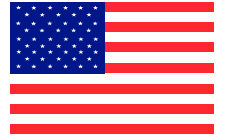


TEX-FINN NEWS



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FINN TO PRINT

The International Newsletter of the Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth

Volume 20 Number 5

Tammikuu/January 2009

TEXFINN MEETING: THURSDAY, January 15, 2009

KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:30PM

(North frontage of 635 (LBJ Freeway) between Preston and Hillcrest

Program: Dr. Robert Font

'THE GEOLOGY OF FINLAND'

Come to find out what formed the Finnish countryside. Why are there so many lakes? What is the northern Lapland area like?

Bring a snack and bring a friend. See you on January 15th.

ONNEA UUDELLE VUODELLE!

ODE (OR IS IT 'OWED') TO CHRISTMAS PAST

*CHOIRS THEIR CHRISTMAS CAROLS HAVE SUNG
BELLS IN CHURCH STEEPLES HAVE JOYFULLY RUNG
STOCKINGS ON MANTELS HANG EMPTY NOW
SANTA HAS BEEN AND GONE BACK
TO THE NORTH WHERE HE'S TAKING A NAP
THE REINDEER ARE GRAZING AND THE ELVES ARE ASLEEP
THIS CHRISTMAS (2008) HAS HAPPENED — IT WAS GREAT!
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR WISHES, YOUR PHONE CALLS
AND CARDS — WE APPRECIATE YOUR REMEMBERANCES —
WE WISH YOU THE BEST FOR 2009 — SUNSHINE AND ROSES
HAPPY NEW YEAR—ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA —BONNE
ANNEE AND SO ON — WE START A NEW ROUND —TAKE CARE
TEXFINN NEWS WISHES YOU A VERY GOOD YEAR!*

CHANGE OF TEXFINN OFFICERS

November is TexFinn election month. Karl Morris stepped down as president of the TexFinns, not because we wanted him to leave, but because he moved to California to be closer to his family, explore job possibilities. He felt it was a good time to make the move. We are sorry to see him leave us. His place is being taken by Jeremy Martin, an avid Stars hockey fan who has visited in Finland and keeps contact with friends and family there. He is also a computer wizard which should help us keep the TexFinns on line (and maybe 'in line')

John Laine will continue as the Vice President and Diane and Vern Ruuska will share the Secretary/Treasurer position. The newsletter will continue to be edited by Teddy Krekula and David will be the Social chair. Some positions are still open and if anyone

feels motivated to volunteer, we will be happy to welcome you to one of these positions. Check the list of officers and committees at the end of the newsletter.

We have a special program in January. Dr. Robert Font, a geology professor, will talk about the geology of Finland. He talked about the geology of Norway at the NordTex Lodge meeting and has agreed to tell us about Finnish geology on January 15th. It is interesting to find out about how the Baltic regions formed – Finland and Norway are very close neighbors in the Arctic Circle.

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

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. Vern and Diane can tell you about the excitement. One of their granddaughters had the privilege of attending Salolampi.

FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH TEXAS

The website for the Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas is www.finnishlutheran.org

We take this opportunity to thank Irene and Seppo for the presentation in November on the Finnish educational system. What makes it so good? Their daughter who is currently attending grade school in the U.S. presented some of her insights into the differences between the Finnish and our educational experience. One of the comments she made was that she received more positive feedback from U.S. teachers. In Finland it seemed as if she was expected to do well and that as long as everything was going well, no further comment was necessary.

The Clements of our Society attended the Christmas Carol service, '*Kauneimmat Joulu Laulut*' and said that they had enjoyed to service and that "the music was splendid." The website has a calendar which on the weekly view shows what activities and services are scheduled. None are listed for this week. Visit the site --especially the Galleria which has photos of the churches activities.

OTHER NEWS

Kristi Phillips wrote to Vern Ruuska with the sad news that in November her husband Will Phillips passed away. The TexFinns extend our sympathy to Kristi and her family.

Jeremy Martin and his family have had a traumatic Christmas. Jeremy wrote an email detailing the accident his brother was in. It was a single car accident where his brother lost control of his pickup, partly due to the wet roads and weather conditions and was seriously hurt. Please keep Jeremy, his brother and his parents in your thoughts and prayers.

KARL MORRIS – A PERSONAL MESSAGE

Pastors Seppo Vesala and Irene Erkko of the Finnish Lutheran Church in Coppell gave a very detailed presentation on the Finnish School System at the November meeting. It seems that there are a lot of pro's and con's to their system just like here in the US.

Just like the rest of Americans we had our election in November. Nothing much changed except for the fact that I'll be stepping down and Jeremy Martin will be president starting in January 2009. I travel for my living so I can live anywhere I want. I've decided to go back to California after a 20 year hiatus. I'm settled in now and I'm looking forward to a change. No guarantee but I'm making every effort to attend our Christmas extravaganza on December 18th. It's a lot of fun and I hope that each of you will make the effort to come out too...even if we haven't seen you for awhile.

I've been a member of the TexFinns for 12 years so I will miss y'all. I'll try not to be a stranger and hope to see you at the Christmas dinner. And, Jeremy, best of luck. I know you'll enjoy this opportunity.

Editor's Note: The dinner was great although many were not able to come because of illness or weather related issues or conflicts at the busy holiday time of year. Karl did make it. The TexFinns wish him well and hope that his travels can bring him our way, especially on the third Thursday of the month.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY, WRITE OR EMAIL:

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FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Jeremy Martin
Vice President: John Laine
Secretary/Treasurer: Diane & Vern Ruuska

Program Committee: Marcia Kuusisto
Jeremy Martin

Newsletter editor: Teddy Krekula
Circulation: David Krekula

Social Committee: Sharon Blalock
David Krekula

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

