



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.

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7

Signature Events for Finland 100

In tribute to Finland's Declaration of Independence a century ago, Finlandia Foundation National is hosting several Finland 100 Signature Events throughout 2017.

The first of these took place in Florida on February 18 in the Lake Worth/West Palm Beach area, with FFN as a major sponsor of the Finland 100 Gala at the Delray Beach Marriott. A delegation from the Finnish Parliament, led by Speaker Maria Lohela, graciously attended the event.

The Gala was one of several activities that weekend, including the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce luncheon; Speaker Lohela addressed the meeting.

FFN President Ossi Rahkonen attended the events and had the opportunity to meet with dignitaries while representing Finlandia Foundation.

Additional FFN

Finland 100 Signature Events taking place in 2017:

September 18 Santa Fe, New Mexico: Finland's

former President Tarja Halonen will participate as a guest of the Women's International Study Center (WISC).

September 22-23

Minneapolis: An all-Finnish concert by the Minnesota Orchestra under the baton of Music Director Osmo Vänskä.

November 4 Seattle: Finland 100 concert by the Northwestern Symphony Orchestra.

November 9 New York City: FFN is a sponsor of the Finland Centennial Forum at the Union Club, with Keynote Speaker President Martti Ahtisaari.

FFN has designated the springtime U.S. concert tour by Ida Elina, a modern Finnish kantele player, as a Finland 100 Signature Event.



Dignitaries at the February 18 Finland 100 Gala include (far left) Consul General of New York Manu Virtamo; (center) Florida's Honorary Consul Peter Makila; and Finnish Parliament Speaker Maria Lohela (in blue gown). *Photo by Rodney Paavola*

Ossi Rahkonen (below, left) and Consul General Manu Virtamo visit at the Chamber luncheon. *Photo by Timo Vainionpaa, usasuomeksi.com*





Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

We are well into Finland's Centennial Year 2017! The celebrations started in January. I had the honor of attending a series of events in Minneapolis January 11-14 with Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi, culminating in a Minnesota Orchestra concert on January 13

and the inauguration of the Traveling Sauna, given the name "Sisu," on January 14. I understood that this was the "official" opening of Finland 100.

The Traveling Sauna started its touring of the U.S. right away, heading first to Texas, then to L.A. and the West Coast at the end of March, and onward in a year-long tour that will end in Washington, D.C., in December. FFN is one of the sponsors.

Finlandia Foundation's first Finland 100 signature event took place in the Lake Worth/West Palm Beach area with the Finland 100 Gala at the Delray Beach Marriott on February 18. FFN was one of the major sponsors. A delegation from the Finnish Parliament, led by Speaker Maria Lohela, honored the gala by its presence. As in Minneapolis a month earlier, a series of events took place in the area during the February 17-20 timeframe.

FFN has further Finland 100 signature events taking place this year, as outlined on page one.

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, FFN's main role is in support of Finland 100 events organized by its chapters which now, with the recent addition of the newly organized FinnsConnect South Florida and just---at press time---Finlandia Foundation of Montana in Missoula, now number 54 chapters in 25 states and Washington, D.C.

We provide funding to the chapters to arrange their own centennial events, and we provide them lecturers and musical performers at subsidized rates. This involvement by affiliated groups is the only way that we will be able to increase broad awareness of the contributions of Finland and Finnish-Americans, historically and today, to the fabric of life in the United States.

We see 2017 shaping up as a year with a multitude of exciting Finland 100 events all over the U.S.

This will require substantial financial resources. I look forward to working with you in raising the resources required under the common theme "Together."

Regards,

Ossi Rahkonen
President

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The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Communications Committee: Jacqueline Harjula, chair; and Katariina Lehtonen, Betsey Norgard, Tarja Silverman

Editing and production by FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo
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FFN Recognizes Kiltinens with Award of Excellence

Finlandia Foundation trustees have selected Pauline and John Kiltinen of Marquette, Michigan, as recipients of the organization's Award of Excellence. The bi-annual recognition was initiated in 2015, during the 150th anniversary celebration of the birth of composer Jean Sibelius, to recognize outstanding efforts in the U.S. on behalf of Finnish and Finnish-American interests, individuals and achievements.

The inaugural award was presented to the Seattle Symphony in March, 2015 during its three-week festival, "Luminous Landscapes: The Sibelius Symphonies."

The Kiltinens have long been involved in Finnish-American projects and programs in the Upper Peninsula and with FinnFest USA. Last year, the Republic of Finland designated John as Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland, and awarded Pauline the Cross of Merit of the Order of the White Rose of Finland.

FFN will present the Award of Excellence to the couple in September at FinnFest USA 2017 in Minneapolis.

Embassy Has Array of Finland 100 Projects

The Embassy of Finland in the United States is playing an active role in the Finland 100 celebrations, including the participation by Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi in Minneapolis in January, when the Minnesota Orchestra performed a program of Jean Sibelius and Kalevi Aho. And she was there to see Sisu, the Traveling Sauna, begin its journey around the country. The Ambassador will attend additional events across the U.S. throughout the year.

Embassy Communications Coordinator Emilia Honkasaari announces several online programs, including short video greetings by famous Finnish-Americans and friends of Finland such as composer Kaija Saariaho, artist Eric Aho, performer Taina Elg, TV host Conan O'Brien and Minnesota Wild hockey player Mikko Koivu. View them on the YouTube channel 100 Friends of Finland.

A fascinating 12-part series, "Centennial Story of Finland" is linked at the Embassy website Finland.org.

She reminds event sponsors about finland100usa.com/calendar.html. "The calendar will be updated throughout the year, so please send information about your upcoming events to finland100USA@gmail.com." Include the name of the event, date, time and place, a short description and link to the event website and photo.



Finlandia Foundation will recognize Pauline and John Kiltinen with its Award of Excellence during FinnFest USA 2017 in September.

Catch Centenary Lecturers Together at FinnFest 2017

By Jon Saari
FFN Trustee and LOY Coordinator

To date, the five Centenary Lecturers have been booked in about a dozen places around the country, from Tucson to Boston, and the Finger Lakes Finns in upstate New York to the FF chapter in the mountains of Colorado.

In keeping with the Finland 100 "Together" theme, they will appear together at FinnFest USA 2017 in Minneapolis, September 22-23. In two, 90-minute periods they will address Finnish independence and identity as viewed from this side of the Atlantic, where our scholars have all made their careers.

Following a recent Minneapolis screening of the new Eero Saarinen film and a lecture about Finland in the Protestant Reformation, the city's public is prepped about Finland's centennial and ready to learn about its independence and national identity in a deeper, more probing way.

Centenary Lecturers are available for chapter programs until June, 2018. Find their bios and program descriptions at FinlandiaFoundation.org. FFN Finland 100 grants (up to \$1,000 per chapter) may be used to help with the hosting expenses; details are also online.

And to see them all, in lively interaction, plan a trip to Minneapolis to attend FinnFest USA in September, 2017!

Grants 2017: Together!

By Päivi Tetri
FFN Trustee

Finland will turn 100 this year and the theme established for Finland 100 by the Finnish government is “Together.” As we look forward to this important day, Finns and Finnish-Americans are proud to work together to showcase Finland and Finnish culture. This year, Finlandia Foundation National has once again had the honor of awarding many worthy grants to applicants eager to launch programs and projects that explore our heritage, express aspects of our culture, educate others about Finland, preserve our common heritage, and celebrate Finland and Finnish identity.

OUR 2017 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Sam Houston State University professor and linguist **Helena Halmari** received a grant to study the bilingual correspondence between Jean Sibelius and his wife Aino. The study will focus on what their choices of Finnish or Swedish language in their personal letters tell us about them and their world in the time before Finland gained its independence. The letters are mainly in Swedish, with Finnish translations. She will also translate the first volume of letters into English, making them accessible to non-Finnish or Swedish speaking Sibelius scholars and others interested in Sibelius and Finnish history.

The **Finnish American Heritage Association of Ashtabula, Ohio** has discovered five silver nitrate film reels of a 1927 concert tour that the Humina Band of Ashtabula made to Finland. One concert includes Jean Sibelius in the audience. Some of the reels have deteriorated beyond use and FAHA requested funds to reproduce the remaining film onto discs to retain a record of this local history. Sales of copies will go toward supporting their museum.

Rent Romus and **Heikki Koskinen** have been invited by the Kerava Jazz Festival to bring a special



celebration edition of *The Otherworld Cycle*, an original Finnish-American musical odyssey, to Finland. The work features Finnish and Karelian instruments such as kantele, jouhikko, bells and overtone flutes. The group was awarded a grant to help defray travel costs.

The **Raivaaja Foundation** was awarded a grant to digitize 100 years of historical and culturally significant material published by the Raivaaja Publishing Company newspaper prior to ceasing publication in 2009. Digital records will preserve the material and make it more accessible to scholars and historians.

The **East Metro Symphony Orchestra** of the Twin Cities received a grant for *Traditions: A Celebration of Finnish Music*. The program will focus on music inspired by Finnish folk legends and the *Kalevala*, including music by Sibelius, Uuno Klami and Erkki Melartin.

Yvonne Hiipakka Lockwood received funding on behalf of **FinnFest USA 2017** for *Finnish American Folk Artists: Definition, Presentation, and Commemoration of active Finnish Folk Arts Traditions in America*. The project will showcase traditional Finnish folk art traditions as American forms of expression. This project will support 10-12 folk artists from around the United States by providing lodging and transportation.



The **Houston International Dance Coalition** was awarded grant funding to cover the costs for the USA-Houston debut of the Susanna Leinonen Company, one of Finland's most critically acclaimed modern dance companies, at the 2017 Dance Salad Festival. The company will perform *Romeo and Juliet*, choreographed by Susanna Leinonen and Jouka Valkama and set to music by Sergei Prokofjev with a contemporary score by Kasper Laine, and *Touch of Gravity*, choreographed by Susanna Leinonen and set to music by Kasper Laine.

The **Suomi Koulu of Los Angeles** organizes cultural events twice a year to raise funds for programming and education of the local community about Finnish culture. Funding was granted to help defray costs for their efforts to preserve Finnish language and culture among the children and families with ties to Finland, as well as non-Finns interested in learning more about Finland.

Finlandia Foundation Berkeley Chapter is launching a program of outside lectures at monthly cultural events at their hall. Lectures about Finnish history, genealogy and film, as well as musical events, are planned in this centennial year.

Poet **Susanna Immonen-Brougham** received a travel grant to visit Finland for research and inspiration for a volume of poems tentatively titled *A Kalevala for Eva*. The poems explore emigration from Finland to Maine, specifically to the town of West Paris, where the author grew up. The focus of this volume is on the experiences of her great-grandmother. The author finds connection with the immigrant experience and *Kalevala* themes.

Filmmaker **Kristin Ojaniemi** received funding to produce the celebratory documentary *100 Years of Settler's Co-op*. It tells the local history and mission of the co-op in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the history of the co-operative store movement in the Midwest. Settler's Co-op, founded in 1917 by Finnish-Americans, is a monument to the heritage of the area. It is fitting that this mainstay of life in the town of Bruce Crossing is celebrating its 100 years in the same year as Finland's centennial.



The **Portland Chamber Orchestra** is turning 70 in Finland's centennial year, and plans are underway to celebrate both anniversaries by reflecting back on the orchestra's beginnings, history and legacy. To this end, the orchestra will present *Northern Sounds: A Nordic Festival*, which will include two multisensory performances featuring the work of Sibelius and other Finnish composers. There will be a piano master class for young and emerging pianists, a recital featuring select Sibelius works, and a lecture exploring the Finnish national identity as it emerged through the eyes of Sibelius and his inner circle.

Former FFN Lecturer of the Year **Carl Rahkonen** is compiling a book on the *Finnish-American Musical Journey*. Dr. Rahkonen, with his background in librarianship and archival research and his formal training in folklore and musicology, is uniquely qualified to do this work. Funds were granted to allow for travel to Finland to study at the Institute of Migration in Turku and at the Folk Music Institute in Kaustinen.

Holly Chernobyl of the dance/theater company NIGHTPARADE, received a grant to travel to Finland to attend a butoh (a form of Japanese dance) workshop in Helsinki, and to organize and perform a butoh procession as part of the Night of the Arts event in Helsinki. Her procession will draw inspiration from the Finnish landscape, and four Finnish artists will participate with her in the hour-long performance.

The **Bay Area Book Festival** has become a literary tradition in the San Francisco area, drawing tens of thousands of people for indoor keynotes, interviews and panels featuring hundreds of leading authors from around the world. International understanding, tolerance and the experience of migration will be among the major themes of the 2017 festival. Funding was granted to bring author Pajtim Statovci, of Finland, to the festival to showcase a modern day Finnish literary voice to a wide variety of people who may be unfamiliar with Finland and Finnish literature.





The **North Stars Chamber Orchestra** received a travel grant to take 17-20 young musicians from Bellingham, Washington to its Sister City of Vaasa, Finland. Concerts performed in Vaasa will honor the official Finland Centennial theme “Together.”

Funds were given to **Ralph Tuttila** for *Keeping the Beat—Finnish Music and Dance in America*. Funding will go to forming an intergenerational and intercultural ensemble of experienced and beginning musicians to share, learn and perform traditional and contemporary Finnish social dance music. Musicians will be instructed with folk/oral method, print music and recordings. The ensemble will perform at the local Finland100 Concert/Dance weekend in the Twin Cities.

The **Keravan Mieslaulajat** (pictured above) has been invited by the Embassy of Finland to travel from Kerava to Washington, D.C. to participate in Finland 100 celebrations in early December. The purpose of the visit is to showcase Finnish male choir music and to act as “singing ambassadors” for Finnish culture. Funds to help defray the cost of travel were granted to the choir.

The **Kaleva Historical Society** of Kaleva, Michigan received a grant for *Steam Up and Take the Plunge*. Funds were sought to construct a (non-functioning) demonstration sauna building behind the museum to acquaint visitors with traditional sauna practices and culture. The sauna will be constructed of materials and dimensions common to early Kaleva saunas, and will incorporate all of the elements of a traditional sauna building.

Wil Rankinen, professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Grand Valley State University, received funding for his project *Finnish American Influence on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula English*. By examining the speech production of how Finnish Americans talk

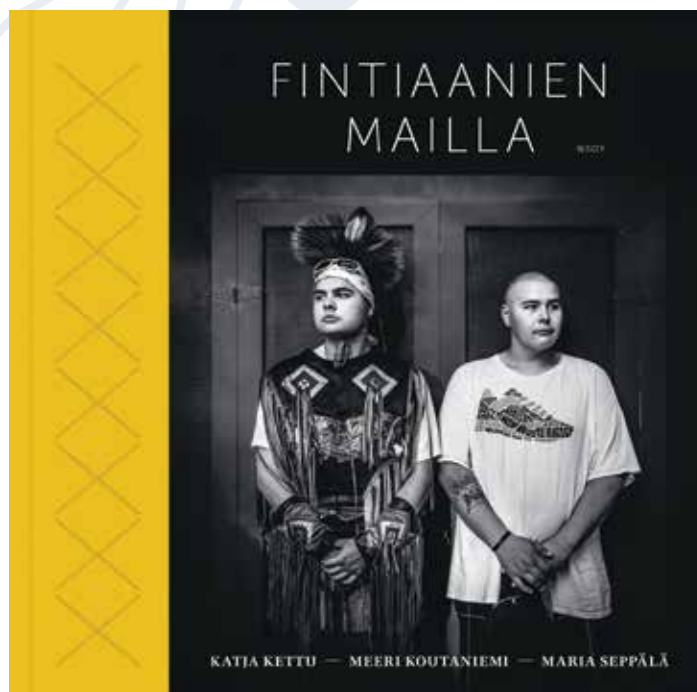
in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, this study seeks to reveal if substrate Finnish effects in the dialect are present and to what degree and direction they are changing.

The **Nordic Heritage Museum** in Seattle is pleased to offer its second annual Nordic Culinary Conference. It will feature acclaimed Finnish chef Sasu Laukkonen, with fellow chefs from Denmark and Iceland. Chef Laukkonen will offer two distinct programs, one engaging participants with an experience in traditional Finnish baking and the other a survey of modern culinary trends and practices. In addition, the Nordic chefs will collaborate on a banquet to celebrate the conference and the Finnish Centennial. Funds were granted to offset the costs of bringing Chef Laukkonen to the conference.

Olli Hirvonen is a former Finlandia Foundation National Performer of the Year. He is the winner of the 2016 Montreux Jazz Guitar Competition and one of the most accomplished Nordic musicians of his generation. He received a travel grant to bring his quartet to Bellingham, Washington for Vappu celebrations in this centennial year.

Fintiaani Mailla (In the Land of the Finndians) is a well-received and widely acknowledged non-fiction book in Finland. Published by WSOY, it has sold out of its third printing. The work is an exploration of the lives of the descendants of Finnish immigrants

and Native Americans in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and the north side of Lake Superior in Canada. Authors **Maria Seppälä** and **Katja Kettu** and photographer **Meeri Koutaniemi** received funding supporting translation of the book into English.



The **Historical Society of Cheshire County** has planned six educational initiatives under the auspices of its program *Finnish Culture and the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire*. Funding was granted to create programming specifically related to the history and culture of the local Finnish community. It includes a teacher workshop on immigration experiences, a “wonder box” of artifacts for use in the schools, the creation of a curriculum on the theme of immigration, projects to preserve Finnish culture, and community gatherings around special events and festivals.

The **American-Scandinavian Foundation** received funding to support *Independent Finland—Images of Modern Women*. The exhibition is organized by the Ateneum Museum/Finnish National Gallery and will be shown at Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in New York City. It presents the work of four of Finland’s most celebrated painters: Helene Schjerfbeck, Ellen Thesleff, Sigrid Schauman and Elga Sesemann. The exhibition explores the topic from the perspectives of women as the subjects of the paintings as well as of female artists as the creators of those images.

Kate Hodges owns an urban farm in central Ohio that grows and sells culinary herbs, native and superfood berries and foraged wild edibles. FFN provided a grant for equipment and professional services to produce a series of short videos about Finnish wild food culture. They will be shareable through social media, still photographs, a workshop and presentation, with the goal of transporting Finnish wild food culture to Ohio.



Greg Isola was awarded a grant for completing and launching his book *Modern Finnish Genealogy*, in which he captures forty years of family history research and genealogical study. In addition to personal family history, the author will include information about associated and related genealogy of other northern peoples. Generalized information for genealogical research will also be included.

Lisa Fitzpatrick, Alison Aune and **Kirsten Aune** received funding for *Luova Taide Yhdessä: Creative Art Together* (pictured above). The goal of this project is to bring 100 years of independence in Finnish art and design to Minnesota. The grant will cover an intensive research/documentation

trip to Finland which will result in a mixed media art exhibition, gallery talk and workshops in hand printed textiles, emerging technologies and digital story telling, and Finnish folk *himmeli* crafts. It will be presented at the Nordic Center in Duluth, Minnesota and beyond.

The **New York Scandia Symphony** was awarded a grant to bring music from Finnish composers to the popular 12th Annual Scandinavian Music Festival in New York’s Fort Tryon Park. FFN Performer of the Year Pirjo Polari-Khan will share her music, poetry, songs and puppetry with children and the young at heart.

The RaumArs Artist in Residence Program in Rauma, Finland has offered a residency to **Ron Saunders** for his project *Artist Restraint*. RaumArs asks artists to engage and participate with the community, and he will initiate a new body of work where artists come together and create drawing collaboratively. To ensure that this project

engages as many people as possible, multiple opportunities for public interaction will be established. Exhibitions in Rauma, Helsinki and Atlanta, Georgia are planned.

The Vantaa Gymnastics club, **Team Ajattomat**, received a travel grant to showcase their project *Motional Greetings from Finland*. The group has been invited to Washington, D.C. in June to present multiple performances at a day-long event at the National Mall. The team will also organize Finnish outdoor games and competitions for children. Other events and performances are

planned during their stay.

Ensemble Mise-En, a New York-based ensemble of young musicians, will present *CONNECTIONS: Finland-All Generations-100th Anniversary*, in which the group will perform the work of three living Finnish composers representing each generation of music artists working today. The performance will be held at Scandinavia House in November 2017.

The **Ameriikan Poijat Finnish Brass Band** has been performing and preserving Finnish Brass septet music for over 25 years. A travel grant was given for a two-week tour of Finland in July. The group will also be doing a series of concerts and dances throughout the upper Midwest in 2017.

The **Finnish Language School in Washington, D.C.** received funding to upgrade and modernize learning resources. The award will supplement grant funding from other sources to pay one person's salary for one semester. It will also investigate digital learning resources and create a more engaging and personalized learning environment that might become a teaching model for other suomi-koulu, as well.

Marja Eloheimo has created a three-part project entitled *Presenting Finland in Image and Word: Perspectives Through Time of a Finnish-American Woman and Scholar*. Ms. Eloheimo was granted funding to support compiling and producing in DVD format images, audio, poetry and music gathered over more than 30 years. This program will include a live presentation as well as DVDs offered for sale. Finally, Ms. Eloheimo will travel to Montreal to participate in the Society of Ethnobiology Conference, where she is planning to give a presentation on the power of exploring heritage to help cultivate a sense of place and identity in cultures.



Pianist **Kati Eriikka Arikoski-Johnson** was awarded a travel grant to present a classical piano concert at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia, Minnesota as part of their local Finland 100 event. Ms. Arikoski-Johnson will perform the music of four Finnish composers: Jean Sibelius, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Einar Englund and Leevi Madetoja.

The **Finnish American Cultural Corporation** received funding to help defray costs for a luncheon program series to be held at the Holocaust Memorial

Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. One program will focus on early history of Jews settling in or relocating to Finland, another on World War II. A third program will be coordinated with the Cranbrook School and tailored to those interested in Eliel Saarinen and his architecture.



contribution this music has made to world culture. Former Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year Craig Randal Johnson will accompany each event.

Eeva Sallinen Simard and **Essi Kivitie** are at work on a book tentatively titled *Oman Onnensa Käsikirjoittajat—Suomalaisten Naisten Onnistumistarinoita Maailmalta (Writers of Their Own Happiness—Success Stories of Finnish Women Overseas)*. The book, to be published by Otava Publishing Company, Ltd., will study the lives of 14-15 Finnish women through the medium of interviews. The authors were given a travel grant for conducting research.

Marianne Wargelin requested funding on behalf of **FinnFest USA 2017** to bring the five Finlandia Foundation Centenary Lecturers to the September event in Minneapolis to lecture individually and to participate in a panel discussion on *North American Perspectives on Finnish Independence and Identity*. A travel grant was awarded.

The **Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter** was granted funding for a street fair and evening party to celebrate Finland 100. These very visible events will feature food and many types of vendors, as well as performances. This will be the largest mass gathering of the Finnish community undertaken in New York City.

The **House of Finland of San Diego** received partial funding for concerts and receptions to celebrate Finland 100: two concerts in April by renowned kantele player Ida Elina, and *Sibelius Inspiration* by cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian in October.

Funding was given for **Finnish Classical Music Past and Present**, a series of four chamber concerts to be performed in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Opportunities to hear Finnish art song and clarinet solo and chamber music with piano are rare, and the goal of this series is to promote greater recognition of the



Twin Cities choir director Eeva Savolainen requested grant funding for the creation of the **Suomi Finland 100 Chorus** (above), a group of up to 100 singers, to present a concert of classical music in partnership with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra in October 2017. The main goal of this concert is to engage Finns and non-Finns in the singing of Finnish choral music in concert, and making that music accessible to all in the Twin Cities community. Translations and notes in the concert program will help the audience understand the music and its connection to history.

University of California, Berkeley Institute of European Studies-Nordic Studies received a grant for a program entitled *Celebrating 100 Years of Finnish Independence*. This program will entail several panel discussions on the topics of Finland's history and current society and arts. The speakers will be visiting Finnish scholars. UCB is working together with the Finlandia Foundation Berkeley Chapter to develop the program.

The **Vermont Division for Historic Preservation** received a grant to launch a project to research, identify and document examples of buildings constructed by Finnish immigrants in Southern Vermont during the first half of the 20th century. They will review the Vermont Finnish-American Society archives held by the Black River Academy



Museum, interview local residents of Finnish descent, and research town records to identify when and where Finnish immigrants settled in southern Vermont. They will identify farmsteads and homes that were occupied by Finns, and determine whether Finnish-built structures are still on the properties. The buildings will be measured, photographed and mapped to preserve this history of Finnish construction.

Viipurin Lauluveikot is the oldest Finnish male choir, known for celebrating its Karelian heritage. The **Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter** received a travel grant to help bring this unique choir to the U.S. to present centennial concerts across the western United States.

Grant funding for the **Finland Centennial Tour 2017** was given to the organizing steering committee for financial support of the Marquette City Band and the Marquette Choral Society performance tour to Finland. Marquette, Michigan is Sister City to Kajaani, Finland and these musical groups, totaling 120 plus performers, will follow separate itineraries, culminating in a joint performance in Kajaani where they will be welcomed by Kajaani's Sister City representatives.

Congratulations to all of our 2017 grant recipients!

Board Meets in Windy City

Finlandia Foundation trustees headed to Chicago for the spring board meeting Friday-Saturday, March 10-11, preceded by committee meetings on Thursday. The agenda included committee reports on 2017 grant and scholarship award recommendations as well as reviews of all FFN programs, including Performer of the Year and Centenary Lecturers, Soiva International Music Camp at Concordia College in June, and the matching scholarships available to students attending Salolampi Language Village. FFN also offers travel grants to assist students with transportation costs to both Soiva and Salolampi.

The board discussed plans for FFN Finland 100 Signature Events and grants to chapters to assist with their centennial celebrations this year. Between the Finland 100 efforts and its regular, annual programs, the board approved distribution of some \$325,000 in 2017. An important agenda item was fundraising and new initiatives to meet the increased financial commitments FFN has made in pursuit of its mission.

The board elected its slate of officers for the term 2017-2019:

President: Ossi Rahkonen
Vice President: Paul O. Halme
Treasurer: Dirk Schulbach
Secretary: Paivi Tetri

Post-Joint Chapter Meeting Work Underway

It has been six months since the Finlandia Foundation Joint Chapter Meeting was held in Washington, D.C., the first assembly of FFN affiliated organizations since 2006. Representatives from 34 chapters---two thirds of our membership---gathered for informational sessions, informal exchange, roundtable discussions and socializing. The follow-up evaluation forms provided FFN with good input for planning the next such session which, according to feedback, should be scheduled for the year 2021---every five years---if not more often.

At its meeting in March, the board reviewed suggestions that arose from the sessions, several of which are being addressed and will be relayed to chapter representatives.

Some members have already taken advantage of one action item that has been implemented to provide an easy way for chapters to interact: a private Facebook page where chapter leaders may ask questions, share ideas and exchange information. The page is classified as a secure "secret" Facebook page, and is open only to individuals in chapter leadership positions such



Satu Mikkola, with Seattle Symphony conductor Thomas Dausgaard after the orchestra's salute to Sibelius in 2015, was instrumental to the success of many FFN programs such as the Sibelius 150 Jubilee.

Many thanks to Jacqueline Harjula for her four-year service as secretary.

This was the last meeting for a valued board member, Satu Mikkola, who stepped down after serving Finlandia Foundation in many capacities, including treasurer for six years and as longtime Performer of the Year coordinator. She continues to be active in Finnish-American organizations and projects in the Pacific Northwest, and is regional speaker, Finnish Expatriate Parliament, Region United States and Latin America. Her institutional knowledge of FFN and insights---not to mention her bright smile---will be missed.



Members had an opportunity to network at the 2016 Joint Chapter Meeting of FFN affiliated organizations.

as the board and committee chairs (not the entire chapter membership).

For more information and to request access or submit names to the Facebook group contact FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo at kathusitalo@mac.com.



A Post-Concert Visit with Salonen

When FFN trustees get together each spring and fall to discuss the business of the nonprofit organization and plan for its future, the board selects a meeting location where there is a Finlandia Foundation chapter. This provides an important opportunity for the trustees to meet and socialize with local members. The March meeting in Chicago was no exception.

With the help of Oscar Forsman, president of the Finnish-American Society of the Midwest (FASM), FFN trustees and guests enjoyed a most memorable

Performer of the Year Now Available Into 2018

By **Betsey Norgard**
FFN Trustee and POY Coordinator

At its spring meeting in Chicago, the Performer of the Year Committee decided to extend the term of current POY Pirjo Polari-Khan through August 31, 2018. This will allow everyone to take advantage of both FFN's ongoing programs as well as the special opportunities available during the Finland 100 year.

The POY Committee will also use this time for reflection and conversation about the program itself, now more than 20 years old: its purpose, popularity and possible future directions.

Pirjo's programs delight audiences of all ages through puppetry, storytelling and song, from six-year-old children to all who are young at heart. During the centennial year, Pirjo has incorporated Finnish history and the richness of the Finnish language into her programs, aiming to guide children and adults---both Finnish and Finnish-American---into greater interest in Finnish culture. She is happy to talk with program hosts about tailoring content for their audience.

Pirjo describes her program in a short video; find the link on the POY page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

For more information or to book an appearance, chapters should contact POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at bjnorgard@gmail.com.



evening following adjournment of their Saturday session.

Members of the board and the Chicago area affiliate FASM mingled at a reception before heading to the Chicago Symphony Center for a premiere performance of Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Cello Concerto*, which he wrote expressly for Yo-Yo Ma. The cellist performed the work with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Salonen.

Not only was it a special experience to be in the audience for this rare event, but afterward the maestro, who is FFN Patron, graciously met privately with the Finnish-American group and engaged in a relaxed exchange with members. Many thanks to Oscar and the members of FASM who made it happen.



FFN Past President Anita Smiley (left) visits with FASM member Karen Maki before the Chicago Symphony concert featuring Yo-Yo Ma, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen.

FFN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2017

Scholarship Chair and FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner and a committee of volunteers evaluated applications and awarded scholarships to 14 students in the U.S. and Finland.

1. LISBET BÄCK, a Finnish immigrant of over 12 years, resides in North Texas where she says she has “an amazing opportunity to pursue my childhood dream career here in the U.S. as a police officer.” Lisbet, a sergeant with a department in Tarrant County, says, “My passion is to provide high quality service by serving and protecting the public. I am pursuing my education in Criminal Justice at Lamar University to improve my capabilities to give back and pursue my chosen career in law enforcement.”

2. HANNAH BAGDASAR is a third year undergraduate at the University of California Berkeley, majoring in Legal Studies with minors in Public Policy and Scandinavia. “As part of the Scandinavian minor I have had the opportunity to study Finnish in a classroom setting, which led to my Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship last summer in Helsinki and Turku. Finnish has been such a unique, but defining part of my college experience, and has allowed me to make closer connections to my family in Finland.”

3. INGRID GOETZ of Saint Paul, Minnesota, is a sophomore at Harvard University studying design in the department of History of Art and Architecture. She sings in two vocal ensembles

on campus: an all-female a cappella group, and a mixed-voiced chorus. During the summer Ingrid works as a counselor at Salolampi Finnish Language Village, where she has been a camper or counselor for the last 13 years. She continues her study of Finnish at Harvard, and this year has added Swedish language study. In the future, she hopes to pursue graduate studies in Scandinavia.

4. VILMA JAAMURU was born in Keller, Texas three years after her parents moved from Oulu, Finland. At the University of Minnesota Twin Cities she is working on a bachelor of sciences in chemical engineering, and plans to earn a minor in biochemistry. “When I am not focused on my studies, I enjoy spending my time playing intramural soccer and volunteering at the Finnish Language School of Minnesota like I did back home with the Finnish Language School of North Texas. I also enjoy reading and listening to music by Overwerk. In the future, I hope to study in Finland if not as an undergraduate then as a graduate student earning my master’s.”

5. MARKUS KAITILA, a Helsinki native, is a prizewinning concert pianist lauded for his artistic substance, awareness of form and crystalline clarity. He

studied at Sibelius Academy and Folkwang UdK in Europe, and is now training at Aaron Copland School of Music with Nina Lelchuk. Markus has been soloist of Joutseno Art Summer, Wratislavia, St. Peter’s Festival and Queens College Chamber orchestras, and the QC Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and performed at international festivals and Mannes, LeFrak and Carnegie Halls. He was a Solo Piano Fellow at Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara in summer 2015, and is excited to participate in Chautauqua Institution’s Piano Program in upstate New York this July. He is considering Mannes School of Music at The New School and Manhattan School of Music for a Master of Music in Piano Performance.

6. MARIA KELLY is a half-Finnish graduate student at Columbia University in the Modern Art: Critical & Curatorial Studies master’s program. Specializing in contemporary photography, her thesis will consider the concept of memory through items we leave behind, and how those traces are altered when the individual is not present or known. Prior to enrolling at Columbia, Maria was the curatorial assistant of Photography & Exhibitions

at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, where she developed and assisted in curating 20 exhibitions during her five years there. She received a BA in Art History from the University of Georgia in 2011.

7. JONATHAN KILPELA is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Finland, and grew up in a bilingual household. After graduating from Michigan Tech in 2014, he taught science for two years at Jeffers High School in Upper Michigan. “In August 2016, I moved to Finland with my wife, Alina, to begin my studies at the University of Jyväskylä, pursuing a master’s degree in educational sciences. My master’s thesis will focus on discourse and argumentation in Finnish science classrooms. In my free time I enjoy playing the piano, singing first tenor in Mieskuoro Sirkat, cycling, cross-country skiing and racing marathons.”

8. MIKELA MARY ELSA NYLANDER-FRENCH, who is studying exercise science, kinesiology and dance at The College at Brockport, State University of New York, was born, raised, and attended school in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Her mother, from Joensuu, Finland, met her U.S.-born father in Helsinki. Mikela inherited her mother’s love of dance and studied ballet and trained in North Carolina, New York City and Finland. The physical and emotional demands of ballet resulted in her strong desire to understand the human physical form and

challenges of dance. She plans to become a physical therapist specializing in dance and sports injuries. She wants to help individuals, dancers and athletes recover from and prevent future injuries so that they may live healthy, active and fulfilling lives.

9. JACK RÄISÄNEN of Cokato, Minnesota is working on his Bachelor of Natural Resources of Sustainable Coastal Management at Novia University of Applied Sciences in Ekenäs, Finland. He is also earning credit toward a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies from St. Cloud

State University. He plans to work in areas related to climate change, environmental protection, social justice and sustainability, and pursue a master’s degree and doctoral studies. His goal is to become a university professor and researcher involved in public policy formation. “In my free time, I learn more Finnish, play the piano, share time with friends, explore Finland, and travel when I have the possibility. I am also an active singer in a community choir.”

10. JAAKOV SCHULMAN will attend Columbia University for the Master in International Affairs program, where he plans to study international food security in the framework of nonprofits and intergovernmental organizations. At Columbia, he aims to merge his previous research experience on food policy and his exposure to the practice of international development with microeconomic analysis, econometrics, trade policy and financial management.

11. TUOMAS TOMUNEN is a second-year Ph.D. student in Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School in New York. Prior to his doctoral studies, Tuomas received his master’s degree in economics from Aalto University, Finland.

12. LAURA TUOMAINEN is a master’s student at the University of Eastern Finland majoring in Finnish language, with minors in literature, subject teacher’s pedagogical studies, and Finnish as a second language. She will spend the academic year 2017–18 in the Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant program at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. “My tasks there are teaching, assisting and studying some courses of my choice. I enjoy studying linguistics, and will become a teacher of Finnish as a second language.”

13. PAUL VOGEL was born in the U.S. to Finnish parents, and moved to Finland when he was seven. He and his young friends made films, in English, he says, although most knew just a few words. “I guess we were aiming for international distribution.” Paul followed his passion in the undergraduate program of Media Producing at Turku



Arts Academy, and worked in advertising before applying to the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. “Now I am in my second semester, being taught by amazing faculty, many whom have Academy Awards on their shelves, in studio-like facilities that are unparalleled to anywhere else. It is truly humbling, and at the same time, I feel that being here is taking me one step closer to where I hope I’ll be one day.”

P.J.C. LINDFORS LEGAL STUDIES FUND

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

Four students benefit from his generosity in 2017:

1. ANTTI LUHTALA is a Helsinki-based third-year associate in the capital markets and securities practice of a Finnish law firm. He holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki and M.Sc. (Econ.) degree from Aalto University School of Business, with a study abroad semester at the University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business in Los Angeles. He is now in the Doctor of Laws program at the University of Helsinki, and in August 2017 will enter Harvard Law School’s one-year LL.M. program. “Harvard offers a truly unique access to the world’s leading teaching and research in my fields of interest, and I really look forward to probably one of the most exciting and inspiring years of my life.”



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2. AATOS SOHAGEN graduated with law degrees (LL.B and LL.M) from the University of Helsinki in 2013, and immediately went to work at an international business law firm in Helsinki. He has long been interested in studying for an LL.M. degree in the United States because, he says, the laws and legal practices from the U.S. have a huge impact on the way lawyers think everywhere, including Finland. “I look very much forward to learning about the U.S. legal system at the University of California Berkeley.”

3. MARI TOMUNEN is pursuing her LL.M. degree in Corporate Law at Fordham University. Since moving to New York in 2015, she has worked for the Honorable Judge Denny Chin at the

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Sullivan & Worcester LLP, and Columbia Law School. After graduating from Fordham and taking the New York bar exam, Mari will stay in the city, working as an attorney. She is secretary of the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce, and assists Finnish companies in accelerating their business in the U.S. In her free time, Mari loves to solve jigsaw puzzles and keeps dreaming of her own sailboat.

4. PIRITA TUULIA VIRTANEN is specializing in international dispute resolution (mediation, negotiation, diplomacy) and leadership in her pursuit of an LL.M. degree at Harvard Law School. “I have had an exceptional opportunity

to both pursue intriguing courses in my field and engage with high-level practitioners.” Experience gained in Finland includes clerking at the highest court of the European Union and working pro bono for the peace mediation organization CMI, founded by Finland’s former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Martti Ahtisaari.

Pirita is enrolled in the Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program, is a board member of the Harvard Women Law Association, and vice president of the Harvard Law European Law Association. Her goal is to “effect change in Finland’s dispute resolution culture and promote peace worldwide.”

Chapter News: Welcome, FinnsConnect South Florida!



Florida is now home to one of the oldest and the newest Finlandia Foundation chapters. The Florida Chapter based in Lantana has been affiliated with FFN since 1954, and now FFN welcomes FinnsConnect South Florida as its 53rd chapter in 25 states and Washington, D.C.

The mission of FinnsConnect South FL is to “create an environment that fosters and conserves Finnish culture through events and networking in the Miami-Dade and Broward counties area.” Kati Mäkinen serves as president.

The group had a booth at the Midnight Sun Festival in Lake Worth in March, and plans a fun-filled calendar of events throughout its inaugural year, including a Suomi 100 Vappu Picnic, Ruska Festival and picnic, Finland Independence Day-Suomi 100 celebration, and Christmas activities for children and adults. FinnsConnect South FL hosts Florida Panthers hockey watch parties and game nights.

Check out their activities at their website, finnsconnect.com, and Facebook (FinnsConnect-South-FL).

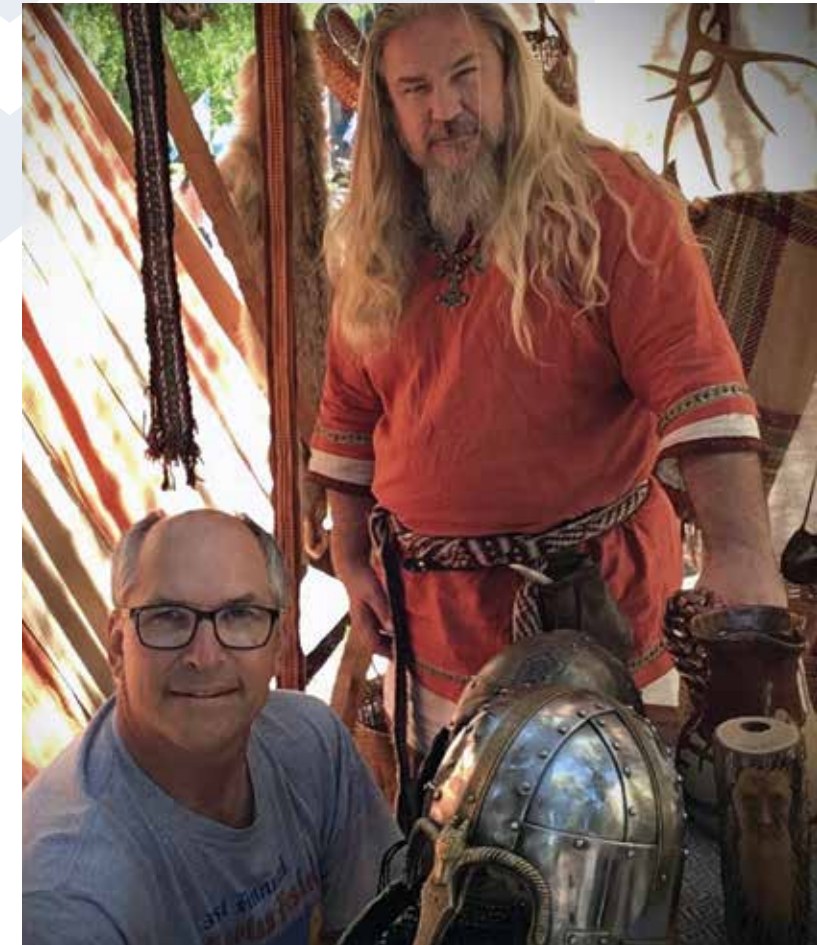
LAFF Warrior Survives ScanFest Adventure

Vikings overran Kingsman Park in Thousand Oaks April 1-2 for the 42nd Scandinavian Festival at California Lutheran University, reports Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation member Corey Frederickson (with helmet).

“All raiding camps were well represented as hundreds gathered from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland,” he says. “I arrived at camp for armor fitting and training and met up with the Rus (roose) Commander. Before I could go raiding the outposts for food like aebelskivers, meatballs and lingonberry, I had to learn invading Viking strategies by playing a game called tafl (toffle).”

Like chess, the objective of tafl is to capture the king. “I played a few games and failed miserably, and was then sent onward to the weavers’ camp.”

Maria Kizirian of the Finlandia Foundation National office spoke at ScanFest, which is sponsored by the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation with support from Cal Lutheran. Sunday’s ScanFest program included a multi-national church service with prayers for world peace at Samuelson Chapel.



Welcome Mat is Out at San Diego's House of Finland

By Teuvo Pulkkinen

FFN Trustee and House of Finland Vice President

The House of Finland in San Diego became the 50th chapter of Finlandia Foundation National in 2015. Despite being a fairly new affiliate of FFN, the House of Finland (HOF) has a long history in San Diego.

HOF was formed in 1939 when the American Red Cross asked a group of local Finnish Americans to gather civilian supplies to be sent to Finland to help alleviate WWII-caused shortages. HOF has been in continuous operation ever since.

Today the objectives of HOF are to promote liberty, peace and better understanding among peoples of all nations, races and ethnic groups; to promote the development of our Finnish culture; to promote social activities among its members; to instill the principles of liberty, charity, justice; and to provide a meeting ground for Finnish people and friends of Finland.

West Central Michigan Chapter Turns 30



The Finnish American Society of West Central Michigan is celebrating its 30th anniversary as an organization, and this year marks its decade-long affiliation with Finlandia Foundation National. A grand time was had by all who attended the St. Urho's Day Celebration on March 11, including several folks who have been members of the group for 25-plus years. Marie Fowler is president of the society. Congratulations!



House of Finland officers are President Eeva Syvanen (left), Vice President and FFN Board Member Teuvo Pulkkinen, and Secretary Kirsi Alen-Uronen.

HOF belongs to the House of Pacific Relations (HPR), a nonprofit community organization in San Diego. HPR was founded in 1935, and is dedicated to furthering cooperation and understanding between national groups in the United States. HPR consists of 34 national groups, many of which have their own cottage in Balboa Park.

The international cottages, HOF being one of them, are furnished and staffed by native groups and offer visitors a delightful window into each country's culture, history and traditions. The cottages are open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday.

In addition, HOF is active in the HPR program of special events for Balboa Park, including an Ethnic Food Fair on Memorial Day weekend and Lawn Programs on Sunday afternoons from March to mid-November. On the outdoor stage in the cottage area, each national group has its own program featuring the songs and dances of that nation.

The International Christmas Festival is the biggest event of the year. During the two-day celebration on the first weekend of December, over 350,000 visitors come to Balboa Park to welcome the holiday season and to enjoy the international atmosphere, ethnic foods and festivities at each cottage.

"Sisu and Creativity" at Connecticut Historical Society

By Stan Karro

Finnish American Heritage Society

On Friday, March 24, the board and members of the Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury attended the opening reception at the Connecticut Historical Society's (CHS) exhibit "Sisu and Creativity: Finnish Cultural Heritage in Connecticut." The exhibition is open to the public until May 6, 2017, at the CHS facility in Hartford.

The event helps to provide a focus on Finland's 100th anniversary of independence this year, as well as the 30th anniversary of our Finnish American Heritage Society. A third tribute is the 25th anniversary of FinnFunn Weekends held in the Northeast Region.

The evening was hosted by the administration and staff at the historical society and included Lynne Williamson, director of the state's Cultural Arts Program. She has been instrumental in obtaining extensive grants for FAHS for sauna construction, weaving, wood carving, fiddling and birch bark weaving. Anita Smiley and Stan Karro of FAHS delivered opening remarks, and Finnish music was performed by Hannu Makipuro and Saul Ahola.

A cooperative arrangement with CHS and FAHS, the exhibition consists of extensive art works, images, documents of community history, rare historic publications, a sauna display and illustrations of farming life. Many items are on loan from the FAHS museum and archives of the Finnish Hall in Canterbury.



The exhibition represents the Finnish immigrants living in Connecticut over the last century. Research conducted by architectural historian Rachel Carley in the 2014 publication "Our Stories, Our Places, Finnish Cultural Heritage in Connecticut" is shared in detail in placards describing the daily lives, culture and traditions of Finns and Finnish-Americans.

For more about the exhibit go to CHS.org; learn about about FAHS at fahs-ct.org.

Northeastern Minnesota Finland 100 Team Meets

FFN members attended the Northeastern Minnesota Finland 100 group's monthly meeting at the historic Kaleva Hall in Virginia.

In the front row, from second left, are Mary Ann Gonsi of Finnish-Americans and Friends (Hibbing Chapter), FFN Trustee Betsey Norgard of the Twin Cities Chapter, and Fran Lahti, Hibbing Chapter. Her husband, Ken Lahti, is behind her (in the dark sweater).

The photo appeared in the newsletter issued by Minnesota



Congressman Rick Nolan's office, in which he is quoted: "2017 is a big year for Finland and Finnish-Americans who are gathering together to celebrate 100 years of Independence. I am a founding co-chair of the Friends of Finland Caucus in Washington, D.C. The Friends of Finland Caucus serves to strengthen the ties between U.S. and Finland and to serve as a forum for dialogue among members of Congress and the government of Finland."

Florida's Finland 100 Fun Began in 2016...

By **Kaarina Langeland**
FFFC President

Since there will be a vast assortment of Finland 100 celebrations during the course of this year, Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter kicked off its Finland 100 activities early, on November 18, 2016, at our Annual Gala. "Vappu in November" incorporated Finland's May first spring celebration by introducing our American friends to the only carnival-type of Finnish celebration. Vappu suits Florida very well in November because we always experience spring!

Gunnar Penttinen's lively Finnish accordion music greeted more than 150 guests to Lantana's Atlantis Country Club. The grand ballroom was beautifully decorated with colorful balloons, May Day pompoms and spring flowers. Anna-Lisa Jakobsson, opera singer and FFFC board member, led the ceremonies; her infectious enthusiasm enlivened the audience and provided a warm ambiance.

Our dear Consul, Peter Makila, gave a humorous speech praising the ladies (Puhe Naiselle). Dinner included a Vappu favorite, gravad lax

...and Continues in 2017

By **Anneli Ganger and Kaarina Langeland**, FFFC

With the theme "From *Kalevala* to An Independent Finland: Images, Tales and Music," February's FFFC annual meeting drew a record attendance of over 80 people. Chapter President Kaarina Langeland's presentation covered the most significant years of Finnish history, 1809-1917, from being a Grand Duchy of Russia to independence. The talk, given in Finnish by

Kaarina and in English by board member Maila Smith, included economic development and the rise of literature, music and visual arts. More than at any other time, during Russian rule Finnish culture expanded and its national identity gained strength.

The Finnish Male Singers of Florida (Floridan Laulumiehet) movingly performed "Oolannin sota," "Maamme-laulu" (Finland's National

(salmon) and new dill potatoes, accompanied by a serving of Finnish vodka.

Keijo Raikkonen of the Florida Male Singers, lent his strong baritone to a German drinking song, and guest Madeline Bahr delivered a Broadway show tune, while yours truly received a serenade to FFFC by Hans Haggblom.

An informative presentation by Dennis Anderson about Finlandia Foundation National's Soiva Music Camp was of particular interest to some of our young musical guests. The lively, invigorating Vappu parade around the ballroom was an exhilarating ending to the evening.

Photos by Timo Vainionpaa, usasuomeksi.com

Hymn, all 11 verses!), "Jääkärimarssi," and our beloved "Finlandia."

Most entertaining was the performance of scenes from the *Kalevala* (left) by Suvi Manner, Karen Hoffecker and Brian Smith. Dressed in national garb, they brought the characters to life and the audience enjoyed the antics of Aino, Väinämöinen, Ilmarinen and others, performed with passion and zest. If only this had been the way we were taught *Kalevala* when we were in school!

FFFC was a proud supporter of the February Finland 100 Gala organized by all Finnish-Floridian organizations to honor the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Maria Lohela. FFFC sponsored cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian; board member Riitta Nurminen generously housed the artists at her beautiful home. Over 200 guests made the gala a tremendous success.

As a proud member of Finlandia Foundation, FFFC joins in cherishing and celebrating Finland's 100 years of independence. While we now bask under the warm sun here in Florida, we will never forget the courage and sacrifices that were required to achieve and maintain an independent Finland.



In cap typically worn at Vappu, Anna-Lisa Jakobsson and Dr. Edgar Covarrubias take a spin on the dance floor.

FFN Sponsors Fall Sibelius Inspiration Tour

Music has always been a major focus of Finlandia Foundation. Its first scholarships were awarded to music students, and FFN sponsors Soiva Music Camp for young people each June. Finlandia Foundation Patrons Jean Sibelius and Esa-Pekka Salonen are giants of Finnish culture.

It's natural that a major initiative this year is the Finland 100 Music Program, featuring past Performers of the Year and outstanding talent from Finland. The U.S. tour by pop kantele player Ida Elina is a FFN Signature Event of 2017.

Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian performed in February at the Finland 100 Gala in Florida, and will return to the U.S. this fall with their *Sibelius Inspiration* multi-media program; plan to catch a performance:

October 14 – Seattle
October 17 – Portland, Oregon
October 22 – San Diego
October 26 – Denver
October 29 – Newton (Boston area)
November 11 – New York City

Find details on the appearances at the Finland 100 calendar at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

FFN Finland 100 Grants Support Variety of Activities

Centennial events in recognition of Finland's Declaration of Independence in 1917 are underway across the U.S., hosted by organizations affiliated with Finlandia Foundation National.



Ida Elina (above) and *Sibelius Inspiration* by cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian.

In communities along the nationwide route of Sisu the Traveling Sauna, chapters such as the Red

Several chapters have already taken advantage of the FFN Finland 100 grants that provide financial support of up to \$1,000 per chapter to assist in producing a centennial program or activity.

Many are applying their Finland 100 grants to host concerts by kantele player

A Hot Tale from the Sauna Trail

By **Corey Frederickson**
Member, Finlandia Foundation Los Angeles

This past weekend I caught up with the Traveling Sauna in Duarte, California. To enjoy the Finnleo sauna, I first had to ride my Marin hybrid bicycle from the South Pasadena Metro Link station 14 miles along the bike route that follows the course to the City of Duarte, where the sauna was located.

After finally arriving, I changed into more comfortable attire so I could experience the fire's warmth and the steam from the cool waters that I poured over the hot rocks! It was invigorating as the warmth from the fire and steam thawed my chilled body from that day's freezing temperatures. After being fully refreshed, I continued on my last few miles to the end of the line in Azusa, California.

Before leaving I said my goodbyes to Chief Sauna Master Jouko Sipilä, Chief Sauna Ambassador Risto Sivula, and Finnish Trade Commissioner Suvi Aherto. Thank you all for a great day! Kiitos!

River Finns in Minnesota are applying grant monies toward events that include traditional food, music, and the chance to experience the hot sauna.

FFN is a sponsor of Sisu, the roving mascot that is winning fans and generating media coverage and interest in Finnish America along the way.

Here's a sampling of Finland 100 activities to date, with many more in the works:

February-Duluth, Minnesota: Laskiaistiistai - Finnish Sliding Event; Lake Worth, Florida: From *Kalevala* to An Independent Finland

March-Ithaca, New York: 1929 silent Finnish film accompanied by live organ music by Kent Washburn

April-Fairport Harbor, Ohio: An Evening of Nordic Folk Music by Sara Pajunen and Vidar Skrede; Moorhead, Minnesota: Sisu the Traveling Sauna event with food, music and sauna; Pembroke Pines, Florida: Suomi 100 Vappu Picnic

June-Duluth: Juhannus

FFN maintains a calendar of Finland 100 events on its website, and updates it as information becomes available; check it often at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

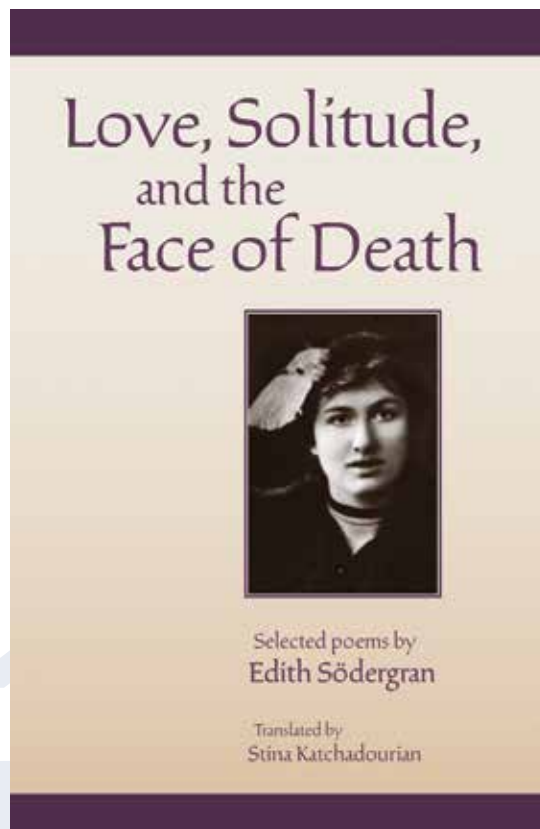
For video clips, a blog and more information about Sisu the Traveling Sauna go to travelingsauna.com.

Works of Finnish Poet Newly Translated into English

Love, Solitude, and the Face of Death, a selection of works by Swedish-speaking, Finnish poet Edith Södergran (1892-1923), has been translated into English by Stina Katchadourian.

When growing up in Finland Stina, who is a member and past president of Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, also spoke Swedish and is an award-winning literary translator.

She is also the author of three books: *Efronia: An Armenian Love Story*; *Great Need over the Water: The Letters of Theresa Huntington Ziegler, Missionary to Turkey, 1898-1905*; and *The Lapp King's Daughter: A Family*



Journey through Finland's Wars.

Reviewers say that Stina “brings Södergran’s lines and images to us with breathtaking clarity and power,” and “Katchadourian’s translations are poems in their own right, and capture the simple elegance and purity of Södergran’s original.”

Edith Södergran is now regarded as a leading Swedish language poet, and one of Finland’s major talents.

The book is available for short term loan from the FFN library (contact Maria Kizirian at office@finlandiafoundation.org or phone 626.795.2081) and for sale at amazon.com.

New Consul General in LA

Stefan Lindström, the new Consul General of Finland in Los Angeles, is no stranger to the office; he served in LA as Finland’s Deputy Consul General from 2001-2005.



In his 20-year Foreign Ministry career he has largely focused on issues related to trade and economics in roles that have taken him to India, Indonesia, Portugal, Brussels and Helsinki.

The LA Consulate represents Finland in 13 West Coast states. Find more about the Consul General and his office at the Embassy website finland.org.

Online Finland 100 Fun

The 100th anniversary of independence is understandably a big deal in Finland, where festivities began in January and will carry on throughout 2017.

The organizing committee has been encouraging countries around the world to recognize Finland 100, and the official website lists exhibitions, programs and other events in Hungary, Paris, Denmark, the U.S. and more.

The website is a source for historical and current event information, “best 100” lists and interactive features such as quizzes and Instagram challenges. Much of the information is available in Finnish, Swedish and English languages. Check it out at suomifinland100.fi.



Finlandia Foundation Family Tree to Honor Loved Ones

On December 6, 1917 Finland declared its independence, a historic event worthy of the yearlong centennial celebration underway in Finland and among the Finnish-American populations in the United States. Finnish immigrants settled at the New Sweden colony on the Delaware River in 1640, but the “Great Migration” of Finns to North America took place between 1870 and 1930.

In the decades since, those resolute early immigrants have been followed by others who have come to this country for a variety of personal and professional reasons.

As a member of Finlandia Foundation National you are expressing an interest in Finnish America and in Finland—past, present and future. Through FFN programs we strive to cultivate, support and honor the culture, tradition and history of the ancestral homeland while encouraging the survival and growth of today’s Finnish-American community.

Because most FFN members trace their roots to Finland, we thought that this special year would be the ideal time to pay tribute to those loved ones who came before us by creating a Finlandia Foundation Family Tree.



Honor your ancestors during this special Finland 100 year with a tax deductible gift to Finlandia Foundation’s new Family Tree.

Your Centennial Honor contribution will be noted at the Finlandia Foundation Family Tree on the FFN website, and recorded in the FFN archives, at one of three levels:

1. For a gift of \$100, your loved one will be listed in the FFN newsletter and on the Finlandia Foundation Family Tree page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.
2. For a gift of \$250, you will be able to provide a photo and a 250-word story about the honoree, which will appear in the

new Family Tree Log at FinlandiaFoundation.org. This tribute is limited to the first 100 contributors at the \$250 level.

3. For a gift of \$500, you will be able to provide two photos and a 500-word story about the honoree, which will appear in the new Family Tree Log at FinlandiaFoundation.org. This tribute is limited to the first 100 contributors at the \$500 level.

Centennial Honor gifts must be made in the year 2017. Because FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation is tax deductible. Additionally, the Paloheimo Foundation will match donations to FFN (up to \$100,000) annually.

Make your Centennial Honor contribution of \$100, \$250 or \$500 today, and celebrate your family’s history along with the 100th anniversary of Finland’s independence. You may:

- use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter
- donate online at FinlandiaFoundation.org
- mail your contribution to FFN, PO Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

(If yours is one of the first 100 Centennial Honors at the \$250 level or the \$500 level, we will contact you for your family story and photo.)

Questions? Contact Maria Kizirian at office@finlandiafoundation.org or phone her at 626.795.2081.

Have you considered a charitable bequest to Finlandia Foundation National?

A gift in your will or living trust is a simple and versatile way of making a difference for the nonprofit FFN, and donations from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes.

Your bequest enables you to make a gift without impacting your current financial needs. Since bequests transfer upon death, you have full access to your assets during your lifetime. You may change your mind at any time.

Contact your attorney or estate planner with your intentions to establish a bequest. FFN vice president, attorney Paul Halme, can provide examples of language to use in your will or living trust. Reach him at paul@halmeandclark.com.

Learn more about giving to FFN at FinlandiaFoundation.org

KIITOS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

November 2016 through March 2017, except gifts above \$1,000, which are cumulative:

MAJOR GIFTS

Rauha Cole Estate
Curtin-Paloheimo
Leonora Foundation
Aina Swan Cutler
FF National Capital Chapter
Haikala Associates
Ronald A. Helin
Hilda M. Hendrickson Trust
Dr. Vaino Hoover
John & Pauline Kiltinen
Hilkka Kinnunen
Aune E. Koski Estate
Esko Koskinen
Gertrude Kujala
John & Nancy Laine
Edward Laissi Estate
Pertti Lindfors
Earle I. Mack Foundation
Paloheimo Foundation
Leonora C. Paloheimo
Ossi J. & Karin Rahkonen
Elma Randall Estate
Jon & Christine Saari
Jean Sainio-Nolan Trust
Bert & Marjatta Salonen
George & Marion Sundquist
Suomi-Seura, Finland
Eero Tetri
Päivi & Brent Tetri
Andrejs Udris
U.F.B. & S. Lodge #1 of San Francisco
Regina K. Valley

\$5,000 to \$9,999

J. Bradford & Pirkko Borland
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FinnFest USA 2007
Finnish Folk Festival
Naselle
Walter Heikkila
Richard & Helvi Impola
Birgitta Kaanto
Ilkka Kalliomaa
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Kaino & Donald Leethem
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Marilyn Madden
Peter J. & Arja Mäkilä
Fern Malila
Eva & Heikki Mannisto
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Prof. Borje O. Saxberg
Scandinavian American Cultural & Historical Foundation
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Leo Utter

\$500 to \$999

Teuvo & Marjut Pulkkinen

\$200 to \$499

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Kirsti Phillips in honor of Finnish Heritage
Christine Kalke & Rolf Thoresen
Kirsti Frenzen Noring
Rajala Mill Company
Mark & Beth Rikkonen
Dirk & Pirjo Schulbach

\$100 to \$199

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Alan Gluskin
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Sonja Haugen
Antti & Mary Helne in honor of Washington, D.C. Finns
Kaisa Inka Dolan
John & Sue Karjala
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Garver
Jussi & Satu Mikkola in memory of George Sundquist
Arvid & Marianne Parssinen
Robert J. Pemberton
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Brigitta & Shackford Pitcher
Charlene Riikonen in memory of Esko Riikonen
Maija & Jay Rothenberg
David & Jeannette Sharpe
Dr. Elaine Simpson in memory of Hilma Suvanto Sillanpaa
Doris & Dale Snow
Elaine Stevens
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Richard & Jo Ann Viinikainen
Jonathan & Maarit Visbal
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Aira & Peter Williams
John & Judy Yesso in honor of Anita Smiley

GIFTS TO \$99

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Prof. Arnold R. Alanen
Robert & Brenda Anderson
Susan Anderson
Anonymous in memory of Aksel Salo
John Arola
Ellen Beatty

Fund Honors Sundquist

With the passing of George Sundquist in November of 2016, Finlandia Foundation lost a former board member, friend, and longtime supporter of FFN. Born in Munsala Parish, Finland, George immigrated to the United States in 1952, where he met his wife Marion, a ballerina. They settled in California where George, a skilled carpenter, founded Sundquist Associates, a construction company in Redwood City.

George's passions were sports, music and exploring his heritage. In addition to serving on the FFN board he was president of Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, and a member of the Scandinavian American Cultural & Historical Foundation, Swedish-Finn Historical Society, San Francisco's Swedish Club and Norwegian Club, and the Finnish American Home Association.

Several years ago in honor of his wife, George established the Finlandia Foundation Marion Sundquist Endowment for the Arts Fund for the purpose of awarding scholarships to young, talented musicians pursuing a career in music at a high level institution. This year, pianist Markus Kaitila was the recipient of that award (see page 12).

GIFTS TO \$99 continued

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Mirja Bishop
Marlene Broemer
James Butler
James & Mary Ann Chellman
Matthew Cirigliano
Enrique & Nancy Garcia
Joan Hollander
Godfrey A. Holmstrom
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Gerry & Margaret Schueman
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FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible.

You may contribute online at FinlandiaFoundation.org or mail a check to: Finlandia Foundation National, P.O. Box 92046 Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

Please report any errors to Maria Kizirian at: office@finlandiafoundation.org or phone 626.795.2081



Music lover George Sundquist (right) with Finnish pianist Janne Mertanen and FFN President Ossi Rahkonen at a post-concert reception during the spring 2014 FFN board meeting in Atlanta.

Marion has set up another fund to benefit FFN. To donate, go to FinlandiaFoundation.org and under "Giving" click the George and Marion Sundquist Fund, or send a memorial gift to FFN at P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.

Note: A profile of George and Marion appeared in the Spring 2013 FFN newsletter, which you may view online at FinlandiaFoundation.org

Florida Finnish-Americans Built Senior Compound

In October of 1970 a group of concerned and energetic individuals in the Lantana and Lake Worth areas of Florida decided to construct a facility where Finns and Finnish-Americans could enjoy their retirement years in a setting where their heritage and customs were a part of daily living. By March of 1974 the first residents moved into the Finnish-American Rest Home in Lake Worth; in 1979 the American-Finnish Nursing Home opened.

Now known as the Finnish-American Village, the compound offers residents assisted living suites, meals, housekeeping, activities, programs, outings, sauna and other amenities. Skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services are also available.

"We hope and request that the Finnish-American communities here in the U.S. would provide financial support to us to continue our important services to seniors in need of care," says Robert Liimatainen, a resident and FAV board member.

Donations to the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization are tax deductible.

Find more information at farh.org or contact Manager Katja Pukkila, RN 561.588.4333 ext. 121.

Finlandia Foundation National

P.O. Box 92046
Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

Finlandia Foundation® National Chapters: Year affiliated with FFN and president/chairman

Find more information about the chapters at FinlandiaFoundation.org

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