



Finlandia Foundation[®] National

Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953

CENTENARY LECTURERS

K. Marianne Wargelin:
“Beyond the Atlantic:
Finland’s Independence
Viewed from Across
the Sea”



(Clockwise) Thomas A. DuBois: “Finland and the *Kalevala*”
Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen: “The History of Finnish Independence”
Börje Vähämäki: “Film, Literature and Finnish Identities”
Peter MacKeith: “A House of Finland”

A once-in-a-lifetime event like 100 years of Finnish independence deserves to be celebrated, but it should also spur reflection on a remarkable story. In recognition of the centennial of Finland’s declaration of independence, Finlandia Foundation National is pleased to present an expanded Lecturer of the Year program featuring scholars who are experts on topics related to Finland’s national independence and identity.

The Centenary Lecturers are available for FFN chapter programs between June 2016 and May 2018.

Beyond the Atlantic: Finland's Independence Viewed from Across the Sea

Finnish America focuses a unique lens on Finland's independence. Its people and its communities create observation points not often used to understand Finland even though rich resources exist both in past and contemporary data. What can be learned will surprise and delight both contemporary citizens of Finland living in the United States and Americans who have an interest in Finland's achievement.

In earlier years, Finns in America and their communities contributed to Finland's ability to become an independent nation. Finnish America provided life experiences as well as safe havens for Finland's future leaders. Some who spent time in America later served in Finland's first parliament or in the events of the Civil War of 1918. After independence, Finnish America became an important lobbying voice for Finland in the U.S., including raising public awareness and funds in hard times and influencing the development of a new popular culture in Finland. In more recent

years, Finns in America have provided a strong public voice and physical base for the Finland's successful transition to a post-modern economy and democracy.

In this lecture, these historic and contemporary examples will form a vibrant new look at how Finland arrived at independence and maintained its independence in the 20th century. The people who have come to America, including its current expatriate population, have both reflected and nurtured the identity of Finland. Audiences will have an opportunity to discuss how these examples provide windows to the future.

About K. Marianne Wargelin

As both a product and a student of Finnish America, Marianne Wargelin uses her personal connections to Finland and Finnish America as a resource for her work as a research scholar who studies small cultures and their interactions with large cultures, specifically Finland and Finnish America.

Her family traces itself to the early Astoria, Oregon Finnish fishing

community, mining towns of Upper Michigan and Minnesota, the urban Finntowns of Brooklyn, New York, Worcester, Massachusetts and Waukegon, Illinois, and the industrial villages along Lake Erie. She was raised within the Finnish American communities of Berkeley, California, Hancock, Michigan, and Fairport Harbor, Ohio, with Finnish as her first language.

Marianne initially studied literature at the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota, but switched to American Studies with an emphasis on Finnish American history and culture.

Today, Marianne writes and speaks interchangeably about Finland and Finnish America. Her research materials include pop culture and high culture, historic as well as contemporary. She studies public and private materials, both archival and in the public domain. She has accumulated a rich personal data collection related to last 40 years of the Finnish community in America.



Marianne's academic connections to the University of Tampere began in the late 1990's and coincided with her appointment as Minneapolis' Honorary Consul of Finland. Since then, she has interacted closely with contemporary Finland, as a scholar and as a citizen. Her analysis of Finland's 100 years as an independent nation state and its connections to Finnish America grows from these recent experiences.

PAST LECTURERS OF THE YEAR:

2015 Taina Elg with Heli Sirviö

2014 Suzanne Jurva and Erin Smith, filmmakers of the documentary *Yoopera!*

2013 Yvonne Lockwood, “Traditional Material Culture in Modern Finnish America”

2012 Glenda Dawn Goss, “Sibelius: A Composer’s Life and the Awakening of Finland”

2011 Carl Rahkonen, “The Finnish-American Musical Journey”

2010 Arnold Alanen, “From Finland to North America: Buildings, Landscapes and Cultural Change”

2007-09 Mark Coir and Susan Saarinen, “The Saarinen Architectural Legacy”

2006 Ben Stout and *Fire and Ice*, a documentary about The Winter War between Finland and Russia

Find more information on their programs at FinlandiaFoundation.org

Finlandia Foundation National is the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States.

Founded in Pasadena, California in 1953, FFN administers grants, scholarships and programs supporting and celebrating Finnish heritage and Finnish-American culture and traditions, and contemporary Finnish America.

FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information: FinlandiaFoundation.org



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