, her grandfather in Härmä was quite ill, so she wanted to meet him while she had the chance. Aili had \$100 to her name but would need twice that amount to pay for her passage, Olympic tickets, travel within Finland, and other expenses. Her older sister and brother-in-law, Irene and Emil Autio, were planning to travel via ship and kindly loaned Aili \$100 so that she could join the adventure.

The voyage to Helsinki was uneventful. Aili's parents, Jack and Ida Häkklä, sent her with two large trunks filled with items for relatives. These trunks were the very same ones that each of them had filled with all of their worldly possessions when they left Finland for the United States some 30 years earlier. They were filled with coffee (in high demand and quite valuable in the post-war years), clothing, and other goods sorely needed by relatives after the war. One was to go to my grandfather's family in southern Finland, and the other for my grandmother's family in Härmä in north central Finland.

Mom spent a few days attending Olympic events in Helsinki, walking right up to the gate and purchasing tickets for the events they wanted to attend that day! Most of the events they attended were running and track events as she recalls that was what interested Emil the most.

After a few days, she left Irene and Emil in Helsinki and began visiting relatives throughout Finland. When she had distributed all of the items, she had one pound of coffee left, which she was able to barter for a handmade linen tablecloth with her aunt's neighbor in Härmä. The trunks themselves stayed with the relatives she visited on each side, one with her paternal grandparents in Hämeenlinna and the other at her maternal grandparents' home in Härmä, where they may still be today.



MS Anna Salen, August 1952. See note.



Aili Häkklä in 1952 teacher's college graduation.

The return voyage on the MS Anna Salen was much more memorable. Mom had signed up for the ship's newspaper committee, first because she had an interest in writing, and also to meet other young people. After a stop in Bremerhaven, Germany, to take aboard German immigrants, the ship continued on her voyage headed for New York. However, in the middle of the night on August 13, 1952, during thick fog, the Anna Salen violently collided with a Norwegian Whale Factory Ship the MV "Thorshovdi," about 3 miles off the coast of Scotland.

Mom and her new friends, who had been up on deck playing bridge, were sent to bang on cabin doors and get everyone up on deck, as a fierce fire had broken out and there was fear that the ship would have to be evacuated. She remembers some people didn't want to get up while others were running about in their nightclothes and trying to get dressed as they were scampering up to the deck. Luckily, the fire was extinguished, and at daybreak the ship was escorted into the port of Lyness, a small settlement on the

(Continued next page)

east coast of the Orkney Island of Hoy, to undergo repairs by Metal Industries. Because other materials were unavailable on the island, the hull was repaired using concrete!

Mom remembers sleeping on the ship at night and being given a sack lunch and brought ashore every morning while repairs were being made. They spent the days playing softball in the fields that they shared with sheep, the most numerous inhabitants of the island. After a couple of weeks, repairs were completed and the ship set sail again. When the New York Port Authority in New York learned that the ship was planning to sail with a concrete hull, they denied her entry into the United States, so she had to instead sail to Halifax, Nova Scotia. There, U.S. bound passengers were loaded onto a train. When mom departed the train in Springfield, Massachusetts, she discovered that her father had been notified and was there to meet her, Irene, and Emil and bring them home to Canterbury. A one-week passage had turned into several weeks of adventure.

Happily, her roommates had been able to secure an apartment near her new teaching job in her absence, and off she went to begin the next phase of her life. On her first day of work, she discovered that the teachers had gotten a raise of \$100 for the year, which was just the amount she needed to repay her sister and brother-in-law! She also says that the shipwreck didn't affect her desire for adventure, as she went on to enjoy many cruises later on in life with my dad and other family members.



MS Anna Salen, August 1952. See note.

Note: The two photos of the Anna Salen were contributed by Mike Merkel, of Australia, who is the son of the helmsman on duty when the crash occurred. His late father, Horst Merkel took the photos. The article author, Fran Miller, was in personal contact with Mike and he gave his permission to use his father's photos in the newsletter. For more on the history of the Anna Salen, please visit: <http://ssmaritime.com/Anna-Salen-P2.html>

Join us and learn how to make the Koskenkorva Red Drop and the Sisu Sling Cocktail

Join us!



FINNISH COCKTAIL DELIGHTS

FRIDAY NOV 17, 2023 7PM

76 NORTH CANTERBURY ROAD - CANTERBURY, CT 06031 860-548-6617

LIVE COCKTAIL MIXING FINNISH DRINK MIXING FAHS MEMBER RECIPES

Join Steve & Katrina (from Steve's Cocktail show on Facebook) for Live Cocktail Mixing and talk about traditional Finnish cocktails. Learn what is new in Finnish Spirits from long standing brands to new innovative liquors.

50/50 Raffle

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sponsor Levels: | \$100 Sisu Friends | \$100 Kippis (Cheers) |
| | \$250 Rakkaus (Love) | \$500 Vaahtu - Friend of FAHS |

This is a FREE Fundraising Event open to the public to support defray winter heating and snowplowing costs. Coffee, Water, Apple Cider and Snacks will be served

Longdrink, Koskenkorva Vodka and Steve's Cocktails are sponsors

For more information or if you would like to donate/sponsor, please contact Steve Bousquet at 860-608-8366

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AMERICAN FINNISH ASSOCIATION

FAHS

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Traditional Finnish Crafts Practiced at the Finnish Hall

FAHS Weaving Apprenticeship Program

by Katrina Engblom Bousquet



From left, Peggy Church, Liisa Silander and Lisa Joseph. Photo by Katrina Bousquet.

The 2023-2024 FAHS weaving program is full and scheduled to start in October. Participating this year in the SNEAP (Southern New England Apprenticeship Program) are Liisa Silander, Lisa Joseph and Katrina Bousquet, with Peggy Church once again advising the participants. We will be learning two more forms of Finnish weaving, Bound Weave and Ryijy. We are looking forward to learning more about weaving in this session. Kiitos to Phillitha Stemplys-Cowdrey, the SNEAP Program manager at the CT Heritage Arts Program. She is also an artist and lifelong student of Lithuanian Folk Art., concentrating on straw art.

FAHS Wood Carvers

The FAHS Wood Carving Group meets downstairs in the Finnish Hall every Wednesday from 1 – 4 p.m. Whether you have experience or not, the wood carvers will welcome you into their group. If you would like more information, call John Harris at 860 774-8365.



From Left, Ronald Noel, John Harris and Mary Brown. Photo from Patti Folsom.

Editor Comments

by Kay Gruder



Jonathan Audette at the Virginia, MN Area Historical Society. Photo by Kay Gruder.

In July, my husband (Jonathan Audette) and I traveled to my extended family in Bemidji, Minnesota. While preparing for our return road trip to Connecticut we realized we could make a detour of about 200 miles (which is nothing when you are already driving close to 1600 miles) to visit Virginia, Minnesota, where his grandmother grew up. Virginia, MN, is on the Mesabi Iron Range and was the hub of lumber and mining industries. Many professional hockey players (we are talking about Minnesota here), an auto racing family, and Robert Mondavi, the winemaker, were born in Virginia. Finns, Italians, Swedes, Norwegians, Germans, and others were eager to find work and work hard in the mining and lumber operations.

The day before we hit the road, I contacted the Virginia Area Historical Society and their President, Mary Peterson, was available to meet to provide a tour of the collection. Mary's love of the area was palpable and the extensive collection was well thought out and presented in ways to engage visitors. After the tour she treated us to look through boxes like "9A" and a yearbook from 1930, where we

found Rauni Maki smiling from the page at Jonathan with a strong family resemblance.

FAHS, like the Virginia Area Historical Society, is both the keeper and maker of memories which is evident in this fall issue, featuring accounts of trips, childhood memories, a celebration of a life event, accolades for some of our younger members, participation in broader community activities, and embodying the unwavering commitment to nurturing personal identity and preserving our cultural heritage so that discoveries present and past can be made.

Excerpts from FFN Press Release

Finlandia University, founded in 1896 as Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan, announced its decision on March 2, 2023, to not enroll students for the 2023-2024 academic year. It was the only remaining institution of higher learning in North America founded by Finns.

Upon learning of the decision, the Board of Finlandia Foundation National acted to assume responsibility for the many cultural assets of the university, and on June 15, FFN's offer was accepted. The organization is now the caretaker of the Finnish American Heritage Center and its extensive archives and artifacts, the monthly *Finnish American Reporter*, the Finnish American Folk School, the Art Gallery, War Museum and North Wind Books store. FFN has rescued the archives, artifacts and programs of the Heritage Center; and we are on track to finalizing the purchase of the building.



"This is a positive outcome for what could have been an unacceptable fate for these precious materials, programs and resources," says Anne-Mari Paster, FFN president. "This marks not the end, but the beginning of a new and meaningful project. We have our work to do in caring for these heritage items and planning for their future."

"It is absolutely compatible with why Finlandia Foundation was founded 70 years ago. We are here to preserve our roots in Finland, and at the same time build on that connection with the current and future generations. We consider this new purpose an honor and duty."

Finlandia Foundation National must raise **\$3 million by the end of 2023** to continue its work in preserving operations of the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan, and safeguarding the story of Finnish America for future generations. ***We urgently request your help in meeting the needed \$3 million by the end of this year.***

You may send a donation, view videos, press statements, newsletter and other stories at <https://finlandiafoundation.org>

Or, you may mail a check to Finlandia Foundation National, 254 N. Lake Ave. #852, Pasadena, CA 91101. **Thank you!**

Please follow our updates at Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X (Twitter) and the FFN website

Photos from Ilma Tikkanen's Celebration of Life, August 27, 2023
Submitted by Sean A. Tate



Ilma Tikkanen
11/07/26-10/4/22



Kristen Tikkanen, daughter



Wayne Tikkanen, son



Celebrating Ilma at Riverview Café in Moosup, CT

Memories of Lead Pouring

by Katrina Engblom Bousquet

On winter Sundays, my younger sister April and I often found ourselves in our father's garage, exploring dark and dusty corners and crevices. Looking for forgotten treasures or mysterious implements, we lost track of the time amongst the shelves and crates. Our father Jack always had a roaring fire in the old wood burning furnace on these days, the red-hot metal glowing fiercely, warning us to keep our little hands far away.

When he had all the supplies gathered, our father called us over to where he was sitting. It was time to pour lead! He held the heavy ladle in one hand, and in the other hand was a gas torch. He let us drop old fishing weights and tire weights into the ladle. While we watched the stray bits of heavy metal melt into beautiful silvery pools, my sister and I wondered what shapes would form in the cold water this time. Would we see animals or flowers, ocean waves or just weird blobs? Whatever we saw, it was always a fun way to spend an otherwise boring afternoon. When the ladle was full of melted metal, we stood far back from the bucket of water, safe from the splashes of steam as the keeper of the torch poured the molten lead into the icy liquid with a flourish. April and I giggled and gasped at the plumes of steam, the sizzling sound like but smelling nowhere near as delicious as morning bacon. When our shapes were cool enough to handle, we held them up, eager to see something interesting in the shadow cast by the bare light bulb. When dinner was ready, we'd run into the house to show our mother what we "made" in the garage with Daddy.

I had my collection on my half of our shared dresser for a long time. It wasn't until many years later while celebrating New Year's Eve at the Finn Hall that I realized lead pouring was a Finnish thing. They brought out the ladle, torch, bucket of water and bits of tin (a way less toxic alternative than lead), explaining that the shadows cast by the shapes were used to foretell things to come in the new year. I had no idea! I just thought our dad came up with this activity to keep us out of our mother's and older sibling's way for a few hours.

That night I remember my cousin's resulting shape looking like someone on a boat. We had already made plans to go on Anita Smiley's trip to Finland that coming summer. My older sister's shape looked like a woman cradling an infant. She was expecting her first grandchild later that year. That baby is now a senior in high school and is a wonderful helper at the FAHS pancake breakfast.

The years go by so quickly. Our father is now gone but the warm memories of long winter afternoons in the garage will keep giving. We never know which little things we do that might make a lifelong impression on the people in our lives. The best we can do to honor their memory is to pass them on with love.

Editor's note: if you are unfamiliar with this "Finnish thing" you can view the process here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbUnMj2iE1>

Finnish Tidbits

Interested in learning the Finnish Language? There are several options available on line with a Google search. One interesting find: 10 Finnish Words That You Don't Learn in Class at:

<https://blogs.tuni.fi/studentambassadors/studentlife/10-finnish-words-that-you-dont-learn-in-class/>

An example from the site is:

Kuurankukka – The translation is a flower made by the cold. This is a beautiful word to describe the frosty shapes that form on your window in the wintertime.

WHAT MAKES A FINLAND TOUR MEMORABLE?

Article and photos by Anita Häkklä Smiley

Having just returned from completing my 27th unique group tour of Finland, I ask myself the question as to how this tour will remain memorable for everyone. This question flows through my mind as I unwind from two weeks of living a dream. As I have observed on so many tours, “memorable” has meant different things to each traveler in these groups over the years.

For so many of Finnish heritage, two weeks in Finland is the fulfillment of what might have seemed like a fantasy but has suddenly become a reality. This was so vividly expressed many years ago by a woman who was wiping tears from her eyes as we listened to “Finlandia” being played on the bus. She remarked, “I never thought I would hear that song played in Finland!” Here was a dream being played out before my eyes.

If I were privy to the many conversations between family members on these tours, it might play something like this. A daughter, on her first trip to Finland, is traveling with her mother who is sharing her deepest thoughts on leaving Finland as a young girl because life was difficult for her family. What were her days like as a child and as a teenager? The mother is suddenly revisiting her youth, and the daughter is gaining an understanding of her Finnish heritage in a way possible only by being in this very environment that her mother holds so dear. They later have the opportunity to meet relatives who take them to a family home for a glimpse of daily life in Finland. Stories such as this have been taking place repeatedly on these tours.

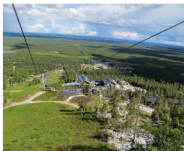
It is always of interest to hear about these family visits, and one such description of a family visit on a tour several years ago is especially memorable to me. A father and son had traced family roots before signing on for the tour and decided that they would try to connect with newly found relatives. Contact was made and the invitation was extended by Finnish relatives for a two-day visit to meet family members. The warm welcome extended into a big reunion, obviously enjoyed by all. The parting message from these Finnish relatives as related by this father-son team is one that I always recall: “Finally, after 100 years, someone from the family comes back!” The message here is that too often connections are lost, and some are reluctant to make those contacts without considering that they might be missing out on a treasure.

A town name in Finland is important to a tour participant because that name appears on a birth record of his father. Our tour route will be passing through that town, and there is a simple request to stop the bus for a quick photo opportunity, taking a picture of him by the sign with the town’s name. Mission accomplished. The making of memories comes in many forms.

The sauna experience in Finland certainly creates memories, whether it’s enjoyed in a community sauna in a hotel or spa, a private sauna in one’s hotel room, or a family sauna. The ultimate sauna experience for many is enjoyed at a lakeside sauna, providing that opportunity for a refreshing plunge in the cool lake water—maybe even multiple plunges interspersed with the warmth of steaming in the sauna. For many, these are memories at their best!

My travels have taken me to Finland on these many tours and also on many personal visits with relatives and friends. My observations and what becomes memorable for me are different in many ways. My Finnish roots are strong, thanks to my parents for maintaining strong Finnish ties, even during the war years, and for keeping the Finnish language as our language at home. Finnish culture has been part of the lives of my own family members—husband, children, and grandchildren—giving them an appreciation of all things Finnish; and, gradually, they have each experienced Finland in their own ways. Important to me is that the succeeding generations are meeting each other and will hopefully keep in touch. My memories are becoming intertwined with their memories.

And what about those who have no Finnish roots and have very little knowledge about Finland and yet decide to join a Finland tour? What kind of memories are they making? The following evaluation at the end of this year’s tour expresses the feeling of many such travelers: “I feel a special bond with the country and its people.” It does not take



Pyhänturi (in Eastern Lapland) from lift.

(Continued next page.)

long for a closeness to nature, felt so strongly by the Finnish people, to develop in travelers to the country, both through observation and by immersion. Nature trails and garden paths are inviting at every turn. It is obvious that the luxurious flower displays and the bountiful forests throughout the country are tenderly cared for.

A special bond with the Finnish people emerges as the tour progresses and first-time travelers in Finland learn about the hardships that have been endured by Finns through the centuries and how they have persevered. Present-day Finland, a member of the European Union and a recently joined member of NATO, has made tremendous strides onto the world map. As one contemplates all of this and witnesses the new construction and cleanliness everywhere, a desire to experience more of this inviting environment is prevalent. Visits to sites ranging in age from the oldest building in Finland, the Turku Castle, to the contemporary architecture of the Helsinki City Oodi Library and some of the architectural wonders designed by Alvar Aalto present a bit of historical perspective on the changes in Finland over the years. Walking the streets of Old Town Rauma is a step into the past, an ideal way to live a bit of history. History helps understanding present-day culture for first-time visitors to any country.

Much of this growth can be attributed to the Finnish "*sisu*," a term used to explain the determination and inward nature of the Finnish people. One group member with strong Finnish roots displayed her Finnish *sisu* on this year's tour. There is an impressive war memorial in *Suomussalmi*, erected in honor of the Winter War between Finland and Russia. The field of large stones memorializes soldiers, both Russian and Finnish, who died during that war in the *Suomussalmi* area. An impressive monument comprised of 105 brass bells of varying sizes in the middle of this large field commemorates each day of the Winter War; and those bells quietly tinkle with a breeze. One tour participant, painfully walking with the aid of walking sticks, was not going to miss the opportunity to experience the significance of this visit, even as a soaking rain started. Her remark on returning to the bus—"I did it!"—significantly explains how memories are made on tours. A rousing cheer from fellow travelers confirmed her decision.

Back to the question—"what makes a Finland tour memorable?" The memories that are stored in our hearts and shared over the years are the treasured ones. Those who have connected with family roots are richer for that bond. Immersion into one's roots is always a good thing. Those who are experiencing Finland for the first time are richer for their discoveries. Finding personal meaning within a newly discovered country and culture is a good thing. There are innumerable reasons to travel and make memories.

Let's make some memories together on a Smiley Group Finland tour in 2024. The dates are July 11 to 25. Information is available at smileys.place@juno.com



2023 Smiley Group Finland tour in front of the Turku Castle.

Kerro Tarina — to tell a story

Authors Comment: I wrote my first vignette in 1982 while taking a graduate writing seminar at Phillips Exeter Academy offered by the University of New Hampshire. I recently found it in a box of old papers and wanted to share this with you.

"A Visit to the Sauna"

by Susan Cloutier

You are gone now. No one told me—I could tell. The sauna is dark, the curtains are closed, and the mice have chewed on the leftover ivory. I once kneeled on this cement floor when you washed my back. With a bristle brush, you scrubbed my skin and told me how you looked sixty years ago. I didn't believe you. How could anyone with such deep wrinkles once have soft skin that invited a man's touch? Your eyes, gray like your hair, and lost in your forehead—did they ever have a lover's sparkle? I was surprised to hear how your swollen feet with curled toenails and red bunions once fit into pink slippers.

You always liked the top bench. All of the adults sat where the steam was the hottest, and it stung your skin. I stayed on the bottom bench where the air was cooler. I threw water on the white beach stones, and then watched you sweat. In the sauna, we splashed and teased each other with icy water. I never wanted to grow up and leave that bottom bench.

Toward the end, I wheeled your crippled body to the doorway and guided you and your four-legged walker into the sauna. You wanted to be close to Gramps. The sauna was the last place where you could go and remember Gramps. In the sauna, nothing had changed.

Now I find myself sitting on your wooden bench, looking and listening for you. I can feel the change. Where did you get the magic to keep going after Gramps died? The last months were not easy. I could not laugh when I saw you combing your hair with a fork. I tried to forget the time you screamed at the actors on the television and told them to leave you alone. I did not know what to do when you dumped the sugar bowl into an empty milk glass and tried to drink. And I finally cried when you did not recognize me.

You were all I had left for what once was. You made me feel important after I planted Johnny-Jump-Ups near the well. I was happy when I baked pulla without your critical stare. You entertained me with stories from the old farm. You didn't forget the night you, your sister, Helen Maki, and a girlfriend took the car to the movies in Plainfield. Your car stalled on the railroad tracks when the train was coming. Three women could not budge that car because they were too silly from their after-the-movies drinks.

During our last trip to the sauna, I left you alone while I undressed in the other room. When I returned, you had one foot on the bottom bench, one hand on the railing, and trying to climb to the top bench. I yelled, "What are you doing?" I guess you did not remember that you had an artificial knee, or that you were eighty-nine years old. Senility was gentle that day.

Well, I must leave now. We never really said goodbye. I think I'll just sit in the sauna for a little while longer—on the bottom bench.

Another Finnish First

In May of this year, the Turku City Library partnered with Toyota to offer library users the opportunity to check out an electric vehicle through the usual lending procedures. In other words, all you needed was your library card (and a valid driver's license, of course). Borrowers could drive the car for up to six hours on week days and four and a half hours on the weekend.

Turku City Library Services Director Rebekka Pilpulla stated in an interview with YLE News in May that by providing an electric car for loan they were "probably the first library in the world to do so." According to the September/October 2023 issue of *American Libraries*, the library loaned the car 20 times during the three-week trial period.

On July 31, 2023, several Board members met with Circuit Rider & Grants Manager, Michael Forino, of Preservation Connecticut. The letter from Mike (summarized below) provides a good summary of the meeting with important information for funding future preservation projects at the Finnish Hall.

Although we have had several offers to lead and repair the front entry canopy project, we continue to explore options to replace this aged structure before the Centennial Building celebration.

The basement storage area received a much-needed organizing, cleaning and discarding of unneeded items. Thanks to Katrina Engblom Bousquet for her focused effort along with resolving a dehumidifier issue.

The south roof gutter guards were installed in the recent past; they required cleaning and repair last month.

The Northeast CT Department of Health food service permit requires facilities with on-site waste disposal have septic tanks emptied every three years. This was completed last month with prior service in January 2020.

Volunteers needed: The Heritage Society is always in need of local members to support building maintenance requirements. Please consider joining a maintenance committee to help with the continuing upkeep of our hall which is approaching a 100th year milestone anniversary. Contact a board member if you are interested.

Excerpts from Michael Forino, Circuit Rider and Grants Manager, letter received August 15, 2023

Subject: Funding Opportunities for the Finnish American Heritage Society

Dear Mr. Karro,

It was a pleasure to meet with you on July 31, 2023, at the historic Finnish American Heritage Society. Our discussion about the building's potential capital projects was insightful and promising. This letter aims to summarize viable funding resources to aid the FAHS in the future.

The FAHS, constructed in c.1925, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) in 1998 as a contributing resource to the Canterbury Center Historic District. As the building is listed on the NR, capital projects may qualify for multiple preservation funding options through the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Preservation Connecticut (PCT).

When pursuing historic preservation grants from either of the sources or when conducting preservation work generally, it is highly recommended that the FAHS consult with PCT, the SHPO, a preservation architect, a preservation contractor, or other individuals qualified to provide preservation technical assistance. In the best interest of the building, projects should follow the National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Generally, preservation projects strive to maintain all possible historic materials, opting for restoration over replacement. If replacement is necessary, it should be in-kind, meaning of like material and workmanship.

Upon my cursory examination of the building, I noted three issues that the FAHS should consider addressing in the near future:

Roofing: Half of the main hall's roof has been replaced. The remaining roof is at the end of its useful life and should be replaced.

Gutters: While the roof is being replaced, the FAHS should consider installing a new gutter, potentially larger than what is currently there, to ensure they collect as much water as possible.

Plantings: In general, the plantings around the hall are mature and overgrown. It is recommended that there be a space of at least 36" between plantings and the building to ensure that historical materials can dry. covers costs for Historic Structures Reports, Feasibility or Adaptive Reuse Studies, Structural Soundness Studies, Condition Assessment Reports, and Architectural Plans and Specifications. Please note that funding may require additional proposals.

Detailed information about this program is available at:

[https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Grant-Opportunities/Survey-and-Planning GrantsHPO S&P Grant](https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic%20Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Grant-Opportunities/Survey-and-Planning%20GrantsHPO%20S&P%20Grant).



Excerpts from Michael Forino letter, continued

Additionally, PCT's Technical Assistance Consultancy (TAC) can potentially offset small architectural and engineering fees. The TAC program caters particularly to emergency projects requiring immediate attention. More information about the TAC program can be obtained by contacting Michael Forino of PCT at Mforino@preservationct.org.

Upon completion of the plans and specifications, construction and rehabilitation costs could be covered by SHPO's Historic Restoration Fund (HRF). This matching 1:1 grant offers up to \$200,000 as of this letter. Detailed information about this program is available at: https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Grant-Opportunities/Historic-Restoration_Fund-Grants

Moreover, Preservation Connecticut, in collaboration with the 1772 Foundation, provides an annual 1:1 matching capital grant of up to \$10,000. For more details, please visit: <https://preservationct.org/1772foundationgrants>

We look forward to assisting you further. For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

FAHS Shares Finnish Culture with Canterbury

FAHS at Canterbury Old Home Days

by Katrina Engblom Bousquet



FAHS Booth at OHD. Liz Hawes-Weeks (l) and Arlene Baril (r). Photo from Katrina Engblom Bousquet.

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, the Finnish American Heritage Society hosted a tent at The Canterbury Old Home Days on the Canterbury Green. The day started out rainy and messy, but with help from FAHS President Steve Bousquet the tent and display went up. This year we had a brand-new tri-fold display thanks to the creative talents of Kaz Kozlowski, of FAHS Museum and archive fame. Lisa Joseph, Arlene Baril and Liz Hawes-Weeks helped me with greetings and pulla sales. As the day brightened and dried out, the crowds thickened and pulla sales picked up, making \$260. Thank you, Matti Huhta, for helping with this! The event was well attended by both vendors and visitors. We handed out newsletters and museum flyers, making sure everyone knew about the newly designed museum and upcoming final yard sale.

FAHS Members Share Finnish Food with Canterbury Library Cookbook Club

by Patti Folsom

Collections Management Committee members collaborated with the Canterbury Public Library to feature Finnish Cuisine for their Cookbook Club on Wednesday, September 27. This group meets monthly and picks a different theme for each get-together. Anita Smiley brought apple *Pannukakku* and Patti Folsom brought *Kaalilaatikko*, meat and cabbage casserole. Other participants made a variety of dishes, including pea soup and almond cake, from Finnish cookbooks provided by FAHS.

Editor's note: Our mission at FAHS is to promote Finnish Culture through educational experiences and enjoyment of Finnish-American traditions. If you are curious or have a similar interest, please consider yourself welcome at the Hall for an event or a meeting to find out more.

Suurella arvostuksella, kiitos paljon
With great appreciation, thank you so much

by Katrina Engblom Bousquet and Ellen Levonius Buffington, Co-Corresponding Secretaries

Monetary Donations acknowledged

A total of \$695 in donations received in the third quarter, June-September, 2023, directed to the following funds:

- Operations
- The Scholarship Fund and in memory of Ilma Tikkanen
- The Window/Railing Fundraiser

With gratitude from the FAHS Board and Membership, the following individuals are recognized for their generosity:

Ann Gruenberg of Hampton, CT
June Leiss of Canterbury, CT
Margaret Tefft of Hope Valley, RI
Lloyd and Joyce Hannula of Westminister, MA
Florence Wilbur of Woodstock Valley, CT
Mary Ellen and Bob Harmon of Greene, RI
Sandra Sibel of Franklyn, MA
Matti and Marcia Huhta of Moosup, CT
Kristen Tikkanen of W. Greenwich, RI

Susan and Steve Coupe of Chepachet, RI
Larry Laudenslager of Dayville, CT
Karlo and Becky Salminen of Pawcatuck, CT
George Vangel of Putnam, CT
Leslie Tervo of Tolland, CT
Linda Kuja of Clearwater, FL
Helvi Larson of Wake Forest, NC
Charles Ulman of N. Scituate, RI
Raymond and Barbara Koski of Old Saybrook, CT

Museum donations acknowledged

- Bill Kangas of Apple Valley, CA, donated Finnish Heritage Newspapers.
- Ailene Saari from Stonington, CT, donated a pair of children's reindeer slippers, child-sized Four-Winds cap; and a blue and white shell cap, along with two *puukko* knives, in memory of her mother Doris Kivela Saari.
- Linda Anderson Large from Jewett City, CT, donated a dance costume in memory of her mother, Elma Kalio Anderson.
- Kristen Tikkanen from W. Greenwich, RI, donated items her mother, Ilma, requested be given to FAHS, including four Halla vases, a Swedish Merilasi, a volcano votive holder and four framed prints depicting *Kalevala* scenes.
- Ann Beckman from Woodbury, CT, donated several items including a national dance costume, a *Kalevala* pin, and a *puukko* knife with an antler handle and sheath.



Kalevala pin donated by Ann Beckman. Photo by Katrina Engblom Bousquet.

Collections Management Committee Report

by Patti Folsom

As part of our Collections Assessment Grant, funded by CT Humanities, Diane Lee, Collections Manager of the Fairfield Museum and History Center, submitted a very thorough report on October 1. The findings of this report included several suggestions for storage and organization of our collection. Diane also ended the report by complimenting the committee with the following statement:

The volunteers at the Finnish American Heritage Society are a very dedicated group and they continue to be on a great track to making themselves as successful as possible. They take advantage of grant programs, tutorials and training, learning how best to care for their collections.

The museum is closed for the season as of Wednesday, October 25. The committee will continue to hold work sessions on Wednesdays to work on recommendations from the Assessment Grant report and to add materials to the online CT Collections catalog. The museum will reopen on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Appointments for museum tours from November-April can be made by emailing info@fahs-ct.org.

A well-loved loom



Tom Ruthford (l) and Roy Tapio carefully disassemble the loom.

On Friday, October 13, members of the FAHS Weaving group Liisa Silander, Lisa Joseph and Katrina Bousquet, plus two very appreciated helpers took a trip to Brooklyn, CT, to pick up a donated loom. Roy Tapio was downsizing and needed to rehome his very large floor loom, so he offered to donate it to the FAHS weaving program. It is not just any floor loom, it is a Schacht Cranbrook, considered by many to be the Cadillac of looms. It was an offer we couldn't refuse, as they say. We disassembled it, transported it and delivered it to the hall all within four hours. Many thanks to those who helped make this happen: to Roy Tapio for your generous donation; and to our helpers, Donovan Joseph and Tom Rutherford, for your help with this challenging endeavor. This beautiful loom is in the process of being reassembled and will be enjoyed for many years at the FAHS hall.



The Team of Loom Movers. From the left, Lisa Joseph, Roy Tapio, Tom Rutherford and Donovan Joseph.

Hand woven rugs

On Sunday October 17, 2023, Hannu and Eila Makipuro donated six gorgeous hand-woven rugs to the FAHS Museum. They were kind enough to have them professionally cleaned before dropping them off. These rugs were woven by Eila Nelson, a FAHS member. Hannu and Eila's rugs were donated with the intention that they would be sold, with the proceeds going to the Museum operating fund. Kiitos paljon, Hannu and Eila!



Happy Isänpäivä!

Finnish Fathers' Day
November 12, 2023



Please join us at the Hall for *Pikkujoulu*
December 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Finnish Hall Centennial - 1924 or 1925?

Planning has begun to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Finnish Hall. The Collections Management Committee is researching to find documentation of the actual date. If you are interested in assisting with planning our festivities, please contact a board member to volunteer. *Kiltos*.

Nomination Committee for 2024 Officers and Trustees

The committee consists of Steve Bousquet, President, and two FAHS members Matti Huhta and Anita Smiley. There are several vacancies on the Board of Trustees for 2024. We hope you will consider serving on the Board to continue the growth of the FAHS Museum, share Finnish culture with others, have fun at events, participate in applauding our youthful scholarship recipients, and celebrate the Finn Hall's Centennial. Please contact a board member if interested.

By-Laws Update Needed

Yes, FAHS just completed the 5-year review and update in February 2023 of the original 1998 document. However, there is need for additional modifications regarding replacing a board vacancy and the minimum number of member meetings. This is the notice to members of the potential change, as well as discussion at member meetings. The bylaw change vote will happen at the FAHS annual meeting on January 7, 2024. The entire copy of the bylaws can be found on www.fahs-ct.org.

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| Deleted wording is lined through and new language is in bold . |
|--|

Article VII. Terms of Office

B. Vacancies

In the event an officer's or trustee's office becomes vacant, ~~the officer or trustee will be replaced according to the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.~~ **the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next annual meeting."**

Rationale: to clarify the Board of Directors vacancy replacement process.

Article VIV. Meetings

B. Regular Membership Meetings

1. The Membership will meet at least ~~eight times each year.~~ **four times a year.** A committee consisting of volunteers from the Board and the Membership shall develop the annual FAHS calendar with consideration of holidays (Finnish and American) as well as community events, with attention to FAHS cultural and fundraising occasions. The calendar will be published by the first month of the new year in the Newsletter, on the website and shared with membership. Any changes made due to inclement weather and other factors will be communicated to the membership.
2. **Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board of Directors and shall be called upon the written request of three members of the organization. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated and shall be sent to all members at least three weeks before the meeting.**

Rationale: Recent member and Board discussions have indicated that the business of the organization could be conducted with four membership meetings (and the option of special meetings) annually. The Annual Meeting is one of the four.



Congratulations – Onnea

To the 2023 FAHS Scholarship recipients: Aila Gutierrez, Justin Bacon and Erika Waters (see article pages 2-3).

Sympathies – Otamme Osaa

To the Family of Ethel Records, from Columbia, CT, who died peacefully on September 4, 2023 at the age of 83. Ethel participated in many activities at FAHS with her loving partner, Ken Bingell.

<https://www.norwichbulletin.com/obituaries/pnrw0569086>

Submitting Member News & Milestones

If you would like to have any "well wishes, condolences, or congratulations" included in our upcoming newsletter, please email minna.waters@gmail.com by January 10, 2024. Please put "News and Milestones" in the subject line. Many Thanks, Minna.

FAHS Member Receives Boy Scout Honors

by Irene Profetto

William Weeks, a 16-year-old FAHS member, was one of two young men to receive the Boy Scouts "Honor Camper" award after his troop attended this year's Boy Scouts of American National Jamboree in West Virginia. We at FAHS, who know William as "Liam," are so proud to learn he was voted to receive this award by his fellow scouts.

Liam, the son of Scott and Elizabeth Hawes-Weeks, willingly and generously gave advice, compliments and assistance to younger Scouts during the jamboree. FAHS members have seen these actions many times over the years at our events. This past year, Liam helped out at the Chicken BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, and *Pikkujoulu*.

Scouting is in Liam's blood, starting with his late grandfather, Herbert Hawes, and continuing with his uncle and mom. Keep on going, Liam!



Liam Weeks receives "Honor Camper" award on the bus trip back to CT. Photo from Liz Hawes-Weeks.

Ahh, Cardamom

by Ellen Levonius Buffington



Photo By Silar-Own Work, CC by
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=55145068>

A comment I hear frequently about the pulla bread I bake is "THERE IS NOT ENOUGH CARDAMOM!!" We have a saying in our family "you can't have too much cardamom." Well, it seems that health researchers at Texas A&M have discovered that there is good reason for more of the spice; specifically that consuming 8-10 pods/day may result in weight loss and may be anti-inflammatory. Do not fear the pods!

Read more at: <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20230813/Study-reveals-the-health-and-dietary-benefits-of-consuming-cardamom.aspx>.



Finnish American Heritage Society

The Finnish American Heritage Society, Inc.

Is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to preserve
and promote Finnish-American heritage. Membership is
open to all who are interested in the purpose of the organization.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 252, Canterbury, CT 06331

Street address: Finnish Hall, 76 North Canterbury Road, Canterbury

Phone Number: (860) 546-6671 **Email address:** info@fahs-ct.org

World Wide Web address: www.fahs-ct.org

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com> and search for Finnish American
Heritage Society, Canterbury

On Facebook at: www.facebook.com/fahscanterburyct

FINNISH CONNECTION

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Readers are invited to submit content and letters to the editor.

FAHS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Collection of materials and proofreading: Kay Gruder, Patti Folsom,
Anita Smiley, Jackie Harjula, Ellen Buffington and Karen Lovequist.
Members' News and Milestones: Minna Waters

Welcome New Members!

Ann Beckman of Woodbury, CT

Kristen Tikkanen of West Greenwich, RI

New Members are **ALWAYS** welcome!

Membership form included.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President | Steven Bousquet | 860-608-8366 |
| Vice President | Minna Waters | 251-454-1614 |
| Treasurer | Jobina Miller | 860-377-0789 |
| Recording Secretary | Vacant | |
| Co-Correspondence | Katrina Bousquet | 860-608-2653 |
| | Ellen Buffington | 970-576-8360 |
| Membership | Aaron Waters | 251-454-2494 |

Coming Events at a Glance

| | |
|------------------|---|
| October 25 | Last day Museum open for the season. |
| October 27-29 | Finn Funn in Gloucester, MA |
| Sat, Nov 4 | Coffee Social 1:00 p.m. Member Meeting 1:30 p.m. Finland Travel with Anita Smiley |
| Sat, Nov 16 | Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. |
| Fri, Nov 17 | Cocktail Delights-Finnish themed 7:00 p.m. |
| Sat, Dec 2 | Member Meeting 11:00 a.m. Pot Luck Lunch 12:00 p.m. Pikkujoulu 1:00 p.m. |
| Thurs, Dec 17 | Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. |
| Sun, Jan 7, 2024 | Coffee Social 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting 1:30 p.m. |

Member meetings are in person with a hybrid option.