

Finlandia Foundation® National



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FFN Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Kath Usitalo, Media Consultant

With beautiful cello music by Pauliina Haustein drifting through the crowd, some 180 friends of Finlandia Foundation National mingled and chatted at a reception prior to the organization's 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner & Concert on Saturday, March 23, at The Westin Pasadena.

The program, emceed by Marvin Suomi, began with the Finnish and U.S. National Anthems and invocation by Pastor Jarmo Tarkki.

Her Excellency Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of Finland to the United States, was the keynote speaker for the evening. She commended the nine FFN founders who had the foresight in 1953 to establish an organization with the goal of strengthening connections to Finland's history and traditions as generations of Finnish-Americans became distanced from their ancestral ties. She cited the current roster of 45 member FFN chapters across the U.S., and stated that with 750,000 people of Finnish-American descent the two countries are "connected politically, historically and culturally."

"Finland is a competitive, innovative and interesting country," said Koukku-Ronde, and noted that it is surprising that, "such a modest and relatively poor country could be a leader in so many ways." She encouraged chapters to continue programs such as language classes and events like Pikkujoulu to "keep Finnish culture alive and make people aware of their roots." Her invitation to the audience to "friend" Finland on Facebook garnered chuckles from the audience.

The program included remarks by Ville Itälä, chairman of Suomi-Seura/Finland Society and Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, and comments from Gary London, president of the FFN Seattle Chapter. In addition there were messages from representatives of the programs supported by FFN: Judy Gervais, who explained how a grant benefited the Portland State University Finland Room; Hilary Virtanen, who has received FFN scholarships; Sierra Kautiainen, who attended Soiva International Music Camp; and Nadia Lin, who attended Salolampi Language Camp.

Jon Saari, FFN trustee and author of the organization's history book, gave a brief historical overview, and FFN Trustee and Executive Vice President Paul O. Halme, whose father, the late Rev. Omar G. Halme was a founder of FFN, shared anecdotes about how his parents pulled



him into "Finnishness." FFN Past President and Trustee Emeritus John Laine said that he sees America not as a melting pot but a mosaic in which Finland is a blue tile. "Keep that blue tile shining," he said. "Please keep that blue tile sparkling."

"Knowing one's heritage is invaluable," said outgoing FFN President Anita Häkkinen Smiley. "We are celebrating not only our history but our glowing future." Her successor Ossi Rahkonen recognized and thanked Smiley for her accomplishments in office. Rahkonen, who chaired the Gala event, commented on the many programs supported by FFN in its

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CELEBRATE FINLANDIA FOUNDATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor for me to serve the larger Finlandia Foundation community as the incoming FFN President, elected on March 23, the date of FFN's Anniversary Gala.

My immediate predecessors, Anita Häkkinen Smiley and John Laine, have done a great job in doubling the number of FF Chapters to 45 at the end of 2012, during the ten years I served as a Trustee. Their connections with the chapters and work with the larger Finnish American community is a hard act to follow, but I will do my best.

We will continue to serve the Finlandia Foundation community, but it is important to create an increased awareness among the wider community, including Finland, about the great work FFN has been doing as the most important private dispenser of grants and scholarships and support of special programs (Lecturer and Performer of the Year, Soiva Music and Salolampi Language Camps) in Finnish America. This year's summary of grants and scholarships provided in the newsletter demonstrates the talent we are supporting. We are continuing our fundraising activities with increased vigor as we are able to fund only a fraction of qualified requests.

Fundraising has been close to my heart over the past 10 years I have served on the FFN Board. It is also essential to enable us to continue our grant making activities, as we do not receive any support from public sources – all grants and scholarships are privately funded.

And there is a great need to expand our fundraising capabilities. For instance, the amount we have available for scholarships has not increased over a longer period of time, although the costs of higher learning have at the same time increased dramatically in the U.S.

You will therefore see frequent references to fundraising in this newsletter and elsewhere in our publications. I want every one of you to become sensitized to this need and become a fundraiser in your own circle of friends.

The well-attended 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Concert on March 23 (and the LOY lecture on March 22) were demonstrations of the activities FFN has been supporting. We could only include one representative of each category: Portland State University Suomi Room for grants, Hilary Virtanen with three scholarships and two research grants representing scholarship recipients and two students who had graduated from the Soiva and Salolampi Language Camps.

The concert following the gala dinner was a demonstration of the Performer of the Year (POY) program with two very talented performers: Maria Mannisto, soprano, POY 2007 and Marja Kaisla, concert pianist, POY 2013.

As the 2012 representative of the Lecturer of the Year (LOY) program, Glenda Dawn Goss had presented her lecture "Sibelius and National Awakening" on the previous night at the Pasadena Museum of History, where FFN was founded in 1953.

Judging from the feedback we have been receiving, the 60th Anniversary celebration in Pasadena was a resounding success. The keynote speaker at the gala, H.E. Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde encouraged us to work together in fostering common goals in making Finland better known in United States. Mr. Ville Itälä, Chairman of Suomi-Seura/Finland Society, FFN's counterpart organization in Finland and the Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, brought greetings from Finland and outlined initiatives of importance to the Finnish American community.

FFN will be visible again at the 2013 Finnfest in Hancock, MI, by organizing a reception in addition to its traditional booth.

Ossi Rahkonen, FFN President

MISSION

Our mission is to sustain both Finnish-American culture in the USA and the ancestral tie with Finland by raising funds for grants and scholarships, initiating innovative national programs, and networking with local chapters.

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TWO NEW TRUSTEES

Betsey Norgard

Betsey Norgard has lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the past 30 years, where she has been active in the Finnish community. She was a founding member and served as president of the Twin Cities Finlandia Foundation Chapter, as well as working with the Minneapolis-Kuopio Sister City Partnership and the Twin Cities Finnish Network. She danced with the Kisarit Folkdancers and played in the Koivun Kaiku kantele ensemble, traveling to Finland with them for the Kaustinen Folk Festival.

Norgard was born in Brooklyn, New York, where her mother's family settled after immigrating from the Åland Islands. She grew up in upstate New York and moved to Minnesota to study Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the University of Minnesota. While there she taught Swedish as a TA and studied Finnish. In 1984-85, she spent the year as an ASLA Fulbright student in Turku and Åland, while studying literature at Åbo Akademi. Earlier, she had been selected by

the Ministry of Education for a summer seminar, *Svenskt i Finland*, that explored the culture and language of Swedish Finland. Recently, she became a Finnish citizen and now has dual citizenship.

Before she recently became a freelance writer and editor, Norgard spent nearly 20 years at Augsburg College in Minneapolis as director of publications and editor of the college magazine. Her undergraduate study was at the School of International Service at American University, and she received an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Indiana University, following a year of teaching English in Brazil.

For two years, Betsey and her husband, Alan, co-hosted a monthly radio program presenting Finnish folk music, from a community radio station on Minnesota's Iron Range. They recently moved to that area and settled on a portion of his grandfather's farm, nearly a century old, in a township settled by Finns.



Betsey Norgard

Hanna Wagner

Hanna was born and raised in the Helsinki area. In the early '80s she married her husband, a diplomat in the U.S. State Department. His job took the family to several posts located in Latin America, Europe, Africa and of course home to Washington, D.C. Every place she lived had a Finnish Club, a school or a "coffee circle" that made it possible to keep in touch with Finns and things Finnish. In 2008, after her

husband's retirement, she settled in Washington where she has been teaching Finnish, working as a free-lance interpreter, and has been active in local Finnish organizations. From 2010 to 2012 she was the President of Finn Spark, Inc., a Washington area Finnish association that celebrates its 65th anniversary next year. Hanna and her husband David have two grown sons.



Hanna Wagner

Remembering Armi Koskinen Nelson

By John Laine, Emeritus

If you are reading this I certainly hope that you were one of the fortunate ones, like me, who had the chance to spend some time with Armi. Many of us within the Finnish American culture came into contact with her through our connections with the Finlandia Foundation National or Salolampi. To say that she had great dedication to each of those organizations is to woefully understate her work. As the editor of both newsletters she told our story professionally and with great precision.

It would be a vast understatement to say that her efforts were limited to these newsletters, as good as they were with her leadership. She had a drive that would be hard to imagine but coupled it with a sly sense of humor and a candor that she shared with all of us when she felt we were off-track in our thinking. Each of us likely has only a handful of people we meet in our lives that have lasting impact upon us. For me, Armi was one of those people.

I had the good fortune to be her chauffeur on several road trips to FinnFests and other

gatherings. We had time to talk while traveling and eating our meals and those were great experiences for me. We talked about everything from grandkids to politics to you name it. I treasure a coffee mug that I bought at the Blue Bear Café in Moose Lake, MN, where we shared a meal. I still have coffee with Armi about once a week and while it's a pale substitute for the real thing, it helps me to remember our trips with a smile.

Towards the end of her life she had battles with her body as her health started to fail, but those battles very rarely limited her will to get things done and to keep working on issues of importance to her. She pushed through things that would make you wince because you knew her diminished physical strength was causing her problems. But she soldiered on continuing to do as much as she could (and probably more). I will carry her memory with me each day. I certainly hope that you were one of the lucky ones who counted Armi as a friend. If not.... you missed someone very special.



Armi Koskinen Nelson



SOIVA CAMP BELL RINGS ON JUNE 22ND, 2013.

By Dennis M. Anderson, Trustee

The Soiva International Music Camp can benefit you! If you are a budding musician between the ages of 11 and 18 and are looking for an opportunity to experience teaching with a truly international flair, please join Soiva Camp from June 22 through the 30th. If you are a student of violin, viola, piano, flute, clarinet or are interested in composition, Soiva Camp is for you. The student registration form can be found on the Finlandia Foundation National web site www.finlandiafoundation.org. The current tuition rate is \$750 for the Soiva Camp and includes all instruction classes, facilities use, meals and lodging in single gender dormitory rooms which includes linens, towels and bedding. Students are under adult supervision by Soiva coordinators, the instructors or college counselors at all times.

Soiva International Music Camp is a program of the Finlandia Foundation National in cooperation with Concordia College of Moorhead, MN. Since its founding in 2008 the goal of the Soiva program has been to bring together instructors and students from the U.S. and Finland to share innovative and creative Finnish music education principles and to experience the benefits of this cultural exchange with Concordia faculty. At the time of this writing we have 11 students and three faculty committed to attend Soiva Camp from Finland. Finlandia Foundation National is celebrating its 60th year in 2013 and is proud of its association with its First Patron, composer Jean Sibelius and current Patron, Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Philharmonic Orchestra in London, England, Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Students will have an opportunity to perform at the Scandinavian Festival in Moorhead on June 27 and 28 with a final student concert web cast on Sunday, June 30 at 1:00 P.M. Central Daylight Time. Scholarship and some travel grant funds are still available on a first come, first serve basis by calling Dennis Anderson, Soiva Committee Chair, at 218-251-0164 or email soivaatcord@yahoo.com Tervetuloa (Welcome) to Soiva Camp!

ON BOARD KALMAR NYCKEL

By Miina Sillanpää
Intern, Communications and Public Affairs
Embassy of Finland

Today, large portions of the Finnish-American population live in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The first Finns to the New World, however, were the Finns and Swedes first established themselves in Philadelphia in 1639. The celebration of the first Finnish and Swedish settlers in Philadelphia was held by the Finnish Speaker of Parliament and the Swedish royal family on June 15 at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia.

Many Americans know the story of Englishman William Penn's arrival in Pennsylvania. However, the little known fact is that already in 1639, the same coast and established a permanent colony together.

At that time, the Dutchman Peter Minuit was the commander of the Dutch claim in the New World through a purchase of land from the Native Americans. He came to explore the new continent. The expedition set out in 1609. The crossing of the Atlantic took three months, and it was not until June 1609 that they reached the coast of the present-day Wilmington.

According to some historical sources, the exact arrival date of the Dutch Commander Peter Minuit went ashore to negotiate a trade agreement for land from Duck Creek to the Skuykill from the Native Americans. At that time, Finland was still under Swedish rule, and many of the settlers continued their journey to America.

The newcomers set to work building a trading post in the area. The trading post in Wilmington continues to carry the name of the Dutch. Migrating, the Finns and Swedes who arrived in the present-day Philadelphia successful colony. Historically, the Finns and Swedes have

Long-awaited Jubilee Day in May

A group of people and organizations, who still cherish the history, are in charge of the arrangements of the anniversary celebrations. They have cooperated with the Finnish and Swedish Embassies



375 YEARS LATER

...ion live in the northernmost parts of Michigan, Minnesota, ...
...ever, landed farther south. In fact, the joint colony of ...
...esent-day Wilmington, Delaware. The 375th anniversary ...
...America will be on Saturday, May 11, and the event brings ...
...alty to the area. The celebration continues on Saturday, June

...m Penn, who arrived in 1682 in what is today, ...
...eady 44 years earlier, in 1638, the first Finns arrived on the ...
...er with the Swedes.

...mander of the expedition that was to establish Sweden's ...
...m the Indians. His crew consisted of Finns and Swedes who ...
...sail with two tall ships, Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip. The ...
...spring before the ships sailed into the Delaware River and

...date is March 28, 1638, which is also the day when ...
...reaty with the Indians. The next day Minuit purchased the ...
...Americans, and they named the land New Sweden. At that ...
...f the Finns onboard had first moved to Sweden and then

...the area they named after Queen Christina of Sweden. This ...
...ne of Fort Christina Park today. Whatever the motives for ...
...esent-day Delaware liked what they found and established a ...
...ad good relations with the Native Americans in the area.

...the Finnish and Swedish heritage in the region, are in ...
...ions. Finnish and Swedish organizations based in the area ...
...ies to set the table for the 375th anniversary Jubilee Day on

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SAMI CULTURAL CENTER OF NORTH AMERICA

By Marlene Wisuri, Chair

DULUTH, MINNESOTA: The dream of having a location for the study of Sami culture, history, and as a gathering place for community is closer as the Sami Cultural Center of North America, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, begins negotiations for the purchase of property on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The Center is working with award-winning architect David Salmela on plans for a Sami-inspired building to house the Center. The mission of the Sami Cultural Center is to foster an awareness of the Sami culture through education, communication, research and the arts; to facilitate connections between the descendants of Sami immigrants to North America and their relatives in the Nordic countries; and to foster mutually supportive relationships with other Indigenous and environmental organizations.

The Center, along with *Báiki: The International Sami Journal*, produced the exhibit *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska*, which is on display at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, through November 9, 2013.

The exhibit honors the Sami families who came from Norway, and included some Finnish Sami, in 1894 and 1898 to teach reindeer husbandry to the native Inupiaq and Yup'ik people of Western Alaska. The exhibit includes historic photographs, family stories, duodji (useful items made beautiful), traditional clothing, and a full-sized and furnished lavvu, a traditional Sami dwelling. The Center has also produced an exhibit catalog, which is available for purchase.

For more information about work of the Sami Cultural Center or the Center's capital campaign Akanidi, contact board chair Marlene Wisuri at mwisuri@cpinternet.com or (218) 525-3924.

Grants, they're all about stories and connections!

Jon Saari, Trustee

The core mission of Finlandia Foundation National is to sustain Finnish America and the tie with Finland through grants and scholarships. But what does “sustain” really mean? It seems to come down to enabling story-telling: the stories themselves created in different media; the places where they are gathered, stored, and told; and the means by which they circulate to readers and listeners. **Most of the 35 grants awarded in 2013, totaling \$70,000, can be illuminated by this story-telling framework; the remainder tell us more about Finland as a challenge to our sense of Finnishness in the USA.**

Stories created

Marion Kyrola Hedenberg was awarded a grant to help publish her third-generation descendant memoir. A retired teacher from Northern Minnesota, she tells the family story with insight, documenting more than her personal life. Her book will become part of the regional culture.

Grant recipient **Lynette Reini-Grandell**, on the other hand, had lost her family story due to the scant overlap between generations. As a third-generation descendant, she is actively searching for her Finnish-Americans roots via immersion in Salolampi and FinnFests. She considers herself a “Nordic roots artist,” expressing her legacy through music, dance, and poetry.

Connie Kampsula, a self-described Finnish-Sami American artist, has a strong sense of cultural identity. She tells stories through art projects as varied as an “art installation” of skis and hand-crafted books and fiber projects. A grant will help her to conduct research into ethnic and artistic traditions in Minnesota, to incorporate into her art books.

Two younger second-generation expatriates have very different stories to tell. Conversant in Finnish and at home in California as well as Finland, they chose film and photography to explore deeper levels of emigrating and staying put.

Minea Herwitz titled her project “**Swamp Land Dreams**,” a short film to be shot in Finland, exploring the conflicts of mobile young people uprooting themselves to go to another beckoning land, like the USA. **Jason DeBose**, an art photographer who moves easily between Pasadena, CA and Helsinki, FI, has created an exhibit called “**They Left 150 Years Ago**.” For four years he photographed in the USA and Finland, looking for ties and legacies between the “two branches of the family tree of Finland” that began separating over a century ago.

Stories recovered: biography and history

Cecilia Kettunen (1896-1992), a second-generation descendant, has become the focus of a multi-sided effort to recover her life story by **Melissa Matuscak**, the director of the **DeVos Art Museum at Northern Michigan University**. Kettunen’s journey as a modern artist and independent woman is richly documented in her 300 paintings and written journals. The grant will help restore 20 paintings damaged by improper storage in a U.P. camp.

Janna Kyllästinen, a Finnish citizen living in New York city, submitted a proposal to do a documentary film on the **cooperative housing pioneered by Finnish immigrants** in the city, and indeed the USA.

Named **Alku (Beginning)** after the first apartment complex, the film will explore this path-breaking activity through interviews and archival material. It will be marketed in Finland and the USA as a DVD.

James Leary, a professor of folklore and Scandinavian studies at the **University of Wisconsin – Madison**, is helping produce a short film on the folklorist **Alan Lomax**. Lomax traveled through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1938 recording folk musicians, many of them Finnish immigrants. Long forgotten by researchers and the public, Leary’s work restores and contextualizes Lomax’s recordings and will make them available as part of his own massive work on the folksongs of the Upper Midwest.

In many cases, history is beyond recovery. Buildings decay, death and dementia seal lips, letters and artifacts are lost and forgotten. Occasionally the unexpected occurs. **On the Cuyuna iron range in Minnesota, an old workers’ hall, built in 1916**, sold in 1952 and then abandoned, has become available through tax delinquency. A community non-profit is acquiring, restoring, and preserving the old building as a culture and heritage center. The grant is for the amount of tax delinquency.

Stories gathered, stored, and made available

Cultural centers and historical societies are hotbeds for generating and preserving stories. For 20 years the Sami connection to immigration history has been discussed in FinnFests and journals; now the founding of a **Sami Cultural Center of North America is taking concrete shape near Duluth as a physical building with library, archives, and classroom space**. The grant will facilitate web site development and archival storage materials.

The Baraga County Historical Society (U.P. of Michigan) will receive a grant to help catalog their museum collections, much of which has been locatable only through volunteers’ memories. The collections reflect immigrant activities in this area of heavy Finnish settlement, from the Aho and Murtomaki dairies to the Ruona sawmill.

Eric T. Jaakkola has been a one-man cultural resource for Finnish America, having produced 206 half-hour TV shows for community cable public access channels in Minnesota. He and his wife will be camcording at FinnFest in the Copper Country in June to keep on pace with 52 shows in 2013. The grant will help towards his expenses.

The Carnegie Museum of the Keweenaw in Houghton, MI is producing an interpretive guide to rural Finnish buildings and landscapes in the Copper Country. The guide, being written by Arnold Alanen (Lecturer of the Year 2009/2010), accompanies an exhibit of photos by Ryan Holt. Exhibit, guide, and a tour will be available for FinnFest visitors in June, 2013.

Stories memorialized in events, exhibitions, and sculptures

The highest ranked grant was for the **375th Anniversary of the founding of the New Sweden colony in Delaware in 1638**. The event will be celebrated throughout 2013 in multiple ways, with international dignitaries attending. **This event is of national significance for Finnish America because since 1938 Finland, separate from Sweden, has been recognized as one of the Founding Nations of the United States**. Finnish-speaking immigrants formed a significant portion of the New Sweden colony, and were not latecomers to the American story.

The celebrated Finnish-American architect, Eero Saarinen, has had his reputation embellished in recent years. An exhibition entitled “**Eero**

Saarinen: A Reputation for Innovation,” will be shown this spring at the **Museum of Design Atlanta**, highlighting some lesser known aspects of his life story and work. The grant is for partnering a “design conversation” to accompany the exhibition and deepen its impact.

The Finnish Heritage Museum of Fairport Harbor, OH, now over ten years old, is seeking support for a large aluminum sculpture that will grace the building grounds and beckon people to come again and again. Created by the Finnish-American sculptor Ken Valimaki, the **“Spirit of Finland”** sculpture has leaf-like S-shaped extensions rising from a base; **the base has an arch reminiscent of Eero Saarinen’s St. Louis arch.**

The sculpture is to suggest the collective spirit of the Finnish immigrant ancestors: Suomi, Sauna, Sisu, Sibelius, and Swan (national bird of Finland).

The Finnish American Heritage Center of Finlandia University possesses busts of three notable Finns, i.e. Jean Sibelius, Elias Lönnrot, and Martta Kähme. They received a grant to help make customized wooden pedestals for the three busts, to be able to display them prominently in one place. The Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock, MI, applied for a grant to create a unique, hand-carved traditional Midsummer pole for inaugural use during FinnFest USA 2013. The pole would become a permanent addition to the traditional heritage items at the Center.

Stories celebrated at festivals

Many of the grants awarded in 2013 have a connection, direct or indirect, to FinnFest USA 2013 in the Copper Country. This is similar to past FinnFests where FFN has been a major sponsor, either through a block grant or multiple grants, to festival programming.

Sponsorship of the Opening Ceremony at the Rozsa Center in Houghton will be the most visible FFN contribution to festival programming. **The Opening Ceremony mixes music and performance to give a foretaste of all the important themes of FinnFest.** It will be produced by the veteran Finnish stage actor, musician, and storyteller Heikki Mäenpää,, best known for his role as Snufkin in the Moomins performance ensemble.

Grant support for lecturers from abroad will strengthen two important themes of this FinnFest. **Kai Rosnell is Secretary of the Association for Finnish War Children in Sweden.** He will help make the predicaments of war children from Finland in WWII better known to American audiences, through his experience in arranging hundreds of reunions. **Ilja Koivisto comes to FinnFest from the Hunting Museum of Finland**, where he is Head of Public Relations and Communications. He has also researched hunting and trapping traditions of Finnish Americans in the Lake Superior region. His lectures will compare and contrast these hunting traditions, and guide visitors through an exhibit of hunting artifacts and photos that he is bringing with him from Finland.

Two legendary music groups coming to perform at FinnFest USA 2013 have long inspired stories about their music-making. **Ameriikan Poijat, a renowned brass septet, will celebrate its 24th season in part by acting as a Pied Piper for FinnFest.** The group will spend five days in June doing concerts and dances across Minnesota and the U.P. and then five days at various FinnFest events. The grant will subsidize their pre-FinnFest travel.

The Sattuma Karelian Folk Band hails from Petrozavodsk in the Republic of Karelia, NW Russia. A family folk music group with a huge international following, the summer 2013 tour will take them

to Hancock first for FinnFest, and then by van to southern Michigan, New York, and New England, giving concerts along the way. Visa requirements for international performing groups are stiff, and the grant will help with those and other travel expenses.

Maintaining the cultural engagement with young people

Musical performances inspire, but first you need instruments and trained musicians. **The “Suomalaiset Jouset” kantele group in Maine has developed a strategy to engage young people with kantele playing through after-school enrichment programs in five community school districts.** Their grant was about purchasing 11-string kanteles to set up a mentoring program between Suomalaiset Jouset and school children, aged 10-17.

Salolampi and suomi koulus are similarly needed for engaging young people in the Finnish language in North America. The camp experience can be the beginning of a longer ethnic journey, even for adults. A grant will enable a **Mini-Salolampi Sampler at FinnFest USA 2013.**

Sustaining ties with Finland: Always renewing the sense of Finnishness

If sustaining Finnish America is about creating, keeping, circulating, and celebrating stories that connect Finnish Americans with one another, the tie with Finland brings surprises and new impulses into what Finnishness is all about. Finnish Americans may be viewed as “ambassadors of Finland” in some circles, but the messages from Finland can be baffling as well as enlightening. Ten grant recipients are forming links with Finland that lead us into new territory.

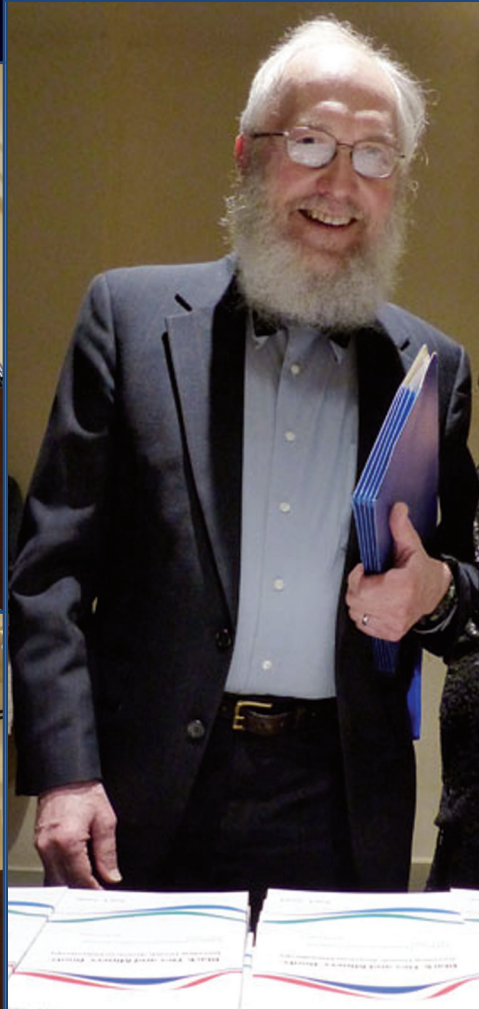
The tastes of Finnish food? **The Finnish Center Association in Farmington Hills, MI** is planning a food-centered program with a new twist. They want to bring an authentic Finnish Chef from Finland, who will prepare “the best of the best of Finnish cuisine.” What will he or she add to the traditional Finnish-American sense of Finnish foods? The grant will help enable this experiment in **“The Taste of Finland.”**

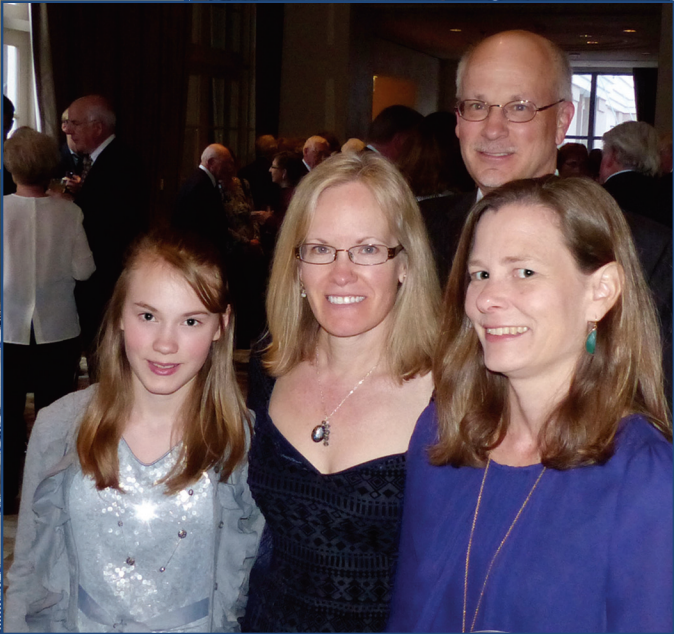
And the sounds of Sibelius? Christa Saeger, a graduate student and cellist at the University of Minnesota, is doing a doctoral thesis on **“the unknown and rarely performed works for cello by Jean Sibelius.”** The mainstream Sibelius repertoire is limiting, she says, and needs augmentation of solo and chamber music works by the iconic Finnish composer. Research in Finland and performances in Minneapolis will allow her to challenge our ears and minds about Finnish music.

And the sounds of Finnish brass music? US coastal cities have often been on the cutting edge of introducing Finnish music to America. **The Scandinavian Music Festival in northern Manhattan**, in a park above the Hudson River, will feature in June, **US premieres of five Finnish composers, performed by the Scandia Brass Quintet.** They range from folk tunes to suites for brass to psalms.

And Finnish song literature? Not well known and accessible to American singers. **Mimmi Fulmer, professor of voice at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, wants to change this by bringing three Sibelius Academy faculty to Madison for an intense five-day residency of classes, workshops, and performances.** The grant will assist her in this role of promoting Finnish song literature in the USA.

And the 2012 POY Maria Kizirian? The pop music singer broke barriers last year, including her unique version of Finlandia by Sibelius. When the **House of Finland in San Diego had to plan a two-hour showcase of Finland for an International Lawn Program**, they chose Finland-born violinist Meri Englund, the local Katirilli Folk Dance





FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2013

By Saana McDaniel, Scholarship Committee Member

SOPHIA ALBOV is a student at University of Montana where she is pursuing her graduate degree in Geography with a 4.00 GPA. For her research project, she examines the role of geographical factors and EU policy and benchmarks placed on organic production. For this purpose she has chosen Finland as the ideal place to investigate emerging organic farming in the northern latitudes. Professor David Shively writes: "Sophia was a top applicant to our graduate program."



SOPHIA ALBOV



ELLEN HARJU



SOPHIE KNOWLES

SAMANTHA ALLEN is a graduate student in a Masters of Arts in History program at Florida International University with a 3.58 GPA. She has a strong Finnish background through her Finnish-born mother. Although she is a fulltime student, she works with the Red Cross's service to the Armed Forces Division assisting military members and their families. Professor Victor M. Uribe-Uran writes: "Ms. Allen is a dedicated and serious student, able to excel on her academic work at the same time that she is busy reaching out to the community."



SAMANTHA ALLEN



HEIDI HIRVONEN



HENNA KOSKI

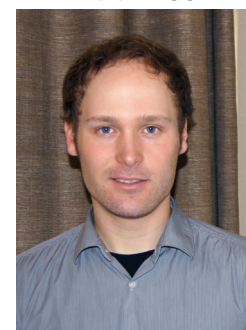
MIA BERGSTROM, a New York University undergraduate student in her second year majoring in Fine Arts with a 3.38 GPA. It has always been her dream to have a career in musical theatre. Professor Paul Whitthorne describes her the following way: "She is always supportive of her peers and works hard to apply all the new techniques presented to her."



MIA BERGSTROM



ALEXA JUSTICE

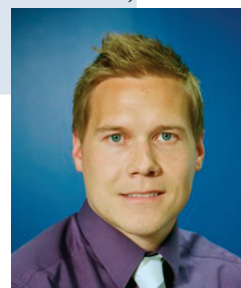


MARKUS LEIVO

ELIZABETH BAUER is currently enrolled at Gustavus Adolphus College with a 3.83 GPA. Her plan is to study at the University of Oulu in Finland to earn her Master's degree in Education. She has an extensive Finnish background and has attended Salolampi camp, where she has attained an advanced level fluency in Finnish. Professor Kjerstin Moody writes: "I have never encountered a student as self-motivated, hardworking, personable, kind, and utterly engaged by what she is learning as Elizabeth. She is exceptional."



ELIZABETH BAUER



TUOMO KALLIO



COREY L'ESPERANCE

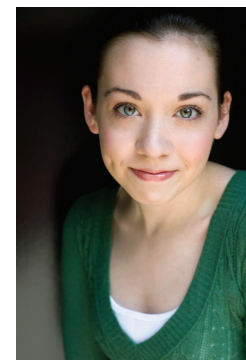
PASI ERONEN attends Georgetown University where he is enrolled in the Security Studies graduate program. He has vast work experiences in international settings including Tanzania, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. Professor Elizabeth A. Stanley writes: "Pasi is perfectly poised for your scholarship, because he is actively serving as a living cultural bridge between Finland and United States. I expect Pasi will have a stellar career trajectory."



PASI ERONEN



JOONAS KARJALAINEN



SOFIA LIZZA

ELLEN HARJU is in the Geochemistry Ph.D. program at the University of California, Los Angeles. This highly awarded scientist has found time to serve as the President of the Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation for the second year in a row. Professor Kevind D. McKeegan writes: "Ellen is on her way to a successful career in science."

HEIDI HIRVONEN is a second-year undergraduate at Wesleyan University where she is double majoring in Government and English with a 3.82 GPA. This California native has Finnish born parents, and is looking forward to having a summer internship in Finland. Professor Abdessahman Aissa writes: "I have nothing but utter praise and admiration for this student, her academic capabilities, her social skills and her involvement in extra-curricular activities."

ALEXA JUSTICE, a Masters student at Indiana University with a 4.0 GPA is researching the growth of Finnish nationalism and ethnic identity prior to independence. She is a member of the Finger Lakes Finns in New York. Professor Mikko Taurama writes: "Alexa's coursework in Finnish has been marked by a particular enthusiasm, complemented well by her diligence and positive attitude."



ANNAMARI MAARANEN



ANNE PESSALA



MIKKO TUOMELA

TUOMO KALLIO is a Finnish native pursuing his MBA at the Eli Broad Graduate School of Management at Michigan State University with a 3.643 GPA. He is focusing on Supply Chain Management as his concentration. Professor Judith M. Whipple: “Tuomo is a serious student who has had significant previous work experience.”

JOONAS KARJALAINEN, a Johns Hopkins University junior is majoring in Environmental Engineering. He has been able to achieve a 3.87 GPA while playing tennis in the varsity tennis team and actively participating in a Hopkins sustainability initiative. His academic advisor Professor Peter Wilcock writes: “I have every confidence that he will succeed in achieving a first-rank education and put this to work improving the world!”



RISTO MARTTINEN



ELINA SALMINEN



HANNA VASTINSALO

SOPHIE KNOWLES is a US citizen currently enrolled in University of Oulu’s Education and Globalization Program where she is pursuing her Master’s degree. This New York City public school mathematics teacher wanted to study in Finland in order to make her students eventually more successful. Professor Scott Spector writes: “Sophie Knowles is a unique person and gifted educator. Her passion for the betterment of the education of children in the United States will return her with the newfound knowledge and experience to influence positive change.”



CHRISTINA MISHICA



LAURA SUNBLAD



JULIA VIHERLAHTI

HENNA KOSKI, a junior at Georgia State University, is majoring in Political Science with a concentration in International Affairs with a 3.96 GPA. She is a Finnish citizen who is a member of the Atlanta Finland Society, and volunteers to teach at the local Finnish School every other Saturday. Christopher L Brown writes: “Henna is an extremely bright, personable, and inquisitive person to whom I give my highest recommendation.”

MARKUS LEIVO studies at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, majoring in Voice and has a 3.60 GPA. Professor Patricia Craig writes: “He posses a beautiful lyric tenor voice which he uses with great musicality and warmth. Markus has a bright singing future ahead of him and any investment in him now will be very worthwhile.”



BRITTANY OSACHUK



SILVIA TAMMINEN

COREY JUSSILA L’ESPERANCE is a US citizen enrolled in Aalto University for the Masters program of Creative Business Management. His thesis work will focus on the growth of Finnish-American Film and Television. Professor Marjo Mäenpää writes: “His position – as a US student in Finland – gives Corey L’Esperance outstanding possibilities to look beyond the cultural codes and produce new cognizance of the use and production of media.”

SOFIA LIZZA, a sophomore at New York University majoring in French has a 3.78 GPA. She is working on a minor on Global Visual Art and for that purpose will be attending Helsinki University this summer. Professor Brendan Hogan writes: “She is an excellent student, displays leadership qualities, and is delightfully inquisitive. She is dedicated to learning Finnish and would be a worthy recipient of your support.”



JORDAN PAAVOLA



ERICA TUKIAINEN

ANNAMARI MAARANEN-HINCKS is attending Springfield College, where she is a first year student in the athletic counseling program with a 4.0 GPA. She has a long career as a gymnast and received her bachelor’s degree at the Univerisity of Colorado with an athletic scholarship. While in Colorado, she volunteered at the local Finnish School. Professor Judy L. Van Raalte writes: “Her ability to think about problems in a systematic manner and her willingness to volunteer to help others are qualities that make her outstanding.”

RISTO MARTTINEN is in the Doctorate program at Teachers College, Columbia University. His dissertation will focus on examining student attitudes in physical education in several different countries including Finland. Professor Stephen Silverman writes: “He is a model for how a doctoral student should approach his or her education. Risto is directed, hard-working, and dependable.”

PERFORMER OF THE YEAR 2014

Finlandia Foundation National (FFN)

welcomes nominations for the
2014 Performer of the Year.

The due date for nominations and
submission of all materials is
September 14, 2013.

The POY 2014 term is a full calendar year
starting on January 1, 2014.

The POY Guideline Summary and instructions for
the applications are listed on the FFN website:
www.finlandiafoundation.org

The POY Travel Grant is \$7,000 to cover
the POY's travel expenses as stated
in the POY Guidelines Summary
for performances within the United States.

For further information, contact Satu Mikkola,
POY Coordinator, at satum@aol.com

375th Anniversary continued from page 5

Saturday, May 11 and a celebration at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia
on Saturday, June 15.

At the May Jubilee Day, the Speaker of Parliament Eero Heinäluoma
and his spouse Satu Siitonen-Heinäluoma will represent Finland.
The Swedish royalty will attend with the King of Sweden, H.M. Carl
XVI Gustaf, and Queen Silvia honoring this special occasion.
The Jubilee Day will start with a seminar in Philadelphia presenting
modern Finland and Sweden in the U.S. today. While respecting
the history, they will present what these countries have achieved
during the past centuries: safe and prosperous nations with
excellent education systems and high-tech knowhow. All the Nordic
neighbors have a reason to be proud of the region's topping in global
surveys on good business environments, best places to live in, most
stable countries, and least corrupt nations. The CEO of Finnish
design company Artek, Mirkku Kullberg, will be one of the Finnish
speakers.

The festivities continue with visits to several historically important
sites in the region: the Finnish Monument in Chester, and in
Wilmington the Old Swedish Church and the beautiful Fort
Christina Park, which is located on the spot where the landing
took place. An important part of the day is also a sailing trip on the
replica of the Kalmar Nyckel tall ship.

The day of celebration ends with a dinner gala in Wilmington's
Chase Center. This black-tie event includes receptions, Scandinavian
dinner, and entertainment. The Nordic Royalty and Dignitaries will
attend, as well as the Governor Jack Markell and the U.S. Senators
Thomas Carper and Chris Coons. In addition, the Vice President
of the United States Joe Biden has been invited to attend the gala in
Wilmington, which is also Vice President's hometown.

Everybody is most welcome to join the celebrations: the Jubilee
Symposium in Philadelphia, the ceremony at the Finnish Monument
in Chester, and several events in Wilmington are all open to the
public. Also, don't miss the events at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia
on Saturday, June 15, with Finnish-Swedish music, food, and
performances. You will find more information about the celebration
and events on the www.375th.org website.

60th Anniversary Gala continued from cover

mission to celebrate and strengthen Finnish-American culture in the U.S.
He noted how those efforts were represented in that evening's speakers
and musical program and the weekend's events. The festivities began with
the Friday evening presentation of "Sibelius and Finland's Awakening" by
FFN Lecturer of the Year Glenda Dawn Goss at the Pasadena Museum of
History. They continued at the museum on Saturday with complimentary
tours of the birthplace of the FFN, Fenyes Mansion (the home of Leonora
and Finnish Consul Yrjö Paloheimo and the sauna house, which serves as
the Finnish Folk Art Museum.

Following Saturday evening's program FFN Performers of the Year
soprano Maria Mannisto (2007) and pianist Marja Kaisla (2013)
presented a concert. Their performances were topped off by popular
Finnish crooner Eino Grön, who surprised the audience with a song to
conclude the evening.

FFN thanks and recognizes the many members of the Los Angeles
Finlandia Foundation Chapter who volunteered to assist in preparation
and hosting of the weekend activities. The festivities were planned by
FFN Trustees Ossi Rahkonen and Satu Mikkola, aided by FFN Executive
Assistant Christina Lin.

Grants continued from page 7

Group, and Finland-born Maria Kizirian to add something new, different,
and exciting. So is Finnishness constantly being redefined.

And the world of Finnish feature films? **The Nordic Lights Film Festival
in Minneapolis**, now in its fourth year, will feature in February 2014 two
Finnish films addressing the theme "**Steam and Ice**," or the interplay
of humans and nature. The grant will help enhance the screenings with
educational programs for youth and adults. The films allow viewers and
listeners to have "**a modern look into new sides of Nordic cultures.**"

**The avant-garde group Balagan Films of Cambridge, MA is doing a
September screening of "The Living Room of the Nation" (2009) by the
Finnish director Jukka Kärkkänen at the Brattle Theatre in Harvard
Square.** The grant is to help bring the filmmaker to Boston for a direct
conversation with the audience. The film has been described as "a small-
scale manifestation of Finnishness," with its portraits of the loneliness and
hope of people on the fringes of society.

And what directions is Finnish innovation taking? **Twenty-two
engineering students at Aalto University in Finland are taking the
course ME310 – Design Innovation**, wrestling with broad product
design challenges. The final step in the course is to present their solutions
at Stanford University's Design EXPE, along with students from other
leading universities around the world. The grant will assist with their
travel.

Two Americans will be traveling in the reverse direction, to Finland,
to bring home special insights they feel are accessible there in Finland.
**Steven Holman, an artist and metalsmith of Nordic descent, is
interested in the power of jewelry to express mythic stories;** he wants
to explore physical materials as well as historical examples of such in
museums in Finland, and ultimately create his own pieces. **Andrea
Tolonen from Portland, OR is enamored with the Green Care
movement in Finland, which is based on the premise that time and
activities in natural settings contribute to personal health and well-
being.** Her research trip will result in the sharing of what she has learned
within Finnish-American communities in the Northwest and beyond.

So indeed, grants are about sustaining story-telling within Finnish
America, and maintaining the ties with Finland that reveal ever-changing
facets of Finnishness.

GOOD TO KNOW.....

Finland's Population Register Centre develops and controls the population information. As a Finnish citizen, please remember that it is your duty to keep your personal information up to date (name and address changes, marriages, divorces, births, deaths, citizenships). This will facilitate the process in voting, military service, passport applications, crisis situations, estate matters, family tree information and other issues.

www.finland.org (services - others) and www.vaestorekisterikeskus.fi

All Finnish men are liable for military service. If you are male and turn (have turned) 18, you are expected to present yourself at the call-up to establish whether you are fit for the service or to seek exemption in case of multiple nationality. Read more on exemptions for US and Finnish dual citizens at

www.finland.org (services - others) and www.mil.fi

A person who is a citizen of both Finland and another country will automatically lose his/her Finnish citizenship at age 22 if his/her ties with Finland have not been sufficiently close. This should be established between ages 18 and 21.

www.finland.org and www.migri.fi

If you reside permanently in the US and are a US citizen (or "dual citizen"), you need to have a US passport to return to the US. As a Finnish citizen living permanently in the US, you need a Finnish passport and a permit to reside/work in the US (green card, visa).

A Finnish passport can be obtained from Finnish Consulate or Embassy abroad or at a local police station in Finland.

www.finland.org (services - passport)

A Finnish citizen is also a European Union citizen

<http://europa.eu/>

The United States Citizenship and Immigration services gives information on US citizenship, residence and visa issues at www.uscis.gov

Visit our WebPages regularly

www.finland.org

Scholarships continued from page 11

CHRISTINA MISHICA will be attending University of Jyväskylä enrolled in the Master's Degree in the Biology of Physical Activity. She is looking forward to this opportunity especially because she will be joining the local ski club. She is currently finishing her undergraduate studies at Michigan Tech with a 3.52 GPA. Professor Jason R. Carter writes: "Christina's success with our Exercise Science degree at Michigan Tech demonstrates her high intellectual capacity."

BRITTANY OSACHUK is a US citizen whose mother is a Finnish-born single mom. She is enrolled at Northeastern University where she is an International Affairs student with a 3.476 GPA. Brittany speaks fluent Finnish. Professor Victoria Papa writes: "Brittany is a student that is not simply concerned with her grades but with utilizing her education to help cultivate social justice. She is an outstanding student."

JORDAN PAAVOLA, a Chemistry major at North Carolina State University, has a goal of becoming a pharmacist. In spite of her many extracurricular activities, she has maintained a 3.784 GPA. She is a member of the Baltimore chapter of the Finlandia Foundation. Professor Levi McLaughlin writes: "Jordan exhibited the maturity, analytical skills, and high-energy work ethic that graduate school and work in industry demands."

ANNE PESSALA is pursuing a Masters degree in International Trade and Investment Policy at the George Washington University. Her GPA is 3.62. Professor Stephen F. Dachi writes: "Anne is such a very hard working and personable individual, that I can assure you she would not only continue to excel with her advanced studies but would also be a real credit to the Finlandia Foundation."

ELINA SALMINEN is a second-year PhD student at the University of Michigan where she is studying Classical Archeology with a 4.0 GPA. Professor Christopher Ratté writes: "She is unusually advanced and focused in her interests. That is why she was the top prospect among applicants in her class, and she is more than living up to expectations."

LAURA SUNBLAD is the first year student of the two-year Master of Public Administration program at the School of International and

Public Affairs at Columbia University. Professor John C. Mutter wrote: "She was one of the very best in the class and received the top grade."

SILVIA TAMMINEN attends a two-year Master's program in International Human Rights at Joseph Korbel School of International Studies at University of Denver. She is a member of the Finlandia Foundation Colorado chapter. Professor Peter W. Van Arsdale writes: "Silvia has proven herself to be one of my strongest masters students. She is very bright, very well organized, and very dedicated to the career path she now is carving out."

ERICA TUKIAINEN is a first-year medical student at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. As an undergraduate, she played division I basketball for the UCLA team while maintaining a 3.49 GPA. Professor Neil K. Garg writes: "Erica excelled in a number of extracurricular activities, while maintain a solid 3.5 GPA in the rigorous pre-med undergraduate program at UCLA. She clearly is fearless, highly motivated, capable of multitasking, and possesses genuine leadership skills."

MIKKO TUOMELA is pursuing his Masters degree in Informatics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a 3.11 GPA. Professor Michael Twidale writes: "He is careful, thoughtful, keen to fit into a learning community, but also wanting to share his own perspectives and experiences. He is his own little cultural ambassador."

HANNA VASTINSALO has her PhD in biology but wanted to enroll in the American Film Institute Conservatory in order to be able to tell stories about science and scientists so that she can popularize science to general audiences. Director Brian Dannelly writes: "Her background in science gives her a unique perspective to the craft of film directing."

JULIA VIHIERLAHTI is double majoring in Music (double bass) and Finnish language at University of Washington with a 3.57 GPA. She is a member of Inland Northwest Finlandia Foundation Chapter, and grew up learning Finnish from her Finnish-born father and by attending Suomi-koulu. Professor Taija Hämäläinen writes: "Julia has roots in Finland and she is a very motivated student and wants to be perfect in her Finnish language."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

From November 29, 2012
To April 28, 2013

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FFN is grateful for countless gifts in-kind.

IF THERE IS AN ERROR please e-mail Treasurer Anne-Mari Paster (ampaster@rcn.com).

Finlandia Foundation National is a US non-profit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt and designated a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS codes.

FFN's LENDING LIBRARY

The following items are available for loan from the FFN office in Pasadena (for a complete list contact office@FinlandiaFoundation.org)

CDs from POYs and
DVDs from LOYs

DVDs:

Sibelius
Fire & Ice
Letters from Karelia
Mother of Mine
Otto Heino: A Way With
Clay
Otto Heino: A True Potter
Finland Phenomenon

Kalevala Tuohitorvi Soi!
Produced by Evergreen
School of Performing Art;
Directed by Helina Pakola

BOOKs:

*The Helsinki Chronicles of
Dr. Louise C. Love and
Mr. P.: Six Adventures in
Finland's Capital*
By Arthur M. Alexander

*The Legacy of Ida
Lillbroända: Finnish
Emigrant to America 1893
"An insightful analysis of a
Swedish-speaking woman
and of her adjustment within
a multitude of different
settings in the American
West."*

By Arlene Sundquist Empie

*Sibelius: A Composer's
Life and the Awakening of
Finland*

By Glenda Dawn Goss

*The Lapp King's Daughter:
A Family's Journey Through
Finland's Wars*

By Stina Katchadourian

Finland Swedes in Michigan
By Mika Roinila

The Best of the Rune Singers
By Paula Ivaska Robbins

Portable Passport System at FinnFest

HANCOCK, Mich. — The portable Finnish passport system, made available by the Consulate General of Finland in New York, will be available at FinnFest USA 2013 at the Finnish American Heritage Center on the Finlandia University campus in Hancock from Wednesday June 19, through Saturday, June 22, 2013.

All applicants must make an appointment for a passport application. Appointments will be about a half-hour in length, and can be scheduled for any time between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day. Appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information, contact James Kurtti, Honorary Consul of Finland for Upper Michigan, at james.kurtti@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7302, or the Consulate General of Finland at consulate.nyc@formin.fi or (212) 750-4400.

The second edition of FFN's history, *Black Ties and Miners' Boots: Inventing Finnish-American Philanthropy, A History of Finlandia Foundation National 1953-2010* by Jon L. Saari, is available for \$19.95 (California residents also pay 9.25% sales tax). All new members receive a free copy: email office@FinlandiaFoundation.org or call (626) 795-2081.

Sundquist Endowment for The Arts Fund

By Kath Usitalo, Media Consultant

Growing up in rural western Finland, George Sundquist was fascinated by the stories of his grandfathers, both of whom roamed the world, exploring places from New Zealand to the United States. The immigrant experience, combined with his interest in history, stayed with the lad as he moved from Munsala Parish to California, and to his eventual involvement with Finlandia Foundation National.

"When you're a young man you don't have any great plans; you just want to explore the world," says George. "As you get older you begin to appreciate your heritage." In 1952 George left Finland and ended up in the San Francisco area where an uncle worked in construction. A skilled carpenter, George found success in the home building industry and by 1969 opened his own construction company, Sundquist Associates.

As he settled into life in the US, George met and married Marion, a ballerina from New York. He pursued his life-long love of sports, and his many contributions include serving as an official with the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley and on the organizing committee for the 1994 U.S.A. World Cup. In between George organized the first youth soccer team in Redwood City and in 1969 co-founded the California Youth Soccer Association. He held several positions with CYSA and in 1982 was inducted into its Hall of Fame.

About 10 years ago, with the encouragement of Sue Walima and Anja Miller of the Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, George discovered a new passion: exploring his heritage. "I hadn't been involved in immigrant history until that time," he says. "It has been a learning experience and interesting...meeting incredible people---great fun." Soon he was tapped to serve as that chapter's president and then as a Trustee of Finlandia Foundation National.

His wife Marion, who is of Austrian and Swiss descent, has also been active in the Bay Area FFN Chapter. "Having fallen in love with his relatives and others she's met in Finland, Marion is totally attached to Finland," George says. "She adapted to the farm life, to milking, to haying---all of it," he chuckles. The couple's three children, son Erik and twin daughters Stacy and Britt-Marie, have varying degrees of interest in their Finnish roots.

In addition to their involvement in FFN and the Bay Area Chapter, George is active with several other Scandinavian organizations, including the Swedish-Finn Historical Society. George and Marion are major financial contributors of Finlandia Foundation.

"It's important to donate time and money to the organization," says George. "I do feel the Finlandia Foundation has a mission to preserve that culture and that history. It's worthwhile. Everybody who has an opportunity should support it at any level."

While he believes in all of the programs sponsored by FFN, when pressed George admits that his favorite is Performer of the Year. "Music is something that Finland has such a great reputation for, with Sibelius, the Sibelius Academy, Esa-Pekka Salonen and so on."

It may have been a winding road to his current interest and involvement in his heritage and in FFN, but on reflection, George says, "I was a kid listening to these old world travelers, traveling around the globe...I guess it's always been in my blood."



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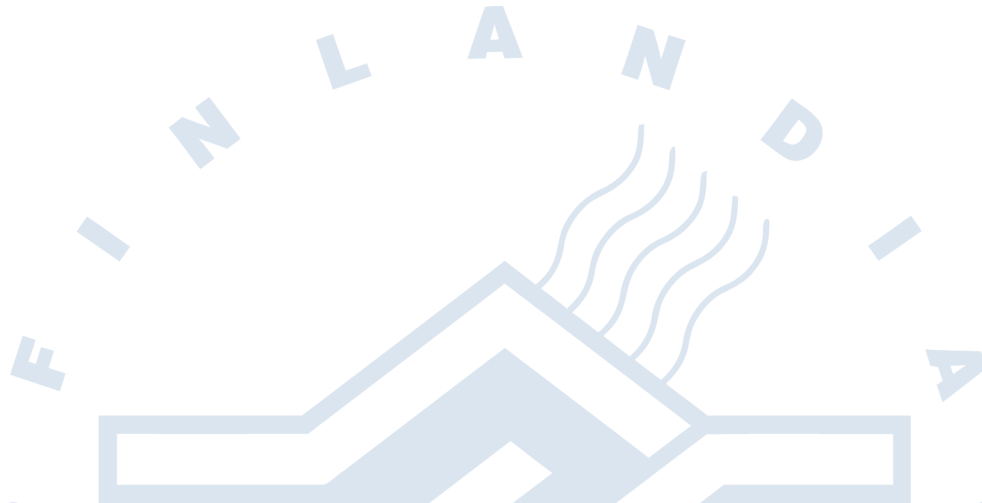
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