



NEWSLETTER

Tucson Chapter of Finlandia Foundation National®

<http://www.TucsonFinnishAmericanClub.org>

Toukokuu (May) 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Vappu Celebration

Swim, Sauna, Sima

Saturday

May 6, 2023

3:00 PM

Quique and Nancy Garcia Home

11333 Vista del Sol, Oro Valley

Möikky, music, and good company

Potluck – please bring a side dish or salad

Hamburgers and hotdogs provided

(See map on page 6 for directions)

PLEASE RSVP to TucsonFinnClub@gmail.com

Nordic Guild Fair

Saturday, December 2, 2023

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Streams in the Desert Church

5360 E. Pima, Tucson

Pikkujoulu

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

665 W. Roller Coaster Rd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FinnFest USA 2023 Festival takes place July 26 – 30 in Duluth, Minnesota. Registration and full details can be found at 2023.finnfest.us.



Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your 2023 membership.

\$20 per family; \$10 for individual

Payable at all meetings

or

by mail: **Lisa Garcia**,

2349 W Dante Way

Tucson, AZ 85741

FINLAND JOINS NATO

By Steve Huhta

On April 4, 2023, the Finnish flag was raised at the Brussels headquarters of the world's largest military alliance and Finland officially became the 31st member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg first welcomed Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, who deposited Finland's instrument of accession with the government of the United States – represented by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.



Finnish and NATO flags flutter at the courtyard of the Foreign Ministry in Helsinki.

The Secretary General then welcomed Finnish President Sauli Niinistö to NATO Headquarters for the flag-raising ceremony marking the country's acceptance into the Alliance.

Finland's way into NATO had been cleared several days earlier when Turkey's parliament approved a bill to allow Finland to join NATO. All 276 Turkish legislators present voted in support of Finland's bid, just days after Hungary's parliament also endorsed Helsinki's membership. The Turkish parliament was the last among the 30 members of the alliance to ratify Finland's membership.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in March that Finland had secured his country's

approval after taking firm steps to crack down on groups seen by Ankara as “terrorists” and to free up defense exports.

As a country that shares an 800-mile (1,300km) border with Russia, Finland’s decision to join NATO is a historic shift for the country – a shift triggered by the war in Ukraine. Finland’s entrance provoked anger in Russia where officials there have called the move a threat.

Last year, both Finland and Sweden had asked to join NATO in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The move ended decades of military non-alliance by the two countries. However, Sweden’s bid to join the alliance has been left in limbo, with both Turkey and Hungary withholding approval despite expressing support for NATO’s expansion.

Turkey’s government has accused Sweden of being too lenient towards Kurdish groups it considers terrorists as well as people associated with a 2016 coup attempt. For its part, Hungary’s government has asserted that some Swedish politicians have made derisive statements about the condition of Hungary’s democracy and played an active role in ensuring that billions in European Union funds were frozen over alleged rule-of-law and democracy violations.

PRESIDENT’S GREETING

Greetings club members! Let me start by expressing my regret again that we had to cancel the club *Pikkujoulu* in December, during the Covid wave that started at the Nordic Fair. Unfortunately, we are not yet fully out of the pandemic and on occasion, decisions like this still have to be taken. I recommend that we all keep vaccinations up to date. Masking in densely populated indoor spaces is probably also a good idea, especially for those at higher risk of serious illness. Having said that, I remain optimistic that the club *Pikkujoulu* will return this year, and of course you are all welcome at our club’s *Vappu* event on May 6 (see below for details).

Now, let’s move to some big news from Finland. Earlier this month, on April 4, Finland formally joined the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with the support of 85% of the country’s population. This is a historic event that would have been unthinkable just a few decades earlier and considered unlikely even during the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The war in Ukraine is one of the main reasons for this turn of events. Finland has also actively stepped up to provide assistance to the government and the people of Ukraine who are suffering under this unjustified Russian aggression.



**FACT President,
Tommi Koskinen**

More on politics, the Finnish parliamentary election took place on April 2. The current coalition government did not carry the day and negotiations to form a new coalition government are now underway. The outgoing government was led by prime minister Sanna Marin who has on occasion made headlines here in the US, including a recent appearance on CBS’s 60 minutes. The 5-party coalition government was centered around the Social Democrats and the Center Party. A fun fact is that the combination of these two parties is commonly referred to as “*punamulta*”, which literally translates to “red dirt”. This is because of the rural vote that traditionally supported the Center Party. This time, the election was won by the moderately conservative National Coalition Party, with the populist Finns party in second place.

It may be a while, however, before a government is in place. In a multi-party system, the incoming coalition partners must negotiate their policy goals and compromise in advance to avoid the collapse of the government over policy differences later. According to the latest rumors, the government will form around the National Coalition Party and the Finns party, supported by two smaller parties (Christian Democrats and the Swedish Party). The negotiations on

its program, however, are not expected to be easy due to the diametrically opposed positions of the parties on many key issues. If the negotiations fail, the leader of the National Coalition Party, that received the highest share of the vote (20.8%), would have to negotiate with other parties to try and secure the support of the majority of the members of parliament (i.e., more than 50% of the MPs). The alternative is to try and govern with a minority. I only mention the latter option here for completeness. Minority governments do not have a great track record of survival and this is not likely to happen.

Right, that’s it for now! I hope that you enjoyed this short lesson in Finnish politics. As I wrote before, I hope to see some of you at the *Vappu* event and we’ll keep you up to date on what’s happening in the fall.

FFN 2023 PERFORMER OF YEAR ANNOUNCED

Finlandia Foundation National has selected singer and songwriter **Ida Metsberg** as **Performer of the Year (POY) 2023**.



**Ida Metsberg,
2023 FFN Performer of the Year**

As POY, Ida will perform in-person or virtually in events/concerts for FFN chapters from **January through December of 2023**.

Ida was born in Finland and is now at home in New York City. She began studying classical piano at seven and has a background in musical theater, graduating from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York.

She now performs mostly with her guitar, and has just released her debut EP, “How Do You Do It?”

For more information about Ida, see idaofficial.com. - SH

NCP WINS RECENT EDUSKUNTA ELECTIONS

Finland's main conservative party has claimed victory in a tightly-fought **parliamentary (Eduskunta) election**. With all of the votes counted, the centre-right **National Coalition Party (NCP)**, led by **Petteri Orpo**, came out on top at 20.8 percent (48 seats: gain+10). They were followed by the right-wing populist party, The Finns, with 20.1 percent (48 seats: gain+7), while Prime Minister Sanna Marin's left-wing Social Democrats collected 19.9 percent (43 seats: gain+3).

Pre-election polls published by the newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat* had shown these three parties running neck and neck.

With the NCP getting 48 seats, it is not in a position to form a government alone. As such, Orpo will be required to form a coalition government.

HOW IS THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT FORMED?

During recent parliamentary elections, approximately 2400 candidates from 22 political parties vied for the 200 seats in Finland's one-chamber parliament, the *Eduskunta*.

Historically, four parties tend to dominate elections: the Social Democrats, Centre Party, National Coalition Party, and Finns Party.

Here is where eight of the parties lie on the political spectrum:

- Social Democratic Party of Finland (SDP) – past-PM Sanna Marin's center-to-leftist party, until the recent elections, the largest in parliament.
- National Coalition Party (KOK) – The main opposition center-right party and winner of recent election.
- Finns Party (PS) – Populists seeking some cuts to immigration.
- Centre Party (KESK) – Finland's fourth-largest party with centrist policies.
- Left Alliance (VAS) – Far left-wing party that, in the past, has faced internal divisions over Finland's NATO membership.

- Green League (VIHR) – Eco-minded party supporting "welfare and equality".
- Swedish People's Party of Finland (RKP) – Party representing the minority of Swedish speakers in Finland.
- Christian Democrats (KD) – Party supporting "Christian values".

Members of parliament are elected from 13 electoral districts. The number of representatives elected from each district is in direct proportion to the district's population.

Voters choose candidates, who are ranked according to their popularity, from an open list. The ones with the most votes in each district win seats. The party that wins the most seats may form the next government. To do so, it needs to form a coalition with other parties and secure at least 101 seats. The leader of the winning party becomes Prime Minister. – *YLE*

FINLAND: YET AGAIN THE HAPPIEST PLACE

By Steve Huhta

For the sixth consecutive year, Finland has once again been named as the world's happiest country according to the 2023 *World Happiness Report*.

The Gallup World Poll, which was the principal source of data in this report, asked respondents to evaluate their current life as a whole using the image of a ladder, with the best possible life for them as a 10 and worst possible as a 0. Each respondent provides a numerical response on this scale, referred to as the Cantril ladder. Typically, around 1,000 responses are gathered annually for each country.

According to one of the report's authors, Jeffrey Sachs, of Columbia University: "The ultimate goal of politics and ethics should be human well-being." He went on to say: "The happiness movement shows that well-being is not a 'soft' and 'vague' idea but rather focuses on areas of life of critical importance: material conditions, mental and physical wealth, personal virtues, and good citizenship." "We need to turn this wisdom into practical results to achieve more peace, prosperity, trust,

civility – and yes, happiness – in our societies."

Just why Finns are happier than others likely comes down to a number of factors including lower income inequality (the difference between the highest paid and the lowest paid), high social support, freedom to make decisions, low levels of corruption, and effective government.

The World's happiest countries: Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Israel, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Austria, Australia, Canada, Ireland, United States, Germany, Belgium, Czechia, United Kingdom, Lithuania. – *WHR*

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY CLOSES

Finlandia University, Michigan's only private university in the state's Upper Peninsula, announced it will not enroll students for fall 2023, officially marking its closure at the conclusion of the current academic year.

According to a letter released by the university's Board of Regents, the school's enrollment, and consequently its revenue, has suffered from a declining pool of local high school students and a lack of interest among those graduates for a college education. Facing "an unbearable debt load," leadership chose not to enroll future students.

Finlandia University will hold one last commencement ceremony for students who complete their degree requirements by the end of the year. Northern Michigan University, Michigan Technological University, Adrian College, Bay College and Wartburg College have agreed to take in the school's remaining students in good standing. Michigan's Upper Peninsula remains with three public universities and four community colleges.

Established in 1896 as Suomi College by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the mission of its founders centered on preserving Finnish national identity and teaching English while Finnish immigrants labored in the local copper and lumber industries.

To preserve its roots in Finnish culture and history, Finlandia Foundation National has partnered with the school to preserve the school's Finnish American Heritage Center and its related artifacts. Finlandia University was the last remaining higher education institution in North America to be founded by Finnish settlers.

Source: *University Business*

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CLUB OF TUCSON

*Editor's Note: Composed by Sinikka Garcia, this is the **third of three installments** providing a high-level history of the Finnish-American Club of Tucson. In the first installment (May 2022 newsletter) FACT's early history is discussed and each Club president is presented up until 1993. In the previous installment (November 2022) the Club's history from 1994-2001 is reviewed.*

The **Annual Meeting of 2002** brought structural changes to our Club since no president or vice-president could be found. Instead a five-member board and a 10-member steering committee and a moderator – **Marjorie Gerdes** – were elected. The former was to conduct Club business, the latter to see to programs. The power to decide rested within the board.

Several Club members hosted a group of young ladies from Finland – **the Raahe Singers**, who joined the **Tucson Boys Chorus** and groups from many other countries in a concert at Crowder Hall at the University on July 18, 2002.

In December 2002 we joined the **Nordic Guild's Nordic Fair**, selling *piirakkas*, *sima*, books and other items.

Annual Meeting 2003 elected **Sinikka Garcia** president and a partial board; *vice-president still missing*.

One special event that year was **Tapestry of Tucson**, an effort by the European ethnic groups in town to tell of their ancestors' contributions to Tucson's history. We wrote about **Olavi Laine**, **Laila McPheeters** and **Alvar Wilksa**. (See "Tapestry of

Tucson" on the net.) The grand opening was held in March 2003 at the Convention Center, where the display can be seen on a plasma screen.

For the first time in 2003 the Club donated toward the establishment of a **Finnish Room** at the University of Pittsburgh, PA, where 26 nationality rooms already exist. The project is to commemorate those early immigrants, Finns among them, who worked in the steel mills of the region.

On March 2, 2003 we sponsored the **Karelian Trio**; two Russians and a Russian Finn (Arto Rinne). What a fantastic concert they gave us! It was held at the Dove of Peace – a full capacity crowd at hand.

FACT MUSIC DIRECTORS

Our Club has been fortunate to have had inspiring music directors in the past. They led our chorus in several international events, as well as at our own happenings. The first director was **Viola Krieg**. Then came **MaryElla Boyle** and **Edna Kukkonen**. Each served the Club for many years, each one a talented musician and with a different style. We appreciate them very much!

We also recognize the long-term work and invaluable service of all members, especially **Marjatta Seppälä**, **Elna Heliste**, **Don Kangas**, and **Chico Garcia**, and those who have joined later. Without these individuals' enthusiasm and hard work it would not have been possible to get this far.

It seems we have become more and more aware of our common interest in the Finnish heritage. We wish to preserve it.

Our Club is a member of **FinnFest USA**, **Finlandia Foundation** (We became a chapter in '07), the **Nordic Guild** and **EMAT in Tucson**. We donate to Finlandia University, and the Salolampi Foundation.

Additionally, we subscribe to Finnish American publications and read Finnish American authors, and we travel to Finland in search of our roots. We invite the community to our activities and meet them at the fairs. We observe events in Finland and in the Finnish American communities.

We cheer for Finnish musicians, athletes, actors and writers – and President **Tarja Halonen** especially. ('09)

We rejoice good happenings in Finland and worry about global effects.

We are following the FACT constitution by "providing appropriate programs and events for the enlightenment and entertainment of its members..."while also providing "opportunities for the general public to gain broader knowledge and better understanding of the Finnish culture and society."

FINNBYTES

- **Hevisaurus** are a Finnish heavy metal band that formed in 2009 with music aimed at children. The band members are known for performing in dinosaur costumes.
- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has accused Finland of violating the rights of six Finnish children by leaving them in life-threatening conditions at al-Hol camp in Syria's northeast region. The children belong to parents suspected of fighting for the terrorist group ISIS (ISIL). -YLE
- Helsinki's **Ateneum Art Museum** has reopened after year-long renovation. -YLE

ATENEUM
FINNISH NATIONAL GALLERY

- Finnish businessman **Thomas Ziliacus** announced that he has submitted a bid to purchase the English Premier League club Manchester United. Ziliacus, who chaired the Helsinki football club HJK and has been a part owner of the ice hockey club Jokerit, said that he plans to purchase the club in cooperation with its supporters. He emphasized that his bid will allow Manchester United fans to have ownership and an equal say in the club's affairs.
- The **National Museum of Finland** will be closed to the public for a period of between two and three years. The closure is

due to renovation of the museum's historic main building as well as the beginning of construction on an extension at the site on Helsinki's Mannerheimintie. -YLE

- In 2022 the **most popular Finnish-language names given to children in Finland** were Olivia and Leo. The most popular Swedish-language names were Saga and Oliver, and the most popular names from other languages were Sofia and Adam. -YLE
- The **Tampere Irish Festival – The Spring Gathering 2023** – occurred this year from April 19-22. Organized by the Irish Music Society of Tampere, the event took place at various venues within Tampere.



- In mid-March, a U.S. surveillance jet made its first mission to northern Finland. Unlike Norway, which has self-imposed restraint on NATO activity near its border with Russia, Finland is now opening its skies for US intelligence flights along the eastern frontier. – *Barents Observer*
- The 37th **April Jazz Festival** was held April 14-30, 2023, at multiple locations in Espoo. This is the largest jazz festival in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. Each year, the program features a wide variety of both Finnish and international performers.



- NBA All-Star **Lauri Markkanen** reported for service in the Finnish Defense Forces. Once they turn 18, every male in Finland has to complete military training before they turn 30 years old. Markkanen's service is expected to last 165 days, though Finnish President **Sauli Niinistö** has

already offered him a fitness holiday on 6 December, a hint that Markkanen just might be invited to Finland's Independence Day gala!

- The number of patients waiting for more than six months for specialist procedures has more than doubled in a year, according to Finland's Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Lines have grown because of a shortage of staff and increased workload during the Covid pandemic. Waiting times for knee and hip surgery, along with cataract surgery, are particularly lengthy. -YLE
- The 21st biannual **Finnish-American Folk Festival** in Naselle, Washington will be held July 26-28, 2024. Hosted at the Naselle Grays-River Valley School, this event has taken place since 1982 on even-numbered years. For more information, visit nasellefinnfest.com/.
- Finnish airport operator, **Finavia**, is **bringing the world's first airport second hand store** to Helsinki-Vantaa. Finavia collaborated with the local family business **Relove**. The store will offer high-quality second hand clothing and accessories alongside a trendy café. -HT
- Finland's outgoing Prime Minister **Sanna Marin** will, in September, step down as the leader of her Social Democratic Party and leave behind other leadership roles following the loss in recent parliamentary elections.

FINNFUNN

It's time again for some ridiculously long Finnish words. Enjoy!!
Source: omniglot.com & youtube.com

Eurotdinasesopimusasiapöytäkirja

Euro-Asia Nuclear Weapon Agreement Protocol.

Apteekkitavaraintarkastuslaboratorio
Pharmacy Equipment Inspection Laboratory is a workshop for checking pharmaceutical supplies

Petoeläinprovahinkoarviopartiointikus tannukset

The estimation of costs for the costs of calculating the approximation of what compensations should be paid for damages predators have caused to reindeers.

Kuumailmapallolentolahjakortti

A free ticket to ride in a hot air balloon.

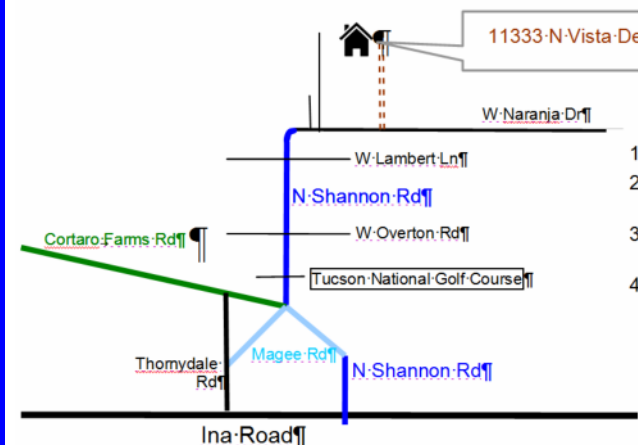
Also, here is an interesting look at the literal meaning behind some Finnish words.

Source: 9gag.com

English – Finnish – literal English translations		
		
fridge	jääkaappi	ice cabinet
computer	tietokone	knowledge machine
Wednesday	keskiviikko	middle week
January	tammikuu	oak moon
bicycle	polkupyörä	stamp wheel
crosswalk	suojatie	shelter way
video projector	videotykki	video cannon
temperature	lämpötila	heat situation
graphic card	näytönohjain	screen controller
vacuum	pölynimuri	dust sucker
fan	tuuletin	winder
note	muistiinpano	"to memory" deposit
Earth	maapallo	ground ball
pencil	lyijykynä	lead pen
escalator	liukuportaat	slide steps
date	päivämäärä	day amount
chemical element	alkuaine	beginning matter
document	asiakirja	thing book
lesson	oppitunti	learning hour
space bar	välilyönti	gap hit
roller coaster	vuoristorata	mountain track
tabloid	iltapäivälehti	afternoon leaf

FACT VAPPU CELEBRATION 2023

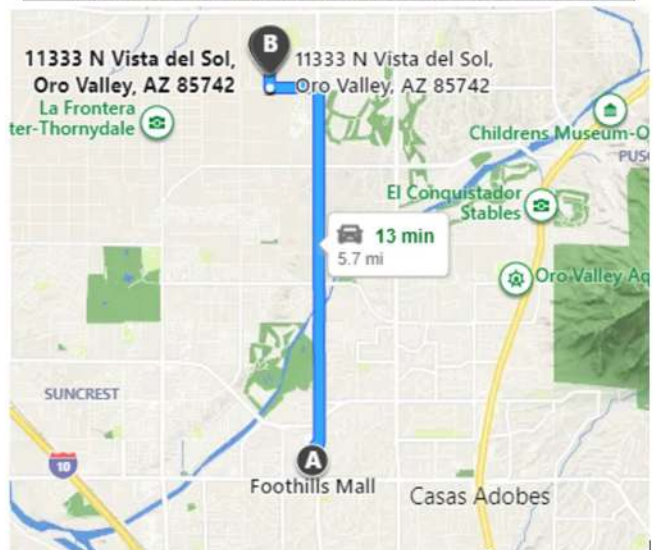
Swim, Sima, and Sauna



1. → Go North on Shannon Road
2. → When Shannon ends, road curves to right onto W Naranja Dr.
3. → Turn left on N Vista Del Sol (dirt road)
4. → At end of Vista Del Sol turn left into driveway

Directions to Vappu Celebration
Saturday, May 6, 2023
3:00 - 6:00PM
Celebration Begins
Quique and Nancy Garcia Home
11333 Vista del Sol, Oro Valley

>>>Take La Cholla north to Naranja, then west to Vista del Sol



11333 N Vista del Sol, Oro Valley, AZ 85742

11333 N Vista del Sol, Oro Valley, AZ 85742

13 min
5.7 mi

Call 520-270-5424 if lost!

Welcome to ... 

FinnFunn Weekend!

a Finnish heritage and cultural festival

finnfunn.org

October 27-29, 2023

Spend a Weekend Exploring and Experiencing the Culture and Heritage Of Finland While Having Great Funn Doing So!!

In 2023, Gloucester and Rockport, Massachusetts, are the sites of the **31st FinnFunn Weekend**



Gloucester & Rockport, MA
October 27-29
Cape Ann Finns Hosts





Newsletter Co-editors:

Sinikka Garcia
Tel. 520-742-0266
Email: sinikkag@yahoo.com

Steve Huhta
Tel. 520-829-7496
Email: shuhta@earthlink.net

Left: This *Seven Brothers* sculpture by famous wood sculptor **Eva Ryyänen** hangs in her home (now a museum) near the North Karelian village of Vuonislampi.

Club email address: TucsonFinnClub@gmail.com
Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheFinnishAmericanClubofTucson>

The Finnish American Club of Tucson
c/o Garcia, 2800 W. Mesa Verde Pl.
Tucson, AZ 85742

