



**DULUTH MINNESOTA**

**JULY 26 - 30, 2023**

# FINNFEST 2023 SCHEDULE

## NOTES:

This is a draft schedule and all events are subject to change. Many events are included in the price of registration; however, you will need to pre-register for some of them as space is limited. Registration and tickets for extra events are now available.

All events at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) unless otherwise noted

■ **This image indicates that the event is included with the cost of your full festival registration**

Updated 6/27/2023



# WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Registration desk open**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tori vendors can start to set up their booths

## **TOURS**

ALL DAY

Tickets: \$89 registrants, \$99 non-registrants

Tour buses leave the DECC circular drive

### **SAX-ZIM BOG**

8:30 AM bus leaves

All-day experience in a pristine bog located in a Finnish immigrant farm area. Travel to the Welcome Center (a building that features Arborwood's iron-like wood products). Learn about a Northern rainforest bog and tour sites. Two extensive interpretative/guided tours on boardwalks built over the bog will be interspersed with presentations and discussion at the Welcome Center.

Tour guides: Sparky Stensaas & Clinton Nienhaus, Naturalists and Eugene Ollila, Friends of the Sax-Zim Board

Limited to 25 people

Accessibility: Walking on boardwalks and uneven terrain. Trails are wheelchair accessible.

### **EASTERN IRON RANGE**

8:00 AM bus leaves

Visit the Mesabi range and learn more about early 20th century Finnish immigrant urban and rural life. Stops at Eli Wirtanen Homestead, Embarrass (where you'll see Seitaniemi Housebarn, the only remaining example in the US of a combined house and barn built by Finnish immigrants), and Kaleva Hall - all open air museums. Local volunteers at each site will interpret. The tour includes coffee at the Wirtanen and Embarrass sites and lunch at the Kaleva Hall.

Tour guide: Charles Ek

Limited to 45 people

Accessibility: Walking outside, some stairs at historic sites

# WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

## **FINNS, FORESTS, FARMS, AND FIRES: SOUTH FROM DULUTH**

9:00 AM bus leaves

Finns started to arrive in the area in 1872 to homestead farms and work in the forests and mills. They built a strong Finnish community in Carlton County only to have to start all over again after the devastating fires of 1918. On this tour, we will visit the Carlton County Historical Society, the Esko Historical Museum and Palkie Gristmill, Fond du Lac Cultural Center and Museum, and Jay Cooke State Park. Lunch and refreshments are included in the tour.

Tour guides: Mary Lukkarila and Anja Bottila, along with featured speakers: Marlene Wisuri, Rodney Ikola, and Lyz Jaakola.

Limited to 45 people

Accessibility: Walking outside. People are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing. Some stairs at historic sites.

## **NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN**

8:30 AM bus leaves

Along the south shore of Lake Superior in Douglas and Bayfield counties are found the oldest and most extensive Finnish farming communities in Wisconsin. We will visit their sites, including the Davidson Windmill, an engineering marvel from 1900 that ground 300 pounds of grain every hour. Bayfield County's Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center features various Finnish vernacular construction styles exhibited along with period artifacts including the John and Justina Palo Homestead. An ethnic Finnish-American lunch consisting of mojakka, riisipuuro, pulla, rieska, garden vegetables, and beverages will be served in the rustic timber frame pavilion at the site.

Tour guides: Jim Pellman and Duane Lahti

Limited to 45 people

Accessibility: Walking outside. Oulu buildings are mostly ADA accessible.

## **NORDIC RIVIERA**

8:00 AM bus leaves

Travel north along the Lake Superior lakeshore as far as Two Harbors; stopping at Gooseberry Falls Visitors Center (designed by David Salmela) and the one-room Larsmont School, going up the shoreline to Grand Marais and the Grand Marais Sauna. The Finland, Minnesota stop will include the Heritage Museum and the Cooperative Store, Minnesota's oldest continuing functioning Co-op store.

Tour guide: Arnold Alanen

Limited to 40 people

Accessibility: ADA accessible.

# WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## ■ **R/V Blue Heron tours**

Free tours open to all

The ship will be moored at Pier B

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Split Rock Room

## ■ **Finnish American Film Festival - Day One**

Finnish American Folklife: An Upper Midwestern Retrospective

- 9:00 AM *Alan Lomax Goes North* (1938 & 2015), 28 minutes, a film by James P. Leary and Guha Shankar
- 10:00 AM *Finnish American Lives* (1982), 47 minutes, a film by Michael Loukinen and Tom Davenport
- 12:00 Noon *At Laskiainen in Palo, Everyone is a Finn* (1983), 58 minutes, a film by Elli-Kaija Köngäs-Maranda, Marsha Elizabeth Pentti, & Thomas Vennum
- 1:00 PM *Tradition Bearers* (1983), 47 minutes, a film by Michael Loukinen
- 2:00 PM *Bobby Aro, King of the Great North Woods* (2013), 57 minutes, a film by Ted Pellman and PBS North/WDSE-TV

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Nordic Center

## ■ **Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

8:00 PM

Fitger's Theater

## ■ **Film: Laveata Tietä (The Wide Road)**

Finland's Last Silent Film

1 hour, 30 minutes

# THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Registration desk open**

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tori vendors continue to set up their booths

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Pioneer Hall & Edmund  
Fitzgerald Room

■ **Tori open**

**Concerts and Artisan Sessions**

Sponsored and organized by the Nordic Folklife/Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1:00–1:45: Himmeli Making featuring artist Alana Maijala with moderator Mirva Johnson

2:00–2:45: Woodcarving featuring artist Pekka Olson with moderator Nathan Gibson

3:00–3:45: Swedish Hair Ornaments featuring artist Karen Keenan with moderator Jason Schroeder

4:00–4:45: Jouhikko (a 2 or 3 stringed lyre) Making and Woodcarving featuring artist Matt Durocher with moderator Marcus Cederström

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Harbor Side Convention  
Center, Room 201

**Finnish Citizen: Passport Renewal**

By appointment only

Consulate of Finland, New York City

# THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

## WORKSHOPS

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tickets: \$78 registrants, \$88 non-registrants

Coffee and lunch included

### **Application of Finnish Methods in American Classrooms**

French River Room

Enrollment limited to 126 participants

This workshop will explore how Finnish educational theories have been implemented in schools. Classroom teachers (Margaret Hanson, Mavis Mantila, Anne Shadrack, Erika Suo, and Ulla Tervo-Desnick) from Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula will present methods they have used successfully in classroom settings. A college professor, Dr. Katie Raisanen Bonawitz, will address "Positive Effects of Collaboration between the USA and Finland." In addition, an administrator, Jim Kurtti, and classroom teacher, Steve Aho, will speak about their experiences working in partnership with Finland.

Lake Superior Rooms L, M,  
and N

### **Finnish Language Instruction**

I BEGINNING

Enrollment limited to 20 participants

Come and have fun learning the basics of our incredible, fun, and beautiful SUOMI! After this morning, you can greet people, compliment a gorgeous Finnish girl or a handsome guy, complain about the weather and the mosquitos, buy coffee, pulla, karjalanpiirakka, makkara and beer, yell at the ice hockey match - as well as swear properly!

II INTERMEDIATE

Enrollment limited to 20 participants

Let's talk! We'll be practicing conversational skills by learning to state facts, fiction, and opinions! We'll be talking about the weather, the Eurovision song contest, the Parliamentary elections, the non-Finnish speaking waitstaff in Helsinki restaurants, etc. Finn-fun topics.

# THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

Lake Superior Room J

## **Arctic Region Genealogy - Looking for Family in the 21st Century**

Enrollment limited to 100 participants

- Keynote: DNA in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Context - The example of Tribal Citizenship: The Anishinaabe Experience with Race/Blood Quantum

Jill Doerfler, Ph.D., Professor & Dept. Chair: American Indian Studies University of Minnesota-Duluth

- Who left Finland? Why did they leave? Who returned? The Example of Central Ostrobothnia  
Rainer Smedman, Ph.D., Tokoi Seura, Finland

- Forest Finns and late 19<sup>th</sup> Century migration to the US

Wayne Peterson & Sarah Kammlah, Forest Finns Society

- Oral History as Data for Family & Community: Reaching the narratives of small cultures

Hilary-Joy Virtanen, Ph.D. Finlandia Foundation National Project

- Siirtolaisuusintituutti: The Migration Institute

- Reimagining a Finland-based Resource for the 21<sup>st</sup> century North American researcher

- Finnish American Migration Patterns in North America

Introduction: Mary Lukkarila

- Finding Family in the migration patterns: Two Experience

Patricia Kennedy

- A family raised in Detroit explores its roots in South Dakota

Karl Morris

## **Sauna Seminar**

Lake Superior Room K

Enrollment limited to 30 participants

Learn more about the Nordic sauna lifestyle from Justin Juntunen, founder of Cedar & Stone Nordic Sauna. Interested in more information about the workshop? Email [Justin@cedarandstonesauna.com](mailto:Justin@cedarandstonesauna.com) for workshop specifics.



# THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Split Rock Room

## ■ Finnish American Film Festival - Day Two

Finnish American Folklife: Five New Films by Michael Loukinen and Hilary-Joy Virtanen

- 9:00 *Melvin Kangas: Kantele Man*, 27 minutes
- 10:00 *Matikka (Burbot): American Finlander Lobster*, 38 minutes
- 11:00 *Finnish American Chip Woodcarvers*, 56 minutes
- 1:00 *Finnish American Rag Rug Weavers*, 53 minutes
- 2:00 *Yooper Creoles: Finnish Music in Michigan's Copper Country*, 65 minutes
- 3:15 Meet the filmmakers and featured artists for a panel discussion, questions and answers

9:00 - 10:30 AM

## **Walking tour of a historic Duluth neighborhood: The Finnish community along St. Croix Avenue**

Enjoy a walking tour of St. Croix Avenue, one of Duluth's historic Finnish neighborhoods, one right near the DECC. Conducted by members of the Jarvenpaa Chapter Number 1 of the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society, the tour begins at the DECC and covers about 10 blocks packed with Finnish history. Wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared for the day's weather.

Purchase your \$10 ticket at the Registration desk on Wednesday but no later than 8:45 A.M. Thursday.

# THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

- 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
Harbor Side space
- **Asahi Workshop: Too much sitting? Stand up for your health!**  
Get back in balance with a revolutionary mind-body practice from Finland: Asahi, designed by medical sports experts to be fun, safe & effective for everyone: no pain, all gain! Connect with your breathing and deepest muscles for improved balance, posture, coordination, flexibility, circulation, boosted spirits & immunity through very simple flowing movements in a standing (or sitting) position - no need to get down on a mat!  
In this two hour workshop you can master the basics of Asahi in a standing and sitting position and create a daily health routine that works for you. Join us, and when you turn 100, you'll be glad you did! This can be done in street clothes. No special clothing necessary, flat shoes or barefoot.
- 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
Paulucci Hall
- **Folk Dance Workshop**  
Open to all. Instruction for beginners and advanced. Jenkka and valsi dance instruction will be featured, using music composed by Hiski Salomaa, Finnish America's Woody Guthrie.  
Organizers: Kiikurit Dancers, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 1:00 - 4:00 PM  
Nordic Center
- **Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**  
This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.  
  
Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune  
Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

# THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

5:00 - 6:30 PM

DECC Symphony Hall

## ■ Opening Convocation

Join Jim Paine, Master of Ceremonies and Mayor of Superior, Wisconsin, along with Mayor of Duluth Emily Larson, FinnFest President Marianne Wargelin, dignitaries and special musical groups to kick off the 40th anniversary of FinnFest!

Featuring Festival favorites:

- Ameriikan Poijat, Finnish American brass septet (First FinnFest appearance: 1991)
- FinnFest USA Choir - 2023, directed by Maria Männistö (First FinnFest appearance: 1983)
- Finn Hall (First FinnFest appearance: 1983)

You won't want to miss this exciting event!

8:00 PM

Holiday Inn Ballroom

## ■ Traditional Dancing Party

Teresa Aho/*Pohjan Tahtet Sami Tyttöt* (Northern Star Sámi Girls) performing old time Finnish American dance music

8:00 PM

Pizza Luce

## ■ Music in Downtown Duluth:

Laurel Premo (Roots music: violin, guitar, vocal) with guest artist Sara Pajunen (violin)

8:00 PM

Zeitgeist Movie Theater

## ■ Finnish Film

TBD

9:00 PM

Zeitgeist Movie Theater

## ■ On Foot Across the Solar System

A Song Cycle based on the poetry of Edith Sodergren

Garrett Fisher, composer and pianist, Maria Männistö, vocalist

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Registration desk open**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Pioneer Hall & Edmund  
Fitzgerald Room

■ **Tori open**

**Concerts and Artisan Sessions**

Sponsored and organized by the Nordic Folklife/Center for the Study of Upper Midwest  
Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:00–9:45: Rag Rug Weaving featuring artist Lisa Wiitala with moderator Hilary Virtanen

10:00–10:45: Rosemaling featuring artist Tara Austin with moderator Marcus Cederström

10:45-11:00: Kisarit folk dance group

11:00–11:45: The Duluth Færing Project featuring artists Justin Anderson & John Finkle with  
moderator Tom DuBois

11:45-12:00: Kiikurit folk dance group

12:00–12:45: Diane Jarvi

12:45-1:00: Kisarit folk dance group

1:00–1:45: Nate Gibson & Rami Soini

2:00–2:45: John Westmoreland

3:00–3:45: Breanne Tepler

3:45-4:00: Kiikurit folk dance group

4:00–4:45: Teresa Aho trio

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Harbor Side Convention  
Center, Room 201

**Finnish Citizen: Passport Renewal**

By appointment only

Consulate of Finland, New York City

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Harbor Side Room 302

## ■ Finnish American Film Festival - Day Three

Director's Spotlight: Films of Kelly Saxberg and Ron Harpelle/[Sheba Films](#)

- 9:30 *Sirpa Säkijärvi* (2019), 8 minutes
- 9:45 *Where the Poppies Grow* (2018), 30 minutes
- 10:20 *Journey to Our Homeland* (2022), 30 minutes
- 11:00 *Pulp Friction* (2014), 59 minutes
- 12 Noon, *Under the Red Star* (2011), 79 minutes
- 1:30 Meet the filmmakers, Kelly Saxberg and Ron Harpelle
- 2:00 *Letters from Karelia* (2004), 76 minutes
- 3:30 *Under the Red Star* (2011), 79 minutes

## Panels and Keynotes

9:00 - 10:00 AM

French River Room

## ■ Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)

Sámi art by the Seaberg family featuring Eric and Kurt Seaberg with moderator Ellen Marie Jensen

Gooseberry Room

## ■ Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change

Singer-Songwriters of the Finnish American Experience

Diane Jarvi, Eric Peltoniemi, Breanne Tepler with Jim Leary

Lake Superior Ballroom

## ■ Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland

Meet Beatrice Ojakangas: Finnish Foods in America

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

- Horizon 202
- **Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)**  
William Durbin, award-winning historic fiction author. Durbin will read from his three Finnish American-themed novels and talk about the experience of writing them.
- Horizon 203-204
- **Finnish & Finnish American History**  
Finnish culture in Colonial America: The Delaware Colony
- Finnish log construction and saunas in Colonial America
    - Frank Eld, Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year, 2018-19
  - The Forest Finns in the Delaware Colony
    - Sarah Kammlah & Wayne T. Peterson, Forest Finns in America
- Paulucci Hall
- **Environment and Sustainability**  
Sustaining and Protecting an endangered natural environment: The Sax-Zim Bog.  
A 21st Century Minnesota Environment & Sustainability project.  
Sparky Stensaas & Clinton Nienhaus, Naturalists at the Sax-Zim Bog, and Eugene Ollila, Friends of the Sax-Zim board
- St. Louis River Room
- **Finnish and Finnish American Spirituality**  
Spiritual movements in Finland and their influence on Finnish hymnody  
Samuli Korkalainen, Research Institute, University of the Arts, Helsinki  
St. Louis River Room

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

10:00 - 10:30 AM

**Break**

## Panels and Keynotes

10:30 - 11:30 AM

French River Room

### ■ **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**

Finnish, Sami, Ojibwe Cultural Connections – An Artist's Journey with Marlene Wisuri.

Visual artist, author, and curator, Marlene Wisuri, will share her stories of making cultural connections through art, books, and exhibits.

Gooseberry Room

### ■ **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**

Playing Across Cultures/Creole Sounds

Sara Pajunen, Laurel Premo, and Oren Tikkanen speak with Jim Leary

Lake Superior Room

### ■ **Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland**

Salmela Architects: An Architecture of the American North

Thomas Fisher, School of Architecture & Design, University of Minnesota will give a talk on the work of Salmela Architects as an embodiment of the culture of the American North. The talk will provide an overview of the work of the Finnish-American-led firm Salmela Architects as a reflection of a "Northern" sensibility in the forms, spaces, and materials of their buildings.

Horizon 202

### ■ **Nordic Experiences for Children (aged 8-16)**

Part II: A workshop. William Durbin, award-winning historic fiction author, works with attendees, helping them start their own fiction writing project based on Finnish American themes and characters.

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Horizon 203-204

## ■ Nordic 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature

Writing Finnish and Finnish American historical fiction

Mark Munger, author of Finnish American trilogy; John Simon, author of Strangers in a Strange Land, a fictional novel about Finland's Jews during WWII.

Moderator/Commentator: Suzanne Matson, Boston College.

St. Louis River Room

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American History

Utopian communities

- Towards A Better World: Utopian Communities established by the Finnish Americans
  - Teuvo Peltoniemi, Author of upcoming 2024 book on Finnish Utopian Communities
- Utopian dreams that Soviet Utopian communities in Karelia
  - Russ Mattson, Author of *Karelia Fever*

Paulucci Hall

## ■ Environment and Sustainability

Sustainable Building Construction in Finland & the State of Minnesota: Current Collaborations and Future goals

Horizon 205

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American Spirituality

The Finnish Heritage Hymnbook: A 90 year project with a Contemporary Conclusion

Margaret Vainio, Marianne Wargelin & Samuli Korkalainen talk about the resources

Room TBD

## ■ Finnish Language: Beginning Finnish Class

Say it in Finnish! - The Finnish you've just got to know - in 60 minutes!

Limited to 20 students



# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Harborside Ballroom

## ■ Finlandia Foundation National: Saving Finland in America Project

Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) is excited to host a panel discussion about our newest initiative "*Saving Finland in America*." Representatives from the foundation and project will report on the progress and plans for saving the historical and cultural treasures put at risk after the March 2023 announcement of the closure of Finlandia University in Hancock, MI. The project involves the Finnish American Heritage Center, Price of Freedom War Museum, Art Gallery, North Wind Books, The Finnish American Reporter, and the Finnish Folk School.

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Harborside Patio

## ■ Asahi Exercise Opportunity

Use this mid-day break to relax and stretch using Asahi methods. Asahi exercise hour will include an instructor and assistants trained in this revolutionary mind-body practice from Finland. No pain, all gain! Connect with your breathing and deepest muscles. Re-energize yourself for the afternoon.

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Harborside Patio

## ■ Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)

### ▸ SOIVA Workshop: Using your body as a musical instrument

Sibelius Academy of Finland instructors share and teach. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National.

Limited to 25 participants, first come, first serve

### ▸ Happy Himmeli: Explore a Nordic Craft Revival for Children

Horizon 202

Learn how to make a mixed-media himmeli using a variety of colorful materials!

Alison Aune shares her popular workshop.

Limited to 25 children and their parents

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Nordic Center

## ■ **Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

## **Panels and Keynotes**

1:30 - 2:30 PM

French River Room

## ■ **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**

Ojibwe and Sámi Handwork featuring artists Laurel Sanders, Wendy Savage, and Pam Capin with moderator Tom DuBois

Gooseberry Room

## ■ **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**

Old-Time Songs and Tunes with Teresa Aho, Rich Koski, Ralph and Jaana Tuttila with Carl Rahkonen, moderator

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Harborside Ballroom,  
Room 302

## ■ **Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland**

The Iconic and the Everyday: Creative Finland in America

This presentation will describe the contemporary presence and influence of Finnish design, industry and identity in the United States. It aims to produce a composite understanding of the presence and strength of Finnish architecture, design and industry in the lives of everyday Americans – and to benefit both nations' mutual appreciation and understanding.

Peter MacKeith, Professor & Dean, Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design, University of Arkansas

Lake Superior Ballroom

## ■ **Contemporary Nordic Europe**

Finland and NATO: Finland's Ambassador to the United States Mikko Hautala discusses recent events.

Part I: Finland's New Alignment: What does NATO membership mean in 2023?

## ■ **Finnish and Finnish American History**

DNA as a research tool: Two sides of the data base

- A small cultural group, the Forest Finns: Discovering their 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C. American migration history with the assistance of DNA research
  - Sarah Kammlah & Wayne Peterson, Forest Finns of America
- Who do we think we are? Finnish identity - language, folklore, nation and race.
  - Lynn Laitala, Author, Journal editor, Historian.

Horizon 203-204

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

St. Louis River Room

## ■ Nordic 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature

Suomalaisen kirjailijan kokemuksia Pohjois-Amerikasta. (A Finnish author's experiences of North America.)

Poetry & Prose related to travels and observations in North America, including his father's experiences in Canada and the U.S. in the 1920's.

Hannu Niklander, Finnish poet, fiction and non-fiction writer

Readings and comments in Finnish with English translations

Paulucci Hall

## ■ Environment & Sustainability

Bicycles: A 19th century transportation mode; an active transportation alternative in 21st century Finland

Tony Desnick, Executive Director, Finnish Bicycling Embassy

2:30 - 3:00 PM

## ■ Break

## Panels and Keynotes

3:00 - 4:00 PM

## ■ Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)

*Stewards of All Creation* (wild ricing film) with filmmaker Kristin Ojaniemi and Aurora Conley of the Bad River Ojibwe

French River Room

## ■ Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change

Country Music in Finland and Finnish America

Eric Koskinen and Rami Soni with Nate Gibson, moderator

Gooseberry Room

## ■ Contemporary Nordic Europe

Finland and NATO: Ambassador Mikko Hautala discusses recent events.

Part II: Finland: Brining its strong military presence to NATO.

Lake Superior Ballroom

The session continues, now with representatives of Finland Defense Department officials.

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Horizon 205

## ■ **Finnish and Finnish American History**

Finding your family's history in official records: The Migration Institute of Turku Collections explained with tips on how to use the Institute.

Horion 203-204

## ■ **Nordic 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature**

Hanna Pylväinen reads from and talks about her 2023 novel "The End of Drum Time"

Paulucci Hall

## ■ **Environment and Sustainability**

"Sustainable Metals: Finland and Minnesota"

John Kearney and Aaron Klemz, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

7:00-9:00 PM

Nordic Center

## ■ **Reception for Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media.

The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

# FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

7:30 PM

DECC Symphony Hall

## **Symphony Orchestra Concert**

Craig Randal Johnson leads the FinnFest Symphony Orchestra on the 40th anniversary of FinnFest USA. Our concert features the US premiere of the late Jaakko Kuusisto's recently composed Piano Concerto, played by the Helsinki based American pianist Mackenzie Melemed, a 2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant Award winner. The concert then moves to dramatic selections from Leevi Madetoja's opera 'The Ostrobothnians', the first Finnish-composed opera to command international attention and performances. The concert opens and closes with music by Finland's national composer Jean Sibelius.

Join the FinnFest orchestra, soloist and the FinnFest Chorus at the DECC for an inspiring wonderful evening of Finnish classical music.

**Link:** [Tickets available via TicketMaster](#)

8:00 PM

Pizza Luce

## **■ Music in Downtown Duluth**

Finnish American Alt-Country Music

Erik Koskinen & Band

8:00 PM

Zeitgeist Movie Theater

## **■ Finnish Film**

TBD

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Registration desk open**

■ **Tori open**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Concerts and Artisan Sessions**

Pioneer Hall & Edmund  
Fitzgerald Room

Sponsored and organized by the Nordic Folklife/Center for the Study of Upper Midwest  
Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:00–9:45: Kantele Making featuring artist LynnAnne Vesper with moderator Mirva Johnson

10:00–10:45: Metku Trio

10:45-11:00: Kiikurit folk dance group

11:00–11:45: Lautala Pojat

12:00–12:45: Lyz Jaakola

12:45-1:00: Kisarit

1:00–1:45: Eric Peltoniemi

2:00–2:45: Steve Solkela

3:00–3:45: John Westmoreland

3:45-4:00: Kisarit

4:00–4:45: Lauluaika

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Finnish Citizen: Passport Renewal**

Harbor Side Convention  
Center, Room 201

By appointment only

Consulate of Finland, New York City

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Ballroom 301-302

■ **Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)**

Finnish Language and Culture Morning

Tiina Watts & Susan Harstad, Salolampi Language Village

9:00 - 11:30 AM

St. Louis River Room

■ **Finnish and Finnish American Spirituality**

Faith Issues in Lutheranism:

The Rapidly Declining Lutheran Church in Finland & the USA: Crisis of Faith? Or the Church? Or Both?

Jarmo Tarki. Ph.D., D.Min. & Veli-Matti Kärkäinen, Ph.D

## Panels and Keynotes

9:00 - 10:00 AM

French River Room

■ **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**

History, Religion/Beliefs, Language, Society and Politics: An Introduction with Ellen Marie Jensen, with moderator Kent Randell

Gooseberry Room

■ **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**

Finnish American Labor Songs: The T-Bone Slim Project

Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, Saijaleena Rantanen, Saku Pinta, Lotta Leiwo, John Westmoreland

Paulucci Hall

■ **Environment and Sustainability**

Leading Together at the Cutting Edge: Why Minnesota and Finland have so much to gain from commercial and innovation cooperation

Steve Riedel & Global Minnesota



# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Horizon Room 203-204

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American Literature

Suzanne Matson, Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, reads from her novel Ultraviolet and talks about her writing life.

Lake Superior Ballroom

## ■ Happiness in the 21st Century: It's a Finnish Thing

## ■ Finnish American History

Horizon 205

Forest Finns: Officially recognized ethnic minority in Sweden and Finland. A best kept secret from Nordic Americans in the Upper Midwest?

Sarah Kammlaah and Wayne T. Peterson, Forest Finns of America

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Split Rock Room

## ■ Finnish American Film Festival – Day Four

Director's Spotlight: Kristin Ojaniemi Films

- 10:00 Co-operatively Yours (2017), 57 minutes
- 11:00 Sirkka: Past and Present (2019), 57 minutes
- 1:00 Meet the filmmaker, Kristin Ojaniemi
- 1:30 *Roy Helander* (2019), 20 minutes
- 2:00 *Born in a Barn*, excerpts from a series-in-progress

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

## Panels and Keynotes

10:30 - 11:30

French River Room

### ■ **Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnish/Inaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)**

Sámi Cultural Expressions, Rights, and Representations:

An Introduction with Ellen Marie Jensen

Gooseberry Room

### ■ **Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change**

Accordionist Humorist: Steve Solkela

Location TBD

### ■ **Intermediate Finnish, Session IV**

Let's chat suomeksi! Develop spoken fluency - in 60 minutes!

Limited to 20 students

Harborside Ballroom 302

### ■ **Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland**

Aalto in America

This presentation will highlight the "American" dimension to the Aaltos' life and work, through case studies in particular describing exhibitions of Artek furnishings at the Museum of Modern Art, the 1939 Finland Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, the Baker House Residence Hall at MIT, and the Mt. Angel Library in Oregon, as well as projects in Finland possessing an American dimension. This presentation seeks to identify more generally the role that architecture can play in building identity and mutual understanding between nations. Peter MacKeith, Professor and Dean, Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Horizon 203-204

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American History

Oskari Tokoi: Finnish American Immigrant, Finland's First Prime Minister, and Finnish American in Fitchburg, MA

Rainer Smedman, Oskari Tokoi Society

Horizon 205

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American Literature

Diane Jarvi and Greg Watson read from their poetry

Lake Superior Ballroom

## ■ Environment and Sustainability

Finland and Minnesota: Exchanging ideas through trade missions

Speakers from Global Minnesota, Finnish Embassy, and the Minnesota Trade Office

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Harborside Patio

## ■ Asahi Exercise Opportunity

Get back in balance with a revolutionary mind-body practice from Finland: Asahi, designed by medical sports experts to be fun, safe & effective for everyone: no pain, all gain! Connect with your breathing and deepest muscles for improved balance, posture, coordination, flexibility, circulation, boosted spirits & immunity through very simple flowing movements in a standing (or sitting) position - no need to get down on a mat!

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Nordic Center

## ■ Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Kirsten Aune showroom  
12 N 21st Ave West  
Duluth, MN

## ■ Reflections and Inspirations from Finland: Kirsten Aune Textiles

A talk with Kirsten Aune, a local Duluth artist with a global reach<sup>28</sup>.

1:30 - 4:30 PM

Harborside Patio

## ■ Nordic Experiences for Children (ages 8-16)

SOIVA Workshop: Using your body as a musical instrument. Sibelius Academy of Finland instructors share and teach. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National.

Limited to 25 participants, first come, first serve

## Panels and Keynotes

1:30 - 2:30 PM

French River Room

## ■ Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnish/Inaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)

Decolonize Your Bucket List! Why Your Next Visit to Finland Should Include Inari, and What To Do Once You Get There

Tom DuBois, Professor of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Gooseberry Room

## ■ Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change

History of Finnish American Dance Bands

Carl Rahkonen, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Horizon Room 203-204

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American History

Finnish American Socialism in the Upper Midwest

- 1918 Draft dodgers in the Keweenaw - Hilary Joy Virtanen
- Socialism on the Iron Range - Aaron Brown

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

## ■ Women and Leadership

Lake Superior Room

15 Years Later: Revisiting a FinnFest 2008 Topic

- Ida Rukavina, Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation, State of Minnesota
- Emily Larson, Mayor of Duluth, Minnesota
- Amy Hietopelto, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Minnesota-Duluth
- Anne-Mari Paster, Managing Director, Omega Funds, and President of Finlandia Foundation National
- Other special guests!

## ■ Environment and Sustainability

Location TBD

Impacts of Sustainability on the Finnish Grid: Lessons from Minnesota Utilities

A discussion with Minnesota electric utility experts: Evergreen Energy and Minnesota Power

## ■ Nordic America: Creating Bridges through Crafts

Horizon 205

Himmeli Crafts

Join artists Mary Erickson and Alison Aune for a look into the traditional origins of himmeli and current practices and innovations into this ancient art form.

Alison Aune, Professor, Art Department at the University of Minnesota - Duluth

Location TBD

## ■ Contemporary Finland & Finnish America

Finnish film and television

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Location TBD

## ■ Finnish and Finnish American History

Finding your family's and your community's history in your home movies

Dwight Swanson, independent scholar

2:30 - 3:00 PM

## BREAK

### Panels and Keynotes

3:00 - 4:00 PM

French River Room

## ■ Indigenous Arts (Sámi, Finnishinaabe, Finnish/Ojibwe collaborations)

Finnishinaabe Music and Song

Lyz Jaakola, American Indian Studies & Music Instructor, Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College

Gooseberry Room

## ■ Finnish American Folk Music/All Tradition is Change

The Legacy of Viola Turpeinen

Päivi Takala speaks regarding her film-in-progress, *The Lady and the Accordion*, focused on the life and music of Viola Turpeinen, with accordionist Riita Kossi (formerly of Värttinä) and moderator Jim Leary

St. Louis River Room

## ■ Finnish & Finnish American Writing

Sheila Packa and Jim Johnson read from their works of poetry

Horizon 203-204

## ■ Contemporary Finland and Finnish America

The journey at the crossroads of elite athletes, language and heritage: Finnish-American athlete Kayleigh Karinen's journey to become a four-time world champion with the Finnish National Team

Kayleigh Karinen, University of Helsinki

# SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Paulucci Hall

## ■ **Nordic America: Creating Bridges to Finland through Music Commissions**

Ameriikan Poijat and its commission from contemporary Finnish composers, performance and discussion

Location TBD

## ■ **Environment and Sustainability**

Minnesota electric vehicle owners circle experiences

Horizon Room 203-204

## ■ **Finnish and Finnish American History**

Finnish log buildings including smoke saunas: Past and present

Frank Eld, Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year, 2018-2019

8:00 PM

DECC Symphony Hall

## **Samuli Edelmann Concert**

Samuli Edelmann, a Finnish actor and singer with more than half a million albums sold during his career - three platinum and three gold albums - make him one of Finland's best-selling male artists. His wide-ranging repertoire, from art records to pop music, will invariably find its way into the hearts of visitors at Finn Fest.

**Link:** [Tickets available via Ticketmaster](#)

8:00 PM

Zeitgeist Movie Theater

## ■ **Finnish Film**

TBD

8:00 PM

Holiday Inn

## ■ **Finnish American Music & Dancing**

- Oren Tikkanen's Yooper Creole/Backroom Boys
- Metku Trio

# SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Pioneer Hall & Edmund  
Fitzgerald Room

■ **Tori open**

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Symphony Hall

■ **Ecumenical Worship Service**

Featuring:

- FinnFest USA Choir, Maria Männistö, director
- Finnish Heritage Hymnal (Finnish hymns in English translations)
- Ameriikan Poijat brass ensemble
- Jarmo Tarkki, Lead Pastor
- Samuli Edelmann, featured soloist

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Rooftop patio

■ **Using Your Body as a Musical Instrument**

A workshop for music and theater teachers led by Sibelius Academy personnel

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Nordic Center

■ **Pop Up Exhibition - Inspiraatioita: Finnish Inspirations in Minnesota**

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

Curator-Artists: Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists: Justin Anderson, Mary Erickson Tia Keobounpheng, Lenore Lampi, Natalie Salminen, Marlene Wisuri

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Harborside Ballroom

■ **Family Style Dance**

Finn Hall band and Lauluaika playing songs for dancing



# Sara Pajunen Solo Exhibition

**Joseph Nease Gallery**  
23 West 1st Street,  
Duluth, MN

**Open: July 27-29, 12:00 - 4:00 PM**

From the Nease Gallery: We look forward to this summer's solo exhibition of Sara Pajunen's recent sound and film work about our region. Sara Pajunen is a composer-improviser and an audiovisual artist based in what is now called Minnesota (USA). Trained as a violinist and employing locally-responsive media ranging from field recordings to drone imagery, her work is motivated by interactions between her ancestral roots, American cultural histories, and connection to our environments through sound.

Specific to this exhibition from the artist: "Sara Pajunen will present audiovisual work, sound art, and photographs from her projects "Mine Songs: Sounding an Altered Landscape" and "The Places We Know." The connected projects use field recording, violin, aerial image, and archival material to focus on themes of long-rhythm and broken connections with



## Downtown Duluth Exhibits

# Inspiraatioita: Finnish Art and Design in Minnesota

Nordic Center  
23 N Lake Avenue  
Duluth, Minnesota

Open: July 26-30, 1:00 - 4:00 PM  
Reception: July 28, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

This exhibition will feature the work of 8 Minnesota artists who draw inspiration from traditional and contemporary Finnish art and design. These artists will share works that explore diverse themes through textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and mixed media. The Nordic Center is a non-profit cultural center established in 2011, with a mission to share Nordic culture with the greater community through social, educational and arts programs.

### Curator-Artists:

Alison and Kirsten Aune

### Participating Artists:

Justin Anderson  
Mary Erickson  
Tia Keobounpheng  
Lenore Lampi  
Natalie Salminen  
Marlene Wisuri

**FINN FEST**  
POP-UP EXHIBITION

**NORDIC CENTER DULUTH**

# Inspiraatioita:

## Finnish Art and Design in Minnesota

**July 26-30**  
**Reception:**  
**July 28 | 7-9pm**

Curator-Artists:  
Alison and Kirsten Aune

Participating Artists:  
Justin Anderson   Tia Keobounpheng   Natalie Salminen  
Mary Erickson   Lenore Lampi   Marlene Wisuri

**Visit [nordiccenterduluth.org](http://nordiccenterduluth.org)**  
**23N Lake Ave, Duluth, MN**  
**EXHIBIT OPEN HOURS: 1-4PM**

Find us on

**2023**

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds.

## Downtown Duluth Exhibits

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# Reflections and Inspirations from Finland: Kirsten Aune Textiles

kirsten  
**AUNE**  
textiles

**Kirsten Aune Showroom and Gallery**  
12 N 21st Ave West  
Duluth, MN

**July 29, 1:00 - 2:00 PM**

Kirsten Aune has had exhibitions in Minnesota, Illinois, Massachusetts, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Estonia. She has received several awards including the Jerome Foundation Travel, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Fellowship, and Finlandia Foundation Grant. Her work is in the permanent collection at The Tweed Museum of Art, the Municipal Arts Collective in Växjö, Sweden, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Duluth, The Duluth Children's Museum, and in numerous private collections in Washington D.C, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York City, North Carolina, Austria, Paris, Finland, and Japan.



Kirsten creates original geometric and floral designs using stencils that she cuts by hand and then arranges in dynamic visual compositions using bright blocks of color and bold designs. She also works with silkscreen printing to create textile yardage of repeat patterns on a variety of cloth objects including wall hangings, garments, toys, table linens, handbags, lampshades, coasters, shower curtains, holiday stockings, ornaments, bracelets, hats, quilts, dolls, puppets, aprons, pillows, potholders, wallets, purses, facemasks, and more. Her artistic style has been called “Modern Scandinavian.” She has traveled to Scandinavia to research designs and to exhibit her work. Her connection to Danish, Swedish, and Finnish design is rooted in her childhood, growing up in a home of Mid-Century Modern Scandinavian furniture, and Marimekko wall hangings, that her parents collected when her mother worked in the first Danish furniture store in Minneapolis in the 1950s. Her love of color and simple lines are present in Scandinavian design and is reflected in some of her work.