



SPRING 2014

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.*

OLLI HIRVONEN IS PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



The accomplished performer was named Pori Jazz Festival Artist of the Year in 2011 and has appeared at more than a dozen festivals and major events including last year's Nordic Cool at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He launched his debut album in 2014.

"We are especially excited that Olli Hirvonen's music will bring innovative and contemporary perspectives to our POY audiences," says Satu Mikkola, who coordinates the program for FFN. "We look forward to our chapters hearing and learning about Finnish jazz."

Hirvonen will be available for POY appearances from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. The host organization handles local arrangements, local transportation and accommodations at their cost, and pays the honorarium directly to the POY. FFN prepares a brochure that may be used to promote the program and distributed at the event.

Please note that pianist Marja Kaisla is performing as POY through August 2014.

To arrange an appearance please contact POY Coordinator Satu Mikkola at satum@aol.com. For artist info: www.ollihirvonen.com

Finlandia Foundation National has selected guitarist Olli Hirvonen as its Performer of the Year (POY) for 2014-15. It's the first time since the program was founded in 1996 that a jazz artist has been named POY. Hirvonen, who was born in Lappeenranta in southeast Finland, began studying classical guitar and piano at the age of nine. He earned a bachelor of Music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and his master's at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where he is now based.

Members of Finlandia Foundation National's Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee are contacting FFN chapters across the U.S. to learn of plans to recognize the anniversary of the composer's birth in 2015. Jean Sibelius, who was born in Finland in 1865, was a supporter of FFN and its first Patron.

Chaired by FFN Trustee Marja Kaisla, the Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee hopes to serve as a catalyst to encourage chapters to create events, large or small, to celebrate the music legend in the U.S. The FFN board has approved funds to assist chapters in their Sibelius Jubilee programming,

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150 JUBILEE
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which could mean partnering with a local arts group to host a concert or creating children's programming related to Sibelius or other aspects of Finnish culture.

The FFN committee is also gathering program information for major and local orchestras across the U.S. and will create a calendar of concerts featuring Sibelius and/or other Finnish music that will be performed in 2015. While the FFN efforts are independent of the Sibelius 150 activities in Finland, they are celebrated alongside the innumerable cultural and musical events planned in Finland for 2015. continued on page 16

Word from the President



Hyvät Ystävät:

The year 2014 is off to an exciting start, as you'll see in the reports and stories throughout this newsletter.

The grants and scholarship recipients, awarded at the FFN Board of Trustees meeting in Atlanta in March, represent the best of a stellar group of applicants. The

competition for these awards was harder than ever; we could have awarded larger amounts to many more very qualified projects and students, but we were limited by financial resources. This magnifies the importance of fundraising and we appreciate all of you who are willing to support our programs through donations. There are numerous ways to contribute to FFN outlined in this newsletter.

Other programs we support are Soiva Music Camp, which is more comprehensive than ever; Salolampi Language Village, with a new travel allowance in addition to scholarships for students traveling long distances; Performer of the Year (POY) and Lecturer of the Year (LOY).

At its meeting the Board selected jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen as POY for the 2014/15 year and in October we chose the documentary Yoopera and its filmmakers, Suzanne Jurva and Erin Smith as LOY. There is considerable interest among chapters for showing this very interesting film.

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I encourage you to schedule both POY and LOY presentations (for details see pages 1 and 15).

At the March meeting we added new Trustees Marja Kaisla, FFN POY for 2013-14 and the President of Finnish-American Society in Delaware Valley (Philadelphia, a FF chapter) and Dirk Schulbach from Portland, Oregon, who assumes the duties of FFN Treasurer Anne-Mari Paster. (Learn more about them on page 3.)

Plans are underway for 2015 and the big event for FFN and the whole FF family, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius. The world-renowned Finnish composer was the first Patron of FFN. FFN established the Sibelius Jubilee Committee in January of this year with Marja Kaisla, our new trustee, as its chair. She is eminently qualified for this job, being a Sibelius Academy graduate and concert pianist in Philadelphia with many contacts in music circles both in Finland and the U.S. The Sibelius Jubilee Committee is contacting major orchestras and is working with FF chapters to encourage celebratory programs, as described on page 1.

Finland pays attention to our efforts! The government of Finland recently awarded FFN, in collaboration with Suomi-Seura Helsinki, a significant grant to support the Sibelius anniversary year programs that FFN is undertaking. This is an exciting development.

The Finlandia Foundation family continues to expand with the establishment of a new FF chapter in Hawaii. We are now 46 chapters strong, having doubled the number of chapters in 10 years. Welcome, new members!

Wishing you a good summer,

Ossi Rahkonen
President

Welcome, Hawaii Chapter!

Finlandia Foundation of Hawaii has joined the network of chapters affiliated with FFN.



Founding members of the FF Hawaii chapter include (left to right) Marja-Leena Leivo (Trustee), Hilikka Easterwood (Trustee), Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner (Secretary), Maija Kemper (Treasurer), Miina Huotari (Vice President) and Katja Silverä (President). Not pictured, Trustee Helena Hannonen.

"It is my pleasure to welcome Hawaii, which brings our numbers to 46 chapters in 22 states and Washington, D.C." says Ossi Rahkonen, FFN president.

"With an active Finnish-American community in Hawaii, we look forward to maintaining ties with the Finnish roots and traditions. Education and promotion of Finnish culture in terms of arts, business, education, and language is one of our primary goals," said Katja Silverä, President of Finlandia Foundation of Hawaii.

Florida, the first chapter, joined in 1954.

Meet the New Trustees

Newly appointed Finlandia Foundation National Trustee Marja Kaisla is no stranger to the organization. The concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer's birth in 2015. Marja, who was born in Finland, has lived in the U.S. since 1987. She began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, with György Sebök in Switzerland and Susan Starr in Philadelphia.

In 2013 Marja received the Commemorative Medal of the Centennial of the Parliament of Finland for her work promoting Finnish and Nordic Culture in the United States. She is also president of the Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley and serves as vice president of the New Sweden Alliance, which planned the 375th anniversary events celebrating the arrival of Finns and Swedes in the Delaware Valley in 1638. In addition, Marja is active as an educational advocate promoting the Finnish education system in the U.S.

Dirk A. Schulbach brings years of experience as a board member and treasurer of the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC) to his new role as FFN treasurer. He fills the position handled by Anne-Mari Paster, who has stepped down from the FFN Board.



Trustee Marja Kaisla also chairs the Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee



FFN Treasurer Dirk Schulbach

A resident of Portland, Oregon, Dirk's father Roy was born in Astoria, Oregon to a Finnish mother and Estonian father. He is married to Pirjo, who is of Finnish descent. They met in a Finnish language class at Portland State University, where he earned his MBA following his undergraduate degree in Food Science and Technology from Oregon State University. Dirk has held a number of management positions, including posts as operations manager and plant manager, and served as treasurer for the Institute of Food Technologists, Oregon Section.

In addition to FFCPC and now FFN, Dirk's volunteer activities include involvement, with his wife Pirjo, with the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and its annual holiday ScanFair.

2014: Another Year of Exceptional Grants!

By Päivi Tetri, FFN Trustee

Finlandia Foundation National and chapters of Finlandia Foundation across the country work hard to support and promote Finnish and Finnish-American culture in the United States and cultural exchange between Finland and America. This is quite a challenge! How do we, as Finnish Americans, move this mission forward? This year, the grants committee envisioned our mission as **exploring** our common heritage, **expressing** that heritage and sharing it, **educating** others about our heritage, **preserving** our heritage for future generations and **celebrating** the uniqueness of our history and cultural heritage. **We congratulate all of our 2014 grant recipients!**

Exploration

The life and legacy of iconic Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen will be explored in **Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future**, a documentary by **Peter Rosen Productions, Inc.** in association with **WNET/PBS** for the award-winning national PBS series *American Masters*. Funds will help underwrite production of the film, which will commence shooting in 2014 and air by the end of calendar year 2015. Cinematographer Eric Saarinen is Eero's son.



Minneapolis Institute of the Arts is hosting the exhibition **Finland: Designed Environments** (May 10-August 17) in conjunction

with **FinnFest 2014**. It explores contemporary Finnish design concepts and production. Programming will include a presentation by Finnish architect and designer Hella Hernberg and a workshop for all ages led by Finnish designer Teemu Suviala.

Janne Tamminen is producing a documentary, **Finnish Heavy Metal Music in the USA**. "Finnish Heavy Metal" is considered its own genre within Heavy Metal music, and this film will explore the roots of Finnish bands and what differentiates this music from that of other nations. He hopes his project will promote cultural exchange between Finland and the U.S.



Cellist **Kiernan Ojakangas**, violist **Celka Ojakangas** and violinist **Lian Ojakangas** are siblings traveling to Finland for their **Ojakangas Trio Summer 2014 Tour**. The

accomplished young musicians are very proud of their Finnish heritage and look forward to sharing their talents with Finnish audiences as well as exploring and being inspired in their own compositions by Finnish music.

Sarah Cummings and Scott Thurston have a love for Finnish folk music that inspired the formation of **Jamit**, a synthesis of traditional and contemporary folk music fashioned after a Celtic "kitchen party" where musicians of all ages gather together to play. Grant funds will assist Cummings and Thurston with a trip to Finland to learn about musical forms, ornamentation, rhythmic emphasis and arranging that they can bring back to their local community of musicians.

Brett Stroka has been invited to attend Arteles Creative Center in Haukijarvi, Finland as an Artist in Residence. He plans to collaborate with local folk musicians on a contemporary electro-acoustic sound installation project, an extension of his previous piece "**Sine Qua Non**." His grant will aid him in project research and creation.

A grant will assist **Akvavit Theatre** in Chicago with its **Nordic Spirit Festival 2014** in which it will introduce audiences to a contemporary Finnish voice rarely heard in the U.S. Post-show discussions with audiences, actors, and other theatre professionals explore themes of community, culture and diversity in each play.

Park Cofield is in the development and research phase of his project **SISU is the Heart—A Community Based Theater Project for Fairport Harbor, Ohio**. FFN funding will support travel and other costs associated with gathering stories from Finnish-American families, which will be used as the basis for a play featuring Finnish "pauper statues" and puppetry as part of the performance.

Jesse McQuarters, host and producer of the internationally syndicated radio program **Relevant Tones** on WFMT Radio Network in Chicago, will produce several documentary-style episodes about Finnish contemporary classical music, composers and education. A grant will aid travel to Finland to collect interviews and recorded material. *Relevant Tones* is heard by an estimated 250,000 weekly.

Expression

Finnish author **Meritta Koivisto** requested assistance with fees for the **English translation** of her novel **Lontoolainen Rakastaja** (*A London Lover*) published by Otava in 2006. American Lola Rogers is renowned as a top translator of Finnish to English literature.

The **Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter** is hosting jazz guitarist **Olli Hirvonen** this spring. Hirvonen is a talented young Finnish jazz guitarist who currently resides in New York. Funds will help cover airfare for the Hirvonen trio.

Ruusamari Teppo and **Terhi Miikki-Broersma** are accomplished Finnish musicians living in the U.S. who are planning a special concert series, **Suomi ja Sibelius Soi-Festivaali 2014-2015** to be held in Finnish churches on the West Coast during the Sibelius 150th anniversary year. Teppo is a great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius.

The **Cranbrook Art Museum** in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan will **commission an ambitious new piece by Finnish artist Hans Rosenström**, who creates site-specific sound-based art installations that respond to the history and architecture of a place. He will engage the work of Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen on the Cranbrook campus.

Filmmaker **Minea Lindquist Herwitz** has completed two short films, "Leikkauskone" and "Swampland Dreams" with FFN funds. This grant will help to wrap up the trilogy with "**Elo**," the story of many contemporary Finns who leave their Northern homeland for new lives elsewhere.



Aallotar is a new transatlantic collaboration between Finnish-American violinist **Sara Pajunen** and Finnish accordionist **Teija Niku**. The duo plans three tours in the U.S. to promote their new album. Grant funds will make this tour possible.

The **Chicago International Film Festival** will celebrate its 50th anniversary with **Spotlight Scandinavia**. Finnish films will include three feature length films, a selection of shorts and one retrospective film. The *Spotlight* program will include discussions, panels and master classes designed to enhance audience experience of the films and understanding of the filmmaking process and cultural context.

Sukulaiset: The Kindred is a sequel to the novel *Suomalaiset: People of the Marsh* by Minnesota novelist **Mark Munger**. He will use funds for



professional editing of the manuscript, which follows the life of protagonist Elin during Karelian Fever as she and her family move back to Karelia, where they become trapped by the onset of the Winter War.

The **New York Scandia Symphony** has long sought to bring previously unknown and seldom heard compositions to American audiences, and is continuing its mission to exhibit the music of Scandinavia on the the New York Metropolitan scene. Grant funds will support programming for its **Scandinavian Music Festival 2014: Presentation of Finnish Composers**.

Choreographer and dancer **Sari Nordman** created her work **A Dadaesque Collage of Chauvinist Wisdom** from her experience as a Finnish woman living in the U.S. In it she explores questions about the nature of women and female solidarity. She and her collaborator, dancer Kristin Hatleberg, will use funds for a costume designer.

Adele Enersen is well on her way to publishing her children's picture book series **Animals of the Forest**, with characters loosely based on Finnish folktales. The author/artist uses pictures, handicraft and digital drawing to bring the characters to life.

A grant will assist the **Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts/Blue Sky Gallery** with a solo photography exhibition by renowned Finnish artist **Pentti Sammaltahti**. His work will also be seen in the annual catalogue of exhibitions and featured on Blue Sky's website. A reception is planned in partnership with Portland's Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter.

The crown jewel of **FinnFest USA's 30th annual festival** in Minneapolis August 7-10, 2014 will be **classical music programming** showcasing Finnish composers in a concert including music by Olli Kortekangas under the direction of Craig Johnson. Funding will help to pay for rental space for rehearsals and performances and other fees associated with the rights to perform Finnish chamber music scores.

continued on page 6

Singer, puppeteer, and entertainer **Pirjo Polari-Khan** requests funding for her shows “**Double U and Double Me,**” a puppet show for children and “**Cool Lava Show,**” a variety program inspired by Finnish *lavakoomikot*, stand-up comedians who performed at *iltamat*, variety shows popular in the 1940’s through the 1960’s in Finland.

Education



The “**baby box**” has long been a feature of the provision of pre- and post-natal care to mothers in Finland.

These boxes of baby clothing and supplies, in conjunction with other related maternity care, are widely considered to have been instrumental in lowering infant mortality rates in Finland. The non-profit **Personal Involvement Center** in Los Angeles is launching a new outreach initiative to provide these **Aiti Baby Boxes** to disadvantaged mothers in LA. Funds will assist with creation of a website and marketing materials to educate the public about the service.

The Sulo & Aileen Maki Library at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan will use funds for **Finnish Literature collection development** to supplement its collection of about 60,000 titles plus other media resources. This will aid students, faculty, local community and outside researchers in their studies.

The **Salolampi Foundation and Concordia Language Villages** will utilize funds for small group Finnish language curriculum development and implementation. This “**Mini-Salolampi**” curriculum will be available for use outside the traditional Salolampi language camp and will be a tool for highlighting the Salolampi experience.

The New Sweden Alliance and Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley will apply its grant to an **Education Seminar for Educators, Administrators and Elected Officials** in Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware, **highlighting the Finnish Educational System.** The Finnish education system is world renowned for excellence and this project hopes to share best practices from Finland with American educators, with a goal of further conversation about possible school reform in the U.S. In a related project, FFN is granting travel funding to **Kathryn Johnson** of Northern Michigan University to attend **EdMedia 2014**, an international academic conference in Tampere, Finland. In addition to delivering the

two academic papers she has been invited to present, she also plans to attend sessions on the successes of the Finnish educational system and will bring knowledge of these professional development sessions back to her educational community.

In keeping with the theme of education, **Helena Halmari** will use funds to help prepare, publish, distribute and publicize “**Journal of Finnish Studies, Volume 18, Number 2,**” a special issue entitled “**International Influences in the Finnish Working-class Literature and its Research (2014).**” This issue will be valuable to scholars of Finnish literature worldwide.

Project Santaranta: Building Dreams, an exhibition documenting a Finnish home site and---the only structure of Frank Lloyd Wright lineage in Europe---will appear at **FinnFest 2014.** Funding will help with shipping expenses to Minneapolis and on to Helsinki where it will be displayed under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy at sites throughout Finland.

The **Black River Academy Museum** houses the largest collection of Finnish artifacts and memorabilia in Vermont. Funding will aid the implementation of a **Common Core Curriculum** in which students use the resources to research the immigration of Finns to that state in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, students will correspond with their Finnish peers and learn about cultural dancing, music, cooking, language and arts and crafts.



© Moomin Characters™

Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children’s literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant **Anna Easteden** will produce five **Finnish-themed short web videos for distribution on YouTube.** These humorous videos on topics such as favorite Finnish words or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

Preservation

The Long Valley Preservation Society of Roseberry, Idaho will use funds to restore the porch of a Finnish-built home, the **Mahala House**, which dates from the 1920s. The house is typical of Finnish dimensional lumber construction used in the Long Valley, and is one of the Finnish homestead buildings that will be completed with period furnishings and artifacts from the collection of the Roseberry Museum.

The Finlandia University Gallery in Hancock, Michigan houses new Contemporary Finnish, Finnish-American, and Alumni collections. With FFN funds it will equip the space with archival systems to properly preserve, maintain and care for its fine art collection.

Elmer Alexander Forsberg (1883-1950) was a renowned Finnish-born artist, teacher and diplomat with ties to the Art Institute of Chicago. **Jeff Huebner** requests funds for the initial phase of a long-term project to locate, document and digitize available artworks of this currently little-known artist. His ultimate aim is to organize an exhibit and catalog of Forsberg’s work.

The rural areas around the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin were heavily settled by Finnish pioneers in the 1880s. **The Old-Brule Heritage Society** is preserving this heritage and will **construct a new foundation** for the one-room Monticello School, which served the area’s Finnish community until 1917. Longer-term goals include building a space to house an archiving work area and display venue for artifacts and documents.

The proper preservation of collections of records, photos, artifacts, textiles and artwork is critical in maintaining the connection to our heritage. **Finlandia University’s Finnish American Heritage Center Historical Archive** is in need of funds to repair the aging climate-control system so that these valuable collections may be preserved.

Honor Schauland, a life long participant in the **St. Urho’s Day** celebrations in Finland, Minnesota, will launch a project to interview local residents who have helped to organize this celebration over many years. She will ask the community to share memorabilia and photos for digitization with the ultimate goal of publishing a book and historical display.

The **Iron County Historical and Museum Society** in Michigan is hosting a **Scandinavian Log Cabin Workshop** and will use funds for presenters who are expert in the care, conservation and building of traditional log cabins

and homes. A pioneer re-enactor will also be present to add local color and provide historical information.



Zoe Bartholomew of the University of Minnesota has received an unpaid internship at the **Ateneum Museum in Helsinki.** Funds will help with travel and living expenses while she works on digitally cataloging the art collection and assisting with special exhibitions and projects.

The **Keweenaw Land Trust** received funds for its project, “**Interpreting a Traditional Finnish-American Homestead and Its Land Use Practices** along the **Copper Country Trail National Byway.** The group will engage the public with a comprehensive interpretive program for a Finnish-American farmstead typical of the Copper Country’s mining boom days.

Celebration

Frederick, South Dakota is a small community with strong Finnish ties. **Frederick’s Finn Fest** revives the Midsummer gatherings that were held in the town’s rural Savo Hall from the 1890s to the 1970s. Much of the connection to Finnish culture had faded and the Midsummer festival has become a vehicle for educating the local community about its Finnish roots and culture. The theme this year is “**Fueled by Sisu**” and will focus on the industriousness of Finns and the Finnish immigrants’ history in labor movements in the U.S.



The **Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter** is planning its **60th Anniversary Gala.** Funds will help underwrite programming for this celebration of the good work the chapter has been engaged in for six decades. Congratulations, Florida Finns!

There were many wonderful grant applications presented to us this year for consideration. We had grant requests totaling over \$226,000 and were only able to disburse \$70,000 in funds. We wish we could have done more to support these projects, but we appreciate the thoughtful and creative work that has gone into the exploration, expression, education, preservation, and celebration of Finnish-American life. Finlandia Foundation National is proud to be a part of the ongoing work of so many in keeping our beloved heritage alive and growing.

Michigan Winter Finn Style

By David Maki, FFCC Chapter



St. Urho joined in the winter fun

The Finlandia Foundation Copper Country Chapter (based in Hancock, Michigan) celebrated the midpoint of winter in January, and though Mother Nature tried her best to spoil the party, scores of fun-loving folks turned out for Heikinpäivä 2014.

Now in its 16th year, Heikinpäivä was the brainchild of current Chapter executive director Jim Kurtti, who conceived the idea as a way to

exemplify the “Finnishness” of the region during a Project 34 conference. Since that initial one-day festival, Heikinpäivä has evolved into a multi-week celebration of Finnish-American culture that takes place from mid- to late January each year.

The festival culminates on the last Saturday of January, with music, dance, food and fun. Though temperatures at this year’s festival struggled to reach positive numbers, festival-goers came by the hundreds to enjoy a *tori* market so large it required two venues, performances by a variety of local and regional Finnish-American musicians, a scrumptious buffet dinner and a dance.

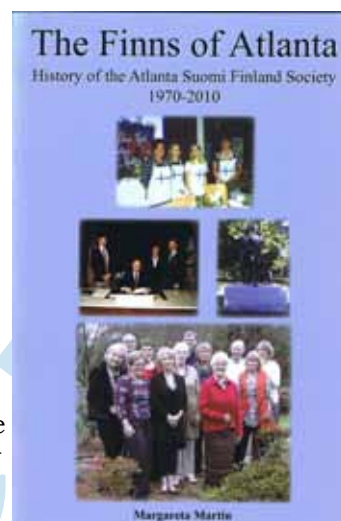
Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out for the wife-carrying contest (which requires navigating an obstacle course with house-cleaning, a sauna and coffee time with friends) and children’s kicksled races. A few dozen of the hardiest souls partook in the Polar Bear Dive.

In a winter that set records for cold, and approached long-standing records for snowfall, Heikinpäivä 2014 proved that Mother Nature is no match for the collective *sisu* of the Copper Country Finns. Plans are already in the works for next year’s festival, and Chapter members are eager to share their winter fun with everyone.

Atlanta’s Finnish History

The state of Georgia isn’t usually thought of as a hub for Finnish-Americans, but not only is there a community organized as the Atlanta Finland Society, there’s a book dedicated to preserving and sharing its history.

In *The Finns of Atlanta* Margareta Martin records the origins of the group started in 1970 by three women, including Marja Barron, its first president. On the AFS website Marja explains that the purpose of the “Finnish club” was “to keep the



Kids & Kanteles in Maine

By Jacqueline Harjula, FFN Trustee

Members of Suomalaiset Jouset (Finnish Strings), a kantele group sponsored by the FFN Chapter Finnish Heritage House in South Thomaston, Maine, spent the month of January (minus several snow days) immersing fourth graders at Camden-Rockport Elementary School into our Finnish culture and heritage.



Celia Jones leads a kantele lesson for children in a month-long Finnish Immersion program in Maine

With grants from FFN and Finn Spark we purchased several 11-string kanteles that the 80 students learned to play from the 15 talented string musicians. The program began with a kantele concert for the students followed by a display of Finnish crafts and, as the month progressed, they had many hands-on experiences.

Finnish language pure and keep the Finnish flag flying high.”

Author Margareta served twice as president, from 1975-1979 and again in 2005. Over the years the club grew into the Atlanta Suomi-Finland Society, which in 2009 merged with the Atlanta Suomikoulu and became Atlanta Finland Society, Inc.

She tackled the book project partly due to Marja’s urging but, says Margareta, “I was also interested in documenting how an organization like ours fit into Atlanta’s rise into an ‘international,’ multicultural city,” as Finnish companies opened offices in Atlanta. “I wrote the book against the background of notable events in Atlanta, Finland, and the world.”

The Finns of Atlanta is available from the author by email at margaretamartin@att.net or phone (404) 373-9919. Cost is \$20 plus shipping.

In the art classes, they crafted *tonttus*, the mythical and magical Finnish elves, and learned dropped-spindle yarn weaving. To commemorate the kantele’s creation from the jawbone of a pike (according to the *Kalevala*) the children created beautiful fish using paper quilling. The auditorium’s stage curtains were strung with three-dimensional Finnish stars.

Students learned to dance the Schottische, kick polka and *raatikoon*. They made *mustikka* (blueberry) smoothies and *pannukakku*. No Finnish cooking class would be complete without *nisu*. From 40 pounds of cardamom-loaded dough (prepared in advance), each child received a section to braid, bake and devour.

A local exchange student from Salo, Finland, spoke to the classes, as did Irene Vaino, who fled from Karelia with her family as a young child. Language lessons taught the students to count to 10 in Finnish and to learn everyday expressions, which they added to bookmarks.

The school library borrowed books about Finland, including the fascinating story of *Louhi, Witch of the North Farm*. At month’s end nearly 100 parents and friends saw the artwork on display, sampled Finnish food and watched the folk dances. The students, in groups of 20, performed four songs on the kantele.

Thanks to Celia Jones, director of Suomalaiset Jouset, and to the 15 enthusiastic volunteers who donated their time for Finnish Immersion.

Lucia Lights Up Oregon

Contributed by Pirjo Kujansuu Schulbach, FFCCPC and SHF volunteer

Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC) member Emma Sofia Northup was crowned the 57th Oregon Lucia on December 8, 2013, during the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation’s (SHF) annual Christmas ScanFair. The tradition of selecting a “Queen of Light” began in Finland over 60 years ago, where it is carried out each December 13 at the Helsinki Cathedral.



Emma Sofia Northup and court carry on Oregon’s 57-year Lucia tradition of lighting up the long winter’s night

Emma certainly meets the Oregon Lucia criteria, with her strong Nordic interest, community involvement, character, personality and poise. The 17-year old senior at Union High School in Camas, Washington, is the daughter of Marjo Northup, FFCPC member and longtime Finnish teacher at Portland State University, and Scott Northup. After her crowning, Emma walked through the ScanFair crowd passing out cookies, and posed for photos with visitors. Her volunteerism began as a small girl at her mother’s side at the Suomikoulu booth at ScanFair.

Of her experiences as Lucia to date Emma recalls arriving with the court at the Swedish school and, “all the young kids participating in the Lucia program...turning to look at us in awe. It was the first time I saw how important Lucia was to those who had been raised with her story, and the impact I could have on the kids who looked up to her.”

Emma received a \$1,000 college scholarship from SHF, and runner-up Sarah Braaten received a \$500 college scholarship. All Lucia Court members received custom-made necklaces donated by Sara Winter (Lucia Chair) and Jan Nielsen of Nielsen’s Jewelers, and personalized memory books made by Lucia Court Chaperone Anita Schnacky. Emma and the three members of her court will reign until December 2014.

FFN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2014

Hanna Wagner, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Finlandia Foundation National awarded 20 scholarships to an outstanding group of graduate and undergraduate students from Finland and the United States attending school in both countries. They were among a very strong and large pool of applicants, making the selection process a pleasant challenge.

ALEXANDER AHLGREN is a University of Washington undergraduate student with a double major: Political Science with an Economics emphasis and Finnish Language and Culture. He is on a yearlong exchange program at the University of Turku in Finland. Professor Christine Ingbritsen writes: "Of the undergraduate students I have taught at the University of Washington, Alex is among the top 5% of all those I have had the opportunity to interact with."

ELIZABETH BRAUER is a University of Oulu graduate student in the master's degree program in Education and Globalization. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2013 and was selected to join Phi Beta Kappa. She has an extensive Finnish background and attended Salolampi Language Village. Her Oulu transcript shows two 5's (excellent) and one 4 (very good).

MATTI CIRIGLIANO is a PhD student in the Educational Communications and Technology program at New York University. Matti was brought up in a Finnish household and as a child attended Finnish school on weekends. He has put his skills to good use in helping to develop the FF New York Metropolitan Chapter website and stationery. Elizabeth McAlpin of NYU writes: "Matt Cirigliano...possesses immense creativity, originality, and academic performance matching an exceptional range in interpersonal skills."

JON GOETZ is a Harvard University undergraduate pursuing a degree in history. Jon is a third generation Finnish-American who believes that his interest in history was sparked by his Finnish grandfather who told him stories of the Russo-Finnish Winter War. Professor Alison Frank Johnson writes: "Goetz is smart and works hard. But he is also thoughtful in a way that is all too rare, in a way that is special."



Emilia Pennanen



Iida Pöllänen



Sinikka Roinila



Jolene Sarkinen



Neal Simons



Katri (Ayraainen) Stanley



Raina Suominen



Henrietta Toivonen

PIPSA HAPPO is a graduate student at the University of Colorado in Denver where she is pursuing a master's in Architecture. She grew up in Finnish Lapland and received a BS in Architecture from Tampere University of Technology. Shana Cohen from the University of Colorado writes: "She shows an interest in trying new representation methods to communicate her ideas, and brings a wonderfully fresh perspective to the classroom setting."

JUULI HUTTUNEN is a University of Massachusetts Amherst undergraduate majoring in Political Science within the Social and Behavioral Sciences College. She writes: "I consider myself extremely fortunate to be part of the Finnish-American community because I have two different countries I can call my home, two languages I have mastered, a family history in Finland and another history in the making here in the United States."

JANIS MOTL is a student in Finlandia University's BSN program, and has worked in the healthcare field for nearly 30 years. She is currently employed at the Finnish American Heritage Center through a work-study program. Assistant Professor Hilary Virtanen writes: "As a student and as an employee of FAHC, Janis has contributed greatly to our community through her deep interest in getting to know her own Finnish heritage better."

EMILIA PENNANEN is pursuing a BFA at Maryland Institute College of Art. She initiated her studies in England in 2011 but transferred to MICA because of the excellent staff in the photography department. Regina DeLuise, chair of the MICA Photography Department, writes: "I have been teaching since 1989 and I must say, I find Emilia to be among the most interesting students I've had the pleasure of working with. She is a perceptive image-maker, intellectually engaged and a pleasure to be around."

IIDA PÖLLÄNEN is a PhD student at the University of Oregon in Eugene. She is studying English, Swedish, Finnish and German literature and their intersections in 19th and 20th century prose. Iida received her BA from the University of Tampere. Associate Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature Katya Hokansson writes: "I believe Iida is among our strongest students and has an extremely bright future."

SINIKKA ROINILA is an undergraduate student at Indiana University of Bloomington pursuing a degree in the School of Journalism. She attended Salolampi mini-camps at several FinnFests and as a child she participated in Finnish language and cultural activities at the FF Pittsburgh chapter. Suzy Mester, a family friend writes: "I have watched Sini accomplish nearly all she has set out to do, earnest in her endeavors, tireless in her work ethic, honest in her assessments. She

puts others first, looking for ways to learn and improve herself, making her corner of the world a better place."

JOLENE SARKINEN is a 16-year-old, second year student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is planning to earn a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and becoming fluent in the Finnish language. Daniel Karvonen, Senior Lecturer of Finnish and Linguistics writes: "Jolene's academic work in courses is nothing short of superb. She also has an extremely positive attitude and an obvious passion for Finland and the Finnish language."

NEAL SIMONS is a Finlandia University student pursuing a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Finnish. He is planning to study in Finland in the summer of 2014, and after graduation would like to teach English in Finland or possibly Finnish in the U.S. Assistant Professor Mark Lounibos writes: "Neal is an excellent student. He is mature beyond his years and deeply committed to education, both as a practical goal and a pursuit with its own inherent rewards."

KATRI (AYRAAINEN) STANLEY is a graduate student at Columbia University's School of Public Affairs pursuing a master's degree in International Relations. Her principal academic and professional interest is food security, and she points out that Finland is a leader in the realm of



Lauren Tuiskula



Erica Tukianen



Siri Uotila



Hanna Västinsalo



Sara Wertanen

global food security. Dr. Peter Clement, a visiting professor who taught Katri in the fall, writes: "In sum, Ms. Stanley is an excellent student who is worthy of scholarship support to continue her studies at the graduate school level."

RAINA SUOMINEN is a University of Washington undergraduate student majoring in Communication and Finnish. Raina worked as an au pair in Haapajärvi, Finland in the summer of 2013. Professor Andrew Nestinger at the Department of Scandinavian Studies writes: "Raina speaks and writes Finnish perceptively and with sophistication and good humor. The level of Finnish she has attained, for someone who was not born speaking the language, is truly exceptional."

HENRIETTA TOIVONEN is a student at Claremont McKenna College planning a double major in Biophysics and International Relations. Her ultimate aim is to be able to utilize her scientific background in a social science field. Chemistry Professor Nancy Williams writes: "Her combined intelligence and work ethic mean that her work is simply superlative and could almost invariably be used as a solution key."

LAUREN TUISKULA is an undergraduate student at Amherst College majoring in English, and potentially double-majoring in either Economics or Film and Media Studies. She wants to pursue a career in sports management or broadcasting or a combination of the two. Lauren has always had the desire to learn more about her Finnish heritage and when granted Finnish citizenship she felt her first strong connection with the nation. Professor I. Stanton Williams writes: "In her first

semester at Amherst College Lauren dove in wholeheartedly challenging herself intellectually, athletically, and in terms of community responsibility, and clearly thriving."

ERICA TUKIAINEN is a second year medical student at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; she also received a FFN scholarship in 2013. She writes in her application: "After moving to Los Angeles from Helsinki at the age of 12 with my mother and younger brother, we faced many financial and cultural, especially language barriers. However, I kept my mother's lessons about work ethic and perseverance close to my heart, which she taught me when I was a young girl in Finland. These lessons about the "suomalainen sisu" have given me the strength and work ethic to continue my path toward medical school."

SIRI UOTILA is a graduate student at Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School pursuing a three-year joint MBA/MPP degree.

Siri graduated from Harvard in 2010 with a BA majoring in Chemistry and Physics. Hannah Riley Bowles from the Kennedy School writes: "Siri is unfailingly gracious and diligent and exceptionally smart. For the mid-term written assignment students completed a case analyses proposing a growth strategy for a hospital for the blind. Siri's paper was the strongest in the class."

HANNA VÄSTINSALO is a student at the American Film Institute studying Film Directing. Hanna earned a PhD in Molecular Biology with a concentration in Molecular Genetics from the University of Helsinki, but decided after defending her thesis that, while she loved being a scientist, her passion lies with telling stories about science and scientists. Her goal is to be a director who can popularize science to general audiences.

SARA WERTANEN is a University of Central Florida undergraduate pursuing a double major in Civil and Environmental Engineering. A move from Oregon to Florida forced her to drop Finnish but she is hoping to be able to continue her language studies online. Daniel Triolo, Instructor in Mathematics at Lake Sumter State College writes: "Sara is a standout student that any instructor would applaud for her attitude towards her education."

The next deadline for scholarship applications is February 1, 2015.

FFN Explores New Avenues at South by Southwest

By Maria Kizirian,
Assistant to the Board of Trustees

Since its founding in 1953 it has been a goal of Finlandia Foundation National to encourage appreciation of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, history and traditions. Its Performer and Lecturer of the Year are among the programs that contribute to that mission. In its ongoing quest to grow and remain relevant to the ever-changing dynamics of the arts scene, FFN participated in the South by Southwest (SXSW) Conferences & Festivals in Austin, Texas in March.



Laura Laaksonen talks Finnish Heavy Metal at SXSW

Hatched in 1987, SXSW has grown into a 10-day celebration of music, film and interactive media that attracts an international throng--72,000 registered for the 2014 event--of those who want to learn, create, produce, communicate and entertain (Finnish gaming sensation Rovio of Angry Birds has been there several times).

A motivating factor in FFN's involvement this year was a presentation that Laura Laaksonen, the former creative industries coordinator for the Finnish Consulate General of Los Angeles, was invited to make. In her talk, "Heavy Metal Entrepreneurship, a Ph.D Study," she shared stories of the evolution of Finnish bands from the 1980s and how Finns have, over the last 20 years, embraced their unique and quirky style and odd accent, rather than try to emulate American English, or be "too American." She also spoke of different ways musicians become a business, and how to thrive regardless of the way you start making money by playing music.

Laaksonen's invitation from SXSW acknowledges the worldwide importance of Finnish heavy metal music and the FFN board saw this as an opportunity to connect with a new audience that may be interested in Finland, particularly with

the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sibelius in 2015 and the centennial anniversary of Finland's independence in 2017.

With financial assistance from FFN and individual board members, the organization was recognized as a sponsor of Laaksonen's appearance. I was able to attend the event and explore opportunities for broadening awareness and recognition of the work done by FFN. Contacts I made include Riku Paakkonen, co-founder of Spinefarm Records, the first label of two of Finland's most famous heavy metal bands, Nightwish and Children of Bodom; and Virpi Immonen of Full Steam Management, who manages well known Finnish bands.

Filmmaker Janne Tamminen (a recipient of FFN grant money) filmed Laaksonen's presentation for a soon-to-be-released documentary about Finnish heavy metal in the U.S. On behalf of FFN I also networked with representatives of FinPro, Tekes and Team Finland. I learned about the prospects of working with the Nordic Nations, a group that has a presence each year at SXSW.

Many exciting ideas resulted from our discussions and we'll be looking into a greater presence for FFN at SXSW in 2015.

Maria Kizirian is a singer, songwriter, music producer and instrumentalist and was FFN Performer of the Year 2012.

Join the FUNdraising

It's a fun and exciting time for FFN, which is enjoying increased interest in and response to its current programs while getting involved in new initiatives such as SXSW, the Sibelius 150 Jubilee in 2015 and, in a few short years, the centennial of Finland's independence in 2017.

You're invited to join the FUN in FFN fundraising.

FFN receives no public monies and its programs depend on your generosity for their success. We appreciate whatever amount you are able to give. You can:

- Donate by check and send in the enclosed envelope to: Finlandia Foundation National, P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.
- Make your gift online at: www.FinlandiaFoundation.org
- Become a monthly donor; sign up to have your gift automatically debited from your account.
- Give a gift of stock, make a planned gift or discover other options by contacting attorney and FFN Vice President Paul Halme at: pohhc@aol.com



While in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar Melanie Brooks will study with Peter Ettrup Larsen at Sibelius Academy.

Teacher Studies Finnish Music

By Betsey Norgard, FFN Trustee

It's surprising where a casual conversation can take you. For Melanie Brooks, a saxophonist and music education graduate of St. Olaf College, it began by talking with a music professor, Paul Niemisto, who is director of the Finnish brass septet Ameriikan Poijat. She expressed an interest in learning about Finland's highly-rated education system, and he encouraged her to study its music program. He helped with her research, connected her with a youth wind band, and introduced her to two visiting Finnish music educators.

These acquaintances led to an invitation to teach at a music camp in Finland which, aided by a grant from FFN, she did in 2011. Melanie worked with the military Finnish Guard Band, and with musicians from Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, where she met Peter Ettrup Larsen, a professor in the conducting program.

As director of the high school and fifth-grade bands in Pine City, Minnesota, she enjoyed a collaboration between her students and Finnish composer Janne Ikonen. In "virtual rehearsals" he helped her band prepare his composition "Echoes from Karelia" for their spring concert.

Melanie returns to Finland this summer as a Fulbright Scholar. She'll study in Peter Ettrup Larsen's Wind Orchestra Conducting Master's Class at Sibelius Academy and work with several professional military wind orchestras. She'll visit music schools to study their teaching programs and perform in the Helsinki Saxophone Ensemble.

She remains "passionately curious" about Finland and reflects on the initial brief conversation and first trip to Finland with the FFN grant. "Finlandia Foundation has changed and still is changing the course of my life adventures and opportunities. Kiitos!"

Soiva Camp Impressions

By Betsey Norgard, FFN Trustee

Relax, enjoy the people and events, and play wonderful music... that's the advice that 2013 Soiva camp participant Matt Scott would offer to students who are considering Soiva International Music Camp, Finlandia Foundation's nine-day student experience at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Now in its sixth season, Soiva brings together instructors and students from Finland with American instructors and students from ages 11-19.

Matt, a clarinet player from Pine City, Minnesota, hopes to return to Soiva Camp this year. He'd like to build on the one-on-one music lessons he took last year with Leigh Wakefield, associate professor of clarinet at Concordia College, and further explore the jazz music he played with Russell Peterson, Concordia saxophone instructor and jazz ensemble director. He's also interested in exploring music tech and continuing last year's experience with chamber music.



Matt Scott recommends the Soiva Music Camp experience

A big part of his Soiva experience for Matt was meeting and getting to know the Finnish students and teachers, especially, he says, "seeing what they're like with their music and how well they play." Students discover the differences in the two cultures, and understand how it affects their daily lives, noting, for example, that it costs nearly twice as much for teens to get a driver's license in Finland than in the U.S.

Matt attended Soiva Camp with scholarships from FFN and the Twin Cities Chapter of Finlandia Foundation. During the year, he has kept in touch with students he met at Soiva and looks forward to hopefully seeing some of the 2013 students again, and continuing to learn more about both Finnish culture and awesome music-making.

Soiva Camp takes place this year from June 21-29, for students of piano, violin, viola, flute, clarinet, saxophone, improvisation and composition. For information, go to www.FinlandiaFoundation.org/programs or www.youtube.com and search for Soiva Camp.

Eureka! Chapters Discover Yoopera!

Audiences are applauding the FFN Lecturer of the Year program featuring a screening of the documentary *Yoopera!* presented by the film's director, Suzanne Jurva, or editor Erin Smith.

Yoopera! weaves together the remarkable story of how Finnish and American talent created an original opera about a 1906 tragedy in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the companion "Story Line" project that shared family histories in a public work of art. The filmmakers have enjoyed positive feedback and exchanges at the events.

"The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter recently hosted LOY Suzanne Jurva for a screening of her film *Yoopera!*," reports Don Fidler, the chapter's co-president. "It was a well-attended event with great interest in the interconnected stories and the way the movie touches one's heart. A wonderful program. Highly recommended."

Tales from Esko's Corner

By Davis Helberg, Minnesota

"How Finnish was Thomson Township? Some people said even the dogs barked in Finnish."

Thus begins one of the 70 stories in *Esko's Corner, An Illustrated History of Esko and Thomson Township*, a newly published anthology of a place in northeastern Minnesota settled by Finnish immigrants in the 1870s.

The book was produced by the Esko Historical Society with the aid of a \$1,500 grant in 2009 from FFN, which spawned a fundraising campaign that netted about \$35,000—far exceeding expectations—and led to a hard-cover history with about 160 photos.

Now a modern suburb of nearby Duluth, Thomson Township for many years was not unlike several Upper Midwest communities where a majority of residents conversed in Finnish—or a version of it that came to be known as "Finglish." How the language evolved and how the



Lecturer of the Year Suzanne Jurva accepts a bouquet from Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Co-Presidents Don Fidler and Stina Katchadourian

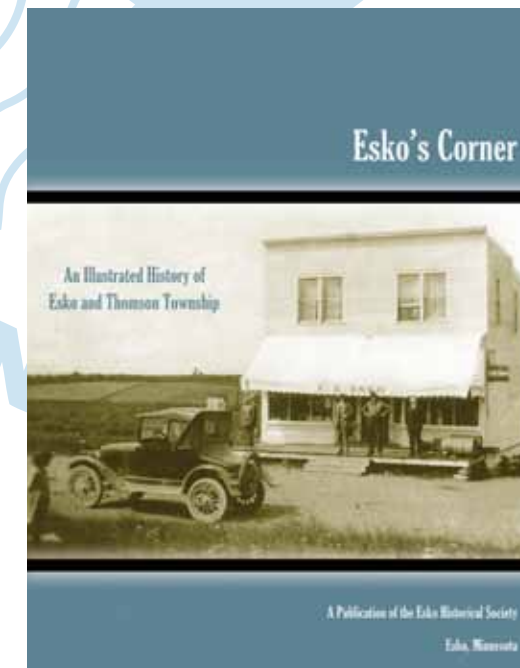
For more LOY information go to www.FinlandiaFoundation.org. To book the LOY program contact coordinator Jon Saari at saari@nmu.edu. Learn more about the documentary at www.yooperamovie.com.

immigrants assimilated are recurring themes in *Esko's Corner*, the name by which the place was known until 1935 when it was condensed to Esko.

Many stories titles have obvious Finnish connections, such as "The Finns of Thomson Township" and "The Essential Sauna." But there are broader themes, too, including the township's geology, a Voyageurs' portage route, the first railroads, loggers and sawyers, dairy farming, a devastating 1918 fire, the schools, churches, businesses, social groups and sports teams.

A volunteer committee invested more than five years in researching and writing the book. It was designed by Duluth historian Tony Dierckins and printed by Bang Printing of Brainerd, Minnesota.

The book sells for \$25. All proceeds go to the Esko Historical Society. Ordering information is online at www.eskohistory.com, or mail a check for \$35 (includes sales tax and shipping) to Esko Historical Society, P.O. Box 83, Esko, MN 55733.



Snowbirds Flock to Office of Honorary Consulate in Florida



Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde (left) with Peter and his wife Arja Mäkilä, in Florida in March

Florida is an attractive destination for sun-seekers, and that includes Finnish-Americans and, especially in winter, visitors from Finland. FN Trustee Peter Mäkilä has served as Finland's Honorary Consul in Florida for 13 years, and shares a bit about the operations of his office:

Approximately 25,000 Finns and people with Finnish heritage live in Florida, with 12,000-15,000 in the Palm Beach area alone. Each winter the number increases by about 10,000 when the "snowbirds" visit from the Nordic countries. The Lake Worth office of Finland's Honorary Consulate assists Finnish citizens with various issues and matters, and the peak winter season is an especially busy period.

The office receives requests regarding passport renewals, and it makes active use of the portable passport unit in spring and fall. It's a great service for Florida's Finnish citizens, as well as those from other states and even Canada, according to Peter. "In February, during the most recent visit to Lake Worth by the portable passport unit, we issued over 60 renewals and new passports for Finns."

As Finland's Honorary Consul he takes part in many American and Finnish-American events during the year, arranged by Finns and Finnish organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the 70th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and Finland House.

In March he welcomed Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Ritva Koukku-Ronde to the 80th Anniversary Finnish War Veterans in America. During that same weekend she, on behalf of Finland's President Sauli Niinistö, presented Peter with the recognition of a Knight Medal of the 1st Class for his work. Congratulations, Peter!

SIBELIUS
150 JUBILEE
1865 2015

continued from page one

In 1965 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius, numerous events took place across the U.S. FFN is seeking copies of articles and items related to those activities, which included a concert at the Hollywood Bowl.

To learn more about financial assistance from FFN for Sibelius-related activities or to share information about the centennial Sibelius events in 1965, contact the FFN at office@finlandiafoundation.org or phone (626) 795-2081.

For information about Sibelius 150 in Finland: www.sibelius150.fi



Esa-Pekka Salonen's "stylistic evolution sheds a unique light on music's future," according to the Biernen School of Music

Prestigious Prize for Salonen

Conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen is the most recent recipient of the Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Musical Composition. The biennial award, announced in March by the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, considers nominations from around the world to recognize "classical music composers of outstanding achievement in a body of work and a unique creativity." The award includes a \$100,000 cash prize, performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and residency at the Bienen School in Evanston, Illinois.

Finlandia Foundation National congratulates its Patron on the most recent of his many honors.

Address Update

FFN has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

Be sure to contact the office if you have a change of address!

Board Meets During Whirlwind Weekend in Atlanta



LEFT: FFN Trustees gather in a lobby of Atlanta's historic Georgian Terrace Hotel, where the Board met in March. (Left to right) Past President Anita Häkkinen Smiley, President Ossi Rahkonen, Trustees Betsey Norgard, Dennis Anderson, Päivi Tetri, Richard Ahola, Jacqueline Harjula (Secretary), George Sundquist, Paul Suomala, Jon Saari, Paul Halme (Vice President), Hanna Wagner, Satu Mikkola and Tarja Silverman.

RIGHT: Jacqueline Harjula and Atlanta Finland Society President Tuula Becker visit with pianist Janne Mertanen following his concert for the Chopin Society of Atlanta.

A packed agenda greeted FFN trustees in Atlanta for the spring board meeting at the Georgian Terrace Hotel March 22-23. In addition to reviewing the general operations of the organization, individual committees conducted their business at breakout sessions. The Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee also met to make plans for the 2015 celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius.

FFN Remembers Inger Edwards

Former FFN Trustee and President Inger Pancoast-Edwards passed away on March 1, 2014 in Pennsylvania. Born in Finland of Swedish and Finnish descent, she grew up in Vaasa and came to North Carolina to attend High Point College. She served on the FFN Board from 1995-2003, chaired the grants committee and was president from 1999-2001. Inger was also a past president of Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter.

FFN Trustee Paul Halme recalls, "She was a cheerful, lively person, always offering a big smile to her dour (he says with a grin) Finnish friends. She represented a more current, Americanized generation and was the first Swede Finn president."

Survivors include her husband, David E. Edwards, a daughter, son, three stepchildren and 10 grandchildren. Her first husband, Dr. David L. Pancoast, preceded her in death.

At the family's request, donations may be made to Soiva Music Camp at the FFN website, www.FinlandiaFoundation.org or mailed to FFN at P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.

The grants and scholarship committees announced their selections for 2014, reporting that there were a record number of qualified applicants for both types of awards. The choice of Performer of the Year was also a challenge due to the excellent quality of the applicants, but it was Finnish jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen who was approved as the featured artist for the year beginning September 1, 2014.

Members of the Atlanta Finland Society (AFS) joined board members for dinner on Saturday evening, as did FFN Lecturer of the Year Suzanne Jurva, who lives in the Atlanta area. On Sunday evening the board enjoyed a Chopin Society of Atlanta concert by Finnish pianist Janne Mertanen. He is an international touring and award-winning recording artist, and in 1992 won the International Chopin Competition in Darmstadt, Germany.

Following the concert FFN trustees mingled with the musician and chapter members during a Finnish-style reception hosted by AFS.

Online at www.FinlandiaFoundation.org:

Free E-News: Much happens between the spring and fall editions of the printed newsletter. Sign up for the free, monthly e-news and get the latest from FFN, its chapters and elsewhere in Finnish America. FFN will not share your email address.

Lending Library: Browse the books, CDs and videos available from FFN for free, short-term loan to members.

Save a tree: Request a PDF instead of a printed version of the newsletter.

And more!

KIITOS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

November 1, 2013 to May 1, 2014, except gifts above \$1,000, which are cumulative:

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Hilkka Kinnunen
Esko Mannisto
Kathrin Mautino
Betsey Norgard
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FFN is also grateful for in-kind contributions.

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Why We Give: A Tale of Two Trustees

By Kath Usitalo,
FFN Communications Manager

The lifeblood of Finlandia Foundation National is its volunteers, the dedicated and energetic individuals who believe in the purpose established at the organization's founding 61 years ago: to unite all Friends of Finland in America and perpetuate Finnish-American cultural institutions.

Their stories are very different, but former FFN Trustees Pertti Lindfors, who served on the board from 1962-82 and Anja Miller, from 1991-2003, share a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthening the ancestral ties to Finland in this country. Neighbors in the San Francisco Bay area---he lives in the city, she in nearby Brisbane---both have long been active in local FF programs as well as on the national board.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki. She was selected to study for a year at Mount Holyoke College, and while traveling in the U.S. met her future husband Raymond Miller. After her pioneering stint in Finnish television and marriage to Ray, the couple spent time in Pakistan during his PhD research. They settled in Brisbane and Ray continued his career as professor at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Anja earned an MA in English as a Second Language and works as a translator/interpreter. She was involved in local government and served as mayor of Brisbane (Ray was also mayor and still serves on the city council), on the board of the Finnish-American Home Association, as FF delegate to the Expatriate Finnish Parliament, and president of what was then the FF Palo Alto-Stanford Chapter. On top of this sampling of her accomplishments, she's mother of a daughter and grandmother to twin girls.

Asked what has motivated her involvement in activities that earned her recognition of Knight First Class, Order of the Lion of Finland, Anja says, "I've been given so much as a Finn. I felt, once I came here I owed something to Finland and I could (apply) some of my free time and skills." Her advice to anyone interested in volunteering: "Have faith and *sisu*. You have to believe in yourself, in your group, the people you contact."



Pertti Lindfors and Anja Miller have been friends in "Finnishness" for years and each have made valuable contributions to Finnish America tailored to their talents

Former Honorary Finnish Consul and retired attorney Pertti Lindfors says of his connection to FFN, "Dr. (Vaino) Hoover asked me to join the board and I've been involved ever since." In some ways he's carrying on the family tradition started by his father Jarl Lindfors, who came to the U.S. from Finland and met and married Pertti's mother Kerttu. They moved to California, where Pertti grew up, and Jarl served in consulate positions in San Francisco between 1921 until 1960.

In addition to donating countless Finlandia Foundation hours Pertti found another way to contribute, establishing a scholarship fund through FFN. After earning his bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley and law degree from the University of Wisconsin, he practiced law in San Francisco and worked with Finnish companies establishing businesses in the U.S. "I thought there was a need for Finnish law students to come to study in the U.S. because there is a vast difference, vast nuances in the international trade area."

Pertti, now 90, fondly recalls the two years he and his family spent in Finland when he was a boy. The experience helped him learn the language and connect with his roots, and instilled in him---and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris---a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter but it's their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person Pertti says is key to the future of FFN: "Someone who has an interest in his own background and wants to learn where he came from and suddenly finds out there's an opportunity to get involved."

He soundly supports Finlandia Foundation because, "It offers a person an opportunity to have a continuing connection to the land of his birth or that of his forefathers."

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