



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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Huhtikuu/April 2009

TEXFINN MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009

- What:** April 2009 Finnish-American Society of D/FW Meeting
When: Thursday, April 16, 2009
7:30 PM to about 10 PM
Where: King of Glory Lutheran Church
6411 LBJ Freeway (I-635)
Dallas, Texas 75240
Subject: John Laine will be speaking about the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri and its Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen

Coffee, food, and conversation before the meeting.

The May TexFinn Meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Spring has sprung here in Texas. The grass is turning green. You are starting to see bluebonnets on the side of the road. Spring time thunderstorms with hail, high winds, and heavy rains are also here. So the hot weather of summer must not be to far away.

We had a much smaller turn out than normal at the March meeting. I think the small turnout was due to people being on Spring Break the same week as the meeting. We did have one new person come to the meeting. I would like to welcome Sarika to the TexFinns. Everybody enjoyed watching Discovery Channel's television show "Build It Bigger: Floating City". We all learned how the world's biggest cruise ships are built in Turku, Finland. I also showed a 10 minute clip from BBC's show "Top Gear". James May, one of the show's hosts, traveled to Finland to see why Finns are so good at driving in the FIA World Rally Championship and in Formula 1 racing. Everybody at the meeting enjoyed both shows.

At this month's meeting, John Laine has agreed to speak about the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri and its Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen. The meeting will be April 16, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

I received word from the Finlandia Foundation at the end of March about some major changes within the foundation. On March 20 - 21, the foundation had its annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in Boynton Beach, Florida. The Board awarded the Foundation's grants and scholarships for 2009. They elected a new President and several new members to the Board. Anita Smiley was elected the new President of the Foundation. Anita takes over for the TexFinns own John Laine after a 6 year term in office. I have already sent a congratulation email to Anita and have invited her to come see the TexFinns at a future meeting.

I would like to take a minute and thank John Laine for his 6 years as President of the Finlandia Foundation. He has been a great representative for the TexFinns at the national level for many years now. John pushed the

Foundation in new directions during the past 6 years. Some of these moves will change the Finlandia Foundation for the better for many years to come. Thanks again, John, for all of your hard work.

The TexFinns also would like to tell everybody about our May meeting. Dr. Jason Lavery from Oklahoma State University's History Department will be coming to speak on the history of Finland. He will be bringing copies of his book "History of Finland" for people to purchase. This is a 'must attend' event for anybody who loves Finland and its culture. I will be sending out more information on the May meeting at the end of the month.

Wishing everybody a happy and safe Easter holiday,
Jeremy Martin
TexFinn President

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 Apr. 12 at 3 pm. Easter 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)

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

www.salolampi.org Highlighting the Soiva music camp. Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to experience Finnish music and learn from Finnish musicians to find out why their music is so alive. Both Finnish and U.S students are invited to participate. 25 students are needed to make the camp possible. It is not too late to register for Salolampi. Go to 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.

EASTER IN FINLAND

Winter is on its way out and spring is showing its face around Easter time in Finland. The Finnish celebration is more subdued than the US celebrations. People do go to church at Easter whatever church they belong to. Children have planted baskets of rye grass {rairuoho} It is a way of getting some green into the house after a long gray winter.

Eggs are an important part of Easter in Finland. Children receive chocolate eggs and sweets from their families. Decorations of wood and stone eggs are used on the houses. The Easter meal is a family affair. Some of the traditional menus include roast mutton, mint sauce, garlic potatoes, sweet breads, and mammi, a

kind of rye porridge which is lightly sweetened and eaten only at Easter time. Especially in western Finland, large bonfires are lighted in order to scare off the witches and evil spirits.

In Helsinki it is a time when ice cream vendors open their stands and people walk along the seaside enjoying the warmer weather (40 to 50 degrees F). Shops close on Good Friday and stay closed through Easter Monday. A few grocery stores or restaurants may stay open for a short time on either Friday or Monday. There are no big Easter sales. Shopaholics are out of luck!!

Fazer Chocolate makes a specialty on Easter. Solid chocolate is put inside a real eggshell. [It's up to you to figure out how they do that!] It is called a Fazer Mignon Egg. If you want to relax and enjoy a slower pace, go to Finland during Easter Holidays.

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION -- REPORT

Dear FFN Chapter Members,

Having been entrusted with the position of Finlandia Foundation National president, I extend greetings to all members. Knowing that I have a hard-working team on the Board of Trustees and committed members of Finlandia Foundation chapters nationwide, I envision growth and progress in the years to come. We are a team of 34 chapters and over 5,000 members, all committed to the promotion and preservation of Finnish culture and heritage.

We are deeply indebted to our outgoing president John Laine for the faithful service he has given the organization. During his presidency over the last six years, we have witnessed new programs, new chapters, and new vigor in all aspects of Finlandia Foundation endeavors. Our thanks for a job well done!

In fulfilling my last duty as secretary, I am attaching the minutes of our Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held from March 20-21 in Boynton Beach, Florida. Please share these minutes with your membership. The Annual Meeting is always a busy one, with committee meetings held prior to the full board meeting. Awarding of grants and scholarships is always a rewarding aspect of this meeting. This year the total for awards was slightly smaller, but a total of \$55,000 in grants and \$20,000 in scholarships was awarded. Recipients will be notified by mid April. We will have a new Lecturer of the Year on board, and our Performer of the Year for 2009 is already receiving great reviews.

As I mentioned, the amount distributed for awards saw a decrease this year, due to the economic situation nationwide. The national board feels that we should be serving more of our chapters, individuals, and deserving students with funding, which is not possible unless the amount of donations sees an increase. With that goal in mind, FFN is embarking on an ambitious fundraising project about which you will be hearing more. The goal is to have a professional fundraiser on board by May.

The Finlandia Foundation National website, www.finlandiafoundation.org, is being updated. We ask that each chapter review the chapter information as listed on the website and notify our Executive Assistant Christina Lin at ffnoffice@mac.com of any errors or additions. If you have a newsletter to link to the national website, we urge you to contact the national office with that information. If there have been any changes in the chapter contact information, please notify the office before our newsletter goes to press in mid April.

If we can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact any of the trustees or the national office. I look forward to working with all of you during my tenure as president, and I always look forward to news of chapter activities during the year.

Cordially, Anita Smiley

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

President: Jeremy Martin

Vice President: John Laine

Secretary/Treasurer: Diane & Vern Ruuska

Program Committee: Marcia Kuusisto

Jeremy Martin

Newsletter: Teddy Krekula

Circulation: David Krekula

Social Committee: Sharon Blalock

David Krekula

Sunshine Committee: Dale & Gloria Huhtala

Library Committee: Open

Membership Committee: Open

Finnish Language School: Helen Tiiainen



ILLOISTA PÄÄSIÄISTÄ

**HAPPY EASTER
HAPPY SPRING
HAPPY, HAPPY
EVERYTHING**



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Dallas/Ft. Worth
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