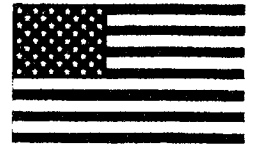


TEX - FINN NEWS



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

Volume 18 Number 6

Helmikuu/February 2007

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Tex-Finns and Friends,

Happy New Year 2007! Hope everyone has a healthy, prosperous New Year! We had a fun Christmas party once again in December! I thank everyone who brought something to eat, helped with set-up, and participated in the gift exchange. We had some surprises in the exchange this time and our visitors took it very well!! But most of all thank you for all who came even when the 3rd Thursday landed so close to Christmas in 2006.

I announced in the December meeting that I would be moving back to Finland in early January. I'm now actually writing this in Finland. I thank you for your support during the past year not only for me but also for the whole society! After all, members and friends are the heart of the society. Thank you also to the board members who have done so much for the society. I see the New Year as a new beginning for both the society and me. The society needs candidates for new officers, so participate at a new level and become an officer. It won't take much of your time, and you have the support of others who have done it in the past.

Not only will I miss the Tex-Finns, but I also will miss the many people I have met during my 10 years in Texas. Some I have met only briefly but others have been an essential part of my life there. I have been profoundly affected, some may even say changed, by many people, and I hope to carry the wisdom and strength from these persons for the rest of my life. You will be near my heart for a lifetime, not just for a brief moment.

My association with Tex-Finns goes even beyond the 10 years: in 1990 I started going to the meetings. As a young exchange student I wasn't given a choice (just kidding!) being with the then-president's family and the current Finlandia Foundation President, John Laine. But look how far it took me!

Just a couple of last things, which I'm sure, will come up again in the weeks to come. The society is also looking for a coordinator for Project Finland by Embassy of Finland in Washington D.C. If you are interested, please contact John Laine. Also, Jeremy Martin is arranging a Stars hockey event as a group activity for the society. For ticket info contact Jeremy asap! And last but not least, 2007 memberships are due. If you haven't sent them in, please do so. I will continue to participate at least in the newsletter by writing a monthly column in the footsteps of V.K. Ketola. He was our member who wrote an excellent and always-informative news briefs column. I doubt that I can match his level, but I'll try to collect news bits that would be of interest. Any suggestions are always welcome.

I thank you all once again for your support and hope that you continue your loyalty and help to the society and new officers! I'm sure we'll meet again at some point when I'm visiting Texas from the land of permafrost. Why didn't somebody remind me: it's cold in Finland! Just kidding!! If you're ever in Finland, look me up.

Teemu
birch_hill@hotmail.com

TEXFINN MEETING: HELMIKUUN KOKOUS

February 15th, 2007

KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:00 PM

(North frontage of 635 between Preston and Hillcrest)

Program: Shipwreck found off the coast of Finland-Jeremy Martin will present information about the find and the kind of discussion it has generated in Finland. See a comment about the program on page 4.

Come join the fun!! Bring a friend and a snack.

INTRODUCING NEW PRESIDENT**Hyvää Päivää!**

Well folks, I have to be honest.... I have tried my best to avoid being available for this responsibility. My hectic schedule never seemed conducive to adding another activity on my plate. However, as fate my have it I was the logical choice. The TexFinns needed a president and I'm probably in the best position to put forth the effort in this endeavor. I've been a member for something like eleven years and I'm happy to say that at this time in my life I'm somewhat in a position to contribute. I look forward to the experience. I'll be the first to say that I'll need a little help from my friends to pull it off. Thanks TexFinns for the vote of confidence.

Board Meeting

Productive would be the best word to describe it. We first got consensus on a couple of the upcoming programs. We talked about having more varied events where families and individuals can attend at times more conducive to them (weekends). We then discussed the Feb 1st deadline for sending a youngster to Salolampi. Within a couple of days we had a candidate and board approval to move forward (more on that later). We talked about getting back control of our website (looks like the latest news is we'll be starting from scratch -- Jeremy Martin is spearheading this daunting task).

John talked about the most important goal of the society which is bringing in new blood and getting more young people involved. John mentioned that The Finlandia Foundation has programs in place to help support its member organizations and facilitate this goal. We all agreed that this is a task that the society needs to work on and I hope to have an impact on this during my tenure.

We then moved on to the most sticky and exciting task of elections. Needless to say if you read this newsletter you'll know how that turned out.

Goals -- New Blood

I'll go on record that I'd like to make a priority to get more young people involved in the society. I'd also like to come up with a plan of action to promote the society and reach out to grow the membership. I'd also like to have more of a smooth transition for new officers where we can groom potential candidates (or at least have potential candidates ready and available). More varied activities and events will be planned.

I know saying all this is good and well but to make this happen will take time, planning and execution. I'll be asking for your support and I'll be open to any suggestions. I look forward to leading and working with the Texfinns this year.

Karl J. Morris -- President-elect

UPDATE: HOCKEY GAME GROUP IS A GO

Hello everybody.

I just want to update you on the TexFinns' outing to see the Dallas Stars play the San Jose Sharks on March 4, 2007 @ 2:30 PM. I got the tickets for the game today. The Stars placed them in the mail today. So, I will have them here in the next couple of days. I had a total of 19 tickets requested. I order a total of 22 tickets for the game when I place the orders for the tickets. So, I have 3 extra tickets.

If you need one more ticket or know of another couple people that would like to go, I have a few more tickets. These tickets will be given first come first serve.

If you requested tickets for the game, I have sent you an email to let you know how many tickets you got, your total cost, where to send your payment, and a question on how you would like me to get your tickets to you.

Thanks, Jeremy Martin jeremy.martin3@verizon.net

FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTH TEXAS

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

Rev. Päivö Tarjamo, cell # 972 795 5158

paivo@finnishlutheran.org

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.

Spring schedule of services begins with:

SOPPAA JA SIELUNHOITOA**PEA SOUP AND CARE FOR THE SOUL**

At 5pm on Sunday, February 18, at the Rejoice Lutheran Church in Coppell a traditional meal of pea soup and Laskiais Pulla will be served before the service which begins a 6pm. The cost of the meal is \$3 for soup, bread and a beverage. \$2 for laskiais pulla and coffee or juice.

Additional information is available at: www.yhteisvastuu.fi
Tervetuloa, Welcome whether you come by yourself or with someone.

**SALOLAMPI SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS
TEXFINNS HAVE A POTENTIAL
PARTICIPANT**

TexFinns have found a student to sponsor to one of the following camps. More information following in March.

Camp for ages 1-18, family camp- June 11-16, 2007

Camp for ages 7-14, one week session, June 18-23, 2007

Two-week camp for ages 11-18, June 25-July 7, 2007

Two-week camp for ages 8-13, July 9-21, 2007

An application may be downloaded from the Salolampi website. The application must be printed and returned. You may also request to have an application mailed to you by e-mailing us at info@salolampi.org

e-mail us at info@salolampi.org Also visit
www.concordialanguagevillages.org

SALOLAMPI KUTSUU!!!

FINNISH PASTOR REMEMBERED

Rev. Dr. Bernard "Bernie" Hillila, aged 87, died on November 27, 2006. He was born May 21, 1919 in Gwinn, Michigan. Bernie Hillila graduated from high school in Ishpeming, MI and went on to earn a bachelors degree from Boston University, a theological degree from Suomi Theological Seminary, an M.A. from Case-Western University and his Ed.D from Columbia University/Union Seminary.

He was ordained 65 years ago and served as pastor and spiritual leader in many congregations. He was also an educator and administrator. He served as President of Suomi College, now Finlandia University. He held positions at Hamma Divinity School, California Lutheran University and Valparaiso University.

Hillila was a writer and poet in both Finnish and English. He translated two devotional books by Olavi Kaukoia. He is the author of three light-hearted books about the Finnish ethnic condition as well as three books of poetry. We have some of his work in our Society library collection.

In 1998 Bernie was Finlandia Foundation's Performer of the Year. He traveled from coast to coast giving humorous presentations on Finnishness.

(Summarised from an article in the Finnish American Reporter)

LECTURER OF THE YEAR BEN STROUT TO SPEAK TO THE TEXFINNS

Ben Strout, the director of *FIRE AND ICE*, a documentary about the Finnish Winter War, will be speaking to the Finnish American Society on Sunday, March 18th at 3pm at the King of Glory Lutheran Church. He is the first person to be chosen as the Lecturer of the Year by the Finlandia Foundation. The LOY is patterned after the Performer of the Year program. Strout has no Finnish heritage but his curiosity about the Finnish-Russian war led him to do extensive research on the subject. The film premiered at FinnGrandFest in Marquette Michigan. The film has already been shown on 25 PBS stations. Come and invite others to an interesting documentary.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In January the Membership Renewal forms were inserted into the **TexFinn News**. The current return address will be printed on the forms. It is the same one given on the newsletter. TexFinn News, P.O. Box 832065, Richardson, TX 75083. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. We appreciate all of our members,

FINLAND TODAY

Last year a record number of people moved to Finland, a total of 22,700. It was estimated that a total of 12,100 people moved from Finland. A total of 59,100 children were born in Finland last year, the highest number in 13 years. At the end of the year, Finland's population was 5,277,300.

Last year a record 8.8 million passengers flew on Finnair. Finnair was founded in 1923, and is one of the oldest airlines in the world. Finnair flies to 50 destinations on its 67 aircraft. Starting in 2007, Finnair is adding 12 new wide bodied Airbus aircraft.

The Finnish jewelry company, Kalevala Koru is pulling its silver jewelry production from China and bringing it back to the Helsinki area. Now all of Kalevala Koru designers are Finns. In 2005, Kalevala Koru bought another famous Finnish jewelry company, Lapponia Jewelry.

Finland's Sports Personality of 2006 has been named. He is distance runner Jukka Keskisalo. He was a surprise winner in the 3,000 meter steeplechase at the European Track Championship last summer.

And finally, Heikki was in a taxi when he leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large store front window. For a moment, everything was silent in the cab, then the still shaking cab driver said, "I'm sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me."

Heikki apologized and said he didn't realize that a tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "No, I'm sorry, it's all my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the Mattila Funeral Home for the last 25 years."

FINNFEST 2007

FinnFest 2007 is going to be held in Ashtabula, Ohio from July 26-28. Most activities will take place at the Ashtabula campus of Kent State University. Harbor tours, visits to local wineries, local museums, covered bridges are some of the highlights beginning the FinnFest. Make plans to attend FinnFests are always fun! The website for the 2007 FinnFest is: www.finnfestusa2007.com

SAD NEWS OF CHARLES MAKELA-TEXFINN

Dear Finnish-American Society of D/FW, I am saddened to inform you of the death of Charles J. Makela, your member who resides at Preston Oaks Rd, Dallas. He passed on January 8, 2007 of natural causes. I am the Executor of his estate. A memorial service will be planned in the future at Charles' church: Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, at the corner of Hillcrest and Spring Valley in Dallas, Texas. Please scan the Dallas Morning News for details. With love, Audrey Mitchell, Dallas, Texas

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Vice President: John Laine
Secretary/Treasurer: Vern & Diane Ruuska
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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/Fort Worth Inc.**
Finnish-American Society of D/FW
P.O. Box 83265
Richardson, TX 75083
TXFINN@prodigy.net
website: <http://www.texfinn.org>



TEXFINN MEETING DATE

February 15, 2007

King of Glory Lutheran Church

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

Looking ahead: March 18th, Sunday at 3PM, we
will have a special presentation by the Finlandia
Foundation Lecturer of the Year (LOY), Ben
Strout, who has researched and directed a film call
FIRE AND ICE, a documentary about the
Finnish-Russian winter war 1939-1940. The film
has been featured in several film festivals. Reserve
Sunday, March 18 and plan to attend.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

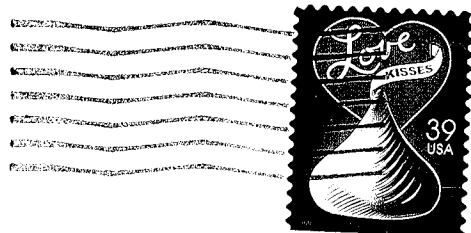
Jeremy Martin

**The TexFinns will be learning about a shipwreck off
the coast of Finland—**

Deep Sea Detectives - Lost Treasure Ship Found!

No tale inspires shipwreck hunters more than rumor of
priceless treasure lying on the bottom of the sea. Such
ships have been found, but few as unique as the 1999
discovery of the Vrouw Maria. Caught in a storm in
October 1771, the 2-masted merchant vessel, en route to
St. Petersburg from Amsterdam, struck a rock and sank
along with her cargo of fine Dutch art for Russian
aristocrats. For nearly 230 years the vessel lay
undisturbed on the seabed with little decay due to the
Baltic's brackish nature.

Finnish American Society of DFW
P.O Box 832065
Richardson, TX 75083



Jeremy & Shannon Martin
3204 Ocean Drive
Denton, TX 76210

