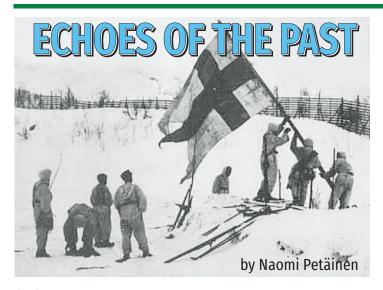
### FINN CAMP NEWSLETTER

**April 2022** 



News of war ravaged Ukraine fills every TV station and every website. Despite my efforts to avoid it, my thoughts and prayers often travel to those brave Ukrainians battling for their lives and their lands.

It's not the first time a small democratic country combatted Russia. From 1939 to 1940, Finland faced the Stalinist Regime during the Winter War. Legend says one million Soviet soldiers tromped through deep snow, froze to death in sub-zero temperatures, and dove out of planes without parachutes hoping snowbanks would cushion their fall. While Finnish ski troops hit Russian forces and tanks with molotov cocktails, Finlanders flanked Finland's Northern and Southern borders. They slowly drew the Red Army into the forests where they crippled them. Outnumbered by almost eight-hundred thousand Soviets, these courageous Finnish citizens refused to surrender. A treaty was signed in 1940 ending the war. The Russo-Finland conflict later continued during WWII. Though Finland lost a great deal of land, they gained their independence and peace. Peace was a welcome gift.

Peace is what I and many, many others now want in this world. We don't want war. We don't want talks of nuclear attacks. We don't want to see Ukrainians suffering, fighting to the death, or fleeing for their lives. No words can describe how devastated I feel by the millions of displaced Ukrainians. I'm heart broken. My deepest hope is that peace and love will prevail over these dark times.

### "War, what is it good for; absolutely nothing."

**Edwin Starr** 

#### **CALENDAR**

#### April

- 10—**Board Meeting,** 9:00AM, Visitors at 11:00
- 14—**Cultural Committee,** 7:00AM, Clubroom
- 16—Carol Santti Memorial, 3:00PM, Clubroom
- 24—Annual Membership Meeting, 12:00 Registration 11:00AM

#### May

- 1—**Talkoo**, 10:00AM 2:00PM
- 6—**Voima Boys softball** season opener 6:00PM
- 7—Derby Day
- 8—Bar committee Mother's Day breakfast, at the Kentta (clubroom if inclement weather) 8:00AM - 11:00AM
- 14—St. Urhos, 7:00PM Clubroom
- 14—Dancehall Storage Clean-out, 10AM 2PM
- 15—**Beach Beautification,** 10:00AM 2:00PM at Sun Lake
- TBD—**Board Meeting,** 9:00AM, Visitors at 11:00
- TBD—Future Planning Committee, 6:30PM

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

• For Sauna Hours & Info, See Page 7 •

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS;**

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

#### **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

Please attend the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting that will be held Sunday, April 24 beginning at 12:00 noon inside the clubroom. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. so please arrive early to check-in. The board is asking for all committee reports to be submitted in writing by April 15th so packets can be assembled (email <a href="mailto:board@finncamp.org">board@finncamp.org</a>). Copies of reports will be distributed. Any member wishing to is asked to email the motion to the board prior to the meeting. You can access the motion form using the link here:

#### www.finncamp.org/forms/Motion-Form-Annual-Meeting-2022.pdf

It is very important that all members attend the meeting and be part of the decision making process of our association. Many issues will be discussed and voted on. This is an opportunity for all committees to report on activities planned for the year.

A motion to spend special projects money for concrete repairs and additions at Sun Lake will be proposed.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AND FREE SAUNA PROVIDED FOR ALL WHO ATTEND!



Bring Your Vanha Tavara (old Stuff)
To The Dance Hall
On June 3rd From 5pm-9pm
Or Arrange with Tammie King for drop off
in the week prior - Call Tammie 248 624 6691

At The Finn Camp

2524 Loon Lake Rd Wixom, Michigan 48393



Join us May 7th for an afternoon and evening of Derby themed fun. Prizes for best hat and best dressed; 50/50 raffle. Bring a dish to pass. This is a family friendly event Look for more details in the May Newsletter and on Facebook Co-Sponsored by the Bar Committee and the Recreation Committee



Juhannus is June 25th and we are excited to say that Ismo will finally be making his Finn Camp debut!

Ismo is a famous Finnish comedian who is known around the world. You can see him on TV and on YouTube. Seating for this event will be limited and tickets are \$30 per person. It will begin at 7pm.

Please reserve your tickets by texting Amber Martin at 248-770-9994. Money will be due by May 1st. Checks can be mailed to Finn Camp (made payable to DFCSCA) or by using PayPal-send money to:

treasurer@finncamp.org

#### Notes from the

#### **COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Committee leaders, special event coordinators, and select board members joined together Saturday March 5th to discuss ways we can best support our community and help lead impactful change. The goal is to host these semi-annually.

Future planning kicked off the meeting by providing survey results so we can hear the voices of the community. These will be printed and shared at the semi-annual meeting on April 24th.

Events will continue to be listed in the newsletter and updates posted to Facebook and email - please check these sources for event updates. Events are an important way to join together as a community. We want to encourage participation in events as well as request help in the preparation and support of events. If you are not currently a member of a committee please reach out to your work administrators or board member to help guide you. We will continue to work on resources and transparency of committee contact information as well as special event leaders.

We will be working to clean out the back storage room behind the dancehall this year. There has been an accumulation of items that are no longer used, like old costumes, stage props, and miscellaneous equipment. Get some work hours in by helping cleanup on May 14th starting at 10am.

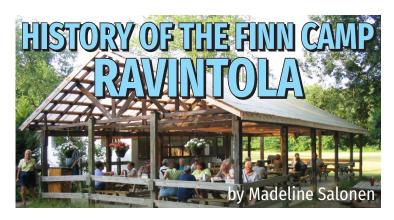
Any items that are to be disposed will be available for members - bids for items accepted until June 1st. Items which did not receive bids will be donated to the June 4th rummage sale. Bids can be submitted to the Board of Directors at:

board@finncamp.org or via mail. Please attend the clean-up or contact, Becky Wendela to find out what items will be available, or with questions or comments, at: 248-762-7282. We are asking that committees storing items here work with us to be sure needed items are not tossed and help work on better storage options.

We are looking forward to an awesome summer and seeing everyone enjoy all that this community has to offer!

## **Free Futon**

We have a futon couch that we're offering to any Finn Camp member or friend. It's on a wooden frame and easily folds down into a double bed and back again. It has not seen a lot of use so it's in good shape. It is free and all you have to do is pick it up at camp 92. Millie & Steve Packard:



Food is a favorite topic for lots of folks—its flavors and aromas evoke plenty of memories, both good and bad. Take oatmeal. As a kid, I could only eat it by gulping each spoonful down with generous mouthfuls of milk; as an adult, I eat it most mornings. But judging by the lively emails I've gotten from longtime Camp members, it seems that the recollections of food at the ravintola [rah-vin-toe-luh] are all positive! The Rav, as it is endearingly called, has clearly been an important aspect of Finn Camp for many decades and one that has continued to nourish [pun intended] our Finnish heritage.

Let's shift back in time. It's Sunday afternoon, the parking lot at Finn Camp is crammed with vintage Fords, Chevs, Packards, and Dodges, the Voima Boys have just smashed the opposition, the guys are sitting around under the Victory Tree having a cold one, and families are sitting around the white, slatted picnic tables, savoring a bowl of mojakka [beef stew] or maybe a dish of kalamojakka [fish stew] from the ravintola. The adults—among them Finnish immigrants and their first-generation offspring—speak their native language to the kids; the kids answer with kaksi [two] when asked how many pieces of pulla they want, or maybe an English "I'm full" as they run off to play with their friends.

It's a social time, and members are not merely members, they're friends; many of these friendships will endure over time and generations. Ladies in house dresses chat with each other, men in white shirts with dark dress pants—often held up by suspenders—, discuss politics or upcoming projects in small groups, little boys looking like miniature gentlemen and girls in sweet dresses or jumpers frolick about with their friends.

The white, wood-clad ravintola is at the center of these weekly get-togethers. And, although its vital role has diminished somewhat over the years, it has maintained an important spot on the Finn Camp map. Although I have not been able to verify its exact building date, we do know that it already existed in 1926. In the early days, families brought a dish to pass for the ahkera [hard-working] Sunday volunteers who must have physically "worked up" an appetite with their back-breaking tasks. But once the ravintola had been built, meals could be made there and served outdoors.



When beer first came to Loon Lake. John Myllumaki, Otto Sine, Andre Adamson. 1936

In front of the rav, 1936, photo credit: FC Anniversary Book

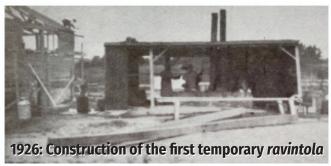


photo credit: FC Anniversary Book

Pat AlFaiz reminisces "the old summer kitchen was about 20' behind the serving area. The ravintola was an L-shaped wooden counter where the food from the kitchen was served."

Imagine how many meals were cooked-from scratch-in the rav in those early years! And how many women joined forces to prepare the many meals, their foreheads dripping from the heavy, steaming pots. Among them was Alma Santti; it was a job Pat wrote was "super hard to relinquish once you got roped into it." Another monumental task was washing all the heavy white ceramic plates and bowls and stainless silverware since paper plates and plastic cutlery weren't yet in common use.

Several members recalled the grannies who had wrapped a little pile of coins in their handkerchiefs and went trudging up to the summer kitchen where a hot supper awaited them. For many years Finn Camp families could count on getting a reasonably priced meal at the rav: beef-and pot roasts, meatloaf, chicken [along with potatoes and vegetables], and mojakka. In place of the typical Finnish hapanleipä—a dense sourdough rye bread so frequently found on dinner tables in Finland but not available in the US—, it was pumpernickel that was always available.

"In the early 1930s," Tina Santti recalls her mother, Hazel, saying, "when she stayed as a young girl at Finn Camp, they

had puuroa at the rav every day." In the 50s, a bowl of puuroa, a slice of pulla, pancakes and kahvi [coffee] were still available on weekend mornings. Breakfast has remained a favorite among Camp members, but these days it's only on special occasions or if a committee sponsors breakfast that we have the opportunity to savor breakfast al fresco.

Although the culinary tastes of the membership have changed with the generations, on special occasions members can still enjoy perennial favorites like mojakka and pulla at the summer kitchen. Items like hot dogs and hamburgs were already added years ago, and pasties are now brought in from outside sources. Another preferred Finn Camp offering dating back as late as the late 20s or early 30s was the kenttäburger, a kind of meatloaf-burger served on pumpernickel, created by Grandma Alma. Maybe we could refeature this highly-acclaimed menu item at the Finn Camp's centennial. But we wouldn't be able to offer it at the cheap prices suggested by the old ravintola menu sign to the right!

In 1957 the first rav was replaced by the present concrete block structure, and renovations were made over the years to modernize the building. From Tina Santti's precise accounting records, we know that in the years from 1969 through the 90s, the now-defunct Ladies Auxiliary was responsible for providing and equipping the kitchen with more convenient, efficient equipment and necessary kitchen items. No longer did anyone face the possibility of the dreaded mini-explosion when lighting the old gas range! The Ladies Auxiliary and later the Loon Lake Ladies also helped finance structural improvements on the rav.

The wide back porch behind the summer kitchen provided a good platform for tasks like potato peeling. It also provided the perfect place to exchange the latest news and scuttlebutt. I envision ladies and men, peelers actively engaged in nimble hands, heads slightly bowed over their big stainless bowls heaped with potatoes, chatting about recent sports events, neighbors, movies and TV shows. Cooperative work in the kitchen provided an important venue for continuing connections and friendship.

Barb Niemi provides a helpful description of the organizational system used for the serving of meals, as well as a glimpse into the opportunity it gave kids for some role-playing: "after you went through the line and got your food on the tray, you turned left. There was a stand for the cashier, who sat high up on the stand. When the rav was closed, we would play on the stand. That was probably removed in the 60s."

At the west end of the rav was a concession stand that had shutters that could be lifted up and out of the way. For kids it was a great place to spend the few dimes you'd collected during the week to buy candy, soft drinks and seven-cent ice Ladies working in the kitchen

PEA SOUP 60

PEA SOUP 75

PASTY 75

PASTY 75

PASTY 15

CHOCLATE PURNING 15

BAKED IAM SANDWICH 46

WILL 10

COTPEE OLE SLAW 10

PULLA 10

Russ Matero's aunt, Helen Morris, at the stove

cream bars and cones. Older kids helped out at the pop stand, and Sharon Junnola remembers "we preteens/teens took turns working, earning money." It's Sam Dernberger's recollection that "the grannies were always happy to have a helping hand or two from us." And in this way the different generations also interacted, and young members became vested in the Finn Camp lifestyle.

Grandma Alma was perhaps the first kitchen "manager;" others who have been at the helm are the late Danny Warden, Dick Pype, Greg Pelto, and presently Remi Pype. A big shoutout to these members who have done a yeoman's job managing the kitchen.

The ravintola is a valuable facet of the gem we know as Finn Camp. Let's keep the traditions of hard work and cooperation that these kitchen ladies and men modeled; the result is fun, friendship and a steaming bowl of mojakka!



A very big kiitos to the many contributors to this article who generously gave of their time to answer my long list of questions and provide photos:
Tina Santti, Barb Niemi, Russ Matero,
Pat AlFaiz and Sharon Junnola,
Sam Dernberger. [Photo credit: Russ Matero]



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 <a href="mailto:treasurer@finncamp.org">treasurer@finncamp.org</a>.

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.



If you've ever had a Finnish friend -- as I have -- who irons shœlaces and pillowcases, then you know that Marie Kondo, the Japanese woman famous for her tips on order and decluttering, has nothing on her Finnish counterparts!

Finland, the country where for four consecutive years citizens have been named the happiest people in the world by the UN World Happiness Report, is considered safe and trustworthy. But one shouldn't overlook the happiness that comes from a clean and tidy home environment.

Here at Finn Camp everyone loves the sauna and the feeling of joy that comes from being steam cleaned. The Sisu Sisters want your happiness to extend beyond the sauna to the order in your home and camp. With less stuff, you will see and appreciate your favorite things more and it will give you peace of mind. Just think of the rag rugs that mummo and täti (grandma and aunt) used to make: wasn't that a great Finnish example of how to rid closets of old clothes and turn them into something useful, even beautiful?

Now's the time to start your spring cleaning and help the Sisu Sisters get ready to celebrate Mari Kontonen Day! Donate your vanha tavara (castoffs) to Finn Camp for our garage sale. It will make you one of the happiest people in the world!

#### Mari Kontonen Day Garage Sale! June 4, 2022 9 am to 3 pm Finn Camp Dance Hall

Please drop off donations at the Dance Hall on June 3rd from 5pm to 9 pm or by prior arrangement during the previous week with Tammie King at 248 624 6691 or tammie@tammieking.com.

All proceeds from donations will be used for beautification projects at Finn Camp



#### Come out to Camp Country on Sunday May 1, at 10:00 AM for the Annual Spring Talkoo Clean-up

Many workers are required to spruce up our grounds and ready our facilities for another great season. This is a great opportunity to socialize and to get to know your fellow members

There is a lot to be done including:

distributing outdoor furniture, cleaning up around dumpsters, bathrooms, playgrounds & bleachers and much more (click link below for a full list of tasks). After the work is done, mojakka will be served and saunas offered free to all workers. Be sure to register in the Clubroom to qualify for your free lunch and sauna. • The Talkoo Tasks Link is: www.finncamp.org/SpringTalkooTasks2022.pdf

# BEAUTIFICATION

May 15 from 10:00am - 2:00pm

Come on out and earn some work hours Rake
Leaves, Pull Weeds, Spread Mulch
& Plant Flowers

Make Our Beach Beautiful for the Season!

- 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.

## Nominating – Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking prospective candidates, including three alternates, for election to the Board of Directors at the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting. Terms of service are two years for directors and one year for alternates. To be an eligible candidate, a member or member's spouse must be in good standing and have been a member for at least two years by the annual meeting. Information about the requirements and duties of directors and alternates can be found in the Blue Book. Section 102. Board of Directors.

You can submit your name as a prospective candidate by contacting one of the Nominating Committee members:

Carol Melancon finnculture@yahoo.com or 734.620.7811 William Allen 248 872 8890

Amber Martin 248 770 9994



Boats & Personal watercraft registration will be required by June 1st, 2022

Per Bluebook rule-203.3.5

Sue Apre Hotography

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!

SueAnnePhotography@hotmail.com



Find me on Facebook and Instagram Osucannephotography



#### **Lakes Area Bait Shop**

Live Bait • Reloading • Fishing Supplies
Bow-Fishing & Archery • Hunting • Camping
2600 Benstien Rd. Wolverine Lake
We're just south of Glengary Road
248-624-3333

<u>LakesAreaBaitShop@Yahoo.com</u>
Suppliers to the Finn Camp Fishing Derby

## Work Administrators **Update**

Spring is here! Looking forward to a great summer! We have many opportunities for hours and to support weekly community events:

Sun Lake Grass CutterFriday Night GrillTaco Wednesday

We have plans this year to work closer with our kitchen and have a shopper to provide the food for the events. We are looking for I grass cutter to help Dave Niemi and 3 people to help with the kitchen events. Individuals or groups are welcome. If we do not have enough people sign-up we will not continue with Taco Wednesday and will most likely try to support Friday Night Grill with a weekly sign-up genius.

Work hour inquires can be emailed to:

#### work@finncamp.org

or directly to any of the works administrators
Tony Koski 616-813-5656
Mike Niemasz 248-240-0480
Becky Wendela 248-762-7282

Thank you to everyone who keeps this place running all year long!

#### The Sauna is Open

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 <a href="mailto:board@finncamp.org">board@finncamp.org</a> 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.

#### **CAMP COUNTRY CLEANUP**

The board will be providing dumpsters for two weeks after talkoo on the West Side Camp Country. We are asking all camp owners to help cleanup around and inside your camp. This is a great opportunity to make those repairs to your camp and dispose of old materials.

Please no overfilling (we will replace the dumpster if full within those two weeks). Furniture and other bulk items can be placed at the curb by the caretakers house at the tractor garage.



Meets every 2nd Sunday of the Month 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, at the Pole Barn (November-April)

#### **Affinity Promotions**

Specializing in corporate awards and incentives, promotional items and apparel. If your business is looking for new ways to motivate, reward or thank your employees, we can help.

**Call Denise** at **248-640-0481** - or - visit <u>www.AffinityPromos.net</u> for new and exciting ideas.





#### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

April 10th, 9am, visitors 11:00 May TBD, 9am, visitors 11:00 Annual Meeting April 24th, 12 noon, registration at 11:00

#### In Finland-

Simo Häyhä's involvement in the \*'Winter War' was extraordinary.

With his Mosin-Nagant M91 rifle, he would dress in white winter camouflage, and carry with him only a



day's worth of supplies. While hiding out in the snow, he would then take out any Russian who entered his zone. Häyhä preferred to use iron sights on his gun instead of scopes, as scopes had a tendency to glare in the sunlight and reveal his position. He would put snow in his mouth to hide his breath from being seen in the cold air. While he may sound like an ordinary sniper, this was far from the case: over the course of 100 days during the winter he racked up over 500 confirmed kills, earning him the nickname "The White Death". The Soviets feared him so much that they mounted numerous counter sniper and artillery attacks to get rid of him, all of which failed miserably. (\*see page 1)

#### **Need a Seamstress?**

For All Your Alterations
Custom Work & Mending
Call Cindi Maddick at 248-303-7337



#### 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.

## Applications being accepted for the following positions:

Bookkeeper & Caretaker
Bar Manager & Assistant Bar Manager
Beach Manager
If interested please submit your application
to the board at finncamp.org.



#### 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.),

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President: Chris Nordin Vice President: Amber Martin Treasurer: Deidra Larsen Secretary: Leah Paukovits Works Administrators:

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Newsletter Committee Chairperson & Production - Robert O'Brien

Photographer & Website Designer/Manager - Erick Leskinen

Graphics - Glynn Simmons Contributors - Belinda Arbogast, Mary Burck Gary Delavan & Madeline Salonen

#### **Subscriptions**

Printed newsletters by regular mail are \$25 per year. Subscriptions by email are free. To receive newsletters via email (the only version in color) email to <a href="mailto:newsletter editor@finncamp.org">newsletter editor@finncamp.org</a> and write "Finn Camp Newsletters Subscription" in the subject field. Please include your first and last name.

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