

By Ossi Rahkonen | FFN President

The Monola Society of Finland recognized Finlandia Foundation National with its 2018 Monola Award for the organization's promotion of Finland, the music of Jean Sibelius and Kalevala in the United States. I was honored to accept the award on behalf of FFN at an elegant event on July 7 at the Lieksa Cultural Center. FFN Trustees Hanna Wagner and Teuvo Pulkkinen also participated in the gala evening. The presentation was the culmination of the week-long Monola Festival in Lieksa and Nurmes, in the North Karelian province of Finland.

continued on page 8





Word from the President *Hyvät Ystävät:*

FFN has been celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. Since our 60th in 2013, there have been two major international celebrations: in 2015, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius, who was the first patron of Finlandia Foundation; and Finland 100, the centennial of the country's independence in 2017. We have experienced many new affiliates joining us during the past few years, and are now an organization with 58 chapters. We are busy interacting with our chapters, offering two Lecturers of the Year and a Performer of the Year.

The FFN Board of Trustees decided at its springtime meeting in Dallas that a priority will be to re-examine our priorities and strive to engage the next generations. We will need to have programs that interest the younger people, who are the future of our organizations. We have established a committee to examine what is needed and what action should be taken to reach that goal.

We want to continue to grow and strengthen our role as the premier Finnish-American cultural organization in the United States.

The first step was to admit the Suomi-koulu, the Finnish Language School of North Texas as the 58th chapter of FFN. We will work with other, similar groups to join us.

Besides welcoming new, younger organizations to join us, we will focus on programs of interest to a broader segment of the U.S. population, and not only Finnish-Americans. Music is such an area, with a natural strength and interest in Finland. The existing Soiva Music program is an example, but we will develop others, combined with our Performer of the Year program.

All of this requires financial resources, and we will give increased emphasis to our fundraising efforts. We are prepared to discuss in detail how to engage those who are ready to support us in a more significant way.

On behalf of FFN, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the year to come. *Hauskaa Joulua ja Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!*

Ossi Rahkonen

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Additionally, FFN
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Scenes from Soiva



By **Dennis Anderson**
FFN Trustee and Soiva Camp Director

Soiva International Music Camp students gathered from June 15-24 at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, for the tenth time since the camp was founded. We were honored to have 15 students from Finland and 18 students from the U.S. participate, along with 11 instructors.

All of the students were attentive and worked hard on lessons, rehearsals and performances. Their efforts culminated in performances at the Scandinavian Festival on June 22-23, which is an annual event at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

The student talent, both in musicianship and composition, was superb. During the camp, six students wrote compositions--several of which were performed at the final recital. That program was live streamed over the internet, and has been archived online; it's available for your viewing pleasure by clicking the link on the Soiva web page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Jay Hershberger, one of the Soiva teachers, observes, "The 10 piano students in 2018 were the most advanced group of students I have taught since I joined the Soiva faculty."

Two of the piano students, sisters Emilia and Eliza Folkert, played at Carnegie Hall in September. Another piano student, Alexandra Sadik-Ogli, has made several recordings that you may wish to search for and view on YouTube.

Soiva Returns to Finland in 2019

Soiva International Music Camp is planning to return to the Sibelius Academy at Kallio-Kuninkala in Finland, June 8-24, 2019. (Find information about the location at kuninkala.fi.)

The tuition will remain at \$700 for Soiva Camp, and some scholarships will be available. Students will be responsible for a portion of their airfare and a post-Soiva Camp trip to Turku, where they will stay at a hostel. More details will be forthcoming. Email questions to soiva2019@yahoo.com, or call Camp Director Dennis Anderson at 218.251.0164.

A video from our 2016 Soiva Camp at Kallio-Kuninkala in Finland can be found on the Soiva page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

By **Tim Nurvala**
FFN Trustee

As a teenager, “I thought I might want to be the U.S. Ambassador to Finland one day,” recalls Maria Laine, because she thought it would be a fun job. At a critical time, a Finlandia Foundation scholarship helped her fund her education. Now, as Vice President of International Strategic Partnerships at Boeing, she is part of the Defense Global Sales & Marketing leadership team, and manages a \$20 billion portfolio of business in more than 20 countries.

Born in Finland, her family’s moves to Sweden, Florida and San Diego in her childhood helped prepare her for even more international experiences as an adult. Maria Laine’s 25 years at Boeing have now taken her to 30 different addresses over a lifetime.

She graduated from the University of California-Santa Barbara in 1989 and went on to get her MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. The Thunderbird School had an exchange program with the Helsinki School of Economics. It was then that she received a Finlandia Foundation scholarship, which helped her fund her education and living expenses abroad.

After college, through her skills and a little bit of luck, she landed her dream job. The U.S. government and Finland were negotiating the sale of F-18 Hornet fighter jets, and McDonnell Douglas was looking for a project manager. They needed someone with a business background and an MBA, and who was fluent in Finnish. Maria’s timing was perfect; she was hired immediately.

Sisu Success Story: Maria Laine



Maria Laine’s Advice to FFN Scholarship Recipients

- 1. Mentors are important:** Best to find them early in your career, but it is never too late.
- 2. Make an Effort to Connect with People:** They’ll appreciate your getting to know them, and not just their corporate role.
- 3. Stay in Touch:** And don’t burn any bridges along the way.
- 4. Get Pushed Out of Your Comfort Zone:** Make a plan, but be willing to take new opportunities as they arise.

She is also grateful for a fabulously supportive husband, whom she met in graduate school in Helsinki, and her teenage daughters and parents. “I couldn’t have done it without them,” she says. “Every time I doubted myself, they always told me I could do it.”

After 25 years at Boeing, she still loves her job. And with all her success, she may still have time to achieve her teenage dream of becoming the U.S. Ambassador to Finland. In her world, everything is possible.

McDonnell Douglas was later acquired by Boeing, and her promotions took her to oversee not only Finland, but Switzerland and the Nordic Countries, and then also Europe for the Global Services Division. She then made the jump to cover Boeing’s Asian defense partnerships, until the call from Boeing corporate came, asking her to leave the defense side of the business to represent Boeing at the enterprise level as Vice President of Boeing Northern Europe, based in Amsterdam.

In this capacity she served as the Boeing “ambassador” to Northern Europe, including all of the Nordic and Benelux countries. With the next call she returned to Boeing Defense to run the organization where her career began, where she leads the global portfolio of all Boeing’s defense industrial collaboration programs.

Maria considers her Finnish heritage to be an asset. “Sisu is the key ingredient to success,” she says. “Finns are resilient and they don’t let anything get them down. Finns also have a strong work ethic. They work long hours and persevere under pressure.”

Apply Now for Grants, Scholarships



Members of the Finnish folk music group Jepakryddona received a grant to assist with their 2018 U.S. tour, which included Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (above). Markus Hiukka (below, right), recipient of the Aune Koski scholarship awarded to an outstanding student from the Pacific Northwest, is working on a dual major in Aquatic Fisheries Sciences and Finnish at the University of Washington.

It’s time to prepare applications for Finlandia Foundation National grants as well as scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and law students, to be awarded in spring of 2019. Deadlines are January 17, 2019 for grants and February 1, 2019 for scholarships.

Find complete information on the application process and learn about the variety of projects and programs that have received grants, and profiles of past scholarship recipients, 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 2018 FFN distributed \$126,000 to 43 projects. In developing a grant 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.
- Email applications are due by January 17, 2019.

Scholarships Hanna Wagner FFN Trustee and Committee Chair

Finlandia Foundation first awarded scholarships in the 1950s to music students at Sibelius Academy and The Juilliard School. Today, FFN extends scholarships to students in all areas of academic study in the U.S. and Finland, and administers a scholarship fund for law students in both countries.

Full-time undergraduate (sophomore or higher level) and graduate students enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution are eligible.

- A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.
- Applicants of Finnish-American heritage are 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.

Postmark deadline is February 1, 2019.



“Thank you to the Finlandia Foundation! When you are young and working to make ends meet, the importance of scholarships cannot be overestimated.”

Maria Laine

FFN Board Meets in Massachusetts



The trustees of Finlandia Foundation National met October 26-27 in Massachusetts, near Fitchburg and the Finnish Center of Saima Park. Following two full days of committee and board sessions where they reviewed this year's programs, fundraising plans and the 2019 budget, the trustees were invited to a gathering at Saima Park to socialize with FFN members from the area.

The history of Saima dates to 1898, when Finnish immigrants formed a social group that has evolved into the current organization, which formally united three Finnish-American groups in 1998. The Saima compound, which includes a main hall and library/museum, is a busy place year-round, with regularly scheduled pannukakku breakfasts, Kesajuhla (Summer Festival), St. Urho's Day celebration and more.

Cross-country skiing the former farmland is a popular activity for members.

The Saturday evening program enjoyed by the FFN board included a buffet dinner and welcoming remarks by Saima Park President Linda Byrne. Finnish American Heritage Center Director James Kurtti, who is also the Honorary Finnish Consul in Hancock, Michigan, as well as editor of *The Finnish American Reporter*, happened to be in the area on business and briefly addressed the gathering about his organizations' activities.



FFN Lecturer of the Year Frank W. Eld delivered an abbreviated version of his program, "Finnish Log Construction--The Art."

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, FFN President Ossi Rahkonen thanked the many representatives of area chapters in attendance for the warm hospitality extended during the evening.

An Evening at Saima Park (from left)

Leaders of FFN chapters at the Saturday evening dinner at Saima Park (from left): Steven Trimble, Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod; Eeva Syvanen, The House of Finland in San Diego; Linda Byrne, Saima Park; Barry Heiniluoma, The Finnish Heritage Society-Sovittaja of Rutland, Massachusetts; Jacqueline Harjula, Finnish Heritage House of South Thomaston, Maine; Linda Lindell, Finlandia Foundation Boston; Rob Ranta, Cape Ann Finns of Massachusetts; and FFN President Ossi Rahkonen.

Elisa Lomme not only provided musical entertainment, the multi-talented artist displayed some of her paintings of Finnish countryside scenes.

Edith Eash (left) and FFN Trustee Anne-Marie Paster visit after dinner.

Jim Kurtti addresses the gathering.

Monola Award



Myller, member of the Finnish Parliament representing the province of North Karelia. She delivered a meaningful speech on the importance of *Kalevala*, Sibelius and Finnish culture in the region.

It was an impressive event. Besides the award ceremony it consisted of the music of Sibelius, Oskar Merikanto, Toivo Kuula and Einojuhani Rautavaara performed by the Lohja City Orchestra, and the world premiere of composer Pekka Jalkanen's *Meeting of Jean Sibelius and Pedri Shemeikka*. (Pedri Shemeikka was one of the famous *Kalevala* rune singers.) Performed by cellist Jussi Makkonen, pianist Nazig Azezian and rune singer Karoliina Kantelinen, the composition was enthusiastically received.

The evening ended with a Karelian banquet at the Bomba House in Nurmes, sponsored by the Monola Society and the City of Nurmes. This was a true Karelian feast, with limitless service and rune singing by Karoliina Kantelinen. Bomba House, a striking structure, is a replica of a family home of 1855 located in the Finnish municipality

continued from page 1

The Monola Society was established in 2015---the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius---to maintain and promote the heritage of Sibelius, the Finnish national epic *Kalevala* and Karelianism in the Lake Pielinen region of North Karelia. Its first project was to restore the granary of Monola farm (above), where Aino and Jean Sibelius stayed on their honeymoon in 1892. The building, located on Lake Pielinen at Lieksa, has now been restored and is open to the public for tours; a visit to the granary by boat and a concert at the site are part of the Monola Festival week activities.

The theme of this year's Monola Festival was *Kalevala*. Year 2018 marks the 190th anniversary of Elias Lönnrot's first trip, to Lieksa and Nurmes and further east, to collect the poetry and rune songs that he would compile into the epic work that inspired Finnish artists, including Sibelius, seeking a national identity. The composer traveled from Monola and Lake Pielinen deeper into Karelia, where he was able to listen to *Kalevala*-style rune singing that is reflected in his Karelia-inspired music.

The Monola Award, which consists of an elaborate certificate and a painting by Osmo Rauhala, one of the premier Finnish painters of today, was presented by Riitta



Attendees enjoy a Karelian Feast at Bomba House in Nurmes.

of Suojärvi, which was lost to the Soviet Union during World War II. Bomba House is surrounded by a replica Karelian village.

The visit to Lieksa and Nurmes was truly memorable, embellished by a visit to the Pielinen Museum, with its vast collection of buildings and implements demonstrating the way of country living prior to 1900 and the motorized age.

A Summer of Festivals and Concerts

By Ossi Rahkonen
FFN President

While my wife Karin and I spent the summer of 2018 in Finland, we attended several events on behalf of Finlandia Foundation, including a memorable concert at Koskenmaan Manor in Hyvinkää's Myllykylä, and a visit to Sweden for



two important music festivals: the Baltic Sea Festival in Stockholm and the Jussi Björling festival in Strömsbruk.

The annual Baltic Sea Festival, with composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen as one of the event founders, was held August 22-September 1, with the maestro conducting on August 30, 31 and September 1.

Esa-Pekka Salonen is the second patron of FFN (after Jean Sibelius). I was able to meet him briefly in Stockholm on Thursday night, following the performance of his *Piano Concerto*. He directed the Friday and Saturday night concerts, with Saturday night's concert dedicated in his honor---a great accolade for a Finn in Sweden---with his new *Cello Concerto* as the centerpiece of the evening.

The Jussi Björling Festival annually celebrates the work of the opera singer (1911-1960) known as the "Swedish Caruso." It took place September 1-2 in Strömsbruk, some 225 miles north of Stockholm on the Baltic Sea coast. Björling's grandmother was born across the sea in Pori, Finland. The program consisted of well-known songs by international artists as well as discussion panels focusing on Björling's career, and listening to recordings.

The tenor had an important connection with FFN patron Jean Sibelius, who considered Jussi as the best interpreter of his art songs. Jussi Björling was highly decorated in Finland, not only because of his musical talent, but also because of his strong support for the country during the difficult World War II years and Finland's battle against the Soviet Union.

Karin and I were also invited to attend an outdoor concert July 1 at Koskenmaan Manor Cultural Center. It is owned by Hilikka Kinnunen, founder of the Operetti Theater in Finland and a major FFN donor. The star performer was Walteri Torikka, who is perhaps the "hottest" male opera singer in Finland at the moment. *Naxos Music News* writes that the baritone "is quickly establishing himself as one of the most promising new talents in the next generation of opera singers from Finland." The graduate of Sibelius Academy, Royal Danish Opera Academy and Karlsruhe Music Academy in Germany has received several awards and performed with many opera companies and orchestras.

Walteri performed operatic and Finnish, German and Swedish art songs, and was very well received by the large audience. We enjoyed a glorious Finnish summer and the parklike setting, and especially the charming Hilikka Kinnunen, who at a dynamic 93 years, was very much involved with the event.

COVER PHOTO: Ossi Rahkonen accepts the 2018 Monola Society Award as (at left) pianist Nazig Azezian, Monola Society Chair Elli Oinonen-Edén, and cellist Jussi Makkonen observe. Above left: Granary photo courtesy of Sibelius One.

Trustees Represent FFN to World



FFN Trustee Peter Makila (right) with podcast host Roman Schatz and Lena Grenat.

Finlandia Foundation National trustees were busy representing FFN at events in Finland and Michigan this summer, contributing to a broader understanding of the organization and Finnish-America.

In addition to the Monola Gala and concerts described by FFN President Ossi Rahkonen (elsewhere in this newsletter), he and board members Teuvo Pulkkinen and Hanna Wagner attended FinnFest USA events in Tampere, Finland.

In August, Ossi met with Minister for Foreign Trade and Development A. M. Virolainen, and introduced FFN as an important Finnish-American contact. He also participated in the subsequent Team Finland Day, which projects Finland's capabilities abroad.

On August 15 at the Suomi-Seura (Finland Society) office in Helsinki, FFN board member Peter J. Makila spoke about Finnish-American culture in North America, where he's lived for 50 years. Peter and his wife Arja moved from Finland to Canada, and now live in Florida, where he serves as Finnish Honorary Consul.

He also participated in a podcast program hosted by author Roman Schatz with Lena Grenat, executive director of Suomi-Amerikka Yhdistysten Liitto (Finland-America Association known as SAM). Described as "the United States Friendship Association," it strives to inform Finnish people about American life.

Trustee Hilary-Joy Virtanen talked about Finlandia Foundation National at the ninth annual Finn Fun Day on August 25 in Negaunee, Michigan. The event, which features music, food, a tori and genealogy information, is hosted by the League of Finnish-American Societies - Upper Peninsula Chapter.

FinnFest in Finland

FinnFest USA 2018 was held in Tampere, Finland June 24-29 and, according to a summary of the event, it "created a new dimension for how we fulfill our mission to connect Americans with Finland and Finnish America."

The festival retained traditional FinnFest elements: speakers, including current and former members of the Finnish Parliament, the Director of General Communications for the Foreign Ministry and scholars of the Finnish Civil War, which is in its centennial year.

Cultural programming included multiple musical groups, and performances in English and Finnish by Theatre Fiasko, from Joensuu, Finland, of *The Reading Room*. The moving one-act play is about Finnish migrant men who are too old to work and spend their time in a public library reading room in Duluth, Minnesota.

Optional excursions included trips to the Mänttä Art Festival, the Gustav Museum and Serlachius Museum.

FinnFest USA 2019

Details are being worked out, but FinnFest USA 2019 will be held in the Detroit area, with activities at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills and elsewhere, and opportunities to visit local attractions such as the home of Eliel and Loja Saarinen at Cranbrook Educational Community (below).

Watch for information at finnfest.us.



FFN Welcomes North Texas Chapter

By **Leila Jaamuru**
President, Finnish Language School of North Texas

"Salmiakki, mummola, onkiminen, serkut..." are just a few of the things students list as their favorite memories from Finland during the class of Finnish Language School of North Texas.

The school was founded in 1991 when a group of Finnish mothers gathered in each other's homes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Over the years the local community of Finnish families with small children grew as the number of expatriate workers sent by Finnish companies increased, and later also fluctuated with the local economy. During the best years, school attendance peaked at around 120 registered students.

The school's mission is to teach the Finnish language and cultural habits through classes and events. In 1997 the school officially registered itself as a non-profit organization. All school activities, including teaching of classes, are performed by volunteers without pay. The school recruits high school students as teacher assistants, with the opportunity to accrue extra volunteer hours.

Together with the local Finnish American Business Guild we created a scholarship program for high school seniors. Thanks to its library of Finnish books and shop with Finnish sweet treats and food items, the school has become a meeting place for all Finns in the area. It is also a driving force in arranging events for the whole Finnish community in the DFW area.

The school has been a member of Suomi-Seura since 1996. Last year, among all the other Finnish Language Schools, ours was recognized as Vuoden Ulkosuomalainen. In addition, YLE broadcasted the school's Suomi 100 greetings in its "Uutiset selkokielellä" series. As a recent affiliate of FFN, we are looking forward to continuing to support Finnish culture in the U.S. and networking with FFN chapters.

With Christmas approaching, the children will be soon preparing their letters to Joulupukki asking him to visit them again! For many years the school president has been dressing herself as an elf and helping Santa visit the children, so that they can experience Finnish Christmas Eve traditions just like she did as a child.

Visit www.suomi-koulu.com for more information.

Finnish Language School of North Texas families headed outdoors and held classes at Sisu Camp 2018 at Lake Whitney, Texas.



Great Finnish Bread Bakeoff



A baker shows off his pulla entry. Photo by Laura Henrikson

By **Barry Heiniluoma**
Chair, Finnish Heritage Society-Sovittaja

In 2017 the Cheshire County Historical Society in southern New Hampshire and the Finnish Heritage Society-Sovittaja in central Massachusetts co-sponsored a Finnish coffee bread bakeoff in Keene, New Hampshire. The successful event, planned and coordinated by Jenna Carroll of the Historical Society and Martha Silander of Sovittaja, attracted eight contestants and over 100 attendees. On April 29 of this year the second bakeoff, in nearby Troy, New Hampshire, attracted 14 contestants and over 225 attendees. Plans are now in the works for the event in the spring of 2019 at some larger venue, as we have outgrown both the previous locations.

Contestants can bake whatever recipe they want (most use a family favorite) as long as it includes yeast and cardamom. Two awards are given each year: Best of Show, determined by a panel of three judges, and People's Choice. Interestingly enough, the first year both winners were men.

Admission fee in 2017 was \$5, and each attendee received a bottomless cup of coffee and six tickets to be exchanged for six pieces of coffee bread of their choosing. This year we charged \$7, for coffee and as many samples as the attendees chose. Scorecards were distributed at entry to the two-hour event, and people marked their choices, to be turned in a half-hour before closing to allow for tallying.

We had no idea what to expect either year, but are very happy with the results. It has been fun to partner with a non-Finnish group, and to give the Finnish community an opportunity to gather and share the culture with new friends. The Cheshire County Historical Society has sponsored other events with a generous grant from Finlandia Foundation.

Vegas Musicians Play Ashtabula

By **Elsa Shepard**
Chair, Finnish-American Heritage Association

Nevada residents Patricia Harrell and Kay Sanderson, who play violin with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and Henderson Symphony Orchestra, delighted a standing room only crowd on a warm July day at the Finnish-American Heritage Association in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Pat and her husband, Darrell, return to Ohio every summer from their home in Las Vegas to spend a few months at the cottage on the Lake Erie shore that belonged to her late mother, Annabelle Saarinen. Pat has played with several orchestras, and performed with many stars including Liberace, Frank Sinatra and Wayne Newton.

When Kay comes to visit her good friend Pat for a few weeks in the summer, the FAHA is pleased to invite them to perform for us. They played a program of Finnish folk tunes, and Linda Riddell joined in on her accordion for several tangos.



Violinists Kay Sanderson (left) and Pat Harrell perform with Linda Riddell on accordion.

To complete the program, the group did a wonderful selection of Finlandia, much to the pleasure of the whole audience.

FAHS Unveils Smiley Tribute

The Finnish American Heritage Society in Canterbury, Connecticut has dedicated a tribute to Jack Smiley, the late husband of FFN Trustee Anita Häkkinen Smiley, at its Finnish Hall Memorial Courtyard.

Master metalsmith Michael Saari of Woodstock, Connecticut, created the beautiful sculpture, which is designed as a compass and was funded by donations.

Jack was a charter member of FAHS, and lovingly served the organization in many capacities between the years of 1989 and his passing in 2015, including as president for seven years. He was involved in coordinating the addition to the Finnish Hall in the 1990s. The courtyard will be paved in personalized, engraved blocks; paver proceeds will fund improvements to the hall.

"We thought it was important to have one



Family and friends with artist Michael Saari (center, in cap) and Anita Smiley (third from right).

of his (Saari's) pieces at our hall," said Anita at the dedication ceremony in June. "I'm glad that we can now proudly display his work in the Memorial Courtyard in Jack's memory."

FFCPC Acquires Historic Cabin

By **Greg Jacob**
President, Finlandia Foundation
Columbia-Pacific Chapter

On April 19, 2018, ownership of the Lindgren Cabin, located on the Oregon Coast, passed into the hands of Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter. It will be the responsibility of FFCPC to maintain the site and open it to visitors on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The builder of the 40-foot by 24-foot cabin was Erik Lindgren, a Swedish Finn. He was born in 1861 near Tammela in southwest Finland, where he learned the trade of building log houses. At the age of 40 he emigrated from Finland to the U.S., and by 1907 he found land on Soapstone Creek in the Hamlet area of Clatsop County, in northwest Oregon. With the help of a neighbor, William Merilä, he finished construction of the ax-hewn home in the 1920's. Made of Oregon red cedar, the five-room cabin was put together with scarcely a nail. Erik fishtailed the corner planks, cut each outside wall plank at a cant to keep out the rain, erected 42-foot eave timbers gouged out for rain runoff, and used wooden dowels to hold together the long and wide wall planks. On the grounds were also a plank-walled sauna and a barn.

Erik's wife, Johanna Karolina, was born in 1857 in southwest Finland. Their son, Emil, was born in Turku. They also had a daughter, Anna, who was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts in 1902. Leaving his family in Fitchburg, Erik traveled to Astoria and worked in a sawmill in order to have a home ready for his family. People who knew Erik said he was much like a character out of the Kalevala. He was a forest singing bard with a full beard.

Through a series of events the family lost the cabin. It is remarkable that it survives today, and in good part thanks to Portland State University Professor Charles Gilman Davis, who discovered the well-preserved home in 1966.

For the rest of the story and additional photos, see the Finnish-American and Nordic Attractions page at the FFN website, FinlandiaFoundation.org.



Finnish Innovation in Montana



Maria Mikkonen listens as Sini Liu speaks at innovationUM. Photo by Olga Helmy

Founded in 2017, Missoula-based Finlandia Foundation Montana has taken an active and enthusiastic role in its community, building awareness of and sharing Finnish and Nordic culture and ideas through a variety of programs.

In April, FFM collaborated with the University of Montana on its annual conference on innovation. The three-day event featured presenters from Espoo, Finland, including Maria Mikkonen of Aalto University's Aalto Design Factory and Sini Liu, director of community at Startup Sauna.

At a working lunch hosted by FFM, chapter President Jenni Rohrbach briefly spoke about Finnish design and cuisine as she introduced the menu, which included Finnish rye bread with egg butter, cheeses, cured salmon, and meatballs with lingonberries. The involvement of FFM was supported by a Finlandia Foundation grant.

Treasures at Saima



Saima Park members Ron Joki (left) and Roy Helander volunteer their time at the combination library and museum on the grounds of the Finnish Center at Saima Park in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The collection includes books, wood carvings, traditional dress, textiles, art and artifacts donated by members of the community.

Pacific Picnic Fun

By Outi Mäkinieni

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter, and to officially kick off the summer of 2018 in the Pacific Northwest, in early June about 450 people came to enjoy a Finnish Summer Party at Vasa Park by Lake Sammamish. As it many times is in Seattle, the weather forecast promised rain and thunder, but fortunately the heavy clouds bypassed the park and allowed us to enjoy the day.

It felt like Finland on Midsummer. We had a small tent sauna heated up for swimmers and paddle boarders, a beer garden serving Finnish Lonkero and a caterer selling burgers and hot dogs from the grill. The audience was pampered with great Finnish

music varying from folk and dance tunes to awesome Nordic Jazz and the latest Finnish pop/rock songs by our own local bands, including Pärske (below).

Children were entertained by a balloon artist, face painters and many more activities by the local Finnish School. Not to forget all the Finnish goodies we had on sale at the kiosk, including Finnish chocolate, Muumi lollypops and other candies, ice cream, pulla and Karelian pies.

For the second year in a row, this event was a success, bringing together lots of new and old friends as well as Finland-based local organizations and businesses. Besides, it was a great opportunity for FFSC to make Finlandia Foundation better known in the local community.



Cape Ann Finns Have Busy First Year

By Robert Ranta
Chair, Cape Ann Finns

Cape Ann Finns chapter celebrated its first anniversary on September 15. In that time membership has grown to 225, including many who have roots in Rockport and Gloucester but reside across the U.S.

At the first annual CAF meeting in August, members elected a Board of Directors, passed a modest budget, set a dues schedule and approved the group's purpose statement, which is primarily to create an online community that preserves the Finnish heritage of the area in an online record of the Finnish families, community life and work.

Following the meeting, Carl Rahkonen captivated and thoroughly entertained the audience with his talk about the history of Finnish-American music using instruments, recordings and visual media---not to mention Dr. Rahkonen's noticeable energy and passion about his topic.

Our "Many Finns, Many Stories" project is underway, with six members trained to conduct and record interviews with aging Finns to capture their memories, stories and recollections about growing up in the Finnish community here. Particularly prized are remembrances about their immigrant forebears. These interviews will be added to those of Finns recorded in the 1970s-80s, and found at the Sawyer Free Library website.

CAF member Wayne Soini is heading up The Journey of the Cape Ann Finns. This group meets monthly to investigate and research their families by generation and in relation to historical events occurring in America and Finland.

Winter is the planning season for next year. The Rockport Legion Band, CAF co-sponsor, has scheduled a concert of Finnish-American music to honor the charter members and early musicians, most of whom were Finns. The Vasa Lodge #98 and CAF are collaborating on a Nordic program ahead of the band concert.

CAF is pleased to make its contribution to preserving the Finnish culture not only in Gloucester and Rockport, but also for Finlandia Foundation National's effort. People interested in joining our group can contact us at capeannfinns@gmail.com or by phone at 202.420.8548.

Finnish Clean Tech Experts Visit Hancock

By **Melissa Davis**
Executive Director, New Power Tour

In late September, through the support of Finlandia Foundation, residents and thought-leaders in Michigan's Upper Peninsula were able to meet with two Finnish experts in the Clean-Tech sector at Business & Technology Energy Conference and Home Energy Show at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock.

Our area was very interested in and responsive to the information that our guests Markku Paananen, Senior Specialist, JAMK Tarvala Bioeconomy Campus, and Jarno Haapakoski, CEO of Volter FI, had to share.

They shared with business owners, county officials, area economic development organizations and loggers how Finland has adopted the use of forest residues not used in any other revenue stream to supply electricity and/or heat throughout Finland--and especially, how this technology supports a rural economy.

Residents in the area are intrigued with this model, as we live in the heavily-forested Upper Great Lakes Basin. Logging is the second-largest industry here, yet there are very few applications currently in place for combined heat and power from woody biomass. Through this event, we were able to increase the area's energy literacy, an important step towards building a bridge between our area's need and Finnish expertise.

Seattle Symphony is Orchestra of the Year

By **Satu Mikkola**
FFN Trustee Emerita

Seattle is proud of its Seattle Symphony, named Orchestra of the Year at the 2018 Gramophone Classical Music Awards in London in September for its exceptional work on recorded music. The 115-year-old orchestra was the only non-European ensemble of the eight nominees.

Seattle Symphony's artistic superiority has been achieved under the direction of Music Director Ludovic Morlot and Principal Guest Conductor Thomas Dausgaard, who will pick up the music director's baton when Morlot leaves his post in 2019.

Finlandia Foundation National presented its first Award of Excellence to this remarkable orchestra in 2015, for its very successful Sibelius Festival celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius. During the special



Upper Peninsula business owners (from left) Kelsey Rogers and Aaron Rogers tour the Keweenaw Peninsula with Finnish guests Jarno Haapakoski and Markku Paananen during the recent energy conference in Michigan.

Photo by Melissa Davis

Organizers were pleased to have 50 participants in the conference for the day, and another 30 at the more informal evening event.

Our guests also toured several businesses, academic institutions and economic development entities. While we were out and about, they were able to see for themselves that, if you are from Finland, you have instant celebrity status, recognized and hailed as a long-lost relative with news from the homeland.

three-week-long event, all seven Sibelius symphonies were performed, of which *The Seattle Times* wrote, "Thomas Dausgaard and Seattle Symphony wow with 'majestic' Sibelius Festival." As a continuation to that musical feast, in June of this year Dausgaard conducted the orchestra's first performance of Sibelius' *Kullervo*, again praised by critics.

We are especially proud that Maria Männistö, 2007 FFN Performer of the Year, performed as a soprano soloist in *Kullervo*. In March 2019, Maria will again perform with the orchestra, and in June 2019, she will be a soloist at the Debussy concert that will be Ludovic Morlot's final appearance as music director in Seattle.

FF Seattle Chapter, together with the area's Finnish community, continues to work actively with the Seattle Symphony as it presents Finnish music and talented Finnish musicians for the enjoyment of both the growing Finnish population in the area, as well as others in the community's savvy music audience.



By **Teuvo Pulkkinen**
FFN Trustee

Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian are continuing their applauded concert tours in the United States in 2018-2021. Their first performances, held in Washington, D.C. in November, were hosted by the Embassy of Finland and Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter. During the three years they will perform at more than 20 locations--including several school programs--with Finlandia Foundation National as a sponsor of the majority of the appearances.

The tour is a continuation of the duo's performances as part of FFN's Finland 100 Music Program in 2017, which followed the successful Sibelius 150 Jubilee concerts of 2015. For the current tour, the musicians offer three different programs:

- "Finnish Jewels" introduces the most beautiful melodies written by Finnish composers such as Jean Sibelius, Oskar Merikanto and Heino Kaski.
- "Sibelius Inspiration" is an all-encompassing, multi-media experience that transports the audience into the world that inspired Jean Sibelius through music, video, sound and light.
- "The Blue Bird" is a series consisting of beautiful, captivating melodies as well as thrilling effects. The piece can be performed either with or without an orchestra. Composed by Jonne Valtonen, it has been performed by the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles.

Jussi and Nazig specialize in Finnish music, especially that of Sibelius. In recent years they have reached hundreds of thousands of listeners in Finland and abroad, including school children. In 2015 they produced the award-winning "Melody Forest" children's book and CD of Sibelius' music, and in February 2019 will release their new CD-book combination, "The Blue Bird."

They are excited also to introduce modern Finnish chamber music to U.S. audiences in the coming years. Those performances that are open to the public will be posted on the calendar of events at the FFN website, FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Finlandia Foundation National is happy to have the opportunity to support such talented artists, who are great examples of FFN's goal of looking to its vibrant future. And this will be one more reason to be proud of our Finnish roots.

Photo by Marko Haapalehto

Smooth Jazz Folk Songs from Juli Wood

By Betsey Norgard, FFN Trustee and POY Coordinator

The sounds of Juli Wood's saxophone echoed through the woods and across the lake at Finn Camp (the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association) in Wixom, Michigan on September 1, her first day as Performer of the Year 2018-19. The concert was co-sponsored by Finlandia Foundation Michigan.

This was a perfect beginning for Juli, whose latest recording is *Synkkä Metsä (Dark Forest)*, a collection of Finnish folk songs in her jazz style. The critic-praised CD includes such old-time favorites as *Villiruusu*, *Taivas on sininen ja valkoinen*, and *Karjalan Kunnailla*, among others, hauntingly played in the smooth sounds of her tenor sax. She was accompanied by guitarist Paul Silbergeit.

An experienced musician for more than 20 years on Chicago's jazz scene, Juli also performs in jazz clubs and festivals internationally, including in Helsinki at the Storyville Jazz Club. With four grandparents who immigrated from Finland, Juli grew up in Milwaukee learning Finnish customs and a little Finnish language, but it was while performing at a festival in Scandinavia that the idea to record Finnish folk melodies came to her.

Juli Wood's POY term continues through August 2019, and she looks forward to bringing the Finnish folk melodies to Finlandia Foundation National chapters, accompanied by her guitarist. If your chapter would like to host Juli, contact POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at norgard@paulbunyan.net.

Photo by Glenn Kujansuu



Lecturers of the Year Inform Audiences

By Hilary-Joy Virtanen
FFN Trustee and LOY Coordinator

The 2018 Lecturer of the Year series, featuring career diplomat James Ford Cooper and vernacular architecture expert Frank W. Eld, has gotten off to a good start.

Frank's barnstorming tour of the Midwest and the East Coast is now winding down, with visits that started in Naselle, Washington and led to Rutland, Maine. During this voyage, Eld has provided audiences nationwide with his engaging and interactive look at the art of Finnish log cabin construction. He has also taken this time to conduct his own explorations into the imprints of Finnish settlement in the architecture of New England.

Ford Cooper, a former diplomat who twice served in Finland between 1976 and 1986, weaves his personal interest in Finland's Cold War experience into the broader story of Finnish history. His engagements are only just beginning, and FFN chapters are invited to host his program; he is available through June of 2019.

Ford is especially familiar among Finns in the Washington, D.C. area because of his connections to Finnish and American diplomatic agencies.

Both Lecturers presented at the Finn Funn Weekend, an annual event co-hosted by several FFN chapters in New England each autumn. Frank also presented at an event at Saima Park in Massachusetts, where the FFN Board of Trustees was in attendance.

As we move into winter and spring, chapters may still request engagements from our speakers as long as funds are available, on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested chapters are encouraged to contact LOY Committee Chair Hilary-Joy Virtanen by email at hilary.virtanen@gmail.com.

LOY in New England: Ford Cooper addresses the audience at Finn Funn Weekend, and at Saima Park, Frank Eld demonstrates Finnish log construction.



In Memoriam: Janet Arvonen Kniffin



Janet Arvonen Kniffin (left) and Heli Hatanpaa-Wetzel enjoy the Finlandia Foundation 60th Anniversary Gala in 2013 in Pasadena.

Janet Arvonen Kniffin, the granddaughter of four Finnish immigrants, grew up in eastern Connecticut within a strong Finnish-American subculture.

Her grandparents and parents were active with the Sampo Hall in Canterbury, which is now the home of the Finnish American Heritage Society.

She also volunteered at FAHS and, from 2012-2015 served on the board of Finlandia Foundation National, where she applied her skills in fundraising and communications.

Janet passed away in June of 2018 after a five-year battle with cancer.

She was proud of her Finnish heritage, and studied the political activism of immigrant Finns in the early 20th century. A self-described “professional feminist,” Janet capped her 35 years in the non-profit and public sectors as Chief Development Officer of Connecticut Food Bank, where she led the agency’s strategies to expand funding, communications, community and public relations, special events and volunteerism. She played a critical role in raising the public’s awareness of poverty and food insecurity in Connecticut and the nation, and in 2013 received Feeding America’s award for best food bank resource development program.

Janet is survived by her mother, Eleanore (Kivela) Arvonen, sons Jeremy and Dan (Karen) Kniffin, two grandchildren and an uncle.

Publications Feature FFN at 65

In its 65th anniversary year, Finlandia Foundation National was featured in two publications, *The Finnish American Reporter* in July and the fall issue of *Scandinavian Press* magazine.

The story by FAR Assistant Editor David Maki focused on the origins of FFN, its purpose and current



programs. Launched in 1986, FAR is a monthly, English language journal published by Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan.

Scandinavian Press is a glossy, quarterly English language magazine published in Minot, North Dakota, that features stories about the Nordic countries and items of Nordic interest in the U.S. Writer John Bechtel developed three articles about FFN: an overview of the organization, a story about Soiva International Music Camp, and another about two sisters who have attended Soiva Camp three times.

Both publications are available by subscription. For more information:

Finnish American Reporter at finnishamericanreporter.com

Scandinavian Press at scandpress.com



Students Love Learning at Salolampi

By **Betsey Norgard**,
FFN Trustee

Salolampi Finnish Language Village was, as usual, a very busy place this past summer. On June 18, a big Tervetuloa! (Welcome) was extended to the first sessions of day camps, one-week, and two-week camps, plus the four-week credit camp that includes a year of high school language credit. On the shore of Turtle River Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota, Salolampi students experience a taste of Finland through language classes, music, craft and sporting activities, meals and the authentic Finnish architecture of the compound, from the main hall to the lakeside sauna.

Finlandia Foundation National matched local chapter scholarship funds up to \$300 for 17 students, coming from eight FFN chapters across the country. Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities supported Fiina Pekuri’s first Salolampi experience. Her mother had attended Salolampi as a child and was eager for her daughter to also experience it; they chose the one-week exploration camp where emphasis is on listening comprehension and speaking, while being immersed in Finnish language, culture, and traditions. Fiina (top photo) writes, “I had so much fun and learned a lot! I can’t wait for next year!”

Zana Hultman of St. Louis



Park, Minnesota, chose to attend the two-week immersion experience. She writes, “Salolampi is a place where I could go over a million times, and I would like to go back again.”

For more serious Finnish language learners, Salolampi also offers a four-week immersion experience for grades 9-12 that provides high school language credit. For her third year at Salolampi, Jaime Somero, from Maple Grove, Minnesota (bottom photo), enrolled in the High School Credit Program. She says that Salolampi is special since it’s the only place available to her where she can learn Finnish, which is important to her family. “It’s a place where I can meet new people, grow as a person, and take a break from life as usual.”

In addition to matching local chapter scholarships, several travel grants of up to \$500 were awarded to students attending Salolampi from outside of the Upper Midwest. Mileage assistance is available for students in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North and South Dakota.

Learn more about Salolampi scholarships and travel grants for 2019 at FinlandiaFoundation.org, and check out the scholarships available at the Salolampi Foundation website (salolampi.org) for other sources to assist in funding this educational, cultural camp for young people.

KIITOS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

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News Notes

If you have a change of address or would like to receive this newsletter as a PDF by email, inform Maria Kizirian at office@finlandiafoundation.org

For more FFN news and items of interest to Finnish America, sign up for the free, monthly FFN E-newsletter at: FinlandiaFoundation.org

Friend us on Facebook and join our international community for tips, fun news items and event information.

CENTENNIAL HONOR GIFTS

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

Add your loved ones to the Finlandia Family Tree with their story and photos. To read the tributes and make an honor gift, visit FinlandiaFoundation.org.

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Matti (Hautala) Hill & Aino Elizabeth (Rako) Hill
Eva Wahlroos
Sven Wahlroos

Mail Vote for Finnish Citizens Abroad

By *Hanna Wagner and Teuvo Pulkkinen*
Expatriate Parliament team for United States and Latin America

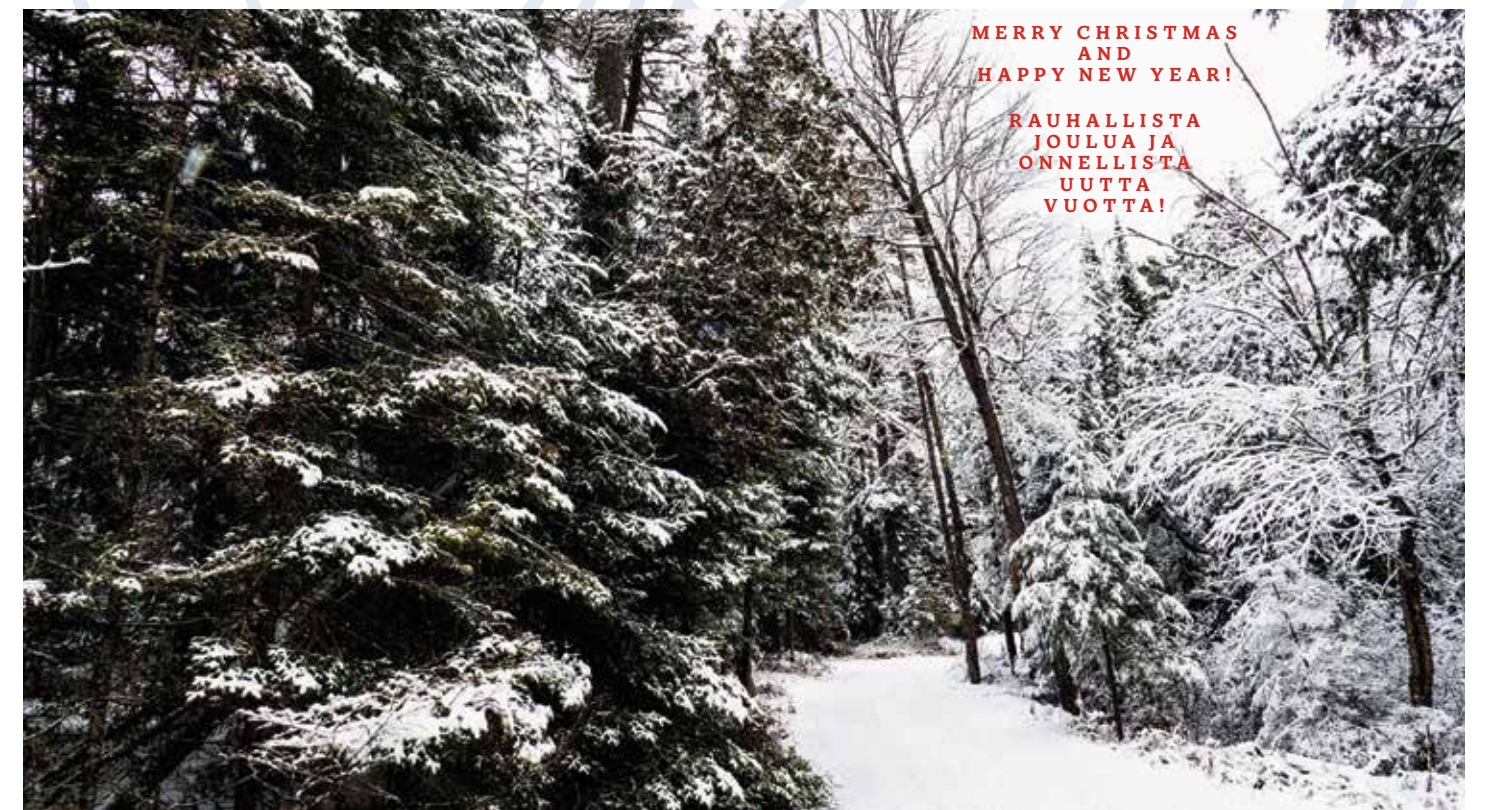
In 2017, the Finnish Parliament approved mail voting for Finns living abroad; it takes effect with the April 2019 parliamentary elections. If you are interested in voting and have not received a voting card from Finland for a while, you will have to check that the Finnish authorities have your correct address.

Go to maistraatti.fi (there is an English language option) and follow the instructions. If you have been receiving your voting card you can skip this step.

Early voting by mail is run by the Ministry of Justice in Finland. Its web page gives step-by-step instructions on how to order a ballot for mail voting; instructions are in Finnish or Swedish. Go to the website vaalit.fi, select the language and then click the link *Kirjeäänestys ulkomailla oleskeleville* or *Brevröstning till dig som är utomlands*.

There are many polling locations in the United States, and you can still vote at one in person as before. If you are not able to reach a polling place, please consider ordering a ballot and vote by mail.

Remember the website: vaalit.fi



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

Find more information about the chapters, including websites and Facebook pages, at FinlandiaFoundation.org

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