



FINN CAMP NEWSLETTER

December
2021



Christmas isn't the only December holiday celebrated in Finland. On December sixth, Finlanders honor Itsenäisyyspäivä, or Independence Day. During the First World War in 1917, Finland declared their independence from Russia. Early on, Finlanders observed the holiday with patriotic speeches and special church services. They honored the century old tradition of conquering Russian oppression by lighting two candles in their windows. The candles once stood as an alert to Finnish soldiers that in this house they could find refuge and protection.

By the 1970's and onward, observances became livelier. Today, shops display Finnish flags. Finlanders buy cakes decorated in blue and white. Diplomats and high ranking officials receive awards during televised events. Traditional independence movies of the "Unknown Soldier" are shown. University students light a torch. The Finnish Defense Forces raises the Finnish flag, and marches in a parade. Even the Helsinki Cathedral holds a special ceremony.

In 2017, Finland created a coin commemorating the hundredth anniversary of Itsenäisyyspäivä. If interested in the coin, see the link below.

<https://en.ucoin.net/coin/finland-2-euro-2017/?tid=71372>

Hyvää Itsenäisyyspäivä!

~Naomi Petäinen

CALENDAR

December

- 1—**Future Planning Committee**, 6:30PM
- 4—**Adult Christmas Party**, 1:00PM Clubroom
- 5—**Pikku Joul**, 1:00PM - 5:00PM Clubroom
- 12—**Formal Christmas Dinner**, 4:00PM Clubroom
- 12—**Forest Management Committee**, 10:00AM Pole Barn
- 29—**Future Planning Committee**, 6:30PM
- 31—**New Year's Party**, 9:00PM Clubroom

January

- 9—**Forest Management Committee**, 10:00AM Pole Barn
- 9—**Board Meeting**, 9:00AM, Visitors at 11:00
- 10—**Future Planning Committee**, 6:30PM

The Clubroom is now open
to Members & Guests
Friday & Saturday Nights, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

• Sauna Hours •

Saturdays & Sundays:

1-3pm for Seniors & High Health Risk Individuals. 3-9pm is open for anyone.

Wednesdays: 6pm-9pm for anyone
(there are no senior hours on Wednesdays)

UPCOMING EVENTS;

Note: Not all events are listed on this and other DFCSA calendars. If you are planning an event, check availability of the specific facility on a certain date, please call 248-882-4626

All newsletter material is due
on the 15th of each month.

Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 4th
7:00p.m. in the Clubroom.

Please join us for the
Christmas Celebration

The Board will provide:
pulled pork sliders, hot cider
and donuts.

- Please bring a dish to pass -

Rovaniemi, Finland

The Official Hometown of Santa Claus



Some years ago my Spanish-teaching colleague announced at lunch that she was leaving for Rovaniemi in the Arctic Circle--the hometown of Santa Claus--during Winter Break. A die-hard snow lover, I wasn't surprised she was heading north, but all the way to Finland and back in four days? At that time I couldn't fathom that seeing a few reindeer and saying "hi" to Santa Claus could pull me to the frigid air of Lapland. But now that I've read numerous articles and watched YouTube videos of that glittering snowy city in Finland, I get it!

At the end of WWII Rovaniemi was a deserted wasteland, razed by retreating German soldiers. In 1945 the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto was commissioned to reconstruct Rovaniemi; his plan laid out the city in the shape of a reindeer's head and antlers! His forward-thinking plan took advantage of the sun in the apartment buildings he designed; he also considered protecting the environment--including the animals--as he conceived of a "modern" Rovaniemi.

After a visit in 1950 by Eleanor Roosevelt--an American patron of Rovaniemi--, the town began to gradually promote its location as a tourist destination; soon the Concorde was gracefully dipping down with its Arctic-bound passengers onto the tarmac at Rovaniemi. In 1984 local entrepreneurs changed the course of Rovaniemi's history with the creation of Santa Claus Village. This was the beginning of the transformation of Rovaniemi into an internationally-famous winter and Christmas attraction: in 2010 this city of nearly 63,000 became the official home of Santa Claus!

So, get your *passi* (passport) and let's head to the Arctic Circle! You'll need to dress for the chilly winter weather: the sun doesn't rise until 11 AM and

sets a few hours later, providing only a few hours light; the roads and paths are snow-covered and sleek. Warm hats, mitts and boots are critical in the biting cold!

But even in the darkness, you'll find yourself in a true wonderland; everywhere snow-covered firs, pines and spruces glisten and glitter with frost and artificial lights! You won't spot any over-sized inflatable Santa figures lying wilted on the ground; the decorations are done in true Finnish simplicity, incorporating natural materials like wood and cloth into the decor. If smiles are any indication, everyone appears to be in good humor here in Rovaniemi.

Maybe we better hit Santa's Post Office first and write a letter to him before we head over to actually meet the world-famous figure. So, yes, you really can visit Santa Claus--dressed in hand-knit woolen socks and furry slippers, in addition to the traditional red-white-and-black Santa suit--! You can sit down next to him on a wooden bench and make your Christmas wishes known; he'll even answer you in English (albeit with a Finnish accent). In just a few minutes you've made the obligatory stop at Santa's. But, come on! Let's go! There's lots more to see and do!

You won't want to miss SantaPark, a special indoor Christmas theme park that lies deep beneath the ground in the Arctic Circle, voted the top Christmas destination in the world. Elves, Santa, Mrs. Gingerbread and others will bring out the kid in the adults too!

And there's more! How about a spirited reindeer-pulled sled ride through the woods and fields? Or would you prefer a ride in a pulka (a Lapp sled), warmly wrapped in wools and furs and drawn by a team of beautiful nordic huskies?

After all that fresh air, you might want to warm up in the Arktikum, a science centre and museum that lets you experience nature, culture, and history of the Arctic hands-on. If the kids or grandkids are along, then Pilke--a science center about the forests--might be a good choice.

You most likely won't want to stay in an ice hotel, but here's your chance to at least visit one! These icy rooms are definitely not cozy, but certainly are eerily beautiful to look at. You'll find a restaurant here, too, complete with reindeer throws on the chairs.

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Our Annual Children's
Christmas Celebration will be
**Sunday, December 5th, from 1:00-5:00pm
in the Clubroom.**

NEW members are asked to bring an unbreakable ornament, labeled with your family name(s) and "2021", to hang on the tree and add to our collection (one per family, please).

There will be light snacks and holiday punch served, along with traditional Riisi Puuro (rice pudding). We will be decorating cookies, making ornaments & holiday crafts to take home, and will join the kids in a sing-a-long of our favorite holiday carols as we anxiously await a visit from Santa!!

For your child to participate in Santa's gift bag, bring a wrapped gift with your child's name to be put under the tree.

Please limit the cost of your gift to \$10-15.
For further information or to get some hours in with set-up or clean-up, contact

Robyn Jokinen by text to 810-287-4591
or by e-mail at: rbjokinen@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Recreation Committee.
Thank you - Robyn

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— Rovaniemi, Finland — The Official Hometown of Santa Claus

Want to see real polar bears? Let's take a ride out to the Ranua Wildlife Park. Or would you rather dig out an amethyst for yourself at the Amethyst Mine? Options abound! One thing we won't want to miss: a view of the dazzling Northern Lights!

If you want to plan a real or virtual visit to Rovaniemi, you'll find a complete list of all the fun winter and summer activities on their website: <https://www.visitrovanieni.fi>.

Hyvää matkaa!

by Madeline Salonen

Formal Christmas Dinner



December 12, 4pm to 8pm, clubroom

\$25 a plate. Appetizers, a salad, 2 sides and a main dish. You can leave an envelope with cash or check with your selections in the drop box at the clubroom or send a PayPal payment with your order to:

treasurer@finncamp.org

Cut off for orders is December 7th.

MENU:

Appetizers & Dessert: TBD

Salads: Beetroot Salad or Garden Salad

Sides: Carrot Casserole (Porkkanalaatikko)

Potato Bake (Janssonin Kiusaus)

Mashed Potatoes & Sweet corn

Main Dishes: Prime Rib or Ham (Kinkku)



Holiday Card

Deadline is Sunday, December 5.

Cost is \$5 per family

Cash, Venmo or checks accepted
Venmo@KaylaJokinen

Checks to DFCSCA, mailed to:
2524 Loon Lake Road,
Wixom, MI 48393

Be sure to indicate this is for the
Holiday Card
also, include how you would like
your names listed on the card.

Thank You, Kayla



Hei Everyone,

For several years I have been looking for church pews for the Dance Hall and was happy when I finally found some on Marketplace last month. The church in Canton selling them wanted \$25 per 19ft-long pew. After many conversations with the seller, she decided to generously donate them to the Finn Camp.

Brian and Kristy Nedrow and I went to the church with a very long flatbed trailer to pick them up. We still don't know where we found the strength to load up the pews with just the three of us.

When we got back to Finn Camp, Gavin Wing Jr., Scott Taipala and Brad Nedrow helped us carry the pews into the Dance Hall. Stop by and take a peek! The pews are truly a wonderful addition to the room.

Sisu Sisters would also like to give a shout out to Brian and Kristy Nedrow for making another Butterfly Garden dream come true!

A few years ago Mike Niemasz suggested installing pavers beneath the stairs at the Butterfly Garden side of the Clubhouse, which would not only beautify the area but could also be used as a bar at big events. Brian and Kristy masterfully installed pavers that were donated by Joyce Chichila and Kevin Homola. We are very grateful to everyone involved. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Jeannie Swanson and her helper came out the weekend before the Finlandia Foundation event and did a super duper deep clean in the Dance Hall and Clubroom. We are very thankful you went the extra mile, even though all your hours were already worked.

We also wanted to say thank you to Kelly Hubert Gieselman and Sandra Seabrook for sprucing up the gardens for the Finlandia Foundation event. Sandra also donated all kinds of plants from Home Depot. Sandra, we truly appreciate your generosity.

Kelly also planted 68 tulips bulbs donated by Ellen Rentola at the Finn Camp Sign and the Butterfly Garden.

Looking forward to the Beauty of Spring in 2022!

Hauskaa Joulua kaikille



**Our traditional New Year's Eve party
will begin at 9:00 p.m.**

in the Clubroom, on December 31

- Please bring a dish to share -

This event is open to adults and children.

**Celebrate the beginning of the year with
your fellow Finn Campers!**





BOARD NOTES & REMINDERS

New work hour cards are now located at the sauna building and the clubroom.

The Board would like to remind all members that the use of heavy equipment must only be done with approval of the mechanical committee. Rob Zewatsky is the mechanical committee chair. Contact Rob or the board for permission to use the equipment.

Members with suggestions, comments or board-related business are asked to e-mail board@finncamp.org. General questions may be answered by visiting www.finncamp.org.

Attention all committees: The Board would like for you to communicate with us regarding events, projects and fund-raises you are planning. We would like to support your endeavors and projects and would like to make sure that multiple committees are not planning on tackling the same area to prevent overlapping, or we can connect those committees so they can work together. The social director should also be contacted prior to scheduling events to prevent conflicts with other events or activities.

Trash Rules: Dumpsters are for members use only! Do not put in large or long items that may wedge or jam the dumpster when being tipped into the garbage truck. No major dumping on festival weekends. No overfilling. No furniture, propane tanks, wood, construction materials or other large items are to be left in, by or around the dumpster. Large items can be placed at roadside near the tractor garage on Tuesdays for Wednesday pickup. The dumpster at Sun Lake is for Finn Camp projects only. No personal or camp debris is allowed.

Facility Reservations: Any member interested in renting the clubroom, dancehall, ravintola, or beach should contact the social director, Joni Sennhenn, at 248-882-4626. Also, all committees should verify venue availability with the social director prior to scheduling events as private rentals may conflict.

Camp rentals are handled through the Board of Directors. Any member looking to rent their camp

should complete a camp rental form and submit it to the Board prior to the rental date.

Email board@finncamp.org.

The Finn Camp has a member's only group on Facebook. If you are not a member of the group and would like to be added contact Linda Gooden at gooden_71@hotmail.com with your email address and she will add you to the group. This group will include private members only events. Work projects can be another form of communication to our members.

You can now pay your Finn Camp bill online with PayPal by using treasurer@finncamp.org. You must select "Transfer to friends & family" and pay directly from your PayPal or bank account to avoid a fee. All fees incurred by Finn Camp will be charged to that member's account. Fees will be charged if paying with a credit card or selecting "transfer for goods or services."

Work Administrators Update



There are still plenty of projects for work hours. Work hour inquiries can be directed to any of the work administrators: Tony Koski 616-813-5656, Mike Niemasz 248-240-0480 and Becky Wendela 248-762-7282. We are actively trying to increase transparency of projects and project status. Until then please do not hesitate to reach out.

Need tools or supplies? We often have supplies available. If not, we will purchase them or can help to approve costs so you can get what you need to complete the projects. If you see something around the property that needs to be done or you have specialized skills and willing to help with special projects please let us know.

Property Work Needs:

- The bricks of the outdoor dressing room at sun lake need to be cleaned and painted both outside and inside.
- Prepping and painting the indoor sauna dressing room ceiling on the men's side due to paint chipping
- The grills at sun lake need to be cleaned and painted. One grill is broken and we are working on a fix for this grill.
- Sun lake and sauna - outdoor dressing rooms need weed whacking as well as overall

The Sauna will be Open for Normal Operation after Labor Day

On Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm-9pm
(Seniors and high risk only from 1pm-3pm) and on
Wednesdays from 6pm-9pm (no senior hours).

Sunday Saunas will be open only if we have a volunteer to run it. Do not attend sauna if you are sick, have any COVID-19 symptoms, or have had close contact (within 6ft for 15 minutes) within 14 days of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you test positive for COVID-19 and were recently on Finn Camp property, please inform the Board of Directors at board@finncamp.org so we can take the necessary precautions. It is the responsibility of each member to make good choices to help keep everyone safe.

You can sign up to run the sauna for work hours using the links below.

Wednesday Sauna Work Hours:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094BADA728ABF58-wednesday>

Sunday Sauna Work Hours:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094BADA728ABF58-sunday20>

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Work Administrators Update

Continued

grounds clean-up such as weeding around the tress and areas that are overgrown.

- Scrapping off algæ that has accumulated on the ladders and platform at Sun Lake.
- Outside the rav and around the grounds needs weed whacking
- Outside the rav ball field bleachers weed whacking and weed control on both home and visitor sides as well as dugouts and around fence behind home base
- There is some caulking work that needs to be done around the inside entrance to clubroom on the main entry side
- Steps outside dance hall need to be power washed and safety treads need to be placed on the steps to avoid slipping.
- Many picnic tables and benches need to be scrapped and new varnish applied. Small fixes to many are also needed. It would be great to complete this before we put them away for winter storage.
- The clubroom kitchen can be cleaned and organized as well as the back hall in back of the kitchen by the board room
- The vestibules entering the clubroom can also be cleaned.

The woods committee meets regularly and always needs extra people. Contact Mike Honka for special projects relating to woods committee. Thank you to everyone who keeps this place running all year long!



The Forest Management Committee

meets every 2nd Sunday of the month
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Pole Barn.
(November-April)



*Sue Anne
Photography*

Looking for a photographer to capture special memories for you and your family? Let me take care of all your photography needs. I offer many different types of sessions. Email me to book yours today!

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2600 Benstien Rd. Wolverine Lake

We're just south of Glengary Road

248-624-3333

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Suppliers to the Finn Camp Fishing Derby



Finn Camp Store



Come shop at the Finn Camp store.
Lots of new tee shirts, mugs, hats & backpacks.
For access to the store during off hours,
call Patti Leppi, Ph: 248-921-1432,
or email, Store@finncamp.org.



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Call Denise at 248-640-0481 - or -
visit www.AffinityPromos.net
for new and exciting ideas.



Your Classified Ad could be here

If you're a member it's free to run a Classified Ad
See the last page of this newsletter for details

Need a Seamstress?

For All Your Alterations
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Call Cindi Maddick at 248-303-7337



Cords of Firewood For sale \$55 for members.

Delivery is extra
to schedule loading and pick up.
Call or text Mike Honka at
248-860-5109
Please do not help yourself to the
firewood.



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248-595-3725

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Future Planning

Wednesday, December 29, 6:30 PM, Sun Lake

Board of Directors

Sunday, January 9, 9:00 AM, Visitors at 11:00

In Finland



The Flag of Finland:

The Blue represents the thousands of lakes scattered across the country

The White is for the snow that covers the land in winter.

- This version of the Finnish Flag has been the official national flag since 1918.

Free "Classified" Ads

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. All you have to do is provide 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. (Over 50 word copy will be edited to fit.)
- The deadline is the same as the date for newsletter copy: the 15th of each month.



Newsletter

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All material for newsletter articles is due by the 15th of the month. Please visit the Finn Camp website at www.finncamp.org.