

New Summer Displays at the FAHS Museum

Article and photos by Patti Folsom

Following the June Membership Meeting on June 24, FAHS members were invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the recent renovations in the Heritage Museum. New interpretive panels and corresponding themed displays: *What We Bring with Us, Nature, Community, and Arts and Design*, grace the walls of the newly painted main entry room of the museum.

Additional displays are also planned for the adjoining library/museum area, including a special area for children and the relocated and reworked display of the history of the Imatra Society of Brooklyn, NY, that was originally in the main room. A designated display case will also provide an opportunity for local residents to share immigrant family memorabilia.



Currently on display (left photo) in the library/museum area is a folk costume and Finnish army blanket from Claudia Abbott of Pomfret Center, CT. Claudia donated the folk costume to FAHS, but the army blanket is on temporary loan. This standard military-issue blanket was lovingly embroidered by Claudia Abbott's grandmother during the cold Finnish winters. The blanket is a cherished family heirloom, but Claudia wanted it to be enjoyed by museum summer visitors. The picture does not do it justice, so you must plan a trip to the museum to see it in person.

Another item on temporary loan is a Marimekko dress from Anita Smiley of Preston, CT. This black and brown striped dress (right photo) from the 1970s originally belonged to her younger sister Elaine. When Anita learned that the museum would be taking items on temporary loan, she jumped at the chance to feature the Marimekko dress as part of the Arts and Design display.



President Steve Bousquet opens the redesigned FAHS museum.



The new children's corner at the museum.

If you have items you would like to donate to the FAHS museum, or an item you would like to discuss placing in the museum on a temporary loan, please contact a member of the Collection Management Committee or email rifinn@gmail.com.



*Central Massachusetts Accordion Club.
Photo by Steven Bousquet*

The Aura Hall, sister Hall to FAHS, in Voluntown, CT, recently celebrated their 100th anniversary *Juhannus* festival with a spectacular event that left attendees amazed and delighted. The festivities featured a fantastic lineup of performances, ensuring that everyone had a memorable day.

Bernie Nowak, renowned accordion player, captivated the audience with his incredible skills, accompanied by the talented members of the Central Massachusetts Accordion club. Their harmonious melodies filled the air, creating an electric atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

But the excitement didn't stop there! The event also boasted a mesmerizing performance by the Revontulet Folk Dancers, whose graceful moves and colorful costumes enchanted spectators of all ages. Adding even more star power to the celebration was the special guest appearance of Hannu Makipuro, a singer-songwriter, whose soulful voice and heartfelt lyrics touched the hearts of everyone present.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without live music, dancing, and delectable Finnish cuisine. Attendees indulged in their favorite traditional dishes while swaying to the rhythm of the lively tunes. The highlight of the night was the grand *kokko* (bonfire), illuminating the sky and symbolizing the unity and warmth felt by the celebrants at the well-attended event. Overall, the event highlights the cooperative and inclusive spirit of the Aura Halls' 100th anniversary *Juhannus* celebration, showcasing the diverse talents and cultural richness of the performers.



*Revontulet Folk Dancers
Photo from Lili Rafeldt*

Chicken BBQ 2023 - A Classic FAHS Event

Article and photo by Stan Karro

Many members are very aware of the early Finnish immigrants in Eastern Connecticut engaging in the poultry industry many decades ago for their livelihood. This background provides an appropriate setting for the heritage society's many years of barbecuing chicken with a special exclusive basting sauce enjoyed by the local community and society members.

The Finnish American Heritage Society was again privileged to have Professor Emeritus William (Bill) Aho at age 105 participate in our Annual Chicken Barbeque on May 13th. Bill was featured in a Finnish American Reporter article about his life [see also FinnConn Fall 2022] which started when he was born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (UP). The University of Connecticut recruited him to join the Poultry Science School in the 1950s when Eastern Connecticut was one of the top ten regions of poultry production in the country. The photo also pictures his son Paul Aho who has been a poultry industry consultant for many years. Others in our photo are Steve Bousquet, (galvanized Finn) President of FAHS, Anita Häkklä Smiley, former President of FFFN (Finland tour director leaving on her 27th summer adventure with a group of 40) and Hannu Makipuro who has decades of Finnish community support and has entertained Finnish organizations across the country with his musical talents. A photo includes some of the key contributors to the survival and activities of the culture of Finnish immigrants in our region.



From Left, Steve Bousquet, Paul Aho, Bill Aho, Anita Smiley and Hannu Makipuro.

Our barbeque was sold out. Of the 200 dinner tickets sold, most were takeout, with some reserved seating at the Hall. This annual fundraiser netted almost \$2,000 for the operating expenses of FAHS, thanks to ticket sales, monetary donations as well as supply donations. Thank you all.

Many attendees supported Aura Hall earlier in the day for their annual *Tori* as they continue to celebrate events of their 100th Anniversary year. We thank our volunteers for several days of cooking and related support for a successful event. Many members made contributions for this event including the new barbeque "pit crew" of Max Bousquet, Cait Smalige, Will and Scott Weeks and our potato peelers (50 pounds) June Leiss and Saul Ahola (the eyes have it!) If we were to have a mini "sisu award" these members would be selected for their perseverance and patience. Great effort by everyone.



The new windows have been installed at the Finn Hall and they look GREAT! They are double-pane and very energy efficient, easy to open, close and lock. The windows also have screens that stay in place! Many thanks to FAHS President Steve Bousquet for taking this project on, from contacting Shane LaFlamme and Shane's son Logan, from S. LaFlamme Fine Finishes to the vital fundraising that made this possible.

Many thanks to those members who donated to the FAHS window fund. It couldn't have happened without your generosity. Over \$12,000 was raised. The donors at the Sisu level (\$500 or more) will be recognized with plaques to be mounted on the window trim. The nine windows will improve the security of the hall, and keep the main event space more comfortable and energy efficient. They also look great and will enhance the space for future rentals.

A special thank you goes out to June Leiss and Alex Bousquet. These ladies helped me iron and rehang the freshly washed curtains, completing the project and making the room something to be proud of.

As we enjoy the second half of 2023, let's all recognize Steve for his years of service to FAHS, as membership secretary, vice president and president. His many talents and gifts leave our organization stronger and ready to take on another 35 years.



Student Graduation Award Presentation at Canterbury, CT School

by Stan Karro



On Monday, June 10th, the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School in Canterbury, CT, conducted an evening awards ceremony dedicated to recognizing graduating students for a variety of accomplishments during their last school year. With over twenty civic and school related organizations providing support, the Finnish American Heritage Society award of \$100 was given to Audrey Stimson for her strong interest in local history and cultures of other nations.

The award was presented by Anita Häkkinen Smiley and Stan Karro and was unique as Anita attended the local one-room school house near the Canterbury Congregational Church and in the first class to graduate from the new Dr. Helen Baldwin School. Anita encouraged students and parents to visit the preserved historic one room school and to visit our newly renovated Finnish Hall Museum displays to better understand the Finnish immigrant culture and background in Canterbury and Eastern Connecticut.

Anita and I also met with Baldwin School Principal Garrett Dukette following the award event, and we all agreed to explore joint activities for students and visits to the museum.

For more on the historic one-room school house, please visit the Canterbury Historical Society website at:
<https://canterburyhistorical.org>

Open House Day at FAHS

Article and photos by Patti Folsom

Once again, FAHS partnered with CT Visit to promote this year's Open House on Saturday, June 10. Thanks to a dedicated crew of volunteers, FAHS put its best foot forward in showcasing Finnish American heritage and culture and the history of the Finnish Hall.

More than twenty visitors, many of whom had never been to the Finnish Hall, were welcomed to FAHS. Museum volunteers Kaz Kozlowski and Anita Smiley gave tours of the museum's new exhibit: *What We Bring with Us: Memories, Tradition, Hope*. Open House event Co-chairs, Arlene Baril and Jodie Wagner, greeted visitors in the upstairs hall and offered tastings of "squeaky" cheese and crackers, sliced pulla bread, coffee, and lingonberry punch. Patti Folsom was on hand to take interested visitors outside to see the sauna.



Arlene Baril (L) and Jodie Wagner (R)



Katrina at the loom.

Downstairs in the kitchen area, weaver Katrina Bousquet was busy working at her loom. Katrina spoke to visitors about the different techniques of Finnish weaving and she demonstrated the intricate pattern she is currently weaving. Katrina is one of five FAHS apprentices in the Southern New England Apprenticeship Program sponsored by the Connecticut Historical Society. The FAHS apprentices worked with master weaver Peggy Church from October 2022 through May of this year.

Not to be outdone by human guides, *Karhu* (Bear in English), Matti and Marcia Huhta's Finnish Lapphund (and FAHS mascot), charmed visitors when they came into the Hall. *Karhu* opened up some interesting conversation between visitors and FAHS members about Finnish dog breeds.

The majority of visitors on Open House Day indicated they had found information about the FAHS event on the CT Visit web site. Some attended because they were curious about Finnish heritage and others attended because they are of Finnish ancestry and were unaware there was a Finnish heritage society in Connecticut. Two visitors joined FAHS before they left and several others left with membership forms in hand. Sales of Finnish-themed mugs and magnets from the museum gift cart were brisk. A good day was had by all!



Karhu gives a friendly welcome.



Anita Smiley points out littla glassware in the Arts and Design display case.



Kaz Kozlowski gives visitors information about Finnish folk costumes.

Dates Set for the Third Annual Yard Sale. Donated Items Wanted!

by Steve Bousquet and Patti Folsom

This year's FAHS Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, August 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, September 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Finnish Hall in Canterbury.

FAHS members Eric Arnio of Canterbury, CT, and Richard Robertson of Old Lyme, CT, are co-chairing this event and are hoping that it will be a major fund-raiser for FAHS.

The Yard Sale committee is asking for your help! Please look around your home for potential donations that are of moderate value and are in good working condition.

Vintage items (pre-1970), collectibles, sports gear, Finnish and Scandinavian items, power tools, musical instruments, glassware, small appliances and small furniture (especially vintage) would be welcome donations. New toys and children's clothes that are gently used are also appreciated. Any other items of value that are in good repair will also be welcomed.

If you would like to bring items to the Hall, you can stop by when the FAHS Museum is open on Wednesdays or the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If the building is closed, please leave the items by the door on right-side, ramped entrance. A roof covers this entrance.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Arnio at 860-546-9994.

NO EXERCISE
EQUIPMENT, PLEASE!

Kerro Tarina – to tell a story

Saturday Sauna

by Katrina Engblom Bousquet

Growing up in Brooklyn, Connecticut, every Saturday was sauna day. Preparing was an all-day affair. We helped by gathering sticks and newspaper so our father could start the fire in the early afternoon. As everyone knows, a long, slow fire gives the best heat. He traveled between the sauna in our cellar to the garage throughout the day. The garage was a special gathering place for all those familiar with our family on Laurel Hill Road. Here, Jack (100% Finnish), received visitors all day. They arrived armed with gifts. Some brought bottles of vodka or whiskey, others brought venison or other smoked sausage. The open door welcomed all to share whatever was passed around. The latest news (they refused to call it gossip, but instead claimed they were "shooting the breeze") around town would be shared, from who got a good deal on a truck to who ran afoul of the law. In the summer there was a bushel basket of cherrystones on ice for those who were tempted. We were drawn to this garage, the smells of motor oil and sawdust familiar and comforting. We stopped in to say hi, our hot feet soothed by the cool, sweaty cement of the floor.

Throughout the day, guests arrived. They trekked in, bearing casseroles and snacks, beach towels and robes. There were sometimes whole families (Gasp! With kids to play with!), neighbors, aunts, uncles and cousins, new friends and old friends. The new friends were the most fun. These sauna "newbies" heard about our sauna parties and checked it out for themselves. They were introduced to the sauna and all the fun that happens before and afterwards, and from that day they declared that they were hooked on the heat and couldn't wait for the next party.

As the children arrived, they were welcomed to the swing set and sand box. On these nights, we were all cousins. It was a tornado of laughter. The women gathered in the kitchen, setting out food and plates, catching up on gossip of their own that we were not meant to hear. If one of us wandered into the kitchen, the room fell silent and the interloper was quickly sent away with a bowl of chips.

Continued next page.

When the sauna was ready, the women, small boys and girls went down first. Three heat and cooling cycles were the norm for a good experience. The cooling off often involved skinny dipping in the pool, always a treat on a summer night. Afterwards, we headed up to the kitchen, wrapped in towels and robes, clean and rosy-cheeked and smelling of soap. Then the men and older boys had their turn, and that's when the party really got going. We heard more wood being loaded into the repurposed hot water tank, turned on its side and nestled safely in a crib of rocks and cement. The sound of water being thrown onto the hot rocks and the anguished groans of the sauna virgins were heard. They were shocked at the intensity of the *löyly*. We heard someone give up and tear out of the sauna, accompanied by the raucous peals of teasing laughter. These tender blossoms made their way up to the party and told tales of their brush with death. There were finger pulling contests, which often resulted in a dislocated digit. If they were lucky, there was a nurse at the party who could reset it. When the floor above the sauna felt too warm, our mother (Jackie, not at all Finnish but had plenty of Sisus) stomped on the floor and yelled down "Hey, Hon! No more wood! We're gonna have a chimney fire!" This was often ignored, but they pretended to comply with a halfhearted "OK!"

The party kept going, with food, drink, stories and jokes. We kids were left to run wild, knowing that all the responsible adults were distracted. The yard was a twilight wonderland, with the summer dusk gathering under the pine trees, bringing darting fireflies and damp night air. We managed to undo that "fresh sauna clean" in minutes. The pine pitch coated the soles of our feet and trapped whatever we trampled over. We played games, picked flowers, and caught unlucky bugs. The outhouse came in handy, because we ran the risk of too many questions if we went into the house. Since this was the 1970s, there was at least one streaker which was always entertaining! Eventually everyone tired out and packed up. Echoes of thanks hung in the heavy summer night, everyone happy and looking forward to the next bash.

The next day, we pulled up the wooden pallets on the dressing room floor, searching for treasure. We always found lots of coins, dropped from our guests' pockets. It was a loose change bonanza!

Years later, I watched my own son Max discover the joy of a good steam in our backyard sauna in Norwich. He invited friends over to have a "real Finnish sauna", so excited to share this. These young people enthusiastically embraced the chance. They had only been in saunas at the gym (a sad substitute, for sure), and had no idea what they were about to experience. I heard groans and shrieks of shock as water was thrown onto hot rocks, and chuckled at the memories this brought. They kept coming back, though. They were "hooked on the heat".

I honestly thought that everyone had sauna parties. When I shared a story at lunch, the whole table went silent. I heard my friends thinking ".....whaaaaa did she just say?" Looking back, there must have been at least one other Finn kid at that table, but they knew enough to stay silent and remain undercover. I laugh about it now. Sauna Saturday was always a good time and I wouldn't have had it any other way.



From left, Annalisa Engblom Brassard, Christine Erikson, Doris Erickson, Artie Engblom and Bobby Erikson: a good representation of the kids at the Saturday Sauna parties. Photo by Jackie Engblom.

Sailing into Helsinki aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle by Cadet Third-Class Cade Waters

In May of 2023, I embarked on a six-week journey throughout Northern Europe aboard the United States Coast Guard training ship Barque Eagle. For some background, the Barque Eagle is a sailing ship with three masts and many more sails. Most cadets at the United States Coast Guard Academy will spend at least six weeks aboard the ship and will take part in the many training evolutions that are taught while underway such as the basics of sailing and line handling, along with the fundamentals of damage control. The cadets aboard will earn some of their first Coast Guard qualifications. It is an iconic moment in every cadet's and eventual officer's career.

Continued next page.

In June of 2022, after a mere ten days of summer break, I reported to join the class of 2026 at the United States Coast Guard Academy. And today, I can look back on my first year with pride. Some of my favorite moments were spent with my friends and peers. But the culminating event of my freshman year was my trip aboard Eagle. I, along with one hundred and thirty or so of my classmates, embarked on a voyage to the North Sea and Baltic Sea. Our first few stops, the Netherlands and Norway, were wonderful. The food and the culture were a new experience for everyone, and it was eye-opening. But for me, I was looking forward to our next port call in Helsinki.

About four weeks from our initial departure date, we set anchor maybe ten miles off the coast of Finland. Off our starboard beam, maybe 4000 yards away sat the Finnish Border Guard vessel, *Turva**. The Finnish Border Guard is the equivalent of the Coast Guard in the United States. We even had some cadets in the Border Guard aboard Eagle the night prior to us pulling into Helsinki. Pulling into the city via a channel by the historic Suomenlinna fortress and seeing the massive cannons as we pulled in was cool beyond belief. After pulling in we were welcomed with some of the largest number of visitors per day that Eagle has ever seen. During my day of duty, we counted over 10,000 people who came aboard for a tour. There was also a reception held in honor of the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken. Ultimately, Eagle served a vital role in the foreign affairs of the United States. But that's not all, 39 of my classmates and I had the opportunity to experience the world's largest wood-fueled sauna. We got a once in a lifetime experience that day, receiving a tour of Suomenlinna and its history, the Finnish Naval Academy, and the sauna capping it off in the best way.



*Barque Eagle in Helsinki Harbor June 1.
Photo from Minna Waters.*

showed me the country in a totally new light, coming in via a tall ship, meeting the men and women that keep Finland safe every day, and being able to experience the city of Helsinki with my closest friends. I cannot wait until I return someday soon.



*Minna and Cade Waters aboard the Eagle with Helsinki in the background.
Photo from Minna Waters.*

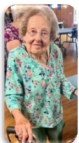
*Turva means protection or safety in Finnish.

Celebrating a century of volunteerism – Aura Hall

On Saturday, July 15th, Aura Hall celebrated the generations of members who helped shape Aura Hall with a potluck picnic for all members of the Finnish American Community. Enjoy these photos of the day.



*This cake was donated by the grandchildren of Joel and Hilda (Viljanen) Williams who hosted Aura's first meeting at their home on Wylie School Road in Voluntown, CT.
Photo from Steve Bousquet.*



*Jose, now 99, who, as a girl, attended Aura meetings with her parents.
Photo from Lili Rafeldt.*



*Mrs. Anja Mallinen and her daughter, Annalissa.
Photo from Lili Rafeldt.*



*Kasha Breau performs.
Photo by Lili Rafeldt.*

To learn about upcoming Aura Hall activities, please e-mail aurahall.ct@gmail.com to join their mailing list.
The 100th anniversary year celebration continues!

Newsletter committee report

By Ellen Levonius Buffington

Editor Kay Gruder is out of state and, thankfully, Patti Folsom stepped in to help with editor responsibilities for the summer edition. Along with some news about activities at the hall, and Aura Hall in Voluntown, there is an enjoyable article from Cadet Third-Class Cade Waters recounting sailing into Helsinki Harbor aboard the Coast Guard training ship Barque Eagle. A member of the Writer's Circle, Katrina Engblom Bousquet, tells a funny story about being a Finn kid growing up with a sauna. And just take a look at the new, energy-efficient, easy to use hall windows!

See how the results of the dedication of the Collections Management Committee and museum volunteers has helped to transform the Heritage Museum into a destination to visit in Eastern Connecticut. Thank you to all-your time and effort are appreciated. Read more and see some of the curator-designed displays in this issue. Better yet, take an afternoon to visit the museum at the Hall. The museum is open every Wednesday and the second and fourth Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. all summer. And, remember, the museum is climate controlled.

The Newsletter Committee applied for a community grant from *Suomi Seura* (The Finland Society) to support the expenses of the newsletter printing and postage. *Kiitos to Suomi Seura* for the grant funding to support our newsletter. For more information about *Suomi Seura* please visit: <https://suomi-seura.fi/en/>

So, find a shady spot with a cool beverage to enjoy this summer 2023 edition of FinnConn.

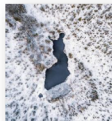
Did you know? --tidbits of Finnish interest

Patrick Swayze's wife is Finnish

Lisa Ann Haapaniemi was born in Houston, TX, the only daughter of six children born to Edmond, who worked for the Red Cross and his wife, Karin, a registered nurse. Lisa and Patrick met at the Houston Ballet Dance Company (owned by Swayze's mother) when she was 14 years old and the couple married 5 years later on June 12, 1975. She wrote, directed and starred in the 2003 film *One Last Dance* alongside her husband.

Finnish shaped lake in Lapland

During the 1990 tourist boom in Lapland, a developer planned a holiday village in *Kittilä*, and the pond was intended to be the central point of the luxury village. The pond was designed to be a 1:10,000 scale replica of the map of Finland, the contours were marked on the terrain, and the shape was dug into the slope of *Vesikkovaara* in 1991. The pond filled with ground water, but the development was never completed as the tourism industry faced a recession. The pond, called *Neitokainen*, remains.



News from Finland in English

For news about Finland in English, a good site on the internet is *Helsinki Times*. This online news site, established in 2007, provides for people from around the world who are interested in Finland. <https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/>

Finnish Hobby Horse Championships

On June 7, 2023, 400 quasi-equestrians (mostly girls aged 10-18 years) took part in the Hobby Horse Championships in Seinäjoki, central Finland, with more than 2,500 spectators cheering them on. Competitors guided their "steeds" through show jumping, dressage and puissance – or high jump. To see more, please go to: <https://skhhry.fi/en/the-finnish-hobbyhorse-association-2/>

Monetary Donations acknowledged

A total of \$2,950 in donations received from April – June 2023, directed to the following funds:

- Operations
- The Scholarship Fund and in memory of Val Galasyn
- The Window/Railing Fundraiser

Lorna Kenly of Newbury, MA

Sean Tate, Preston, CT

Don & Ellen Buffington of Granby, CO

Ann Gruenberg, Hampton, CT

Cheryl, Duane and Miranda Rogers of Glendale, AZ

Museum donations acknowledged

Claudia Abbott of Pomfret, CT, donated the following items: Leather ski boots with hand woven straps, with a note from her mother where and when she wore them, a straw Christmas goat, a book in Finnish, and a very old Puukko with birch bark sheath. Claudia's mother's, (Kaarina Hebe Alho), Finnish graduation cap, including a photo of her mother wearing the cap, one Munsala ensemble, also belonging to Kaarina, with extra scarf.

Also from Claudia Abbott: On loan for the 2023 museum season, a grey Army blanket, embroidered with multi colored roses and vines by her grandmother (Hilja Maria Sarman Alho during the 1940s).

Anita Smiley of Preston, CT: three Hackman coffee spoons for our display case.

Paul Aho of Storrs, CT: a Peter Kalm commemorative coin, with Mountain Laurel on one side.

Janet Jew of Fulton, MD: A copper coffee pot belonging to her grandmother.

Other donations acknowledged:

Betsy Molodich of Betsy's Stand in Moosup: donation of rhubarb for Chicken BBQ

NOTE: Our all-volunteer team works hard to process and respond in a timely manner to anyone donating to FAHS. We apologize for any unavoidable delays. To contact the Secretary, correspondence@fahs-ct.org.



Mary Brown, left, presents Roland Noel with a Quilt of Valor. Photo by Mary Brown.



From left, John Harris, Richard and Robert Harmon and Roy Tapio congratulate Roland Noel (front) after receiving his Quilt of Valor. Photo by Mary Brown.

Please see the Spring 2023 FinnConn for more about the QOV program.

Financial Audit Committee

The 2022 Financial Audit Committee met on June 28, 2023. Committee members were: Jobina Miller, Treasurer; Minna Waters, Vice President; Patti Folsom, Trustee; and Sandra Ahola, member. The committee noted no discrepancies. And stated: *"Jobina has done an excellent job as Treasurer, as 2022 posed many challenges as this was a major capital drive to process funds received, had many increased transactions and time spent on the various accounts, all while keeping a paper trail and electronic file of FAHS records"*. Thank you to the committee for your time and attention with special appreciation to Jobina for her outstanding attention to her volunteer position as FAHS Treasurer.

Recording Secretary Position

The FAHS Board is seeking an individual to fill the role of Recording Secretary. It is important to record both the membership and board meetings especially any action taken. Please contact President Steven Bousquet to discuss ideas for streamlining the work of this role.

Finnish Hall Centennial - 1924 or 1925?

Planning has begun to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Finnish Hall. Our history notes that "The hall was reportedly dedicated on Christmas Day 1925". Although some believe it was 1924. Either way, it is certainly something to celebrate, maybe all year long. If you are interested in assisting with planning our festivities, please contact a board member to volunteer. *Kiitos.*

Finlandia Foundation Update

Excerpts from FFN Press Release, July 6, 2023

Quotations from a press release from Anne-Mari Paster, FFN President reporting on FFN progress in protecting precious items in the Hancock, MI Finnish Heritage Center. "Our agreement ensures that the collection will not be dispersed and sold in pieces, or even worse, discarded". She goes on to state that the "more than 40,000 artifacts.... include Bibles from 1640---the first ever published in the Finnish language. They include the records from the American humanitarian effort to "Help Finland," which was led by former President Herbert Hoover during World War Two. They include copies of Finnish-American newspapers from all over the United States, going as far back as the late 1800's. They include the oral histories of Finnish-Americans---like ourselves---telling the stories of our lives and how we came to this country. They include the largest collection of Finnish ryijys in the United States. They include the largest collection of Finnish glass in the United States".

"To complete this mission of "Saving Finland in America" we will need your help. There is still much more work to be done. We look forward to updating you again soon. Kiitos. Thank you".

For additional information along with informational videos and music, please visit: <https://finlandiafoundation.org/>





Member News & Milestones



Congratulations – Onnea

To Roy Tapio from Brooklyn, CT, a member of the carving group, who celebrated his 90th Birthday on May 27.

To Erika Waters from Waterford, CT on her graduation from Waterford High School. Erika is the daughter of Aaron and Minna Waters of Waterford, CT and granddaughter of Nelly Fyke from Pensacola, FL. Erika will be attending West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV.

To Addison Sasser-Cuff on her graduation from Lisbon Middle School. Addison is the daughter of Laura and Joe Sasser-Cuff and the granddaughter of Marita Sasser all from Lisbon, CT.

To Alexander Buffington on his graduation from Tocol Creek High School (The new school's first graduating class). Alex is the son of Kidd and Aimee Buffington of St. Augustine, FL and the grandson of Don and Ellen Buffington of Granby, CO. Alex will be attending University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL.

Get Well Wishes – Pikaista Paranemista

To Sean Tate of Preston, CT for his recovery from first one, and then a second knee replacement surgery.

To Nelly Irmeli Taipale Fyke of Pensacola, FL, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

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 October 10, 2023.

Please put "News and Milestones" in the subject line. *Paljon Kiitosia/Many Thanks, Minna.*



For more information about lodging, activities and to register, please visit

<https://www.finnfunn.org/>



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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/fahscanburyct

FINNISH CONNECTION

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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!

Spencer Nyholm & Abhijit Deb Roy of Storrs, CT

New Members are **ALWAYS** welcome!

Please visit www.fahs-ct.org for membership form.

President	Steven Bousquet	860-608-8366
Vice President	Minna Waters	251-454-1614
Treasurer	Jobina Miller	860-377-0789
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

May-October	Museum Open every Wednesday As well as 2 nd and 4 th Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, Aug 17	Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Aug 26	FAHS Yard Sale 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept 2	FAHS Yard Sale 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept 9	Coffee Social 12:30 p.m. Member Meeting 1:30 p.m. (Hybrid) Writer's Circle meets after.
Thursday, Sept 28	Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct 10	Fall Newsletter deadline
Sunday, Oct 15	Walktober 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Member Meeting 1:30 p.m. (Hybrid) Writer's Circle meets after.