



Finlandia Foundation[®] National

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

F A L L 2 0 1 4

SIBELIUS 150 JUBILEE

**By Marja Kaisla,
Pianist and Chair,
Sibelius 150
Jubilee Committee**

We have a very exciting musical year ahead of us. The entire world will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, who was also the first patron of Finlandia Foundation National!

Besides producing Sibelius events, FFN has asked its 46 local chapters in 22 states and Washington, D.C. to partner with local cultural organizations to present a variety of Sibelius-related events in 2015. This way we can maximize exposure and bring awareness of the great composer and Finnish music and culture in general to American audiences as well as those with ancestry in Finland.

So far we have nearly 40 events underway all around the United States, with more created each week. They range from school concerts to a major orchestra devoting an entire month to symphonic works by Sibelius; commissioning original music by a Finnish composer to producing an original play about the life of Sibelius.



Next year will be a real Sibelius bonanza! In March the Seattle Symphony will perform all of his symphonies. The City of Buffalo will host FinnFest USA in October, and the Buffalo Symphony will perform works by Sibelius throughout the festival. In Philadelphia the Curtis Institute will co-host a Sibelius vocal and chamber music evening. Finnish-American musicians Elina Snellman-Lang, Katri Ervamaa and I will play chamber music concerts by Sibelius and other Finnish composers across the U.S.

We even have pianist Ruusamari Teppo, the great-granddaughter of Sibelius, performing multiple times in Oregon and Washington

state with cellist Jussi Makkonen. And the list goes on. To find a Sibelius event near you, go to the Sibelius 150 Jubilee calendar on the FFN website at FinlandiaFoundation.org. Looking forward to seeing you at the many Sibelius 150 Jubilee events!

Note: Deadline for FFN Sibelius 150 Jubilee grant applications is February 2, 2015. For more information see page 9.

Word from the President

Hyvät Ystävät:



As you see in our cover story, we have been working hard on the Jean Sibelius 150th anniversary program for 2015. The Sibelius 150 Jubilee is important to Finlandia Foundation, as the composer was the first FFN patron and his music has always been meaningful to us.

We will have updates on Sibelius 150 Jubilee activities at our website and in our free, monthly E-newsletter; please sign up for it at our website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

We have of course been active on many fronts, including offering first class Lecturers (LOY) and Performers (POY) of the Year to FFN chapters. Applications are now being accepted for the next POY as well as our grants and scholarships; see the stories in this issue.

Last year the bipartisan Friends of Finland U.S. Congressional Caucus was founded to strengthen the ties between the U.S. and Finland and serve as a forum for dialog between the governments. Recently at the Finnish Embassy I met one of the Caucus Co-Chairs, Congressman Dan Benishek of Michigan, and spoke with him about Finlandia Foundation. FFN will remain in communication with the 30-plus caucus members.

I was fortunate to spend time in Finland this summer and attend several interesting events. A seminar at the end of August in connection with FinnFest Helsinki focused on Russia, with


knowledgeable speakers from the Alexander Institute attached to the University of Helsinki. It was very helpful for understanding what is going on in the immediate neighborhood of Finland.

That event was preceded by two seminars on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, which was one of the main causes of the Winter War. Quite dramatic presentations described the situation in Finland, its immediate region and Europe at large, with Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja giving the "official" Finnish view of the situation/events.

Another significant conference took place in Turku, organized by the John Morton Center (JMC) attached to the University of Turku. JMC began in 2014 and is focusing on North America and the United States in particular. It will gradually develop and become a research institute and think tank comparable to the Alexander Institute. During the conference an advisory council was set up, chaired by Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen, former Finnish U.N. Ambassador and chief of the cabinet to the President of Finland. I was asked to become a member of the advisory council, representing Finlandia Foundation, and to attend my first meeting in Turku in early December.

A general observation from my stay in Finland: for FFN to be known and heard it is absolutely essential that we are active in social media. The traditional ways of communicating through TV, radio and print media are becoming obsolete. Many are aware of this, but for me it was a revelation. The first question that came up when talking about FFN was, "Are you on Facebook and Twitter?" (We are.) I felt a bit behind the times; perhaps not surprising for somebody born at the time of the Winter War.

Wishing you the best for the Christmas Season and winter ahead!


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President

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In Search of the FFN Performer of the Year

One of the most popular programs of Finlandia Foundation National is its Performer of the Year (POY), featuring live entertainment by an artist whose talent is related to Finnish and Finnish-American culture. FFN selects and sponsors the POY, who commits to travel and appear at events hosted by any of the 46 FFN chapters across the country.

The POY, who must reside in the U.S., will receive a travel stipend of \$7,000 to make at least eight appearances during the 12-month period between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016. A committee will review applications and select the POY early in 2015; postmark deadline for applications is February 14, 2015.

All types of solo entertainers are welcome to apply. While most POY have been vocalists and instrumental musicians, FFN will consider any talent that appeals to a range of ages and is consistent with the goals of FFN.

The POY must be nominated by an FFN chapter or other Finnish-American organization, or an FFN trustee. An artist may not self-nominate. If not selected an artist may apply again, but a POY may serve only once.

Find POY guidelines and the list of 46 FFN chapters, trustees and information about FFN at: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

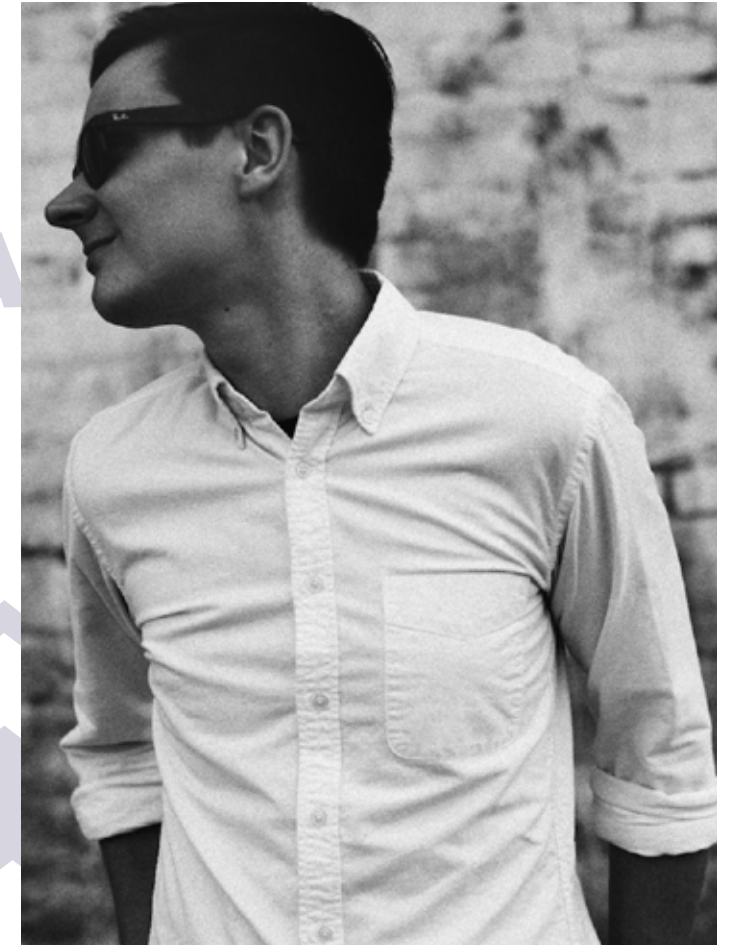
Expat Parliament Session Set for May '15 in Helsinki

By Satu Mikkola, FFN Trustee and FEP Delegate

The eighth session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (*Ulkosuomalaisparlamentti*) will be held at the University of Helsinki Friday-Saturday, May 22-23, 2015.

All Finnish expatriate organizations can participate in the work of the FEP. New member associations are welcome to join and attend the session by ratifying the FEP bylaws. The information and ratification forms are available at the FEP website: usp.fi.

Every member organization that has ratified the bylaws of the FEP is entitled to send a representative to the parliament. Currently 521 Finnish expatriate organizations in 37 countries are members of the FEP. There are no financial responsibilities or privileges in membership.



Current POY Olli Hirvonen has several appearances lined up at FFN chapters; see the schedule at FinlandiaFoundation.org. The jazz guitarist is available for POY appearances through August 2015. Information is on the FFN website or contact Satu Mikkola at satum@aol.com.

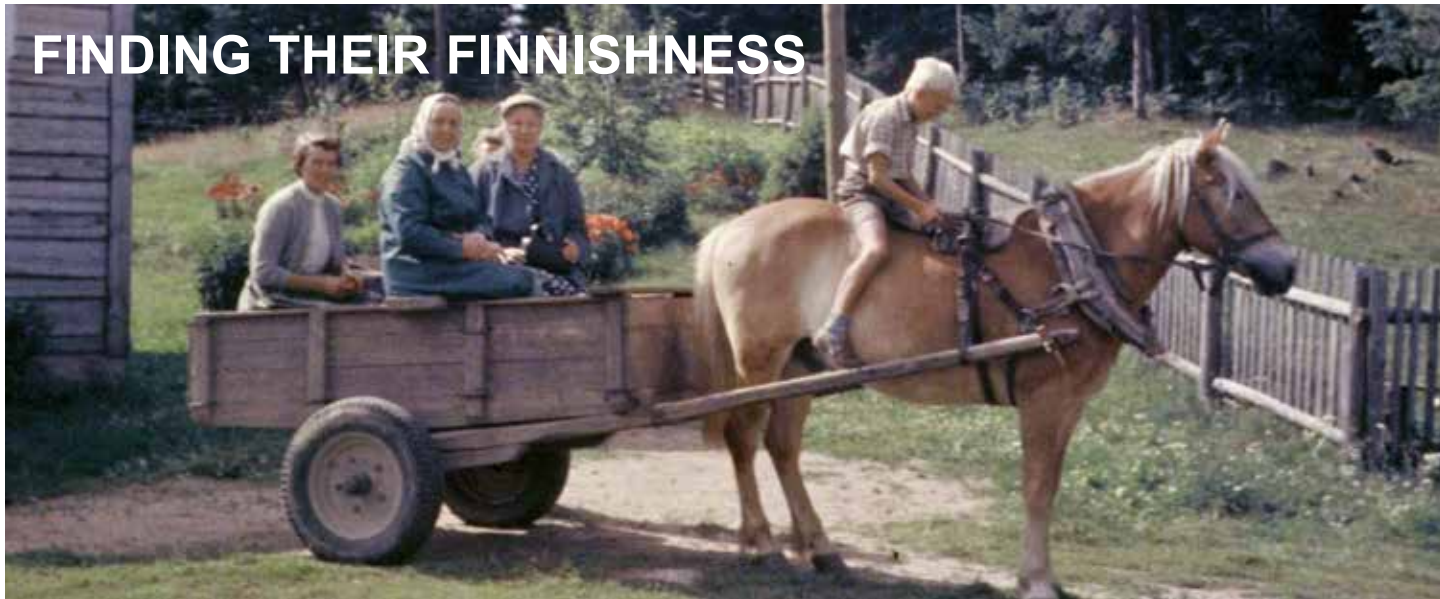
Schedule of the 2015 session:

- February 22 Registration deadline for participating organizations
- February 22 Deadline for submission of initiatives. Each member organization is entitled to submit initiatives to the parliamentary session
- April 10 Names of the participants and committee choices to be submitted to Suomi-Seura, the Secretariat of FEP at: suomi-seura.fi.
- May 21 Regional meeting; Region USA and Latin America
- May 22-23 Parliamentary Session

For additional information contact FEP Regional Speaker Marita Cauthen (raivaaja@net1plus.com) or Alternate FEP Speaker, Region USA and Latin America Satu Mikkola (satum@aol.com).

For more information: usp.fi.

FINDING THEIR FINNISHNESS



Anita rides in a cart with her Finnish host family in 1956. That six-month visit helped spark her lifelong interest in Finland.

Anita Häkkilä was a teenaged 4-H delegate from Canterbury, Connecticut when she made her first trip to Finland in 1956. For six memorable months she connected with family and was immersed in her heritage. It was such a meaningful time for Anita that she eventually found a way to help others to discover their Finnishness.

In July 2014 Anita Häkkilä Smiley, accompanied by her husband Jack Smiley, conducted her 20th Smiley Group tour to Finland. More than 500 people have taken her tours, and while some guests have no Finnish roots, most claim a connection to the country.

Anita's two-week explorations take the visitors from the countryside to cities, farms to museums, lakes to islands. Along the way the 35 motorcoach travelers meet local people and explore Finnish food, beverages and activities for an experience that, Anita says, "is truly an immersion into life as it is lived and enjoyed by the Finnish people."

This summer's 20th anniversary tour attracted media attention, and Anita's story was featured in the *Turun Sanomat*, *Helsingin Sanomat*, *Amerikan Uutiset* and *Finnish American Reporter*.

Anita credits the Finnish travel agent she works with in developing the itineraries, as well as the

expert local tour guides and coach driver, for aiding the success of her trips. Because the routes and sights vary each year, Anita has repeat guests like Carole Krutsch of Bloomington, Minnesota, who just took her second Smiley tour. Carole has connected with cousins in Finland and cherished the chance to walk on her grandfather's family farm.

Young Dawson Hartman of Ann Arbor, Michigan, savored a swim in a lake above the Arctic Circle.

The 12-year-old, traveling with his mom and grandfather, gained a new appreciation for his heritage. He asks, "How many families have such a great opportunity to share in discovering what a great honor it is to be a Finn?"

Anita is always moved by the comments at the trip's traditional closing dinner when, she says, "Each group member has an opportunity to reflect on what significance the tour had for them. Many

heart-warming stories show an appreciation for having connected more deeply with Finnish roots and for developing an appreciation of their Finnish heritage."

Anita Häkkilä Smiley is immediate past president of Finlandia Foundation National and a current trustee on its board.



Left: Anita and her husband Jack Smiley on one of their many trips to Finland.

Right: The 2014 tour visited with Skolt Sami in the village of Nellim, near the Russian border.

Salolampi Broadens Programs, Audience

By Betsey Norgard, FFN Trustee

Salolampi Language Village has traditionally been a place for Finnish-American children to learn about and have fun with Finnish language and culture. Finlandia Foundation National offers scholarships and travel grants to assist young people who want to experience this unique camp on Turtle River Lake, near Bemidji, Minnesota (see article below).

But as Salolampi nears 40 years, it has expanded its audiences and programs to other groups, such as adults, dual citizens, immigrants and friends who are interested in Finnish culture and will be able to take advantage of 16 different programs and learning experiences, as explained in the fall *Salolammen Sanomat* newsletter.

This year, 83 villagers from 13 states attended one-week, two-week, four-week and family-week sessions, and day camps at the language village. In addition, Family Fun Weeks, Spring and Fall Adult Weeks, and work weekends brought many more people there throughout the year.

FFN Offers Salolampi Funds, Travel Grants

Students from Florida and Massachusetts received scholarships and travel grants from Finlandia Foundation National to assist with their 2014 summertime experience at Salolampi Language Village. The funds complemented scholarships awarded by Finlandia Foundation Florida and Finlandia Foundation Boston, as well as the new Salolampi Finnish Partner Organization program.



With Finnish Partner Organizations, a new program this year, the Salolampi Foundation offered reduced tuition and a scholarship of up to \$150, matching a scholarship from a partner organization. The Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities (Minnesota) and Finnish Americans and Friends (Hibbing, Minnesota) chapters each sponsored students in this program.

Salolampi will offer scholarships again in 2015; for details go to salolampi.org.



Architecture, food, activities and sauna are authentic to Finland at Salolampi Language Village near Bemidji, Minnesota.

"It is odd but refreshing to have kids my own age who I can practice my Finnish with, which is something very exclusive to Salolampi, indeed."

Sofia Laskorski, 2014 FFN scholarship recipient

FFN travel grants assist students from beyond the Upper Midwest with transportation costs to and from the camp near Bemidji, Minnesota.

FFN awards scholarships of \$300 per youth to those who receive matching (or greater) funds from FFN chapters. Students who live outside of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North and South Dakota may also receive a maximum of \$500 from FFN to help with travel expenses.

Chapters must submit their 2015 Salolampi nominees to the FFN office by February 28, 2015. For details go to FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Salolampi tuition in 2015 begins at \$915 for the one-week session before discounts, incentives and scholarships are applied.

For information about Salolampi Language Village and additional scholarships phone 800.222.4750 or go to salolampi.org.



At Finn Fest in Frederick, South Dakota, children create their own "story line" inspired by the Lecturer of the Year program.

Yoopera! Travels the U.S.

By Suzanne Jurva, Lecturer of the Year

During 2014, Erin Smith and I, as FFN Lecturer of the Year, presented the documentary film *Yoopera!* to 12 Finlandia Foundation-affiliated organizations across the country. I've made many great connections and had the opportunity to show the film to my parents' Finnish-American organization near where I grew up in Farmington Hills, Michigan. I met with Finns and Finnish-Americans in Florida, San Francisco, Atlanta, Massachusetts and Arizona. Erin has been welcomed as an "honorary Finn" by the kind people of North and South Dakota, Upstate New York and Seattle, and Marquette and Coopersville, Michigan.

At every venue we found people eager to learn about the production of *Rockland the Opera* and the Finnish-American history that inspired it. We've heard from many people about their own family history and immigrant stories. Across the country, we discovered people who had some connection to the Finnish community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In June, we launched the *Yoopera!* website (yooperadoc.com) and have been encouraging Finnish-Americans to contribute their stories to the new online "Story Line Project," a continuation of Mary (Biekola) Wright's community art project documented in the film.

It has been a wonderful and educational experience to share the film and the story of the incredible efforts of Finnish-Americans like John Kiltinen, Andy Hill and Mary Wright, as well as to share the work of Finnish composer Jukka Linkola and Finnish librettist Jussi Tapola. Most of all, we have enjoyed the chance to inspire others to tell their own stories and to create their own unique community celebrations.

Note: For more information or to book the LOY Yoopera! program go to: FinlandiaFoundation.org

Soiva 2014 Sets Record

By Dennis M. Anderson, FFN Trustee and Soiva Camp Administrator

Soiva International Music Camp 2014, held June 21-29 on the main campus of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, was a resounding success! Sponsored by FFN with support from Concordia College, the annual camp offers cultural exchange, music education and fun for instrumental students age 11 through 12th grade from across the United States and Finland.

From introductions to finales, compositions and improvisations to public performances, the 2014 Soiva class was the largest since the program began in 2008. Of the 35 students, 16 were from Finland and 19 from the U.S., with 10 who returned from the previous year and two who have attended Soiva all three years that it's been held at Concordia. Music instructors numbered nine, with four teachers from Finland and five from Concordia College.

Both Concordia College President Dr. William J. Craft and Department of Music Chair Dr. John N. Roberts expressed support for Soiva Music Camp. They observed an innovative improvisation class under the direction of Markus Fagerudd, the improv and composition teacher from Finland.



Finnish music instructor Markus Fagerudd's methods for teaching improvisation and composition are a hit with Soiva campers.

This year four students from outside of the Upper Midwest—from Georgia, California, and Oregon—received travel grants to attend Soiva Camp. We urge FFN chapters to encourage students of chamber music from around the country to complete a Soiva Camp registration form ([go to FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org)) and apply for a travel grant of up to \$500 per student.

The success of Soiva Music Camp is due first and foremost to the students. Enthusiastic, cooperative, well mannered and dedicated to improving their performance skills, they also knew how to have fun in the process. They achieved success through hard work and are to be complimented for quickly learning their music and performing four concerts at the Scandinavian Festival at week's end.

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Music Camp Tuition Remains Same for 2015

Once again, Finlandia Foundation National is happy to announce that there will be no increase in tuition for Soiva International Music Camp 2015, set for Saturday, June 20-Sunday, June 28 at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

The annual camp was founded in 2008 and welcomes American and Finnish youths age 11 through grade 12 who study violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, clarinet, flute and saxophone. Students also learn improvisation techniques and composition from instructors from the U.S. and Finland. They conclude the week with performances at the annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Moorhead.

The cost is \$650 for registrations made by April 1, 2015, and rises to \$750 per student after that date. The fee includes instruction, the use of campus music hall facilities and computer lab, dormitory lodging, meals and supervised social activities such as pool and pizza parties.

FFN offers travel grants of up to \$500 for students who live beyond the Upper Midwest (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North and South Dakota).

To learn more about Soiva International Music Camp contact Soiva Administrator Dennis Anderson (e-mail soivaatcord@yahoo.com or phone 218.251.0164). Find information and registration form at: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Soiva continued from page 6

Several students wrote compositions and performed them for the webcast concert on Sunday, June 29. We were thrilled to hear from students who confided that music has been a powerful healing medium for personal issues. The American-Finnish cultural exchange is a core part of the experience.

Special thanks to Concordia College and the Office of Summer Programs for hosting Soiva Camp. Coordinators Deb Harris of Concordia (flute instructor) and Hanne Lund (violin) from Finland did an outstanding job of bringing our students together and facilitating their success stories.

Also sharing their teaching talents from Concordia were Russ Peterson (saxophone), Jane Capistran (violin), Jay Hershberger (piano) and Leigh Wakefield



Students and instructors from the U.S. and Finland make music and enjoy a special cultural exchange each June at Soiva International Music Camp at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. The 2014 class is shown at the Stave Church where they perform at the close of camp.

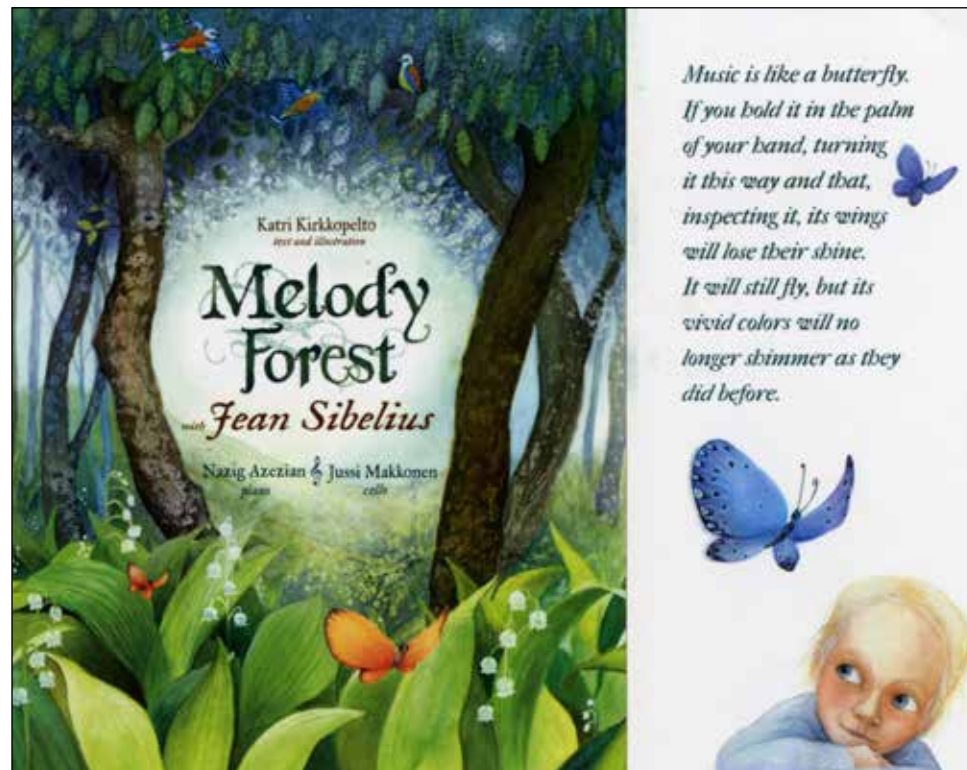
(clarinet). In addition to Hanne Lund and Markus Fagerudd, instructors from Finland were Ritva Koistinen (piano) and Heli Talvitie (flute).

Find their bios and more information about Soiva online: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

"Soiva brings together young people from two cultures under the auspices of music, which is the international language. There is no better way to accomplish this."

George Sundquist, FFN Trustee

Finnish Artists Create Sibelius Book and CD Set



Music is like a butterfly. If you hold it in the palm of your hand, turning it this way and that, inspecting it, its wings will lose their shine. It will still fly, but its vivid colors will no longer shimmer as they did before.

A new book for young people about Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and his music is due to be released in January 2015. *Melody Forest* is written and richly illustrated by Finnish artist Katri Kirkkopelto, and accompanied by a CD of Sibelius music recorded by Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian.

The award-winning illustrator specializes in educational materials and children's books.

The cellist has performed works by Sibelius at some 700 concerts before more than 225,000 children in schools across Finland. In 2015 he, along with pianist Ruusamari Teppo, will travel to schools in Washington and Oregon as part of the Sibelius 150 Jubilee.

Jussi and Ruusamari, who is a great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius, will also participate in the Seattle Symphony Sibelius Festival in March 2015, as well as public Sibelius concerts elsewhere in Washington and Oregon.

For performance details see the Sibelius 150 Jubilee calendar at the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

SIBELIUS ONE

Appreciating Sibelius

Just in time for the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finland's most famous composer, Sibelius One has emerged to "advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the life and work of Jean Sibelius...and is committed to encouraging and supporting young people in their discovery and appreciation of Sibelius' music."

Founded in September 2014, the non-profit organization is based in the United Kingdom and its website is in English. Much of the site is accessible to the public, but there is a password-protected area for dues-paying members that promises to be a resource for interesting Sibelius-related material and perks.

John Davis serves as president of the five-member committee behind Sibelius One, and Andrew Barnett, Sibelius scholar and author of the book *Sibelius*, is general manager. The goal of Sibelius One, he states, "is to become a significant and trusted resource for fans, students and scholars and to provide something of interest to all our members and visitors."

Plans include publication of a magazine, building the content on the website, organizing Sibelius concerts and offering discounts at events including the International Sibelius Festival in Lahti, Finland each September.

For more information: sibeliusone.com.

Sibelius Grant Application Deadline is February 2

Finlandia Foundation National is encouraging its chapters and other organizations to plan events or projects for 2015 in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Some funds are available from FFN to support Sibelius programs sponsored by FFN chapters, ranging from concerts and lectures to children's programs. FFN expects programming to fill the Sibelius 150 Jubilee calendar at least through December 8, the composer's date of birth.



The Sibelius 150 grant application and more information is online at FinlandiaFoundation.org. Deadline for Sibelius 150 Jubilee grant applications is February 2, 2015.

Contact Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee Chair Marja Kaisla with questions: mjkaisla@yahoo.com.



The Seattle Symphony performs all seven Sibelius symphonies in March 2015. Photo by Ben Van Houten

Seattle Orchestra Presents All Sibelius Symphonies

The sound of Sibelius will fill the air in Seattle as the city's orchestra performs a series of concerts from March 12 through March 28, 2015 in the Sibelius 150 Jubilee year.

Thomas Dausgaard will conduct the Seattle Symphony in all seven of the Sibelius symphonies, as well as the beloved *Finlandia*. The March 13 program, "Untuxed: Sibelius' Symphony No. 2," includes past FFN Performer of the Year Maria Mannisto. Orchestra members perform Sibelius chamber works on Sunday, March 15, and on the following weekend Pekka Kuusisto is the featured artist in Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D minor.

The Seattle Symphony program is the most extensive of the many Sibelius concerts or performances by orchestras across the U.S. in 2015.

See the Sibelius 150 Jubilee calendar, which is updated as information becomes available, at the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.



Pekka Kuusisto, featured in Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D minor with the Seattle Symphony in March 2015.



Finland's Ismo Leikola is the Funniest Person in the World.

Finn is World's Funniest Person

By Maria Kizirian, FFN Pasadena office

Finnish comedian Ismo Leikola is the Funniest Person in the World, as determined in a contest presented by the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles. The winner was named in October at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The competition was streamed over the Internet and may still be seen online at laughfactory.com.

Ismo won the hearts and minds of judges and voters alike. His tally of 158,945 votes in the online contest far outpaced the 59,213 received by second place recipient, Saad Haroon of Pakistan.

As a guest at the semi-finals in Los Angeles, I can attest to Ismo's comedic talent. A stand-out hit joke from his performance: "Countries don't owe money to each other, countries owe money to banks. If the countries owe money to banks how stupid are the countries to pay. Like, the country has an army. The bank has four cashiers and a cleaning lady."

Iranian-born Laugh Factory owner Jamie Masada hopes this new competition can show the world that if people from different countries laugh together they can set aside other differences.

Ismo won a grand prize of \$10,000 and a national comedy tour in 2015. As plans for his tour develop I will inform FFN chapters of his schedule to help bolster attendance at his shows and rally support for the Finn who is the Funniest Person in the World.

For more on the comedian: ismoleikola.com.

Finnish Networking in LA

By Maria Kizirian, FFN Pasadena Office

The Los Angeles area has seen a remarkable increase in popularity as Finns are moving to the area for a number of different fields of interest. While the majority come for the entertainment industry, with tech and other businesses Los Angeles is becoming the "place to be."

More importantly, the local Finns have been steadily coming together in ways to support each other in our various fields of expertise, and to offer assistance and promote our services/abilities. I've become involved with several of the initiatives, representing Finlandia Foundation National and making comments on its behalf as appropriate.

Consul General Juha "JP" Markkanen has been particularly vocal about his support for combining efforts. Thus the Finnish government's arm in Los Angeles, the Consulate General, and FFN, the largest Finnish-American private organization, have united in some efforts for the betterment of Finns in the area. Given that LA is the world's epicenter for entertainment, the majority of Finnish high profile events in the region are related to entertainment.

Following are brief descriptions of recent events at which I've had an opportunity to attend and introduce or raise the visibility of Finlandia Foundation National.

SIBELIUS 150 JUBILEE YEAR

The Sibelius 150 Jubilee in 2015 is an important initiative for FFN, which is supporting events recognizing the anniversary of the composer's birth with grants allocated through the 46 FFN chapters across the U.S.



Esa-Pekka Salonen (second from left) and his wife Jane (right) with hosts Tuula and Juha Markkanen.

A Sibelius 150 year anniversary launch event for LA was held on Wednesday, October 29 at the Bel Air home of Tuula and Consul General Juha Markkanen. The talented Olli Soikkeli jazz band performed for an audience that included Finlandia Foundation Patron, conductor/composer Esa-Pekka Salonen, and numerous other special guests.

I was asked to give a brief speech about Sibelius year events, and encouraged the attendees to participate. In addition to Finland's classical contributions, the Sibelius 150 Jubilee is an opportunity to celebrate Finland's broad and rich musical tradition and talent. I mentioned the rock aspect of Finnish music, including the upcoming U.S. tours by Finland's Heavy Metal superstars Apocalyptica and Nightwish in spring 2015.

FINNETLA

Finnish Network in Los Angeles (FinnetLA), spearheaded by businesswoman Kielo Stevenson and filmmaker Janne Tamminen, has gained popularity and influence in a short amount of time. FinnetLA, with the slogan "Finn It to Win It," holds monthly mixers in Santa Monica.

EUPHORIA FILM FESTIVAL



The consulates of 13 European Union nations, including Finland, arranged this September 19-24 event, with films from all 13 nations screened. The Finnish entry was *Selbne*, a documentary on the life of ice hockey legend Teemu Selanne. Teemu and his wife Sirpa were in attendance, and Teemu participated

in a Q & A after the screening. Organizers hope to make EUphoria Film Festival an annual event.

THE HOLLYWOOD FOREIGN PRESS - GOLDEN GLOBES

Hollywood Foreign Press Member Kirpi Uimonen facilitated a screening of two Finnish films for Golden Globes consideration: *Concrete Night (Betoniö)* by Pirjo Honkasalo, and *The Grump (Mielensäpahoittaja)* by Dome Karukoski. They were shown in Beverly Hills on October 19 for Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) members.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES OF LOS ANGELES

Kirpi Uimonen, of the Hollywood Foreign Press, hosted a large party at the home of Barry and Paivi Hacker to encourage Creative Industries of Los Angeles, which was founded to bring Finnish-based entertainment professionals together.

Laura Laaksonen, who produces the Nordic Genre Invasion, a marketing, distribution, and collaboration platform for Nordic Genre film producers, helped form this group with producer Janne Tamminen. Both Laura and Janne received FFN funding in 2014: Janne, for editing his documentary film about Finnish Heavy Metal bands; Laura to speak about Finnish Heavy Metal music at the South by Southwest 2014 Festival in Austin, Texas.

AMERICAN FILM MARKET

Finland was represented at the American Film Market (AFM), the premiere film industry convention in Los Angeles, at two events:

- The Finnish Film Foundation and FAVEX (Finnish Film and Audiovisual Export), with various Finnish companies as well as the Consulate General in Los Angeles, organized the "Fresh Nordic Winds" evening November 9 at the American Film Market.

The films represented were *Concrete Night*, Finland's official submission for Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards® as well as the Golden Globes, European Film Awards and Nordic Council Film Prize; *Iron Sky: The Coming Race*, about a dinosaur army from the Center of the Earth, led by Adolf Hitler; and *Bodom*, a deadly tale about what happens when some girls decide to rewrite history.

- Nordic Genre Invasion (NGI) held a very well-attended event at the AFM. Several films from various Nordic countries were introduced and the directors interviewed regarding their work and collaboration with other Nordic film producers. The main film launched by NGI is the sequel to the popular Finnish sci-fi film *Iron Sky*, which is now in production and largely funded through crowdfunding. Director Timo Vuorensola and producer Tero Kaukomaa, joined briefly by star Stephanie Paul, were interviewed about the film.

At the American Film Market I had an opportunity to speak with Merja Salonen of Tekes, the Finnish agency for funding innovation. "Tekes is an active member of Team Finland, networking with local Finns who have experience in the great and exciting Californian market," she explained.

"We have an office in Palo Alto, where the goal is to further Finnish companies and research organizations networking with Americans. In Silicon Valley, we are developing technologies, but I am more inspired personally by Los Angeles, because here we are developing the most interesting entertainment content with various technologies. We are working closely with the Los Angeles Consulate General that is strongly furthering business opportunities in California."

Ruby Jubilee for LAFF

The Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation (LAFF) celebrated its Ruby Jubilee on Sunday, October 26, marking 40 years of continuous service to the Finnish-American community of Los Angeles.

Members and friends of the organization gathered in warm camaraderie at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City, and honored community stalwart Dr. Howard K. Rockstad for his decades of volunteerism. Consul General Juha Markkanen spoke at the luncheon where the musical talents of Kriss Larson and his Gammaldans Band were showcased and funds were raised to fuel the LAFF scholarship program.



Consul General Juha Markkanen and his wife Tuula (center) flanked by LAFF Co-Presidents Valerie Jokela and Larry Soronen at the chapter's 40th anniversary luncheon.



The Finnish Center is located in a northwest suburb of Detroit. The vertical rock between the flag poles is from Hanko Harbor in Finland.

Cultural Center Turns 40

On September 21, 1974, members of the Finnish Center Association (FCA) gathered for the dedication of their newly constructed Cultural Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. This fall, 40 years to the day, members celebrated the anniversary of the hall in suburban Detroit.

Among the guests was FCA charter member Fritz Putkela who, at age 97, traveled from Virginia for the festivities.

Architect Eino Kainlauri, who emigrated from Finland in 1947 to study architecture at the University of Michigan, designed the building. It sits on about four acres, and has been expanded and remodeled over the years. The Center is now approximately 14,000 square feet and features a main hall, lounge, library, gift shop, woodshop and gardens. The FCA, founded in 1966, became affiliated as an FFN chapter in 2004.

Olli Wows in Washington

By Tapio Holma,
FFSC Immediate Past President

The Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter jazz concert featuring Olli Hirvonen, FFN Performer of the Year, was a great success. Not only did we have members from Bellingham, Mt. Vernon, Seattle and Vancouver attending, but also as a surprise guests from Espoo, Helsinki and Vantaa, Finland showed up at the September 17 event at Boundary Bay Brewery Beer Garden.

Olli's trio was changed at the last minute to include local musicians, who performed beautifully. Mark Hunter, a bassist and a drummer, and Julian MacDoughan, both from Bellingham, admired Olli's arrangements. Many local professional musicians applauded the young fellow with such skill in handling the guitar. I am sure we are going to hear more from Olli in the future.

During the performance the folks enjoyed Finnish meatballs and salmon delicacies, specifically cured for the evening. Olli was able to take in some local sights on his brief trip.

It is wonderful that Finlandia Foundation National has been able to secure talented artists such as Olli and (previous POY) Marja Kaisla. Many thanks to our trustees for selecting these POY.



Olli Hirvonen is available for appearances as POY through August 2015.

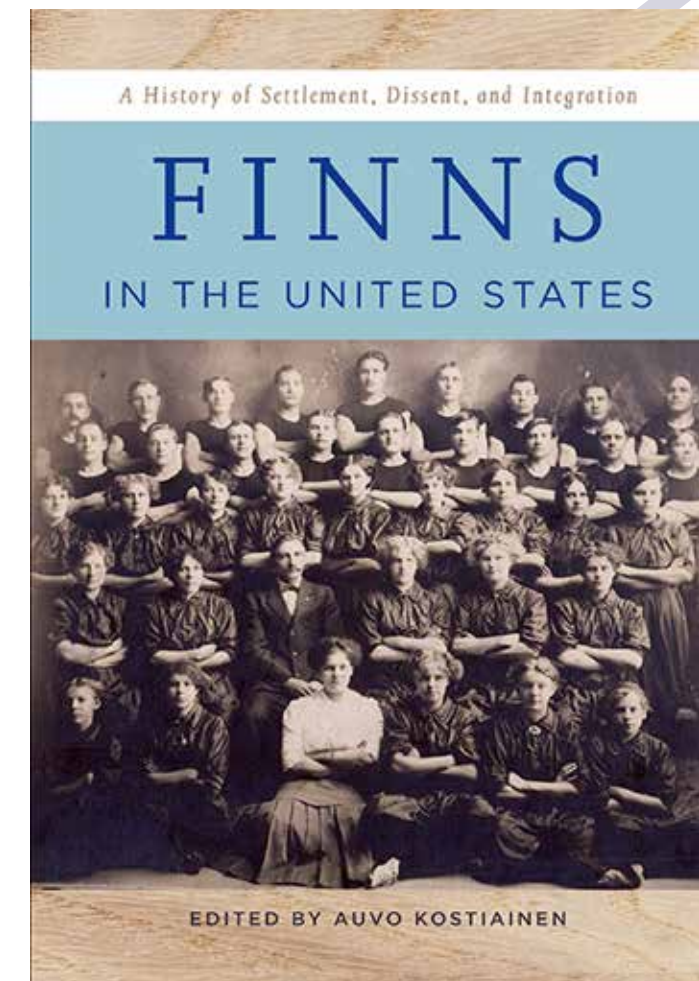
"Say Juusto!" for Joulupukki at ScanFair

Kids of all ages line up for a photo with Joulupukki and Mrs. Claus at ScanFair, the annual Nordic Christmas event at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon. The Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter hosts the popular photo with Santa opportunity, and also sells traditional foods---*Karjalanpaisti* (Karelian hot pot), *riisipuuro* (rice pudding) and herring with potatoes---at the FFCPC booth.

The 30th annual ScanFair, December 6-7, coincides with the date that Finland declared independence from Russia: December 6, 1917. FFCPC Past President Seppo Saarinen will make a brief presentation about Finnish Independence Day.



Visitors to ScanFair say *juusto* (cheese) for photos with Joulupukki and joulumuori (Mrs. Claus).



Finns in the United States

Finnish immigrants to the U.S. prior to World War II numbered only about 350,000, but their history and impact on this country are worthy of

study and exploration in the book *Finns in the United States: A History of Settlement, Dissent, and Integration*.

John Bodnar of the Department of History at Indiana University calls it "the definitive book on the Finnish experience in America."

Edited by Auvo Kostiainen, a professor at the University of Turku in Finland, it includes contributions by many scholars such as Jon Saari, FFN trustee and author of the FFN history book *Black Ties and Miners' Boots*.

Michigan State University Press published *Finns in the United States* in March 2014; the 352-page paperback is available at msupress.org and other online book sources.



Finlandia Foundation National
Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953.

Congratulations to these chapters on their significant milestones in 2014!

60TH ANNIVERSARIES:
Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter
Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter

40TH ANNIVERSARIES:
Finlandia Foundation Baltimore Area Chapter
Finlandia Foundation Los Angeles Chapter

FinlandiaFoundation.org



The FFN Board of Directors held its fall meeting in the Lake Worth area to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the FF Florida Chapter. From left: Maria Kizirian, assistant to the Board of Trustees, and Trustees Päivi Tetri, Satu Mikkola, Peter Mäkilä, Anita Häkklä Smiley (immediate past president), Tarja Silverman, Ossi Rahkonen (president), George Sundquist, Richard Ahola, Jon Saari, Marja Kaisla, Dennis Anderson, Hanna Wagner, Betsey Norgard, Paul Halme (vice president) and Jacqueline Harjula (secretary).

FFN Board Meets in FLA

Finlandia Foundation National trustees headed to the Sunshine State November 14-15 for their fall board meeting, but there was little time to enjoy the sunny skies just outside of the meeting room.

The order of business included individual committee meetings and discussion of programs including Performer and Lecturer of the Year, grants and scholarships, Soiva Music Camp, fundraising to support those efforts, chapter development and activities and FFN communications and operations. The board also received an update on the Sibelius 150 Jubilee, a special effort for the year 2015.



FFN President Ossi Rahkonen (left) and Vice President Paul Halme (right) meet Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter members at a reception during the FFN board meeting.

The meeting was timed to coincide with the 60th anniversary celebration of the FF Florida Chapter.



Finnish Deputy Consul General Anny Yletyinen, left, chats with actress Taina Elg during the FF Florida Chapter's 60th Anniversary Gala.

FFFC board members and friends welcomed FFN trustees at a reception on Friday evening and at Saturday's Gala (see page 15). A Sunday matinee at Suomi Talo (Finland House) in Lantana featured former Performer of the Year (and current FFN board member) pianist Marja Kaisla, and the legendary Finnish-American actress Taina Elg.

FFN CHAPTERS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARIES

Big Party in the Big Apple

By Tarja Tuppurainen
New York Chapter Board Member

Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter had a blast of a party on September 25 in celebration of the chapter's 60th anniversary. The birthday festivity was held at the Manhattan Club above Rosie O'Grady's on Seventh Avenue near New York City's theater district. Cocktails and deluxe hors d'oeuvres were served, followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner.

One of the most popular pop singers in Finland, Paula Koivuniemi, honored the event with her gracious presence. She is the recipient of this year's Arts and Letters Award. In return, Paula gave a beautiful performance of her best songs, accompanied by the internationally known Finnish conductor Mikko Franck on piano.

Chapter President Eero Kilpi gave a speech looking back to the beginnings of New York's Finlandia Foundation Chapter, inspiring the party attendees to sing "Happy Birthday" in unison.

Another honored guest, the Consul General, Ambassador Jukka Pietikäinen of the Finnish Consulate, spoke as well, wishing the Foundation many more happy and prosperous years to come.



Singer Paula Koivuniemi, accompanied by Mikko Franck, added pizzazz to the Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter's 60th anniversary party. Photo by Tarja Tuppurainen



FFFC President Kaarina Langeland and FFN President Ossi Rahkonen (second and third from right) visit with Gala guests.

A Floridian Night

The tropical sound of a steel drum welcomed nearly 200 guests to a gala evening of dining and dancing in honor of Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter's 60th anniversary, on November 15 at the Atlantis Country Club near Lake Worth.

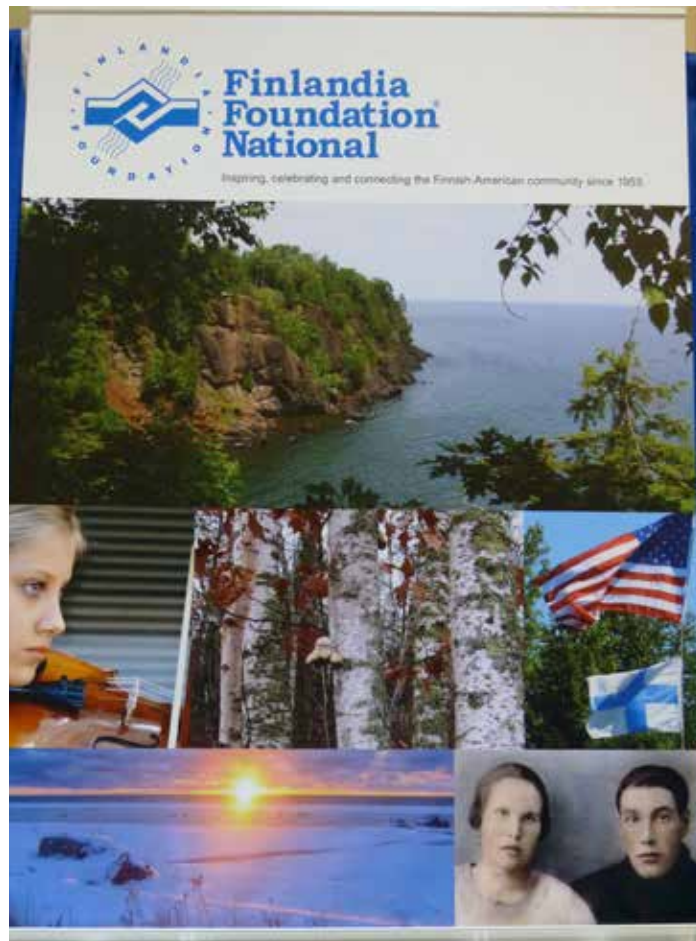
The annual fundraiser, which supports FFFC scholarships and other programs, opened with the U.S. and Finnish national anthems sung by Mikko

Manninen and operatic tenor Raimo Sirkiä. Later, Raimo performed songs in Finnish and English.

FFFC President Kaarina Langeland graciously welcomed the capacity crowd, and FFN President Ossi Rahkonen offered congratulations on behalf of the national organization. FFN Trustee and Honorary Consul of Finland Peter Mäkilä introduced Deputy Consul General Anny Yletyinen, who brought greetings from the New York City office.

FFN at FinnFest USA 2014

By Kath Usitalo, FFN Communications Manager



One of the joys of FinnFest USA, held each year at a different site around the country, is the opportunity to meet and make new friends of Finland and those who appreciate and want to learn more about their heritage and modern day Finland and Finnish-America.

This year's gathering, in Minneapolis August 7-10, was no exception. From our post at the Finlandia Foundation National booth in the Tori (marketplace) Maria Kizirian, of the FFN Pasadena office, and I had the pleasure of visiting with a steady stream of festival-goers who stopped by to pick up brochures, watch videos about FFN activities, view our displays and learn about our 61-year old philanthropic organization.

FFN was represented at FinnFest by Trustees Betsey Norgard and Dennis Anderson, who also spent time at the booth, and Tarja Silverman, who participated at the Tori on behalf of the New York office of the Consulate General.

FFN presence was felt at FinnFest through grants awarded to assist programming, including a "Mini-

Salolampi" camp for children hosted by Salolampi Foundation and Concordia Language Villages. FFN also supported a chamber orchestra concert that featured music by Jean Sibelius, Olli Kortekangas and Einojuhani Rautavaara, conducted by Craig Randal Johnson.

Although Maria and I were not able to attend any of the many FinnFest lectures, presentations or tours, from our posts at the booth we enjoyed good music performed in the Tori hall. During breaks we were able to browse the array of imports, art, handcrafted and fun items, books and interesting materials at the Tori.

Mark your calendar now for FinnFest USA 2015, which will be held in Buffalo, New York, October 8-12. It coincides with the 75th anniversary of the city's Kleinhans Music Hall, which was designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen. For information about FinnFest USA: finnfestusa.org.

Find more FinnFest USA 2014 photos from FFN at: FinlandiaFoundation.org.



FFN Trustee Dennis Anderson (right) chats with a visitor from Finland at the FinnFest 2014 booth.



At his Tori booth, Mark Munger talks with a FinnFest visitor about his books. The author received a grant from FFN to assist with editing his latest novel, *Sukulaiset: The Kindred*.

Apply Now for FFN Grants and Scholarships

Each year Finlandia Foundation National supports Finnish-American projects and encourages academic studies through its grant and scholarship programs. In 2014 a record number of applications poured in from fine, qualified candidates in the United States and Finland.

Application deadlines in 2015 are January 15 for grants and February 2 for scholarships. For more information and applications: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

GRANTS

Richard Ahola, Trustee and Committee Chair

Non-profit projects related to Finnish and Finnish-American culture are eligible for grant monies. In 2014 FFN supported over 40 projects, from books, music, art, theater and historic preservation to festivals and a documentary, *Finnish Heavy Metal Music in the U.S.A.*

Application deadline: January 15, 2015

FFN awards grants for non-profit cultural projects of local or national significance.

- Projects should benefit the general public, not only the sponsor or sponsoring organization.
- Grants should show evidence or testimony of high cultural, educational, artistic or scientific merit. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per award.



Jesse Washburn is one of 21 students who received FFN scholarships in 2014. He is a senior at Towson University in Maryland, majoring in Music with a concentration in Classical Guitar Performance. In his application Jesse states, "As a classical guitarist I am an interpreter of music which is drawn from a rich heritage dating back from the early Renaissance to the present."



A grant from FFN helped radio host Seth Boustead (right) and producer Jesse McQuarters travel to Finland to create a two-part program about the country's contemporary classical music for the WFMT radio show "Relevant Tones." Here they pause at the Sibelius Monument in Helsinki. Listen to the shows online at: <http://blogs.wfmt.com/relevanttones/2014/08/30/in-the-field-finland-part-i/>

- Special consideration is given to projects endorsed or sponsored by an FFN chapter.
- Salaries for project staff or employees are not allowable.
- Applications and support materials must be sent to the Finlandia Foundation National office and postmarked by January 15, 2015.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hanna Wagner, Trustee and Committee Chair

The 21 scholarship recipients in 2014 included American, Finnish and dual citizen Finnish-Americans pursuing a range of studies in the U.S. and Finland. FFN also administers the P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Studies Fund.

Application deadline: February 2, 2015

Scholarships are awarded to fulltime undergraduate (sophomore or higher) and graduate students enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution. The P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Studies Fund awards scholarships to American law students studying in Finland, and Finnish law students studying in the U.S.

- A 3.0 GPA is required.
- Applicants of Finnish-American heritage will be given primary consideration.
- Financial need and course of study are considered, and U.S. or Finnish citizenship is required.
- Applications and support materials must be sent to the Finlandia Foundation National office and postmarked by February 2, 2015.

KIITOS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

May to November 2014, except gifts above \$1,000, which are cumulative:

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Heather Rautio
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Ronald Sillanpa
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Lorna Sulin
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United Finnish Kaleva Bros. & Sisters 32
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Catherine Wikstrom
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In Honor of:
Karelia & Ingria by Frans Laulainen

Celebrating Sibelius 150 Jubilee:
Delores Aebersold
Joyce Giblin

Rapala

FFN is also grateful for in-kind contributions.

Please report any errors to office@finlandiafoundation.org

Remembering Andrejs Udris

Andrejs Udris (d. October 2014), a Latvian-American and a friend of Finland, was an active member and supporter of Finlandia Foundation Seattle. He bequeathed a significant gift to Finlandia Foundation National, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Paloheimo Foundation. As Andrejs specified, his contribution will benefit programs of FF Seattle. Here, Marja Hall remembers her friend.

By Marja Hall

Andrejs Udris was born 1928 in Riga, Latvia, where he grew up as a middle sibling of three boys. In September 1944 his family fled Latvia. He came to the United States as a refugee, arriving in Minneapolis in 1949. Eventually he connected with the rest of the family in Portland, Oregon.

He joined the U.S. Air Force, and with the GI Bill attended Oregon State University in Corvallis. Because of his brilliant performance in school, by the time of his graduation Andrejs was recruited by multiple companies around the U.S. He chose the Boeing Company, where he worked as an electrical engineer his entire 32-year career.

Andrejs' interests were gardening, traveling, electronics, music and dancing. During his refugee years in Europe, he was in charge of music and teaching a folkdance group in a displaced persons camp in Esslingen, Germany. While still in his youth, after making it to the States, he was a dance teacher at Arthur Murray in Portland. Later he was a loyal, 35-year member of the Seattle area Finnish folkdance groups. He loved all kinds of music, but favored Finnish and Latin tunes.

Many Ways to Give to FFN

As the end of the year approaches it's a natural time to think about contributions to charitable groups including Finlandia Foundation National, a 501 (c)(3) organization.

FUND Facts about giving to FFN:

- Your donation of any size will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the Paloheimo Foundation (up to a total of \$100,000 in 2014).
- All gifts support the mission of the FFN founders, to "unite all Finland Friends in this country," and to maintain ties to Finland and encourage Finnish-American culture and traditions.



Andrejs Udris, a friend of Finland and Finlandia Foundation.

Andrejs spent part of his time building computers, making travel DVDs and designing electrical systems for alarms, lighting, and other purposes.

He was a lifetime member of Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter, which honored his contributions to the community with a special recognition in 2010.

He was also a strong supporter of Scandinavian studies at the University of Washington. Before his passing he made major contributions to Finland's 100th anniversary independence celebration as well as to the 2015 Sibelius 150 Jubilee. Because of his total immersion in Finnish community and culture, it is fair to say that he

was an honorary Finn all the way.

Very active until the end, Andrejs focused his energy on activities and people that brought him joy. He lived life with passion. Everything he did, he put in 100%.

We will miss Andrejs for his generosity, his glide on the dance floor, wit and unique sense of humor. Thanks for the memories!

- Now it's easier to give securely online at the FFN website with your credit card or by PayPal.
- You may mail your contribution to FFN, P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.
- We are happy to help you determine the best means of giving to FFN, from direct contributions to gifts of stock or planned giving.
- FFN receives no public monies. Its success is due to the support of its members and donors like you. We appreciate your gift of any amount.

For more information or to make a contribution please phone 626.795.2081 or go to: FinlandiaFoundation.org

Finlandia Foundation National

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www.FinlandiaFoundation.org

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For more FFN news and items of interest to Finnish-America sign up for the free, monthly FFN E-newsletter at: FinlandiaFoundation.org

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Send your news tips and story ideas to FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo at: katusitalo@mac.com

Finlandia Foundation® National Chapters: Year Affiliated and President/Chairman

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Finns and Friends of Phoenix/2010
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Finnish Theme Committee of
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Chapter/2006
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

See the stories in this newsletter and mark your calendar for these FFN deadlines:

- **January 15, 2015:** Grant applications
- **February 2, 2015:** Scholarship applications and Sibelius 150 Jubilee grant applications
- **February 14, 2015:** Performer of the Year applications
- **February 28, 2015:** FFN Salolampi scholarship applications
- **April 1, 2015:** Soiva Music Camp early registration discount

F-A Cultural Corporation/2012

Frank Gottberg
frankk@att.net

Upper Peninsula Chapter of the League of F-A Societies/2006

Ron J. Hill
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F-A Society of West Central Michigan/2007

Marie Godell Fowler
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FF/Twin Cities Chapter/1993

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FF Northland Chapter/2010

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Red Lodge Knights and Ladies of Kaleva/2011

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