

# TEX - FINN NEWS



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

Volume 18 Number 8

Huhtikuu/April 2007

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

April 2007

Karl J. Morris

### Hyvää Päivää!

With close to 60 people in attendance for the Fire and Ice meeting last month, I think it's fair to say that we had a great turn out. Thank you for your attendance and support. I hope you were entertained, enlightened, and inspired by this incredible story of courage and national unity.

Ben Strout kept his introductory presentation very brief then showed "Fire and Ice" on the big screen. Few people left their seats as everybody was very engaged. He then took questions from the audience. If I remember correctly, the movie's budget was just over 1 million. There was very little live film footage and few photos of the Winter War because it happened so fast. It wasn't until after the first few months that foreign correspondents were sent to cover the war. Because of this, most of the film had to be created with reenactments of the war. With such a small budget, he did a great job with making the reenactment scenes as realistic as he did. The film also presented a comprehensive analysis of this complicated and delicate situation that the Finns were in, as well as a big picture view of the Winter War's impact on World War II. In addition, the other Scandinavian countries as well as the US sent supplies, food and medical support, and many of Finnish origin volunteered to fight.

Marshall Kregel, who assisted Ben Strout with the film and

manages the website

<http://www.kevos4.com>, is compiling interviews of Finnish Veterans from the Winter War for a book. He is urgently looking for stories that tell about life in Wartime Finland, both on the battlefields and on the home front. And that includes stories from people who grew up during wartime Finland who can tell about being evacuated to Sweden, or serving in the factories, or watching for Russian airplanes on top of towers. Go here for more information.

[http://www.kevos4.com/Finnish\\_Interviews.htm](http://www.kevos4.com/Finnish_Interviews.htm). Please contact Marshall Kregel at [webmaster@kevos4.com](mailto:webmaster@kevos4.com) or 972.741.1551 if you or someone you know can help with this project.

For our April meeting, John and Nancy Laine will discuss their music trip to Finland in March. They had a personal concert at the Central Helsinki Music School, multiple concerts performed by the Sibelius Academy to celebrate their 125th anniversary, and a gala concert at Finlandia Hall with President Halonen attending. All that and visits with Teemu (ex Tex-Finn President) and Olli (first exchange student) as well.

I vowed when I took office in February that I would work to grow the membership. I attended a media seminar for non-profits on the 31st. I have learned of some ways that we can get the word out about our organization. I'll let you know how that went in our next newsletter. Until our April meeting...

Karl J. Morris  
Tex-Finn President

## TEXFINN MEETING:HUHTIKUUN KOKOUS

Thursday, April 19th, 2007

KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:00 PM

(North frontage of 635 between Preston and Hillcrest)

**Program:** Musical Trip To Finland

Please join us in April to hear about the interesting trip that John and Nancy Laine took to Finland in March. They had a personal concert at the Central Helsinki Music School, multiple concerts performed by the Sibelius Academy to celebrate their 125th anniversary and finally a gala concert at Finlandia Hall with President Halonen attending. All that and visits with Teemu and Olli (first exchange student) as well!

**FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH TEXAS**

At Rejoice Lutheran Church, 532 E. Sandy Lake Rd.,  
Coppell, TX 75019

[paivo@finnishlutheran.org](mailto:paivo@finnishlutheran.org)

Finnish Lutheran Church of North Texas is a Worshipping Community authorized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Worship services are in Finnish with English inserts. Services are partly bilingual. Coffee is served after services. There is a link on the website for a map with directions to the church.

Dates and times for spring season worship services 2007:

Sunday 05/06 6 pm

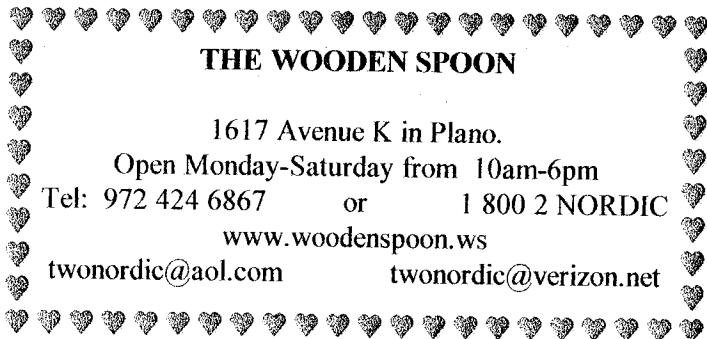
Sunday 06/03 3 pm

Sunday (Day of Pentecost) May 27 a joint service with Rejoice Lutheran Church at 10.30 am. Location of Activities is Rejoice Lutheran Church, 532 E Sandy Lake Road, Coppell, Texas.

**LOOKING FOR WINTER WAR STORIES AND VOLUNTEERS**

Marshall Kregel is managing The Finnish Veterans Interview Project <http://www.kevos4.com> which involves compiling interviews of Finnish Veterans from the Winter War for a book. He is urgently looking for stories that tell about life in Wartime Finland, both on the battlefields and on the home front. And that includes stories from people who grew up during Wartime Finland who can tell about being evacuated to Sweden, or serving in the factories, or watching for Russian airplanes on top of towers. He is also looking for volunteers who speak Finnish that could be on hand for the interviews, translate completed interviews, and anyone else who is willing to conduct the interviews themselves (with help/guidance if necessary). Go here for more information.

[http://www.kevos4.com/Finnish\\_Interviews.htm](http://www.kevos4.com/Finnish_Interviews.htm). Please contact Marshall Kregel at [webmaster@kevos4.com](mailto:webmaster@kevos4.com) or 972.741.1551 if you or someone you know can help with this project. Kiitos


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**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CHARLES MAKELA TO BE HELD ON APRIL 18, 2007**

*[Charles Makela was a member of the Finnish American Society of Dallas/Ft. Worth. The following is his obituary]*

**MAKELA, CHARLES JACOB**

Born August 11, 1937 in Duluth, MN and died January 8, 2007 of natural causes in Dallas, TX. Survived by his brother, William Gust Makela of Embarrass, MN. Proceeded in death by his parents, Jacob and Lillian (nee Johnson) Makela. Charles earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Minnesota in 1960, and his first job out of college was with Wisconsin Electric Power Co. in Milwaukee. Charles' career spanned 35 years as he was employed by various municipal electric utilities in the engineering, design and startup of their fossil & hydro generation, transmission, and distribution facilities. Notably, he was Chief Electrical Engineer for Gilbert/Commonwealth, Inc. in Chattanooga, TN. In Dallas he held positions with HDR Engineering and Gibbs & Hill Engineers. Proud member of the Finnish-American D/FW Society. Strong advocate for social justice. Passionate about music. Enjoyed movies, sports, bridge, and conversing about the politics of life over his favorite beverage: a cup of coffee. Baptized Lutheran & former member of these ELCA churches: Walnut Hill (Dallas), St. Luke's (Richardson) and St. Matthew's (Fort Worth). Since 2005, an active Episcopalian. A service to commemorate Charles will be held on April 18, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in the Meditation Garden of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas.

*[The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is on Hillcrest just before Spring Valley Road]*

**TEXFINN WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING**

The updated TexFinn website can be accessed at:

[www.texfinn.org](http://www.texfinn.org)

A big THANK YOU to the Karhunen's who managed the website for several years. We appreciate them keeping it alive for us. Now they can breathe a sigh of relief and let Jeremy Martin do all the hard work of making sure everything works and is up to date. Visit the website and give us feedback on what you think of it. We want to have a site that serves us as TexFinn and lets others know we are here! One possibility is publishing the TexFinn News electronically for those members who would like to receive the newsletter by computer. Let us know.

**NEWS FROM FINLAND**

**Teemu Koivumäki**

*Editor's note: Teemu returned to Finland, Tampere, in January. He has agreed to be our Foreign Correspondent in Finland and send us news, Here is his first commentary on "What's Happening in Finland."*

Finland has held Parliamentary elections on March 18, 2007, to elect 200 members to the Eduskunta, which has dominated the news since then. The conservative National Coalition Party, Kokoomus, claimed a victory in the election. They gained an unprecedented 10 seats in the Parliament from the elections four years ago, and they now have 50 seats in the new parliament. The Centre Party, Keskusta, still held the position of the largest group but with only a narrow margin with 51 seats (lost 4 seats from last elections). The biggest loser was the Social Democratic Party with 45 seats, which lost 8 seats, even though it was one of the popular parties in polls preceding the elections. The number of seats of SDP was this low only in Parliamentary elections of 1991 when they had 48 seats.

Other parties in the new Parliament include the Leftist Party, Vasemmistopuolue, with 17 seats (-2, lost two seats compared to last elections); the Greens, Vihreät, with 15 seats (+1); the Christian Democrats, Kristillisdemokraatit, with 7 seats (0); the Swedish Party, Ruotsalainen Kansanpuolue, with 9 seats (+1); and the True Finns, Perussuomalaiset, with 5 seats (+2).

Of eligible voters 67.9% voted in these Parliamentary elections. Finns voted in these elections less than four years ago and then the percentage voting was 69.7%.

President Tarja Halonen officially opened the new four-year term on Wednesday, March 28. Later in the afternoon Matti Vanhanen formally presented Halonen the resignation of his government at the Presidential Palace.

The much talked about forming of the new government has started with Centre Party chair Matti Vanhanen as the leader in the negotiations. This job is usually for the largest party in the Parliament. Political experts believe the negotiations will be fairly difficult, and SDP will more than likely end up in the opposition. Political pundits expect the new government to include Centre Party, National Coalition, Swedish Party and either the Greens or Christian Democrats. This would give the cabinet the support of about 115-125 MPs out of 200.

The elections also mark the 100th anniversary of the universal and equal right to vote by men and women in Finland. Finland was then the first country where women

could fully exercise their voting rights and eligibility to stand for elective office. Altogether 19 female MPs were elected to the Parliament in 1907.

This year several celebrities were elected to the Parliament. Juha Mieto (57 yrs.), Centre Party, was elected to the Parliament with over 10000 votes. He is a well-known Winter Olympics competitor from the 70s and 80s. He is most famous for his Olympic skiing competition in Lake Placid in 1980 where he lost the Olympic gold by only one hundredth of a second to Swedish Thomas Wassberg. Another Winter Olympic competitor was elected an MP also. Markku Uusipaavalniemi was the captain of the Finnish curling team in Torino in 2006 and led them to Olympic silver medal. He is representing Centre Party. Sauli Niinistö, National Coalition Party, received the most votes in the history of Parliamentary elections in Finland. He received 60563 votes in the Uusimaa election region. He is a seasoned MP with minister posts in previous governments, and he was a presidential election candidate last year.

But I'm so disappointed; Lordi didn't make it to the Parliament. Just kidding, he wasn't even on the ballots.

TK

**ASSETS FROM CHARLES MAKELA ESTATE AVAILABLE TO TEXFINNS AND FRIENDS**

According to Audrey Mitchell, executor of Charles Makela's estate, there are a number of assets which she wishes to publish for sale. She has asked us to circulate the information. Ms. Mitchell may be reached by email at: [koppermorgan@tx.rr.com](mailto:koppermorgan@tx.rr.com)

Some of the items for sale for a reasonable offer include:

- Rossignol cross-country skis and poles
- RAM brand golf clubs and Palmer golf bag
- Black leather sofa and black leather recliner
- Sharp multiple mini component system w/ CD, Cassette, radio and two speakers
- Samsung DVD and VHS player
- Kenwood stereo set with many accessories
- Mitsubishi television set
- Personal computer, Dell - MS Works already loaded
- HP Deskjet printer 952C
- UMAX Astra 200P scanner
- Windows 98 compatible software including card games, golf games, and many more
- Old Epson printer

For detailed information on items available from the estate, please email or call (972 661 1675) the executor. As mentioned before, she is willing to entertain any reasonable offer.

**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: open  
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](mailto:karljm@bigplanet.com)



**TEXFINN MEETING DATE**

**April 19, 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

Bring a friend and a snack

*[The social committee co-chair- DK- is thinking of  
making karjalan piirakka]*

**Kevät Tulee—**

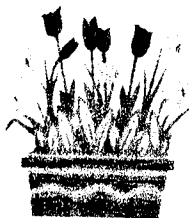
by Teddy Krekula

Linnut lentää

Lumi sulaa

Lehten nuput kukoistuu

Taivaan harmaat pilvet häipyä



Talvi taipuu

Kukat aukeaa

Kevään suloinen voima voittaa

Vihreällä ruoho ruskean peittää

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DALLAS TX 752

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