

# Finnish hospitality chases chills

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"It keeps forever," said Nayback who stores hers on a kitchen counter in a decorative tin.

The Finns, originally drawn to Michigan by the mining communities up north, are known for their thrift, warmth, hospitality and simplicity fare.

Nayback describes Finnish food as "pretty simple, not spicy, that has a tendency to be bland."

While spice is not a hallmark, there are two that no Finnish cook could do without — allspice and cardamom.

dish towel, lays it on a cutting board and whacks it with a hammer. "You get coarse chunks, it gives the bread a good flavor," she said.

Other foods that are typically Finnish include buttered potatoes, sprinkled with parsley, beef pea soup, a fish casserole made with chunks of salmon, onions, potatoes and milk, and open face sandwiches.

The sandwiches are like little works of art," said Emma. "A typical sandwich consists of a slice of sour rye bread, topped with a slice of hard salami or ham, cheese and decorated with circles of hard boiled egg, cucumbers, radishes, or tomato, and sprigs of dill."

**FINNS ALSO** love berries, said Nayback, all kinds — brambleberries, cloudberries, cranberries, blueberries, lingonberries, strawberries and raspberries. After dinner, some Finns like to have a glass of Lappola, a sweet liquor made with berries.

"During berry season you'll see

big bins of them in Finland," she said. "Everything has berries in it, even salads."

This year the Finns are celebrating their 75th anniversary of independence. As part of the celebration, the Holjakat Folk dancers, who rehearse 7:30-9:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Finnish Center will visit Finland July 17 to Aug. 2 to perform.

"Our members come from all over the metro Detroit area, including Birmingham, Farmington and Southfield," said group member Matt Tilly of Waterford. "We're always looking for new members. You don't have to be Finnish to join, but you must have an interest in dancing. For information on joining the group, call 478-8939.

are having a party sale every month through June. The small crusty pies filled with beef and vegetables cost \$2.25 each.

On March 3, excerpts of the Kalevala, the national epic of Finland will be recited at the Finnish Center. The poems, composed orally over centuries, were first published in 1835 by Elias Lönnrot, a Finnish country doctor and literary scholar.

Throughout history, the Kalevala has served as a guide to values, traditions, beliefs and customs of the Finnish people.

This excerpt from the Kalevala, says a lot about Finnish hospitality. "Ask the guest to sit, and rest him. With the guest converse in friendship. With thy talk amuse the stranger till dinner shall be ready."

**TO RAISE** money to pay expenses for their trip to Finland, the dancers

See recipes inside.



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## cooking calendar

- TASSOS**  
 Cooking classes offered by Tassos graduate chef of Le Cordon Bleu of Paris, 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at Tassos' Epicurean Cuisine, 6887 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Menu — Fillet of Sole with aromatic vegetables, roast duck with turnips and crown of fruit. Evening of culinary expertise with complete healthy dinner including recipes and complimentary wine. Cost \$25 per person. Call Carol 539-0110 to reserve, limited space available.
- SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE**  
 Schoolcraft College's award-winning Culinary Arts Department, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads in Livonia, is offering several classes this winter. Call 462-4448 for registration information.
- Chinese Gourmet Cooking**, a one-day workshop will be offered 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. The fee is \$45.
- Pastries for Everyone**, a five-week course meets 6-8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 18. The fee is \$30.

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