



## CALENDAR SNAPSHOT

## March

4 – Future Planning Committee, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom  
6 – Sledding at Gilbert Willis Park, 1 p.m.  
6 – Warm-up and Recreation Committee, 3 p.m., Sauna  
7 – Board Meeting, 10 a.m., visitors at noon  
10 – Sisterhood, 6:30, Clubroom  
13 – Bar Committee, 6:30, Clubroom  
13 – **St. Urho's Party**, 8 p.m., Clubroom  
14 – Forest Management Committee, 10 a.m., Pole Barn  
28 – **Finn Hall Band** at FCA, *time and admission TBA*

## April

1 – Camp Country opening, depending on weather.  
11 – Board Meeting, 10 a.m., visitors at noon.  
11 – Forest Management Committee, 10 a.m., Pole Barn  
17 – **1970s Dance**, sponsored by the Sisterhood  
25 – **Annual Meeting**, noon, registration starts at 11 a.m.

## June

13 – **Fishing Derby**  
19 – **Juhannus**

## Winterfest 2010



*Brave polar dippers jumping into Sun Lake.*

This year's Winterfest was enjoyable for many, with ice skating, ice fishing, and of course the polar dipping (see results below). The weather was beautiful, although it would have been nice to have had a little more snow.

I want to thank all those who worked to help make this year's Winterfest such a success. This function couldn't have been done without them. *Iso Kiitos!*

In the Winner's Circle we had the following:

## Polar Dip'n:

The most times jumping in—Serenity Peltier,  
12 times

The longest time in—nobody attempted this.

Fish'n: Biggest 'n most—many fished, but nobody  
put their information on the record sheet.

## Chili Cook-off:

First Place: Betsy Wister

Second Place: Guy Dufresne

I also want to thank everyone who donated to the raffle. Many people brought items at the last minute, so it is hard to know just who brought what. We had donations from Melvin's Hardware in Walled Lake, the Back Yard restaurant in Wixom, and Target, TGI Friday, JCPenney and Applebee's in Novi. Our greatest raffle prize was for a one-night stay in the Embassy Hotel Suite, donated by the Grogans.

It was admittedly a rough first running of this event for me, but I learned much. Thanks again to all who helped, worked, donated, and came to enjoy the festivities. — Jody Dernberger

## Condolences



*Photo by Pam Linick.*

Gene Holappa, 61, collapsed in the elevator at his condo but died at the hospital in Ft. Myers, Florida, on February 22. A member since 2003 who always looked forward to the opening of camp country in April, Gene hailed from Bessemer, Michigan, where his brother Tom still lives. Gene worked at Perry John-

son, Inc., in Southfield, for 20 years as their controller. Arrangements are still being made, but it is known that Gene's wishes were to have his ashes scattered over the Finn Camp grounds.

## Hospitality House Food Drive

Amount collected, \$145; food donated, 84 lb. Each of those dollars will be able to buy a whole case of food from Gleaners Food Bank. They are very grateful at Hospitality House. They sent us a certificate of gratitude that is hanging on the bulletin board in the Clubroom.

## 2010 Finn Camp Calendars Sales

We printed 100 calendars, four are left and for sale in the Finn Camp Gift Shop. Thank you to everyone for their purchases. — Tammie King



**Heikinpäivä**, Hancock, Michigan (January 30)

By Erick Leskinen

Finnish Americans find many ways to make the long winters bearable. Some, like the Finn Camp with Winterfest, celebrate the midwinter point. Another such Finnish American community is Hancock, Michigan, where approximately 40 percent of the population claimed Finnish ancestry in the most recent full federal census.

Hancock has a Heikinpäivä (Heikki's Day) Festival, created by the Finnish Theme Committee of the city in 1999. This celebration's themes are associated with the name day for Heikki (Henrik's Day, January 19). This year's main event was on January 30, although activities are held throughout the three weeks prior to that. There are *nisu*, classes for making leipäjuusto (squeaky cheese), five-string kantele classes, dance classes and Finnish films. This festival commemorates the patron saint of Finland, Henrik (Heikki; see the accompanying story about this legend), and celebrates the fact that winter is half over.

The night of the opening festivities I arrived too late to see the tango lessons, but the later dancing was excellent, with music by Finn Hall, which will be performing at the Finnish Cultural Association in Farmington Hills on March 28. Hancock's Finnish American Heritage Center hosted the *tori* (market) with ethnic handmade crafts, good foods, workshops, Finnish products, and musical performances.



Steve Niemi, Ron Karvonen, and Roger Hewlitt performed Finnish folk music during Heikinpäivä.

The Heikinpäivä parade January 30 featured St. Henrik and other popular Finnish figures as well as traditional Finnish fashions. Students from Finlandia University and other local schools joined in.

Later in the afternoon, people gathered at the Houghton Canal for the famous Polar Dip. Participants who wanted to compete for prizes for custom and jumping in style paid an entrance fee of \$5, but anyone could take the dip. Afterward, participants warmed up in the hotel pool and sauna.

The day's events concluded with a dinner and dance at Finlandia University's Finn Hall. The band was Pasi-Cats, led by Pasi Lautala.

I would recommend to anyone who enjoys the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in winter to make the trip for next year's Heikinpäivä Festival.



Finnish American Heritage Center and Historical Archive banner during the Heikinpäivä parade.



Reindeer pulled Hankooki Heikki (Melvin Kangas) sled.





A *vipukelkka* (whipsled) ride for the kids. Members of the Finlandia University women's hockey team push the pole to spin the sled.



Children try out Scandinavian-style kick sleds.



A woman braves the polar dip in the Houghton Canal.

All photographs by Erick Leskinen except of Finn Hall Band or unless otherwise noted.

### Saint Henrik, Bishop and Martyr

By Jim Kurtti —*Director of the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan.*

Saint Henrik—or Henry or Heikki—of Uppsala is the patron saint of Finland, according to the Roman calendar of the Catholic Church. He was an Englishman, living in Rome in A.D. 1151, when he was asked to accompany the papal legate, Nicholas Cardinal Breakspear (later Pope Adrian IV, the only Englishman ever to occupy the papal throne) to Scandinavia. The following year, Henrik was consecrated bishop of Uppsala, Sweden, by Cardinal Breakspear.



Saint Henrik  
(Karl Arko) in the  
*Heikinpäivä* parade.

According to legend, Henrik accompanied King Erik IX of Sweden in the latter's invasion of Finnish territory in 1155 to punish Finnish pirates, remaining in Finland when Erik returned to Sweden. Henrik then set out to convert the Finns to the Christian faith. His missionary work concentrated around the Åhvenanmaa Islands (Åland) and the area of present-day Turku.

As tradition has it, while on a missionary journey in 1156, Bishop Henrik stopped at the home of Lalli, an affluent farmer and convert. Lalli was not at home and Lalli's wife, Kerttu, did not want to offer the bishop anything to eat. The bishop insisted that custom dictated that she supply him with his needs. Upon leaving, Bishop Henrik paid the mistress of the house for the provisions he had received.

When Lalli returned home, Kerttu related the story of the bishop's visit, but intentionally did not mention that he had paid for his food. In anger, Lalli started out after the bishop and caught up with him on the frozen surface of Köyliö Lake, where Lalli murdered the bishop.

The grisly tale continues, with Lalli removing the bishop's miter and placing it upon his own head. When Lalli returned home and attempted to remove the miter, his scalp came off with it.

An equally gruesome tale states that Lalli attempted to steal the bishop's ring from Henrik's thumb but could not remove it. Finally, in desperation, Lalli cut off the bishop's thumb in order to secure the ring, but the ring fell



into the snow and could not be found. Many traditions and folktales developed around the story of Saint Henrik's murder. It was believed that the missing bishop's ring could be seen through the crystal-clear waters of Köyliö Lake, but although it could be seen shimmering in the waters it could never be reached. Other folktales state that a blind fisherman caught the ring and placed it on his eyes, causing him to regain his sight immediately.

Bishop Henrik's body was buried at Nousiainen. In the 1290s his remains were removed to the site of a new diocesan center in Turku. At the end of the thirteenth century, Henrik was elevated to the position of national saint. His death date, January 19, became the highest feast day in the calendar of saints of the diocese of Turku, which covered the whole of Finland at that time. Great masses were said on Saint Henrik's Day, and Henrik's cult and legends came to highly influence both ecclesiastical art and literature in Finland.

Tradition reports that Lalli died within a year of killing Bishop Henrik, during which time he led a cursed life. Mice attacked Lalli as if they were going to eat him alive. Fleeing his home, Lalli took up residence in a root cellar, but the rodents were able to find him there as well. Finally, Lalli escaped to a place called Kiukanen, in the village of Harola. He built a small cabin there on a place still called Lallinmaa (Lalli's land). Even here the mice tormented the hapless Lalli. In the end, he was driven up a large tree by the mice. Then the mice began to gnaw at the tree until it came crashing down, sending Lalli and the mice alike into the lake, where they all drowned. To this day this lake is called Hiirijärvi (Mouse Lake).

In medieval times and long afterward, Lalli represented paganism and Saint Henrik the victory of Christianity. In art, the figure of Lalli is most often shown lying under a foot of Saint Henrik, subdued and scalpless. In the more recent past, some have portrayed Lalli as a symbol of Finnish independence and unwillingness to submit to authority.

Saint Henrik's Day (Heikinpäivä), celebrated on January 19, was the traditional half-way mark of winter among rural Finns. Heikinpäivä has also been called Keskitalvi (midwinter).

As with many other Finnish name days, there are folk sayings associated with Heikinpäivä. Three are still commonly recited in the Copper Country today: *Karhu*

*kääntää kylkeä* (The bear rolls over to the other side); *Talven selkä tahtuu* (Winter's back breaks); and *Heikki heinää jakaa* (Heikki divides the hay). It was a time when the farmer took stock of his hay, grains and other commodities, making sure that there was at least half left.

Such folklore traditions have diminished much more in Finland than among the Finnish-speaking people in the Copper Country. But because of the loss of the Finnish language among later generations, folklore traditions are dying out here also. In all our Finnish-American communities there exists a treasure trove of folklore, such as folk-sayings, stories, Finnish place names and traditions. It is vitally important that we all collect and preserve as much of this legacy as possible.

### Facilities Reservation

With spring comes the season of weddings and graduations. This is a reminder to you, the membership, that we have some terrific facilities here that can be reserved for use at a small cost. All it takes is a request to Karen Pype to make sure the date you want is available. For more information, please contact Karen at 248-926-6219. We already have several occasions booked for the spring, so call early.

### Work Hours and Project Section

If your committee has a project with available work hours, we would like to list this in the newsletter and on the Web site. All members would be informed of available projects with work hours and be able to schedule their time to participate in the project. Also, this would be an excellent place for committees to recruit additional members.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Recreation Committee News

The Ystävanpäivä/Valentine's Day breakfast was a great success! Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. A huge "thank you" goes out to Robyn Jokinen, Jeff Pype, Marty Boatman, Larry Gooden, Linda Gooden, Maxine Halperin and Eric Solin. This first-ever event would not have been the resounding success it was without all your help.

Now it's time to break out our sleds! We are having a sledding day March 6, 1:00 p.m., at Gilbert Willis Park, behind the VFW hall. This event is weather permitting: if there's no snow, we will have to cancel (sorry; we don't have the resources of Vancouver!).





Afterward, around three o'clock, we will adjourn to the sauna to warm up and enjoy hot chocolate. At that time we will also have a brief Recreation Committee meeting to discuss activities for the rest of the year. Please bring your own ideas and suggestions of activities we might hold for our children. — Kathy Bretschneider

### 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. The cost at the door will be \$5. Don't forget to wear your purple and green!

*Hail to Thee, Blight Spirit!*

All hail thee, Finn fans of St. Urho's  
The legend goes back beyond—who knows?  
Yes, not a St. Patrick  
(And a tad psychiatric)  
Green and purple from head down to his toes.  
—Anonymous 15th-century bard

### Finn Hall

On Sunday, March 28, "Finn Hall" will perform at the



Finnish Center Association. "Finn Hall" was named Finlandia Foundation National's 2010 Performer of the Year for their dedication to preserving the feel and sounds of historic Finnish American dance halls.

The Minneapolis-based band features acclaimed musicians:

Ralph Tuttila, mandolin player and two-time POY

Dennis Halme, accordionist

Cheryl Paschke, violinist and nyckelharpa player

Al Reko, accordionist and vocalist.

The performance schedule includes: • "Finn Hall" in concert • Dancing to your favorite Finnish tunes—waltzes, polkas, schottisches, mazurkas, and humppas • Tango lessons with dance instructor Ralph Tuttila—learn to dance like the stars! • Jam session with "Finn Hall"—don't forget to bring your guitar, banjo, accordion, or harmonica • Shopping at the gift shop for Finnish imports • Dining on the Finnish Center's world famous pasties.

The Finn Camp and Finnish Center Association, along with other local Finnish organizations are jointly sponsoring this cultural event. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet members from other local Finnish organizations.

More information, including admission prices and time of each event, will be posted on [www.FinnCamp.org](http://www.FinnCamp.org) and in the Clubroom and sauna lounge and sent in an e-mail announcement. Read more about "Finn Hall" at [www.FinnHall.com](http://www.FinnHall.com) and the Finlandia Foundation National at [www.FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://www.FinlandiaFoundation.org). The Finnish Center Association is located in Farmington Hills at 35200 West Eight Mile Road.

### Camp Country

Camp Country is scheduled to open around April 1. Depending on the weather, it may open as early as March 27.

### Annual Meeting

April 25, noon, Clubroom, registration at 11 a.m.

All members are encouraged to attend this very important annual meeting. Many key issues will be discussed and voted on. If you wish to have your voice heard, you need to attend. We are a cooperative organization and thus need everyone to contribute to the discussion and voting to make Finn Camp a better place.



## Finn Grand Fest 2010



This year's Finn Grand Fest will be July 28 through August 1 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

For more information see

[www.finngrandfest2010.com](http://www.finngrandfest2010.com).

Phone: 705-575-FINN (3466), Fax: 705-575-1468

Mailing Address:

Finn Grand Fest 2010

721 North St. Box 2010

Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 5T7

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Board of Directors

Sunday, March 7 and April 11 at 10 a.m. Visitors must sign in at the Clubroom at noon. New members can visit at any meeting.

### Board of Directors:

President: Greg Pelto

Vice President: Patti Leppi

Treasurer: Dick Pye

Secretary: Millie Packard

Works Administrators: Ralph Heikkinen,  
Don Matt, Steve Melancon

### Future Planning Committee

They meet every first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

### Recreation Committee

Saturday, March 6, 3 p.m., Sauna

### Forest Management Committee

The Woods Committee meets every second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. at the pole barn.

### Bar Committee

Saturday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom.

### Sisterhood Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 April 15.

Email copy to:

[newsletter\\_editor@finncamp.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## SERVICES OFFERED



**South Ostrobothnia Folk High School**  
(Etelä-Pohjanmaan Opisto)

**ILMAJOKI, FINLAND**

**Are you interested in Finland?**

**Do you have Finnish roots?**

## SEARCHING THE ROOTS

in Finland 7/26–8/6, 2010

Now it's your chance to experience the Finnish culture, language, and nature by taking part in Searching the Roots in Finland next summer. An empirical acquaintance to the Finnish culture and language as well as to your roots. The course is for people with Finnish background, living or having lived abroad.

The participants need no knowledge of Finnish language because all tuition is in English. During the weekend of 1st and 2nd of August there is no class, which means you have the possibility to visit relatives or friends.

Course fee: 590 euros including tuition, meals and accommodation in a double room. Fares to and from Opisto are not included in the price; participants make their own arrangements.

Enrollment deadline June 14.

Tel. +358-6-4256 171, Education Planner Pia Niemelä, [kurssit@epopisto.fi](mailto:kurssit@epopisto.fi), [www.epopisto.fi](http://www.epopisto.fi)

### FOR SALE: Jokes, 50¢

In person only; on Finn Camp property  
and at reasonable hours.

See Dave Niemi. No phone calls.

*I reserve the right to refuse service at my discretion.*

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734-662-5551 [affordablewindow.net](http://affordablewindow.net)

## 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.