

**Finally You Can Enjoy Hannu Makipuro's Twice-Postponed Concert
 "There's Magic in the Air" on August 26 at StoneHurst**

by Saul Ahola

What better way to celebrate our new freedom to enjoy music together than attending Hannu Makipuro's "There's Magic in the Air" concert on a late summer evening in the brand-new spacious barn at StoneHurst in Hampton CT. The concert, with proceeds to benefit the Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury, will feature vocal and instrumental Jazz, Swing and Broadway Show Tunes; and with several Finnish musicians in the band there will surely be one medley of traditional Finn Tunes as well. Hannu on vocal and trumpet, Phil Palonen and Evan Bellman on guitar, Bill Rood on sax, Rufus 'Baby Grand' Davis on keyboard, and Justin Blackburn on drums will try to surpass the triumph of Hannu's "Love Songs in Spring" Concert of 2017, if that's even possible.

Hannu's son Mark Makipuro, a popular and talented jazz musician, sadly passed away in November 2019, but his magic touch will be felt by the audience and appreciated by his musician friends in the band. He not only arranged the music for the concert but also, along with Hannu, composed its theme song.

StoneHurst at Hampton Valley, 119 Providence Turnpike (Route 6), Hampton, CT, with its rustic but chic décor, cabaret seating, and expansive grounds, will be the perfect setting for this magical night of music and camaraderie. Doors open at 6 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served before the 7 p.m. concert and at intermission. A cash bar will also be available. Admission is \$35 per person. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite (search: Hannu Makipuro) or by contacting Eila at 860-423-3854.



President's report

The board met on May 27 on a Zoom call and planned out the rest of this year. Please check the FAHS website for the updates at fahs-ct.org. The board is continuing to work on fundraising events to support the hall. We also had our first hybrid Zoom and live membership meeting. There were glitches with the internet WIFI

that we are working on to improve the hybrid meeting experience. The FAHS board is an all-volunteer board, and I want to thank each of the members for all their time and effort this year supporting our mission and our members. Kiitos. Steven Bousquet



Yard and Tag Sale at FAHS SAVE THE DATES

by Stan Karro

On Saturday, August 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Finnish American Heritage Society is planning to conduct a yard and tag sale to benefit the scholarship fund. With our very limited fund-raising activities due to the pandemic, this event will help support the funds for deserving scholarship applicants.

We are asking members and friends of FAHS to donate items for this event. It has been many years since a similar fundraiser of this type has been scheduled at the Finnish Hall. For a more successful event, we are requesting many items in good condition and of somewhat moderate value to attract a good customer interest and buyers.

We plan current collection days for items to be delivered to the hall on Saturday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and also on Saturday, August 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are requesting members and friends to volunteer to help staff the event and contribute articles for this fundraiser. Please contact Stan Karro to join other members and friends in this event. Stan can be reached at email swkbrklyn@aol.com or by cell at 860-480-3648. Monetary contributions designated for the scholarship fund would also be appreciated.

Scholarship Committee Updates

by Ann Gruenberg

With spring springing and summer simmering we are fully in the midst of a major transition. Given the scope of the pandemic, it is a minor miracle that any semblance of a new normal is emerging.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased that we were able to offer support in 2020 to one highly qualified candidate, Kyle Bacon. So far, three inquiries have been made about the application for the 2021 cycle. The Board of Directors has initiated a fundraising event on August 28 to generate funds through a tag

sale. Supporters can donate and participate while organizing their "stuff" and while shopping.

We are tremendously grateful for ongoing support. By the time you read this, we hope we will have received applications for this year's scholarship.

Wishing you and your family health and jubilation. If you have questions, please contact:

Ann Gruenberg, Chair
Scholarship Committee
Cell: 860-465-7486

FinnFunn Weekend SAVE THE DATE October 29-31

by Rob Ranta

After a year of home confinement, what can be a better reason to venture outside than a cool, crisp fall weekend with colorful foliage and fresh country air in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire? Come reconnect with long-time friends and meet newcomers at the 29th FinnFunn Weekend, to be held from October 29-31, the annual regional event sponsored by Finnish groups throughout New England.

Enjoy the music of accordionist Bernie Nowak and Oivan Ilo band, the Finnish dancers, crafting, the raffle, topical Finnish videos. Complementing the familiar will be presenters and performers who bring fresh perspectives to Finnish and Finnish-American cultural topics. Learn ways to write your Finnish story followed by a writing workshop. You'll also want to hear about the FFN's Young Leaders Board from two of its members.

Everyone finds a treasure at the tori on Saturday. Hosted by the Historical Society of Cheshire County,

the market blends Finnish favorites with local products.

The Inn at East Hill Farm, once again our gracious host, invites you to register now for the all-inclusive weekend rate or for day rates found at this link <https://www.saima-park.org/ff2021/registrationratesrooms.html>

Contact Holly LeClair at 1-800-242-6495 to register and to request additional information. Be sure to mention FinnFunn Weekend.

Save the date. Join us. Register. We look forward to greeting you at the Inn at East Hill Farm for a relaxing weekend of fellowship, fun, and discovery.

Kiitoksia,
The 2021 FinnFunn Weekend Planning Committee



If you have not checked out the FAHS offerings on YouTube yet, there is an oral interview of FAHS member Josie (Suominen) Stenback to which I'd like to draw your attention. Josie was born in 1924 in Voluntown to Finnish immigrant parents. When Josie was age 7, her parents sold their farm and started on a journey which consumed several years of her young life. Her father was conscripted, along with many other

Finnish men, by the Communists to move to Russia. Josie relates the life of her family as they traveled from New York to Leningrad, to Petroskoi, to Kazan, and finally to Finland and their return to the United States. Living conditions on arrival in Leningrad were not as promised, and Josie's recollections of family life and attending Russian schools are vivid and descriptive. Josie is a charter member of FAHS.

Finlandia Foundation National Virtual Programming

by Anita Smiley

As with many organizations during the pandemic, Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) has been innovative in presenting virtual programming relating to its mission of sustaining Finnish-American culture in the United States, initiating innovative programming, and connecting with friends of Finland. The FFN website, finlandiafoundation.org, has a link to Finnposium, which will connect you to online chats, musicals, webinars, and other presentations.

The schedule of events as currently planned calls for webinars on Tuesdays, In Conversation and My American Dream on Thursdays, and concerts and entertainment programs on Saturdays. My American

Dream features interviews with Finnish and Finnish-American entrepreneurs, and In Conversation provides an opportunity to meet through personal interviews with people such as Finnish-American Philip Bailey, who is with NASA and has done ground-breaking work on the Mars rover Perseverance.

At present there are over 27 available FFN presentations on the internet. Go to YouTube.com and search "Finnposium." There is no charge for this nice selection of entertainment for all tastes, whether your choice is a lecture or a program of soothing background music.

Pulla Bakers Back in Action

by Sue Coupe



Katrina Bousquet (left) and Sue Coupe (right)

One by one the pulla bakers entered the hall to the whir of the mixer and a steady thump, thump, thump. Happy greetings filled the air as each one prepared to spend the day mixing, braiding and baking. The aroma of freshly ground cardamom filled the air as friends old and new worked together. The happy chatter could be heard as friends reconnected after a long separation. The camaraderie was easy. One might think that they met each week for coffee at their homes. Birthdays were celebrated as more friends dropped in to pick up their pulla, fresh from the ovens. Good food, good friends and good times were the order of the day. Oh, if those walls could talk. Watch for pulla updates on Facebook and/or in your email this fall.

Open House at the Finnish Hall

by Stan Karro



On Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., FAHS held an Open House in conjunction with CTVisit.com, Connecticut Office of Tourism. Visitors from towns across Connecticut (New Hartford, Bristol, Salem, and Eastern CT) met with several Finnish American Heritage Society members who conducted tours of the hall and museum and provided cultural and historical information of Finnish and Finnish-American immigrants of the past and present. Numerous displays provided key cultural information of Finland and Finnish Americans. Thank you to the following members for their support: Anita Smiley, Mike and Fran Kotowski, Katrina and Steve Bousquet, Arlene Baril, Saul Ahola, and Stan Karro.

Accordian music was played by Mike Kotowski, accompanied in the morning by Saul Ahola on the fiddle. Pulla samples were provided for tasting along with beverages. Several visitors expressed interest in joining our organization.

Sima (May Day and summer drink)

Recipe contributed by Sue Coupe



- 4 quarts water
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
- 2 lemons
- 1/8 teaspoon active dry yeast
- 1 tablespoon raisins

Heat water to boil. Then stir in the brown sugar and 1 cup white sugar. Remove the zest from the lemons and add to the mixture. Carefully remove the white part of the lemon rind and slice the lemon into thin slices, removing the

seeds as you go. Add to the mixture. Cool to 100 degrees and transfer to a non-metallic container. Add yeast and stir. Let stand overnight or at least 8-10 hours in a warm place. There should be tiny bubbles at the edge of the liquid. Sterilize enough glass bottles to hold 1 gallon liquid. Place 1-2 tsp sugar per quart of liquid and place 3-5 raisins in each jar. Strain the liquid and pour into containers. Cork tightly. Let stand at room temperature until the raisins have risen, which indicates the sima has fermented enough and is ready to drink. This can take from 8 hours to 2 days. Chill in the refrigerator and then enjoy with a slice of lemon or another garnish of your choice.

Kerro Tarina - to tell a story

"A Glimpse"

by Susan Cloutier

A year ago, I never left my Massachusetts house without a mask during the deadliest and scariest months of the pandemic. I kept my daily walking routine at the parks, and something strange happened. Before COVID-19, I passed strangers without saying "Hello." Horrors! Did I fit the typical Finnish stereotype? One who valued private space, avoided small talk, and deliberately looked at the ground to avert eye contact? During the pandemic, I raised my hand with a little wave and strangers responded in kind. Our little finger flips became popular. Behind our masks, we felt comfortable, safe, and surprisingly connected. I wondered secretly if my Finnish genes liked the anonymity. My mother liked wearing her mask; she pointed out, "My mask hides my wrinkles. I don't need to wear lipstick."

Two years ago "FaceApp" became popular on social media. Curious, impatient people changed their faces and advanced time. They saw their sagging mouths, their worn faces with wrinkles, and tired, squinting eyes.

Ten years ago Mom and I stayed at the Hotel Sacher in Vienna. While taking the elevator to our room, the doors opened and a middle-aged woman with long, raven-colored hair stood in front of us. She studied my mother, June, glanced at me, and then focused on my mother again. She boldly announced, "Your mother is a very beautiful woman, and someday you'll look just like her." No doubt, Mom was pleased. When I am with my ninety-three-year mother, I do not need "FaceApp" to see what lies ahead. I imagine in twenty-five years when I look in the mirror, she'll be looking back at me. And she'll smile...

Onni

by June Leiss

I like to talk about my late cousin, Onni Johannes Lassila, who was born on December 5, 1901, near Viipuri, Finland, which later became part of Russia. His father, Anton, came to America first because he was afraid of being drafted into the Russian army. After arriving in Boston, he traveled and worked at the lumber camps in Michigan. His wife Hilda (Rautio) and son Onni later followed when he was three years old; he was a little one.

After arriving on Ellis Island, Onni watched a stranger eating a banana. He had never seen one before. He stared at the woman until she offered him a banana. He tried eating the banana without peeling it; he was so hungry.

After residing in the lumber camps, the Lassilas moved

to the Northeast. Onni's mother was a practicing midwife and delivered many-a baby in Jersey City and Finn Town in Brooklyn, New York.

Onni was a bright, mischievous child. He had his classmates laughing in school, time and time again. His teacher sent him home during those "laughing episodes." Even at home, Onni was an impish lad. His mother asked him to fetch a pail of coal from the cellar and put it on the dumbwaiter. His mother pulled on the rope, straining with the heavy load. She brought the coal to the third floor. She was surprised to see Onni sitting on top of the coal bucket with a smile from ear to ear.

Following high school, Onni attended Cooper Union College in Lower Manhattan and later worked as a

Kerro Tarina - to tell a story

photoengraver on copper for the Campella Brothers in New York City. Perhaps this career revealed his talent for drawing. After he married, he drew a portrait of his wife. Meanwhile, his only sister, Helmi, pointed out that Onni was growing up to be a tall, handsome, young man. At one point a movie talent scout showed up at the Lassila house asking Onni to audition at Fort Lee. Onni replied, "Not interested."

The Finn Hall on Winfield Avenue in Jersey City needed a director for a play. This Hall contacted the

Finnish Hall in Harlem and that is how Onni met his wife, Nancy (Nanni) Harju, a gal from Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Nancy was born for the stage; she was a seasoned actress and director. There was an instant attraction.

They married in 1926. During The Depression, his uncle, Emil Rautio, urged the family to move to Plainfield, Connecticut. Onni worked as a manager for UCF (United Cooperative Farmers) between two facilities in Moosup and Danielson. During the early years, Onni and Nancy were drawn to the stage at the Finnish Hall in Canterbury. The stage murals were painted in oils and resembled a Finnish forest.

In 1938, Nancy directed a musical called "Gypsy Rover." Onni's cousin, Ruth Rautio, was an



Onni is pictured in the center

accomplished pianist. Onni became Sir George Martingale, a distinguished, English gentleman. The play was a huge success. The actors were given a standing ovation with continuous applause.

Their daughter Laura Ann (Angus) was born in 1940. As a young teenager, she took singing lessons and performed duets with Hannu Makiipuro. This stage became "the heart" of the Finnish Hall.

While raising my own children in Canterbury, Onni frequently called and asked, "Are you going to Brodeur's today? Nancy just pulled a cake out of the oven." Brodeur's was a grocery store in Plainfield.

I miss Onni. When I close my eyes I see him standing tall at his kitchen door.

We encourage and welcome your story submission of 300-400 words. Contact Susan Cloutier with questions or for assistance at susanhinz413@gmail.com. Kiitos.

Hall Cleanup Report

A team of volunteers made up of FAHS members reported to the hall the morning of June 5. Planting occurred, floors were washed and prepped for painting, and weeding was performed. The front

staircase was scrubbed and cleaned. The windows in the library and museum were hand washed. A dedicated crew followed up with a watering routine to keep the newly installed plants alive and thriving.



Update: Hall Beautification and Cleanup

by Stan Karro

During the last several weeks, several maintenance and cleaning activities have occurred at the Finnish Hall which included brush clearing, interior and exterior sanding and painting, kitchen cleaning/organizing, Open House preparation, hall sign cleaning, cleaning of all rest facilities, and new courtyard plantings by American Landscaping. We appreciate the support provided by many of our members. Volunteers include: Saul Ahola, Kerttu Lavallee, Marita Sasser, Arlene Baril and Grandson Joey, Steve and Katrina Bousquet, Aaron and Minna Waters, Erika and Cade Waters, John Warn, Susan Cloutier, and Stan Karro. In addition Matti Huhta designed and constructed a new Finnish Hall sign. It is displayed in the hall photo, on a bench donated by Arlene Baril, before it was mounted above the front doors.



As I have been translating the minutes from 1929 of the first organization to own the property now referred to as The Finnish Hall in Canterbury, there are a few interesting findings I wish to share. First, there were seven founding members. However, in just five months, the group grew fast, totaling twenty-seven by May 1929.

Second, the members truly enjoyed getting together! They held two evening parties within the first four months and had plans for May Day (Vappu) and Midsummer Party (Juhannus) in the upcoming two months. The Club advertised for their parties in three newspapers. The first was called *Industrialisti*, which was a Finnish language newspaper published in Duluth, Minnesota. It was founded in 1914 under the name of *The Socialisti*. The newspaper was politically linked to Industrial Workers of the World and was published daily but was converted into every two weeks in later years. At the time of its foundation, *Socialisti* had a circulation of about 4,000. In 1919 the *Industrialisti* had around 10,000 subscribers.

The second newspaper in which they advertised was *Raivaaja*, translated also into *Mover*. It was also a Finnish language newspaper published from 1905 to 2009 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, by Raivaaja Publishing Company. For the first three decades of its existence, the publication was closely associated with the Socialist Party of America.

The third newspaper was called *Eteenpäin*, or *Forward* in English. This was also a daily Finnish language newspaper launched in New York City in 1921. The paper was the "East Coast organ" of Finnish-American members of the Communist Party of the USA. The paper moved to Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1922 and then to Yonkers, NY, in 1931. In 1950 *Eteenpäin* merged with a Communist party's midwestern Finnish language daily paper called *Työmies (The Worker)* to create *Työmies-Eteenpäin*, which continued to be published from Superior, Wisconsin, into the 1990's.

Now on a personal note from my childhood growing up in Helsinki in the 1950's. We did not have TV. I remember my mother, father, and particularly my godfather Harry up until his passing in 2017 at the age of 94. Their morning ritual was to sit down in the kitchen with a good strong cup of Finnish coffee (Paulig, Presidentti, or Juhla... which is a company founded in Helsinki 1876). They would faithfully read the newspaper. Their newspaper of choice was the *Helsingin Sanomat* (Helsinki News). They needed to know what was going on....it seems like the Finnish immigrants to the United States had the same need from habit. From little Finland to the United States, they established and published three newspapers starting back in 1905.

Thank You for reading... Kiitos paljon.

Chicken Barbeque

Many volunteers are needed to help in supporting this event on September 25. We need kitchen helpers to prepare the sides and assemblers to prepare the take-out meals, plus help for setup and cleanup. Contact Steve Bousquet at 860-608-8366 to join in helping. Special note: we have overbought on chicken to assure that there will be plenty for all!



FAHS Calendar (Updated in June of 2021)

June 26	Midsummer celebration at the FAHS hall, 6 -8 pm. Games, music, fire and refreshments
June 30	Scholarship application deadline
August 19	Board meeting on Zoom, 6-8 p.m.
August 26	"There's Magic in the Air" Concert at StoneHurst in Hampton, CT, 7-9 p.m.
August 28	FAHS yard sale to benefit the Scholarship fund, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
September 2	Hybrid membership meeting, 7-9 p.m.
September 25	Chicken BBQ, 4-6 p.m.
October 7	Hybrid membership meeting, 7-9 p.m.
October 27	Board meeting on Zoom, 6-8 p.m.
October 29-31	FinnFunn Weekend at East Hill Farm
December 4	Membership meeting, Finnish Hall, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. 12-1 p.m., Potluck Lunch 1-3 p.m., Pikkujoulu Party



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

ACME Finns Facebook Page

By Minna and Aaron Waters

Our site, ACMEFinns.com and its complementary Facebook page of the same name, was launched a few months ago and continues to grow and attract people that are interested in Finnish American culture. To date, the ACME Finns Facebook page has over 300 followers, doubling of our last update in the Spring newsletter and the traffic continues to grow on our web page. Our series of blog articles titled "Discovering Our Finnish Culture and Heritage!" covers four separate subtopics: Finnish foods, The Sauna, Finnish Music, and Technology to access everything Finland. To date, we have authored 8 full-feature articles, 4 Finnish recipes, and a multitude of Facebook posts.

The latest article delves into the Finnish music scene and tells of our discovery of the Finnish "New-Grass" Band called Steve ~N~ Seagulls. Six years ago, a friend of ours and a huge fan of the British rock band,

AC/DC, showed Aaron a video of what looked to be a bluegrass band covering an AC/DC hit called Thunderstruck. Fast forward to the pandemic and while browsing YouTube, we came across the same video, so we decided to watch. If this band sounds familiar to you, Finlandia Foundation National just posted an interview with the Band's lead singer Rimmel, on the FFN YouTube Channel. You can read the rest of the story and more at ACMEFinns.com. Also, please visit, follow, and share our ACME Finns Facebook site. This site is updated more frequently and will alert you when we add to our ACMEFinns webpage. You have to click the "Follow" button to be sure you receive those updates. So come join Geno the Sauna kissa, and the rest of the ACME family on our journey of discovery of the wonderful sights, sounds, tastes, and spirit of sisu that make up our Finnish Heritage.

Member News & Milestones

Congratulations- Onnea

Congratulations to all the June graduates following a very difficult pandemic period. Good luck in your future careers from the Finnish American Heritage Society.

Congratulations to Krista Buffington on her one-year-early graduation this summer from Florida State University. Krista earned a Marketing Major and Hospitality Minor. She is the daughter of Kidd and Aimee Buffington and granddaughter of Don and Ellen Buffington. Krista celebrates her 21st birthday in August.

Congratulations and best wishes to Cheryl Smiley on her retirement from 42 years of nursing in New York City and Connecticut.

Get Well Wishes – Pakaista Paranemista

To Irja and Thure Oja of Brooklyn, CT on their recent medical issues.

To Dr. Valentine Galasyn of Canterbury, CT, who is resting comfortably at the Villa Maria Nursing Home in Plainfield, CT, following surgery.

Get Well wishes to Don Buffington, whom many will remember limping around the Hall, as he recovers from a total knee replacement.

Get well wishes also to Don's wife, Ellen, who is recovering from hip surgery after tripping while setting up garden hoses. When it rains, it pours.

Sympathies- Otamme Osaa

To the family and friends of Henry Hirvi of Paxton, MA, on his passing away on February 28 at a Worcester Nursing Home. Henry was a FAHS member for many years and also was active at Saima Park and the Rutland, MA, Finnish group Sovittaja. Henry served as President of FinnFest 1998, held at the University of Maine.



FAHS Collections Management Committee Updates

By Katrina Engblom Bousquet

This spring was busy for the FAHS Collections Management Committee. We have been able to meet at the Hall. The progress is slow but steady, going through the shelves and determining what is within our scope of collections and thus earning a spot in our archive room. Sometimes it's decided that an item belongs in the museum, where it can be enjoyed

by visitors. Other times it's clear that a book would be more useful in the lending library. We recently wrapped some dance costumes in acid-free paper and boxes and started work on the Finnish music collection. Many thanks to Patti Folsom, Anita Smiley, Kaz Kozlowski, Marita Sasser and Kertru Lavalée for their steadfast dedication to our mission.



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

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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

Photo credits: Anita Smiley and Katriana Bousquet

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Welcome New Members!

**David and Anne-Marie Bora
(daughters Julia and Andrea)
Putnam, CT**

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

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|---------------|---|
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East Hill Farm, Troy, NH |

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