

# FGGMN News



Finland Snow Sculpture Team  
(L to R) Arto Manninen, Team Captain Janne Andberg  
and Ville Arkonkoski

## March Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will feature FGGMN members Barb Wilson and John Hanson. They will present the historical perspective of Finns involved in wars covering the 1100 to the 1900s. Members will receive a Zoom invite prior to the meeting date, Saturday, March 11.

If you are interested in joining the group for a sample Zoom meeting or renewing your membership, send us a note through the contact form on [www.fggmn.org](http://www.fggmn.org).

## April Meeting Rescheduled

Due to the Easter holiday the FGGMN monthly meeting is rescheduled one week later **Saturday, April 15**. Hope to see you on Zoom!

## Laskiainen 2023

### Saturday, February 25

Some FGGMN members are also members of the Finnish American Cultural Activities group (FACA). FGGMN member **Urho Rahkola** is one of those members. Urho invited our group to an upcoming outdoor event, Laskiainen, a winter picnic. FACA and Suomi-koulu will co-host and provide laskiaispulla and firewood. Bring your hiking boots, sled, skis or just a treat to share. Learn more information on FACA's website. You do not need to be a member of FACA to join in on the fun. [www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org)

## Finland, Team Funland

**Finnish Sculpture Team:** Pictured Above  
**Sculpture Description:** The Finnish swan is ambassador of peace love and tranquility.

Stillwater, Minnesota hosted the inaugural World Snow Sculpture Championship in January. The competition, sanctioned by Finland-based *Association Internationale de Sculpture sur Neige et Glace*, brought thousands of spectators to see elaborate designs in snow created by nine world-class champion snow sculpting teams from five different countries.

Teams flew in from Germany, Argentina, Finland, Ecuador, Mexico, Canada, Turkey, and across the U.S. Although it was a crew from Minnesota that won the coveted blue ribbon, the Finnish Team is always comes in first for many Finnish and Finnish Americans!

Thanks to FGGMN member **Joan Newman** for taking the snow sculpture photos.

## Suomi Sing-Along

Suomi Singalong began during the pandemic on St. Urho's Day 2020. FGGMN member **Karen Ba** always has a song in her heart and is an organizer of the group. They meet once a month on Zoom. Check out the Facebook page for more information. [Suomi Sing-Along Info](#)

## Sending Condolences

It's with great sadness that we inform you of recent family deaths related to two of our members.

We received this note from member **Ken Skog**, of Madison, Wisconsin. "I am sad to let you know that my wife **Judy** passed away December 6th. She was an amazing wonderful environmental and social justice activist. Her obituary is available online at [www.gundersonfh.com](http://www.gundersonfh.com)." Condolences to Ken may be sent to his home at 626 Orchard Dr., Madison, WI 53711 or email [kenskog@gmail.com](mailto:kenskog@gmail.com).

FGGMN member **Patricia (Pat) Zingheim's** husband **Jay R. Schuster**, passed away in Los Angeles on January 25, 2023, at the age of 88.

Jay was born in Chicago to James and Annette Schuster. He and his family moved to Minnesota where Jay graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BBA in business administration as an Army Second Lieutenant and a MA in Industrial Relations. He earned a Ph.D. from USC while working as a management consultant. Jay and Pat co-founded their own management consulting firm, Schuster-Zingheim and Associates, Inc., specializing in compensation and total rewards. Jay wrote six business books, the last three with Patricia. Their field's professional association, WorldatWork, awarded them its highest honor, the Keystone Award, for being thought leaders.

Jay and Pat loved to travel and traversed the world for pleasure and business. Jay's fun sense of humor and generosity will be missed by all. Condolences may be sent to Pat at 1541 Bel Air Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90077, or email [sz@schuster-zingheim.com](mailto:sz@schuster-zingheim.com).

## Salolampi Camp ~ Not Just for Kids!

At our February meeting, FGGMN member and past president of the Salolampi Foundation, **John Hanson**, reminded the group of opportunities available for the 2023 season at Salolampi Finnish Language Village.

Many FGGMN members, and their families, have attended the adult, youth, family and/or virtual camps. Learning or boosting your Finnish language skill is just a part of camp life. Eating traditional Finnish foods (delicious food according to John and others), activities and the lakeside sauna are all part of the experience.

Virtual classes are happening now. In person camp in Bemidji, Minnesota, are in May and September. Register now and have something to look forward to in 2023. <https://www.salolampi.org>

## 5th Annual Kalevalathon

Thanks to FGGMN member **Karen Ba** for the information about the 5th annual marathon reading of the Kalevala, the national epic of Finland.

Kalevala Day is celebrated in Finland on February 28th and is simultaneously the Day of Finnish Culture. Finlandia's Finnish and Nordic Studies professor, Dr. Hilary-Joy Virtanen, will be hosting the 5th Annual Kalevalathon starting at 9AM February 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will continue until the last rune has been read, they estimate until midnight.

This year, they will read all 50 poems of the epic from start to finish. Materials and instructions will be provided at the event or by registering in advance. Due to subject matter presented in the poems themselves, this event is not suitable for children.

Join the event for as long or as short of a duration as you'd like, in person or via livestream. [CLICK HERE FOR INFO](#)

## FinnFest

This summer FinnFest will be held in Up North Hey in Duluth, Minnesota. The event dates are Wednesday, July 26 through Sunday, July 30.

The programming includes all things Finnish and is open to everyone. Attendees will look forward to plenty of activities including tours, presentations, workshops, music, films, games, art, Finnish food and one of our favorite instructors Daniel Hataja will be teaching Finnish language classes.

Log on to the FinnFest event website <https://2023.finnfest.us> for lots of information and register for a portion or attend the entire five days.