

Finnish Maukonen Family Society - 2006

This year, the *Maukonen Family Society* met in Jyväskylä, at the Työvoimaopisto (Employment Institute) on August 26, 2006.

The council members and visitors (in alphabetical order) were: Annariikka Ahlnäs (secretary), Liisa Hyvönen, Suvi Jylhä, Anja Korhonen, Antti Maukonen, Arvo Maukonen, Harri Maukonen, Jouko Maukonen, Kari S. Maukonen (president; elected in 2006), Olli Maukonen (former president), Pentti Maukonen, Riitta Mansikkamäki (vice president; elected in 2006), Veikko Maukonen, Anja Muurmäki, Pekka Ojanen, Pertti Pohjalainen, Martta Rantanen, Aino Sirkka, Täg Jaana. Honourary members are Martta Rantanen, Hannele Maukonen, and Martti Mäkelä.

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Some of family members and visitors at the Maukonen Family Society meeting are seen here with an old Russian car called a "Volga." One of Esa's friends drove him and Kari to the meeting.



Noemi and Kari

A Maukonen event in the Philippines *by Kari Maukonen*

"Noemi and I had already been married in a civil wedding in the spring of 2006 in Guezon City, Metro Manila, without any big wedding party. We did not have enough time arrange a church wedding, because the calling process in churches takes many weeks. A civil wedding is enough to satisfy the the law but we wanted to get church blessings in both of our churches. In the Roman Catholic church, they don't accept civil marriage as binding before God. Noemi is a devout Catholic woman and my church is Evangelical Lutheran in Finland.

After the civil wedding and by June 1, 2006, Noemi applied for a residence permit to Finland having collected hundreds of documents. But Finnish policies for visas and residence permits are very strict and slow. It takes about 6 to 9 months, maybe more, to get that granted. That's why we had adequate time to arrange for a church wedding. And, of course, we missed each other so much that we wanted to meet again.

Our home in the Manila area is in Bacoor, Cavite province, just outside of official Metro Manila. But Noemi's parents and lots of relatives, live in Bohol province about 600-700 kms south of Manila. So we decided to arrange a church wedding there.

I took a flight to Manila via Amsterdam by KLM there on September 26. On October 3, we took a one-hour flight to Cebu City and then travelled 4 hours by boat to Talibon City harbour. It's a small city in Bohol province. We stayed there in a hotel, because Noemi's parents have a very small house and about 10 children still living at home.

We had made invitations and collected sponsors, flower girls, maid of honour, bestman, etc. I was surprised by how many people were involved. Her parents had arranged a party and the church wedding time. Our wedding time in San Agustin small church was Saturday, October 7 at 7 in the morning! Of course, it was very exciting for us. I was excited too; how I can survive in that climate? It was about 30 degrees that morning and very moist after a rainy period in the country. The Catholic ceremony in the church was very beautiful. Noemi's parents came to church with her and her cousins were acting as my parents because both of my parents are dead.

After church blessing we had reception party in San Agustin small village. We had invited only about 30 people but we got guests numbering about 300 . . . maybe 500. Nobody knows! It's a local tradition in the Philippines

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Kari Maukonen, Pertti Pohjolainen and Martta Rantanen continue to collect material for books about *Maukonens* involved in the arts. Kari is responsible for paintings and other "hand art." Martta gathers poems, stories, and books written by *Maukonens*. Pertti maintains a collection of the music. If you are involved in the arts or know of any *Maukonens* who are artists, please contact the people named below.

art and handwork – Kari Maukonen: kari.maukonen@saunalahti.fi
poems, stories, books – Martta Rantanen: Sysmäntie 9, 19600 Hartola, Finland
music and recordings – Pertti Pohjolainen: pertti.pohjolainen@elisa.fi

Hannele and Matti collect information to update the family books.
Hannele Maukonen: Pellavakaski 12D, 02340 Espoo, Finland
Matti Mäkeläs: Kattelus 150, 10360 Mustio, Finland

The next Maukonen Family Meeting is in Rautalampi in August 2009.



brothers Kari and Esa Maukonen

from information provided by
Kari Maukonen, Seinäjoki, Finland

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for people to come without an invitation. But, fortunately, we had bought three pigs and many vegetables and soft drinks and some of guests also wanted "Kulafu," a local wine.

The party was so beautiful. After eating and having some wedding cake, we danced a waltz in the garden dancing tent. Then I wanted to sing to my wife. It was silent when I first sang in English "My Bonnie is over the Ocean" (because that was true) and then I sang in Finnish "Sua vain yli kaiken mä rakastan" (it means, "I love you more than everything").

Then Noemi's father and some other people were speaking to us and we also spoke to guests. Music there was *karaoke* style, not a live orchestra. Of course, later many of the guests danced.

The next day, we took a flight back to Manila. Before the wedding we had a bad typhoon in the Philippines and it came also to our home area in Bacoor. But, fortunately, our home was in safe place between other houses protected from the strongest winds. When we looked out our window, trees and much else was flying skyward from our neighbours' gardens. It was a really exciting experience. After that storm, electricity was off for about three days and nights (for one week in some places in Manila) and also water delivery was a big problem to millions of people. One good side of that, it was very romantic to sit in candle light in that darkness. But seriously, that storm killed almost 100 people in the Manila area and maybe hundreds in the Philippines. I don't know the amount. Somebody has spoken of 1000 casualties. God bless the people who suffered there.

Otherwise, my trip was nice and meaningful. Maybe it's a little cold by comparison to come back now. When I left Finland, it was more than +20°C. We have the first snow just now in the middle of October.

I tried to search in local phone books to see if there are any Maukonens in the Philippines. I didn't find Maukonens, but some with similar names (maybe changed?). But on the Internet, I found a couple of Maukonens who have links to the Philippines. If somebody knows about Filipino Maukonens, please tell me. Naturally, I'm very interested.

My wife, Noemi Maukonen, wants to send warmest regards to every Maukonen in the world."

From Kari Maukonen, in Seinäjoki, Finland, dated October 21, 2006

Postscript sent by Kari dated December 3 – "I'm very happy. Noemi's residence permit has been granted and she comes to Finland on December 11!"