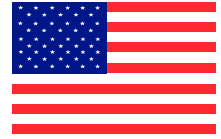


# TEX-FINN NEWS



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

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Helmikuu/February 2009

## TEXFINN MEETING: THURSDAY, February 19th, 2009

**What:** February 2009 Finnish-American Society of D/FW Meeting  
**When:** Thursday, February 19, 2009  
7:30 PM to about 10 PM  
**Where** **King of Glory Lutheran Church**  
6411 LBJ Freeway (I-635)  
Dallas, Texas 75240  
(North frontage of 635 (LBJ Freeway-- between Preston and Hillcrest)  
**Subject:** "Finnish Mythology" by Carl Anderson  
Carl Anderson will be talking about his book on Scandinavian mythology, including the Finnish mythology. He will have a few copies of his book with him for people to buy.  
Coffee, food, and conversation before the meeting.

### PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

WOW! Is it already February? Did everybody make thru the ice storm a few weeks ago without any problems? I hope everybody has had a good start to 2009. The past few weeks have been busy for Shannon and I. My brother, Tim, came home from the hospital after being there 1 month after a terrible vehicle on Christmas Eve. He is doing well and is now walking without the help of a walker. He still has a long road to recovery but is taking things one day at a time. Shannon and I also have enjoyed watching the Dallas Stars go from last place in the Western Conference to their current 5th place position.

We had a great turn out for last month's meeting. I want to thank Dr. Robert Font for coming out to speak with us. His presentation on the geology of Finland was great. We learned that Finland was south of the equator millions of years ago and how it moved from it over time to its current location. We also learned how Finland got its many lakes. You could really tell how much Dr. Font loves his job and the study of the earth's geology after hearing his presentation.

For this month's meeting, Carl Anderson will be coming to speak on Scandinavian mythology and his book on this subject. I am sure we will all learn something about Finnish mythology that we did not know before. Mr. Anderson will also have a few copies of his book with him to buy.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Jeremy Martin

*HYVÄÄ YSTÄVÄN PÄIVÄÄ!*

*HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY*

## **SALOLAMPI - IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE SUMMER CAMPS!!**

[www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org) Check it out. There are camps for every age group, every interest area. It is total immersion language learning. If you want a head start on Finnish, go to Salolampi. Scholarships and grants are available to help pay for tuition. Application forms and complete information can be downloaded from the website. Join in this year if you have never experienced the language camp. There are early bird discounts if you register before February 28. The earliest camp is the adult camp which begins on May 10th. There are youth weeks, family weeks, high school credit programs and the Soiva music camp. Go to [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org) for complete information and schedules. You may also write to Concordia Language Villages; 901 8th St S; Moorhead, MN 56562 or call (800) 222-4750.

### **Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas**

Evangelical Lutheran Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas is a worshipping community within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Services are conducted mainly in Finnish. Coffee is served after services.

Dates and times for Spring 2009 worship services:

Sunday Feb. 22 at 5 pm. Folk Song Mass

Sunday Mar. 22 at 5 pm. African Gospel Mass

Sunday Apr. 12 at 3 pm. Eastern Family Mass

Sunday May. 10 at 3 pm. Confirmation Mass,

Confirmation School Party and Finnish Mothers Day

Sunday May. 31 at 5 pm. Spring Mass

Saturday May 2 at 12 - 2 pm. Finnish-Community Picnic-Party and Vappu-Event and Finnish Language School Closing. In Backyard Rejoice Church. Music, eating, drinks...

All worship services take place at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 532 E Sandy Lake Road, Coppell, TX 75019. (The website for the Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas is [www.finnishlutheran.org](http://www.finnishlutheran.org) )

### **OTHER NEWS**

A new biography about Carl Mannerheim starts filming in Finland in March. The title of the movie is currently "Mannerheim". The projected release date in Finland is October 15, 2010. The movie is being filmed in several locations in Finland and outside of Finland. The director of "Mannerheim" is the Finnish director Renny Harlin. For more information on the movie can be found on The Internet Movie Database (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1067580/>).

### **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTS**

[www.scandinavianfilmfest.com](http://www.scandinavianfilmfest.com) has launched which lists the different Scandinavian Film Fests occurring in the U.S. This year there are new Scandinavian Film Fests occurring in Denver, Minneapolis, and Seattle. Denver's is occurring in March and our Austin Scandinavian Film Fest is coordinating with these other Scan Film Fests.

If you know of people interested in attending the new ones in Denver, Minneapolis, or Seattle feel free to direct them to [www.scandinavianfilmfest.com](http://www.scandinavianfilmfest.com)

We'll be sending out information soon on the upcoming Austin Scandinavian Film Fest scheduled for February 28 (Sat).

## **Finland Education - A Model for Dallas Schools?**

**According to an article by JIM LANDERS in the Dallas Morning News, this is likely to be the case.**

The article states that by the time Finland's children complete the ninth grade, they speak three languages. They have studied algebra, geometry and statistics since the first grade.

In math, science, problem solving and reading comprehension, Finland's 15-year-olds came out at or near the top in international tests given in 2000, 2003 and 2006. Even the least among Finnish students -- the lowest 10 percent -- beat their peers everywhere else.

Education has a special role in Finland's national story. Six-hundred years of Swedish rule ended in 1809 when Finland became a Russian duchy. Finland gained its independence in 1917 under the leadership of teachers more than politicians or soldiers. Yet, by the 1960s, public education was so bad that parents were moving their children en masse to private schools. A forecast predicted that by 1972, only one-fourth of Finland's children would be attending public schools.

Finland's equivalent of "No Child Left Behind" passed the Parliament in 1968 at the initiative of the conservatives. The law called for a uniform, national curriculum for both public and private schools.

The educational system has undergone continuous changes. It has become less rigid and added some flexibility. Evaluation and change goes on continually throughout the system.

Finland is a small country which has to compete for science and technology.

To read the whole article go the February 8, 2009 Sunday Dallas Morning News on the first page. A video on Finland's school system is available at [dallasnews.com/video](http://dallasnews.com/video)

## **HARDY MINNESOTANS!!**

60 above zero: Floridians turn on the heat. Minnesotans plant gardens.

50 above zero: Californians are shivering. People are sunbathing in Duluth.

40 above zero: Import cars won't start. Minnesotans drive with the sunroof open.

32 above zero: Distilled water freezes. The water in Bemidji gets thicker.

20 above zero: New Mexicans don long johns, parkas and wool hats & mittens.  
Minnesotans throw on a flannel shirt.

15 above zero: New York landlords finally turn on the heat. People in  
Minnesota have one last cookout before it gets cold.

Zero: People in Miami all die. Minnesotans close the windows.

10 below zero: Californians fly away to Mexico. Minnesotans dig their  
winter coats out of storage.

25 below zero: Hollywood disintegrates. Girl Scouts in Minnesota still  
selling cookies door to door.

40 below zero: Washington, DC finally runs out of hot air. People in  
Minnesota let their dogs sleep indoors.

100 below zero: Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. Minnesotans get upset  
because the Mini-Van won't start.

460 below zero: ALL atomic motion stops (absolute zero on the Kelvin scale).  
People in Minnesota can be heard to say, "Cold 'nuff fer ya?"

500 below zero: Hell freezes over. Minnesota public schools open 2 hours late.

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>**



**FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OFFICERS**

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Vice President: John Laine  
Secretary/Treasurer: Diane & Vern Ruuska  
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  Jeremy Martin  
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Social Committee: Sharon Blalock  
  David Krekula

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Sunshine Committee: Dale & Gloria Huhtala  
Membership Committee: open  
Finnish Language School: Helen Tiiainen



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