



TEX - FINN NEWS



ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FINN TO PRINT
The International Newsletter of the Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth

Volume 19 Number 3

Marraskuu/November 2007

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We had an information-packed meeting for October. Wally Huskonen gave a very good presentation on the basics of Finnish Genealogy. Genealogy is a field that is constantly changing because of technology and the Internet. With Wally's handouts we now have quite a bit of information that can be useful in getting your research started and on track. We've made copies if you want some (ask Teddy).

For our November meeting Marshall Kregel and a few members of the KevOs4 group (for more information see www.finnishwarrior.com) are presenting a show celebrating Finnish Independence Day. There will be background music, some videos, lots of posters/picture boards, old newspapers, militaria, and other items. There will also be a section on the veteran interviews.

Elections will take place at our November meeting. FYI...as I mentioned at the last meeting, I will be doing quite a bit of traveling starting November. If nobody steps up to run for president I will be happy to continue in that position. I've enjoyed my time as president but don't want to cheat the organization out of someone that will be more present. I'll be happy to continue the organization's correspondence with existing members, friends, and outside organizations, including assisting in

getting speakers for meetings. I just won't be able to commit to attending the meetings, at least for now. We could take turns coordinating and running the meetings. I'll have to leave that decision in your hands.

BE SURE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE

www.finnishwarriors.com

Marshall's project is outlined with much detail and photographs. A valuable portion of history is being addressed and documented. Anyone who is Finnish, a history buff, or interested in militaria will enjoy this project's information. The TexFinns have the privilege of getting a sneak preview of the presentation which will be part of the Finnish Independence Day Gala.

AND....SOME FUN

Heikki was speeding down Main Street of a small town when he got pulled over by a police officer.

"But, Officer," said Heikki, "I can explain."

"Just be quiet," snapped the officer, "or I'm going to make you cool your heels in jail until Chief Mattila gets back."

"But Officer, I just wanted to say..."

"And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail."

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that Chief Mattila is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."

"Don't count on it," says Heikki, "I'm the groom."

TEXFINN MEETING

Thursday, November 15th, 2007

KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:00 PM

(North frontage of 635 between Preston and Hillcrest)

Program: For our November meeting Marshall Kregel and a few members of the KevOs4 group are presenting a show celebrating Finnish Independence Day. For more information see www.finnishwarrior.com There will be background music, some videos, lots of posters/picture boards, old newspapers, militaria, and other items. There will also be a section on the veteran interviews.

Bring a friend and a snack. We look forward to seeing you there.

FINNISH WAR VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Marshall Kregel, who is speaking at the TexFinn meeting on November 15th, is in the process of a project involving Finnish veterans of wars including the Winter War which was developed into a DVD presentation called 'Fire and Ice.' We had the privilege of viewing that documentary last spring. It has also been shown on PBS, channel 13 in the Dallas area.

He has outlined his project on his website, www.finnishwarriors.com. There is a prospectus of the project beginning with the first idea and its current status. To find out more about this endeavor, go to the website. It includes some of the interviews already completed with photographs and commentary.

The presentation at the TexFinn meeting will be a preview of the presentation which will be set up at the Finnish Independence Day Gala. This is an opportunity to have a look behind the scenes of a project in progress. Join the Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Ft. Worth on Thursday, November 15th at 7PM for a great program.

THE FINNISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NORTH TEXAS

The Finnish Language School of North Texas, Inc. is, at present, the largest Finnish School outside of the borders of Finland. They teach Finnish language, culture and customs to Finnish children under 16. Other interested individuals may also attend.

The group meets twice a month and are divided by their ability to speak Finnish. In addition to language learning, the school celebrates Finnish holidays and organizes events such as sports days, festivals and concerts.

The school is staffed 100% by volunteers and is a nonprofit organization. The school is funded primarily by the Ministry of Education in Finland, the Finnish Society in Finland and by fundraising efforts by the school. The amount of funding needed depends on the number of students registered at the school.

If you are interested in learning more about the school, go to their website at www.suomi-koulu.com. The school meets at the Rejoice Lutheran Church in Coppell. You may choose to view the website in Finnish or English.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MANNERHEIM

Kristian Nyman and Tony Ilmoni were nearly to the end of their trek, following the route taken by Gustav Mannerheim across China from 1906-1908 when he was mapping the territory for the Russian military more than ten years before Finnish independence. At the time Mannerheim was an officer in the Russian Imperial Army.

The men had started their journey on horseback last autumn, took a winter break, and continued riding into western China in March. Nyman and Ilmoni were approaching Tiananmen Square when they were taken and interrogated by a number of police officers. They were told that they did not have the appropriate permits and that they would be deported.

The Finnish Embassy intervened and the men were allowed to go back to their hotel. According to Ilmoni, they had a permit to enter Beijing and no one had ever mentioned that the Square was excluded.

The trip across China by this pair of Finns was less dangerous than Mannerheim's trek was. Although Mannerheim was part of a French scientific expedition, he was acting as a reconnaissance officer and a spy for the Russians.

FINNISH HOSPITALS A NEW STRAIN OF BACTERIA

A new form of bacteria 'Clostridium difficile' has been detected in some hospitals in Finland. It causes a more severe form of antibiotic-associated diarrhea. This bacteria has caused outbreaks in the United States and Canada. The most typical cases are in hospitals and other treatment facilities where disease can spread from one patient to another. The infection is made more difficult to overcome by a shortage of trained personnel to teach hospitals about this disease prevention.

Typically, hand sanitizers were used by visitors as a deterrent to infection, but sanitizers are not effective against some bacteria, Clostridium difficile being one of them. Now visitors to hospitals who sit and talk with patients but do not touch them are required to use hand sanitizers. Visitors who touch a patient must wash with soap and water. In serious cases, individuals may be ordered to be quarantined if they have been exposed to an infection.

The National Public Health Institute recommends that each hospital district should have two specialist infection doctors in order to be sure that someone is available during the holiday season.

**MOVING IN NOVEMBER
LIIKKEELLA MARRASKUUSA**

Moving in November in Helsinki does not mean that one is changing residence. 'Liikkeella marraskuusa' is a dance festival. The Helsinki metropolitan area hosts several dance performance activities in November.

The festival began in the mid-1980's as a way to have dance performances when there was very little financial resource available for productions. It attracted a large number of Finnish premiers and made it possible for the dancers to reach an audience beyond the circle of their fans. From 2005 onwards, the festival has been arranged annually. It fused with the Dance Arena Festival and became a Helsinki based festival. The festival now presents the dancers of highest standard in many areas and attracts participants from both Finland and abroad.

Keep Dancing- They're moving in November in Finland.

FINNISH INDEPENDENCE DAY GALA

This year Finland celebrates 90 years of independence. Anyone who is associated with Finland, interested in the culture, customs or business in Finland may come and celebrate with us the at the Finnish Independence Day Gala on Saturday, December 1st. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency DFW Hotel at 2335 N. International Parkway, DFW Airport (Irving) Texas. Tickets are \$100 which includes a dinner and champagne toast to independence. The Finnish-American Business Guild is sponsoring the event. A Finnish entertainer, Tommy Läntinen and Kuutamolla Band will provide entertainment.

For information and a reservation form, you may go to the Finnish-American Business Guild website at www.fabg.org.

HYVÄÄ KIITOS PÄIVÄÄ!!

GLOBAL WARMING OR WHAT!

Something is going on in Finland. It was a 'safe bet' to hold the first Alpine skiing World Cup event of the season in Levi, which is in Finnish Lapland, but there wasn't enough snow!! The event had to be moved to Reiteralm, Austria. Levi didn't have snow until the first week of November. It was a great loss for the tourist industry of Finland, especially Lapland. In spite of what happened this year, Levi is still scheduled to host the opening events for the FIS slalom world cup for the next four years.

FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH TEXAS

Our Mission

Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas is a Worshiping Community authorized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. We are a loving and caring community of Christians created by God, redeemed by the Living Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to enable all people through Prayer, Word and Sacrament to serve God.

This fall the Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas welcomed a new pastor. Pastor Seppo Vesala began his duties this October. For more information about him and his family go to www.finnishlutheran.org

Fall 2007 Services are partly bilingual (in Finnish, with English inserts). Coffee is served after services. Dates and times for worship services on fall season 2007:

Sunday, December 2, 5pm.

Saturday, December 15, 6pm (Christmas Carols followed by Bake Sale)

Sunday, December 23, 6pm.

Sunday, December 25, 3pm.

Location of Activities is:

Rejoice Lutheran Church
532 E Sandy Lake Road,
Coppell, TX 75019

Address: 532 East Sandy Lake Road
Coppell TX 75019

Pastor's phone: 972 310 0166

FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Karl Morris

Vice President: John Laine

Secretary/Treasurer: Vern & Diane Ruuska

Program Committee: Marcia Kuusisto

Jeremy Martin

Newsletter Editor: Teddy Krekula

Circulation: David Krekula

Social Committee: David Krekula

Sharon Blalock

Library Committee: open

Sunshine Committee: Dale and Gloria Huhtala

Finnish Language School Contact Person:

Helen Tiainen;

Membership Committee: open

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
THE SOCIETY, WRITE OR EMAIL:

Finnish-American Society of

Dallas/Ft. Worth

P.O. Box 832933

Richardson, TX 75083

website: <http://www.texfinn.org>

email: karljm@bigplanet.com



TEXFINN MEETING DATE

November 15, 2007

King of Glory Lutheran Church

on the north frontage of LBJ Freeway between
Hillcrest and Preston Road

Welcome to anyone who is interested in things
Finnish. Meeting begins at 7pm

**SPECIAL PROGRAM: MARSHALL
KREGEL AND THE NEW PROJECT ON
FINNISH WAR MEMORABILIA**

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO THE WOODEN SPOON
BE SURE TO VISIT EARLY AND FIND OUT ALL OF
THE GOODIES YOU CAN FIND!!**

THE WOODEN SPOON

1617 Avenue K in Plano.

Open Monday-Saturday from 10am-6pm

Tel: 972 424 6867 or 1 800 2 NORDIC

www.woodenspoon.ws

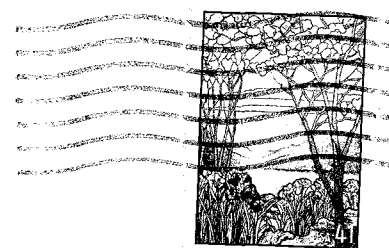
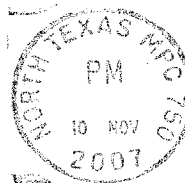
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Finnish American Society of DFW

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