

FAHS 2020 Officers and Trustees



At our annual membership meeting in early January the following officers and trustees were elected for 2020. Congratulations to the newly elected Board Members: Steven Bousquet, President; Jonathan Audette, Vice President; Rachel Linkkila, Recording Secretary; Jobina Miller, Treasurer; Steven Coupe, Membership Secretary; Laura Sasser-Cuff, Corresponding Secretary; Saul Ahola, Trustee; Stan Karro, Trustee; June Leiss, Trustee; and Sue Coupe, Trustee.

Front Row Left to Right: Jonathan Audette, June Leiss, Sean Tate, Steven Coupe. Back Row Left to

Right: Stan Karro, Laura Sasser-Cuff, Sue Coupe, Rachel Linkkila, Jobina Miller and Steven Bousquet.

Payton Ahola, “Flying Finn” Field Hockey Champion

Boston Globe photographer Barry Chin, captured Payton Ahola flying after she scored a goal for the Dover-Sherborn Raiders. Payton, the granddaughter of Sandra and Saul Ahola, was named the Massachusetts Division 2 Field Hockey All-Scholastics Athlete of the Year by the Boston Globe. She is a senior at Dover-Sherborn High School and was the Tri-Valley League MVP. Payton added a career high 19 goals and eight assists to lead the Dover-Sherborn Raiders (21-1-2) to the Division 2 MA State Field Hockey Championship. Sandra and Saul had to miss the November 16 FinnFunn morning activities in order to make it to the championship game. Payton is a National Honor Society and World Language Honor Society member, and will be attending Williams College, in Williamstown MA in the fall of 2020 where she plans to continue playing field hockey. She is a third-generation field hockey player; her mother Cara Ahola and grandmother Sandra Ahola both played field hockey in college.



Pikkujoulu Celebration

by Katrina Bousquet



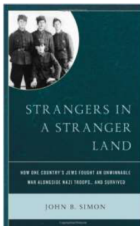
On Saturday December 7, 2019 FAHS in Canterbury, CT conducted its monthly membership meeting, followed by a delicious potluck luncheon. Thank you to all who set up, brought food and drink, helped serve and cleaned up. A special thanks goes to Anita Smiley and Diane Hawes for taking charge of the kitchen. Afterwards, all the fun was upstairs in the main hall, where the annual Pikkujoulu was held. Thank you to all who helped decorate the hall this year it, it looked fantastic! The old hall came alive with decorations, music, singing, laughter and children running throughout the hall. This year we had a special prop brought out from the depths of the archive. What visit from Joulupukki would be complete without a brick fireplace, decorated in fine Yule fashion, with candles, greens and illuminated garland? A giant thank you goes out to the coolest Santa, George Sipilla, who arrived in sunglasses! The children loved it of course. As in every year people gave generously to the silent auction, whether it was the items they donated or the tickets they bought. \$243.00 was raised and the money was donated to Access Community Action Agency, a food pantry in Windham, CT. The music was once again generously provided by Sean Tate (on keyboard and vocals) and Mike Kotowski on the accordion. Their musical gifts and leadership always add so much to our celebration, and are appreciated by all. We were also treated to a Kantele performance by Kantelelailu. A Christmas tree gift certificate was donated by The Allen Hill Tree Farm this year and Steve and Sue Coupe won it. Thanks to the generosity of our membership and the surrounding community our Pikkujoulu celebration was once again a success, helping to kick off the holiday season and helping our neighbors! Happy New Year to all, may we all be blessed with friends, family and community in the new year ahead of us! KITTOS!

From the Author's Corner: Strangers in a Stranger Land

By Katherine Leigh



and discussion of his book. The idea for the book began when he learned about this recognition by the Nazis and thus began a seven-year research journey. Intertwining Finland's history with a fictional story spanning characters over three generations, Simon shared with the audience the experience of Jews in Finland leading up to and during World War II. Simon, residing in Finland for the past three decades, as a Jew himself, interviewed veterans in their late 80s and 90s with each story evoking a unique perspective; he felt he wouldn't do justice to his goal of answering 'how could this happen while Jews were being mass exterminated across Europe' without creating a vehicle to share these differing perspectives. He connects fictional people to real events and places, making the stories come to life for the reader. At the end of his presentation, he highlighted Finland as the only country which did not exterminate its Jewish residents.



His visit to the US began in Boston and will conclude as he and his wife, Hannele, make their way toward Washington, DC, eventually to Atlanta, with presentations to writer's groups, Finnish and Jewish cultural groups to share this unique story. Refreshments provided further opportunity to talk with John and purchase a signed copy. If you missed this thought-provoking presentation, you may order a copy through Amazon!



"There's Magic in the Air"

Hannu Makipuro with Special Guests

Present a Benefit Concert for the Finnish American Heritage Society

Location: StoneHurst at Hampton Valley
119 Providence Turnpike (Rte. 6)
Hampton, CT 06247

Date: March 28, 2020 at 7PM
Doors open at 6PM

General Admission is \$35 with Hors d'oeuvres served at 6PM.

Sponsored by StoneHurst

Tickets sold on Eventbrite or contact Eila at (860) 423-3854

The Finnish Hall Needs Your Help!

In the fall newsletter, we asked for donations for the entrance improvement project, which entails replacing and repairing the front double doors and canopy, and replacing the side entrance door. These improvements will enhance the security and heat efficiency of these entrances and are much needed, especially as the coldest weather approaches. As of the writing of this article, twenty donors have generously contributed \$3,773, just over half of the funds needed to complete the project. If you have not already contributed, please do so using the instructions and form below. Any denomination contribution is welcome and will help us toward the \$7,000 goal. Additionally, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible.

Detach and return the form below along with your donation by check to the following address:

FAHS, P.O. Box 252, Canterbury, CT 06331 Attn: Treasurer

Name: _____

Street Address _____

City, state, and zip code _____

Phone number and/or email address _____

Amount of donation _____ Donation purpose: Entry Improvement Project

FinnFunn Weekend



East Hill Farm
Troy, NH
November 15-17, 2019

Finnish American Heritage Society Scholarship

Ann Gruenberg

The Finnish American Heritage Society Scholarship Fund was started in November 2000. Since then, we have awarded thirty-nine scholarships to students who are motivated to carry on the mission of FAHS. The primary purpose of the Scholarship is to perpetuate Finnish-American heritage through support of relevant educational initiatives. These can be related to, but not limited to, music, the arts, health, education, the environment, and architecture or engineering.

The Scholarship Committee does not discriminate based on age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, belief, or any other conditions. Scholarships will continue to be awarded annually. We greatly appreciate ongoing donations to this important fund, to ensure it will continue "in perpetuity." Our current endowment balance is over \$20,000. The committee invites candidates to apply, with the deadline of June 30, 2020. The awards are presented in the fall. Members and their families are eligible.

Anyone who has been awarded a scholarship is asked to wait at least a year before re-applying, to give others a turn. We now have three awards: The General Scholarship, the Korsu Athletic Scholarship, and the Karla Tate Creative Scholarship. The procedure for application is included as an insert in the newsletter. The application form is also available on the FAHS Website at www.fahs-ct.org. If you have questions, please call Ann Gruenberg, Chair, Scholarship Committee at 860-455-1211.

Beer & Wine Tasting

On Friday November 8, 2019 the FAHS hall hosted their Annual Beer and Wine Tasting Event. The event was well attended by members and non-members.



Checkout and "LIKE" the
FAHS Facebook page, listed as
– "Finnish American Heritage
Society of Canterbury, CT"



FAHS is a member chapter of Finlandia
Foundation National (FFN).

Visit their website at –
www.finlandiafoundation.org

Congratulations - Onnea

- Congratulations to newly elected **Board Members**.
- Congratulations to **Cheryl Rogers** of Glendale, AZ on her appointment as Vice Chairperson of Finlandia University's Finnish Council of America.
- Congratulations to **Davis Jobe**, son of **Kaarina Jobe**, and grandson of Rita Kelley, who was named National Merit Commended Scholar and was also inducted into the Collegiate chapter of Cum Laude. Davis is a senior at Collegiate School in Richmond, VA.
- Congratulations to **Irene Profetto's** husband **Jim Profetto** who turned 90 years old on December 27, 2019.

Get Well Wishes - Pikaista Paranemista

- To **Joyce Hannula** of Westminister, MA on her recent heart defibrillator surgery.

Sympathies - Otamme Osaa

- To **Hannu and Eila Makipuro** and sister Maritta and family and friends on the passing of their son **Mark Henrik Olavi Makipuro** at age 53 after an extended illness on November 23, 2019.

COME JOIN US!

Guided tour of South Western Finland

July 30th to August 9th, 2020

Visit all the major cities

\$3980 DBL includes direct round trip flight from JFK to Helsinki, 2 meals a day, transportation, entrance fees and more. Hosted by Steven and Katrina Bousquet.
For more information contact

Steve Bousquet 860-608-8366
stevebtours@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

Jeffrey & Carolyn Otto - Brooklyn, CT
Kirsi, Don & Derek Nevalain-Lacourt -
Brooklyn, CT

Karen Lovequist - New Fairfield, CT
Elina & Jacob Vandenberg - Dayville, CT
Amanda Varnio - Chestnut Hill, MA

New members are always welcome to the Finnish American Heritage Society. Please use the enclosed Membership Coupon to sign up and send it with your dues to:

FAHS, P.O. Box 252, Canterbury, CT 06331.

Coming Events at a Glance

Thursday, February 20 Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 1 Membership Meeting/Kalevala
Celebration 1:30 pm

Saturday, March 7 Finnish Culinary Delights 1:30pm

Thursday, April 2 Membership Meeting 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 4 Pancake Breakfast 8:00-11:00 am

Saturday April 15 Spring Newsletter Submission

Thursday April 25 Board Meeting 6:00 pm

The complete Calendar of Events is on the FAHS
website at: www.fahs-ct.org

President	Steven Bousquet	860-608-8366
Vice President	Jonathan Audette	860-917-5296
Treasurer	Jobina Miller	860-377-0789
Secretary	Rachel Linkkila	860-377-5914
Correspondence	Laura Sasser Cuff	860-377-4149
Membership	Steve Coupe	401-568-6614



Finnish American Heritage Society

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

For your convenience, a Membership Coupon is enclosed in this issue.

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

On Facebook at: www.facebook.com/fahscanterburyct

FINNISH CONNECTION

ISSN 1525-6928

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Finnish American Society. Subscription is free for members and \$30/year for organizations. Readers are invited to submit material.

FAHS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Collection of materials and proofreading: Kay Gruder, Patti Folsom,
Anita Smiley, Jackie Harjula and Linda Kuja

Members' News and Milestones: Stan Karro

Photos: Sean Tate and Anita Smiley

