

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FINN TO PRINT

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

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Embassy Chefs Finland and Classical Destinations Finlandia videos went over very well at our last program. Succulent Finnish cuisine and Sibelius tidbits were the fare of the evening.

Pastors of the Finnish Lutheran Church in Coppell, Seppo Vesala and Irene Erkko, will present a program of the Finnish School System. Why do Finnish students do so well in international tests when compared to school children around the world? At the same time Finnish students are in many ways not feeling well and do not enjoy being at school. Children's mental problems have also increased considerably during recent years and we have had two school shootings in the past year. They will strive to give a balanced view of this much celebrated school system.

We will also be having our elections this month. We will need all our members present if you want your voice heard. FYI, there will be some changes for the upcoming year.

We'll be checking the front door up until 8P. Feel free to enter the code 7980 2132. If you are late or having trouble with the code, please call or text me at (214-507-4098).

## LOOK INSIDE!!!

--Finnair increases number of Flights --Job opportunity for a librariain --91<sup>st</sup> Finnish Independence Day Gala in Dallas --Opportunity to Study Abroad

**Editor's Bulletin:** 

Beginning in January the TexFinn News will be delivered by email. If you wish to be sure to receive the newsletter electronically, please email me at <u>krekuladavid@att.net</u> Place the word 'Editor' in the subject line.

If you do not have email or prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail, send a postcard

to:

Finnish American Society of DFW TexFinn News P.O. Box 832933 Richardson, TX 75083

Upcoming events: December 18, 2008 – Christmas Dinner January 15, 2009 – Dr. Robert Font Geology of Finland



**TEXFINN MEETING: THURSDAY, November 20, 2008** KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:30PM (North frontage of 635 (LBJ Freeway) between Preston and Hillcrest

A Balanced View of the Finnish School System

Irene Erkko and Seppo Vesala Bring a snack and bring a friend. Coffee will be provided.

#### TEXFINN NEWS Page 2 November 2008 OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABROAD [forwarded from the Finlandia Foundation]

Dear Fellow Scandinavian Organizations,

Scandinavian Seminar is excited to present a new study abroad opportunity – Crossing Borders Global Studies held at Krogerup Folk School in Denmark.

The aim of the Crossing Borders Global Studies course is to enable young, engaged people from around the world to make a positive difference in their lives and the world around them. The course is designed to help students understand the global issues affecting their lives: monetary drivers, the media, global warming and sustainable growth, war and peace. As part of the course, students will participate in a 10-day study tour to Paris and Rome to visit UNESCO and the World Food Program.

The Global Studies course is offered in two semesters, which can be taken separately or concurrently. The spring course runs from January 11 - June 13, 2009 and cost \$6800.00 including the application fee. The fall course runs from August 23 - December 19, 2009 and costs \$5800 including the application fee. Airfare is not included in the price.

The course was designed by Garba Diallo, Director of Crossing Borders, an international NGO that was founded in Denmark in 1999 to provide space and skills training for youth, educators, and media professionals from areas of conflict.

A semester or year at a Scandinavian folk school is an affordable, international experience. It will enhance a student's formal education in an exciting, multi-cultural setting. Students attending folk Schools will focus on their own interests, abilities, and personal growth while learning about subjects that motivate them. The folk school experience is meant to challenge the whole person.

Scandinavian Seminar has been sending students to Scandinavia for the past 60 years and has had over 10,000 students of all ages participate in our programs. We provide guidance in choosing the right folk school for the student, completing the application and acceptance process, acquiring the residence permit, and making travel arrangements. In addition, we maintain contact and provide support throughout the student's stay in Scandinavia.

We have attached a course outline and syllabus for the Global Studies course, and a pdf of the program brochure and poster for your review. If you are interested in receiving more information on this program or have questions regarding studying at a folk school in any Scandinavian country, please contact Sandinavian Seminar at study@scandinavianseminar.org

Sincerely, Jacqueline Waldman, Executive Director

Christina Lin, Exec. Assist. Finlandia Foundation National 470 W. Walnut Street Pasadena, CA 91103-3594 http://www.finlandiafoundation.org

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## Saturday, December 6, 2008 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. OMNI Dallas Hotel at Park West

1590 LBJ Freeway Dallas, Texas 75234 (972) 869-4300

The Gala is the event of the year for anyone with ties to Finland. This year, Finland celebrates 91 years as an independent state! Whether you are a Finn living in Texas, associated with a Finnish business, or have an interest in the culture and customs of Finland, come and celebrate Independence Day with us! Tickets are \$100 per person which will include dinner, entertainment and Champagne Toast to Independence **Attire: Black Tie or Dark Business Suit** 

To purchase tickets for the event, contact Sami Simula: <u>Sami.Simula@okmetic.com</u>



#### FINNAIR INCREASES NORTH ATLANTIC SERVICE Six flights per week starting October 26

NEW YORK (October 20, 2008) - Effective October 26, 2008, the start of its winter season, Finnair will offer six flights per week between New York and Helsinki. For the national carrier of Finland, this is an increase from five flights per week during last winter season.

According to Christina Colliander, Director of Sales North America, Finnair, "Sophisticated international travelers like to use the Great Circle Route to travel to their final destination via Helsinki, especially to destinations in Scandinavia, Russia and the Baltics – but also to India and Asia. It is markedly quicker to many parts of the world. And of course, Finnair's inflight product has all the amenities one needs to arrive rested and ready to do business!"

Flights this winter, scheduled every day of the week except on Wednesdays, will depart New York (JFK) at 5:45 p.m., to arrive in Helsinki at 8:50 a.m. the next morning, while flights from Helsinki depart at 2:20 p.m. and arrive at JFK at 3:55 p.m. on the same day.

On Finnair's intercontinental flights, Business Class offers modern lie-flat seats and a complimentary full beverage service, while in Economy Class beer, wine and sparkling wine are free of charge. Recently, minor changes have been made in the maximum weight allowance per checked bag. USA passengers are now allowed two (2) checked pieces of luggage free of charge, and each bag may weigh up to 50 lbs.

Finnair offers a quick minimum connection time of just 45 minutes at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, and because of the airport's lay-out, transfers are quick and easy. Finnair's route network includes more than 50 international destinations, and 700 more through its cooperation with **one**world alliance partners.

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#### About Finnair

Finnair was established in 1923, and its major shareholder is the Finnish government with a 55.8 % holding. From North America, Finnair offers non-stop flights from New York and seasonal service from Boston and Toronto to Helsinki, Finland, connecting with its global network including more than 50 international destinations. In addition to passenger and cargo traffic, the Finnair Group operations cover technical and ground handling operations, catering, travel agencies as well as travel information and reservation services. The Group's current number of employees is approximately 9,500, while the fleet comprises 63 aircraft. During 2007, Finnair carried a total of 8,653,200 passengers. Finnair is a member of **one**world, the leading global airline alliance.

Finnair Group website: <u>www.finnair.com/group</u>

## Librarian needed

Finnish American Home Association, FAHA is a Retirement community and a Finnish American Cultural Center located in Sonoma, California. Part of the center is a library with about 1300 books mostly Finnish (novels, history, travel logs and children's books) and some English translations of Finnish books.

FAHA is currently looking for a librarian to bring up to date the work done by our original librarian. We hope to find a librarian with outstanding knowledge of Finnish literature and especially current books in Finnish and English translations of them. The work includes updating the current cataloging system, sorting out duplicates and general organization of the library. We estimate the duration of the job to be about a month.

We are applying for a grant from Finlandia Foundation and depending on the outcome we would pay for the trip to Sonoma and provide housing for the month in one of our guest units. The position is not salaried. Finlandia Foundation Grants are awarded in March 2009 and we hope to have the project completed before end of June 2008.

Please send or Email a written resume/application to FAHA Library Committee by November 30, 2008.

Tarja Hirvonen, Library Committee Chair FAHA

197 W. Verano Avenue Sonoma, CA 95476 Tel: 707-935-0200 Cell: 707-501-8310 Email: <u>faha@sonic.net</u> www.fahausa.org



# 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



## SHOP AT THE WOODEN SPOON! Avenue K and 18<sup>th</sup> in Plano

STELLA OLSON COOKY PARTY AT THE WOODEN SPOON SATURDAY AFTERNOON FROM 1PM TO 5PM, DECEMBER 6 BRING A TRAY OF SWEETS TO SHARE. DON'T MISS IT!! for more information go to: www.woodenspoon.ws

## FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Karl Morris Vice President: John Laine Secretary/Teasurer: 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: Open Sunshine Committee: Open Finnish Language School: Helen Tiiainen





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