



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.

SPRING 2016

FINLAND 100 PLANS UNDERWAY

Recognition of the centennial of Finland's independence in 2017 is happening on many levels, and Finlandia Foundation National is prepared to assist chapters in realizing their celebrations of this important milestone. In keeping with the Finnish government's official "Together" theme of Finland 100, FFN is getting its programs "together" for the year-long celebration.

At their recent Board meeting, FFN trustees decided on a range of measures to support Finlandia Foundation chapters and assist them in organizing centennial events. A brochure to the chapters is being prepared that will detail these measures and simple application procedures. The information will be shared by U.S. mail, email and a special FFN Finland 100 e-blast.

FFN is also in the process of confirming programs for 2017, and will sponsor a series of events dedicated to Finland 100. These appearances will include lectures as well as entertainment by our Performer of the Year Pirjo Polari-Khan (see page 3), and "spotlight" U.S. and Finnish artists.



As details are finalized they will be released to chapters directly, and publicized at FFN outlets including the Facebook page, monthly E-Newsletter and at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

In honor of Finland 100, Finlandia Foundation has expanded its Lecturer of the Year into a "Centenary Lecturers" program featuring several experts on topics directly related to Finland's national independence and

identity (see story on pages 9-11).

On the national level in Finland, the Finnish Prime Minister's Office established a "Finland 100 Years" organization to oversee the official functions for the 2017 celebration. The office has created a website, copyrighted artwork (see the Suomi Finland 100 logo here) and materials with strict terms of use.

Organizations and individuals are invited to explore the information, news, articles and more at the official website, SuomiFinland100.fi, where you may also sign up for their newsletter to keep abreast of Finland 100 events.



Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

The Sibelius 150 anniversary year 2015 is behind us, with about 250 concerts in the U.S., including more than 50 concerts sponsored directly by Finlandia Foundation National. We are now gearing up for Suomi/Finland 100 in 2017, recognizing the

100th anniversary of Finland's independence on December 6, 2017. It will perhaps be an even more momentous celebration than the Sibelius 150th.

FFN will provide direct financial support to all chapters as they organize centennial events in their areas. This support will be supplemented by offering, at subsidized Performer and Lecturer of the Year rates, a wide range of programs. We are proud to announce a roster of lecturers with specific knowledge of various aspects of Finnish independence.

We are working closely with the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C. and Consulates General in Los Angeles and New York to coordinate our activities with the centennial programs of the Government of Finland. We are also supporting the fundraising drive for the Winter War monument, a national project, with support from the Finnish Government and City of Helsinki, which will be unveiled in November 2017 in Helsinki at a square next to the Finnish Ministry of Defense.

This is the time of year that we undertake our grants, scholarships, Performer and Lecturer of the Year, Salolampi Language scholarships and Soiva Music programs. Soiva is taking place this year for the first time in Finland at the former Paloheimo estate, now the Sibelius Academy residential training center next to Ainola, the Sibelius home.

All of these programs require financing, which will exceed the funding expenditures of the 2015 Sibelius year. We are enhancing our fundraising efforts with the help of FFN trustees with specialized backgrounds in these areas. We are expanding our efforts to include Finnish and select U.S. corporations but, as in the past, we look forward to the support of you, our members. Under Finland's centennial year theme "Together" we can achieve a lot as we have done in the past. This support comes back to you in the form of programs and financial assistance we are able to provide to the FF chapters.

Best wishes for a good summer. We look forward to seeing representatives at the FFN Joint Chapter Meeting set for November 4-6 in the Washington, D.C. area to discuss your interest in and concerns about many of the programs mentioned above.

Ossi Rahkonen
President

FFN BOARD

PRESIDENT
Ossi Rahkonen
ossi1@verizon.net
McLean, VA

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul O. Halme
paul@halmeandclark.com
Solvang, CA

TREASURER

Dirk Schulbach
dschulbach@comcast.net
Portland, OR

SECRETARY

Jacqueline Harjula
jackielee207@gmail.com
Thomaston, ME

Richard Ahola
rahola@stny.rr.com
Dundee, NY

Dennis M. Anderson
dmanymn@yahoo.com
Rochester, MN

Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog
harrskog@comcast.net
Lake Oswego, OR

Peter Mäkilä
PeterMakila@bellsouth.net
Lake Worth, FL

Satu Mikkola
SatuM@aol.com
Poulsbo, WA

Betsey Norgard
norgard@paulbunyan.net
Bovey, MN

Tim Nurvala
tnurvala@msn.com
Gladwyne, PA

Anne-Mari Paster
ampaster@rcn.com
Lexington, MA

Teuvo Pulkkinen
teuvo_pulkkinen@hotmail.com
San Diego, CA

Jon Saari
jsaari@nmu.edu
Marquette, MI

Tarja Silverman
tarja.silverman@formin.fi
Greystone, NY

Anita Häkkinen Smiley
smileys.place@juno.com
Preston, CT

Päivi Anneli Tetri
paivitetri@gmail.com
St. Louis, MO

Hanna Wagner
dhkpwagner@yahoo.com
Washington, D.C.

Contact Finlandia
Foundation National:
Maria Kizirian, Assistant to
the Board of Trustees

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 92046
Pasadena, CA 91109-2046
626.795.2081
office@finlandiafoundation.org
FinlandiaFoundation.org

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Betsey Norgard, Tarja
Silverman

Editing and production by
Kath Usitalo
kathusitalo@mac.com

Performer of the Year Is a Storyteller for the Young at Heart

By Betsey Norgard

FFN Trustee and POY Coordinator

Finlandia Foundation National's 2016-2017 Performer of the Year (POY) Pirjo Polari-Khan will share her poetry, puppetry, singing and humor with children and the young at heart as she travels to FFN chapters around the country.

A native of Seinäjoki, Finland, Pirjo has lived in San Jose, California, for more than 30 years. For her POY year, she will build her programs around her recent project, *The Etiquette Village*, a book of poems with manners and wisdom for children, which she also illustrated. Children learn about good behavior as well as other valuable life lessons while meeting characters such as "Harbo Cydrate," "The Old Royale Pot" and "Double U & Double Me."

Born into a family of artists, writers, musicians and storytellers, Pirjo has found being creative a way of life from an early age. Her POY programs seek to re-create the old storytelling times when people gathered together in villages to pass on daily news and knowledge, to sing and just have fun.

Pirjo will be available for appearances from September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017. With Finland's centennial year beginning during her term, Pirjo will weave themes of Finnish culture,

history and richness of the language into her presentation. Her goal is to guide children and adults—Finns and Finnish-Americans—toward greater interest in their culture and to learn more about it.

Formally trained as a ceramic artist at Wolverhampton Polytechnic in England, Pirjo has been a member of the Association of California Ceramic and Glass Artists since 1982, and owned her own art gallery. As an advocate for all things Finnish, Pirjo has been a teacher at Santa Clara Valley Finnish School and president of the Finnish American Society.

Pirjo was also a founding member of "FinnAkat," the Finnish Ladies Culture Club, and has served on the board of the Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter.

For the past four years Pirjo has been a docent at the San Jose Museum of Art and has directed a community center teen puppet theatre program. Her published works include a collection of short stories and poetry, plus a CD of songs of her own lyrics.

To arrange an appearance for Pirjo Polari-Khan, contact POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net.



Grants Support 39 Projects in 2016

By **Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog**
FFN Trustee

Every year, Finlandia Foundation National has the privilege of awarding grants to a variety of projects that promote Finland and Finnishness in the United States. This year, the Grants Committee chaired by Richard Ahola, awarded 39 applicants a total of \$75,000. With 56 grant applications submitted, the requests totaled \$307,436.

Groups and individuals in 12 states requested support from the grants program. The largest number of applications came from Michigan, totaling 12, followed by California with a total of eight. Minnesota and New York each submitted seven. Even a couple of Nordic countries participated, with three applications coming from Finland and one from Sweden.

The four applications that were awarded the highest amounts are Yarlung Artists with their Sibelius Piano Trio debut album; FinnSource for Finland 100, which is launching a Resource Network; Rautavaara's *Vigilia* performed by Cappella Romana; and *Sisu Is in the Heart* storytelling project.

ABOUT THE GRANTS

Grammy award-winning **Yarlung Artists** is recording a CD with The Sibelius Piano Trio, which



consists of Juho Pohjonen, piano; Petteri Iivonen, violin; and Samuli Peltonen, cello. The CD is a debut album that will be available in time for the Finland 100 anniversary year in 2017.

FinnSource for Finland 100 is launching a **resource network** and celebrating Finland's centennial in Minnesota. The goal for the network is to build a unifying and synergizing force for Finnish-related groups. Through a dynamic, contemporary online presence, FinnSource brings together existing and new groups that promote Finnish culture, language, art, business, education and heritage. Long-term goals include building a "virtual space" in the Twin Cities for Finnish events and activities.

Cappella Romana, a leading professional chamber choir in the northwest U.S., is set to perform **Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Vigilia***, one of Finland's most inspiring modern choral masterworks. Cappella Romana will bring guest conductor Timo Nuoranne from Finland to direct concerts in Portland, Oregon and Seattle. Public educational programs in both cities will be included in the program.

The theatrical presentation ***Sisu Is in the Heart*** is a multi-year, international, community-based project that brings attention to Finnish ancestry stories and Finnish pauper statues (*vaivaisukot*), a Finnish folk tradition. This project is now in its final phase: a performance in Lapua, Finland. The play will feature original music with help from local community choirs, as well as puppet figures and shadow puppets to tell the story of a family in Lapua.



Helsinki Chamber Choir will perform a new opera, ***State of the Union***, by composers Eugene Birman and Scott Diel, in Michigan. The opera was composed specifically for the choir during the composers' residency on Rabbit Island in Lake Superior in 2015. The choir will also perform classics by Finnish composers. The composers will spend time at Northern Michigan University, where they will work with choral and vocal students at the university and local public schools.



The Sami Cultural Center in Duluth, Minnesota, continues to promote Sami traditions and spread knowledge of the Sami culture in North America. The center is in need of computers to keep track of a growing collection of materials and artifacts.

A young Finnish composer and pianist, **Ilari Kaila**, received a grant for his **original chamber music composition for a string quartet**. It will be performed in the U.S. at multiple cultural and musical events during Finland's centennial year. Ilari, who has won numerous international awards and works with prestigious performers and institutions around the world, also teaches at Columbia University and Stony Brook University.

Satu Miettinen and **Taina Kontio**, two youth workshop leaders from Finland, will work in collaboration with Finlandia University on their **Storytelling with the Finnish Heroes** project. They will use Finnish storytelling tradition and workshop design to place *Kalevala* tales in a modern urban American context. Storytelling with the Finnish Heroes works with youth and young adults, and will include an art exhibition and workshop.

The Finnish Center Association in Michigan celebrates its **50th anniversary** in 2016 with a series of events for members and the broader community including a traditional arts showcase and workshops. A food fest weekend will feature a Finnish chef, *voileipäpöytä* and demonstration of the richness and breadth of Finnish cuisine. Programs will honor the charter members who established the FCA and built the center in Farmington Hills.

With its grant **FinnFest USA** will **retool itself for the 21st century** by creating a technology and database platform providing long-term solutions for running festivals. It will organize an administrative team, build a registration system, and provide festival data management and marketing tools for festival activities in 2017.

Finnish Americans and Friends from Hibbing, Minnesota, are organizing a **Finnish Accordion Dance Festival** focusing on ethnic and vernacular Finnish dances. The goal is to encourage reminiscing about life in days of the old Finnish halls and to promote the coming together of the Finnish community around the common love of dance.

The Bay Area Book Fest in Berkeley, California will bring several prominent **Finnish writers** to the festival, which last year attracted 50,000 attendees. The participants will be among 300 presenting authors. This year's possible participants include Sofi Oksanen, Johanna Sinisalo, Hassan Blasim and Leena Lehtolainen.

The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce San Diego received a grant to set up the first **Finnish Visa Center** in the U.S. in order to offer lower cost, convenient and effective visa services for Finnish citizens.

Oulu Cultural and Heritage Center in Oulu, Wisconsin, received a grant for **preserving and sharing Oulu's Finnish-American story** through exhibits, stories and family genealogy. The grant will help provide weather resistant outdoor signs describing each building for self-guided tours; develop display boards for pictures and artifacts; prepare maps for exhibits; display period and ethnic attire; and gather interviews of longtime residents.

Alice Margerum and **Clare Zuraw**, a scholar and a musician from Michigan, will receive a travel and education grant to attend the **Ilomantsi kantele camp and instrument building course** in Finland to learn the essentials of making and playing *jouhikko*, a traditional Finnish bowed lyre. They will bring the skills and knowledge of the *jouhikko* to North America to instruct and inform others about this intriguing instrument, pictured here in a historic photo.



The Portland Chamber Orchestra Association is looking to expand its **"Beyond the Score"** exhibition in anticipation of the Oregon orchestra's 70th anniversary. The exhibit details the history of the orchestra and its evolution under current conductor Yaacov Bergman. Boris Sirpo, conductor and founder of the Portland Chamber Orchestra, was a protégé of Jean Sibelius.

Sari Nordman, Finnish choreographer and dancer, received a grant to support the production of a modern work, **“Tough, Mysterious, Sensitive.”** The dance presents those concepts utilizing an approach that is thoughtful and empathetic. Nordman examines the relationship of women to nature, and explores what it means to be a woman.



Finlandia University received a grant for the Finnish American Heritage Center to **purchase equipment to preserve and view old microfilms.** There are thousands of rolls and several hundred pieces of microfiche in the archives; the grant will allow the center to have a reliable machine with which to view and duplicate the historical materials.



The annual **Niswä Stämman Folk Festival**, a two-day Nordic folk music festival in Minnesota, showcases at least 150 folk musicians and is considered to be one of the premier traditional Nordic folk music festivals in the U.S. The festival strives to create an atmosphere that promotes the sharing of Nordic folk music and skills.

The New World Symphony received a grant for the **Season Finale with Michael Tilson Thomas: Berlioz and Sibelius.** The concerts, featuring the 6th and 7th symphonies of Jean Sibelius, took place in Miami Beach in May. Saturday evening’s performance was presented as a WALLCAST™ Concert, a high-definition simulcast projected onto New World Center’s 7,000-square-foot façade, enjoyed by an outdoor audience of 1,500 at adjacent SoundScape Park.



Finlandia Foundation Columbia–Pacific Chapter received a grant for a Finland 100 project honoring Finnish veterans by recognizing an Air Force ace with a Finnish-American connection. Jorma Sarvanto, whose daughter Eila Sarvanto Chisholm resides in Portland, was in the Finnish Air Force during WWII. Jerry Ghiglieri, a celebrated “War Bird” artist, will paint and give all rights to a “Combat Aerial Portrait” in remembrance of Sarvanto. The original painting will be presented to the people of Finland and its veterans at the Finnish Air Force Museum in Finland.

The annual Heikinpäivä festival in Michigan is the subject of a book by **Hilary Joy Virtanen, Heikinpäivä in Hancock: Commemoration, Community, and Creativity.** Based on her doctoral dissertation, it will feature folklore, anthropology, American and Finnish studies and festival research. The book will be available to scholarly and Finnish-American communities.

SUNY Cobleskill received a grant for its faculty-led **International Experiential Education Program to Finland and Sweden.** The group of 10 students will travel to learn about the two countries, including Lapland’s Sami.

The American Federation of Arts is organizing a touring art exhibition to three cities across the U.S. The collection about **women artists in Paris, 1850-1900** includes four from Finland: Elin Danielson-Gambogi, Helene Schjerfbeck, Fanny Churberg and Ellen Thesleff. With paintings borrowed from the Finnish National Gallery, the exhibit will examine their work against the sociopolitical backdrop of the period.

Sheila Packa received a travel grant for her **poetry book, Three Rivers.** Funds support the development and completion of the manuscript as well as workshops. The book focuses on stories of people located on the Continental Divide in northern Minnesota, and the rivers in western Finland. The narrative, through the metaphor of rivers flowing in opposite directions, explores the present and past frictions and flows of people in these northern landscapes.



Labyrinth Dance Theater received a grant to support the group’s performance at the Saimaa Dance Festival, held in conjunction with the Savonlinna Opera festival in Finland. It features original choreography by artistic director Sasha Spielvogel in **“Backstreet,”** a duet with American dancers Felicia Norton and Hannu Hyttinen, to live music conducted by Matti Makkonen played by his brother Jussi Makkonen. The festival will also include the dance film *Dark Angel* in which Hannu Hyttinen plays the title role.



Award-winning director of photography and cinematographer **Lars Larson** received a travel grant for a documentary, **Finding Finland.** The film is a look at contemporary Finnish art, film and music, and through interviews and footage explores what it means to be an artist in Finland today.

Marianna Milhorat’s grant supports her artistic residency at Serlachius for research and development of a video, **Open Airs.** It is about *jokamiehenoikeus*, the Finnish public access right known as the freedom to roam, or everyman’s right to walk, ski, cycle, hike, forage and camp freely throughout the Finnish countryside regardless of land ownership.

The Finnish Choral Society of Seattle received a grant for performances in the Northwest U.S. The 52-year-old chorus is an active group with approximately 10 performances yearly.

Over 100 years ago a dozen families from Puolanka, Finland, settled in southwest Washington State on the hills overlooking the Columbia River. In 1916 they founded the **Finnish Mission Congregational Church;** the church building was constructed 10 years later. A grant makes possible a **memorial marker** at the location of the “Little White Church,” now torn down.

Nordic Lights Artistic Group is a newly formed group of dancers, artists and musicians in New York City who will use their grant to support their effort to rehearse and perform together. Members are Olli Hirvonen, jazz guitarist and FFN Performer of the Year 2014; Tuomo Uusitalo, pianist and composer; Johanna Telander, singer and songwriter; Daniel Staaf, dancer; and Elina Miettinen, ballet dancer.

Finlandia University’s **Finnish American Heritage Center** received funds for a **Finnish Sauna Preservation Project.** A log sauna in disrepair was donated to the university and is now located on the Hancock, Michigan campus.

Mini-Salolampi teaches Finnish at various events across the U.S., with the aim of creating interest in and encouraging attendance at Salolampi Language Village in Minnesota.



Finlandia Foundation Copper Country Chapter wants to **“breathe new life into the virsikannel”** (or *psalmodikon*). The *virsikannel* is a one-stringed instrument, played with a bow while the player pushes down on numbered frets to play a simple melody. One does not have to be able to read musical notation in order to play it. The Copper Country Chapter wants to bring members from the Nordic-American Psalmodikonförbundet organization to Hancock to demonstrate and educate about the psalmodikon.

The **Scandinavian Cultural Center** in Massachusetts will bring Finnish artist Milla Koivisto to produce the U.S. premiere of the multimedia exhibition **Kaiku,** an audio-visual project centered on an island inspired by the Finnish archipelago. It features a Shaman girl named Aino, her flute and an echo.

Samantha Branca Cook will create a series of short video works titled, “Enter Body into Field” at the **Arteles Creative Center** in Haukijärvi, Finland during a themed residency program called **Neo Future.** The residency is for a select number of international artists interested in work inspired by imagined futures.



Riverfront Children’s Theatre at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, received funding to support the performance of a modernized version of the story of St. Urho, the fictional hero (created in the U.S.) who chased the grasshoppers out of Finland and saved the country’s grape crops.

The **Finnish American Chamber of Commerce San Diego** has launched an **internship program** to encourage collaboration between Finland and the U.S.; build a liaison between Finnish and American businesses; improve cultural awareness; and facilitate mentorships. FACC will train interns who will function as “ambassadors” promoting business in Finland and Southern California.

The **Iron County Historical Museum** in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula received a grant to inventory its Finnish-American collection to determine what to keep at the museum and what to donate to the Finnish-American Heritage Center at Finlandia University.

Finlandia Foundation National congratulates all of our 2016 grant recipients for their important and innovative work!

Soiva International Music Camp Team Heads to Finland

Madeline Bahr and Dennis Anderson, who tirelessly volunteer each year to direct and manage Soiva International Music Camp for Finlandia Foundation National, traveled to Finland in March at the invitation of Markus Fagerudd, a Finnish composer and Soiva composition and improv teacher.

Markus, who is a lecturer at the University of the Arts in Helsinki, was impressed with Madeline's vocal work with students at the 2015 Soiva Camp---including his 15-year-old daughter Fanni Fagerudd. He arranged for Madeline to conduct a weeklong workshop for five students at the university, where she shared her knowledge of musical performance, American-style.

Using student selected pieces, "I had to teach them English pronunciation and get them to open their mouths when they sing," she says, explaining that different vocal styles require different methods.

Madeline also delivered a lecture about New York's Broadway and musical theater. After her lecture, which was open to the public, the UniArts professors thanked her and indicated that they would incorporate her teaching methods into their revised curriculum.

The singer, whose stage name is Melodee, has been performing professionally for 74 years and has appeared across the U.S. with Big Bands, at jazz clubs and on Broadway. She finds the experience of working with the students in Helsinki and at Soiva Camp rewarding, and especially looks forward to the 2016 camp, which for the first time will be held in Finland, June 16-23.

Soiva Camp, which is for chamber music students ages 11 to 19, originally was held at Salolampi in Bemidji, Minnesota, and has for the past four years been conducted in cooperation with Concordia College on its Moorhead, Minnesota, campus.

This year, Soiva moves to Kallio-Kuninkala, the former home of the Paloheimo family and Yrjö Paloheimo, founder of Finlandia Foundation. Located near Järvenpää, it is now a Sibelius Academy.

The couple's March trip to Finland was productive for both Madeline and FFN Trustee and Soiva Camp Administrator Anderson. They were able to tour locations and make arrangements for Soiva 2016 Music Camp, as well as secure grants to support the program.

For more information on Soiva International Music Camp go to FinlandiaFoundation.org or email Dennis Anderson at Soiva2016@yahoo.com.



FFN Trustee Dennis Anderson, administrator of Soiva Music Camp, and Madeline Bahr, a professional singer who assists with Soiva, had a productive trip to Finland as a result of their work on behalf of the annual program for students.



FinnFest USA, the annual celebration of Finnish and Finnish-American heritage, will be held on a cruise ship between Boston and Montreal, July 9-16, 2016.

For the itinerary and details: finnfestusa2016.com

Phone 800.848.7120 or email: finnfestUSA2016@finevoyages.com

FFN Kicks Off Finland 100 Celebration with New Centenary Lecturers Program

By Jon Saari

FFN Trustee and LOY Coordinator

They come from different states: Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Florida and Wisconsin. They see the world through different lenses: architecture, folklore, history, film and literature. But they have one thing in common: They are all experienced communicators about Finland, and want to share their expertise with Finlandia Foundation chapters as Centenary Lecturers. This represents a departure from the FFN tradition of selecting a solo program to travel for appearances as Lecturer of the Year. And it is a deliberate choice in recognition of the upcoming centennial of Finland's declaration of independence.

A once-in-a-lifetime event like 100 years of Finnish independence deserves to be celebrated, but it should also spur reflection on a remarkable story. How did such a small land, colonized for centuries by its bigger neighbors, break free and establish itself as an independent country? What held it together through civil war in 1918 and the traumas of WW II? How did cultural achievements in folklore, literature, music, film and sports contribute to Finland's evolution into a successful, even model, Nordic country? And how did Finnish America, on this side of the Atlantic, mirror and react to these events?

The five distinguished scholars featured on these pages represent the core of a group of Centenary Lecturers who will be available for chapter programs between June 2016 and May 2018. Not all will be available at all times; dates for LOY presentations will have to be negotiated, as in the past. The normal terms of LOY engagements will apply: FFN provides a lecture brochure and pays for the transportation to get the speakers to and from a site, and the local hosting group arranges for the venue, the publicity, the lodging, and a \$400 honorarium for the speaker.

Some additional scholars will probably be added in the future to this group of Centenary Lecturers. Chapters will have more variety than ever before to choose from, and can plan programs over a two year period.

To arrange a booking, contact LOY Coordinator Jon Saari at jsaari@nmu.edu.

Finland and The Kalevala

Thomas A. DuBois

In 1835, Elias Lönnrot signed the preface to his new work, *The Kalevala*. Drawing on traditional songs from eastern Finland and Karelia, Lönnrot sought to create a national epic for the Finnish people.

In this talk Thomas A. DuBois traces the fortunes of Finland and *The Kalevala* through the remainder of the 19th century, into Finnish independence, through two wars with the Soviet Union, into the EU, and down to today. *The Kalevala* is an enduring symbol of Finnishness, the most significant book ever written in Finland, and an ongoing source of inspiration and surprise for Finns today.

DuBois is the Halls-Bascom Professor of Scandinavian Studies and Folklore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds a Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on Finnish and Sámi culture, past and present. His books include *Finnish Folk Poetry and the Kalevala*; *Lyric, Meaning and Audience*;

Nordic Religions in the Viking Age; *Sanctity in the North: Saints, Lives and Cults in Medieval Scandinavia*; and the co-edited volumes *Finnish Folklore* and *The Nordic Storyteller*.

DuBois is a member of the Kalevalaseura, is a past president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and is a past co-editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*.



Turn the page for additional Centenary Lecturers

Finlandia Foundation Centenary Lecturers Offer Fascinating Perspectives on Finnish National Independence and Identity

Finland's Independence

Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen

Finland declared independence in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution. How did a small, less developed corner of the Russian empire manage this? More importantly, how did they stay independent after the destructive civil war, which followed it?

Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen will discuss several factors that account for Finland's success.

She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in Bloomington, where she specialized in Finnish history. Her research has included studying the development of Finnish education, women's suffrage, and minority identity in Finland, especially the Jewish community.

Franklin-Rahkonen is an associate professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches Russian history, social studies education, general European history and a senior capstone course on the Nordic countries. She also serves on the Finnish Council of America, an advisory board to Finlandia University, as well as on the Board of FinnFest USA.



A House of Finland

Peter MacKeith

Peter MacKeith is dean of the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture. Previously he served as associate dean and professor of architecture at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, and as director of the Master of Architecture-International Program at the Helsinki University of Technology (now Aalto University).

His talk traces the emergence, development and ongoing vitality of Finnish identity through a century of significant architecture and design. He will present examples from across the last 100 years, and emphasize the building of community through public architecture.

A recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship to Finland in 1990, MacKeith has written, lectured and published extensively in the U.S., Finland and other Nordic countries on modern and contemporary Finnish and Nordic architecture. He was curator and co-designer of the Nordic Pavilion architecture exhibition at the 2012 Venice Biennale. In 2014, MacKeith was named a Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion, Finland.



Finnish film and literature have interconnected themes, and together help define Finnish identities.

Börje Vähämäki

A native of Finland, Börje Vähämäki earned his doctoral degree from Åbo Akademi in Turku, came to the U.S. in the 1970s and taught at the University of Minnesota (1975-1989). He directed the Finnish Studies program at the University of Toronto until his retirement in 2014.

In addition to writing and lecturing, Vähämäki is the owner and president of Aspasia Books, a CD and book publishing house. He is founder and past editor of the *Journal of Finnish Studies*.

His research areas are Finnish linguistics, literature, cinema, folklore, Finnish-North American literature and culture, and the bilingualism of Finland.



Finnish independence viewed from across the Atlantic

K. Marianne Wargelin

Having grown up in three Finnish-American communities ---Berkeley, California, Fairport Harbor, Ohio, and Hancock, Michigan--- K. Marianne Wargelin has a deep-seated appreciation for her heritage.

As a college professor, she taught Cultural History at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, always including Finland and Finnish America in that history. That dual focus led her to positions both as the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Finland in her current home in the Twin Cities, since 1999, and president of FinnFest USA, since 2004.

Wargelin is a graduate of Suomi College (now Finlandia University, Hancock, Michigan), Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois), and the University of Michigan. As a researcher and scholar, she co-edited and wrote a number of the essays in *Women Who Dared: The History of Finnish American Women*, and has published articles about pop culture and folklore, including four encyclopedia essays.

Her Ph.D. dissertation, now in its final stages at the University of Tampere, analyzes Finnish-American identity between 1850-2000.



“A once-in-a-lifetime event like 100 years of Finnish independence deserves to be celebrated but it should also spur reflection on a remarkable story.”

LOY Coordinator Jon Saari

FFN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2016

FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner serves as chair of the Scholarship Committee. She and four volunteer committee members reviewed 48 applications and awarded scholarships to 14 students in the U.S. and Finland.

1. JACOB EFTHIMIOU

is earning a Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio, where he studies with Amir Eldan. He is an avid performer and cello instructor, and hopes to pursue a career in chamber music performance and teaching. Jacob's family has deep roots in the Finger Lakes Finnish community.

2. LEYANYS ESCOBAR

has worked in the music industry since graduating from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her exposure to Finnish artists has propelled her fascination with Finland, its music and its culture. "Instantly, I became enthralled with Finland's natural beauty, lifestyle and music-loving, kind community," she said after attending her first Finnish music festival. She has since returned to Finland several times and has studied at the University of Helsinki. Leyanys is learning Finnish and aspires to continue her music studies in Finland.

3. SIERRA KAUTIAINEN,

a third-year pharmaceutical sciences honors student at the University of California Irvine, is active in the Campuswide Honors Program and Alumni Association and is a researcher for the Piomelli Pharmacology Lab. She hopes to work

as a medicinal chemist and research medicines for psychiatric illnesses. Sierra enjoys studying ancient Middle Eastern and Finnish Civil War history. She is a quarter Finnish and traveled to Helsinki and Porvoo last summer (and promptly gained five pounds from Fazer chocolates alone). Sierra has a passion for music and attended Soiva Music Camp while in high school. She is very grateful for all of the generous FFN and Los Angeles FF donors that have supported her education over the years.

4. SONJA KYTÖMAA

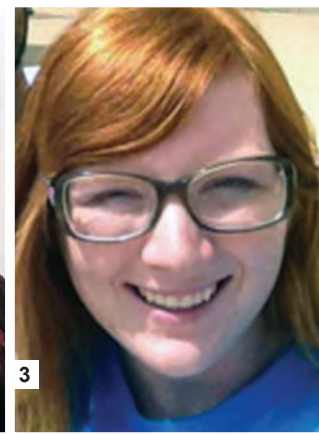
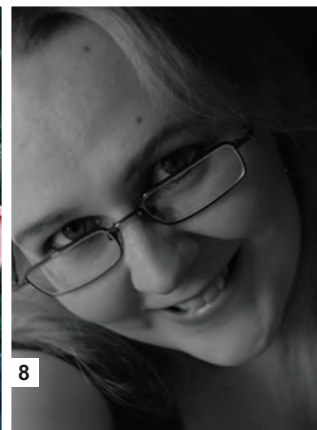
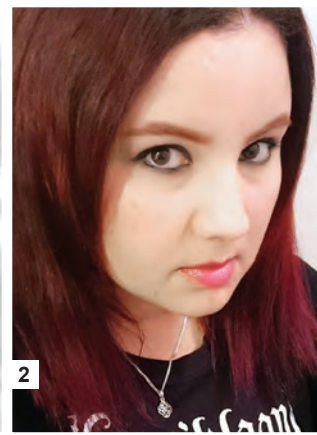
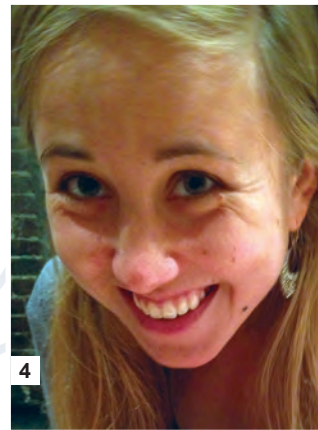
of Boston studied biopsychology and community health at Tufts University. She is now a Master of Public Health student at Columbia University with a focus on epidemiology, the study of the incidence, distribution and deterrents of disease. "As part of my current degree program, I am collaborating with a group at the University of Turku on a study examining how prenatal exposures relate to various health outcomes later in life. Finland's impeccable health records make it uniquely suited for this research." Her parents are from Finland, and she has spent nearly every summer there. "Along with my personal connections, I am very excited to have this opportunity to develop my academic and professional ties to Finland as well."

5. SEAN LOUGHNEY

was born in Helsinki and is a first-year undergraduate student at the University of California Santa Barbara, where he is majoring in linguistics. While in California he spent four years volunteering as a teacher's assistant at the Silicon Valley Finnish School, and he is interested in pursuing teaching English abroad or Finnish in the U.S., as well as continuing his studies in languages and linguistics.

6. LAURA MARTTINEN

was born in California into a Finnish family who'd moved to the U.S. in the 1990s, and returned to Finland in 2007. "I've maintained a 3.9 GPA through two intense, demanding, fast-paced English study programs---the IB Diploma Program for high school and now the Aalto University Bachelor of Science in Economics and Business Administration, International Business major. "I'm right on track with my studies and should graduate on time from our fast-paced (2.5 year) program!" After studying at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, she hopes to gain experience in her "dream career" of digital marketing before completing her master's in either the U.S. or in Finland. Laura has a small photography business on the side and enjoys spending time with friends and her dogs.



7. KALLE OSKARI MATTILLA

is a Finnish writer pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing at Columbia University. He specializes in nonfiction. Kalle has worked at Penguin Books in London, Columbia University Press in New York, and Demos Helsinki, Finland's leading think tank, in Helsinki. His writing has appeared in *Monocle* magazine and *Helsingin Sanomat*, *Matkalehti Mondo*, and *Matkaopaslehti*. He is now at work on his first book.

8. BREE MEAD

was born in California and moved to Kauklahti, Finland when she was 10-1/2 years old. Her life eventually brought her to Chesapeake, Virginia, where she joined the Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Chapter, and its board. Bree is a Career Switcher student at Regent University, where she is studying to become a biology teacher for secondary education. She plans to pursue a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction with a concentration in Gifted & Talented Education. She plans to complete her Career Switcher studies in spring of 2017, and graduate with her M.Ed. in spring of 2018.

Bree enjoys cooking Finnish dishes to share with her colleagues and friends, and she is interested in photography, the arts, music, nature and museums. She also likes spending time with her two dogs.

9. JOLENE SARKINEN

is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota, and expects to graduate in May 2017. "My grandparents were born in Finland and came to America in 1957. I will live in Finland this summer to practice and learn more of the Finnish language. After studying Finnish at the University of Minnesota, I am excited to spend time in Finland to experience the culture and language firsthand."

10. ANDREW "DREW" SIPILÄ

is finishing his junior year at the University of Minnesota, where he is majoring in economics with a minor in management. "After graduation, I ultimately plan to join the workforce in a business or financial position, but I also have interest in pursuing a master's business degree at a Finnish university sometime in the future. My plan is to continue studying the Finnish language in hopes of speaking with some of my monolingual relatives in Finland. I am delighted that you have chosen to invest in me and in turn I hope to continue to keep in close contact with my relatives as well as new friends I made while studying in Finland over the summer."

11. STEVEN SOLKELA

is working toward his Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. He specializes in opera singing and is a member of numerous choral ensembles. He performs often as Steve's Overpopulated One-Man Band, where he plays accordion as well as

five other instruments at the same time, and sings in both Finnish and English. A native of Minnesota, Steve intends to travel and perform at Finnish festivals around the country as well as pursue a career in opera performance in both the U.S. and Europe. His ideal destination is, of course, Finland. "Kiitos lukeminen!"

12. RUUSAMARI TEPPÖ

began her piano studies at the age of four in her native Finland. After completing her studies at the prestigious Sibelius High School she studied piano in Paris for three years, followed by studies at the Prague Conservatory and Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. She moved to the U.S. to study with world-renowned pianist and pedagogue Vladimir Viardo, and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at the University of North Texas with Dr. Puccinelli and Dr. Harlos. Ruusamari has traveled extensively and competed and performed as a soloist and chamber musician. During 2015 she toured with Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen as part of the Sibelius 150 Jubilee celebration. Ruusamari began teaching at an early age and her students have been competition winners. She looks forward to her experience with contemporary music in the fall of 2016 with the UNT NOVA ensemble. Ruusamari is the happy mother of her 15-month-old daughter Annabel.

Turn the page for more scholars...

13. JOHANNA TIGERT (nee Hietikko) is a Ph.D. candidate in Applied Linguistics and Language Education at the University of Maryland. Her dissertation research examines parents' and heritage school teachers' language and literacy socialization efforts with young Finnish-American students. She previously worked as a Finnish foreign and heritage language instructor, and as an English as a Second Language instructor. She is currently looking forward to a new career in higher education.

14. IRINA WATKINS of Varkaus, Finland, moved to Minneapolis after receiving an athletic scholarship to participate in track and field at the University of Minnesota. She is now studying at Springfield College in Massachusetts, where she is pursuing her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology, with a concentration in athletic counseling. "My dissertation will examine Finnish adolescent elite athletes' identity development within the context of dual-careers."

P.J.C. LINDFORS LEGAL STUDIES FUND

Retired Finnish-American attorney Pertti Lindfors of San Francisco established a scholarship fund for American law students to study in Finland, and Finnish students to study law in the U.S.

This year, three students benefit from his generosity.

1. ROOPE MARTTILA

first came to the U.S. to do an internship at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York in 2013. "After the internship I stayed in New York to work for a startup accelerator. As I was about to return to Finland to finish my Master of Laws studies in the University of Turku, I met the love of my life, my wife-to-be. Now, to practice my profession on both sides of the Atlantic, I'll start my one-year Master of Laws (LL.M.) studies at Columbia Law School specializing in venture capital and transatlantic employment law this fall. Immediately after my studies I'm also concentrating on running an artificial intelligence company I have co-founded."

2. MICHAEL RISTANIEMI

is a Finnish-American lawyer currently based in Helsinki, Finland, who holds an LL.M. from the University of Turku, Finland. He has several years of experience working both in-house and at leading Finnish and international law firms. Michael divides his time



between practicing law at an industrial company called Metsä Group, and by pursuing his LL.D. in antitrust at the University of Turku. In the near future, he intends to spend time as a visiting researcher in the U.S. "I studied U.S. antitrust law while on exchange at Santa Clara University in 2009. The differences compared to European Union competition law ---and particularly the reasoning behind those differences---really are interesting and make you think about the best possible approach to resolving a competition concern." Michael intends to finalize his LL.D. dissertation by the end of 2018.

3. ANNA AURORA WENNAKOSKI

(LL.M. and M.Sc.) is an internationally oriented lawyer and in-house counsel, with versatile professional experience from several stock-listed companies in the U.S., France and Finland. Currently based in New York, she conducts post-graduate studies with specialization in intellectual property rights, privacy and data protection law. She is the recipient of the 2016 Global Privacy Summit Student Award of the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

Joint Chapter Meeting Participation Vital to FFN's Future

By Ossi Rahkonen

FFN President

For the first time in a decade, FFN chapter representatives will get TOGETHER, November 4-6, 2016, under the theme of the 2017 centennial of Finland's independence. The Joint Chapter Meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington, D.C. - Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia.

We are encouraged by the early response from chapter leadership indicating a high level of interest in this meeting. It is our goal to facilitate a session at which a representative of each chapter may network, share common concerns and successes, discuss the status of our organizations and look to the future of Finnish-American interests. The last time we held such a meeting was in 2006 in Seattle, and those who attended found it productive and helpful.

The number of FFN affiliated chapters has more than doubled since then. We are looking forward to this opportunity to get to know each other better and increase understanding of the relationship between FFN and its chapters, build a connection between them, and lay groundwork for our direction.

During the program we will hear brief remarks from representatives of other Finnish and Finnish-American organizations, and presentations by FFN board members about FFN programs. We will discuss the results of the survey undertaken by FFN in 2015, and the work that our Review Committee has done in considering the future of our organization.

We will get an update on the 100th anniversary celebration in Finland, and we have a special treat---a visit to the Finnish Embassy---on Friday.

Of course, it is the chapter representatives who will be at the heart of the meeting, and there will be plenty of time to raise issues, ask questions, and engage in conversation during the Saturday and Sunday sessions. Additionally, attendees will have time to meet informally at dinner on Friday and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday.

Registration materials have been mailed and e-mailed to chapter leaders, with information on subsidies approved by the FFN board to assist chapters in attending this important gathering.

I look forward to getting TOGETHER at the 2016 FFN Joint Chapter Meeting.



Flags fly at the Fenyes-Paloheimo home in Pasadena, where Finlandia Foundation was founded in 1953.

Welcome, Utah!

Finlandia Foundation National has turned a new page on its membership roster with the addition of its 51st chapter, Finlandia Foundation Utah. Instrumental in organizing the affiliation were Paula McClure, who expressed an interest when she visited the FFN booth at FinnFest USA 2015 in Buffalo, and Tiina Watts, who moved to Utah from Minnesota, where she had served as president of Salolampi Foundation. Tiina is serving as the president of the chapter.

Based in Provo, the group of about 20 members meets regularly to talk about the Finnish language and books, and to socialize.

FFN is now affiliated with groups in 24 states and Washington, D.C. The chapters are of all sizes and vary in activities, but share a common interest in Finland and Finnish America.

FFN Chapters Reach Milestones in 2016

FFN congratulates two chapters celebrating landmark anniversaries of their founding in 2016:

- Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area on its 60th anniversary
- Finnish Center Association in Farmington Hills, Michigan, on its 50th anniversary

Additionally, we recognize the following chapters that are marking a special anniversary of their affiliation with FFN:

25 Years

- Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth
- Swedish-Finn Historical Society (Washington)

15 Years

- Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (Oregon)

10 Years

- Finger Lakes Finns (New York)
- Finlandia Club of Sacramento
- Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley
- The Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja (Massachusetts)
- Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock - Finlandia Foundation Copper Country Chapter (Michigan)
- Upper Peninsula Chapter of the League of Finnish-American Societies (Michigan)

5 Years

- Finnish-American Folk Festival - Naselle (Washington)
- Finnish-American Heritage Society (Connecticut)
- Red Lodge Knights and Ladies of Kaleva (Montana)
- Red River Finns (Minnesota)



Maria Kizirian: FFN Office Is in Her Hands---and Heart

The organization that was founded in 1953 to sustain Finnish-American culture in the U.S. has grown not only in the scope of its programs and activities, but in its sheer numbers.

Finlandia Foundation National now has 51 chapters in 24 states and Washington, D.C.

Some of those groups have been affiliated with FFN since their founding and are familiar with how the organization operates, while others, like the new chapter in Utah, are just learning about FFN.

And, as with any group, elections periodically put new leadership into office and those chapter leaders may not know where to turn with questions about FFN.

The answer is Maria Kizirian, who is the sole employee in the Pasadena, California office of FFN. Finlandia Foundation operates under the



Maria Kizirian is the go-to person at Finlandia Foundation National.

direction of a volunteer board that is scattered across the U.S.

Maria's title is Assistant to the Board of Trustees, but her duties encompass all of the operational details of the FFN office. The office is located in the Pasadena Museum of History, which is on the grounds of the Fenyes-Paloheimo Mansion, once the home of Finlandia Foundation founders Leonora and Yrjö Paloheimo.

Maria is a native of Finland---a plus for FFN members who like to converse in Finnish. She has entrepreneurial business experience and is also a singer, songwriter and music producer; Maria was the 2012 FFN Performer of the Year.

"I love my work at Finlandia Foundation. It's a privilege to assist in keeping alive the mission of the organization, and I come into contact with wonderful people across the country," said Maria.

In addition to her daily responsibilities, Maria will have many additional opportunities to interact with FFN members due to the upcoming Joint Chapter Meeting in November 2016 and the Finland 100 celebrations throughout 2017.

Reach her by phone at 626.795.2081 or email office@finlandiafoundation.org

Note: FFN public relations, advertising, brochures, website and newsletters, etc., are handled by Communications Manager Kath Usitalo, who works on contract from her office in Michigan (kathusitalo@mac.com or 313.530.1129).

Finlandia Foundation Financially Well-Managed

By Tim Nurvala
FFN Trustee

At the recent Finlandia Foundation National Board meeting, it was announced that the organization's endowment had reached \$2.5 million. Interest from the endowment and yearly donations by individuals have enable FFN to support all of its important programs, including the recent success of the Sibelius 150 Jubilee.

Reaching a \$2.5 million portfolio value is a major achievement, considering that the value was less than \$900,000 at the beginning of 2003, about 13 years ago, when the present financial management system was instituted. Even during the great recession of 2008-2009, when many endowments lost more than half of their value and many non-profit organizations closed their doors forever, FFN was able to weather the storm by making sound, conservative investments and effectively limiting expenses.

The overall record is better than many people realize. Since 2003, FFN has funded close to \$2 million in grants, scholarships and program support (including the Performer of the Year, Lecturer of the Year, Soiva Music Camp, Salolampi Language Village scholarships and the Sibelius 150 Jubilee year) while the FFN endowment has increased by more than \$1.5 million.

With the upcoming Finnish centennial in 2017, FFN will seek to increase its fundraising efforts. Our program expenditures will be substantial during this once-in-a-lifetime celebration, and we plan to grow our endowment as well.

Donors to Finlandia Foundation should have the confidence of knowing that the organization has a long track record of successful financial management, and that their investment in our organization will be well-managed for the long term.

Exciting Ex-Pat News

By Satu Mikkola
FFN Trustee and FEP Regional Speaker, USA & Latin America Region

Voting by mail is on its way! At its April framework meeting, the Government of Finland allocated funds to initiate the process of voting by mail for Finnish citizens. The procedure will be put to use beginning with the 2019 parliamentary elections. The purpose of allowing voting by mail is to enhance the ability of those Finnish citizens who live abroad or are temporarily out of the country to cast their votes.

Suomi-Seura/Finland Society, Inc. and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP) have campaigned for 15 years to allow voting by mail for Finns abroad. There are 1.6 million expatriate Finns living in the world including the second and third generation Finns. Approximately 300,000 of these are Finnish citizens and about 240,000 of them are eligible to vote in the Finnish parliamentary elections.

The percentage of Finns abroad who vote has remained between 8 and 12 percent. Primarily, long and expensive trips to voting places have been the deterrent, especially in countries of vast dimensions.

Suomi 100 Maailmalla: "Finland 100 Around the World."

The FEP is working with Suomi-Seura/Finland Society, the Institute of Migration, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland Expatriate Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland for this Suomi 100 project.

Suomi 100 Maailmalla will be an exciting window to the Finnish expatriate culture that will be present in many occasions during the year 2017, but will be especially showcased at the Expatriate Culture Gala event in connection with the FEP 20th anniversary session, June 15-17, 2017 in Helsinki.

The FEP Speakers Council met April 21-22, continuing its work on several open issues together with Suomi-Seura/Finland Society, the permanent secretary of the FEP.

Through Suomi-Seura/Finland Society membership, expatriate Finns support the important work Suomi-Seura is doing while providing valuable expertise, service and financial support to expatriate Finns, media and organizations.

Find more information at:
suomi-seura.fi/en/membership



FFN Welcomes New Board Members

The FFN Board of Trustees has accepted the resignations of Marja Kaisla and Janet Kniffin, and thanks them for their contributions. Anne-Mari Paster and Teuvo Pulkkinen have stepped into their positions.

Anne-Mari Paster, who has worked in the private equity industry for over 15 years, is a partner and CFO at Omega Funds. She has extensive business experience in finance with an entrepreneurial perspective. She previously served as FFN treasurer, and has also served on the boards of the non-profit International Institute of Boston, YWCA Boston and Finlandia Foundation Boston Chapter.

Originally from Turku, where she met her husband Fred, an American, Anne-Mari has lived in Lexington, Massachusetts for 20 years. The couple has two children: Nick, who is studying at American University Washington College of Law, and Julia, who is a sophomore at Emory University in Atlanta. Their Finnish heritage and language are important, and therefore the Pasters make frequent visits to their family in Finland.



Anne-Mari Paster



Teuvo Pulkkinen

Teuvo Pulkkinen was born in Varkaus, Finland and received his Master of Science degree from Helsinki University of Technology. He started his professional career at A. Ahlstrom Corporation in Finland, and became CEO of Ahlstrom Boilers.

He relocated to San Diego in 1992 on assignment for Ahlstrom Pyropower Inc., and his experience includes work with several international power companies.

Teuvo has served on a number of boards professionally, as well as on the board of FinnFest San Diego in 2010-2011. He founded the Finlandia Foundation San Diego Chapter in 2015. He established the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, and was its first president (2013-2015), and launched the organization's intern program. He is actively promoting and developing business relations between Finland and San Diego.

Teuvo and his wife, Marjut, have two adult children and three grandchildren, and spend their summers at their vacation home in Finland.

Trustees Wear Many FFN Hats

FFN trustees volunteer their time, talents and energy to the non-profit organization. Each member of the FFN board serves on at least one committee. A few committees tap non-board members, and staff members Maria Kizirian and Kath Usitalo also serve. Current assignments are:

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Chair Jacqueline Harjula; Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog, Betsey Norgard, Tarja Silverman, Kath Usitalo
- **EXPATRIATE PARLIAMENT:** Chair Satu Mikkola; Peter Mäkilä, Teuvo Pulkkinen
- **FINANCE & INVESTMENTS:** Chair Ossi Rahkonen; Paul Halme, Peter Mäkilä, Satu Mikkola, Tim Nurvala, Anne-Mari Paster, Teuvo Pulkkinen, Dirk Schulbach
- **FUNDRAISING:** Chair Tim Nurvala; Paul Halme, Peter Mäkilä, Satu Mikkola, Teuvo Pulkkinen, Ossi Rahkonen, Dirk Schulbach, Anita Smiley, Päivi Tetri, Rita Vermala-Koski (Emerita)
- **GRANTS:** Chair Richard Ahola; Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog, Jon Saari, Anita Smiley, Päivi Tetri
- **HISTORY:** Chair Jon Saari; Paul Halme, Anita Smiley

- **LECTURER OF THE YEAR:** Chair Jon Saari; Peter Mäkilä, Ossi Rahkonen, Päivi Tetri
- **MARKETING AND CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT:** Chair Peter Mäkilä; Tarja Silverman, Anita Smiley
- **NOMINATING:** Chair Anita Smiley; Jacqueline Harjula, Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog, Hanna Wagner
- **PERFORMER OF THE YEAR:** Chair Betsey Norgard; Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog, Satu Mikkola, Tarja Silverman, Päivi Tetri, Maria Kizirian, Kath Usitalo
- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** Chair Hanna Wagner (with committee from the Washington, D.C. area)
- **YOUTH (SOIVA/SALOLAMPI):** Chair Dennis Anderson; Betsey Norgard, Tarja Silverman, Hanna Wagner
- **FFN REVIEW:** Chair Ossi Rahkonen; Eila Chisholm, Paul Halme, James Kurtti, Kaarina Langeland, Satu Mikkola, Anja Miller, Tim Nurvala, Jon Saari
- **CENTENNIAL:** Chair Ossi Rahkonen; Paul Halme, Satu Mikkola, Betsey Norgard, Tim Nurvala, Anne-Mari Paster, Teuvo Pulkkinen, Jon Saari, Anita Smiley, Päivi Tetri, Hanna Wagner, Maria Kizirian, Kath Usitalo

Board of Trustees Meets in Santa Clara

As is typical of the Finlandia Foundation National Aspring board meeting, the trustees tackled a full agenda when they met March 31-April 2 in Santa Clara, California. In addition to its day-to-day business, this is the time of year when the board awards grants and scholarships, and confirms Performer of the Year and Lecturer of the Year selections.

The Finlandia Foundation Joint Chapter Meeting was a prime topic of discussion, as the board would like to see representation by all 51 FFN-affiliated organizations at the November 4-6, 2016 session in the Washington, D.C. area.

Support of Finland 100 activities was another major agenda item, as FFN is planning to both sponsor its own events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence, and encourage programming at chapters throughout 2017.

Santa Clara was chosen as the meeting location in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. Local hosts welcomed the board to a lovely dinner at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. The 1929 compound houses studio space for artists plus gardens, galleries, shops and a cafe that are open to the public.



Scenes from Santa Clara (clockwise from top):

San Francisco Bay Area members with FFN President Ossi Rahkonen (far left): the chapter's Past Co-Chair Stina Katchadourian, current Co-Chairs Hertta Bethell and Paula Salomaa, Past Co-Chair Don Fidler, and Michel W. Wendell, general partner at Nexit Ventures and Finland's Honorary Consul of the San Francisco Bay Area.

FFN Trustee Katariina Lehtonen-Harrskog (left) visits with members of the FF San Francisco Bay Area Chapter at Saturday evening's dinner.

FFN Trustee Satu Mikkola (left), Trustee Emerita Anja Miller and FFN Immediate Past President Anita Smiley visit after the dinner.

Past Performer of the Year, soprano Maria Mannisto, and theatrical director Benjamin Mosse visited the FFN board meeting to present a reading from their project *Hämärä (Twilight)*. The multi-media production, a recipient of a 2015 FFN grant, is nearing completion and will tour intimate theaters in the U.S., Finland and Belgium.



Finland Honors John and Pauline Kiltinen of Michigan

The Republic of Finland has recognized John and Pauline Kiltinen of Marquette, Michigan for their outstanding contributions to multiple Finnish-American activities, organizations and causes. John was awarded Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland. Pauline received the Cross of Merit of the Order of the White Rose of Finland.

The couple's long list of accomplishments includes organizing the Upper Peninsula Chapter of the League of Finnish American Societies, involvement in FinnFest USA, and serving on the Finnish Council in America at Finlandia University. They were instrumental in commissioning the opera *Rockland*, a collaboration between Finnish and American talent that told the story of a miners' strike in Michigan's U.P., and was featured in the documentary *Yoopera!*

That's an abbreviated summary of the Kiltinens' contributions to date, and they are currently active in planning special Finland 100 programming for 2017.



Pauline and John Kiltinen

Finnish Consul General in New York, Jukka Pietikäinen, presented the honors at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock during the community's annual "Heikinpäivä" celebration in January.

FFN extends its congratulations!

Portland's Nordic Community Has New Home at Nordia House

After decades of planning, the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF) has realized its dream of a new gathering place for the Nordic community in Portland, Oregon.

SHF was founded in 1986 to support the Nordic language programs at Portland State University, but has expanded its mission to become the regional anchor for a broad spectrum of activities related to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Nordia House is a beautiful 10,000-square-foot facility completed in June 2015. Nordia House hosts a busy calendar of events including concerts,

lectures, films and exhibits, and language, cooking and dance classes.

FFN Performer of the Year Sara Pajunen made a recent appearance at Nordia House, and the center will be the scene of many activities related to Finland 100, including a gala dinner in December 2017. It houses Broder Soder cafe, an offshoot of Portland's popular Scandinavian Cafe Soder.

Nordia House is also the meeting place of Messiah Lutheran Church, Portland's Finnish Church.

Learn more at: scanheritage.org



Why We Give: Pirkko and J. Bradford Borland

As newlyweds in Washington State, Pirkko and J. Bradford Borland lived far from family members---and that turned out to be a good thing for Finnish-American groups in the Seattle area and beyond.

"We had no relatives within 3,000 miles. The Finnish community was our support group," says Brad, reflecting on the origins of their contributions to several organizations, including Finlandia Foundation National. "We just gradually became more involved."

Following a year of study at the University of Washington, Pirkko had planned to return to her native Finland to teach English---until she met Brad, a Scotch Irishman from Connecticut who'd been stationed in Seattle with the U.S. Navy. After their wedding in Finland the couple returned to Seattle where Brad launched a career in banking and Pirkko became a CPA and was Executive Director of Financial Accounting with U.S. West Communications.

Along the way, they joined the Finnish Lutheran Church of Seattle and volunteered in various capacities with the Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter and the Nordic Heritage Museum. Pirkko still sits on the U of W Department of Scandinavian Studies Advisory Board, and Brad served as a trustee of Finlandia Foundation National, which they continue to support with financial contributions.



Brad and Pirkko Borland (at left) were great friends of fellow Finlandia Foundation supporters, the late Eero and Helli Tetri.

Their enthusiasm for Finland extends to their son John, who has followed in his parents' footsteps in volunteering for the same organizations in Seattle. "It's inspiring to us to see that the next generation is involved," says Brad of John. "He and his family are deeply interested in Finland."

Like Pirkko, John and his nine-year-old daughter Sohvi are dual citizens and make frequent trips to Finland. "More than 20 years ago Pirkko inherited a slice of the family farm in central Finland, and we built a summer home there on the lake. That's been important to us," says Brad.

Spreading the word about Finland is also important to the couple. "Finland is a very small country and has the misfortune of being located in a challenging neighborhood," says Pirkko. "A small country can never have too many friends. If we promote knowledge of Finland it helps with cultural bridges back and forth."

She's pleased that the Nordic Heritage Museum thrives and has undertaken construction of an expanded structure. "Seattle has the only museum that represents all five Nordic countries. I like this from the viewpoint that it exposes Americans and non-Nordic and non-Finns to Finland.

"Why promote Finnish culture?" she asks. "It's our job to polish the Finnish piece in the American mosaic. If we don't do it, who will do it?"

Honor Finland's Winter War with Memorial Donation

Finland's Winter War monument is still in need of contributions to make the sculpture a reality.

Titled *He Who Brings the Light*, the massive work by artist Pekka Kauhanen commemorates the country's epic struggle with the Soviet Union that ended on March 13, 1940. The sculpture, which will stand in Helsinki's Kasarmitori Square, will be unveiled in 2017 as part of the Finland 100 celebration.

Costing about \$1.5 million, it will be funded in equal shares by the Finnish Government, City of Helsinki and through private donations to the Win-

ter War Association (WWA). Finlandia Foundation is a corporate member of the WWA and has agreed to function as fiscal agent for its U.S. fundraising.

You may make a gift online at the Winter War web page at: FinlandiaFoundation.org/finlands-winter-war-memorial/

Or send a check designated for the Winter War Association to the FFN office at P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.

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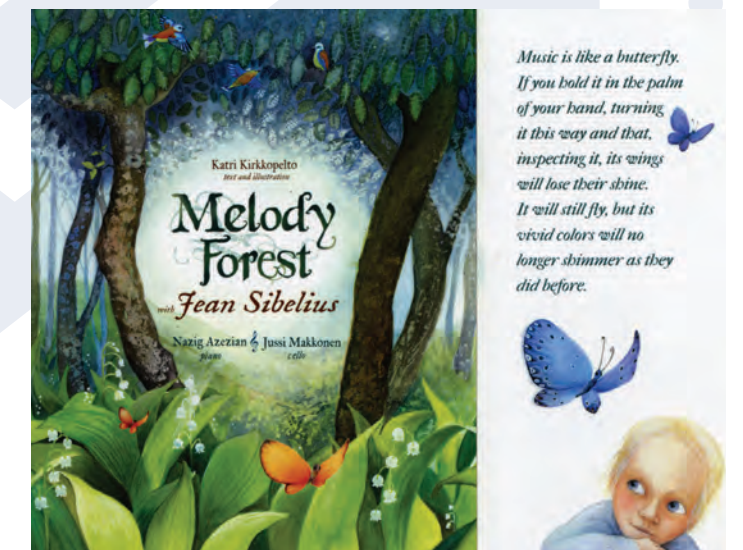
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ALASKA

Anchorage Suomi Finland Club/2015
Hanna Eklund
hanna eklund@gmail.com

ARIZONA

The F-A Club of Tucson/2007
Tommi Koskinen
tucsonfinnclub@gmail.com

Finns and Friends of Phoenix/2010

Ben Luoma
ben.luoma@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA

Finlandia Club of Sacramento /2006
Marita Martin
finnishlady@comcast.net

FF Los Angeles Chapter/1974
Harvey Eidinoff
eidons@verizon.net

FF SF Bay Area Chapter/1956

Hertta Bethell
herttabethell@gmail.com
& Paula Salomaa
paula.salomaa@me.com

F-A Home Association/2005

Stephen Rowe
directors@fahausa.org

The House of Finland-San Diego/2015

Heikki Bergman
heikkigronlund@gmail.com

COLORADO

FF Colorado Chapter/1993
Kirsi St. Marie
kirsistmarie@comcast.net

CONNECTICUT

F-A Heritage Society/2011
Steven Bousquet
stevenbousquet@yahoo.com

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FF National Capital Chapter/1959
Kirsti Noring
kfnoring@yahoo.com

FLORIDA

FF Florida Chapter/1954
Kaarina Langeland
kaarina.langeland@professori.fi

GEORGIA

Atlanta Finland Society, Inc./1975
Anne Hamalainen
annhamalainen@hotmail.com

HAWAII

FF Hawaii/2014
Vihtori Virta
l.v.virta@gmail.com

ILLINOIS

F-A Society of the Midwest/1997
Oscar Forsman
oforsman@yahoo.com

MAINE

F-A Heritage Society of Maine/2012
Dale Piirainen
dwplmp@megalink.net

Finnish Farmers Club/2012

Inez Goodine
Donaldp.Higgins@gmail.com

Finnish Heritage House/2007

Jacqueline Harjula
jackielee207@gmail.com

MARYLAND

FF Baltimore Area Chapter/1974
Markku Koppanen
markku_koppanen@hotmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS

FF Boston, Inc./1955
Nathalie Forssell
ngf0rs@yahoo.com

F-A Society of Cape Cod/2012

Stephen Trimble
satcapecod@hotmail.com

The Finnish Center at Saima Park, Inc./2005

Maija Mård
MaiLis1@aol.com

The Finnish Heritage Society -

Sovittaja/2006
Barry Heiniluoma
fhss@sovittaja.org

MICHIGAN

F-A Cultural Corporation/2012
Frank Gottberg
frrankk@att.net

F-A Society of West Central

Michigan/2007
Marie Godell Fowler
lydiamarie@earthlink.net

Finnish Center Association/2004

Mia Lamminen
finnishcenter@gmail.com

Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock - FF Copper Country Chapter/2006

Becky Hoekstra
mommabecca@hotmail.com

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

Ron J. Hill
ronjhil38@aol.com

MINNESOTA

Finnish-Americans and Friends (Hibbing Chapter)/1998
Kenneth Lahti
franken@gmail.com

FF Twin Cities Chapter/1993

Betsey Norgard
norgard@paulbunyan.net

FF Northland Chapter/2010

Tracey Gibbens
ballade@q.com

Red River Finns/2011

Ellen Liddle
ellen.liddle@yahoo.com

MONTANA

Finn Club of Helena/2007
Marjorie Peura Reilly
marj@jeffbb.net

Red Lodge Knights and

Ladies of Kaleva/2011
Pat Wallila
wallilaranch@yahoo.com

NEW YORK

FF New York Metropolitan Chapter/1954
Eero Kilpi
kilpi@me.com

Finger Lakes Finns/2006

Lisa Beck
lils87@aol.com

OHIO

F-A Heritage Assn. of Ashtabula County/2004
Elsa Shepard
ellishepard@yahoo.com

Finnish Heritage Museum/2015

Lasse Hiltunen
lassehiltunen1@icloud.com

OREGON

FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter/2001
Greg Jacob
jacobgk@comcast.net

PENNSYLVANIA

FF Pittsburgh Chapter/1990
Seija Cohen
SeijaC@aol.com

F-A Society of the Delaware Valley/2006

Marja Kaisla
mjkaisla@yahoo.com

SOUTH DAKOTA

Frederick Forward - FF Dakota Chapter/2012

Heidi Marttila-Losure
hmmartti@yahoo.com

Sons and Daughters of

Suomi/2015
Steven Mitchell
scmitchell5357@gmail.com

TEXAS

F-A Society of Dallas/Fort Worth/1991
Jeremy Martin
president@texfinn.org

UTAH

FF Utah Chapter/2016
Tiina Watts
tiinawatts@gmail.com

VIRGINIA

FF Tidewater Virginia Chapter/1978
Riikka Mohorn
riikkamohorn@verizon.net

WASHINGTON

FF Inland Northwest Chapter/1970
Don Heikkila
idfinn@sm-email.com

FF Seattle Chapter/1968

Mikko Männistö
mikkotm@hotmail.com

FF Suomi Chapter/2010

Asko Hämäläinen
askoha@yahoo.com

F-A Folk Festival/2011

Mike Swanson
swanson@wwest.net

Swedish-Finn Historical Society/1991

Bill Carlson
carlsonharrington@comcast.net