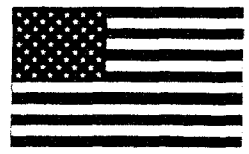


# TEX - FINN NEWS



ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FINN TO PRINT

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

Volume 18 Number 9

Toukokuu/May 2007

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

May 2007

Karl J. Morris

### Hyvää Päivää!

At our April meeting, John and Nancy Laine's discussion of their March music trip to Finland was, of course, very entertaining and interesting. John talked about their itinerary and Nancy talked in more detail about the concerts they attended as well as how music programs in Finland differ from US programs. She mentioned that if they worked together they could really help each other improve at musicians. She is in contact with a number of individuals and is hoping to arrange a Salolampi camp for bringing these two groups together.

In addition, they attended a personal concert at the Central Helsinki Music School, and showed us a recording of a few of the performances at the Sibelius Academy. The Academy celebrated its 125th anniversary and that also included a gala concert at Finlandia Hall with President Halonen attending. Visits with Teemu (ex Tex-Finn President) and Olli (first exchange student) went great as well.

The International Communities Media Day at KERA on March 31st was very informative. Some key ideas that we can take advantage of in growing our membership are communicating with local community newspapers about our meetings and partnering with similar cultural organizations like ours. We'll need the summer to organize the plan of attack and we hope to attract more people to our meetings this Fall.

Please join us for our May meeting as a couple of our young Tex-Finn musicians will be performing for us. Alexandra Ruuska (Vern and Diana Ruuska's granddaughter) and Eric Kuusisto (Gary and Marcia Kuusisto's son) will entertain us with their musical talents.

We'll be checking the front door up until 8:00pm. Feel free to enter the code 7980 2132. If you are late or have trouble with the code call/text my cell - 214-507-4098.

And remember our Mid-summer event at the Laine's cabin is on June 16th. Details and directions will be emailed later this month.

Karl J. Morris  
Tex-Finn President

## TEXFINN MEETING: TOUKOKUUN KOKOUS

Thursday, May 17th, 2007

KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:00 PM

(North frontage of 635 between Preston and Hillcrest)

**Program:** Please join us for our May meeting as a couple of our young Tex-Finn musicians will be performing for us. Alexandra Ruuska (Vern and Diana Ruuska's granddaughter) and Eric Kuusisto (Gary and Marcia Kuusisto's son) will entertain us with their musical talents.

COME, ENJOY THE MAY MEETING. WE DO NOT MEET DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS FOR A THURSDAY NIGHT MEETING. SUMMER WILL HOST SPECIAL EVENTS. OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE THE THIRD THURSDAY IN SEPTEMBER.

**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 Worshiping 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 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.

**NEWS FROM FINLAND**

**Teemu Koivumäki**

Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, Centre Party, has ended the talks on forming a new government after the March Parliamentary elections and formed a new government. The new government, which is Vanhanen's second and he remains the Prime Minister, has 20 ministers. Centre Party has 8 ministers, National Coalition party 8 also, The Green party has 2 as well as the Swedish Party 2. The most prominent posts went to Center party, which has the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Trade and Development posts. National Coalition party has Finance and Foreign Affairs posts. The Green party has Minister of Justice post, and the Swedish party has Minister of Culture and Sport post. This is the first government in history that females have more posts than men. The minister posts are 12 to 8 in favor of females.

Finland and Sweden have decided to join NATO's Rapid Reaction Force together. PM Vanhanen has confirmed that Finland has expressed its interest to NATO to participate in the alliance's Response Force. He said Finland is ready to cooperate in exercises and added that Finland needs this training because the same operational standards

are used by the EU's own rapid reaction troops. Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja had prepared the decision in January, but preparations for joining did not come out in public until after the elections. Tuomioja has said that the decision is not a step towards NATO membership.

April 9th marked the 450th anniversary of the death of Mikael Agricola, who is the father of Finnish as a written language. There have been many events celebrating Agricola, and the celebrations culminated on an ecumenical church service in Turku Cathedral on April 9th. Mikael Agricola (c. 1510 - 1557) was a prominent leader of the Protestant reformation and bishop of Turku. In the 1530's he studied in Wittenberg, Germany where he met Martin Luther. Agricola is known as the author of the first books written and published in the language. He developed the tongue into a literary form, first publishing a primer for reading and a catechism in 1543. He later produced a prayer book and the first Finnish-language translation of the New Testament, as well as several other liturgical works.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen has decided to give up his post at the end of 2009 season. Salonen wants to concentrate on composing. He will become the conductor for London Philharmonic without any administrative duties. He promises to continue conducting in Los Angeles and in other orchestras. The 48-year-old Salonen is the longest serving conductor in Los Angeles with 17 years at the baton.

Ice Hockey World Championships have started in Moscow. In the preliminary rounds only Russia has won Finland (5-4). Finland has won all other games so far. Finland beat Ukraine 5-4, Denmark 6-2 and Switzerland 2-0. The Finnish championship team has several enforcements from the NHL including Jere Lehtinen from the Stars.

The annual Wife Carrying World Championships in Sonkajärvi, Finland is getting nearer and is expected to attract more spectators, media and piggy-backing couples than ever before. This event gets more popular every year as competitors vie for the wacky world title and a coveted prize of winning the wife's weight in beer. This annual event, held this year on July 6-8, involves an arduous men's race over 250 meters of obstacles, including a water jump. The only snag is that the competitor has to carry his wife on his back in order to win the wife's weight in beer.

TK

Editor's note: Teemu says 'Hei,' to everybody. He has found a job with a company called Metso. He is happy to be at work.

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**FINNISH INGENUITY—WINNING A WAR!!**

March 20th was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Viljo "Ville" Vesterinen. Vesterinen was one of the foremost Finnish accordion instrumentalists. In his lifetime he recorded 139 pieces. His first recording was in 1929 and his last in 1953. Among his most popular recordings were Metsakukkia, Hilpea Hanuri, and Valssi Meneilta Ajoilta. But, his signature recording was Sakkijarven Polkka recorded in 1939. Sakkijarven Polkka also belongs in Finland's war history. In 1941, Finnish armed forces were in position to regain control of the Karelian city of Viipuri, when they discovered that the Russians had booby trapped the bridges with radio controlled mines. The Finns discovered the frequency of the radio controlled mines, and blocked the frequency by playing the Sakkijarven Polkka over and over for 5 straight days, for a total of 2,880 times, until they were able to defuse the mines. Vesterinen passed away in 1961.

**AHEAD OF THEIR TIME!**

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, British scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after headlines in the UK newspapers read: "British archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots."

One week later, "The Daily Mining Gazette," a newspaper of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 meters in hay fields near Pelkie, Sulo Maki, a self-taught Finnish/Archeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Sulo has, therefore, concluded that 300 years ago the Finns in Yooperland were already using wireless."

The World Economic Forum posted its annual rankings of 122 countries in the use of information and Communication technology. Number one on the list was Denmark, followed by Sweden and Singapore. Finland was 4th on the list, followed by Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, U.S., Iceland, Britain, and Norway.

Aker Yards in Turku has received an order from the Royal Caribbean Cruises for another in the series of the

"largest cruise ship in the world", the Genesis class. The ship will be 360 meters long, and 47 meters wide. There will be room for 8,400 passengers. The ship will cost about \$1.2 billion.

The second Genesis class ship, "Liberty of the Seas", was recently released from the Aker Yards in Turku.

The 2007 Eurovision Song Contest will take place in Helsinki on May 10th and 12th. For more information about this go to:

[www.yle.fi/eurovision/main.php](http://www.yle.fi/eurovision/main.php)

Click on "In English" in the upper right hand corner.

Last year's Eurovision winner, Lordi, was on a tour of Asia, then to North America, but will return to Finland for the Eurovision. Later in the summer they will continue their North American tour.

The winner of the Portugese Auto Rally was Sebastien Loeb of France. Second was Finland's Marcus Gronholm, with Mikko Hirvonen 3rd and Jari-Matti Latvala 6th.

In the points total for the year, Granholm is leading, with Loeb second, and Hirvonen 3rd.

And finally, the kindergarden teacher is teaching the class about the various greetings.

Teacher: When we come to school in the morning, we all say, "Hello", "Good morning". What do we say to each other when we are leaving school to go back home?

Nobody raises their hand, so the teacher finally asks little Heikki, "What did your mother say to your dad when he left for work this morning?"

Heikki: Come straight home, don't stop at the bar.

**THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY (and June!)**

**Hauskaa Vapua!**

May Day Eve is the official celebration of spring. Sima is the drink of May Day and Tippaleipä-a kind of doughnut is a special food. Vappuaamuna choirs all around Finland sing to greet spring. Vappulounas - lunch- is fish. Students will wear their old students hats all day.

**Hauskaa Juhannusta!**

Midsummer Day- the longest day of the year. In northern Finland the sun never sets and in the south there is barely an hour of what might be called 'night' but it never gets really dark. It is the 'yötön yö.' or 'nightless night.'

The Juhanuskokko, midsummer bonfires, are lit around midnight and people stay until the early hours of the morning. Special outdoor dances are held. Juhannus is a popular time of year for weddings.

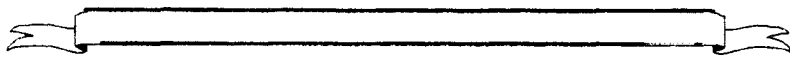
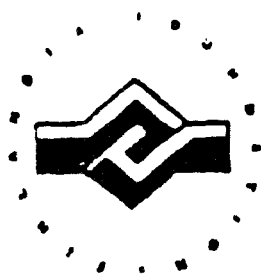
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Sunshine Committee: Dale and Gloria Huhtala  
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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE SOCIETY, WRITE OR EMAIL:

**Finnish-American Society of  
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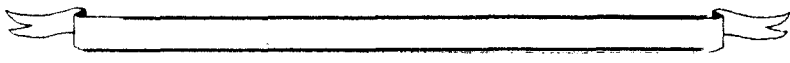
website:<http://www.texfinn.org>  
email: [karljm@bigplanet.com](mailto:karljm@bigplanet.com)



**TEXFINN MEETING DATE**

**May 17, 2007**

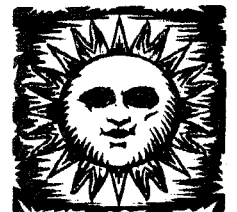
**King of Glory Lutheran Church**  
on the north frontage of LBJ Freeway between  
Hillcrest and Preston Road  
Welcome to anyone who is interested in things  
Finnish. Meeting begins at 7pm  
Bring a friend and a snack



**NAUTTIKAA KESÄÄ!!**

**AURINGON LÄMPÖÄ,**

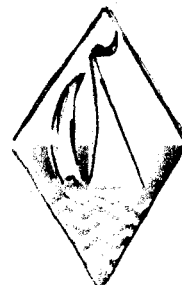
**KUUTAMON KIRKAUTTA.**



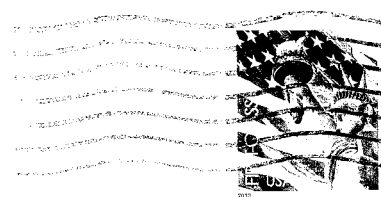
**KUKKIEN TUOKSUA,**

**JÄRVIEN AALOISSA  
LEIKKIKÄÄ!!**

**NAUTTIKAA KESÄÄ!!**



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Richardson, TX 75083-2933



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