



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.

F A L L 2 0 1 7



LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

WISC Board President Gloria Zamora (left) and Vice President J. Revell Carr (right) present the organization's Founders' Award to Halla Tómasdóttir and Tarja Halonen in Santa Fe. The symposium was a Finlandia Foundation Finland 100 Signature Event.

By Ossi Rahkonen
FFN President

“Leadership Values in a Changing World” was the theme of the September 18 symposium organized by the Women’s International Study Center (WISC) at the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe. The program was a FFN Finland 100 Signature Event, sponsored by Finlandia Foundation and the Paloheimo Foundation.

The guest speakers were former President Tarja Halonen of Finland and presidential runner-up from Iceland, Halla Tómasdóttir, with Willa Seldon, a partner with the Bridgespan Group, as the moderator. They spoke to a full audience.

This WISC conversation focused on how to lead from values and principles, with the goals of obtaining sustainability and improving equality and gender balance. The speakers reflected on their personal experiences and lessons from Nordic leadership on whether women bring different values to leadership, and to the relevance of those values in today’s political climate.

It was a very engaging discussion by both speakers, skillfully moderated, providing the audience an answer that women can indeed make a difference and bring positive values to the development of their communities. They expressed that their experiences

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Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

We are well into the Finland 100 anniversary year and the celebrations are in full swing, with activities sponsored by FFN, our chapters, the Finnish Embassy and others. We started early in the year with the Finland 100 Gala in Florida on February 18, which we co-sponsored and which was one of our

six Signature Events. During the spring season, we hosted our second Signature Event, the U.S. concert tour of Finnish kantele player Ida Elina, but since Labor Day things have been really taking off, and will culminate at December 6, Independence Day.

A fall season highlight was the visit of President Sauli Niinistö and his spouse Jenni Haukio, who attended major Finland 100 events in Washington, D.C., New York City and Minneapolis.

The third FFN Signature Event was in Santa Fe on September 18, when former Finland President Tarja Halonen with Halla Tómasdóttir, presidential candidate from Iceland, appeared at the Women's International Study Center (WISC) discussion forum, co-sponsored by FFN. Later that week on Friday the 22nd, the Minnesota Orchestra performed an "All Finnish" concert led by Maestro Osmo Vänskä, as the fourth FFN Signature Event. The orchestra's encore of *Finlandia* could be considered the highlight of the season so far, with the President of Finland and much of the U.S. Finnish-American leadership in the audience.

Other highlights in Minneapolis included awarding FFN's Award of Excellence to John and Pauline Kiltinen from Marquette, Michigan, for their major philanthropy in support of many Finnish-American

cultural events and works. FFN established the award three years ago, and presents it each second year. The first was given in 2015 to the Seattle Symphony for its series of Sibelius concerts in the Sibelius 150th anniversary year. Composer Jean Sibelius was the first patron of FFN.

Rounding out the FFN Finland 100 signature events were the Finland 100 jubilee concert November 4 in Seattle by Philharmonia Northwest, and the November 9 seminar in New York City: "Changing the Game: Peacemaking in Turbulent Times" recognizing former Finnish President and Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, and featuring a distinguished panel of speakers.

Throughout the year, FFN also provided financial support and performers to more than 35 Finlandia Foundation chapters to assist them in undertaking their own Finland 100 events.

It is obvious to every Finn why we celebrate Finland's 100th anniversary. The birth of an independent Finland in 1917 was not easy, and there were times later (Winter War, 1939-40) when independence was in serious danger. Independent Finland was very poor at its start, but has been able to become one of the leading nations of the world, measured by a number of development indicators. Politically it is the most stable country in the world, according to one indicator. That is something worth celebrating in a turbulent world!

On behalf of Finlandia Foundation, I wish you the best for the holidays and year ahead. Hauskaa Joulua ja Onnellista Uutta Vuotta.

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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Ida Elina Wins Raves on Debut U.S. Tour



Ida Elina performs to an appreciative audience at the Hall of Nations in San Diego on her Finlandia Foundation Finland 100 U.S. tour.

Kantele artist Ida Elina and her 38-string instrument traveled from Finland on her inaugural U.S. tour, which began April 19 in Provo, Utah and wrapped up May 6 in Washington, D.C. In between she performed in Seattle, Bellevue and Rosburg, Washington; Portland, Oregon;

Sacramento and San Diego; Minneapolis; and Thomaston, Maine. The tour was a Finlandia Foundation Finland 100 Signature Event, with FFN chapters in the respective cities co-hosting the musician's appearances.

Inspired by slap guitar playing, the Sibelius Academy-trained Ida Elina brings a unique and modern percussive style to the kantele, an ancient member of the dulcimer/zither family. Billed as the world's first pop kantele player for her repertoire of contemporary music, traditional Finnish tunes and her own compositions, she is the 2017 Finnish Evento Award performer of the year.

Of her performances in San Diego, House of Finland President Eeva Syvanen says, "What an awesome weekend we had with Ida Elina! Two fantastic concerts, one relaxed and fun at the Vappu party and the second, more in the Suomi 100-spirit, at the Hall of Nations. Ida Elina's talent just touched us very deeply. Thank you, Finlandia Foundation National, for giving us the opportunity of having Ida Elina in San Diego. We hope she enjoyed her short stay and look forward to meeting her again, whether in Finland or the U.S.!"

FFN Trustee Emerita Satu Mikkola, who coordinated the appearance schedule, reports, "The Ida Elina U.S. tour was a total success! People just loved her everywhere she went, could not get enough and want her to come back. She is such a wonderful and lively performer (no sign of a shy and introverted Finn!). A fabulous and talented musician and a sweet and considerate person."

Minnesota Orchestra Finnish Program Wows

On September 22 at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, the Minnesota Orchestra, under the direction of Osmo Vänskä, performed an all-Finnish concert to an enthusiastic audience including Finland's President Sauli Niinistö and his spouse Jenni Haukio, as well as many representatives of Finnish America. The program featured violinist Elina Vähälä in Jaakko Kuusisto's *Violin Concerto, Minea* by Kalevi Aho, and Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*. An encore performance of *Finlandia* capped the evening, with the audience waving small Finnish flags.

The special Centennial tribute was a Finlandia Foundation Finland 100 Signature Event, and in remarks prior to the performance FFN was recognized as a major sponsor of the concert.



Minnesota Orchestra Maestro Osmo Vänskä (left), Finland President Sauli Niinistö and symphony Board Chair Marilyn Carlson Nelson address the audience prior to the all-Finnish concert.

40 Years of Sampling Finland in Minnesota

By **Betsey Norgard**
FFN Trustee

Students at Salolampi Language Village in Bemidji, Minnesota, enjoyed lots of extra celebrating this year—both for Finland 100 and for the language camp’s 40th anniversary. The Finnish architecture, landscape very much like Finland, and the foods, customs and sports of Finland all provide a genuine Finnish experience during the one-, two- and four-week camp sessions.



Savanna Bauer (center) of Frazee, Minnesota says, “While at Salolampi, I made new friends, got to try many new Finnish foods and learn about the culture, as well as hear Finnish spoken every day, all day, to me. It was an incredible experience!”

Each year new and returning young people from Finland serve as teachers, counselors and staff to add to the camp feeling of really being in Finland—including the lakeside sauna—as they hear Finnish spoken all day. One of the teachers, Elina Heikkilä-Kopperoinen, teaches Finnish as a second

language in Finland and brought her whole family to Salolampi. She found the Salolampi language curriculum very similar to what she uses in Finland, and what the Finnish language schools around the world use, that helps students learn a broad basic vocabulary by using it every day.

Jaime Somero, a 14-year-old returning villager from Maple Grove, Minnesota, writes, “Salolampi is important to me because it ties me to my ancestors who have come from Finland. It helps me learn a new language I’ve barely heard before, and talk to people who are different than me because of where and how they grew up.” She is now saving her babysitting money to attend the four-week camp next summer.

FFN awarded 16 scholarships to Salolampi for 2017, matching local chapter scholarship awards up to \$300, as well as awarding four travel grants. Students from outside of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North and South Dakota are eligible for FFN travel grants of up to \$500, with mileage assistance for others.

Learn more about Salolampi scholarships and travel grants at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

FFN Salolampi Support Sets Record

By **Dennis M. Anderson**
FFN Trustee, Salolampi Coordinator

Finlandia Foundation National and chapter support for Salolampi Language Village students surpassed all previous records. The following nine FF chapters provided scholarship awards totaling \$4,450, with matching grants from FFN of \$3,050: Anchorage Suomi Finland Club; Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury, Connecticut; Finlandia Foundation Capital Chapter, Washington, D.C.; Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter, Lantana; Finnish American Society of the Midwest, Chicago area; Finnish American Cultural Corporation, Detroit area; Minnesota chapters Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities and Red River Finns of Moorhead; and Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter, New York City.

Thank you to participating chapters for your generous scholarship support to the proud and happy students from your areas. We have received many complimentary letters from young people who wish to return to Salolampi, and hope that all chapters will continue to support students to the best extent possible.

In addition to the FFN match of up to \$300 per student, we also offer transportation assistance of up to \$500; in 2017 we issued over \$2,000 in travel grants.

FFN is offering financial assistance again in 2018; find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org. Also, please check out the scholarships available at the Salolampi Foundation website (salolampi.org) for other sources to assist in funding this worthwhile cultural and fun camp for young people.

“The travel funds really make a difference,” says John “Jussi” Hanson III, president of Salolampi Foundation. He stopped at the FFN FinnFest Tori booth to extend thanks for offering travel grants to assist young people in transportation costs to the Bemidji, Minnesota camp. FFN Trustee Dennis Anderson (left) coordinates the FFN matching funds available to Salolampi Villagers.



Soiva is a Musical and Cultural Experience

By **Dennis M. Anderson and Melodee Bahr**
Soiva Music Camp Co-Directors

Soiva International Music Camp was held at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota in June of 2017. It was another very exciting and rewarding year for 12 students from Finland and 16 students from around the United States. Soiva Music Camp was initially conducted at Salolampi in Bemidji, Minnesota, but has been hosted on the campus of Concordia College since 2012, with the exception of 2016 when it was held at the Sibelius Academy near Järvenpää, Finland. (Tentative plans are to host Soiva International Music Camp in Finland for the second time in 2019.)

Our 28 students in 2017 were supported and taught by a total of 11 faculty from Finland and the U.S. Students ranged in age from 12 to 18, with about one third of the students participating for the first time. Student instrumental virtuosity and compositions were absolutely excellent, as were performances at the Scandinavian Festival.

In 2017, 11 students received scholarships totaling \$2,300 in amounts ranging in size from \$100 to \$400. In addition, over \$1,300 was awarded in the form of travel grants. These travel funds make it feasible for students to attend Soiva Music Camp from anywhere in the U.S.

The final 2017 student recital was webcast on Sunday, June 24 from Concordia College. Four students participated in the composition class, and their works were performed that day. The opening piece was a fantastic rendition by four students on two grand pianos. They played *The William Tell Overture* by Rossini, which reminded some of *The Lone Ranger* radio show of yesteryear.

You may enjoy the performances online by going to FinlandiaFoundation.org/Soiva-music-camp and clicking on the link to the 2017 recital.

No Price Increase for 2018

The 2018 Soiva chamber music camp is scheduled for June 15-24. Tuition for the 10-day session, including lodging, is \$700 through April 30; \$750 thereafter. Tuition for students who commute is \$500. Travel grants of up to \$500, and scholarships are available. Instruction is provided for piano, violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet, saxophone, composition and improvisation. Find details at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

For more information please contact Soiva Director and FFN Trustee Dennis M. Anderson at soiva2018@yahoo.com or call 218.251.0164.

A Program of Stories and Lessons for Children



FFN Performer of the Year Pirjo Polari-Khan delights children at the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Moorhead, Minnesota.

By Betsey Norgard
FFN Trustee, POY Coordinator

Pirjo Polari-Khan, the current Performer of the Year, captivates children with programs that create an atmosphere of days past when villagers gathered together to hear news, tell stories and share songs.

The Etiquette Village, her recent children's book of poems she wrote and illustrated, tells stories of everyday characters that give lessons in life, offer wisdom and teach manners. Her programs, targeted for children ages seven and older, are also enjoyed by adults.

A native of Seinäjoki, Finland, Pirjo has lived in San Jose, California, for more than 30 years.

POY Nominations Due February 15

By Betsey Norgard
FFN Trustee, POY Coordinator

Who will be the next Performer of the Year? Finlandia Foundation National announces that nominations are open for the POY term that begins September 1, 2018 and ends August 31, 2019. The deadline for application is Thursday, February 15.

The POY program began in 1996 to offer opportunities for undiscovered artists to gain exposure and to share their talents with Finnish and Finnish-American audiences. Talent is not restricted to music; it can be anything that appeals to a range of ages and is consistent with the goals of FFN. The POY travels to a minimum of eight chapters during the POY year to perform and possibly give workshops.

Born into a family of artists, writers, musicians and storytellers, she trained as a ceramic artist at Wolverhampton Polytechnic in England, and has published short stories, poetry and songs.

FFN offers the POY a grant to cover travel to appearances. Host chapters are responsible for local accommodations and an honorarium. Pirjo is available through August 2018.

More information about Pirjo and the POY program is available at FinlandiaFoundation.org. To host Pirjo at a local chapter, contact POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net.

Over the years, the greatest number of POYs have been folk musicians, but also classical pianists, comedians, organists, flutists and jazz musicians—the field is open.

POYs cannot nominate themselves. They must be nominated by local chapters, other organizations, or by a FFN trustee. The POY receives a travel grant to pay for his/her travel to local chapters to perform; the host chapter is responsible for local accommodations and an honorarium. Only individuals (not ensembles) can apply to be a POY; an accompanist may be included.

For POY guidelines and application, go to FinlandiaFoundation.org. Direct any questions to POY coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net.

Centenary Lecturers Combine Forces at FinnFest USA



The FFN Lecturer of the Year program annually sponsors a speaker who travels to chapters to talk about a topic of interest to Finnish America. In honor of Finland 100, the LOY has been expanded to a choice of five experts who speak about subjects related to Finland and its independence.

In a special, one-time event, all five lecturers participated in a joint session during September's FinnFest USA 2017 in Minneapolis. A capacity crowd enjoyed the informative and entertaining 90-minute program moderated by FFN Trustee and Professor Emeritus Jon Saari, and featuring Centenary Lecturers Thomas A. DuBois, Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen, Peter MacKeith, Börje Vähämäki and K. Marianne Wargelin.

Each speaker gave their perspective on the evolution of Finland relative to three periods of Finnish history:

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?

The Centenary Lecturer FinnFest program was videotaped and will be available for individual and chapter screening. Watch the FFN monthly E-Newsletter and website for details, or contact Maria Kizirian at office@finlandiafoundation.org or 626.795.2081 for information.

Individually, the lecturers are available to speak at chapters through May 2018. For details about their topics of expertise and information on booking a program go to FinlandiaFoundation.org.

At left:

Börje Vähämäki addresses the attentive audience at FinnFest USA.

FinnFest Centenary Lecturer program moderator Jon Saari is standing at left, LOY Peter MacKeith is at right. Seated, left to right are K. Marianne Wargelin, Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen, Börje Vähämäki and Thomas DuBois.



FFN Scholarships Make a Difference

By Maria Kizirian

It couldn't have arrived at a more opportune time: Erica Tukiainen, living with her single mother, Leena, was out of money when the mail brought an envelope containing news of a \$1,500 check from Finlandia Foundation National.

"I couldn't believe it! I did not even remember applying for the scholarship by then anymore!" Erica exclaims.

"It is an honor to have been a recipient of the Finlandia Foundation scholarship," she continues. "I received this award when I started UCLA medical school, and used the support to pursue further training and education in primary care by attending several preventive medicine conferences.

"Now, I'm a family medicine physician at the Kaiser Permanente hospital on Sunset Boulevard, in Hollywood, continuing my training to become a physician leader in preventive medicine. Hence, this scholarship served as another part of my development into a caring and skilled physician, with the



A Finlandia Foundation scholarship helped Erica Tukiainen pursue her studies at UCLA medical school.

additional support to pursue unique training opportunities."

Erica was born in Finland, and moved to the United States at age 12. She did not speak English. Her mother instilled a strong work ethic and Finnish *sisu* into the lives of both Erica and her younger brother, Daniel. The family has since seen their hard work truly begin to pay off, with Daniel graduating from college this year.

Erica completed medical school at UCLA this year and began her career as a physician. She has had an exciting year in her personal life as well: she was married in September 2017. Things are looking very bright indeed for this intelligent and talented young woman, due to her hard work and diligence, supportive family and friends, and her devotion to the public good through her work in health care.

FFN is proud to have supported her on her path with a scholarship. We extend congratulations to Erica, and best wishes in all of the wonderful life changes she is experiencing!

Applications Now Open for 2018 FFN Grants and Scholarships

Each year, Finlandia Foundation National supports projects and programs, and awards funds to assist undergraduate, graduate and law students. FFN is now accepting applications for its 2018 grants and scholarships.

The FFN spring newsletters (available at FinlandiaFoundation.org) carry brief descriptions of each year's grant projects and background information on scholarship recipients.

Application deadlines are January 17, 2018 for grants and February 1, 2018 for scholarships. Find complete information at the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org

GRANTS

Richard Ahola

FFN Trustee and Committee Chair

FFN awards grants for non-profit cultural projects of local or national significance. In 2017 FFN distributed \$101,000 to a variety of projects. In developing a proposal consider the following:

- Projects should benefit the general public, not only the sponsor or sponsoring organization.
- Grants should show evidence or testimony of high cultural, educational, artistic or scientific merit.
- Grants are limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per award.
- Special consideration is given to projects endorsed or sponsored by an FFN chapter.
- Salaries to project staff or employees are not allowable.

Deadline: January 17, 2018

With his grant from FFN, Peter "Pekka" Olson of Michigan traveled to Finland to learn traditional woodcarving techniques. He demonstrated his skills at FinnFest USA 2017 in Minneapolis.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Hanna Wagner

FFN Trustee and Committee Chair

Finlandia Foundation has a long tradition of awarding scholarships. The first recipients, in the 1950s, were students at Sibelius Academy and The Juilliard School.

Today, students in all areas of academic study in the U.S. and Finland are eligible. In addition, FFN administers a scholarship for law students in both countries.

- Scholarships are awarded to full-time undergraduate (sophomore or higher level) and graduate students enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution in the U.S. or Finland.
- A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.
- Applicants of Finnish-American heritage will be given primary consideration.
- Financial need and course of study are considered.
- U.S. or Finnish citizenship is required.
- The P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Scholarship is available to qualified American law students studying in Finland, and Finnish law students in the U.S.

Deadline: February 1, 2018

FFN Fun Fact: Renowned Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara (October 9, 1928-July 28, 2016) was the first student to receive a Finlandia Foundation scholarship, which was at that time named for FFN Patron Jean Sibelius.

Scholarship recipient Maria Kelly is a graduate student at Columbia University in the Modern Art: Critical & Curatorial Studies master's program.



You can assist a student with a scholarship by making a tax-deductible gift to FFN at FinlandiaFoundation.org or by mail to PO Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

Questions? Contact FFN Assistant to the Board of Trustees Maria Kizirian at office@finlandiafoundation.org or 626.795.2081.

Kiltinens Receive Award of Excellence

Finlandia Foundation National USA seized the occasion of FinnFest USA to present its Award of Excellence to John and Pauline Kiltinen, in recognition of their long tradition of involvement in and support of programs, events and projects that encourage appreciation of Finland and Finnish America.

This is just the second time that FFN has made the presentation. The Award of Excellence was first given in 2015 during the Sibelius 150 Jubilee Year to the Seattle Symphony in recognition of its Sibelius program "Luminous Landscapes."

The Kiltinens, of Marquette, Michigan, have been active with numerous organizations including the Finnish Council in America at Finlandia University, Finnish Theme Committee in Hancock, Upper Peninsula Chapter of the League of Finnish-American Societies, FinnFest USA, and Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

The award certificate cites: "Their love of music is reflected in their

The Award of Excellence is an littala Alvar Aalto vase set in a wooden base handcrafted by woodworker Garry Smith of Engadine, Michigan. FFN Trustees Hanna Wagner and Ossi Rahkonen with the Kiltinens.



sponsorship of multiple concerts and productions, notably *Rockland the Opera* in 2011 and *Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra Op. 36* in 2017, and support of Finlandia Foundation's Soiva International Music Camp.

"Finlandia Foundation joins in acknowledging their many contributions, recognized by the President of Finland with John's designation as Knight, First Class, Order of the Lion of Finland and Pauline's receipt of the Cross of Merit of the White Rose of Finland.

Most appropriately in this year of Finland 100, we extend congratulations and thanks to John and Pauline Kiltinen, yhdessä---together---recipients of the Finlandia Foundation National Award of Excellence 2017."

At FinnFest in Minneapolis, FFN board members and spouses await the start of the Economic Club of Minnesota luncheon, which featured remarks by Finland President Sauli Niinistö. Seated from left: Karin and Ossi Rahkonen, Susan and Paul Halme, Hanna and David Wagner; standing: Betsy Norgard, Anita Smiley, and Pirjo and Dirk Schulbach.



Fall Board Meeting Coincides with FinnFest

Finlandia Foundation National trustees conducted their fall board meeting September 21-22 in Minneapolis. The meeting dovetailed with the start of FinnFest USA 2017 and the all-Finnish concert by the Minnesota Orchestra, which is one of six FFN Finland 100 Signature Events.

It also provided the opportunity to present the Finlandia Foundation Award of Excellence to John and Pauline Kiltinen.

The board reviewed committee reports on FFN activities for the year-to-date 2017, which continues to be a very busy period due to chapter centennial events, many supported with FFN Finland 100 funds. In addition, the trustees evaluated Finlandia Foundation's centennial Signature Events, the core FFN programs, potential new chapters, fundraising, budget, and plans for the year ahead.



Martti Paloheimo (second from left) joined the FFN board of trustees at its fall board meeting. Martti is a member of the Paloheimo Foundation Board and the Paloheimo Family Trust in Finland, known as The Paloheimo Saatio. He lives in Loppi and works in Riihimäki, Finland. During a break he chats with FFN Trustees (from left) Tim Nurvala, Anne-Mari Paster and Teuvo Pulkkinen.

Special Recognition for Paloheimo Foundation

By **Tim Nurvala**
FFN Trustee

As an expression of gratitude for their long-standing support, the Finlandia Foundation presented trustees of the Paloheimo Foundation with a special recognition award during this 100th anniversary year of Finnish Independence. The award was approved by the Finlandia Foundation Board of Directors at its spring meeting in Chicago.

As a token of appreciation for their ongoing support, each trustee received a glass bird designed by Oiva Toikka, set on a handcrafted stand. FFN President Ossi Rahkonen made the presentation at the Women's International Study Center's forum on September 18 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The WISC program was a Finlandia Foundation Finland 100 Signature Event, featuring former Finnish President Tarja Halonen and Halla Tómasdóttir, the runner-up in the 2016 Icelandic presidential elections. WISC is based at Acequia Madre House in Santa Fe, which was home to Yrjö and Leonora Paloheimo, founders of the Paloheimo Foundation and Finlandia Foundation.

It is hard to match the Paloheimo Foundation's institutional support of Finnish culture in the U.S., which totals approximately \$7.1 million. Of that, \$2.9 million has been given to Finlandia Foundation since it was established in 2005 following Leonora Paloheimo's death. From the earliest days of Finlandia Foundation, the Paloheimos' support has been an integral part of our efforts, and their lasting legacy continues to this day.

Finlandia Foundation has received \$150,000 per year from the Paloheimo Foundation to help fund its ongoing operations. Additionally, the Paloheimo Foundation matches all gifts made to Finlandia Foundation, up to \$100,000 per year. This generosity has enabled Finlandia Foundation donors' gifts to go twice as far and, since our operating costs have been covered, all donor gifts can be applied directly to our important programs.

Finlandia Foundation is extremely grateful for the Paloheimo Foundation's steadfast support, which has enabled Finnish culture to thrive in the United States.

FFN Influence Galore at FinnFest USA 2017

Always a highly-anticipated event in the Finnish-American community, FinnFest USA was even more special during this year of the centennial of Finland's Declaration of Independence. FinnFest attendees were able to meet Finland President Sauli Niinistö and First Lady Jenni Haukio, who were active participants in many activities throughout the September 22-24 weekend in Minneapolis.

Around every corner at FinnFest there was evidence of the impact of Finlandia Foundation National programs and support, from the participation of grant and scholarship recipients, to program presenters and attendance by chapter members.

At a press conference, FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo had an opportunity to briefly introduce Finlandia Foundation to President Niinistö, explaining that it is the largest network of Finnish-Americans in the U.S. and will be celebrating its 65th anniversary in 2018.

President Niinistö commented, "In Finland we highly respect American Finnish people and notice this feeling is mutual. We are very proud that Finnish-Americans want to have a connection to Finland, if even more than sometimes we do in Finland."

Here is a sampling of the FFN involvement and connections at FinnFest. (All photos by Kath Usitalo.)

FinnFest Heads to Finland

K. Marianne Wargelin
FinnFest USA President

Finland celebrates its Centennial this year, and next year will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Finnish Civil War. FinnFest 2018 will be held in Finland beginning right after Juhannus on June 24. Tampere will be our destination, with day trips planned from there for a full week of excellent programming.

Pricing, still to be determined, will include program and lodging. Planning has just begun.

GO FinnFest!



1. Finland President Niinistö comments, "We are very proud that Finnish-Americans want to have a connection to Finland, if even more than sometimes we do in Finland."

2. Ameriikan Pojat performed at the Tori and the Convocation at Orchestra Hall. The brass ensemble received a 2017 FFN grant to facilitate its Finland 100 travels.

3.-8. At a FinnFest reception during which FFN President Ossi Rahkonen presented the Finlandia Foundation Award of Excellence to John and Pauline Kiltinen, guests had a chance to meet and mingle informally with invited dignitaries. (All photo identifications are from left to right.)

3. Susan Halme, President Niinistö, FFN Vice President Paul Halme, FFN Trustee Päivi Tetri

4. First Lady Jenni Haukio, President Niinistö, Paloheimo Foundation's Martti Paloheimo, FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner

5. Ossi Rahkonen, Eric Saarinen (whose documentary about his father Eero Saarinen received a grant from FFN) and FinnFest President Marianne Wargelin

6. First Lady Jenni Haukio, President Niinistö, FFN Trustee Teuvo Pulkkinen, Ossi Rahkonen, Trustee Anne-Mari Paster

7. Greg Isola, a 2017 FFN grant recipient, Abram Isola and Finland's Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsti Kauppi

8. FinnFest USA Directors Dan Truckey and Yvonne Lockwood; Yvonne was FFN 2013 Lecturer of the Year

9. In the Orchestra Hall Atrium, fiddler Carl Rahkonen (right) was one of many musicians who lent their talent to FinnFest in formal and informal settings. He is an ethnomusicologist, and as the FFN 2010 Lecturer of the Year shared his knowledge of folk music traditions with chapters across the U.S.

10. Visitors to the Tori learned about Finlandia Foundation and picked up brochures and newsletters at the FFN booth staffed by Maria Kizirian.

11. FinnFest-goers included Mia Lamminen, chairman of the Finnish Center Association in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and Olli Lamminen, who serves on the board of the FFN chapter.

12. FFN Trustee and Past President Anita Smiley participated in the panel "Americans Looking at Finland's 100 Years" with Gary London, Everett Community College professor emeritus, and Hilary Virtanen of Finlandia University.

13. Pauline Kiltinen, who with her husband John received the FFN 2017 Award of Excellence, invites the FinnFest Convocation audience to sign the Suomi 100 Centennial Greetings card to be sent to Finland.

14. Elaine Moe of Massachusetts displays her handcrafted birch bark basketry at the Tori. She applied her FFN grant to learning and keeping alive the authentic Finnish artistry.

15. Arlene Putikka Tucker and Anne Fitzpatrick, members of the Northland Chapter of Finlandia Foundation in Duluth, enjoy an evening at Orchestra Hall for the Minnesota Orchestra concert. Anne is a 2017 FFN grant recipient.

16. Lauren Tuomainen, a FinnFest volunteer, is a FFN scholarship recipient from the University of Eastern Finland. She is currently in the Fulbright foreign language program at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

FFN GROWS; CHAPTERS BUSY WITH VARIETY OF FINLAND 100 ACTIVITIES

With the addition of four new members, Finlandia Foundation National now consists of 57 organizations in 26 states and Washington, D.C. In this newsletter we introduce Finlandia Foundation of Montana and the Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans. The spring issue will feature the Kaleva Building Corporation of Virginia, Minnesota and the New Sweden Alliance, our affiliated member based in Delaware.



The FFM board welcomes Finnish and Scandinavian exchange students: Making friends with newcomers and embracing cultural diversity in Missoula, with discussion about the success of the Nordic countries in higher education, and Finland as an educational superpower.

By Jenni Rohrbach

President

Jenna McVey

Director of Information and Cultural Affairs

The Finlandia Foundation of Montana (FFM) is an advocate for global diversity and is dedicated to the preservation of Finnish-American and Scandinavian-American cultural heritage in Montana and the Rocky Mountain region. FFM was formed in the spring of 2017 when the two founding members, Jenni Rohrbach and Jenna McVey, connected through the Finland 100 Traveling Sauna. We saw a need to promote Finnish culture in our small but vivid community of Missoula, but realized there's more potential in partnership and thus invited other Missoula Nordics to join us and maximize our efforts together. Today the FFM board of directors consists of Finns, Danes and Americans. Together, the theme of Finland's centenary celebration, also suits us quite well.

The Nordic countries and their like-minded philosophies have inspired us to think the same way when it comes to community and collaboration. Although FFM is a very new organization, we have had an active presence and have already accomplished quite a lot through our community

outreach and events. We seek to introduce Finnish and Scandinavian culture and ideas to the wider public, especially in regards to education and innovation. We hope to enrich our community by promoting multiculturalism, diversity, acceptance and equality on the local level, something we firmly see as core Nordic values.

We've been working hard to get Finnish maternity packages to Missoula and hopefully throughout Montana. We also connect with families and youth through our music outreach program and our international exchange student program in partnership with the Council for Educational Travel USA, Missoula County Public Schools, and the University of Montana. We have participated in an international fair at the university and hosted the Traveling Sauna, a Nordic fiddle concert, May Day celebration, Finnish movie night and a get-together for Missoula's Nordic exchange students.

The highlight of the FFM year will be a community dinner event in November celebrating the Finnish Centennial. We are honored to be part of Finlandia Foundation National and look forward to what the future will hold. For more information on FFM, please visit finlandiafoundationmontana.org or find us on Facebook under Montana Nordic Group.

Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans

By Roy Palo

President

The Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans was formed in April of 1976. Our members are primarily from the Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey areas, but we also have members as far away as North Carolina and Georgia. We have approximately 40 members of various ages as our membership is by household, not person. Many current members are the children and grandchildren of the original members. Current officers are: Roy Palo, president; Arnold Sten, vice president; Barbara Palo, secretary; Paul Markkula, treasurer.

We try to keep the Finnish heritage alive through community fellowship and celebrations. Finnish heritage is not a requirement. Activities include coordination of the festivities on the second Sunday each June at the Finnish Settlers Monument in Chester, PA; Pikkujoulu in December, where feasting occurs and Christmas songs are sung after a visit from Joulupukki; and participation in Finnish activities in the region or other parts of the U.S. We also partake in other Scandinavian festivals and are a member of the New Sweden Alliance.



The Delaware Valley is unique to Finnish-American history because the first permanent settlement was here in Wilmington, Delaware, when Finns arrived on the *Kalmar Nyckel* with the Swedes in 1638. Finnish arrivals moved throughout the Delaware River area, settling in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania and Maryland. The Finnish Settlers Monument (left) was sculpted by Waino Aaltonen in Finland. It was dedicated to the settling Finns in 1938, commemorating the 300th

anniversary of the landing and settlement. Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans have hosted the annual event since.

Even though our club was officially organized in 1976, members have met unofficially since the 1930's for dancing and fellowship. One of our biggest events was hosting FinnFest USA at the University of Delaware in Newark in July of 1988, as part of the 350th anniversary celebration of the landing of Finns and Swedes. Our club meets three times a year at the Pencader Heritage Museum in Newark.

Contact us at dvfa@live.com or our president, Roy Palo, at palonpaa@aol.com for additional information and/or membership.

Columbia-Pacific Chapter

Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter hosted a tasty event on May 9 as part of its year-long schedule of Finland 100 events, reports Pirjo Schulbach. Chef Leena Pölkki led the "True Flavors of Finland" class at Nordia House in Portland, where eager cooks learned to make traditional

foods including the popular blueberry dessert *mustikkapiirakka*. At the hands-on session they also made two versions of *karjalanpiirakka*, the thin rye dough with a choice of standard rice filling and a combination of carrot, potato and rutabaga.



Chef Leena Pölkki shares her secrets for delicious Finnish foods, including *karjalanpiirakka*. Photos by Anna-Maija Nibbelink



West Coast Tour

Viipuri Lauluveikot, The Singing Fellows of Viipuri, toured the West Coast from August 27-September 7 as part of the Finland 100 celebration, with an assist from a FFN grant to the FF Suomi Chapter. The 120-year-old men's chorus performed in Bellingham/Ferndale and Seattle, San Francisco/Berkeley, and Los Angeles.

Finns Connect South Florida

By **Kati Makinen**
President

Finns Connect South Florida hosted a Vappu picnic in celebration of Finland 100. The turnout was amazing, with around 100 Finns celebrating with us. We were extremely pleased to see so many people, and especially that many kids. We arranged some fun activities and a DJ who played Finnish music. People brought their own picnic baskets and we sold *munkki* (Finnish doughnuts) and hot dogs. It seems that everyone enjoyed the day and met plenty of new Finnish friends.



A ton of family fun at the Finland 100 Vappu picnic in South Florida.

Finns and Friends Phoenix



Celebrating Finland 100 in Phoenix (left to right) Wolfgang Klien, Honorary Consul of Austria; Joy Dorvinen; Gary Waissi, Honorary Consul of Finland to Arizona and New Mexico; Barbara Barrett, former U.S. Ambassador to Finland; Paul Zygas, Honorary Consul of Lithuania; Finlandia University President Philip Johnson; and James Kurtti, Honorary Consul of Finland to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Jim is also director of Finlandia University's Finnish American Heritage Center and editor of the *Finnish American Reporter*. Photo courtesy of Gary Waissi.

By **Joy Dorvinen**
President

Finlandia University President Philip Johnson, Finns and Friends of Phoenix, and Gary Waissi, the Honorary Consul of Finland to Arizona and New Mexico, hosted a Finland 100 gala on March 25 at the Acacia Restaurant at the Camelback Golf Club.

Bill Jackson, long-time friend and supporter of

Finlandia University, sponsored this Finland 100 edition of the annual President's Reception. The program included remarks by special guests, a brief presentation from Finlandia University, and music by the Olli Hirvonen Quartet from New York City.

"It was such a stunning event and we had an exceptional turn out," says Finns and Friends President Joy Dorvinen.



Organist Kent Washburn accompanies a 1929 silent film with his original musical score. Photo by Jason Koski.

Finger Lakes Finns

By **Richard Koski**

On March 10 the Finger Lakes Finns presented a program in Ithaca, New York featuring organist Kent Washburn. Kent gave a wonderful performance on the organ as accompaniment to the 1929 Finnish silent movie *Mustalaishurmaaja* (*The Gypsy Charmer*). Kent created the original soundtrack from Finnish folk songs and classical selections.

The program was enjoyed by both the local Finns and the wider area community, plus we had a nice social hour with coffee and refreshments afterward.

Finland 100 Concert at Seattle's Benaroya Hall

By **Satu Mikkola**

The all-Finnish music "Finland 100" concert at Seattle's Benaroya Hall November 4 was a wonderful tribute to our beloved Finland by Philharmonia Northwest, conducted by the talented Juli Tai.

Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation National and Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter, it is a FFN Finland 100 Signature Event.



Photo by Esko Männistö

Accompanying the orchestra were members of local Nordic and Baltic choirs and the Finnish Choral Society of Seattle. What a joy to sing in the choir directed by our own lovely soprano Maria Männistö, whose solo *Leinolaulut* by Kaija Saariaho was breathtakingly beautiful. The patriotic music of *Karelia Suite*, *Finlandia* and *Oma maa* by Jean Sibelius was deeply touching.

Atlanta Finland Society

Minna LeVine greets New York Consul General of Finland Manu Virtamo and his spouse Liisa during the October visit to Atlanta by SISU the Traveling Sauna.

FAHS Connecticut

Hannu Makipuro and special guest artists perform "Love Songs in Spring" April 29-30, a Finland 100 event of the Finnish American Heritage Society in Canterbury, Connecticut.



Red River Finns



Olivia Jenkins and Lily Pelowski help at the Red River Finns table.

By Ellen Liddle

The annual Midwest Viking and Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festivals were held in Moorhead, Minnesota June 23-24. This year Norway was the featured country, and the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence was recognized with special programs.

Pirjo Polari-Khan, Finlandia Foundation National Performer of the Year, wove themes of values, including what freedom means to us, in her storytelling. Craig Randal Johnson, a past FFN Performer of the Year, related Finnish history to musical compositions that he performed to an appreciative audience.

Singing Finnish songs were staff members from Salolampi, Concordia College's Finnish Language Village: Vera Raineve, Sofia Laskorski, Elizabeth Brauer and Michaela Ijäs with daughter Esmeraida. Soiva International Music Camp commemorated Finland 100 with concerts at the festival.

The Red River Finns' cultural booth was decorated with a Happy Birthday Finland banner, balloons and Marimekko tablecloths. Children were given Finland 100 coloring pages, and taught to say Finnish words.

The cool, damp weekend may have boosted attendance as over 3,000 people from many states attended the festival. By the end of the second day, nearly all of the Scandinavian delicacies were sold out.

Additional Finland 100 celebrations in Moorhead include Pangea, the multi-cultural festival on November 18 and the Pikkujoulu dessert reception on December 10 featuring Dr. Verlyn Anderson, retired director of libraries at Concordia College, on the independence of Finland.

FFCPC Presents Gift to Ministry of Defence

Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC) of Portland, Oregon, presented a painting to the Finnish Ministry of Defence---and thus to people of Finland---in celebration of Finland 100 and in honor of all Finnish veterans.

The work of art describes the event when Finnish Air Force pilot Jorma Sarvanto destroyed six Soviet bombers in four minutes during Finland's Winter War. Eila Sarvanto Chisolm, daughter of the ace fighter, lives in Portland and so the accomplishment



Jukka Juusti comments on the gift of the painting presented by FFCPC member and FFN Trustee Katariina Lehtonen.

is known in that area. Dave Alford, a member of FFCPC, spearheaded the effort to have the painting made by Jerry Ghiglieri; she is the official volunteer painter of the Oregon National Guard. FFCPC received a Finlandia Foundation grant to help with the project.

On behalf of FFCPC, Katariina Lehtonen made the presentation in Helsinki to Permanent Secretary Jukka Juusti of the Ministry of Defence of Finland. In attendance were FFN President Ossi Rahkonen and Trustee Hanna Wagner, as well as Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter President Kaarina Langeland. Salme Vieira, the daughter of a war time airplane gunner, as well as additional representatives of the Ministry of Defence were present.

The painting is now hanging in the room where General Carl Gustav Emil Mannerheim prepared his strategy during the war.

Expatriate Parliament Celebrates 20 Years



Joint singing by the FEP assembly delegates on the steps of Cathedral of Helsinki at Senate Square. Photo by Roman Tikka.

By Hanna Wagner

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP) held its 20th anniversary session in Helsinki June 16-17, with Finlandia Foundation chapters well represented. Of the 27 voting delegates from the United States, 14 were from various local chapters of Finlandia Foundation, and three delegates represented Finlandia Foundation National. In addition, half of the 14 observers from the U.S. were from Finlandia Foundation chapters.

FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner was elected FEP Deputy Speaker for the U.S. and Latin America Region, and Trustee Teuvo Pulkkinen was named Alternate Deputy Speaker.

On September 28 and 29, the FEP speakers from all corners of the world met in Helsinki

to discuss the motions, both old and new, that were discussed in the plenary sessions. One of the most important issues has been to allow Finnish nationals overseas to vote by mail. Many of us have been unable to exercise our right as Finnish citizens to vote in our country's elections. Those who do not live near the Embassy or a consulate have been extremely disadvantaged. Voting by mail will let us rejoin our government.

At FEP (left to right) Managing Director of Suomi-Seura/Finland Society Tina Strandberg, Parliament Secretary Sini Castrén, Minister of Education Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Chairman of Finland Society and FEP Speaker Jarmo Virravirta.



On the eve of our meeting we received the good news that the Eduskunta had decided to send this motion to the Constitutional Law Committee. If all goes well, voting by mail will be possible in the parliamentary elections in 2019. This issue has been on the FEP agenda for the last 17 years!

To ensure a full representation of Finns in the United States, we encourage all local chapters to consider registering to send delegates to the next Finnish Expatriate Parliament. If your chapter decides to become a member of the FEP, please go to www.usp.fi.

WISC continued from page 1



Acequia Madre House in Santa Fe was the home of Eva Scott Fenyes and eventually Leonora and Yrjö Paloheimo, who founded Finlandia Foundation. It is now the home of WISC.

can be widely shared beyond the Nordic countries, which have a long history of democratic institutions and gender equality. They encouraged young women to participate in civic organizations and to run for political office. Their interventions were enthusiastically received. Judging by comments I heard from the audience during and after the program, it is the very type of event that WISC should continue to organize.

Tarja Halonen, a lawyer by training, served two terms as president of Finland, from 2000-2012. During her presidency she was co-chair of the United Nations Millennium Summit, the Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization and the U.N. panel on Global Sustainability, as well as chair of the Council of Women Leaders. Prior to her election, she served as Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Minister of Justice, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. She continues to work actively with the U.N. and several non-governmental organizations.

Halla Tómasdóttir's experience straddles the private and public sectors. She has been a business leader in corporate America with M&M and Pepsi Cola; the first female CEO of Iceland's Chamber of Commerce; and an entrepreneur with vision to incorporate women's values into finance. Most recently she was a presidential candidate in Iceland. She has lived and worked in the U.S., the U.K., and across

the Nordics. She has participated in dialogues about leadership and gender for companies and conferences around the world. *Newsweek* named her to a list of 150 women who "shake the world," and *The New Yorker* called her a "living Emoji of sincerity."

WISC, which was established in 2013, honors women's accomplishments, supports study and research through fellowships, and facilitates intergenerational, multicultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue via symposia, conversations, and other events. WISC is dedicated to inspiring and enabling women around the world to achieve full potential.

There is a connection between WISC, FFN and Paloheimo Foundation. WISC was founded on the legacy of Eva Scott Fenyes, her daughter Leonora Curtin, and granddaughter Leonora Curtin Paloheimo. Leonora was married to Yrjö (George) Paloheimo, who founded Finlandia Foundation.

WISC is building on the contributions of the Fenyes women and advancing their work in the arts, sciences, cultural preservation, business and philanthropy, through study and research. For more information about Women's International Study Center: wisc-amh.org.

Stay Up-to-Date

Please contact the FFN office with your change of address or to request future newsletters in PDF form via e-mail. Reach Maria Kizirian at office@finlandiafoundation.org or phone 626.795.2081.

Sign up for the free, monthly E-newsletter for FFN updates and information related to Finnish America, at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Our international Facebook community is growing! Join us for news items, information on events and links to interesting stories about FFN chapters, Finnish America and Finland. Friend FFN at: facebook.com/Finlandia.Foundation.National.

Deadlines for FFN programs in 2018:

January 17: Grant Applications

February 1: Scholarship Applications

February 15: Performer of the Year nominations

April 30: Early bird Soiva Camp registrations

May 1: Salolampi matching fund requests due

Hilkka Kinnunen Makes Gift to FFN

By Tim Nurvala
FFN Trustee

Finlandia Foundation is proud to have received an extraordinary contribution earlier this year from beloved Finnish performing artist Hilkka Kinnunen, who now lives in Finland and Florida. The generous \$10,000 gift from the Hilkka Kinnunen Trust is



being matched by the Paloheimo Foundation. This doubles its effect in funding Finlandia Foundation's series of cultural and musical events throughout the United States, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Finnish Independence. Born in the Finnish town of Viipuri, Hilkka started dance classes at the age of five and the violin at age six. When Finnish Karelia was taken over by the Soviet army during the Winter War in 1940, she relocated to Helsinki where, after the war at age 15, she began vocal classes. Hilkka was a popular child

radio actress, and appeared in the Finnish National Theatre production of *Sleeping Beauty*. She studied at Sibelius Academy and in 1945 graduated with an acting degree from the Finnish Theatre School.

Hilkka Kinnunen was an actress, singer and radio star in Finland throughout the 1950s and 1960s, giving concerts in Finland and around the world. She also toured Finnish-American communities from New York to the West Coast. In 1959 she founded the musical theatre Operettiteatteri in Helsinki. In 1971 she helped found the Finnish Operatic Society, which staged a range of musical theatre works; she successfully managed it until her retirement in 1996.

Ms. Kinnunen demonstrated considerable management and financial talent besides those of an actor and singer. In 2009, she set up the Koskenmaa Manor Cultural Centre at her summer residence in Hyvinkää. It is maintained by the Hilkka Kinnunen Foundation, which hosts concerts, art exhibitions, workshops and other performances at the manor house and also in Helsinki.

In 2010, the Central Association of Finnish Theatre Organizations awarded her the Gold Medal of Honor, the highest decoration of the Finnish theatre. Later that year she was given the honorary title Counsellor of Theatre, by President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen.

Sauna photo courtesy Michelle DesJardins

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



RAUHALLISTA JOULUA JA ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA!

KIITOS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

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Jonathan Robbins
In Memory of
Esther Ingrid Maki
Gary Widell

Remember Loved Ones with a Centennial Gift

The names of Finlandia Foundation members and friends listed below are followed by those they have remembered with a Centennial Honor Gift.

These Finland 100 tributes are also recorded at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

GIFT OF \$500 AND ABOVE

Paul & Susan Halme
Omar & Saima Halme
Loretta (Posio) Lindell &
Carolyn (Posio) Wills
Posio/Ranta Families
Pertti Lindfors
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David & Jeannette Sharpe
Ruth Viola Hyry Sharpe
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Hakkila

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Anna Leena Christensen
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Ellen & Reino Lahti &
Isaac & Anna Usitalo
Marlissa Westerfield
Finnish Grandparents
& Father

GIFT OF \$100

Roger & Karen Ashenfelter
Juho K. Sievila
Jeffrey & Louise Clarke
Helmi Tarkiainen Lehto
David Erkkila
Reino J. Erkkila
Kristie Hanson
Gertrude Ethel Maki
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Ruth Kotila
Allan Lepp
Gertrude Lepp
Marjaliisa Rajala
Jack Rajala
Betty Ridan
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Albert Riippi
N. Jean Riippi
Susan & Ray Sutherland
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Ruthann Swanson
Jack W. & Hilma S
(Riippi) Rintala
Ruth Ann Swanson
Matti (Hautala) Hill &
Aino Elizabeth (Rako) Hill
Eva Wahlroos
Sven Wahlroos

Jarl Lindfors left Finland at age 17 to work on sailing vessels, and came to the United States in 1907. He settled in San Francisco and became Honorary Consul of Finland. In Michigan's Upper Peninsula, after her father was killed in a mine accident, Ruth Viola Hyry attended Suomi College and then moved to Detroit to find work. In the early 20th century, it wasn't uncommon for immigrant family members to travel between Finland and the U.S. as they sought new or better circumstances.



Pertti Lindfors recognizes his father Jarl Lindfors (above) with a Centennial Honor Gift. Read his and other stories at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

These and other stories are a part of the Finlandia Foundation Family Tree shared by FFN members in honor of their ancestors. This year of Finland 100 presents a special opportunity to recognize your family history and loved ones with a Centennial Honor Gift to Finlandia Foundation National.

With a donation of \$100, \$250 or \$500 you may enroll your honoree(s) on the Finlandia Foundation Family Tree, or pay tribute with a short story and photo(s) at the FFN website. All gifts to FFN, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible and will be matched by the Paloheimo Foundation (up to an annual total of \$100,000).

For details and to read the stories of Jarl Lindfors, Ruth Hyry and others, go to the Centennial Honor Gifts page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Suomi
Finland
100

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

Find more information about the chapters at FinlandiaFoundation.org

ALASKA

Anchorage Suomi Finland Club/2015
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ARIZONA

The F-A Club of Tucson/2007
Tommi Koskinen
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Finns and Friends of Phoenix/2010

Joy Dorvinen
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Finlandia Club of Sacramento /2006

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FF Berkeley Chapter/2016

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FF Los Angeles Chapter/1974

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FF San Francisco Bay Area Chapter/1956

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The House of Finland-San Diego/2015

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FinnsConnect South Florida /2017

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