



Ice Rink at Sun Lake. Thanks to Eric Bretschneider for making it.

Photograph by Erick Leskinen

CALENDAR SNAPSHOT

February

- 4 – Future Planning, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 – Winterfest, 1 p.m.
- 6 – Bar Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 6 – Chili Cook-off and Entertainment, 6 p.m.
- 7 – Board Meeting, 10 a.m., visitors at noon.
- 14 – Ystävänpäivää Day Breakfast, 8-11 a.m.
- 14 – Forest Management Committee, 10 a.m.

March

- 13 – St. Urho's Party, 8 p.m.

Hyvää Ystävänpäivää! Happy Friend's Day! In Finland, Valentine's Day is known as *Ystävänpäivää*, or Friend's Day, and is more a celebration of friendships and not romantic interests. Friend's Day got its start when some Americans living in Helsinki in the 1980s started having Valentine's Day parties. At first the local Finns weren't eager to embrace the day of romance and its tradition, thinking it too commercial. Clever and aggressive marketing campaigns by charities, government agencies, and businesses, however, successfully changed this mindset by emphasizing the importance of friendships. In 1987 Friend's Day was recognized as an official festival and placed on the Finnish calendar. Today, organized games such as *rusettiluistelu* or ribbon skating are played in Helsinki. Families and friends gather to feast on *kalakukko*, a traditional food made from fish baked inside a loaf of bread, and *graavilohi*, an appetizer consisting of raw salmon cured in salt, sugar, and dill served on hardtack. Greeting cards with special postage stamps and the words "*Kolme sanaa sinulle, ole ystävä minulle!*"—"Three words to you, be a friend to me!"—are sent to friends throughout Finland. It is also a day to remember those less fortunate by doing charitable deeds. (On Friend's Day 2009, Citycon, owner of 33 shopping centers throughout Finland, collected and donated over 30,000 toys to needy children.)

Welcome, new member!



Finn Camp members Alex Bogicevic and Crystal Hayes-Bogicevic announce the birth of their new baby boy, Chaison Alexander Bogicevic, born on December 28, 2009. Congratulations!



In the charitable spirit of Friend's Day, the board of directors will be collecting nonperishable food items during this year's Winterfest. Donations will be delivered to the Hospitality House Food Pantry in Walled Lake. Food items may be dropped off in the Clubroom during Winterfest and on Saturday, February 13, from 3 to 9 p.m. Hospitality House Food Pantry serves the Walled Lake School District and a portion of Commerce Township. For information about their mission, visit their Web site at <http://www.HospitalityHouseFoodPantry.org>. *Oikein hyvää ystävänpäivää kaikille ystäville!*—A really Happy Friend's Day to all of my friends!

— Carol Melancon

Winterfest Memories

By Brian Pelto

Typically, each year when Winterfest approaches, my brothers or I will mention to our mother, "Winterfest is this weekend, I think I might jump in Sun Lake." My mother will always give me a stern warning: "Be careful out there at the Finn Camp. Jumping in the lake in the wintertime is dangerous." I would laugh and tell mom, don't worry it's not a big deal. Then a few winters ago I mentioned again that Winterfest was approaching and perhaps this year I would jump in the lake. My mother again warned me of the dangers of this foolish act. Finally I said, "Mom, what's the big deal? You cut a hole in the ice and jump in for a minute, yell and scream, everyone laughs, then you climb out." My mother replied, "What if you miss the hole?" I replied, "How can you miss the hole?" Mom said, "Jumping off the tower into a hole in the ice is dangerous!" I replied, "Mom, we jump off the dock, not the tower!" My brothers and I laughed about this one for quite a while. Having never attended Winterfest, our protective mother thought that all of these years we were jumping off the tower, aiming for the hole in the ice! Now that would be an interesting new event for Winterfest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winterfest

Come join us for the annual Finn Camp Winterfest. This midwinter event will be held on Saturday, February 6. Festivities start at Sun Lake at 1 p.m. Activities include polar dipping, fishing, lasso golf, and a human sled pull. Of course, there will be a bonfire, hot beverages, hotdogs, and bratwurst provided. The fun continues at the Clubroom at 6 p.m. with the Chili Cook-off and entertainment. All day, 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold.

Admission Buttons:

Adults: \$5

Children ages 5-17: \$3

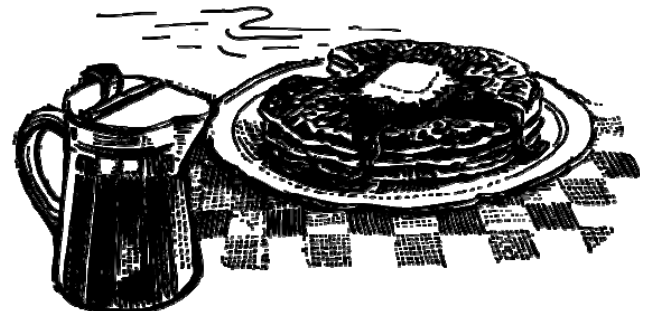
Seniors 65 and older: \$3

Family Pass: \$15 (*parents and dependent children only*)

There is an extra charge for the sauna.

Many people are needed to help. Put in some work hours or just lend a helping hand. Donations are needed for the raffle: the more we have, the better. Maybe you, your committee, your workplace, your friends, and the businesses you like to go to would make a donation. It would all be appreciated. For ideas, questions, workers, donations, etc., please call Jody at 248-819-8964.

Ystävänpäivää/Valentine's Day Breakfast



The Recreation Committee is sponsoring a pancake breakfast, Sunday, February 14, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Grab a friend or your sweetie and meet us in the Clubroom for an all-you-can-eat breakfast.



For only \$6 (adults) and \$4 (children) you will enjoy pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs and coffee, juice and milk. If you missed the chance to drop off your donation for the food drive, we will still be accepting donations to help Hospitality House. Thank you for supporting the children of the Finn Camp!

St. Urho's Party

The St. Urho celebration is on Saturday, March 13, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Clubroom. Join us for great food, and dance to music provided by a DJ. Don't miss the crowning of the new St. Urho's Day King and Queen.

Tax Statements Being Distributed

Tax statements are being mailed out. If you deliver your payment to the Clubroom safe, please make sure your envelope has your name and the amount enclosed printed on the envelope.

2010 Finn Camp Calendar

The 2010 Finn Camp calendars are available now to order. The calendars are \$15 each. Shipping and handling is \$2.50 extra.

Please send a check to:

DFCSCA Sisterhood
c/o Tammie King
1826 Bruce St.
Wixom, MI 48393

Please call with any questions at 248-313-9334.

Firewood for Sale

Cord of wood: \$50 for members, \$75 for non-members. Contact Mike Honka for more information. Phone: 248-860-5109.

Technical Assistance Request

Help is requested for the Clubroom home theatre and audio system. Anyone with technical know-how in this area, please contact Dave Niemi.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Sunday, February 7, 10 a.m. Visitors at noon.
Visitors must sign in at the Clubroom at noon.
New members can visit at any meeting.

President: Greg Pelto

Vice President: Patti Leppi

Treasurer: Dick Pype

Secretary: Millie Packard

Works Administrators: Ralph Heikkinen,
Don Matt, Steve Melancon

Future Planning Committee

Thursday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom

Sisterhood Committee

Wednesday, February 17, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom

Bar Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 6, 5 p.m., Clubroom

Forest Management (Woods) Committee

This committee meets every second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. at the pole barn.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Get Your Newsletter by Email

To sign up to receive newsletters via email *only*, send us an email giving your first and last names, saying "Subscribe to Newsletters" in the subject line, to: newsletter_editor@finncamp.org. The emailed version is now the only way to see your newsletter in color.

Newsletter committee members are: Kathy Bretschneider, David Hall, Sherry Kurin, Erick Leskinen and Brian Pelto.

Articles Wanted/ Member Spotlight

Do you have a favorite memory of growing up at the Finn Camp you wish to share? Or perhaps an interesting story of Finn Camp history? Do you have a great story about a member and wish to spotlight them? Feel free to type up a couple



paragraphs and send with or without photo(s) to: newsletter_editor@finncamp.org. The committee is seeking fun and interesting stories from members to be published.

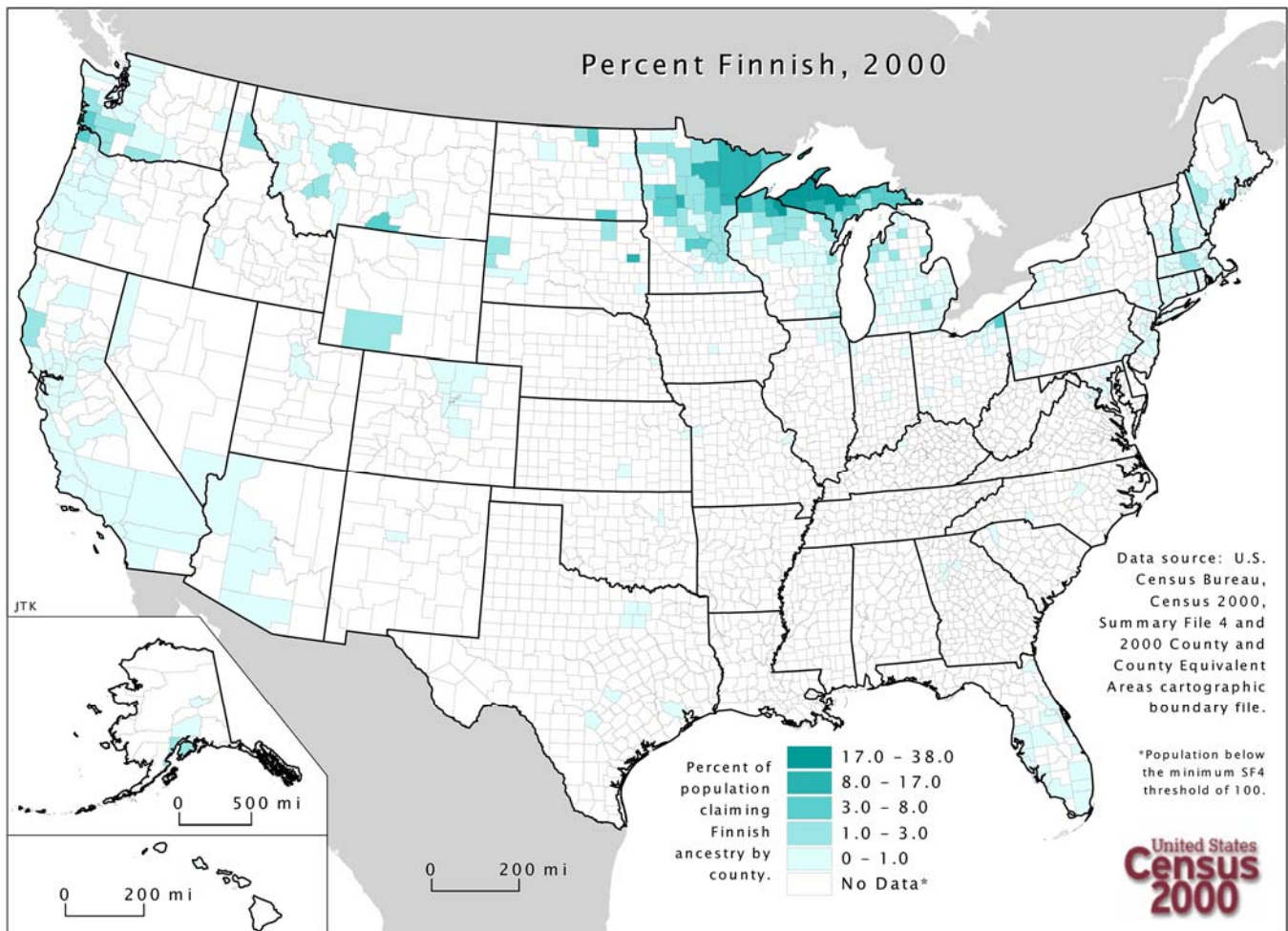
Newsletter Items

Finn Camp members are welcome to submit items of news to be published in the newsletter. Calendar items should include a brief description of the particular upcoming event or meeting and full contact information. Items for the next newsletter are due by March 15. Email copy to: newsletter_editor@finncamp.org. Or mail it to:

Newsletter Editor
c/o DFCSCA
2524 Loon Lake Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393-1654
Or place items in the Clubroom mailbox.

Memorials and Condolences

Please send condolences of present or former Finn Camp members who have passed away for recognition to the editor: (newsletter_editor@finncamp.org.) If you can furnish a photo that would be much appreciated. If not recent, adding the approximate year of the photo would help.



With the 2010 census around the corner, here is some interesting information about where Finnish Americans are living. Census-taking jobs starting at \$16 per hour are available in Oakland County at the Livonia office (734-437-4120) or Pontiac office (248-230-9120).



SERVICES OFFERED

Free “Services Offered” Section

All members are invited to list here any services—for pay or barter—that they would like to advertise. Whether it’s a service such as handyman or seamstress or pet care, or seasonal activities like garage sales, we will be listing these in upcoming newsletters. All you have to do is provide—via your business card or information you supply by mail or email to the newsletter editor (see “Newsletter Items,” above) the following information: The Type of Service Offered; A Description of Just What You Do as the Service Provider; Your Price (Hourly Rate, Job Rate, To Be Negotiated, or whatever); Your Name; and Your Contact Information (Preferred Method and Times: Phone, Email, etc.). Total length, including spaces, should not exceed 50 words, not counting the headings. (Overlength copy will be edited for fit.) The deadline is the same as the date for newsletter copy: the fifteenth of each month.

David R. Hall Editorial Services Writing, Editing, Proofreading Just Wh@ You Need

Are your printed materials just not reaching your targets?

Maybe you're *underserved* editorially, which is *undeserved!*

For a free consultation with an experienced New York editor relocated to Oakland County,

e-mail davidrandallhall@gmail.com or call 248-896-2267 or 917-204-6494.

Erick Leskinen—Photographer

Would you like a portrait of your family, photograph of your children at the beach or playing ball? I am up to the challenge of getting photographs you will cherish for a lifetime.

erick@ErickLeskinen.com or 248-387-9409

Beverly Jokinen—Graphic Artist

Web sites and Print Graphics—creative ideas, personalized attention and reasonable rates. Many years of experience: Please go to bcpreview.com to view my portfolio.

bjokinen@comcast.net or 248-207-1850

Affordable Windows and Siding Corporation

Where quality product, installation and service make the difference.

Eric Feldt, owner.

7005 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-662-5551 affordablewindow.net