



Finlandia Foundation[®] National

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

INDEPENDENT FINLAND: A NORTH AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

LECTURER OF THE YEAR CENTENARY LECTURE

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Saturday, September 23, 2017
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

PART I: The Cultural Underpinnings of Finnish Nationhood

Like all young nation states, Finland grounded its claim to nationhood upon cultural distinctiveness. What are these bedrock features that Finland rests its claim upon?

PART II: Holding on Through Wars, Both Civil and Global

War extracts the last measure of hope from its actors. How did suffering and loss reshape Finnish politics and society from 1917 to 1989?

PART III: Reaching the Top, Internationally

From a low point in the 1990s, Finland achieved a series of international successes that put other countries in its wake. How was this possible for a small, Nordic country?

Suomi
Finland
100

Centenary Lecturers 2017-18



Thomas A. DuBois, the Halls-Bascom Professor of Scandinavian Studies and Folklore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has done extensive research on Finnish and Sámi culture, past and present.

“Born in New England, seduced into learning the Finnish language by a fellow student at Cornell, my fascination with Nordic culture was sealed through a trip to Finland on the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lonnrot’s *Kalevala*.”



Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen is an Associate Professor of History at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

“The connection to Finland was there in my Finnish grandparents, but I didn’t realize it until I took a trip alone to Finland at age 19. That’s when my identity jelled.”



Peter MacKeith is Dean and Professor of Architecture at the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

“As a 20-year-old in a university lecture hall, I was transfixed by an image of an Alvar Aalto building. It would not let me go, compelled me into studying architecture, and 10 years later drew me to Finland itself--and into a lifelong advocacy of the nation.”



Börje Vähämäki, who earned his Doctoral Degree from Åbo Akademi in Turku, directed the Finnish Studies program at the University of Toronto until his retirement in 2014.

“In 1975 I was a 31-year-old young school principal in Oulu, Finland, and with degrees in hand from Åbo Academi in Turku, I was ready to embark on an adventure in North America, not knowing how long or where it would take me.”



K. Marianne Wargelin is an independent scholar, researcher and author, and president of FinnFest USA.

“My Finnishness wasn’t simply an imprinting from a Finnish-American pastor’s family over four generations. It was a struggle to choose among options that swept me into the larger American sea or stranded me on a provincial Finnish-American shoreline.”

Moderator: Jon Saari, Professor Emeritus and FFN Trustee

PAST LECTURERS OF THE YEAR:

2015-16 “An Evening with Taina Elg: From Finland to Stardom,” 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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