



CALENDAR SNAPSHOT

February

- 3—Future Planning, Boardroom, 7:30 p.m.
- 5—Winterfest 2011. Sun Lake, 1-5 p.m., Clubroom, 6:00 p.m.-1 a.m.
- 5—Bar Committee, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom
- 13—Forest Management, 10 a.m., Pole Barn
- 13—Ystävänäpäivä Food Drive
- 13—Valentine's Day Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Clubroom
- 13—Sledding Day, 1:00 p.m., Gilbert Willis Park
- 15—Newsletter Items Due
- 16—Sisterhood, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom
- 20—Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., Boardroom, visitors at noon

March

- 19—St. Urho's Party, 8:00 p.m., Clubroom

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Not all events are listed on this and other DFCSCA calendars. If you are planning an event and wish to check the availability of a specific facility on a certain date, please check with Karen Pye (248-926-6219).

Winterfest 2011

Winterfest is Saturday, February 5. Festivities will be held at the Sun Lake beach with Polar Dip'n, Ice Fish'n and more, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and in the Clubroom, with Chili and Entertainment from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Buttons: \$5/adult, \$3/child, admission \$15/membership family. The sauna is extra. The S'more Bar will be back again this year.

Many workers are still needed to help out and make this year's Winterfest a great success. There's something for everyone to do. Put your work hours in early or get a head start on them. Let's make it great! Contact Jody Dernberger; 248-819-8964



Winterfest activities include the Polar Dip in Sun Lake. Brave members and guests taking a plunge.

Second Annual Ystävänäpäivä (Finnish Friends' Day) Food Drive

The second annual Hospitality House Food Pantry food drive will be held in conjunction with the Recreation Committee's **Valentine's Day Breakfast** on Sunday, February 13, starting at 8:00 a.m. in the Clubroom. Nonperishable food items and monetary donations may be dropped off then in the Clubroom. When donating food products, please check the expiration date on the box or can: Expired items cannot be accepted. A \$1 donation will purchase one case of food for Hospitality House from the Gleaners Food Bank. Hospitality House serves the Walled Lake school district and a portion of Commerce Township. For more information about their mission visit their Web site at www.hospitalityhousefoodpantry.org.





Kids sledding down the hills at Gilbert Willis Park

Sledding Day

It's time to break out our sleds! We are having a sledding day: Sunday, February 13, 1:00 p.m., at Gilbert Willis Park, behind the VFW hall. This event is, naturally, weather permitting—if there's no snow we will have to cancel.

St. Urho's Party

The annual St. Urho's Day celebration is on Saturday, March 19, beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Clubroom. Join us for great food, games and dancing to the music provided by our favorite DJ, Carey. Don't miss the crowning of the new St. Urho's Day King and Queen. The cost, at the door, is \$5. Don't forget to wear your purple and green!

Hot Topics: Saunas' Increasing Popularity

The rest of the country is beginning to catch up with the Finnish community. According to a December 29 *Wall Street Journal* article, sauna sales in 2010 were up 40 percent—in Fort Lauderdale. A dealer north of New York City reported a year-over-year sale rate up 50 percent, and a Minnesota maker of barrel-shaped outdoor saunas has been selling 6 percent more each year for the last four.

Saunas' many virtues need no introduction here and are rapidly becoming more widely known everywhere. Their ease of installation in comparison to other such spa facilities, their ability to withstand wide changes in heat and humidity, their resistance to microbial growth

like fungi compared to jetted water tubs and such, and—above all—their affordability underlie saunas' new popularity. One Minnesota distributor says a closet can be converted into a two-person sauna for only \$3,000 without the installation costs, and units big enough to seat four to seven run about \$4,500 to \$8,000. A West Virginia dealer estimates that a five- by seven-foot sauna might cost \$5 per month in electricity to heat. The new infrared saunas, with heaters built into the walls, can cost as little as \$2,000, but they don't get as hot (more on this in a moment), the heat can't be adjusted in the ways we're used to, and, more importantly, in 2008 perceived fire hazards associated with them led to a Consumer Product Safety Commission recall of 225 infrared models.

So how hot *is* hot for a sauna? The ten-seat Finnish embassy sauna in Washington is heated to 190 degrees; private individuals mentioned in the *Journal* article set theirs to 165 and 180 degrees; and the Finn Camp's men's sauna is typically heated to at least 185 degrees, with 210 not being all that unusual.

If saunas' four-season benefits for mental and physical health have awakened your interest in adding one, consult the list of suppliers below. Or just find a busy night at the Sun Lake sauna (not hard to do in winter) and ask for references of local talent to build and install a custom unit for you, at what could turn out to be substantially less than the full price of a commercial one.

North American Sauna Society (nonprofit); Kalevi Ruuska, Pres.; ph: 845-897-4773; info@saunasociety.org; Almost Heaven Group, HC 67 Box 539 BB, Renick, WV 24966; ph. 304-645-2310; sales@almostheaven.net; Florida Hot Tub and Sauna, 5021 S. State Road 7, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314; ph. 954-327-3667; info@flhottub.com.



Disassembling the swimming dock's I-beams in preparation for reconditioning or replacing them.

Dock Repair Project Update

Repair of the dock extending out to the dive tower at Sun Lake is proceeding well, with good weather on the weekends. The wood has been stripped off and repair of the metal I-beams is under way. Delle Aro and Marty Boatman are leading the project. Thanks also to the many other workers.

Finnish Best-seller Now Available in English

Arto Paasilinna, born in Lapland in 1942, has sold more than 7 million books in 27 languages—but until now his most famous novel, *The Year of the Hare* (1975), has not been available in English. As *Publishers Weekly* described the newly published translation of this short parable, “Paasilinna’s charming, low-key allegory pursues a journalist [Kaarlo Vatanen] abandoning his Helsinki life for the companionship of a pet hare . . . he and his friend have accidentally hit while driving. He tends to the hare’s leg, befriends the critter, deserts his friend, gradually sheds his former life, and eventually refits a cozy cabin in the wilds of Lapland. Paasilinna fashions in each step of Kaarlo’s transformation a test of society’s institutions, and

finds each, not surprisingly, wanting, from law enforcement and the construction industry to the army. The hare, meanwhile, is innocently plucky, leaving his droppings on the altar of a church and in the soup of a Swedish lady.”

Paasilinna himself began as a journalist and sold his boat just the way [the hero] did in this novel, in the author’s case to finance the writing of *The Year of the Hare*. The great success of this work has allowed him to write almost a novel a year since then. So if you’re looking for something to read that’s both Finnish through and through but also appropriate to open *The Year of the Hare* that began in January, here’s a less harebrained idea than many others. Pico Iyer, author of the foreword to this new translation, sums it up nicely in saying that “*The Year of the Hare* reminds us that what seems so important in our daily lives may not be all that permanent or sustaining.”

The Year of the Hare, by Arto Paasilinna (1975). First English translation February 2011 (Penguin, paperback, \$14.00). Translator: Herbert Lomas.

Famous Finns from A to Z

Another in our occasional series of not too Finnickly looks at noteworthy Finns. This month’s personality is Viola Turpeinen.





Viola Turpeinen (1909-1958) was not only the best known Finnish-American accordionist of her time but was probably the first woman in the world to record accordion solos. In the 1940s, Turpeinen was the best-selling Finnish recording artist in the United States. She continued to record until 1951. Her recordings remained available on LPs through the 1960s and on cassettes into the seventies. Throughout her career, Turpeinen's work reflected changing Finnish-American musical tastes: from traditional Scandinavian dance tunes to Finnish pop songs to polka standards.

By her early teens the virtuosic Viola had advanced from a two-row button-box accordion to the piano accordion, which she was playing in local workers' social halls such as the North Star Hall in Ishpeming when discovered there in August 1926 by another U.P. Finnish musician, John Rosendahl. After he asked her parents' permission to let her tour with him, the two were on the road for two years, then settled in New York. There they recorded for first Columbia and then the Victor Talking Machine Company, which paid them a comparatively generous \$50 per song. After January 1930 they added another accordionist, and vocalist, Sylvia Polso of Ironwood. This trio played to East Coast Finns in the winter and toured to Midwest Finnish venues over the summers. Viola left the trio two years later when she evidently decided that John and Sylvia were harmonizing too closely.

In 1932, Viola married fellow musician William Syrjälä, with whose orchestra she played at New York's uptown 5th Avenue Hall. By 1938, U.S. recording companies had largely stopped contracting with immigrant artists, but Viola was so popular that she not only was asked to come to the Victor studios in New York but made her

debut with them as a singer, accompanying herself on the accordion.

As the Finnish population of New York dwindled after World War II, Bill and Viola moved to Lake Worth, Fla., which then had two Finn halls of its own. They played regularly for dances at the Field Hall, which reportedly became so popular that the hall had to be expanded. During these last few years of Viola's life the two continued to tour New England and the Upper Midwest, and it is likely that their appearances at the Finn Camp were in this period. Anyone with remembrances?

BOARD NOTES AND REMINDERS

Important Note from the Auditors

Committees having their own events and accounts: Please drop off your financial records for this fiscal year for the auditors to look at. Leave them in the Boardroom, or call Sam at the number below to make arrangements for a pickup. We'll get them back to you ASAP. The auditors meet the second Monday of every month. Thanks. —Sam (248-624-2399)

The Scholarship Committee is currently seeking applicants. Scholarship application forms are available at the beach, in the Clubroom and through Millie Packard: 248-554-9998 or millie@webcomachinetool.com

- Starting April 2011, printed newsletters by mail will cost \$15.00 per year.
- Camp sales and transfers have to be carried out with the consent of the board.



BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Sunday, February 20, 10:00 a.m., Boardroom, visitors at noon.

Future Planning Committee

Thursday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Forest Management Committee

Sunday, February 13. Meet at the pole barn, 10:00 a.m.

Sisterhood Committee

Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom.

Bar Committee

Saturday, February 5, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Finn Camp Newsletter (ISSN 2154-5545) is published the first of each month by the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association (D.F.C.S.C.A.), 2524 Loon Lake Rd., Wixom, MI 48393-1654. Contents copyright © 2011 D.F.C.S.C.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part, in any form, is forbidden without prior written permission.

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Subscriptions: Free to all current Finn Camp members. To receive newsletters via email, the only version that is in color, email newsletter_editor@finncamp.org and write "Subscribe to Newsletters" in the subject line. Give your first and last names. Newsletters are also viewable at the Finn Camp Web site, www.finncamp.org.

Or mail request to:

Newsletter Editor

D.F.C.S.C.A.

2524 Loon Lake Rd.

Wixom, MI 48393-1654

Or place request in mailbox in the Clubroom.

Articles Wanted / Member Spotlight

Do you have a favorite memory growing up in the Finn Camp you wish to share? Perhaps you have an interesting story of Finn Camp history. Member spotlight articles are especially interesting. Please send a couple of paragraphs, preferably with a photograph, to newsletter_editor@finncamp.org. The committee is seeking fun and interesting stories from members to publish.

Event Notices

Calendar items should include a brief description of the particular upcoming event or meeting and full contact information.

Copy Deadline: All items for inclusion in future newsletters must be received by the 15th day of the month preceding the date of the issue being prepared. Email copy to: newsletter_editor@finncamp.org



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 to fit.) The deadline is the same as the date for newsletter copy: the 15th of each month.

Beverly Jokinen—Graphic Artist

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\$50 for both members and nonmembers. Delivery extra. Contact Mike Honka, Ph. 248-860-5109.

House near the Finn Camp

Handy Man’s Dream. 1877 Bruce St., Wixom, MI.
Contact Katri Pietila for more information.
Ph. 734-421-4735.