

7/14/2017

Dear Members and Friends,

We have had our project on the EngagePitt site for some time now. We should make the most of this opportunity. Please make up your mind to get involved. We have a great team of several volunteers ready to write thank-you notes and answer questions. You are welcome to join us to bring new ideas of how to get our word across.

The Finnish Room is not only about our architectural genius, it is much more; it is about our culture as it existed and how it has shaped us. Finnish culture has been handed to us without our knowing what skills and experiences we have inherited from our families. The Finnish Room will demonstrate the Finnish heritage so that we see how it has come along with us and left its imprint on our new environment.

Last weekend on Sunday, we were at the Westmoreland Heritage Fair as part of the Scandinavian Society. Their old Viking boat, which became well-known during the early Folk Festivals in Pittsburgh, was brought to the Heritage Festival for the first time, and was used as our booth. Of course none of us there were Vikings. All Scandinavians have now settled in their countries and are not sailing their dragon boats to new destinations. We Finns also built boats. That was the way to travel along the rivers. Perhaps the Finnish boats did not have the dragon head on the front scaring the river creatures out of their way. However, great boat builders existed. As it is told in Kalevala, Väinämöinen got the 'manual' for building a boat from the old Vipunen.

That brings us to the Finnish Language. It has been spoken for a long time in Finland, long before the historic time, when Swedish was used as the written language. The Finnish language became the language of Finland during the autonomic time with Russia. When Finland became independent it was the only language used by the Finnish people; from then on the records were written in Finnish. There is a discussion of the Finnish alphabet on our EngagePitt site <https://engage.pitt.edu/finnishroom>.

Next month we are expecting Frank Eld to visit and are getting ready for his arrival. He will park his Finnebago truck at Pitt and we will have a meeting to greet him. He will discuss Finnish log construction and tell us about his present project to record Finnish log houses, both here and in Canada. He also has some plans for obtaining the logs for our room's walls.

If any of you is able to offer a meeting place, for our get-together with Frank Eld or for another occasion, please let us know.

Seija Cohen  
The EngagePitt Team

Here is a form for mailing your donation -- this time mail it to: EngagePitt, Office of Institutional Advancement, University of Pittsburgh, 128 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.