



Iltatähti

Evening Star



Finnish Heritage House

Officers:

President: Jacqueline Harjula
Vice – President: Reggie Montgomery
Clerk/Secretary: Jacqueline Laffely
Treasurer: Edna Montgomery
Newsletter Editor: Reggie Montgomery

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Fred Webel (April 2021)
(April 2020)
Steve Gifford (April 2020)
Anne Little (April 2019)
Kirsti Fish (April 2019)

Building Committee:

Chairman: Neil Harjula
Finnish Foreign Correspondent:
Alex Anttila

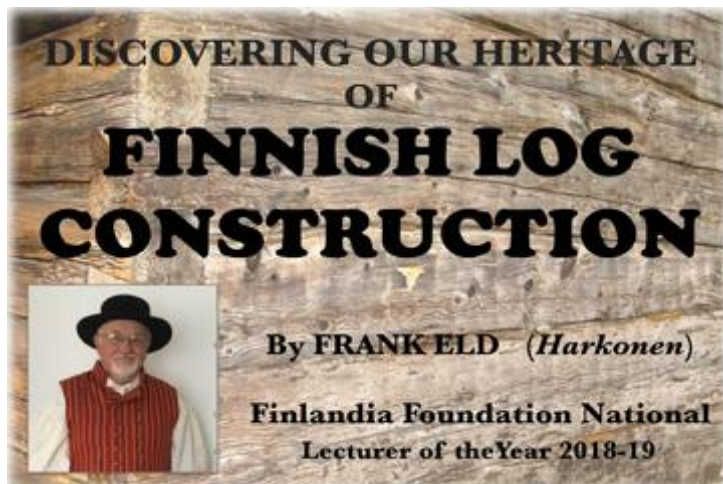
Finnish Heritage House
P.O. Box 293
South Thomaston, ME 04858

Send articles to regimon@roadrunner.com

Calendar of Events

Sept. 15: FinnFling ,Joint meeting with Finn-Am. Pot luck lunch and performance by Mass. Accordion Ensemble . 12:00 noon
Oct. 16: Regular Board meeting 2:00 pm
Nov. 20: Regular Board Meeting 2:00 pm
Dec. No Meeting

FinnFunn Weekend at The Inn at East Hill Farm,
460 Monadnock St, Troy, NH
Friday, October 19 - Sunday, October 21
Organized by Finnish American Heritage Society,
Canterbury, CT <http://www.fahs-ct.org/>
If you can donate an item or basket for the raffle, it would be much appreciated. **Article on page 7.**



Frank Eld is one of two Lecturers of the Year for Finlandia Foundation National. Finnish Heritage House will host Frank for an entertaining lecture on Finnish log construction at Jura Hall on November 2, 2018 at 2:00 pm. Coffee and pulla will be served after his presentation. NOTE: We hope one of our members will volunteer to host Frank with two meals and an overnight stay. Contact our President at 207-975-1476 if you would be willing to do this.

**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!
HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?**

Your name will be removed if you are more than two years overdue.



Recipe Box

Pannukakku (Finnish Oven Pancakes)

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 6 T. Butter | 3 1/2 T. Sugar |
| 6 Eggs | ¼ tsp. Salt |
| 2 C. Half-and-Half | 2/3 C. Flour |
| 1 C. Milk | ½ tsp. Cinnamon |

Preheat oven to 450°. Melt butter and coat the inside of a 9"X13" baking pan. Set aside. In blender or with electric mixer or whisk, combine the eggs, half-and half, milk, sugar, salt, flour and cinnamon (optional). Pour into the buttered pan and bake for 20 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean (like a custard). Cut into squares and serve hot or cold. These are good for breakfast, served hot with maple syrup or jelly. They are also good for the coffee table with lingonberry jelly.

Correction!



In the last newsletter we had a caption under this photo with the wrong information. The caption listed Gloria Dennison's mother as Lempi. Her name was Signe. We are sorry for the mistake.

Computer Corner -

In accordance with our mission to promote ongoing research and preservation of our Finnish-American immigrant heritage, the Finnish Heritage House continues to maintain a website that provides information about our organization, our activities, and access to related Finnish information. Our quarterly newsletter is viewable here also. Please take a look and recommend it to your friends and family. Feedback and content suggestions and contributions help this site stay vital. We hope to hear from you. The site's URL is < <http://www.finnheritage.org> >

In addition to our website, FHH also has a Facebook page. It has been very active of late and typically averages 75 plus page visits and multiple "Likes" per week. We are "viewable" in the new "social network" world and another generation of Finnish Americans is making a connection with FHH. Many thanks to Reggie Montgomery for keeping an eye on this Facebook page and contributing many Postings. Take a look at this URL: < www.facebook.com/Finnish-Heritage-House-111062928972026/

MEETING REMINDER

TO: Fellow Learners of the Finnish Language
RE: Meeting to discuss future Finnish Language instruction
DATE: Saturday, October 13th
TIME: 1:00 pm
LOCATION: Finnish Congregational Church (Jura Hall), So. Thomaston
 Looking forward to seeing you at this meeting to help us determine how to best meet your needs regarding future Finnish language classes. If you have any questions or are **unable** to attend please contact Steve Gifford by mail at P.O. Box 728, Union, Maine 04862, email: gifford7tree@gmail.com or telephone 207-273-2877.



Newsletter of the Finnish Heritage House No. 59 ~ Autumn 2018

Historical Marker

The Finnish Heritage House Board of Directors has been working on a historical marker for a couple of years. We are finally making headway. Below is the text that will be printed on a bronze plaque and mounted on a large granite slab, from Long Cove, Maine.

The marker is estimated to cost \$5000.00. The Finnish Heritage House is currently accepting donations to help alleviate the cost. Make checks payable to Finnish Heritage House. Please specify the purpose of the check. *Thank You!*

The text is below.

Mid-Coast Finnish Americans

The coast and offshore islands of Maine held vast deposits of granite and quarrying operations started after 1850. In the early 1890's quarry owners recruited Finnish immigrants right off the boat to replace Yankee granite workers who had gone out on strike on the St. George peninsula. The first of these workers did not understand that they were being used as strike breakers until a second wave of Finns from the quarries of southern New England enlightened them. Subsequently, the local Finns became strong supporters of the Granite Cutters National Union.

The first wave of Finns settled in boarding houses with the goal of eventually owning a farm. After 1900 Finns began buying old Yankee farms that had been worked for generations and restored them to productivity. By 1940 thirty-eight of the forty farms along this three mile stretch of highway in South Thomaston were owned by Finnish Americans. The granite industry, blueberries, dairy and poultry farming sustained many of the immigrant and first generations.

During the first half of the 20th century Finns continued to settle throughout the coastal communities of St. George, Thomaston, Cushing, Friendship, Rockland, Rockport, Warren, Waldoboro, Lincolnville, Union and Washington. It was estimated that by the close of the 20th century, 15% of mid-coast families could claim a relative of Finnish descent. Like the Yankees before them, the Finns became known for their honesty and hard work.

Erected by Finnish Heritage House, Inc.
2018

This is the stone that will be the Finnish historical marker.



This is the back side of the stone



This is the front. The dark marks will be cleaned off and the plaque will be mounted near the top. The stone is about six feet tall and will be about five feet tall when erected. It will be mounted in a concrete base. The marker will be located near the sign that advertises the Finnish Congregational Church.



Come Celebrate FinnFling With Us

The Finnish Heritage House and the Finn-Am Society of Midcoast Maine will hold a joint meeting and pot luck lunch in Jura Hall on September 15, 2018 at 12:00 noon.

The Central Massachusetts Accordion Ensemble will provide the entertainment.

The schedule is as follows:

9:00 - 12:00 Kahvi, Bake Sale, Tori, Exhibit and Trivia Quiz at Jura Hall

12:00 - Potluck Lunch (salad, main dish, dessert)

1:00 - Brief Business Meeting

1:15 - 50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Rag Rug Drawing

1:30 - Massachusetts Accordion Ensemble

2:30 - Closing

Win this beautiful handmade rag rug!



Win this beautiful rug, donated by "Tooty" Wilson. It will be raffled off at FinnFling, Sept. 15, 2018 at Jura Hall. Tickets are still available at FHH. They are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Winner need not be present to win.

Vinalhaven Bound

Sixteen members of the kantele ensemble "Suomalaiset Jouset" will travel to Vinalhaven to present a concert at the Pleasant River Chapel at 1:00 in the afternoon on September 22, 2018. This concert will be the final program in the Vinalhaven Historical Society's summer program which has celebrated the Finns, Norwegians and Swedes who worked and settled on the island. Finnish Heritage House members have already presented four programs there this summer: Peggy Oliver did a genealogy workshop, Jackie Harjula conducted a nisu and pannukakku demonstration, Steve Gifford gave his talk "The Finnish Imprint" on the Finnish settlement in the mid-coast, and Charlie Heino provided his informative and entertaining program on the sauna. Finnish Heritage House has been pleased to participate in this series of programs honoring the Nordic presence on Vinalhaven.



Peggy Oliver



Charlie Heino



Steve Gifford



Footnote: Scandinavian Summer Program

By: Jacqueline Harjula

My participation in the Scandinavian Summer program is a very special memory. Since making yeast bread requires extra time for the leavening process, I went to Vinalhaven the day before my presentation in order to get an early start the next morning. My first batch of nisu/pulla was mixed and rising by 8:00 and brought with me to the American Legion hall. While that was rising, I demonstrated mixing and kneading the next batch. Then I braided the first batch and demonstrated how to make pannukakku (Finnish oven pancakes). There were about 20 people present, and they sampled nisu/pulla that I had brought to the island with me. My hostess was Christa Mattson and her six cats, whose home had a beautiful view of the ocean. The program coordinator, Jeannette Lasansky, drove me around and I had an opportunity to review the Scandinavian exhibits in the Historical Society building (formerly the Post Office). All of our FHH members appreciate the opportunity to share our heritage and culture with the islanders.



Jackie Harjula

FINNISH VISITORS

On a sweltering summer Sunday afternoon, Finn Church was being held in Jura Hall because it was a little cooler than the sanctuary. Before the service began, we saw a huge van drive up and many people started getting out. It was the Traffie family from Rindge, NH-all 12 ½ of them: Isaac (Dad), Nilene (Mom), Jacqueline, Dalton, Vanessa, Vance, Shane, Sawyer, Charlene, Anthony, Monique, Maeve, and Baby-to-be. Our first thought was: How wonderful to nearly double the size of the congregation today! Our second thought was: Will we have enough food at our coffee hour to feed them? Not to worry, there is always extra food.

Since they were vacationing close by, they returned to visit FHH a few days later to purchase pulla and many other Finnish items. We were impressed by how well-behaved and polite the children were. We hope to see them again next summer. What a delightful family!





FHH Loses Three Loyal Members



GAIL ROBINSON

Gail Donna Makinen Robinson was a faithful member of all three of our local Finnish groups. Her smiling face always greeted everyone from the next to the last pew in the Finn Church every other Sunday afternoon. When asked to be on the Nominating Committee for FHH, she took the position on the Board of Trustees so she didn't have to convince anyone else to do it. From May to December every year, she baked delicious beans and made pea soup that she donated to our weekly FHH Bake and Food Sale. She was also on the Board of the Finnish-American Society of Mid-Coastal Maine, and always had Heikki and Hilma jokes ready to read at our meetings using her sharp wit and her Finnish accent.

As the Finn-Am Newsletter Editor, she provided many interesting articles, including "Blasts and Pictures from the Past". Her many contributions over the years were recognized in 2018, when she was the guest of honor at the annual Appreciation Night. She also was a regular attendee and active member of the Thomaston Federated Church.

After graduating from Gorham State Teacher's College, she worked with children all her life, except for a brief stint in banking. As a Science Teacher, Child Care Center Director, Sunday School Teacher, Ed-Tech, and Volunteer Tutor, she loved children, and the feeling was mutual. She also worked behind the scenes to bring joy to the lives of children. Her other joys included her friends and family, reading, sewing, cooking, and gardening. (The Federated Church saved leftover coffee grounds for her to use in her garden.)

Gail was a ray of sunshine even on the darkest days, and will be sorely missed. To know her was to love her. She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Percy, seven daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. If you wish, contributions may be made to the Finn-Am Society Scholarship Fund, POB 488, Warren, ME 04864.

ARVO G. SALO



Arvo's skills as a carpenter provided many benefits to our three Finnish groups. He was a Vice-President of FHH when our group was chartered, and lent his many skills to help maintain our building. He built a beautiful display case for our Memory Book that lists donations made to honor our deceased loved ones. Also on display in FHH is a model of the Salo family sauna, the original of which he helped to build when he was 12 years old. His career as a builder started early! As a charter member of the Finnish American Society of Mid-Coastal Maine, he also served for several years as Vice-President of that group. He and his wife Nettie were honored in 2010's Appreciation Night for their many years of faithful service to the society. Arvo also helped when a foundation was put under the Finnish Congregational Church to become the Fellowship Hall, now known as Jura Hall.

Arvo's talents were put to use in many places in Knox County: the Knox County Airport, Show's Shipyard, Camden Shipyard, the Owls Head Central School, the Rockport Elementary School. After forming his own company, Salo Construction Co., he developed and built many homes on Melrose Circle and Lawn Avenue in Rockland. Throughout Maine, he built and renovated 13 McDonald's restaurants, an addition to the Waterville Public Library, and several elderly housing facilities. In later years, he followed his heritage by building saunas for many local families.

Arvo is survived by his wife of 73 years, Nettie, and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members. He was predeceased by his son, Robert. Memorial donations may be made to the Finnish American Society of Mid-Coastal Maine, POB 488, Warren, ME 04864, or to the Maine Cancer Foundation, POB 553, Portland, ME 04112.

It was always a joy to greet Arvo in Wal-Mart or Shaw's while he waited patiently for Nettie to do her shopping. We will miss those frequent hugs and chats.



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ETHEL LEHTO POWELL



As a member of the Finnish-American Society of Mid-Coastal Maine, Ethel served as Treasurer for many years. Her accurate records impressed the audit committee every year. She was also a member of FHH. In 2017, she was recognized for her dedicated service, when she was honored during the annual Appreciation Dinner. She received flowers, gifts, and a lifetime membership to both the Finn-Am Society and the Finnish Heritage House. Ethel signed up for many of the Finnish language lessons offered by FHH, even bringing her grandson, and was also a dedicated member of *Suomalaiset Jouset* (Finnish Strings), our kantele group. She enjoyed playing with the kantele group at schools, nursing homes, museums, and other venues. Her Finnish heritage was very special to her.

Born in Canton, MA, Ethel and her late husband, Walter, lived in MA and NJ before moving to Maine in 1972. She was an Executive Secretary at the Samoset and at Pen Bay Medical Center, and also volunteered as a Cub Scout den mother. In her spare time, she enjoyed painting, knitting, crocheting, and cooking (including making delicious snickerdoodles). Her deep and abiding Christian faith was a part of her everyday life and in her relationships with her family and friends. She was a member of the Trinity Baptist Missionary Church in Thomaston.

Ethel is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. We will treasure our happy memories of Ethel.



Save the Date!!

The Inn at East Hill Farm

Troy, New Hampshire

(603) 242-6495

October 19-21, 2018

Terveisiä Kaikille! Welcome Everyone!

While in the final stages of planning, **FinnFunn 2018** has been set for October 19-21, 2018 at **The Inn at East Hill Farm** in Troy, New Hampshire.

We look forward to seeing you!!



Finnish Heritage House
P.O. Box 293
South Thomason. ME 04858

Please Join Us!

FINNSH HERITAGE HOUSE P.O. BOX 293 – South Thomaston, ME 04858

Name _____ Renewal ____ New ____

Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I'd like to receive the FHH newsletter by E-mail _____ U.S. Mail _____

I'd like to get involved in the following activity/activities or committee(s)

Exhibits _____ Fund Raisers/ Luncheons etc. _____. Building Maintenance _____ Docent _____

Newsletter _____ Grants _____ Music/Dance _____ Children's Activities _____ Library _____

Other (Please specify) _____

Annual Member (\$10) _____ 5 Year Member (\$45) _____ Gift \$ _____

Make checks payable to Finnish Heritage House and send to P.O. Box 293 South Thomaston, ME 04858

Is it time to renew your membership? Check your address label.