



HOF Calendar 2009

May

May 2 - Vappurieha, TBA
May 3 - Membership meeting
May 17 - Finnish Church Service
May 24 - International Food Fair

June

June 7 - Membership meeting
June 21 - Lawn Program

July

No membership meeting

August

Aug. 16 - Silvola picnic
(Tentative date)

September

Sept. 13 - Membership meeting

October

Oct. 4 - Membership meeting

November

Nov. 1 - Membership meeting

December

Dec. 4/5 - December Nights at
Balboa Park
Dec. 13 - HOF Christmas Dinner

Dates and times subject to change.



VAPPURIEHA



Lauantaina 2.5.2009
12-4 Suomi-talolla Balboa Parkissa
Järjestäjänä San Diegon
Suomi-koulu

*Myytävänä lohikeittoa, karjalanpiirakoita,
hot dogeja, munkkeja ja simaa*

Pelejä ja leikkejä, ongintaa,
perinteinen hiihtokilpailu,
arpajaiset mahtavin palkinnoin

***** Elävää musiikkia ja yhteislaulua *****

Mukaan omat rantatuolit ja viltit

BIG VAPPU CELEBRATION

Saturday 5.2.2009
12-4 at the House of Finland in Balboa Park
Organized by the Finnish School

*Salmon soup, Karelian pastries, hot dogs,
munkkis and sima for sale*

Games, traditional ski race
and raffle with great prizes

***** Live music and sing-along *****

Bring along your own lawn chairs and blankets

From the President's Desk

“My enthusiasm regarding our cottage continues, unabated”!!!



Wow!!! The new year seems to have “taken-off like a rocket.” Although the first quarter is now history, we have positive news to share with the membership.

To begin with, our search for a new Hostess Coordinator has proven to be fruitful with House of Finland member Janet Gilinsky volunteering to do the job. Janet has stepped forward assuming the responsibilities from Piki Laitinen with the baton officially being passed on February 18th. On behalf of the House of Finland, I want to thank Piki for her outstanding work as our Hostess Chair for the past couple of years. Congratulations for a job well done! I also want to thank Janet for so graciously coming forward and accepting this most important position! Please continue to step-up to the plate and help Janet as she fills the hosting vacancies by calling upon you for your assistance during the remainder of the year.

The photograph of Finnish Nobel Prize Winner, Martti Ahtisaari, which was procured by our Finnish Consul Kathrin S. Mautino, has been adorned with a most appropriate frame. The style, color and design was chosen to complement both the photo and the accompanying cottage decor.

On March 14th, the membership was treated to a great Finnish movie contributed for our enjoyment by Piki Laitinen with technical direction provided by Howard Johnson. The movie was preceded by an excellent dinner/enjoyable social hour. Let's do it again!

The House of Finland participated in the House of Pacific Relations Membership Drive on March 21, 2009, which took place at the Organ Pavilion. This function was hosted by Yours Truly and HOF Treasurer, Frank Leif, with the assistance of Eeva Schreck & Reeta Pihkala who held a (very busy) open house at the House of Finland. The House of Pacific Relations President Hannu Mikkonen is to be congratulated for promoting and officiating this full day of world-class music and dance festival.

Upcoming House of Finland events include the following:

♥ **The International Food Fair** is scheduled for Sunday, May 24th. This is

an all-day event and your presence, donation of food and assistance are urgently needed. We will review this in detail during the April and May HOF monthly meetings.

♥ **The House of Finland Lawn Program** is scheduled for Sunday, June 21st. This, too, is an all-day event with volunteer help and talent urgently needed. This event also will be discussed at length during the next several HOF monthly meetings.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!
Best Regards, Bernie

Editor's Comments



Spring brings everything alive again. Each spring I know exactly when the spring fever hits me. It's the day I look around in the back yard and decide it's time right now to go and buy tomato plants and work the soil in our little garden to get vegetables started. This time it actually happened late March, about a week after we got back from our vacation to New Zealand and Samoa. Of course, on our trip it was the fall season we were facing in that part of the world.

The trip was a fabulous experience, thanks to our hosts in New Zealand, Jussi and Riitta, who took very good care of us, gave us great sightseeing tips, and showed us around so we were able to see so much more than we would ever have seen if we had ventured the country on our own.

New Zealand is such a beautiful, green, clean and spacious country, a treasure to see. Independent Samoa, where we stopped on the way home for five nights, is on the other hand in many ways a total opposite. We felt like we stepped back a few decades in time. The people in Samoa want to keep traditions alive as long as possible, and hopefully this will happen for time to come. We checked out the flea market in Apia and also the farmers' market which both had plenty to offer. And you couldn't ask for kinder, nicer people to meet than Samoans.

Now we are home, back to reality. I hiked up Cowles Mountain a few days ago to start getting in shape again and get rid of those pounds that I gained on our trip. Oh, yes, I enjoyed it while I was gaining every one of those pounds, but now they'll have to go. I took off for the hike a little later in the morning (getting used to

waking up later since I retired), so when I reached the peak around 9:30 a.m., it was a spectacular sight. On the top you get a panoramic view of the surrounding area. I don't ever remember the view being so striking before. I could see downtown San Diego clearly and beyond. The sun was shining from the cloudless sky and the temperature was climbing to the almost too-hot-to-hike levels, and it felt like being on top of the world. It feels so good to be home again.

New spring, new growth, new energy. I hope your spring and summer will be plentiful.

Sirkka

From the Consul's Desk



by Kathrin Mautino

The calendar says that we just started the spring season. Should we be thinking about summer already? The answer is yes if you know of a high school student interested in taking a summer high school course in Finland. There are over 20 different courses, including art, mathematics, languages, natural sciences and history. A knowledge of Finnish is not required, and scholarships are available. The application period ends in May-June, depending on the location and program, so the time to apply is now! More information is available from the Summer High School Association (Kesälukioseura) at <http://www.kesalukioseura.fi/englanti/usinfo.html>. A note for next year's planning: courses in Finnish language and culture are also available, but the deadline to apply is mid-March.

More locally, keep in mind that European Elections are coming up. Finnish citizens may vote at the House of Finland on Saturday May 30, 2009, between 10 am and 3 pm. Also on May 30th, Consul General Kirsti Westphalen will be the guest speaker at the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the San Diego Yacht Club. If you haven't had the chance to meet our new Consul General and her husband, this is a great opportunity! Tickets should go on sale by April 15th. Information and reservations instructions will be posted on the website: www.facepacific.com.

Internationally, Foreign Minister

From the Consul's Desk cont. next page

DATES TO REMEMBER 2009 – House of Finland has this to offer, and more . . .

International Food Fair at Balboa Park

Date: Sunday, May 24
Time: 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

HOF is serving:

- Blueberry soup
- Lettu crepes
- Coffee breads, cookies, pastries, and cakes
- Coffee, juice, and water



* Volunteers Needed to Bake and Sell *

Blueberry soup has been always a big hit and the lettu lines last throughout the day. Visitors are counting on being able to buy authentic Finnish pulla, cookies, oven pancakes, cupcakes, pies, etc. Please call Bernie at 858-748-3192 if you can spare an hour or two, or maybe longer.

From the Consul's Desk

cont. from p. 2

Stubb attended the international conference on Afghanistan on March 31, 2009. It is not well-known that Finland has been an active participant in providing long-term assistance and reconstruction in Afghanistan. Roughly 100 soldiers are in Afghanistan, providing security in civilian crisis management tasks, mostly police duties. In support of free and fair elections, a temporary deployment of an additional 100 soldiers is anticipated and Finland also provides some development assistance funds.

A Word from the Sunshine Coordinator

If you have an item or news you would like to share with the HOF members, let Jaana Koch know at 619-607-1020. She is our contact person for "sunshine" news/information.

Hosting News

Janet Gilinsky is House of Finland's new hostess coordinator. If you haven't hosted already, please contact her at 760-941-6808 or send email at jang621@gmail.com. She would love to hear from you.

Open dates at this writing are June 14 & 28, August 23 & 30. Most of September, October, November, and December dates have openings.



House of Finland Lawn Program

Date: Sunday, June 21
Time: 2 p.m.
Where: International Cottages,
Balboa Park



Search for Finnish talent:

Needed dancers, singers, musicians, skits, etc. Also, come and support our performers by cheering.

House of Finland is the center of attention on our Lawn Program day and will be busy serving coffee and baked goods to interested customers. Please bring something to share if you can.

Call Bernie Maki at 858-748-3192 if you can help in any capacity.



Midsummer Bonfire At the beach

If you like to attend the biggest and the boldest juhannuskokko, the fire ring needs to be "claimed" before 8 a.m., since they go fast. In the past HOF has gathered at the Crown Point to celebrate, but choosing another spot is just as good. If a volunteer comes forward and gets a fire ring reserved, please pass on the information through the HOF and the Suominaiset distribution list.

Bring your own food, drinks, and lawn chairs, also blankets or extra clothes because the evening air will get cold. If you have firewood to spare, bring it with you. Also, note that city ordinance forbids alcohol use on San Diego beaches.

European Elections

Saturday May 30, 2009, between 10 am and 3 pm. Finnish citizens may vote at the House of Finland.

Tervetuloa Kansanlaulumessuun

Sunnuntaina 17.5.2009, 5 p.m.
Lutheran Church of the Incarnation
16889 Espola Road, Poway, CA

Tässä messussa on paljon musiikkia. Sävelet ovat suomalaisia kansanlauluja.

Messun toimittavat pastorit Seppo Vesala ja Irene Erkko. Mukana on kuoro (johtaja Jussi Hokkanen) sekä muusikot Olli Salminen (piano) ja Mikko Palatsi (kitara).

TERVETULOA!!!! Valitettavasti tavanomainen kahvitarjoilumme ei ole mahdollista tämän messun jälkeen.

Seuraava messu on kouluvuoden alussa, syyskuussa 2009.

* * *

Welcome to Folk Song Mass

Sunday, May 17, at 5 p.m.
The Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

There will be a lot of music to the tune of Finnish folk songs.

Pastor Seppo Vesala and Irene Erkko will be officiating, the choir director will be Jussi Hokkanen, Olli Salminen at the piano, and Mikko Palatsi at the guitar. WELCOME!! Unfortunately, our customary coffee service is not possible after church this time.

The next mass will be held in September 2009.

Snippets - Pikkupaloja . . .

When the USAirways plane made an emergency landing in the Hudson River in January, it was not actually the first time that it had happened. *Keskisuomalainen* newspaper in Finland featured an article earlier this year remembering the 1967 incident when Finnish pilot Matti Kosonen landed safely in the same river in the same manner, fortunately with the same results. The event made big headlines at that time in New York and all over the world, as did this recent accident.

According to the article, Lt. Kosonen, Vietnam veteran, has survived having his helicopter being shut down twice in Vietnam.

He was flying for the United Airlines in 1967 when the plane experienced mechanical problems, and he also had to use his skills and nerves of steel to make a successful emergency landing in the Hudson River. Matti Kosonen, who is now 72 years old, spends his time between Finland and USA. He was in Connecticut, watching in horror the accident play out on the TV, then with relief to see that this one also ended up safely.

Thanks to Martta Ikonen for sending in the article.

* * * * *



During the St. Thomas Mass on Valentine's Day '09 couples had an opportunity to renew their wedding vows in a touching ceremony. From l to r: Aarre and Tarja Laurila, Sirkka and Ismo Huovila, Hannu and Päivi Impola, Eeva and Henry Syvänen. Irene Erkko and Seppo Vesala officiating.

* * * * *



The Finnish Choir of San Diego is gaining more recognition. They were invited to perform a few Finnish songs at the regular Sunday service at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation this past Sunday. The choir has a wide repertoire, ranging from hymns to pop. You may have heard them perform at the 2008 Vappujuhla, HOF Christmas party, or on the stage during Christmas on the Prado.

The choir welcomes more people to join them in singing and making music.

MS Walk 2009 Thank You

"Team Emily's Stars" wishes to extend a heartfelt KIITOS to the House of Finland membership for its support at the annual MS Walk. The Finnish community's continued participation and generosity speeds up finding the cure, and your caring warms the hearts of those afflicted by Multiple Sclerosis!

Emily's Stars was formed in 2003, and the participation has grown bigger and stronger every year. This year there were 78 "Stars" team members, and the total monies from the walkers and their sponsors collected amounted to over \$13 K. Emily's Stars also earned the title of "Most Inspirational Team" during the ceremonies right after the race. That's pretty impressive considering that over three thousand participants in the San Diego race raised a total of \$880 K.



On the Road in NZ

Kiwis try their best to make your driving trip more interesting and fun than we do here in the U.S. That's my observation, anyway! Road signs send a definite message, but also have an interesting twist. You may see a sign like this: "Crash at your mate's pad, not at the next curb!" There were frequent signs for not speeding and expensive consequences for getting caught. What a great idea for our freeways also.

Sirkka



Language Quiz

How well do you know your English language? Well, actually British with a New Zealand connection.

1. Push bike
2. Loo
3. Long black / flat white
4. Bonnet
5. Take away food
6. Kumara
7. Give Way (road sign)
8. Kiwi

Answers: 1. Bicycle, 2. Bathroom, 3. Black coffee / coffee with milk, 4. (car) hood, 5. Takeout food, 6. Sweet potato, 7. Yield, 8. Yes, it is a bird and a fruit; it's also a common nickname for New Zealanders

Please support these businesses. – They support House of Finland.

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*Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors
 and do not necessarily represent the philosophy of the
 House of Finland or its members.*

House of Finland
 Balboa Park
 San Diego, California
 Since 1940

Located in the International Cottages area in Balboa Park.

Monthly meetings are held at the House of Finland Cottage in Balboa Park on the first Sunday of the month at 4 p.m.

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