



VOL LIX
February 6, 2023

2023 Event Schedule

February 18 6 PM	Laskiainen Potluck Celebration	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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Happy New Year everyone! SHSKY held our traditional Celebration of St. Lucia on December 10. It was wonderful to see everyone and to be able to hold the reception as we always did prior to the pandemic. Our Lucia was Bill and Mary Hedberg's granddaughter, Savannah Peters; others included:

Signe Ingram

Edie Ingram

Sullivan Peters

Lily Davis

Ruthie Moore

Mia Hyde

Christian Poussette

Sophia Poussette was the Narrator.

We also thank the adults who participated in the choir.

On Sunday, February 12 at 5 pm at Second Presbyterian Church, the Lexington Chamber Chorale will present a Program, Restorative and therapeutic Power of Music.. General Admission is \$22; students \$10. Baptist Health Medical professionals will provide health screenings after the concert. There will also be a reception after the concert.

Did you know that Agatha Christie has a link with a fictional Finnish detective, Sven Hjerson? He appeared in several books by Ariadne Oliver, a fictional novelist who in turn is in a few of Agatha's Hercule Poirot stories. He is said to complain about having to write many detective stories about Sven to satisfy the public, and actually wonders why Agatha made him a Finn as she knew nothing about Finland. Agatha Christie was famous for cryptic references and communications, often trying to avoid publicity. This note comes from Scandinavia Standard for January of 2023.

Scandinavian Heritage Society P.2

Finland is known to be a democratic egalitarian culture which stresses interdependence and respect for others. Their language is Uralic, a language said to have much in common with Hungarian and Estonian and Sami. After the ice sheet disappeared, around 8,000 BC, people moved to the area from south, east, and north west to settle.

It is a rich location for archeological studies. Finland recognizes several minorities: Swedish speaking Finns, Karelians, Romani, Jews and Tartars. The history of Finland involves periods of invasion by Sweden as well as by a Medieval State called Novgorod which stretched from the Gulf of Finland in the west to the Ural Mountains in the east. Russia took over Finland from 1809-1917 when Finland declared its independence on December 6. Finland borders Russia in the east, Sweden in the west, and Norway to the north; Finland, Sweden and Norway meet in the north at Treriksgrasin (2 dots over the a), which refers to Three Kingdom Border.

In 1988 a Population Crisis Committee declared that Finland was the second best place for women to live after Sweden, just ahead of the United States, based on such factors as education, health and legal standing. Finnish women were the first in Europe to get the vote, and by the 1980s held a third of the positions in parliament, Eduskunta. They also held important ministerial positions. The majority of women worked outside The home, making up almost half of the workforce.

Finland is in the Boreal zone, with warm summers and cold winters, thanks to the Gulf Stream. The length of winter varies from north to south, from 200 to 100 days of temperatures under 0. (I assume this refers to Centigrade measurements, the standard Finland uses.) In the North where one quarter of the country is above the Arctic Circle, there are 73 days of midnight sun in the summer, and 53 days in the winter when the sun does not rise above the horizon. There are over 187,000 lakes (and I thought Minnesota had a lot!) Finland is the most sparsely populated country in Europe with 5.5 million people. Helsinki is the second most Northern capital in the world after Reykjavik, Iceland.

Here are a few phrases for you when you travel there:

Hello! Hei! (Pronounced Hay!)

Good morning! Hyvaa! (2 dots over each a) huomenta (Pronounced Hivveh hormenta!)

Good Bye! Hyvasti! (2 dots over the a) (Pronounced hivesti)

Thank you! Kiitos! (Pronounced Keytoss!)

You can find more expressions at Nature Travels, the Outdoor Specialists: Specials for Outdoor and Adventure Holidays in the Nordic Countries since 2006.

Come to celebrate the Finnish winter festival, Laskiainen, if you can! This is our pea soup supper with wonderful side dishes and desserts!







Thank you to all who came and those who participated to make the St.Lucia celebration a joyful occasion!

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