

## Finnish American Heritage Society Annual Meeting 2024

The FAHS 2024 Annual Meeting was held at the Finnish Hall in Canterbury on January 14, 2024, following a delicious potluck lunch shared by those present. Members also attended via Zoom.

### Maintenance

A hearty round of applause and thank you to Steve and Katrina Bousquet and the American Landscape and Lawn Science Company from Franklin, CT, who regularly donate time, personnel, and equipment to maintain the landscaping, ensure safety of the parking lot, and plowing, salt, and shovel the walkways.



*FAHS Annual Meeting 1/14/2024. Photo from Steve Coupe.*

### Memorial Courtyard

Should you wish to memorialize someone, there is a lovely courtyard next to the Hall with engraveable bricks available for purchase. An order form is found online at [www.fahs-ct.org](http://www.fahs-ct.org). Tree roots are beginning to grow through one of the paths and there are plans to repair this area this year.

### 2024 Budget

The budget is currently being developed by the board and will be presented at the membership meeting in March. Of note, the 2023 budget is strong thanks to the very successful Yard Sale, other fundraising events, member dues drive, and generous donations.

### 2024 Calendar

The 2024 calendar was presented and discussed. A copy of the calendar is included in this newsletter. There are no scheduled events until the March 3 new members potluck and member meeting.

### Finlandia Foundation Donation

The membership approved a motion to donate \$750 to the Saving Finland in America campaign of Finlandia Foundation National (FFN). This donation will be added to FFN Chapter annual dues paid but no longer collected, to make a total donation of \$1000 to the FFN campaign. For more info visit: <https://finlandiafoundation.org/finlandia-university-ffn-cultural-assets/>.

### Collections Management

The Collections Management Committee (CMC) will continue meeting over the winter to refresh the Imatra display, to continue cataloging museum items, and to develop a display about chicken farming. Many Finns in the area were engaged in the poultry meat industry in the 1940s-1950s. If you happen to have any poultry farming artifacts you wish to donate and/or loan to the museum, please contact Katrina Bousquet at [katrina.bousquet@gmail.com](mailto:katrina.bousquet@gmail.com).



## 2024 Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee: Steve Bousquet, Anita Smiley and Matti Huhta presented the 2024 slate of officers who were then elected by the membership. Congratulations and *kiltos paljon* to all.

President: Steven Bousquet

Vice-President: Jodi Wagner

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Corresponding Secretary: Katrina Bousquet

Membership Secretary: Steve Coupe

Trustee: Sue Coupe

Trustee: Karen Lovequist

Terms expire this year (2024):

Trustees: Arlene Baril, Patti Folsom, and Stan Karro.



YOUR 2024 BOARD

Standing L-R: Sue Coupe, Arlene Baril, Karen Lovequist, Katrina Bousquet, Stan Karro. Seated L-R: Jodi Wagner, Steve Bousquet, Patti Folsom, Steve Coupe.

Photo by Elizabeth Hawes-Weeks

President Steve Bousquet led the attendees in a hearty round of applause in appreciation of the newly elected board members, the continuing board members and those members leaving the board this year. He said that serving as a board volunteer involves effort, time, and occasionally, frustration; it's all done to maintain a healthy organization that serves our mission and our members. Thank you all.

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## Weaving

by Katrina Engblom Bousquet

The weaving program is underway. Liisa, Lisa and Katrina have finished up last year's projects and are working with Peggy Church again this year. They are starting off with a Mug Rug project and soon will be learning a Nordic weaving technique called Bound Weave. There is also a plan to have a loom set up with a rag rug. This loom will be for anyone who is interested in trying weaving. Look for further updates on this exciting endeavor and progress in the weaving program in the spring newsletter.

## Hall Building Maintenance Update

by Stan Karro

In our previous newsletter we indicated the review by Preservation Connecticut's Grant Manager of the nearly 100-year-old Finnish Hall. A decade earlier storm damage in the ramp area allowed FAHS to utilize building insurance to replace the northern portion of the roof. The southern roof side in addition to the library/office section will require replacement. We plan to begin evaluating several possible grant options and requirements with some available programs that will match money from the heritage society.

We continue to seek volunteers with some facility maintenance skills to support our continuing hall improvements. Please contact any board member for volunteering for a few hours each month or quarter.

**Pikkujoulu 2023**  
by Katrina Engblom Bousquet

The FAHS annual *Pikkujoulu* was held on Saturday, December 2, following the membership meeting and a delicious potluck luncheon. FAHS president Steve Bousquet was the MC for this party, with his usual brand of entertaining fanfare. The event was well attended with over sixty people enjoying festive music and holiday cheer.

Music for the sing-along and background ambiance was joyously provided by Sean Tate on the piano. Sean heralded in *joulupukki* and a giant sack of gifts with the song "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". The silent auction was well stocked with a large variety of items that delighted everyone. The attending youngsters provided plenty of help with the silent auction. Stan Karro arranged for Allen Hill Tree Farm in Brooklyn, CT, to donate a cut tree that was auctioned off. In all, \$260.00 was raised to be donated to Canterbury Cares Food Pantry. *Kiitos* to everyone who helped set up and decorate the hall, cooked, served lunch, donated gifts, and bought raffle tickets. It was once again a great success!



*Willow Folsom receives her gift from Santa. Photo by Patti Folsom.*



*Kadence Coupe visits with Santa. Photo by Anita Smiley.*



*Members, family, and friends celebrating.*



*The Hawes Family.  
Back, L-R: Elizabeth Hawes-Weeks, William Weeks, Jami Sands, Herbert Hawes.  
Middle, L-R: Benjamin Hawes, Jordan Sands, Dianne Hawes.  
Front, L-R: Penelope Hawes, Madeline Hawes.  
Photo by Patti Folsom.*



*Sean Tate at the piano supplying musical cheer.*



*Taylor Coupe with Santa. Photo from Anita Smiley.*



Onnellista  
Utta  
Vuotta!

**Meet your new Vice-President: Jodi Wagner**

My name is Jodie Wagner, and I was raised in Voluntown, CT, and now reside in Plainfield. I would like to see FAHS continue as long as there is interest. We need to spread the word to others about the Finns who live in their communities. My favorite Finnish characteristic is that Finland is known to be the happiest country in the world!

# Kerro-Tarina - to tell a story.

## A Sauna Rule?

by Susan Cloutier

There's a new sauna in town at the White Mountain Hotel in North Conway, New Hampshire--the first venue for FinnFunn Weekend in 1992.

Last year, I met the owner, Mr. Sullivan. When I mentioned FinnFunn, he quickly jumped in, "Yes, I remember Anita and Jack--especially Jack." And it was Jack who had suggested the sauna to Mr. Sullivan, who promptly built a small sauna in each locker room.

In the last year, the original sauna was replaced with a larger sauna in three sections: one for each gender and a spacious coed area. The sections are lined with wood, releasing a sweet fragrance as the sauna heat increases. The middle section has a private area for all genders. This includes a great stove which provides big heat and big steam....So, I might have thrown lots of water on the stones which drove a woman out the door. We Finns can champion the heat!

As I was taking my sauna there, three middle school girls quietly slipped into a separate section. They did not speak with each other, but soon this silence was interrupted by a "Crunch. Crunch."

This was my chance to sneak out without attention, but on my way out I discovered them eating Cool Ranch Doritos. This was obvious by the bright blue snack bags. Their bold behavior made me smile. I have never considered eating in a steamy sauna, but times change. I now imagine a sign posted outside a sauna door: *"Doritos are fine. Chocolates are prohibited."*



White Mountain Hotel Sauna.  
Photo from Susan Cloutier.

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## Writers' Workshops Continue

The next session is scheduled for Sunday, March 3, following the Membership Meeting. Please contact Susan Cloutier at [susanhinz413@gmail.com](mailto:susanhinz413@gmail.com) for details or with questions.



Finlandia Foundation National has declared **the last week in February "National Sauna Week"** to build awareness and appreciation of this aspect of Finnish and Finnish-American culture.

The first FFN Sauna Week Poster contest winner is Debbie Paver of Calumet, MN.



For information on programs, please visit the following website:  
<https://finfoundation.wpengine.com/programs/national-sauna-week/>

## Finnish American Heritage Society Scholarship – 2024 Application Procedure and Form

The Finnish American Heritage Society (FAHS) Scholarship Fund began in November 2000. Since then, scholarships have been awarded to forty-three students who are motivated to support the mission (purpose) of FAHS. The FAHS By-Laws state that: "the purpose of the Society is to encourage members and others in the community in learning, collecting, preserving, and enjoying the Finnish-American traditions, customs, history, and cultural heritage. The society desires to promote better awareness and appreciation of Finnish contributions to American life, past and present, as well as Finnish contributions to the world".

The primary intent of the Scholarship is to perpetuate Finnish American heritage through support of relevant educational initiatives. These can be related to, but not limited to music, the arts, health, education, the environment, architecture, or engineering.

The Scholarship Committee does not discriminate based on age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, belief, or any other conditions. Scholarships are awarded annually. FAHS greatly appreciates ongoing donations to the Scholarship Fund, to ensure it will continue "in perpetuity". The current fund balance is over \$20,000. The committee invites candidates to apply, with the deadline of **April 30, 2024**. Notification of recipients will be by June 30. The awards will be presented in the fall. Members of FAHS and their families are eligible. Anyone who has been awarded a scholarship is asked to wait at least a year before re-applying, to give others a turn.

### To Scholarship Applicants:

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship and have questions, please email Finnish American Heritage Society at [info@fahs-ct.org](mailto:info@fahs-ct.org) and include your contact information.

We encourage eligible candidates to apply for support from the Finnish American Heritage Society. Wishing you all a healthy, peaceful year in 2024!

Warmly,  
Members of the Scholarship Committee 2024

**PLEASE NOTE:** The scholarship is awarded in a non-discriminatory process. The essay should focus on how your studies will relate to Finland and/or Finnish American heritage. The criteria used for selection is not based on the percentage of Finnish heritage present in an individual. It is based on the focus of studies and proposed use of funds, as they relate to the mission (purpose) of FAHS. Do not include any identifying information in your essay, since these are read "blind" by independent individuals. Please make sure you keep copies of application materials for your records. Winning essays may be included in future FAHS publications along with interviews of recipients.

These materials and other information about FAHS activities can be found on the Finnish American Heritage Society website at [www.fahs-ct.org](http://www.fahs-ct.org)

The FAHS Museum is now closed for the season and will reopen in May. During the winter and early spring months the museum will be open during meetings and events and by appointment. The Collection Management Committee (CMC) will continue to work on projects at the museum during the winter months, usually on Wednesdays.

The CMC hosted the staff from The Last Green Valley (TLGV) on Wednesday, November 1. FAHS is a nonprofit member of The Last Green Valley, which was designated by Congress as a 35-town National Heritage Corridor in eastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts.

Trustee Stan Karro and the committee provided a luncheon for the group and gave TLGV staff members a tour of the museum. Discussion during lunch revolved around how FAHS can collaborate with TLGV in the future and the difficulty of attracting young people to join nonprofit organizations.

The CMC hosted a home-school group in collaboration with the Canterbury Public Library on Tuesday, November 28. Each member of the CMC assisted with a part of the visit. Patti Folsom greeted the group in the main hall and gave an introduction to Finland, Finnish immigration, and the Finnish Hall. Anita Smiley showed slides of Finland and provided the students with a general background on Finnish traditions and culture.

Kaz Kozlowski provided an overview of the museum and discussed the theme "What We Bring with Us." Inside the museum, Kaz pointed out exhibit items such as the birchbark backpack and birchbark shoes and their connection to nature. Anita then discussed the community and arts displays, focusing on *talkoot* (collective mutual assistance), the sauna ritual, the Finnish coffee table, Finnish design, and Finnish music.

Katrina Bousquet brought the group to the designated Children's Corner of the museum and discussed the popularity of Moomins (a series of characters appearing in the children's books by Finnish artist and author Tove Jansson) in Finland. Katrina also demonstrated a Finnish weaving project on a small table loom.

After their tour, students were invited to make a pinecone *tonttu* under the direction of Kerttu Lavallee. The children and their guardians were very appreciative of the tour and Finnish-themed craft. The CMC hopes to partner again with the home-school group for another tour and activity in the spring.

The CMC continues to seek out groups for tours and programming. If you are a member of an organization that would be interested in a tour, please contact CMC member Patti Folsom at [pattifm@cox.net](mailto:pattifm@cox.net).



*TLGV staff tour the museum.*



*Home-school student tries playing the Kantale.*



*Kerttu Lavallee (top, right) shows students how to make a pinecone tonttu.*



*Home-school students are very proud of their tonttu.*

## The Minutes Translation from "Canterburi Grünin Haallilla 1929-1931"

by Nelly Irmeli Taipale Fyke and Minna Waters

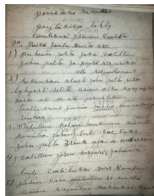
Photos from Minna Waters

Have you ever wondered how Finnish immigrants in the Canterbury area entertained themselves in the late 1920's? Clearly televisions, iPhones, and especially TikTok didn't exist. Life was simpler back then, and perhaps, one could argue, better than it is today....and definitely not as stressful. Twenty months of minutes discovered in the Finnish Hall Archives were read, re-read and translated which uncovered an active group of Finns who held regular meetings, hosted multiple dances, theater performances and donated to a variety of causes.

Upon receiving the 169-page photo-copied composition book filled with meeting minutes, I spent nearly a year translating the Finnish written words into English. Although the handwriting changed from secretary to secretary and abbreviations were sometimes difficult to interpret, (and one still a mystery), the task was completed.



Nelly Irmeli Taipale Fyke.



Page one of the notebook

What I learned was that many of the Finnish immigrants were hardworking farmers who generously donated to several groups that were not only local, but also to a few out-of-state organizations that were in need of money. They enjoyed planning social events on a monthly basis and one mysterious acronym was repeated that we are asking our readers for assistance with.

Following this brief commentary is also a one-page document that my daughter, Minna Waters, summarized from my twenty-nine pages of typed translations. In that document you will find additional details. If anyone is interested in reading the entire translation of minutes, please reach out to Minna Waters at [minna.waters@gmail.com](mailto:minna.waters@gmail.com).

Now for the mysterious acronym: T.U.K. The secretary, whose name was A. Anderson would start his meeting notes with "property of T.U.K." or "minutes of T.U.K." If anyone knows what this would stand for, please reach out to me, Minna, or any board member.

This journey with the Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury was a privilege to be a part of, and I was honored to complete this translation.

### Hall Rental

The Finnish Hall in Canterbury is available to rent for your special occasion.

Please visit our website at [www.fahs-ct.org](http://www.fahs-ct.org) for more photos and rental information.



CANTERBURY  
GRÜNIN  
HAALILLA  
1929-1931



THE FIRST MEETING WAS ON  
DECEMBER 30, 1928  
THE LAST MEETING WAS ON  
JULY 26, 1931  
1<sup>ST</sup> CHAIRMAN WAS JOHN PELTO



Minutes were written as "T.U.K. Association Meeting"  
at the "S.S.O. Hall"

169

A total of 169 pages were  
translated by  
Nelly Irmeli Taipale Fyke

29

Totaling 29 typed pages



1

Industrialist



2

Raivaaja



3

Eteenpäin

Top newspapers that were used for advertising



**Types of Committees:** *Restaurant, Hall, Rules, Summer Party, Book, Theater, Field Party, Soup, Play, Literature, Dishes, Buying Land, and Paper.*

25

Twenty-five parties were  
planned during the thirty-  
six association meetings.

4

Four theater performances occurred:  
*Summer Widowers, Camp Fire,  
Housebreaker Victims, and  
Life in the Night.*

Revenue generated from their party / dance / theater entrance fees, which were typically .25¢ or .35¢ per person, were shared with entities such as: prisoners of the war, strikers at Finnish ports, a local community college, Chicago headquarters, and the striking knitters.



The names to the right were frequently mentioned for their participation in the Association's events.

John Peltto  
John Jackson  
Rudolph Anderson  
Victor Juselius  
Erick Ryhanen  
Rouva Hamlin

H. Hamlin  
E. Moikkynen  
Frank Marjamake  
Hakkila  
Maikkelsen  
Wiljan & Ellen Manttari

J. Niemi  
J. Tapio  
Jalmar Zarju  
John Maki  
S. Wigren  
P. Wanninen

Mini & Kalle Joki  
Vantakinen  
David & Mrs. Vanhanen  
J. Kliviniemi  
Alexia Makea  
Wilho & Impi Hakola



Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) reports raising 2.3 million dollars (75% of the 3-million-dollar goal) by the end of the year. FAHS is listed in a chapter thank-you notice. FFN now owns the Finnish American Heritage Center and the North Wind Books store in Hancock, Michigan. The two buildings were formerly a part of Finlandia University. The purchase is the next step in FFN's mission to preserve the Finnish cultural institutions that faced an uncertain future when the school announced its closure in March 2023.



Kerhotalo presents a million-dollar check to FFN.

The American Finnish Club of Lake Worth, Florida (known in the community as *Kerhotalo*) presented a gift of \$1 million to Finlandia Foundation National on January 11, 2024. The monumental donation is the cornerstone contribution in the [Saving Finland in America campaign](#) launched in 2023 to preserve and protect the historical and cultural assets of the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan.



Author Hanna Pylväinen is Finlandia Foundation's 2024 Lecturer of the Year. Her novel *The End of Drum-Time* is set in the 1851 world of Sámi reindeer herders, religion, beliefs, faith, and love. The 2023 finalist for the National Book Award for fiction is called "an extraordinary feat of research and imagination."

Miska Kajanus, a Finnish American actor, comedian and filmmaker from Finland and now based in Los Angeles, is Finlandia Foundation's Performer of the Year for 2024. Miska will present a theatrical one-man show about his journey from Finland to America.



For more information on FFN programs, videos, info sessions, please visit: <https://finlandiafoundation.org/>

### Meet your Trustee: Patti Folsom

1. Where do you live (town, state): North Kingstown, RI.
2. What is important for you about FAHS and the Board: I enjoy all aspects of Finnish-American culture and traditions and I try to participate in the events and activities offered by FAHS to share the unique aspects of Finnish-American culture with the community. Being on the Board gives me an important role in helping to further the mission of FAHS. Volunteering in the museum has been tremendously rewarding. The positive feedback from our museum visitors gives me the satisfaction that FAHS is achieving its mission of collecting and preserving artifacts of Finnish-American heritage and promoting better awareness and appreciation of Finnish contributions to American life.
3. Your favorite Finnish thing: My favorite Finnish thing is, of course, pulla. I could eat it morning, noon, and night! But I also enjoy reading books, both fiction and nonfiction, about Finns and Finnish history and culture. I am currently listening to the audio of *The End of Drum Time* by Hanna Pylväinen; and I have just received my copy of Karl Marlantes latest book, *Cold Victory*.

## Spring Holidays in Finland

**February 5:** Runeberg day, celebrating Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804–1877) a major Finnish poet. Runeberg Tortes are a common treat on this day. <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/281678/finnish-runeberg-tortes/>.

**February 14:** *Ystävänpäivä*, or Friend's Day, and everyone's included. Friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and, of course, sweethearts all receive cards, flowers, and chocolates.

**February 28:** *Kalevala Day* (*Kalevalan päivä*) or Finnish Culture Day is celebrated in honor of the Finnish national epic.

**Shrove Sunday**, or Finland's version of Mardi Gras, *Laskiainen* is celebrated in February seven weeks before Easter on a Tuesday. *Laskiainen* is traditionally a day of sled riding. Traditionally, it was believed that the further you rode your sleigh, the better your crop would be. It is also common to eat pea soup and buns filled with jam or almond paste.

**Easter** brings little witches who ring doorbells on Palm Sunday and shout a specific spell promising good health for a small gift (sweets or coins).

**May 1:** Springtime's biggest party is Vappu. Generations come together on the eve of May Day for this carnival-style street festival. Students (and former students) parade through town wearing their white graduation caps and celebrating the beginning of summer. Both May Day and Worker's Day are celebrated on May 1, and speeches from politicians can be heard in many towns and cities.

for more, please see: [Traditional Finnish celebrations and parties | Visit Finland](#)

For news about Finland in English, a good site on the internet is the Helsinki Times. This is an online only news site, established in 2007, provided for people from around the world who are interested in Finland.

<https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/>

### *Pannukakku Breakfast*

*Saturday, March 23, 2024*

*8:00 AM - 11:00 AM*



*Price unchanged from 2023!*

*\$10 adult \$5 3-10yrs*

*Under 3yrs free*

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# Member News & Milestones

## Congratulations – Onnea

Arvid & Pat Palonen send congratulations to Travis & Kim Palonen of Canterbury, CT on the arrival of their first-born son. Liam Richard Palonen was born on August 10, 2023. New Dad, Travis, is the grandson of Arthur & Lempi Palonen (deceased); the son of Arvid & Pat Palonen of Plainfield, CT and the godson of Zelma & Dennis Gladu of Canterbury, CT.

To Irja Oja of Brooklyn, CT on her milestone 100th birthday celebrated January 19, 2024. She and her late husband, Thure, are Charter members of the Finnish American Heritage Society.

To Retired Professor William (Bill) Aho from Storrs, CT, who celebrated his 106th birthday on January 29th.

To Dennis Gladu from Canterbury, CT, who celebrated his 80th birthday on January 12th.

## Get Well Wishes - Pikaista Paranemista

To Richard Huoppi of Pomfret Center, CT, for his recent recovery from shoulder surgery.

To Irene Profetto of Brooklyn, CT, who fractured a hip from a fall on New Year's Eve and is recovering in rehab.

To Sharlann Smiley of Preston, CT, as she recuperates from breast cancer surgery.

To Dr. Saul Ahola of Woodstock, CT, who is preparing for future shoulder surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff.



Irja Oja. Photo from daughter, Irene Reidemaster.

## Submitting Member News & Milestones

If you would like to have any "well wishes, condolences, or congratulations" included in our upcoming newsletter, please contact a Board Member by the next newsletter deadline, April 10, 2024. Kiitos.

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## Donations September – December 2023

Monetary Donations: A total of \$2136.09 donated to the Scholarship and General Operations Funds.

Raymond & Barbara Koski of Old Saybrook, CT

Qian Xie of Hope, RI

Marita Sasser of Lisbon, CT

Sandra & Saul Ahola of Woodstock, CT

Matti Kosonen of Tierra Verde, FL

Joyce Burdick of N. Windham, CT

Larry & Gail Urban of Milford, CT

Michael & Kerttu Lavallo of Plainfield, CT

Lynne Simpanen of Spofford, CT

Laurel Angus of Spring Lake, MI

Helen Sweeney of Glastonbury, CT

Aino Kardestuncer of Woodstock Valley, CT

Valarie Taft & David Lindros of Andover, CT

Ann Gruenberg of Hampton, CT

Sonja Murray of Foster, RI

Yvonne Mohrbacher of Cincinnati, OH

William (Bill) Aho of Storrs, CT

Steven & Pamela Kempain of Putnam, CT

Robert Guttay of Brooklyn, CT

Gregory and Katrina Coupe of Greenville, RI in honor of Steven & Susan Coupe  
Cynthia Pussinen, Victoria, and Ethan MacLelland of Moosup, CT in Memory of Leonard Pussinen

## Cocktail Delights Fundraiser

Article and photos from Katrina Engblom Bousquet



Steve and Katrina on stage

On Friday November 17, FAHS President Steve Bousquet hosted the first ever Cocktail Delights fundraiser. Steve presented a variety of cocktails featuring authentic Finnish spirits, including Koskenkorva vodka, KYRÖ gin, Salmiakki vodka made with Finlandia vodka, and Finnish Long Drink. He was assisted by his taste tester and wife Katrina Engblom Bousquet. They presented a lively show with mixology theory and a little history. Katrina rated each cocktail, giving her interpretation of the flavor profile and general drinkability with a rating rubric of 1-5 pumpkins. Over 40 people attended. The audience was treated to samples of each recipe and participated in the evaluation of the drinks. The cocktails were as follows- Sisu Sling, Finlandia Red Drop, Forest Martini, and Savonlinna Sunset. We all enjoyed a delicious selection of snacks and treats.

Our evening evolved into an impromptu open-mike night when a retired comedian entertained us all with a collection of saucy jokes. The hall was decorated in an elegant style, with twinkling lights and gourds, setting the tone for a fun evening. The 50-50 raffle (professionally run by Jill Zuccardy) brought in several hundred dollars, with the winner very kindly donating her winnings back to our cause! *Kiitos!* We sincerely thank all who decorated and set up the hall, brought food and came out to support this brand-new fundraiser. The audience eagerly participated and gave to our donation bucket so freely. Special thanks go out to our generous sponsors, including Rob and Jobina Miller, owners of locally famous



Impromptu Open Mike Comedy Night



EPICURE  
DISTILLERY

Epicure Breweries, KYRO Distillery Company, Koskenkorva Distillery and Long Drink. A great big *kiitos* goes out to Pam and Steve Kempain, Sue and Steve Coope, Arlene Baril, Jill Zuccardy, Jodie Wagner, the ladies from the FAHS museum and so many others who helped with the set-up, smooth

operation and clean up for this event. We raised over \$1,200.00 thanks to everyone's efforts. This will surely help with the heating oil expenses this winter.



<https://koskenkorva.com/>

### Recipe for the fan favorite cocktail, Forest Martini:

2 oz. Kyrö Gin (<https://kyrodistillery.com/>), .5 oz Pine Syrup, 1 oz Lingonberry syrup. Shake well, strain, and serve in a martini glass. Garnish with a lemon peel.

Here is the link to Vena's Fizz House, they sell pine syrup:

<https://shop.venafizzhouse.com/collections/sugar-cubes/products/venas-maine-pine-syrup>



### Meet your trustee: Stan Karro

Since age 9, I've lived in Brooklyn, CT. In my earlier years we lived in Lebanon, CT, a town and area without any Finnish residents. Moving to the west village of Brooklyn I was surprised by the many Finnish immigrant families in our neighborhood. Our social life changed dramatically. Many of my friends from those early days are now members of our heritage society.

It has been important to me to retain the historical stories and memories of the early immigrants to the region and their contributions to many communities that we know. The opportunity to share our backgrounds and meet other Finnish Americans in New England and beyond with activities such as FinnFunn has been rewarding.

Favorite Finnish things: stubbornness, SISU (good and bad), sauna, Finnish food, pulla, and practicing my first language, Finnish, with my wife.



## OF FALLEN LEAVES, AKI KAURISMAKI, AND DOGS

by Sean A. Tate

"I like dogs; mankind I don't care for so much."

Aki Kaurismäki

Instagram, November 17, 2023

Re showing of his latest film at Lincoln Center, New York City.

Aki Kaurismäki, Finland's most famous film director, does indeed like dogs; so much so that he has included a dog in each of the 20 films he has made, including his latest, *Fallen Leaves*. The quotation above reflects the view of the world that he has brought to his film work. Although he may "not care for mankind so much," he has put much effort into exploring the idiosyncrasies of human relationships.

*Fallen Leaves* has received considerable recognition and numerous accolades since it was issued in late 2023. Its two human stars are Alma Pöysti and Jussi Vatanen. Aki Kaurismäki's personal dog has an important role in the film as well and has the same name as the film's female co-star: *Alma*.

*Fallen Leaves* received an award for the Best Non-English Film of 2023 from the National Society of Film Critics USA. It was nominated for two Golden Globe awards. Alma Pöysti was nominated for the Golden Globe in the category of *Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Musical or Comedy* (this was the first time a Finnish actress was nominated for this category, and the first time for a Finnish film). Emma Stone ultimately won the award for her role in *Poor Things*. The film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and was awarded a *Jury Prize* by the Festival in May 2023. It later won the *Fipresci Grand Prix*, best film of 2023 and was selected by *Time* magazine as the best movie of the year. It was Finland's most-watched feature film (YLE News).

The film is one of the most accessible of Kaurismäki's repertoire (several of his films have been shown at the Finnish American Heritage Society). It is a simple, straightforward romantic comedy but droll and austere in the Kaurismäki style. Occurring in modern-day Finland, (reference is made to the Russian invasion of Ukraine), the two main characters are Ansa (Pöysti) and Holappa (Vatanen). She is a "stock girl" in a grocery store who is fired for stealing a pre-packaged (and expired) sandwich. (Time: Nov 17, 2023). She then moves on to a job washing glasses in a decrepit karaoke bar (the aptly named *California Bar*, with a sunny exterior and gloomy interior) where she meets Holappa, a metalworker at a construction site, an alcoholic, for which he loses his job (he smokes a lot, too); two working-class people in Helsinki.

The courtship of Ansa and Holappa reveals two lonely people searching for happiness; Holappa trying to rise above his chronic alcoholism and isolated Alma via the adoption of a stray dog. Film reviewers have characterized the film as "dour" but also, in the Kaurismäki way, showing dry, "droll deadpan humor" that is ultimately "uplifting" and a real "feelgood" movie and "an understated charmer of a film." (Ide, Dec 2, 2023)

Kaurismäki made *Fallen Leaves* six years after he said he was retiring from making films. The film "has been labelled a belated fourth installment of his *Proletariat Trilogy*, which consists of *Shadows of Paradise* (1986), *Ariel* (1988) and *The Match Factory Girl* (1990)." (Concannon. Nov 28, 2023).

On the viewing end of his love of film, Kaurismäki owns, with Mika Latti, the *Cinema Kino Laika* in Karkkila, a town of 9000 about an hour from Helsinki; Kaurismäki and Latti have been residents of this town for decades/ (Variety, 2023). "Located in an old factory hall, Laika welcomes all, including the workers from the next-door foundry" as well as the "culture people" from Helsinki. It is a dog-friendly cinema as well and serves non-alcoholic beer for dogs. Kaurismäki, in a review for *Variety*, has noted that they have always had dogs there. "Without dogs, your home is empty. In films, they steal the show."



Aki Kaurismäki at the 2017 Berlin film Festival.

By Elena Ringo

<http://www.elena-ringo.com>,  
<https://commons.wikimedia>

Continued next page.

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**FinnFunn 2023**  
**And SAVE THE DATE for FinnFunn 2024**  
by Stan Karro

On January 18 the 2024 FinnFunn planning committee held its initial meeting in Worcester, MA. Rob Ranta provided detailed and excellent survey feedback from the 2023 Cape Ann event to help provide suggestions for this year's programs. The attendee survey response rate totaled 30 percent and was beyond normal expectations and reflected the outstanding programs and facilities of the scenic Cape Ann, Rockport, and Gloucester region. The FinnFunn celebration coincided with Gloucester's 400-year celebration and allowed the FinnFunn Committee to obtain grant funding to help with expenses. Programs included Immigrant quarry work and site tours, craft workshops, dinner at the Rockport Art Gallery, Finnish pancake breakfast, Tori, performances at the Shalin Liu Center, historic plays, mobile sauna, and pulla with entertainment by *Ovian Ilo* Dance Band, *Revontulet* Dancers, and many other activities.

For more information about Cape Ann Finns, please visit their website at: <https://www.capeannfinns.com/#home> or view this YouTube video where members discuss the history of Cape Ann Finna and the 2023 FinnFunn weekend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxBorZT56hU>

Our discussions for FinnFunn 2024, which will return to East Hill Farm Resort in Troy, NH, on the weekend of October 25-27, included reviewing possible programs with Finlandia Foundation National's Performer of the Year, Lecturer of the Year, and Artist of the Year. Several other topics included Finnish foods, evaluating Finnish *littala* glassware, Finnish dance instruction and participation, inclusion of the history and possible activity of nearby Mount Monadnock, history of *Raivaaja* newspaper, Young Leaders Board of FFF, video interviews of important Finnish Americans, Finnish movies, and other unique and interesting people and programs. The committee will be meeting frequently in the coming months to evaluate opportunities and activities.



*American and Finnish flags fly near Mount Monadnock.*

**FinnFunn Weekend: October 25-27, 2024 - Please save the date. Hope to see you there.**

## THE FINNISH WAY TO CLEAN A *RYIJY*

Article and photos by Anita Smiley

The snow has arrived in many parts of the U.S., and it's a perfect time to give thought to cleaning that *ryijy* that's been collecting dust on the wall. With light snow on the ground, lay the *ryijy* over it. Scatter snow on top, tap the *ryijy*, and sweep lightly with a soft broom. Turn it over, move to a new location, and sweep again. Continue turning and sweeping until the snow comes clean. This works for rag rugs and other items also. You'll be amazed at the refreshed results. The photos illustrate this technique as put to use to clean donated *ryijys* at our Finnish Hall several years ago.



### Meet your trustee: Arlene Baril

I was born in Brooklyn, NY, and I have been living in Brooklyn, CT since I was six.

FAHS is important because it is a place where people of Finnish heritage can gather to meet people and participate in events. Our museum is also an important part. The board is dedicated to the future of FAHS and the preservation of its buildings. As a board member, we have to follow the bylaws and regulations, oversee the finances and determining and fulfilling the mission of the organization. As a board member, I hope I am making a difference by providing ideas, serving on committees, trying to improve the building, and finding new fundraisers and new members.

My favorite Finnish things. Sauna, Finnish foods, family, and friends. My mother was born in Finland, and I have a lot of family there.

Favorite event. I really enjoy attending FinnFunn weekends and helping in a small way. I have met many nice people and have learned a lot about Finland through all the presentations. I also went on Anita Smiley's tour of Finland last summer; and I learned about the history, culture, and the people as well as traveling throughout the beautiful countryside.

Favorite Characteristics. I am choosing to use this in relationship to the people I met and observed in Finland. First of all as a former teacher, I spoke to Anita's grandson, Jon, and I read many articles. I am very impressed with the education system and the young people I've met, including my family. Children are treated with respect and expected to be an important part of the family. The country embraces children. Families take their children to restaurants, many of which have play areas for the young ones. I also observed that in public restrooms there are potty chairs for the little ones! The people I met were quiet, happy, helpful, and delighted to have us visit as a group, and to share their knowledge.

You don't have to be Finnish to have fun! Many enjoy the sauna with friends and toasting pulla in the morning! We have a lot of events that the public attends and looks forward to. Nonmembers and regular members enjoy learning about Finland through our museum, activities, and the newsletter.



## Newsletter Committee Update

by Kay Gruder

When the temperatures cascade into the single digits in Connecticut, I have been known to traverse the world with my weather app to find locations that are even colder. That way I can say, "Well, at least it is not as cold as it is in Williams, Minnesota, or as in Ylivieska, Finland." This game quickly expands to looking at travel sites to further explore the location and typically ends with my looking at houses for sale and vacation rentals. It is an initial spark of curiosity that sets my adventure in motion. What sparks your curiosity in this issue of FINNCONN?

Are you now even more curious about the Finns of Cape Ann (Note: new board member, Karen Lovequist writes that her grandparents immigrated to Cape Ann from Finland) or perhaps you looked up "new sauna in North Conway, NH." Maybe you discovered a book or movie to add to your entertainment list. Maybe the mention of the Moomins characters led you to a children's story? Can you help us to unravel the mystery of T.U.K. (page 8-9). This issue even offers a tried-and-true Finnish rug cleaning technique! Take a moment or two and find one thing, or more, that draws your attention and follow it along, even beyond the pages of this newsletter, indulging your curiosity!

The newsletter committee would be delighted to hear your feedback on the content we include, topics you are curious about, a story or history from your family, and ideas for featured articles. We invite your comments via email: [kay.gruder@gmail.com](mailto:kay.gruder@gmail.com) or [ellenmbuffington@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmbuffington@gmail.com). Or via regular mail to FAHS, PO Box 252, Canterbury, CT 06331.

Ellen and I also extend our thanks to the outgoing and incoming board members. It is through this organizational structure that we can effectively curate content for FINNCONN.

### Meet your Trustee: Karen Lovequist

1. I have lived in New Fairfield, CT for 10 years. This house on Candlewood Lake started out as my family's summer house in 1955 and became my parent's full-time home in 1966. Now I enjoy the continually changing scenes on the Lake. (so Finnish).
2. FAHS is important to me because FAHS continues our Finnish culture and heritage. My maternal grandparents immigrated from Finland to Cape Ann, MA, and lived many years in the Byram, CT, area before moving to Voluntown in their senior years. FAHS shows the community how important the Finns were in shaping the character of Connecticut. FAHS is doing a wonderful job hosting events and curating the Museum and of course, FinnFunn. I like to contribute as a member of an organization, and since I recently completed a treasurer's position for another Nordic organization, I thought it was the right time to volunteer for the FAHS Board.
3. A few of my favorite Finnish things are Nisu with coffee, and sauna, and the characteristic of the Finns being reserved and not talking. I am kind of like that at times so at least I know where I get that from! Meanwhile I enjoy learning Finnish on Duolingo; I really do like hearing Finnish because it is unique.
4. You don't have to be Finnish to have fun at FinnFunn, but you can experience all my favorites there!

## FAHS 2024 Calendar

January	Sunday, Jan 7 Thursday, Jan 25	1:00 PM Coffee Social; 1:30 PM Annual Member Meeting (Hybrid) 7:00PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
February	Feb 18-24	National Sauna Week (Finlandia Foundation)
March	Sunday, March 3 Saturday, March 23 Thursday, March 28	12:00 PM New Members Welcome Potluck; 1:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid) 8:00 AM -11:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
April	Thursday, April 25 Sunday, April 28	7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom) 1:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid); 2:00 PM Culinary Delights
May	Museum is open May – October, Wednesdays, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Saturday May 18 Thursday May 23	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Chicken BBQ 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
June	Museum is open Wednesdays and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Saturday, June 8 Saturday, June 22 Thursday, June 27	CT Open House Day; Museum Tours 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM 4:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid) 5:00 PM <i>Juhannus</i> /Midsummer Potluck Picnic 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
July	Museum is open Wednesdays and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	
August	Museum is open Wednesdays and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Sat, Sun, Aug 24, 25	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Yard Sale
September	Museum is open Wednesdays and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Sunday, Sept 8 Thursday, Sept 26 Saturday, Sept 28	12:00 PM Potluck; 1:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid) 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom) Finnish Pancake Breakfast/ Canterbury Old Home Days
October	Museum is open Wednesdays and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Thursday Oct 17 Oct 25-27	7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom) FinnFunn Weekend, East Hill Farm
November	Sunday, Nov 3 Saturday, Nov 23	1:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid); 2:00 PM 'Finnigo Bingo' 7:00 PM Cocktail Delights
December	Saturday, Dec 7 Thursday, Dec 19	11:00 AM Member Meeting (Hybrid); 12:00 PM Potluck; 1:00 PM <i>Pikkujoulu</i> 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
January 2025	Sunday, Jan 5	12:00 PM Potluck; 1:00 PM Annual Member Meeting (Hybrid)



The Finnish American Heritage Society, Inc.  
Is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to preserve  
and promote Finnish-American heritage. Membership is  
open to all who are interested in the purpose of the organization.

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Heritage Society, Canterbury  
On Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/fahscanterburyct](https://www.facebook.com/fahscanterburyct)

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Readers are invited to submit content and letters to the editor.

### FAHS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Collection of materials and proofreading: Kay Gruder, Patti Folsom,  
Anita Smiley, Jackie Harjula, Ellen Buffington, and Karen Lovequist.

## Welcome New Members!

New Members are **ALWAYS** welcome!  
Membership coupon is enclosed.

**Andrew Lavorato**, Plainfield, CT

President	Steven Bousquet	860-608-8366
Vice President	Jodie Wagner	860-546-5666
Treasurer	Vacant	
Secretary	Vacant	
Correspondence	Katrina Bousquet	860-608-2653
Membership	Steve Coupe	401-568-6614

### Coming Events at a Glance

Museum closed until May 2024  
Open during events or by appointment.

February 18-24	National Sauna Week
Sunday, March 3	Finlandia Foundation National 12:00 PM New Member welcome potluck; 1:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid)
Saturday, March 23	8:00 PM – 11:00 PM Pancake Breakfast
Thursday, March 28	7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, April 10	Newsletter submission deadline
Thursday, April 25	7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday, April 28	1:00 PM Member Meeting (Hybrid)

Museum open May-October Wednesdays and  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, May 18	4:00 PM -6:00 PM Chicken BBQ
Thursday, May 23	7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)