



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 5

By Ossi Rahkonen

FFN President

Even as Finlandia Foundation continues to grow---we now number 50 chapters in 23 states and Washington, D.C.---we are looking at where our organization has been and where it is headed. It is the obligation of the FFN Board of Trustees to ensure the health of FFN today and tomorrow, and to make plans for its future stability.

To that end we have formed the FFN Review Committee comprised of Trustees and others outside of the FFN Board. In addition to myself, committee members are Eila Chisholm, Paul Halme, Marja Kaisla, Jim Kurtti, Kaarina Langeland, Satu Mikkola, Anja Miller, Jon Saari and Anita Smiley.

We are examining our mission statement and each of our programs and activities. We have been considering what lies ahead for FFN and Finnish America as we face dynamics very different than they were in 1953 when Finlandia Foundation was founded. For example, at that time ethnic organizations were very central to the lives of many immigrants, while today, as the generations are further removed from their roots, Finnish-Americans may be interested in their heritage but it is not necessarily a priority.

Earlier this year we undertook an online survey of subscribers to our free, monthly E-Newsletter



Photo courtesy Finnish American Heritage Center

with the goal of gauging, among other things, how FFN is viewed, what FFN activities are important, and what we should strive for in the future. We are studying the survey results and that information will serve as a basis for discussion at the Finlandia Foundation Joint Chapter Meeting in November of 2016.

The information gathered from the survey, the thoughtful input of the Review Committee and the exchange that will take place at the Joint Chapter Meeting are all important to the formation of a plan that will ensure that Finlandia Foundation not

only survives but thrives in the years to come.

Chapter Leaders to Meet in 2016

Finlandia Foundation announces a Joint Chapter Meeting, November 5-6, 2016 in Washington, D.C., for representatives from each of our chapters. The last FFN Joint Chapter Meeting was held in 2006 in Seattle, and was enthusiastically received.

With the growth in the number of FFN chapters, the work of our special FFN Review Committee underway, and the Finland 100 celebration on the horizon in 2017, it is a good time to bring together the chapter leadership and FFN Trustees for networking and forward thinking that will benefit chapters individually and FFN as a whole.

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Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

Greetings to you all!

The year 2015 has been tremendously busy. We have executed the major Sibelius 150 Jubilee program with 52 concerts in the U.S. sponsored directly by Finlandia Foundation, and another 50 with our involvement or advice.

We have listed more than 230 Sibelius concerts and programs on our website calendar, with additional events still being recorded.

At the same time, we have been gearing up for the Centennial of Finland's independence in 2017. It is likely to be of even greater interest to the Finnish-American community than the Sibelius celebration. While the FFN Sibelius Jubilee Committee is gearing down, we have organized a Centennial Committee, whose members have been assigned FF chapters they will be in touch with in preparing for 2017 events.

We are also in contact with the Embassy of Finland, FinnFest USA, Finlandia University and the American Scandinavian Foundation to coordinate our activities and to initiate joint projects with them.

Of special interest to chapter leaders: We are preparing for a Joint FFN/Chapter Meeting for November 2016 to discuss issues of interest to the whole FF family. Important input for that meeting will be the results of a survey FFN has undertaken among a sample of FFN E-Newsletter

readers. That meeting will take place November 5-6 in the Washington, D.C. area. We are considering providing financial support to chapter representatives to encourage participation. We will provide chapter leadership with more information about the meeting in the next few months, but please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Fundraising continues to be more important than ever, with the expanded activities we are undertaking. Fortunately, donations to FFN have also increased, but we certainly need your support with the Finland 100 centennial activities coming up, and growing demand for our grants and scholarships.

Iam making a plea for your support. We are expanding and becoming a stronger organization, but that will also require additional financial resources. After a rapid expansion over the past 10 years we are now 50 chapters strong, and with a couple of additional chapters in the works we may reach 52 chapters early in 2016.

We look forward to a close cooperation with all of you! We are ready to respond to any questions and suggestions you may have.

Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ossi Rahkonen

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POY Sara Pajunen

POY Sara Pajunen uniquely interprets traditional Finnish tunes.

By Betsey Norgard

FFN Trustee and POY Coordinator

In her first concert as Performer of the Year, Sara Pajunen played in familiar territory on the Iron Range in Minnesota at the historic Kaleva Hall of Virginia. In September, the Finnish-Americans and Friends Hibbing Chapter, together with the Knights and Ladies of the Kaleva, hosted the musician, who played a variety of traditional and new folk music. The program also recognized the Sibelius 150 Jubilee Year with a short presentation on the composer's life and work, which Sara followed with a Sibelius violin selection that highlighted her classical training.

For winter and spring, she has seven POY chapter visits scheduled, with at least three more in planning stages. In most cases, Sara presents a varied selection of Finnish folk music, but she also offers "Laatikko," a conceptual project that combines violin, vocals, technology and archival material to share stories of Finnish immigration to Minnesota.

If you would like to invite Sara Pajunen to your Finlandia Foundation chapter, contact POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net. Find more information about Sara and details on hosting the POY at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

LOY Now Available Through May 2016

By Jon Saari

FFN Trustee and LOY Coordinator

The actress duo of Taina Elg and Heli Sirviö, the elder and the apprentice, has already made Lecturer of the Year appearances in Boston, New York City, Hancock and Farmington Hills, Michigan. Plans are underway for a stop in Los Angeles, where Taina will present her Finnish national costume for display at the Finnish Folk Art Museum.

The LOY run has been extended through May of 2016, so chapters may book an appearance during the winter and spring months.

Designed as an interview between Heli and Taina, it features scenes from her early life as a dancer in Finland and subsequent career as an actress and singer in Hollywood and on Broadway. It includes film clips and a lively question-and-answer session.

Jim Kurtti, director of the Finnish American Heritage Center at Finlandia University in Hancock, was moved by the presentation and received many compliments on the program. "Taina was an absolute delight. A beautiful person inside and out," he says. "When the vintage video clips were playing, Taina's lips gently mouthed the words. She was transformed to another time and place, and we were, as well."

To book the presentation contact LOY Coordinator Jon Saari at jsaari@nmu.edu. Find information about the actresses and details on hosting the LOY at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Heli Sirviö (below left) and Taina Elg with a clip of Gene Kelly from Taina's movie musical *Les Girls* at the LOY appearance in Hancock. Photo courtesy of Jim Kurtti.



POY Nominations Due February 16

Entertainer alert: Finlandia Foundation is seeking its Performer of the Year for the period September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017. The popular program is open to a solo artist of any talent that is related to Finnish and Finnish-American culture, appeals to a range of ages and is consistent with the goals of FFN. Application deadline is February 16, 2016.

Since the second half of the POY term will fall during the 2017 centennial year of Finland's independence, and we know that many FFN chapters are planning celebrations of that milestone, applicants should consider how their program might connect to Finland's centenary.

The POY must reside in the U.S. and be nominated by an FFN chapter or another Finnish-American organization, or an FFN trustee. Artists may not self-nominate. The POY receives a travel stipend of \$7,000 to assist with a minimum of eight appearances during the 12-month period.

A committee will review applications and select the POY in early 2016. The application and guidelines, as well as FFN chapter information and contacts, are available on the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Direct questions to POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net.



Richard Koski, extraordinary accordionist from New York's Finger Lakes region, was POY in 2005.



Chapters Receive Reindeer Herder Documentary DVD

By **Maria Kizirian**
Assistant to the Board of Trustees

Finlandia Foundation National supported the film *Aatsinki: The Story of Arctic Cowboys* with a grant, and we are delighted to announce that the producer has provided a complimentary copy of the DVD for each of our 50 FFN chapters. This will give each chapter an opportunity to screen the film as a group, add to their library, or otherwise enjoy the 84-minute documentary, which follows a year in the life of brothers and reindeer herders Arne and Lasse Aatsinki.

Quiet but good natured, dare-devilish but humble, rugged but gentle, and exceptionally knowledgeable when it comes to their slice of wilderness, the brothers, their wives and children live well north of the Arctic Circle in Finnish Lapland. They are the leaders of a collective of traditional herders who manage the last group of wild reindeer in Finland.

Producer/Director/Writer Jessica Oreck created a study of hard work, hard-earned leisure, and an intricate bond between man and nature. *Aatsinki* premiered in competition at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival.

Learn more about the film or purchase a personal copy of the DVD at arcticcowboys.com.

Grant and Scholarship Deadlines Approach

Finlandia Foundation National has long aided students in their studies and supported non-profit programs and projects related to Finnish and Finnish-American culture, heritage and traditions by annually awarding scholarships and grants. The 2016 application deadlines are January 15 for grants and February 1 for scholarships.

Information, applications and the FFN spring newsletter, which carries brief descriptions of the 2015 grant and scholarship recipients and their projects and studies, are available online at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

GRANTS

Richard Ahola
FFN Trustee and Grants Committee Chair

In 2015 FFN made 31 awards to assist film, book, music, theater, art and historic preservation projects. In developing an application, keep in mind:

- 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 organizations.
- Grants should show evidence of high cultural, educational, artistic or scientific merit.
- Grant maximum is \$5,000 per award.
- Special consideration is given to projects endorsed or sponsored by an FFN chapter.
- Salaries for project personnel are not allowable.
- Applications and support materials must be sent to the FFN office.

Application postmark deadline: January 15, 2016



Susanna Pesonen, a 2015 scholarship recipient, is studying mechanical engineering and Scandinavian studies at University of California Berkeley.



The Ameriikan Poijat brass septet received an FFN grant in 2015 to support the band's 25th anniversary tour.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hanna Wagner
FFN Trustee and Scholarships Committee Chair

The first scholarships awarded by Finlandia Foundation were to musicians attending The Juilliard School and Sibelius Academy. Today, students in all areas of academic study are welcome to apply for undergraduate and graduate scholarships. The 19 recipients in 2015 included American, Finnish and dual citizen Finnish-Americans pursuing studies in the U.S. and Finland.

FFN also offers the P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Scholarship, designed to encourage cross-cultural understanding by American and Finnish law students. The scholarship was awarded to four students in 2015.

When completing an application, keep in mind:

- Fulltime undergraduate (sophomore or higher) students and graduate students at accredited post-secondary institutions in the U.S. and Finland are eligible to apply for scholarships.
- The P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Studies Fund awards scholarships to American law students studying in Finland, and Finnish law students in the U.S.
- A 3.0 GPA is required.
- Applicants of Finnish-American heritage will be given priority consideration.
- U.S. or Finnish citizenship is required. Financial need and course of study are considered.
- Applications and support materials must be sent to the FFN office.

Application postmark deadline: February 1, 2016

Scholarships, Travel Funds Available for Salolampi 2016

Each summer, young people from 7 to 18 years old experience a bit of Finland at a wooded, lakeside setting in Bemidji, Minnesota. Everything at Salolampi Language Village, from the traditional Finnish architecture to the meals, crafts and sporting activities---even the treats in the camp store---is designed to immerse boys and girls in the language and culture.

“Salolampi is a unique place where each child can build lasting friendships and understand more about themselves within the framework of a global community,” says Salolampi Language Village Dean Amy Iida Tervola Hultberg.

Sessions run from June to August and most last one- and two-weeks, with a four-week session for grades 9-12 that may earn high school credit. This year, all students will receive a Salolampi Foundation Automatic Scholarship; the amount depends on the session selected.

Additionally, multiple scholarships and grants are available to assist with the cost of attending Salolampi, including monies for tuition and travel expenses from Finlandia Foundation National. FFN will match scholarships offered to a student by a chapter (up to \$300). Chapters must submit their 2016 Salolampi nominees to the FFN office by February 29, 2016. Find details at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

“We are proud to partner with Salolampi Foundation to further our joint mission to support Finnish-American culture and heritage in the United States, especially among our most valuable asset, our youth, who will carry these ideals forward as future leaders,” says FFN President Ossi Rahkonen.

For tuition information, deadlines and additional



Amelia Wikstrom (in grey shirt at left) and her younger sister Nora (in pink) learn weaving basics at Salolampi Language Village.

scholarships and discounts see the Salolampi and Concordia Language Villages websites: salolampi.org and concordialanguagevillages.org.



Amelia Wikstrom (center) with friends at Salolampi in 2015. She and her sister Nora received scholarship assistance from FFN and look forward to returning to the camp in Minnesota.

Sisters Share Salolampi Fun

It was a record year for Finlandia Foundation assistance to boys and girls attending Salolampi Language Village in Bemidji, Minnesota. FFN matching scholarship funds and travel grants went to eight young people from six states---Arizona, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota and New York---during the summer 2015 season. Supported by the FFN Twin Cities, Florida, Boston, New York Metropolitan and Copper Country (Hancock, Michigan) chapters, the villagers enjoyed the Finnish language, games, crafts, activities and foods surrounded by authentic Finnish architecture.

Salolampi, which means “pond by the woods” in Finnish, has been a regular summertime activity for Amelia Wikstrom. Grandmother Cathy Wikstrom says, “I have taken Amelia to Salolampi Family Week and/or sent her to Salolampi Immersion sessions for eight years. She loves it!”

Amelia concurs. “I had so much fun,” she writes. “I played mölkky, ate pulla, took a sauna, and much more! The counselors are so nice and really help. I cannot wait for next year, which will be my ninth year!”

Her younger sister Nora joined her at Salolampi in 2015 and adds, “I had a really great time. The food was delicious. I enjoyed all of the activities. I learned very much during the lessons and activities about the language, the culture, and my heritage. I really hope to be able to go to Salolampi again in the future.”

Soiva Grows Into True International Status

By Dennis Anderson

FFN Trustee and Soiva Music Camp Coordinator

We are happy to report that Soiva International Music Camp, June 20-28, 2015 at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, was an outstanding success.

The quality and demeanor of the students were extraordinary. We welcomed 15 Finnish and 21 U.S. musicians---all well-mannered, energetic and eager-to-learn. Half had returned from the previous year and three attended for their third year. Our faculty included four teachers from Finland and six from Concordia College.

Now, for some very exciting news: Soiva 2016 will be held in Finland, fulfilling one of the original goals of the program when it was launched in 2008.

Finnish faculty who have been involved with Soiva Camp are planning the program for June 16-23 in Järvenpää, which is a short distance from Helsinki. Soiva will be held at Kallio-Kuninkala, the estate of Leonora Curtin Paloheimo and Yrjö Paloheimo, two of the founders of Finlandia Foundation. Kuninkala is located very near Ainola, the residence of Jean Sibelius (now a museum), and is affiliated with the Sibelius Academy Music Center. Students and parents can check out the website, kuninkala.fi, for site details and photos (click on the English pages, then Sibelius Academy and Image Galleries).

Tentative plans are to gather and fly as a group from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Helsinki around June 12 or 14.

Finlandia Foundation National has approved travel grants in the amount of \$500 per student for those who wish to participate in Soiva 2016. To date, nine Soiva alumni have expressed a desire to enroll. We encourage all interested chamber music students, ages 11-19, with proficiency in piano, violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone or composition to contact Dennis Anderson at soiva2016@yahoo.com.

“Music, students and international exchange. That’s what it’s about,” says FFN Vice President Paul Halme, who applauds Soiva Camp in Finland.

Finlandia Foundation chapters are encouraged to support potential student participation in Soiva 2016. Details are still being finalized, as this is a



Soiva Music Camp 2016 will be held at Kallio-Kuninkala, the Paloheimo estate in Järvenpää, Finland, now utilized by the Sibelius Academy.



Soiva students (above) and faculty (below) enjoyed another successful Soiva Camp at Concordia College in 2015, and many participants look forward to a new experience as Soiva Music Camp moves to Finland in June 2016.



“work in progress” since it will be the first time Soiva Camp will be hosted in Finland.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted at the website, FinlandiaFoundation.org.



FFN Board Meets in Santa Fe, New Mexico

During their meeting in Santa Fe, FFN Trustees were able to visit the home of Finlandia Foundation founders Yrjö and Leonora Curtin Paloheimo. Front row, from left: Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog, Satu Mikkola, Päivi Tetri, Betsey Norgard, Secretary Jacqueline Harjula, Hanna Wagner and Anita Häkkinen Smiley, with host George Paloheimo. Back row, from left: Tim Nurvala, Treasurer Dirk Schulbach, Dennis Anderson, President Ossi Rahkonen, Vice President Paul Halme, Marja Kaisla, Peter Mäkilä, Richard Ahola and Jon Saari.

The Finlandia Foundation National Board of Trustees held its fall meeting October 23-25 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Following individual committee meetings the full board convened to discuss FFN business and activities.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find stories about developments with the Performer and Lecturer of the Year programs (page 3), Soiva International Music Camp (page 7), grants and scholarships (page 5), and Salolampi Language Village (page 6).

In addition to reviewing this year's events and the major, new undertaking of 2015, the Sibelius 150 Jubilee (page 11), the board heard from the Finland 100 Centennial Committee as it looks forward to the anniversary of Finland's independence in 2017 (page 18).

FFN Vice President and Chairman of the Board of the Paloheimo Foundation Paul Halme (far right) talks about Acequia Madre House as trustees enjoy a special dinner in the main gathering space of the home, which is much as the Curtin-Paloheimo family left it.



Another special committee, which is dedicated to reviewing Finlandia Foundation's mission and plans for its future, confirmed plans for a Joint Chapter Meeting for November 2016 (see story page 1).

The FFN - Santa Fe Connection

The choice of Santa Fe as the board's meeting location provided an opportunity to visit the home of Finlandia Foundation founders Leonora and Yrjö Paloheimo.

While the couple maintained their lovely home in Pasadena (the site of the founding of Finlandia Foundation and location of Yrjö's Finnish Consulate office and official functions), they spent much of their time in Santa Fe at Acequia Madre House, "House of the Three Wise Women." The home is so named because it was built in the early 1920s by Eva Scott Fenyes, her daughter Leonora S.M. Curtin, and her daughter Leonora F. Curtin (who would later marry Yrjö Paloheimo).

During a tour and special dinner at the home, FFN board members learned more about the Curtin-Paloheimo vision and appreciation for history, preservation and pride in the culture, language and traditions of this region.

Acequia Madre House is preserved much as the Paloheimos left it, and the compound is now home of the Women's International Study Center. You can learn more about it at: wisc-amh.org/history/acequia-madre-house/

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New Ambassadors in Finland and U.S.

Both the Embassy of Finland in the United States and the U.S. Embassy in Finland welcomed new ambassadors in recent months.



Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Kirsti Kauppi

Her Excellency Kirsti Kauppi replaces Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. With more than 30 years of foreign policy experience, Ambassador Kauppi most recently served as Ambassador of Finland in Vienna, and has worked at the Finnish Embassies in Bangkok and Berlin. She looks

forward to getting to know the Finnish-American community and building interest in and knowledge of Finland in this country. In October, just about one month into her new role, the ambassador greeted visitors to FinnFest USA in Buffalo.

The Honorable Charles C. Adams, Jr., succeeds Bruce Oreck as the Ambassador of the U.S. in Helsinki. As the son of a U.S. Foreign Service officer, he was born in Ireland and grew up in several countries around the world. He is an attorney who most recently was a managing partner at the Geneva office of a law firm, and was former co-chair of Americans Abroad for Obama.



Speakers at FinnFest USA in Buffalo (from left): Yvonne Lockwood (a former FFN Lecturer of the Year); Emcee Cindy Letro; the Hon. Byron Brown, Mayor of Buffalo; Her Excellency Kirsti Kauppi, Ambassador of Finland to the U.S.; FinnFest USA President Marianne Wargelin; the Hon. Aleksi Randell, Mayor of Turku, Finland.



U.S. Ambassador to Finland Charles C. Adams, Jr.

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El Rancho de Las Golondrinas

On the beautiful Sunday morning after the FFN board meeting in Santa Fe, George Paloheimo, son of Leonora and Yrjö, treated trustees to a tour of El Rancho de las Golondrinas (The Ranch of the Swallows). The compound dates to the 1700s, and was an official stop on the El Camino Real route.

In the 1930s Leonora Curtin's family purchased the property, which is located in La Cienega, just south of Santa Fe. Thanks to the foresight of the Curtin-Paloheimo family, it has been preserved as a one-of-a-kind living history museum that brings to life the heritage and culture of the area in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is open to visitors from April through early October.

Learn more at: golondrinas.org.



FFN board members tour the historic structures of El Rancho de las Golondrinas, preserved by the Curtin-Paloheimo family as New Mexico's only such living history museum.

Buffalo Has Finnspiration

With the theme, “Finnspiration,” Buffalo, New York, welcomed FinnFest USA October 9-12 with warm hospitality and beautiful autumn weather. The center of activity was Kleinhans Music Hall, which opened in 1940 and was designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen. As part of the hall’s 75th anniversary celebration the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra performed a wonderful “Echoes of Sibelius” concert, a highlight of the weekend for many FinnFest attendees.

Kleinhans Music Hall was also home to the Tori marketplace, where Finlandia Foundation National had a booth staffed by FFN Assistant to the Board of Trustees Maria Kizirian and Communications Manager Kath Usitalo.

Many FFN chapter leaders, members of chapters, former Lecturers and Performers of the Year and other friends of FFN stopped by the booth to visit.

Buffalo doesn’t have a large Finnish community so there were many visitors, including Saturday evening concert-goers, who had little or no knowledge of Finland or FFN. It was a great opportunity to share information about Finlandia Foundation and Finnish America.



Maria Kizirian greets visitors to the FFN Tori booth.



John and Pauline Kiltinen, long active on the Finnish-American scene, made the trip from Marquette, Michigan to enjoy FinnFest USA.

FFN President Ossi Rahkonen and Trustees Richard Ahola, Jon Saari and Tarja Silverman were also in attendance at FinnFest.

Through its grants program FFN awarded funds to support the FinnFest USA organization as well as Kleinhans Music Hall and the brass ensemble Ameriikan Poijat, who performed.

FinnFest USA 2016 will be a cruise from Boston to Montreal, July 9-16.

For information: finnfestusa2016.com

Ready for Its Close-Up, FFN Plans New Video

In an ongoing effort to increase its online presence and visibility, in 2016 Finlandia Foundation National will produce a short video about the organization that will meet a multitude of needs. It will be posted on the FFN website and a new FFN YouTube channel, as well as on the FFN Facebook page and other outlets. The video will be shown at Finlandia Foundation exhibit booths such as that at the FinnFest USA Tori, and it will be available for FFN chapters for use at their events.

Several years ago Anja Miller, who served on the

FFN Board, produced an informational video about Finlandia Foundation. With the Finland 100 celebration on the horizon in 2017 the timing is right for a new program about FFN.

Video production companies that are accustomed to working on a tight budget and are interested in the project, which is still in development, may contact FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo for more information (kathusitalo@mac.com), or go to the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

SIBELIUS 150 JUBILEE 1865 2015

By Marja Kaisla
FFN Trustee and Chair, Sibelius 150 Jubilee

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius during 2015, Finlandia Foundation National tracked and posted on its website over 230 events across the U.S., including concerts, lectures and other programs. FFN awarded \$98,264 in grants to 52 musical and/or cultural organizations to assist them in bringing awareness of the music and life of the Finnish composer to American audiences at-large.

The recipient organizations ranged from individual artists to large-scale orchestras, and from small FF local chapters to music festivals. Grant amounts ranged from \$250 to \$16,000.

FFN brought several artists from Finland to present Sibelius programs, as was stipulated in part in the Finnish Government grant of EUR 30,000 that FFN received, with the assistance of Suomi-Seura, in 2014. Finnish artists on tour included violinist Petteri Iivonen, the duet of cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Ruusamari Teppo, and a 10-day, six-state, East Coast tour by the Tapiola Chamber Choir.

In March 2015 the Seattle Symphony hosted a three-



Gathered at a reception following the Seattle Symphony “Luminous Landscapes” opening concert in March (from left): Karin Rahkonen, FFN President Ossi Rahkonen, Seattle Symphony President and CEO Simon Woods, Conductor Thomas Dausgaard, Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde, pianist Ruusamari Teppo, FFN Trustee Satu Mikkola and cellist Jussi Makkonen.

week festival, “Luminous Landscapes: The Sibelius Symphonies,” which FFN recognized with its inaugural Award of Excellence. The biennial FFN award honors outstanding efforts on behalf of Finnish and Finnish-American interests, individuals and achievements.

A special Sibelius banner exhibit continues to travel to events in the U.S., and to date has been seen by an estimated 65,000 people at about 20 venues.

Objectives set forth in the original Sibelius 150 Jubilee plan were to raise the profile of FFN in the U.S. as a viable grant-making organization, and as an advocacy organization for Finnish culture. To that end, all of the Sibelius grantee organizations were instructed to include FFN in advertising and marketing materials as a sponsor of that event. In addition, local media coverage of many of the events bolstered awareness of Sibelius, Finland, FFN and Finnish America.

From field reports it is evident that FFN has not only met, but exceeded its goals for the Sibelius 150 Jubilee.



The Seattle Symphony received the inaugural FFN Award of Excellence.



FFN produced a series of banners about the composer for display at Sibelius 150 Jubilee events across the U.S.

Bay Area Symposium, Concerts Honor Sibelius

By Don Fidler

Finlandia Foundation Bay Area Chapter

Our San Francisco Bay Area Chapter was the proud supporter of two highly successful events honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius, Finland's world famous composer and

Finnish violinist Minna Pensola performs Sibelius' Violin Concerto.



the first Patron of Finlandia Foundation National.

The first event, at De Anza College's Flint Center in Cupertino on November 1, featured the El Camino Youth Orchestra, one of this country's foremost youth orchestras. Led by Maestro Jindong Cai, the concert featured selections from Sibelius' *The Tempest*, his Fifth Symphony, and his Violin Concerto played by the young Finnish violinist Minna Pensola. Pensola received a standing ovation from the full house

for her dynamic and sensitive interpretation of the concerto, one of the most technically demanding in the whole violin repertory. This memorable concert was sponsored partly by grants from Finlandia Foundation National and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

One week later, Sibelius was again celebrated in an extraordinary, weekend-long festival at Stanford University's beautiful Bing Concert Hall. On Friday, November 6, the Stanford Wind Ensemble presented a program that included Finlandia arranged for woodwinds and selections from the *Karelia Suite*. The following day a symposium with three speakers addressed Sibelius' landscapes, his influence on modern composers and his reception history. Our Bay Area Chapter hosted a festive reception after the symposium. The day concluded with the 850-plus seat auditorium filled to capacity in a rousing performance by the Stanford Symphony Orchestra of Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, Finlandia and Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*. The program was repeated in a Sunday matinee.

We as a chapter can be proud of being an integral part of these wonderful celebrations, which will live on in our memories as some of the grandest and most memorable occasions of our chapter's history. The young musicians of both orchestras loved playing Sibelius. His music, and his country, came alive in these performances and it was clear to this observer/listener that the many people who were present were thinking: "Finland! It must be a remarkable country to have produced this music. We must find out more about it."

And that is what we want. That is what we are here to do.

FFN Sponsors Variety of Sibelius 150 Jubilee Concerts



The Tapiola Chamber Choir's 10-day tour of the U.S. included a concert at Carnegie Hall. The Aizuri String Quartet of Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music performed at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. in a concert cohosted by FFN and the Embassy of Finland.



Finnish Music, Architecture Come Together in Buffalo

Adapted from a Finnish American Reporter article by Arthur Koski, past FFN board member who for several years coordinated the Performer of the Year program.

The music of Finnish composers in a setting designed by Finnish architects converged at FinnFest USA in Buffalo in October. The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of JoAnn Falletta, performed back-to-back weekends of Nordic music at Kleinhans Music Hall, which was designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen.

On October 3-4 "Northern Lights @Kleinhans" featured the U.S. premiere of Finnish composer Sebastian Fagerlund's *Isola*, plus Grieg's Piano Concerto played by Juho Pohjonen and Sibelius' *Symphony No. 5*. "Echoes of Sibelius" followed October 9-10 with Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Symphony No. 1*, the U.S. premiere of Jaakko Kuusisto's *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* played by Elina Vähälä, and Sibelius' *Symphony No. 1*.

FinnFest also presented pianist Craig Randal Johnson and clarinetist Gregory Barrett in "Sibelius and His Legacy in Finnish Music." The two had played together at FinnFest in San Diego, where Gregory was soloist for the Aki Salo-Mäki clarinet concerto. He is Professor of Clarinet at Northern



Craig Randal Johnson (left), JoAnn Falletta and Arthur Koski visit at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo.

Illinois University and a specialist in music from Finland. His recording, "The Finnish Clarinet," is available on the ALBA label.

Craig, a solo piano recitalist, accompanist and conductor, was FFN Performer of the Year in 1999. In 2011, he conducted the U.S. premiere of Jukka Linkola's opera, *Rockland*, at the Pine Mountain Music Festival in Houghton, Michigan.

Janne's Women Take Stage

By Elsa Shepard, Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula County

The Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula, Ohio celebrated the anniversary of Jean Sibelius' birth with an original play, *The Ghost and Mrs. Sibelius*, on September 19 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Ashtabula. It was recipient of a Finlandia Foundation Sibelius 150 Jubilee grant.

Author and director of the play is Elizabeth Hietikko, long time member and treasurer of the FAHA. The action of the play centers around Aino Sibelius and her five adult daughters, who meet one year after Sibelius' death at their home Ainola and reminisce about their husband and father.

A local art teacher created a wonderful backdrop of Ainola. David Koski provided technical support, with behind the scenes help from Lois Jones and Susan Luhta. Shirley Staley, Janet



The cast (seated, from left) Linda Riddell as Margareta; Betty Hietikko, playwright and director; Dorothy Altonen, Aino; (standing, from left) Elsa Shepard, Ruth; Joanne Carpenter, Eva; Bill Asuma, Janne; Stacie Capp, Heidi; Vicki Stofan, Katarina.

Eskelin and Cheryl Licata provided delightful refreshments. All involved are of Finnish heritage!

“Jewels of Sibelius” Delights Audiences of All Ages

Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Ruusamari Teppo have been performing their “Jewels of Sibelius” concert throughout the U.S. as part of the Sibelius 150 Jubilee. Their busy schedule has included visits to multiple schools, where they enchanted students with the music of Finland’s great composer.

Sinikka Garcia of the Finnish-American Club of Tucson reports a successful visit by the duo for a concert in the sanctuary of Dove of Peace Lutheran Church, where they received a long standing ovation.

“We also arranged with a professor at the Music Department of the University of Arizona for Jussi to have a session with his students one morning, and another session with his music majors,” Sinikka says. At a second concert in a recital hall on campus they played for a nearly full house.

Jussi and Ruusamari also appeared on the Tucson TV program “The Morning Blend.” (There is a link to the television appearance on the Sibelius 150 Jubilee web page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.)

Sinikka has written a series of stories about the life of Sibelius and compiled them in “Janne Sibelius 1865-1957.” A PDF of the document is available on the Sibelius 150 Jubilee web page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.



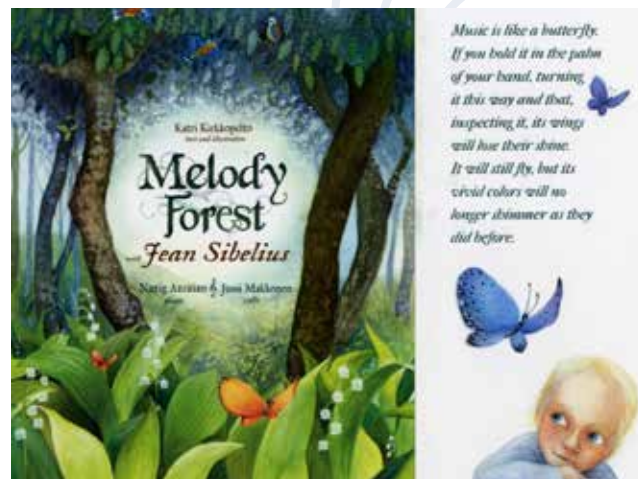
Pianist Ruusamari Teppo (left) and cellist Jussi Makkonen visit with students during their “Jewels of Sibelius” tour of U.S. schools.

Soiva Metsä is Certified Gold

Jussi Makkonen’s outreach to school children began in Finland in 2010 and resulted in his developing a combination book and CD, released in early 2015, about Jean Sibelius. The *Soiva Metsä* (*Melody Forest*) CD, recorded by Jussi and pianist Nazig Azejian, is the first Finnish classical cello-piano record to sell over 10,000 copies and to be certified gold.

As a Sibelius 150 Jubilee gift, Finlandia Foundation presented *Soiva Metsä* to each of the Suomi koulus (Finnish schools) in the U.S.

For more information about the artist: jussimakkonen.com



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.

FFN Reaches Chapter Membership Milestone

With the recent addition of chapters in Alaska, California, Ohio and South Dakota, Finlandia Foundation National chapter membership has doubled in the past 10 years, to 50 chapters in 23 states and Washington, D.C.

In October Maria Kizirian, FFN assistant to the Board of Trustees, visited Fairport Harbor, Ohio to attend the opening night for the play *Sisu is in the Heart* (recipient of two FFN grants) and to visit the new FFN member, the Finnish Heritage Museum. She reports, “Museum President Lasse Hiltunen enthusiastically showed me around the museum, talked about the rich history of the community, and all the work that has been done with the actual building, including the five-ton statue in front of the museum, the “Spirit of Finland” (which also benefited from a grant from FFN).

New chapter member House of Finland is one of 33 countries represented at the House of Pacific Relations (HPR) in San Diego’s Balboa Park, where each nation has its own cottage at which to share its heritage and culture. House of Finland, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, is an active chapter with a Suomi koulu (Finnish school) and busy calendar of events, including HPR community activities. In September, House of Finland hosted an afternoon concert for the public featuring past Performer of the Year Terhi Miikki-Broersma and Jussi Makkonen and Ruusamari Teppo.



House of Finland in San Diego became the 50th FFN chapter.

In Alaska, the Anchorage Suomi Finland Club was founded in 1920 and is one of the oldest ethnic organizations in the state. Annual events include St. Urho’s Day and May 1st celebrations, Midsummer picnic and a Christmas party. Each year members look forward to *Uuden Vuoden Tinan Valu*, traditional lead pouring, to see what the New Year will bring.

The Sons and Daughters of Suomi, based in the Black Hills area of South Dakota, is not as formally organized as most chapters, holding just one meeting each June. This year’s assembly was in Lead, which in the late 1800s attracted Finns who worked in the mining industry. After a presentation by FFN Trustee Betsey Norgard about Finlandia Foundation and the benefits of membership for all sizes of chapters, the group voted to join FFN.

Sharing Suomi at ScanFest



The weather cooperated beautifully for the 32nd annual ScanFest at Vasa Park in Budd Lake, New Jersey, drawing a sizeable crowd to the September 4 event. FFN Immediate Past President Anita Smiley (above left) and Stephen and Katarina Bousquet of the Finnish American Heritage Society of Connecticut were kept busy sharing information about FFN and local Finnish organizations.

Joint Chapter Meeting continued from page 1

It will be an opportunity for us to share concerns, understand expectations, learn about chapter projections, and gather suggestions for further networking, collaboration and sharing of information. We anticipate guest speakers and roundtable exchanges that will help us shape our future.

We hope for good attendance by chapter leaders, who will receive meeting details as they are finalized.

Red River Finns Rally for Annual Festival

By **Ellen Liddle**
President, Red River Finns

The Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival and Midwest Viking Festival June 26-27 at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, Minnesota, opened with a parade of Scandinavian and Sami flags and U.S. and Finnish national anthems by the Ameriikan Poijat Septet. Honorary Consul of Finland James L. Johnson and Ellen Liddle, president of Red River Finns, welcomed everyone.

Music filled the air, including a special concert in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius that featured a moving performance of Finlandia sung in Finnish and English by the Saana Ensemble. Students of the Soiva International Music Camp gave superb performances each day.

The Red River Finns' cultural booth featured a video about Sibelius and large banners depicting his life, on loan from Finlandia Foundation National.

Fun Finn Meet-Up



Joel Wasti of the Finnish-American Club of Tucson shares a fun anecdote from Arizona: A while ago, in search of a guitar pick for playing a five-string kantele, Joel met Alicia Nurmi Pelton, assistant manager of the Music and Art store in Tucson. She revealed that she is a direct descendant of the great Finnish athlete Paavo Nurmi. Recently, when Ruusamari Teppo, great-great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius was in Tucson, Joel took her to the store for a meeting between relatives of two Finnish heroes.

From left, Ruusamari Teppo with her daughter, Alicia Nurmi Pelton and musician Terhi Miikki-Broersma.



Red River Finns at their cultural booth in June: (from left) Ellen Liddle, Grace Kangas, John Kube, Brent Kangas, Phyllis and Bruce Emmel and Dorothy Suomala.

Children enjoyed Angry Birds learning tools, Salolampi Language Village activities and playing mölkky, the Finnish throwing game. Visitors browsed the booths of vendors representing Finnish culture, and savored traditional foods such as open faced sandwiches, cardamom bread, rhubarb fruit soup, prune tarts, lemon sugar cookies and Finnish layer cake with berries and cream.

Volunteers from the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society and Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc. assisted the Red River Finns to help make the well-attended festival a success.

Logo Display Available to Chapters



The Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities Chapter recently created an attractive FFN logo table runner, shown in this display at a Minnesota Orchestra Sibelius 150 Jubilee concert. FFN chapters that have use for the poplin table topper (which measures 58" x 80") may order one for \$100. To place an order or for more information contact FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo at kathusitalo@mac.com

Finlandia University Hosts Festival Ruska

By **David Maki**
Finnish American Reporter

Take one evening with Baltic Crossing, a night with Taina Elg, sprinkle in a pair of authors, toss in the Finnish game mölkky and top with a heaping portion of genealogy. What do you get?

If you were in Michigan's Copper Country in September, you got Festival Ruska, which was created by Finlandia University. The festival set out with a goal of meeting the cliché of having "something for everyone," and it definitely did – except for the actual ruska, that is.

Ruska, a Finnish word that describes the fall color season, was a bit late arriving in the Hancock area this year, so the leaves weren't ablaze in autumnal color. Regardless, those who didn't attend at least some portion of Festival Ruska were green with envy of those who did.

The week-long event began with a music workshop and concert by the international folk band Baltic Crossing (photo below), with members from Finland, the United Kingdom and Denmark. Their performance defined "energetic" and had the

Calumet Theatre audience tapping their toes and clapping their hands well after the last note faded away.

Hollywood came to Hancock as veteran actress Taina Elg, Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, enthralled a sizeable audience at the Finnish American Heritage Center with stories and film clips from her acting career. With actress Heli Sirviö, the pair told the story of Elg's rise to fame, and how she has sustained that fame since the 1950s.

Festival Ruska included a literature component, with author talks and book signings by California-based writer Tim Jollymore (whose novels frequently incorporate Finnish-American characters) and Sami-American Ellen Jensen. A day-long genealogy seminar, which featured experts from Minnesota and Finland, as well as a presentation via Skype by a forensic genealogist from California, gave attendees tips and techniques on tracing their own Finnish roots.

Whether Festival Ruska continues in succeeding years is yet to be determined, but it is certain that the 2015 festival will live on for quite some time in the memories of those who were able to attend.



Ashtabula Chapter Turns 20

Congratulations are in order for the Finnish American Heritage Association of Ashtabula County on its 20th anniversary. Founded with 27 members in 1985 by Linda and John Riddell, membership now stands at about 100.

FAHA celebrated its anniversary in April with a dinner and music by Michigan accordionist Don Reinholm. "His performance of Finlandia was superb, very emotional for all in attendance," says FAHA President Elsa Shepard.

Suomi Finland 100

By Ossi Rahkonen
FFN President

On December 6, 1917, Finland declared its independence from Russia. Finland had been a Grand Duchy of Russia since 1809 and, before that, part of Sweden for about 700 years. Throughout the year 2017 there will be celebrations, large and small, in Finland and the United States, recognizing the event. Finlandia Foundation National and its network of 50 chapters are gearing up for the Finland 100 celebration.

FFN is an active member of the Centennial Committee assembled by the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C. I attend the committee meetings and offer ideas and reports from FFN chapters as they begin to formulate their plans.

FFN has set up a Centennial Committee and is coordinating its work with the Embassy's Centennial Committee. We are also coordinating our planning with Finlandia University and Finnfest USA. The

Chapters Plan for Finland 100

FFN has already heard from chapters in Washington, D.C., Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington, and encourages all chapters to begin planning for Finland 100 events in 2017. Activities in development include both informal and gala gatherings on or near the anniversary date of Wednesday, December 6, 2017, as well as lectures, exhibitions and concerts. A sampling:

- In Portland, Oregon the Columbia-Pacific Chapter plans a December 5, 2017 dinner in the ballroom of the new Nordia House, followed by a musical performance, preferably by musicians from Finland. The chapter is also planning to host a lecture and an exhibit at Nordia House and a display at the Finnish Room of Portland State University.

Consulates General in Los Angeles and New York City are planning events in their areas.

We know that many Finlandia Foundation chapters have already started to organize their own events, and FFN wants to help in this process. Centennial Committee members will be contacting chapters to find out what is being planned, and to extend our support--including financial support if necessary.

One idea that the Embassy committee is promoting is a traveling sauna, which will start a nationwide tour on the West Coast in early 2017 and end at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. on December 6. The sauna itself is more of a promotional instrument to the outside media, while a whole range of events can be arranged around it, not necessarily related to the sauna at all. We will share information about these plans as they develop.

We are also planning for a few national events on the East and West Coasts and in the Midwest. These will range from symposia to concerts. Prominent Finns, such as former Presidents Martti Ahtisaari and Tarja Halonen, would be invited as speakers. We know that a centennial concert is already being scheduled in Los Angeles, directed by Finlandia Foundation Patron Esa-Pekka Salonen.

We welcome your ideas and are ready to implement them to the extent that we are able, with the resources we have available. We are looking forward to a very successful year. We sense that there is a lot of excitement in the air! Finland has had difficult times over the past 100 years, but has come through successfully to become one of the most advanced countries in the world as demonstrated by its achievements in education and the high tech field.

- The Pittsburgh Chapter is hoping the centennial helps to realize its longstanding goal of constructing a Finland Nationality Classroom in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. The room's design reflects the unique Finnish log construction method. Learn more about the project, including how to contribute, at: pittsburghfinns.net.

- Finlandia Foundation Seattle is requesting that the State of Washington declare December 6, 2017, as "Finland Day." This is a terrific, no-cost idea that all chapters can act on within their states, and should be done well in advance.

Chapters and other organizations are encouraged to submit their ideas and plans, even in their tentative state, to FFN President Ossi Rahkonen at ossi1@verizon.net or Communications Manager Kath Usitalo at kathusitalo@mac.com.

Honor Those Who Served and Struggled in Winter War

By Ossi Rahkonen
FFN President

The Winter War Memorial in Helsinki is scheduled to be dedicated in 2017, during the centennial of Finland's independence. But it needs help from the United States.

Located at Kasarmitori Square, across from the Finnish Ministry of Defence, the sculpture is a monumental tribute titled, *He Who Brings the Light*, by artist Pekka Kauhanen.

The foundation stone was laid on March 13, 2015, on the 75th Anniversary of ending The Winter War, an epic battle for the independence of Finland.

The Winter War Memorial, costing about \$1.5 million, is to be funded in equal shares by the Finnish Government and City of Helsinki, and through private donations to the Winter War Association (WWA). The government and the city have fully funded their shares, but there is a gap of about \$170,000 in private donations to WWA. It is important to fill this gap as early as possible in 2016.

The Winter War Association had hoped that not only war veterans living in the U.S., but others supportive of this struggle, would donate to this worthy cause.

Finlandia Foundation is a corporate member of the WWA and has agreed to function as fiscal agent for its U.S. fundraising. Some donations have trickled in, but there is still a long way to go to reach our goal. The WWA had hoped that not only war veterans living in the U.S., but others supportive of this struggle, would donate to this worthy cause. It is essential that the Winter War monument is completed on time.



Families and friends may contribute as a tribute to those who served or struggled as a result of the war.

Individuals donating EUR 10,000 (equivalent of about \$11,000) or more, and corporate donors contributing EUR 30,000 (about \$33,000) or more, will have their names inscribed on the wall of the Ministry of Defence facing the Winter War Memorial.

There have been quite a number of donations of this size in Finland, showing how strongly the donors feel that the Memorial needs to be completed.

I sincerely hope that we can show that the support is equally strong on this side of the Atlantic.

You may make a contribution by check payable to Finlandia Foundation National and mailed to FFN at P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046, or donate by credit card or Paypal online at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Be sure to note that the donation is for the Winter War Memorial.

Is the Finnish Expatriate Parliament Relevant to You?

By Marja Oksajärvi Snyder

It has been nearly 20 years since the founding of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP), in the summer of 1997. Currently, 519 Finnish organizations from 38 countries have joined FEP, so one could characterize it by now as an entity of long-standing with considerable influence.

In May the FEP convened in Helsinki for its 8th General Session and regional meetings when delegates elected their respective new speakers and alternates for the term ending in June 2017. Satu Mikkola from Seattle was elected new speaker for the USA/Latin America region; I, Marja Snyder, am the alternate.

Satu and I earnestly invite you to share with us your thoughts, ideas or problems as Finnish expats. The bread and butter of FEP's work is based on initiatives sent to the Secretariat in Helsinki from any participating Finnish organization. Only rarely do organizations come up with initiatives—their source is you, the members, who may have come across a difficulty in matters ranging from voting in Finnish elections to getting a new passport, registering a second citizenship with the Finnish national registry, taxation, inheritance, new birth, opting out of military service, etc.

Consider taking your idea up with your organization and shaping it into an initiative to submit to the FEP Secretariat at any time. Forms are available on the FEP website (usp.fi).

At the May General Session priority was given to the issues that follow; the Secretariat is advocating on

behalf of them with the appropriate Finnish government agencies or NGOs:

- 1) To have voting by mail made available for expatriate Finns in national elections
- 2) To secure the operations of Suomi Schools and to support the education, native language, and culture of expatriate Finnish children and young people
- 3) To have the status of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament established by defining it in legislation
- 4) To secure continued financial support from the Ministry of Education and Culture to safeguard the operating conditions for Finland Society and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament
- 5) To have the Government Policy Programme for Expatriate Finns for 2012-2016 updated and applied in all administrative sectors from 2017 on.

The Secretariat had received 54 initiatives that, due to overlap, were combined into 41 which eight Committees shaped into draft resolutions for the plenary session. Resolutions for all of these initiatives are on the FEP website: usp.fi.

Feel free to contact us with questions or suggestions. We'd love to hear from you!

Marja Oksajärvi Snyder: marjanposti@hotmail.com
Satu Mikkola: satum@aol.com



Recognition for Satu Mikkola



FFN President Ossi Rahkonen presented Satu Mikkola with the Golden Badge of Merit at the recent FPN Board meeting in Santa Fe.

For the work she has done in supporting Finnish and Finnish-American culture in the United States, the Finlandia Foundation National Board of Trustees successfully nominated one of its members, Satu Mikkola, for the Suomi-Seura/Finland Society Golden Badge of Merit. FPN President Ossi Rahkonen presented the medal and certificate at the recent FPN board meeting in Santa Fe. "Her role has been invaluable," he says. "It would be hard to find anyone more active in Finnish-American cultural activities."

A native of Finland, Satu and her family have long lived in the Pacific Northwest, where she has been involved in the Finnish-American community in Oregon and Washington as a founding member of



Suomi koulu, the Finnish school, and member of many organizations including the Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce of the Northwest and Finlandia Foundation Seattle and Columbia Pacific Chapters.

She has served as FPN treasurer and coordinator of its Performer of the Year program, and organized numerous concerts throughout 2015 as part of the Sibelius 150 Jubilee.

In 2011 Satu was awarded the insignia of the Knight of the Order of the Lion of Finland, and this year at the Finnish Expatriate Parliament she was elected speaker for the USA/Latin America region.



Remembering Jack Smiley

John "Jack" Smiley, the husband of Finlandia Foundation National's Immediate Past President Anita Häkkinen Smiley, passed away peacefully at home on June 16, 2015. He was an avid supporter of Finnish causes and often accompanied Anita at Finlandia Foundation events

Jack grew up on a dairy farm in Preston, Connecticut, and graduated from the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture in 1955. He trained as an Army Ranger at Fort Benning, Georgia, served in Korea from 1955-1957 and went on to enjoy a successful career in life insurance.

Jack and Anita became involved with the Finnish American Heritage Society in Anita's hometown of Canterbury, Connecticut. He served as FAHS president for seven years, and project-managed an addition to the Finnish Hall during the 1990s. A non-Finn, Jack was honored with the title Galvanized Finn. The couple enjoyed global travel, including multiple trips to Finland.

Jack leaves behind his loving wife Anita; children Cheryl, Gregory and Sharlann; five grandchildren; his sister Carol Smiley Yeomans and many relatives and friends.

KIITOS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS! April through October 2015, except gifts above \$1,000, which are cumulative:

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NOTE: This list is subject to update and change. Please report any errors to: office@finlandiafoundation.org.

Proud Finnish-American Esko Koskinen Remembers FFN with Generous Gift

Longtime Finlandia Foundation National member Esko John Koskinen remembered the organization on his passing at age 90 on July 12, 2015, with a generous gift of \$100,000.

Esko was born in Rauma, Finland, and his family immigrated through Ellis Island when he was four years old. They lived on a relative's farm in Connecticut until his parents settled in Teaneck, New Jersey, where he graduated from Teaneck High School in 1942. Esko proudly served as a Private First Class in the Army during WWII in the artillery unit as a Cannoneer, and fought battles in Normandy, Ardennes Rhineland, Northern France, Central Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge campaign. Over the past decade he wore his Veteran's Battle of the Bulge hat most days.

After the war he married his sweetheart, Miriam (Walinen), and they settled in New Jersey, where Esko founded Greenway Companies, a residential and commercial construction firm. He designed and built the first split level ranch in the U.S. In 1970, Esko was president of the New Jersey Builder's Association and he was active with the National Home Builders Association.

Miriam and Esko participated in many Finnish-American events including the FinnFunn weekend.

Give a Gift, Get a Gift from FFN

'Tis the season for giving, and you may be considering a year-end donation to charitable groups including Finlandia Foundation National. Your contribution to FFN, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible.

Importantly, your gift supports the vision of the FFN founders, who wanted to "unite all Finland Friends in this country" and maintain ties to Finland while encouraging Finnish-American culture and traditions.

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of Sibelius' birth, your gift of \$150, \$1,500 or any amount is welcome.

To thank you for your contribution of \$500 or more you will receive the new CD of Sibelius music by cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian.



"My father was very proud of his Finnish heritage and returned to Finland numerous times to visit his family from Rauma, and also my mother's family in Teuva," says David Koskinen.

Esko lost Miriam in 2012 after 66 years of marriage. He is survived by sons Eric (Lindsay), David (Sheri Siegelbaum), daughter Lila Shayan, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson.

For a gift of \$750 or more you will receive *Melody Forest*, the children's book and CD set about Sibelius. (See story on page 14.)

FFN is happy to accept your gift of any size, and help is available to discuss the best way to contribute to FFN, whether it is a direct donation, a gift of stock, or planned giving. FFN Vice President and attorney Paul Halme can assist you and your attorney or estate planner in establishing a bequest to benefit Finlandia Foundation.

You may donate online at FinlandiaFoundation.org, or mail a check to FFN at P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.

Questions? Phone the FFN office at 626.795.2081.

Find more information on giving to FFN at: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Finlandia Foundation National

P.O. Box 92046
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FinlandiaFoundation.org

If you have a change of address or would like to receive this newsletter as a PDF by e-mail, inform Maria Kizirian at: office@finlandiafoundation.org
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Finlandia Foundation® National Chapters: Year Affiliated and President/Chairman

Find chapter websites and more information at: FinlandiaFoundation.org

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**Finnish Theme Committee of
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Here are the 2016 deadlines of programs described in stories within this newsletter:

- January 15: Grant applications
- February 1: Scholarship applications
- February 16: Performer of the Year nominations
- February 29: Salolampi scholarship and travel grant applications
- April 1: Soiva Music Camp registration

F-A Cultural Corporation/2012

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