



# 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.

SPRING | 2019

## The Music of Sibelius, with a Personal Connection



By **Betsey Norgard** | FFN Trustee

Pianist Ruusamari Teppo has both a direct family connection and a research connection to Finland's beloved composer, Jean Sibelius. While listening to her play the music of her great-great-grandfather, audiences can sense her deep and personal connection with his music. Although she never had the opportunity to meet the great composer, her mother, who was 16 years old when Sibelius died, has shared memories of him with her daughter.

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## Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

We are quite pleased with the success of our programs of the past few years, notably through the Jean Sibelius 150th and Finland 100th anniversaries in 2015 and 2017. During this period we have experienced growth, with additional chapters joining Finlandia Foundation.

However, we need to respond to changing times and rejuvenate ourselves. Last year, in our 65th year, we established a board committee to come up with recommendations of how we can best meet the challenges of the future, remain relevant and become the "go-to" Finnish-American organization.

There are many demands we must address, but one of the most important is how to meet the interests of the younger generation--not only of children but millennials, those in their early 30s. We will report on these efforts in this newsletter and through other communications over time.

Another area of importance is fundraising. We will need to double our efforts to be able to support the chapters in arranging relevant programs, as well as in our existing and new programs, scholarships and grants. As you'll see in this newsletter, these exciting efforts would greatly benefit from expanded support. We very much welcome your participation in our fundraising--your contributions are so essential for FFN to function in a meaningful way.

As a demonstration of the wide range of important programs we support, this newsletter contains an article about SFK, the memorial ski march of the Swedish volunteers, who came to Finland's support during the 1939-40 Winter War. The rigorous event takes place every five years; the next will be held in March 2020, marking the 80th anniversary of the ending of the Winter War at the time that Marshal C. G. Mannerheim delivered thanks to the Swedish volunteers.

A group of dedicated Finnish-Americans, including Juha Mäkipää, former FFN president and longstanding treasurer, undertook substantial fundraising 15-20 years ago to support the SFK memorial ski march. The resulting SFK Fund was established with Finlandia Foundation National, which is credited as sponsor of the SFK 2020 Ski March. Please see the story on page 19.

The FFN Board of Trustees will meet next in early October in Helsinki. We last met in Finland in 1998, more than 20 years ago. Our Fall News will carry the report.

Wishing you an enjoyable spring and summer,

Ossi Rahkonen

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Communications Committee: Jacqueline Harjula, chair, and Katarina Lehtonen, Betsey Norgard and Tarja Silverman.

Additionally, FFN produces a monthly, free e-news; sign up to receive it at the FFN website.

Submit chapter news and other items of interest and photos to:  
FFN Communications Manager and newsletter Editor Kath Usitalo kathusitalo@mac.com

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## Lecturers of the Year Present Finnish Cuisine

By Hilary-Joy Virtanen  
FFN Trustee and  
LOY Committee Chair

Finnish cuisine will be the focus of the 2019-2020 Lecturer of the Year program as Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman co-present on aspects of Finnish foodways. Authors of the book *Celebrations to Remember: Exceptional Party Decor and Fabulous Food*, they are well-regarded in their home region of Minnesota and far beyond.

A native of Finland, Soile Anderson (above right) relocated to Minnesota,

settling in the Twin Cities area. Soile was already a successful restaurateur and spa hotel owner in eastern Finland before she came to the U.S. to study fast food; she'd planned to bring that concept back to her native country, where it was then unknown. Instead, she stayed in America to found The Deco Restaurant, Taste of Scandinavia bakeries, and the Finnish Bistro, where she served the likes of Barack Obama, the King and Queen of Norway and the Dalai Lama. She has also been featured in *Martha Stewart Living* magazine. In 2017, she was inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame.

Eleanor Ostman (above left), a full Finn, was born and schooled in Hibbing, Minnesota. At Macalester College in St. Paul she studied journalism, and was food writer for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Her popular 30-year "Tested Recipes" column was the basis for her

cookbooks *Always on Sunday* and *Always on Sunday Revisited*. She and Soile met in the 1980s and a lifelong friendship developed, which blossomed into joint food demonstrations and talks. The pair will present in the Detroit area at FinFestUSA 2019, where Soile will serve as the curator of food.

As Lecturers of the Year the two offer dynamic presentations tailored to the needs, interests, venue dimensions and group sizes of Finlandia Foundation chapters. They will serve as LOY from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. As always, FFN will pay for the lecturers' travel to and from the venue, while the local hosting chapter will be responsible for lodging and meals, local arrangements and an honorarium. Find more information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

To book a presentation, interested chapters must contact LOY Chair Hilary-Joy Virtanen at [hilary.virtanen@gmail.com](mailto:hilary.virtanen@gmail.com).

## Changes to Performer of the Year Program

By **Betsey Norgard**

FFN Trustee and POY Committee Chair

After more than 20 years, some changes were recently made to the very popular Performer of the Year (POY) program.

Starting in 1996 when kantele artist and singer Merja Sorja was named the first POY, the program has sought to discover and highlight Finnish and Finnish-American talent, to give these performers opportunities to be seen and heard at the invitation of FFN chapters.

To be selected as POY, a performer had to be nominated by an FFN chapter or trustee—rather than directly applying. This process may have seemed daunting to would-be POY, and may have caused the decline in the number of nominations FFN has received. Additionally, in the last few years, when more older and professional musicians have been selected as POY, we've lost the original purpose of "discovering" and presenting young and new talent.

What has been obvious, however, is the popularity of the program among chapters that enjoy lesser-known artists with high-quality programs. So, some changes to the program were recommended and adopted at the recent board meeting.

First, the committee returned the POY term from the current September 1 through August 31 period back to a calendar-year schedule.

More significantly, the committee eliminated the nomination process and will make its own selection of a POY at its regular fall meeting. This matches the selection process for the Lecturer of the Year. Announcement about the 2020 POY program will be made later this year.

Performers who are interested in becoming POY are encouraged to contact POY coordinator **Betsey Norgard at [bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com)** to be considered for selection. The POY program is not restricted to musicians—high-quality, interesting programs of varying areas of talent are welcomed, including comedy, storytelling, dance, etc. Read about past POY at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

## Blue Bird Alights in U.S.

Finlandia Foundation National is a sponsor of an ambitious U.S. tour by Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian. The duet launched their tour at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C. in November 2018, and continued with several appearances in California in March. The schedule spans three years, and their program is available

to FFN chapters. The duo will return to perform in November 2019, April 2020, and September-October 2020.

As described in fuller detail in the Fall 2018 FFN News, concert hosts have a choice of three musical themes: *Finnish Jewels* featuring pieces by Finnish composers; the multimedia *Sibelius Inspiration*; and *The Blue Bird*, a new work by Finnish composer Jonne Valtonen.

The musical duo recently released *Lintu Sininen* (*The Blue Bird*), a combination children's book and CD. This is their second such effort, which is compatible with their ongoing mission to engage children in classical music. Their first such collaboration, *Soiva Metsä* (*Melody Forest*), features the work of Jean Sibelius and was released in 2015 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. It quickly reached certified gold

status, and was the first Finnish classical chamber recording to have sold more than 10,000 copies. By 2017, with sales topping 20,000, *Soiva Metsä* was a platinum best-seller.

Both books are illustrated by Katri Kirkkopelto.

Currently, they are available only at live performances and online at: [store.charmi.eu](http://store.charmi.eu).

Find more information about the duo, their programs and books, and hosting a performance at the FFN website, [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).



## The Music of Sibelius, with a Personal Connection



which she has developed with her own four-year-old daughter. With the young audience sitting around her, the pianist plays music and talks about Sibelius, including the music he wrote for his children. She is also able to present music workshops, telling stories and coaching children who bring their own instruments and play easy music together.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ruusamari Teppo began playing piano in Finland at the age of five. After graduating from Sibelius High School, she studied in Paris for three years, and earned artist certificates from music schools in Prague and Budapest, funded by scholarships from the Finnish government.

Since 2001 she has studied at the University of North Texas with Vladimir Viardo, a Van Cliburn international competition winner. In the fall, she will complete her doctoral degree in collaborative piano, studying some of the lesser-known music of Sibelius. In recent years she has performed in the U.S., throughout Europe and in South Africa.

If your chapter would like to invite Ruusamari Teppo to perform a concert, FFN will cover round-trip travel costs to your location. The chapter's responsibility will be paying a \$500 honorarium, plus providing local accommodation and local transportation. For more information contact FFN trustee Betsey Norgard at [bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com).

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Finlandia Foundation National is pleased to announce a collaboration with Ruusamari that will make available to FFN chapters in 2019 and 2020 a choice of two exciting programs that she has developed:

### "Sibelius at the Piano"

A concert program of his most well-known music, accompanied by personal stories and information to help listeners understand the development of the composer's musical style.

Ruusamari has access to the series of letters Jean and Aino Sibelius wrote to each other, some of which have been translated into English. Her concert format can also include selections from these letters read by a local chapter member.

### "Sibelius' Music with Children"

Ruusamari enjoys presenting concerts designed for children,

# FFN Grants 2019

By *Jacqueline Harjula* | *FFN Trustee*

**FFN** is delighted to have received so many innovative grant requests. The submissions included activities ranging from music, film, travel, writing, theater, composition and sports, to archival work, hall and log cabin renovation, energy conservation projects, design and research, architecture, social media and a heritage park. Fifty individuals or groups submitted applications for a total of \$193,488. Requests were received from across the U.S., with eight from California; six each from Michigan and Minnesota; five from New York; three each from Massachusetts and Washington; two each from Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Oregon and Texas; one each from Arizona, Connecticut, Montana and Pennsylvania; plus five from Finland.

The review committee of FFN trustees was chaired by Richard Ahola and included Anita Smiley, Päivi Tetri, Katariina Lehtonen and Jacqueline Harjula. We worked diligently to equitably allocate the \$115,000 budgeted for grants in 2019, and were able to support 37 of the requests. As a new member of the committee, it was a privilege to be part of the day-long meeting to discuss each request prior to the final decisions.

## MUSIC

**1.** A Finnish accordionist, **Matti Pulkki**, will receive funds to commission a new work by the composer and

composition professor for the Manhattan School of Music, **Reiko Fütting**, and to organize two events in September: a concert and an open workshop,

and a seminar about the accordion as an important instrument in the Finnish culture and part of the identity of the Finnish immigrants.

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**2.** FFN Performer of the Year **Juli Wood** will print DVDs from a 2018 performance at Bethany College in Mankato, Minnesota, and donate the proceeds of the sales to Salolampi Language Village. Juli plays jazzed-up Finnish folk tunes on her saxophone, and sings familiar American jazz songs in Finnish.

**3.** **Play The Groove** (PTG) is a music education curriculum. This grant will assist with the expenses related to a two-month residency at the University of the Arts Helsinki's CERADA Research Center. The objectives are to map PTG to the Finnish national curriculum and create a model for other international adaptations to incorporate creative music-making in classrooms.

**4.** **The Vappu Spring Gala** features a musical celebration of Nordic culture at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, welcoming spring with a concert of joyful music. Funding will assist with marketing the event.

**5.** **A Finnish Evening at the Biltmore** will showcase cellist **Jussi Makkonen** and pianist **Nazig Azejian**. Speakers at this event in Arizona will enable guests, including local business and government leaders, to learn more about Finnish culture,

traditions, and history. The small but vibrant FFN

chapter, **Finns and Friends of Phoenix**, plans to take this club to a new level of abilities and to advertise FFN locally.

**6.** **A Vappu Fundraising Event** at Balboa Park in San Diego will allow guests to enjoy traditional Finnish food, games, children's activities and music. Hosted by the San Diego Suomi Koulu to assist with the school's annual budget, this event expects 200-300 attendees. **POY Juli Wood** will perform.

**7.** **The Finnish School of Seattle** has invited two children's music educators from Finland to visit their school. They will offer workshops for children that will include experiencing music through songs, movement and playing instruments. A regional training day for Finnish school teachers will be offered. The grand finale will be a community concert at the Nordic Heritage Museum.

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**8. Rent Romus and Heikki Koskinen** present *Manala*, an original musical project inspired by the mythic prose of cultural identity found in the *Kalevala*. The debut will take place in California at the Berkeley Finnish Hall and is

sponsored by the FF San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. This event expects to significantly attract new audiences, of both American and Finnish descent, to the historic hall's future programming.



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**9. Rockport Legion Band** will present a concert of Finnish-American music in July at the American Legion Bandstand in Rockport, Massachusetts. This band was founded in 1933, and half of its original members were Finns. Local school youth are scheduled to augment the band at this concert. The Cape Ann Finns are gathering historical material about the band that will be archived.

**11. Aniara: Fragments of Time and Space** represents a collaboration between *The Crossing*, a professional chamber choir, and the Helsinki-based theater company Klockrike. Together they will premiere a hybrid choral-theater production in Philadelphia in June, performed by an international team that includes both Finnish and American artists. It is a story about time running out and the impossibility of avoiding the consequence of destroying earth.

**12. A Finnish-American Theatre production** in Massachusetts will include one-act plays and selections from full-length historical dramas, comedy, opera and folk plays, based on performances that were presented in four local Temperance and Socialist Halls from 1900 to 1940. The evening will end with performers and audience members singing together the patriotic stanzas to Sibelius' *Finlandia*. The research on the material for this performance was done by the FFN chapter Cape Ann Finns.

## THEATER

**10. Kalevala The Musical** is a grand scale musical production emphasizing the sacred bond between nature and humankind from a unique female perspective. It is set to a jazz/pop and traditional Finnish folk music score. After funding that assists with a staged reading, the ultimate goal is opening the finished production to the public. This show will have a cast of 15-20 performers and an instrumental ensemble of 10-20 musicians.

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**13. Sirkka** is a 60-minute documentary film about the life of 98-year-old Sirkka Tuomi Holm, whose intriguing past has included time as an actress, a WW II veteran, and an activist for progressive causes. Her column in *The Finnish American Reporter* is a favorite of subscribers. This film is being created in partnership with the Finnish American Heritage Center.

**14. The Lady and the Accordion** is a documentary film on the culture of Finnish American immigrants in the early 1900s as seen through the life story of Viola Turpeinen, a unique musician. The film will include new interpretations of Viola's music by Finnish accordion artist Riitta Kossi.

**15. Grant Continuation** A 2018 grant made possible a feature film about a late Finnish pop singer. So much material was uncovered during its production that a companion documentary film with cultural significance has been proposed. The documentary will be released concurrently with the feature film.

**16.** A grant awarded to the **Finnish Film Gala in Hollywood** will support Finnish film producers in their possible Oscar or Golden Globe bids, as well as provide actors and directors a chance to promote themselves to the LA film industry.

**17. Those Who Came Before Us: People of the Waterfowl** is a three-part series documenting the lifestyles and beliefs of ancient Finns and their indigenous lives, from folk religion to wedding ceremonies. Funds will support travel to Finland to gather information.

**18. Her Excellency, Tarja Halonen,** a 20-minute documentary, will feature interviews with President Halonen, relevant scholars and leaders in Finland, and Finnish-Americans at a gathering

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in Berkeley, California. This grant will support travel costs for the film crew.

**19. Finland's Mid-20th Century Wars: Immigrant Families Remember** will record the stories, artifacts and music of people who came to the U.S. after the 1945 wars. FinnFolk, the "house band" of the Finnish Center Association in suburban Detroit, will perform tunes that were emotionally important to Finns during the war years. The video project will be presented at FinnFestUSA 2019 in a workshop designed to inspire people to preserve significant history of their own communities, and to describe how to carry out the preservation videoing.

## TRAVEL

**20. Footwork and Fiddles to Finland** is the theme of the tour of the Kivajat Dancers from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, who have been invited to perform at the Tanssiva Turku, a children's

international folk dance festival. The trip for 30 dancers and fiddlers will be assisted by a travel grant from FFN. These talented young people also perform all year at nursing homes, cultural festivals and Finnish celebrations.

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**21. Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (CYSO)** will tour Finland and the Baltics and perform four professionally-produced concerts in historic venues. Eighty-seven members of the CYSO will take part in this tour, and the FFN grant will help support their stay and performance in Finland.

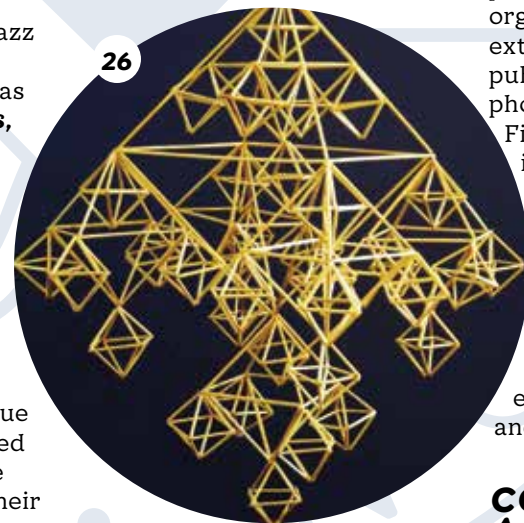
**22. Music for All-for Life** continues a collaboration between two music educators, an American and a Finn, who will create, fund and direct an adult beginner band in Campbell, New York, in partnership with the public music school program. It was noted that Finnish music educators are more interested in the process than in the product, and emphasize the role of music for well-being. This band will become a permanent addition to the culture of the community. The grant will assist with travel to Finland, accommodations and music.

**23. Finland's Bioeconomy-Exploring Renewable Energy** is a four-part energy series that will be offered in the fall of 2019 in Houghton, Michigan, to explore methods used in Finland. The goal is to increase the use of renewable, water and energy efficient technologies. The series will be videotaped and posted on the website [newpowertour.com](http://newpowertour.com). The grant will be used for travel and accommodations for the Finnish presenters.

**24.** Leading Finnish jazz musicians, a six-piece jazz band performing as **Tuomo and Markus**, will travel to the U.S. to appear at Central Park's SummerStage Festival in New York City, and at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. The grant will help with travel expenses and hotels. Their unique sound and open-minded approach to music are possibly credited to their Nordic heritage.

**25. Camera-Pen Pedagogy Workshops** will be offered at Salolampi Finnish Language Village by Panu Tuomikko, with activities in filmmaking as language education to program participants, and professional development for staff members. Students solve problems, make observations and develop visual thinking using the camera as a tool. Funding will be used for travel and salaries.

**26.** The craft of **Himmeli** will be studied in Finland, including learning about its folk history, viewing old himmeli in museums, and visiting Eija Koski's organic rye farm to learn about the traditional use of rye as the material for their construction. The artist's hope is that there will be a renewed interest in this



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craft and that himmeli-making will continue. This grant will provide funds for travel from Minneapolis to Helsinki.

## SPORTS

**27. Finnish Cultural Exchange through Hockey** will be supported by a grant enabling the FFN-Suomi Chapter in Bellingham, Washington to sponsor former NHL player Jyrki Lumme at a one-day hockey clinic. Finland will be featured, and participants will receive gift bags with Finnish goodies and a T-shirt.

## ARCHIVAL WORK

**28. The Finnish American Heritage Society** in Canterbury, Connecticut, in collaboration with Finlandia University's Heritage Center, will use the services of a professional archivist to organize and catalog its extensive collection of publications, documents, photos and artifacts. The Finnish Hall, constructed in 1925, has over 3,000 publications dating to the early 1900s. Access to these titles through internet technology will provide value to researchers, educational institutions and families.

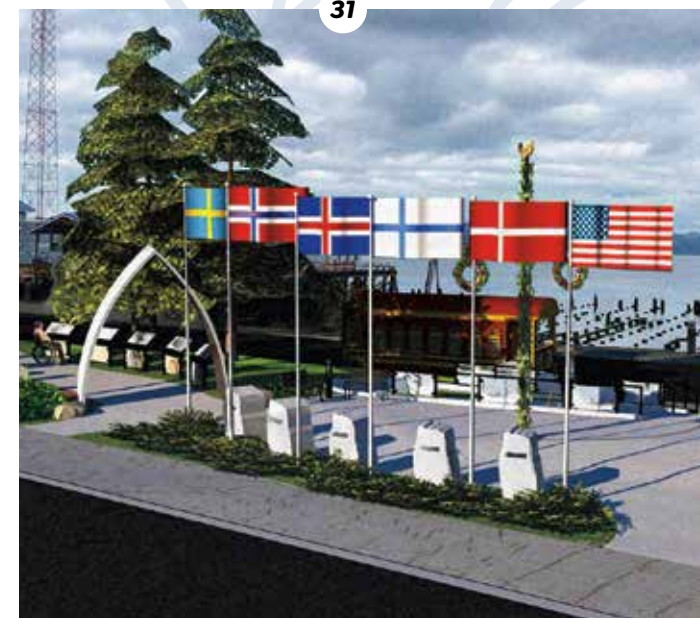
## CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

**29. The Lindgren Cabin**, in Cullaby Lake, Oregon, is a traditional Finnish axe-hewn log cabin built using 19th century Finnish log construction techniques. Repairing the cabin will make it possible to hold cultural and historical

events open to the public. The FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter is overseeing this work.

**30. The Finnish Center at Saima Park** in Fitchburg, Massachusetts has a busy kitchen and dining room that regularly serve many wonderful Finnish meals to the Finnish-American community and to the general public. The facility is also rented to other ethnic groups throughout the year. This grant will assist with a much-needed update of the kitchen in order to comply with current regulations.

**31.** Planning for the **Astoria Nordic Heritage Park** (formerly Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Park) in Oregon began in 2015, and the committee has done tireless work and completed many steps toward its goal of beginning construction by July of 2019. Finns are the largest of the immigrant groups in Astoria, and this park will honor the contributions of its early immigrants and their customs, language, food and the arts.



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## WRITING AND TRANSLATION



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**32. Kotimaa: Homeland** is the third novel in the Finnish historical fiction trilogy by Minnesotan Mark Munger. It chronicles the details of a Finn's emigration from Finland in the early 1900s, and is also a contemporary story of the political unrest in Finland relating to immigration. The grant will support the editing and a first run of 500 copies of the novel.

**33. The Journal of Finnish Studies** disseminates in English



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information about Finnish research and the Finnish diaspora. The publication costs for a theme issue entitled *Entrepreneurial Education and Tendencies in Finland* will be paid for by a grant from FFN. Research for this issue was submitted by many young Finnish cutting-edge academics who study entrepreneurship and how to teach the best practices for future business people in Finland.

**34. Preserving Finnish History** is the goal of translating seven journals from Finnish to English. These are from the period between 1918-1956, related to the original St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beechwood, Michigan, and to the establishment of a rural Finnish church. A skilled Finnish translator will be paid using the FFN grant received.

## ART AND ARCHITECTURE

**35.** The Minneapolis community will gather for a conversation about art, design and architecture with artist **Jaana Partanen** and architect **Heikki Lamusuo** from Kuopio, Finland. They will speak informally about their unusual approaches in these areas for places like hospitals, day-care centers and schools, and lively conversation will be encouraged. Kuopio and Minneapolis have been sister city partners since 1973.

## DESIGN AND RESEARCH

**36.** FF of Montana is collaborating with the University of Montana's Broader Impact Group to engage Missoula's thriving food and beverage sector with Aalto Design Factory's innovative **"Design Bites"** project. This focuses on designing vibrant, inclusive, innovative ecosystems. The event will bring together a diverse, international cohort of 200 designers, innovators and changemakers for conversations and boot camps.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**37.** FinnFestUSA is bringing **Finnish-American public relations** into the 21st century via paid placement on social media including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and Google. The goal is to increase registration for FinnFest USA 2019, expand public awareness of the event and increase interaction and communication that bring the general public's attention to Finland and Finnish-America.

What a wide range of projects, and what an honor for Finlandia Foundation National to be able to support them! Keep in mind that your generous donations, matched by the Paloheimo Foundation, have enabled our Finnish-American heritage and culture to survive and thrive. **The next FFN grant application deadline is January 17, 2020. Go to [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).**

# 2019 FFN Scholarships

The first program established by Finlandia Foundation, within a few years after it was founded in 1953, was its scholarship fund dedicated to music students in the United States and Finland. The inaugural Sibelius Scholarship was awarded to Einojuhani Rautavaara, a student at the Sibelius Academy who applied his funds toward study at The Juilliard Academy in New York City. Rautavaara (1928-2016) would go on to become one of Finland's most important composers.

Today, undergraduate and graduate students in all fields at schools in the U.S. and Finland are eligible. This year the committee received 37 applications, and was able to grant 15 scholarships totaling \$36,000. Of the recipients, seven are dual nationals, five are U.S. citizens, and three are Finnish citizens. The 2019 Scholarship Committee, chaired by FFN trustee Hanna Wagner, consisted of Sonja Grulich, Kirsti Noring, Pirjo Schulbach and Turto Turtiainen. **The next application deadline for scholarships is February 1, 2020. Find details at FinlandiaFoundation.org.**

**1. VILMA JAAMURU**, born and raised in Keller, Texas, says that her Finnish heritage is a significant part of her. Attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities has allowed her to maintain her Finnish culture by participating at Finnish talk hours and teaching at the Finnish Language School of Minnesota. In May 2020, she will graduate with a B.S. in chemical engineering and a minor in biochemistry. After graduation, no matter where her path leads, she will be certain to continue practicing and sharing her Finnish culture with others.

**2. MIRVA JOHNSON** is a Ph.D. student in Scandinavian

Folklore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She looks at the folklore, traditions and language of heritage Finnish speakers and their communities in North America. Her research spans linguistics and folklore, examining the ways language and culture interact in immigrant communities. Mirva grew up in Virginia but was fortunate to visit family in Finland during the summers. She says that her Finnish heritage has always been an important part of who she is, and is a big part of why she is pursuing her degree.

**3. NIKOS JOKINEN** is a freshmen studying history at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Born in the United States to a Finnish-Canadian mother and an American father, he lived in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada most of his life and has now moved back to the U.S. Nikos is interested in European Renaissance and East Asian naval history; he has taken part in reenactments in Canada and hopes to make a hobby of it. He plans to pursue a master's degree in European history.

**4. JASMINE KELEKAY** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Originally from Helsinki, she graduated from Connecticut College with a B.A. in sociology,

philosophy and psychology. Her work includes exploring the relationship between racialization and criminalization, with a focus on constructions of Blackness and the social control of African diasporic populations in comparative perspective. Her work "Too Dark to Support the Lions, But Light Enough for the Frontlines: Negotiating Race, Place, and Belonging in Afro-Finnish Hip Hop" is forthcoming in *Degruyter Open Cultural Studies*.

**5. RACHEL KERANEN** is a second generation



Finnish-American born and raised in Minnesota. Rachel is pursuing an MFA in creative writing at Columbia University in New York City, where she also studies Finnish. In August, she will attend a month-long artist residency in Korpo, Finland.

**6. DYLAN KOSKI**, a blues/rock guitarist from Columbus, Ohio, started playing

guitar at age 10, and before the age of 18 had recorded his first EP and performed at venues in nine states. He has studied with top talent and is currently a guitar performance major at Musicians Institute in Los Angeles. Hear a sampling of his music, including an original piece, at [DylanKoski.com](http://DylanKoski.com).

**7. ZAKARI KUJALA** of Minnetonka, Minnesota, graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota in May of 2018, and returned to pursue a master's degree, also in mechanical engineering. He is interested in fluid mechanics, and is working on a research project involving droplet coalescence in fiber filters. Coalescing fiber filters are used in industrial applications such as removing water droplets from diesel fuel and air bubbles from hydraulic fluid. A better understanding of the coalescence mechanism in these filters can help to improve filter design.

**8. LAURI V. KYTÖMAA** is in his second year of a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Texas Austin, focusing on industrial organization and econometrics. His research on regulation and antitrust issues in markets directly

affected by the Internet explores the effects of municipal short-term housing regulation across the U.S., targeted toward companies such as Airbnb and HomeAway, on housing and the hotel industry. As an economic consultant at Deloitte in the United Kingdom, his work centered on regulatory issues and public policy in telecommunications, media and technology sectors. Born in Boston to Finnish parents, Lauri travels to Finland regularly to visit extended family. On campus, he visits UT Austin's sauna on a daily basis.

**9. IIDA LEHTO** attends the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, majoring in kinesiology and minoring in Finnish. She is a fifth generation Finnish-American, the daughter of a Finnish immigrant mother and a Finnish-American father. She works with people with disabilities and founded Minds Over Matters, a non-profit that raises awareness about the impact of stigma in creating and worsening mental illness. Iida is an accomplished actor, a national bronze medalist in Constitutional oratorical, a finalist for Miss North Dakota, and recipient of the 2018 Miss America scholarship. She is pursuing dual citizenship and will visit relatives in Finland this summer.

**10. CHARLOTTE LOUKOLA** was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her parents are Finnish and she has dual citizenship. Charlotte studies with Professor Ilya Kaler at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where her major is violin performance. She is also minoring in business management at Case Western Reserve University. Charlotte completed high school in Finland and studied for six years with Merit Palas at the Sibelius Academy Youth Department. She has placed well in several different international competitions and has attended master classes in Europe and in the U.S.

**11. ALEKS MATTHEUS** is a first year student at Willamette University working toward a bachelor's degree in international studies followed by a master's degree in business administration. In his junior year he is planning to study abroad in Finland. He spends most of his free time volunteering, traveling or in the outdoors. Eventually, he hopes to work for an international company or non-profit organization either in Finland or with ties to the country. Aleks, from Salem, Oregon, is the recipient of the Aune Koski Scholarship, which is given to an outstanding student from the Pacific Northwest.

**12. EMMA MULHERN** is a second year student at the University of Minnesota pursuing a bachelor's degree in international business and supply chain and operations management, with a minor in Finnish. She decided to pursue Finnish after spending a year of high school as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student Ambassador in Alajärvi. Emma mentors students who will study in Finland for a year through the North Star Rotary Youth Exchange program. She is very involved with the weekly Finnish conversation hour and the Finnish-American community in the Twin Cities. The scholarship will allow her to focus on completing her degree and graduating in May 2021, while continuing to pursue passions related to the Finnish language and all things Finnish.

**13. SIIRI NIKKINEN**, of Finland, is a psychology major at Point Park University in Pittsburgh. Her busy schedule is filled with research projects with professors, volunteering with the community psychology program, and creating fun events with the psychology alliance. She also works with the Pittsburgh Finns to create events and other fun ways to raise money for the construction of the Finland Nationality Room

**14. RIIA PULAKKA** has diverse experience and is a knowledgeable, dedicated and creative international student from Finland who is studying at Hunter College in New York City. She is passionate about early childhood education—her first major—and adores working with preschoolers. She is deeply committed to encouraging children to develop by providing quality in teaching. Riia's background in gymnastics led her to a second major, dance, and she is pursuing bachelor's degrees in both.

**15. RONALD VIEN** of Johnston, Rhode Island will be a sophomore next year, pursuing a degree in biotechnology at the University of Rhode Island. His studies include life sciences, chemistry and learning a wide variety of lab skills used in the industry. Through his father's side of the family he says he has learned a lot about Finnish culture, history and language, and is very proud of his heritage.



## P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Scholarship

Pertti Lindfors, a Finnish-American attorney in San Francisco, established the Pertti Lindfors Legal Studies Fund to encourage cross-cultural study and understanding by law students in Finland and the United States.

The recipient of the \$3,000 Lindfors Legal Scholarship is **JUHANI LAUTJÄRVI**. He holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki and a Master of Science in economics from the Aalto University School of Business. He is pursuing a post-graduate LL.M. degree at Columbia University in New York City.



### NEW LINDFORS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Finlandia Foundation National announces a change in the application deadline for the Lindfors Legal Scholarship, beginning immediately. The next round of applications, for the 2020 award, are due by **October 1, 2019**. Announcement of law scholarship recipients will be in late 2019, and the funds will be released in January 2020. Find details at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

## Kalevala Reading Marathon at Finlandia University

By **Dr. Hilary-Joy Virtanen** | FFN Trustee | Assistant Professor, Finlandia University

On February 28, Finlandia University's Finnish & Nordic Studies Program hosted its first annual "Kalevalathon," a marathon reading of Finland's national epic.

The purpose of our Kalevalathon is to celebrate Kalevala Day, which



is a recognized holiday in Finland commemorating the anniversary of the date that Kalevala compiler Elias Lönnrot signed the front page of his first version of the epic, published in 1835.

Kalevalathon allowed my students in the Kalevala class to approach the stories in a way approximating the original oral context in which Karelians in the 1830s would have heard the poems themselves. In listening to the poems, even I notice things about the stories more sharply than when I read them.

The event was an opportunity for the university community and the public to come together to celebrate the

Kalevala. The object of the first event was to read as much of the epic as possible during a 5 ½ hour period. In that time, participants read 19 of its 50 poems. Primarily led by students in my Kalevala class, guest readers were other students in the Finnish & Nordic Studies program and



faculty and staff including Finlandia University President Philip Johnson. Participants read their poem in either Finnish or English, and copies of the book were available for the audience to follow along.

Marathon Kalevala readings have been conducted elsewhere, including among different academic programs in Finland and at Columbia University. The Kalevalathon will be an annual event at Finlandia University, though in the future, the entire epic will be read.

I look forward to this 14-hour venture, as long as enough participants ensure that I won't have to read most of the poems myself.

# Chapter News



## Ambassador Shares Gender Equality Insights with Florida Chapter

Above: Guests at the FFFC meeting with Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi (second from right) include Kaarina Langeland and FFN President Ossi Rahkonen (flanking the Ambassador); FFN trustee Peter Makila is at left. Photo by Timo Vainionpaa

By **Kaarina Langeland** | President, FFFC

If the centenary celebration of Finland's Independence in 2017 was the most significant commemorative year for the Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter, the annual meeting last February was the most remarkable meeting thus far in the chapter's history. We were delighted to have Finland's Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsti Kauppi as the keynote speaker, with Finlandia Foundation National President Ossi Rahkonen the honorary guest.

Ambassador Kauppi discussed Gender Equality in Finland from political, economic and educational points of view, noting:

- Finnish women received the right to vote in 1906, and in 1907, 19 women were elected to the Finnish Parliament.
- Today, 45% of parliament members are women.

- The women's labor force is almost at the same level as that of men.
- The difference in salary between men and women is one of the smallest in the world.
- More women than men have academic degrees.
- The Finnish educational system has always encouraged gender equality.
- Gender equality exists among Finnish ambassadors worldwide.

A lively discussion followed, with many questions from the audience.

FFFC presented our guest speaker with a painting by artist and FFFC Vice President Tuula Antikainen, which the ambassador kindly promised to hang at the Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Contributed by **Elsie Jaehn** | FFFC member

The evening of November 17 was a happy occasion for more than 130 guests at Finlandia Foundation Florida's annual gala at the Atlantis Country Club. The theme of "Happy Finns!" kicked off with appetizers and champagne, and carried through a delicious dinner, short program, dancing to the Driftwood Band and fun raffle.

Following a warm welcome by FFFC President Dr. Kaarina Langeland, Mistress of Ceremonies Anna-Lisa Jakobsson led a "Happy Finns" melody and dance. Peter Makila shared thoughts on nature's gifts to the Finnish people. Reijo Salo spoke about Finland's national pastime of sauna, accompanied by sauna sausage and tasty mustards. Harri Manner sang the popular "Hepokatti" and encouraged guests to accompany him through its many verses!

It was a cherished evening of fun and delight for Finlandia Foundation Florida's Finnish community.





# Chapter News



Michigan



Boston



Alaska

Photos by Hanna Eklund



San Diego



Texas

Jeremy Martin, president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Finnish-American Society, and his family had fun at the April 27 Vappu hosted by the FFN chapter the Finnish Language School of North Texas, with co-hosts the Finnish Women's Group, Finnish American Business Guild of North Texas, and a group of Finnish motorcycle riders.

Nearly 100 turned out for the FinnsConnect South Florida Vappu picnic on April 28 at Pembroke Pines.



South Florida

Anchorage Suomi Finland Club has had a busy spring at its Finlandia Hall. On April 13, the youth learned to build linnunpönttöjä (birdhouses) for chickadees and nuthatches. The class was led by members Reijo and Marke Vana.

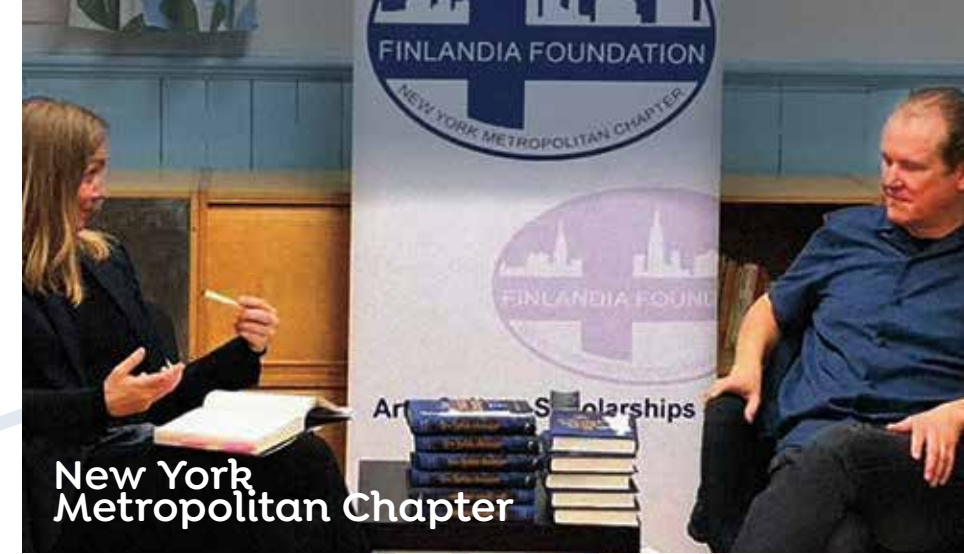
The chapter's March meeting had a St. Urho theme, complete with creamy salmon soup; an Easter dinner in April featured traditional Pääsiäinen foods and a sale of karjalankakut (karelian pies); May brought a baking class and Vappu celebration.

Coming up: Juhannus party with Performer of the Year Juli Wood.

Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter President Eero Kilpi reports that 2018 was a busy year, with nine successful events ranging from a private shopping evening at the Flatiron Marimekko flagship store to a Midsummer sauna gathering, and a private visit in October to the studio and gallery of Finnish-American 3D pop artist Charles Fazzino.

The last three events of the year were sell-outs, says Eero, noting that November's release party for a book by Teemu Luukka about New York entrepreneur Tyyni Kalervo was a joint program with the Finnish Lutheran Congregation and the Finnish School in New York. The Independence Day Celebration traditionally attracts many members, and the Christmas Party was organized in collaboration with the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce.

According to Eero, "As a non-profit charitable organization, we rely heavily on donations and always appreciate them. However, six of the nine events were held for free. The trend continues where we work as much as possible with all relevant players within the Finnish community in the tri-state-area to support



New York Metropolitan Chapter

Heli Sirviö chats with author Teemu Luukka at a release party for his book about legendary New York City entrepreneur Tyyni Kalervo, an early supporter of FFNYMC.

students and the Finnish community itself here in our home, New York." He explains that the cooperative approach broadens the audience and potential success for an event, and this is a way to strengthen the organization and its future.

"Not so long ago, we celebrated Finland's 100th anniversary, and April 12 of this year marks the 65th anniversary of the Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter!"

Only a year after the inception of Finlandia Foundation National in January of 1953, the FFNYMC was founded by charter members Reino Aarnio, Esa Arra, Piltti Heiskanen, Jussi Himanka, Raymond K. J. Luomanen and Theodore M. Purdy, who was also the first president of the chapter.

From the beginning, FFNYMC took a strong role in supporting the Finnish community, when the Sports Committee granted aid for Finnish athletes' travel expenses to participate in the Olympics in Melbourne, Australia in 1956. The annual Press Awards were started in 1958 in recognition of significant cultural coverage of Finland in the American media; this award was later changed to Arts and Letters and extended to other areas as well (e.g. music and architecture).

In 1965 FFNYMC began to grant annual scholarships, still a prominent part of the foundation's mission. This year the organization gave \$30,000 worth of grants and scholarships to Finnish/American students in such fields as science, medicine, music, art, history and education.



1. LAFF members who shared their treasures and stories (from left): Sirvo Wieremo, Larry Soronen, Karl Morris, Jeff Neff, Janice Hiltunen, Liisa Linnala, Dennis Matson, Elissa Della Rocca and Carm Goode
2. Sirvo Wieremo's Finnish knife
3. Liisa Linnala's handcarved serving spoon from Finland

For the Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation meeting on March 17, members were invited to bring an item from their family's past that is Finland-related, and tell stories about the item and their family history in Finland or the United States. "It was a great way to learn more about our members," says LAFF President Ellen Harju.

# Chapter News

By Margaret Fibel | FFNCC First Vice President

On March 14, 60 members of Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter enjoyed an unusual Kalevala Day event at the beautiful Embassy of Finland. We savored a light buffet of Finnish-style food and heard FFNCC member Seija Cleverley recite poems from the epic Kalevala and its "sister" book Kanteletar. FFN Performer of the Year, saxophone player Juli Wood with guitar accompanist Steve Herberman, played Finnish folk tunes linked with a jazzy twist to American songs.

We also offered a silent auction fundraiser of "pulla bags." These were Finnish baked goods including pulla, limppu and cookies loaded into special canvas bags designed by FFNCC member Sanna Massala.

In addition, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of FFNCC with a discussion of chapter history by FFN President Ossi



Washington, D.C.

Rahkonen, who was the National Capital Chapter president from 2001 to 2004.



## In Memoriam: Paul Suomala

During the Finlandia Foundation 60th anniversary celebration in Pasadena, FFN trustees and guests toured the Fenyes Paloheimo mansion, where the organization was founded in January of 1953. From left, Melodee Bahr, board members Dennis Anderson and Paul Suomala, and Dorothy Suomala.

Paul Alfred Suomala, who served as a trustee of Finlandia Foundation National from 2012 to 2015, was a man of many talents and interests, who was proud of his Finnish heritage and dedicated to his family and church. Paul passed away peacefully on January 4, 2019 in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Paul's paternal grandparents immigrated from Kalajoki and Teuva, Finland, to Wolf Lake in central Minnesota in the 1890s. His maternal grandfather immigrated

from Alahärmä, Finland and his grandmother from Sweden, also in the 1890s.

Paul grew up on his family's dairy farm and attended the University of Minnesota, majoring in animal industry and economics. After college he worked at Cargill, Inc., as territory manager in the feed division. Among his business enterprises he founded EMPRO, a regional distributor of construction materials and coatings.

Fellow FFN trustee Dennis Anderson, also

of Minnesota, met Paul by happenstance when he overheard Paul and his business partner Jussi Sarvela speaking in Finnish in a restaurant. "Thus began a wonderful friendship that was to last over 30 years," says Dennis.

In addition to serving on the FFN board, Paul was active with the Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society, the Red River Finns, Rotary International

and Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church. He loved to cook, and for 18 years demonstrated Finnish cooking at the annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Favorite dishes, recalls Dennis, were his famous lihamojakka (beef stew) and the his luscious mansikkakakku, a strawberry sheet cake made with a fruit filling and topped with fresh whipped cream and strawberries.

"Paul's creativity in the kitchen will be missed by his family and the many friends," says Dennis. "He was the epitome of a devoted husband, father and friend."

Dorothy, his wife of more than 54 years, survives him. In addition, Paul is survived by four children: Dr. Karla Suomala (Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy), Jon Suomala (Sarah Coomber), Lana Suomala (Mark Schutz), Rev. Mary Suomala Folkerds (Rev. Aaron Suomala Folkerds); six grandchildren; and five siblings.

## Honoring the 80th Anniversary of the SFK Ski March

By Ossi Rahkonen | FFN President



Every five years, the Svenska Finlandsfrivilligas Minnesförening (Swedish Association of Finnish Volunteers' Memorial Society, or SFK) and Finlandia Foundation National sponsor the SFK Memorial Ski March to commemorate a significant event of the Winter War. The next ski march takes place from March 26-29, 2020, when volunteers on skis will, as did the ski troopers of 1940, cross 80 km (50 miles) from Kemijärvi to Salla in Finnish Lapland.

### Background

On November 30, 1939, without declaration of war, the Soviet Union attacked Finland, starting the Winter War. This act of aggression shocked the world and the USSR was expelled from the League of Nations.

Finland, then a nation of 3.5-million, had a shortage of manpower and arms compared with the Soviet Union, with its population of 200 million. There was a tremendous need for outside support, which could not be mobilized on short notice. Although they expressed strong sympathies, foreign governments were reluctant to be drawn into the conflict.

However, within three weeks of the attack, foreign volunteers began arriving to fight for Finland: 11,500 volunteers from at least 12 countries came to help fight the Soviets.

Among them were 372 Finnish-Americans, 350 Hungarians, 346 Karelians and Ingrians, 230 British and 150 Italians. The great majority---9,000---were Swedes, with Norwegians and Danes serving in the Swedish Volunteer Corps and the Danish Finland Corps.

Swedish volunteers received several weeks of training on the Finnish side and were transported by rail to Kemijärvi, east of Rovaniemi. But the remaining distance---about 80 km to the border area of Salla---was on skis. This

was a tremendous undertaking physically, with numerous casualties by frostbite.

At the end of the Winter War, Marshal Carl Mannerheim traveled to Salla to personally thank the SFK volunteers for their efforts on behalf of Finland.

The SFK Memorial March follows the trail of the volunteers, passing many memorials erected along the way. Finnish active troops stationed in Lapland have joined the SFK ski troops in this tribute.

The 2020 event will mark the 80th anniversary of the march, and as a proud sponsor, Finlandia Foundation National is duly recognized in the program. Your contributions to support this important commemoration are most appreciated.

To read more about the SFK Ski March and/or to donate to the tribute, go to [FinlandiaFoundation.org/sfk-ski-march](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org/sfk-ski-march).

The official website for Svenska Finlandsfrivilligas Minnesförening (Swedish Association of Finnish Volunteers' Memorial Society, or SFK) is in Swedish at: [finlandsfrivilliga.com](http://finlandsfrivilliga.com).



## FFN Trustees Meet in San Diego

Jussi Makkonen and Nazig Azejian presented FFN trustees with their new book and CD set, *The Blue Bird*. Below, the duo paused with, from left, board members Ossi Rahkonen, Eeva Syvanen and Teuvo Pulkkinen. Trustees enjoyed House of Finland hospitality at a reception and dinner.

Finlandia Foundation trustees conducted their spring meeting in San Diego March 29-30, preceded by committee meetings on the 28th. The full agenda included several pieces of business covered in this newsletter: recommendations from the scholarship and grants committees on the FFN 2019 awards, selection of the Lecturer of the Year, and an exciting new music program.

The FFN board is comprised of 18 trustees who volunteer their time and talents to the operation of Finlandia Foundation. Each year they take on the responsibilities associated with the organization's many programs, from Soiva Music Camp to fundraising. The annual committee assignments were confirmed at the board meeting; find details at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

The meeting location allowed the trustees to meet local members of the FFN San Diego chapter, House of Finland. The House of Finland belongs to the House of

Pacific Relations (HPR), a non-profit community organization in San Diego, which was founded in 1935 and is dedicated to furthering cooperation and understanding between

national groups in the United States.

HPR consists of 34 national groups, many of which have their own cottage in Balboa Park. House of Finland, founded in 1939, has filled its cottage with examples of Finnish glass, textiles and materials related to cultural icons including Jean Sibelius and Angry Birds. The international cottages are open to the public on weekends, when each group takes a turn presenting an entertaining cultural program.

Following the close of their meeting on Saturday, FFN board members enjoyed a reception at the House of Finland followed by dinner and a music program at the Hall of Nations, a short stroll away.

Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian played selections by Finnish composers, including a piece composed for *The Blue Bird*, the duet's new children's book and CD set and theme of one of their touring programs (see story on page 4).



## Juha Mäkipää Why I Give

Juha Mäkipää is well-known among Finnish-Americans. His expertise as a global business leader for IBM took him to Paris, Tokyo and New York, and enabled him to sell and install the first IBM computers in Finland, Ireland and the People's Republic of China. With all of his international success, Juha still managed to find time to be a leader with Finlandia Foundation. He first joined the New York Metropolitan Chapter in 1975 shortly after moving to the United States from Tokyo. Since then, he has served as treasurer and president of that chapter, the Florida chapter and FFN.

Juha was born and raised in Helsinki and benefited from an excellent Finnish private school, learning five languages from age six. By 16, he had graduated high school and went on to receive a Master of Science in Engineering from the Helsinki Institute of Technology.

He joined IBM Finland in 1959 as a sales representative and helped install many of the first computers in Finland. With his skills and expertise, he was promoted up the corporate ladder and had the opportunity to work on some significant and transformative projects, including the first maritime collision avoidance system and the first Apollo Lunar Module.

After 30 years of service, Juha retired and now lives in Florida. Throughout his career in the United States, he has actively celebrated his Finnish heritage.

"I felt that of all the multitude of Finnish-American organizations, Finlandia Foundation alone had the programs, organization and leadership required for long term growth and success," Juha says. "It turns out that I was right. So many other Finnish-American organizations have suffered decline and extinction over the past decades, and it looks like not very many others still remain as active."

We asked Juha a few questions about his career, his success, and why he is an active supporter of Finlandia Foundation.

**Q: Tell us about your educational and career path and the factors that were critical to your success.**

Timing and pure luck contributed heavily. The school I went to in Helsinki had a heavy emphasis on languages from age six through 12. High school summer vacation jobs in Germany, England and Sweden also helped. Later, a one-year scholarship to the University of Wisconsin added to my English skills. Finnish students were invited to apply for the very generous scholarship just one day before a 1956 general strike happened to close all post offices in Finland. Apparently, I was the only applicant who thought of taking my application to the American Embassy in Helsinki, and persuading them to add it to the diplomatic mail. IBM Finland hired me mainly based on being fluent in three or more languages.

**Q: Do you think your Finnish heritage and upbringing helped you in any way?**

My parents were both college graduates and placed a great emphasis on education. Kids raised in Helsinki were also offered a wider range of educational opportunities than families in rural areas. For example, the private school I attended offered an accelerated path to graduation, enabling me to apply to universities at age 16.

**Q: What are your fondest "Finnish" memories?**

I loved my college years in Helsinki. For example I worked to develop the first Finnish TV network (TES TV) in studios at the Finland Institute of Technology. I met with many famous Finnish entertainers and politicians in our studios.

**Q: What advice would you give our current group of FFN scholarship recipients as they complete their education and start their careers?**

Large companies, especially those operating internationally, offer better opportunities for skills development and career advancement than smaller, local companies. Looks better on your resume, too.



Juha Mäkipää had the opportunity to meet with Vice President Mike Pence at the White House in March of 2019.

**Q: What important role can Finlandia Foundation National play in the future?**

In my opinion, Finlandia Foundation is probably the only Finnish-American organization that has excellent odds for survival and success. Finlandia Foundation has for many decades been quite successful in supporting Finnish culture in the United States. Longer term, however, I see some serious challenges. I am hoping that Finlandia Foundation will find some major breakthroughs in the area of fundraising. Only a solid financial foundation can guarantee future growth and success.

**Q: Why do you support the Finlandia Foundation?**

I support Finlandia Foundation exactly because it is the one and only Finnish organization with a proven track record and the best financial footing to survive into the future.

**Q: Why is it important for others to support the Finlandia Foundation?**

Hundreds of Finn Halls and other Finnish organizations have gone under in this country, often competing with each other. In my old New York Metro area alone, we used to have five Finn Halls. We now have zero. Let's all join to support the organization with the best odds for continues success, the Finlandia Foundation.

# Kiitos! Thank You For Your Gifts!

## Gifts from \$1,000 through Major Gifts are cumulative

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Rauha Cole Estate  
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Armi Kuusela-Williams  
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In memory of Eero & Helli Tetri  
Hanna & David Wagner  
Susan E. Walima  
Armi Kuusela-Williams

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& Madeline Bahr  
Kristina Antoniadis  
Michael & Elaine Anuta  
Irmeli Corsi &  
Louis Gerard Corsi  
Maurice & Edith Eash  
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### Gifts from November 2018 through April 2019

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Helin Korpela Fund  
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Timothy Nurvala  
Anne-Mari & Frederick Paster  
Ossi Rahkonen  
Päivi Tetri  
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Anita Smiley  
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Richard & Janet Ahola  
Arnold Alanen  
& Lynn Bjorkman  
Dennis Anderson  
Anonymous  
Kari Autio  
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Gary & Diane Bednar  
Elana Brink  
James Ford Cooper  
Darryl & Karin Daharb  
Kaisa Dolan  
Jonene Eliasson  
Jonathan Epstein  
David Erkkila  
In memory of  
Irene Lahti Erkkila  
Esko Historical Society  
Patti Folsom  
Michael Gros  
Helena Halmari  
Jacqueline Harjula  
Louise Hartung  
In honor of Katri Maria Hill  
Sonja Haugen  
Joan Hollander  
In memory of Hilma Hollander  
Ariel & Anita Larson  
In memory of W.W. Toppila  
Kari & Helka Launen  
Tuulikki Loring  
David & Marja Meharry  
Lois Munch  
Hillevi Null  
Jack W. Osman  
Birgitta & Shackford Pitcher  
John Puotinen  
Paul Rajala  
Robert Ranta  
David & Sandra Scheel  
In memory of  
Laina Kehus Lampi  
Olli Silander  
Tarja Silverman  
Paul & Catherine Tulikangas  
Turto & Arja Turtiainen  
Hilary-Joy Virtanen  
Eva Wahlroos  
In memory of Sven Wahlroos  
Marliisa & John Westerfield  
Mary Wurzer

continued next page

### GIFTS TO \$99

Anonymous  
Irene Auel  
Marlene Broemer  
In honor of  
Hilary-Joy Virtanen  
James Butler  
Sari Castren  
William & Rose Cook  
Candace Fleischer  
Ellen Fryxell

In memory of  
Reino & Sylvia Aarnio  
Nancy & Enrique Garcia  
Robert E. Hausner  
Maija A. Hulkkonen  
Helvi Anneli Johnson  
In memory of  
Harry Alfred Johnson

Erwin Kann  
Shulamit Kleinerman  
David Kokko  
Mark & Marie Koski  
Michael & Carol Krutsch  
Irene Lamanen  
Gordon & Carla Lyon  
Elaine Marshall  
Karen & Richard Michael  
Mark Munger,  
Cloquet River Press  
Anthony & Judith Olson  
Megan Perry  
Ruth Peterson  
Urho & Pamela Rahkola  
Mary Rinki  
Paula Robbins  
Elaine Stevens  
Harlan & Marlene Stoehr  
Gary Summers

Linda & Allan Tuomaala  
Dennis Usitalo  
Randy Wanttaja  
In memory of Tally Miettinen  
Ristiina Wigg  
Jean Sarchet Ylitalo  
William E. Zelm

### 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 and fun news items, event information and more.

### CORRECTIONS TO FALL NEWS

The following gifts, which were listed in the FFN Fall 2018 News, should have acknowledged that they were given in tribute as noted here. The editor regrets the errors:

Rolf & Janice Anderson  
In memory of Albert Jokela  
Mark Andstrom  
In memory of  
Karen Andstrom LaBonte,  
Elizabeth Herbert Andstrom  
Michael & Elaine Anuta  
In honor of  
Helmi Costenso-Taipale  
Lindsay Gwyther  
In memory of Eva Hirvi  
Tuulikki Loring  
In memory of Nelly Taylor  
Bob Maki  
In memory of  
Oiva Armas Maki  
James R. Riehle  
In memory of Allie Kaartinen  
Albert Riippi  
In memory of Jean Riippi

### FINLANDIA FOUNDATION 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.

### GIFT OF \$500+

Paul & Susan Halme  
Omar & Saima Halme  
Loretta (Posio) Lindell & Carolyn (Posio) Wills  
Posio/Ranta Families  
Pertti Lindfors  
Consul Jarl Lindfors  
Karl Ernest Pierson  
Helmi Wirtanen Pierson  
David & Jeannette Sharpe  
Ruth Viola Hyry Sharpe  
Anita Smiley  
Jack & Ida (Lillquist) Häkklä

### GIFT OF \$250

Michael & Elaine Anuta  
Helmi Costenso-Taipale  
Michael & Elaine Anuta  
Taimi Elsa Mikkonen  
Anna Leena Christensen  
Alma (Luoma) & Matti Laukkonen  
Kirsti Frenzen Noring  
Donald Frenzen  
Hillevi Null  
Nikolai & Amalia Domars  
James R. Riehle  
Allie Kaartinen

### SUOMI -SEURA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



At their recent meeting, Suomi-Seura announced a leadership change (from left): Immediate Past Chairman Jarmo Virmavirta, with Executive Director Tina Strandberg and newly named Chairman Markus Aaltonen, who had previously served as vice chair of Suomi-Seura. He is also the speaker for the Expatriate Parliament.

they lived abroad or moved back to Finland. Membership is open to anyone, and the annual dues include a subscription to the bi-monthly Finland Bridge magazine.

Are you familiar with Suomi-Seura, the Finland Society?

Based in Helsinki, the non-profit organization was founded in 1927 to assist expatriate Finns as

Most of the material in the magazine and on the website is in Finnish, but there are English pages.

Find more information at suomi-seura.fi.

Kath Usitalo & Tom Kozak  
Robert & Elsie Usitalo,  
Ellen & Reino Lahti,  
Isaac & Anna Usitalo  
Marliisa Westerfield  
Finnish Grandparents & Father

### GIFT OF \$100

Mark Andstrom  
Karen Andstrom LaBonte,  
Elizabeth Herbert Andstrom  
Roger & Karen Ashenfelter  
Juho K. Sievila  
Marie Balander  
Leo & Lois Balander  
Jeffrey & Louise Clarke  
Helmi Tarkiainen Lehto  
David Erkkila  
John A. Ridan  
Albert Riippi  
N. Jean Riippi  
David & Sandra Scheel  
Laina Kehus Lampi  
Susan & Ray Sutherland  
Edith & Erwin Savala  
Ruthann Swanson  
Jack W. & Hilma S. (Riippi) Rintala  
Ruth Ann Swanson  
Matti (Hautala) Hill & Aino Elizabeth (Rako) Hill  
Eva Wahlroos  
Sven Wahlroos

## 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](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org)

### ALASKA

**Anchorage Suomi Finland Club/2015**  
Hanna Eklund  
[hanna.eklund@gmail.com](mailto:hanna.eklund@gmail.com)

### ARIZONA

**The F-A Club of Tucson/2007**  
Tommi Koskinen  
[tucsonfinnclub@gmail.com](mailto:tucsonfinnclub@gmail.com)

**Finns and Friends of Phoenix/2010**

Joy Dorvinen  
[finnsandfriendsclub@gmail.com](mailto:finnsandfriendsclub@gmail.com)

### CALIFORNIA

**Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley/2006**  
Chad Riding  
[criding2002@yahoo.com](mailto:criding2002@yahoo.com)

**FF Berkeley Chapter/2016**  
Kaj Rekola  
[krekola@gmail.com](mailto:krekola@gmail.com)

**FF Los Angeles Chapter/1974**  
Ellen Harju  
[harju@ucla.edu](mailto:harju@ucla.edu)

**FF San Francisco Bay Area Chapter/1956**

Nina Ehrsam  
[nehrsam@mac.com](mailto:nehrsam@mac.com)  
Heidi Saario  
[heidi@playthepiano.ca](mailto:heidi@playthepiano.ca)

**F-A Home Association/2005**  
Sonoma  
Stephen Rowe  
[directors@fahausa.org](mailto:directors@fahausa.org)

**The House of Finland-San Diego/2015**  
Eeva Syvanen  
[eeva\\_syvanen@yahoo.com](mailto:eeva_syvanen@yahoo.com)

### COLORADO

**FF Colorado Chapter/1993**  
Denver  
Kirsi St. Marie  
[kirsistmarie@comcast.net](mailto:kirsistmarie@comcast.net)

### CONNECTICUT

**F-A Heritage Society/2011**  
Canterbury  
Steven Bousquet  
[stevenbousquet@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenbousquet@yahoo.com)

### DELAWARE

**Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans/2017** Newark  
Roy Palo  
[palonpaa@aol.com](mailto:palonpaa@aol.com)

**New Sweden Alliance/2017**  
Yorklyn *Affiliated Member*  
Sheila Romine [sromine@newsweedalliance.org](mailto:sromine@newsweedalliance.org)

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**FF National Capital Chapter/1959**  
Turto Turtiainen  
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### FLORIDA

**FF Florida Chapter/1954**  
Lantana  
Kaarina Langeland  
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**FinnsConnect South Florida/2017**

Miami-Dade-Broward Counties  
Päivi Kaufman  
[finnsconnect@gmail.com](mailto:finnsconnect@gmail.com)

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta Finland Society, Inc./1975**  
Minna LeVine  
[levineminna@gmail.com](mailto:levineminna@gmail.com)

### IDAHO

**FF Inland Northwest Chapter/1970**  
Don Heikkila  
[idahofinn@hotmail.com](mailto:idahofinn@hotmail.com)

### ILLINOIS

**F-A Society of the Midwest/1997** Chicago area  
Liisa McMahon  
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### MAINE

**F-A Heritage Society of Maine/2012** West Paris  
Dale Piirainen  
[mainefinns1@gmail.com](mailto:mainefinns1@gmail.com)

**Finnish Farmers Club/2012**  
Monson  
Inez Goodine  
[Donaldp.Higgins@gmail.com](mailto:Donaldp.Higgins@gmail.com)

**Finnish Heritage House/2007**  
South Thomaston  
Jacqueline Harjula  
[jackielee207@gmail.com](mailto:jackielee207@gmail.com)

### MARYLAND

**FF Baltimore Area Chapter/1974**  
Yolanda Messia de Prado-Slack  
[ydepradoslack@gmail.com](mailto:ydepradoslack@gmail.com)

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Cape Ann Finns/2017**  
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**FF Boston, Inc./1955**  
Linda Lindell  
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**F-A Society of Cape Cod/2012**  
Stephen Trimble  
[satcapecod@hotmail.com](mailto:satcapecod@hotmail.com)

**The Finnish Center at Saima Park, Inc./2005** Fitchburg  
Linda Byrne  
[lin\\_joebyrne@msn.com](mailto:lin_joebyrne@msn.com)

**The Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja/2006** Rutland  
Barry Heiniluoma  
[barry.heiniluoma@gmail.com](mailto:barry.heiniluoma@gmail.com)

### MICHIGAN

**FF Michigan/2012** Royal Oak  
Frank Gottberg  
[frrankk@att.net](mailto:frrankk@att.net)

**F-A Society of West Central Michigan/2007** Coopersville  
Marie Godell Fowler  
[lydiamarie@earthlink.net](mailto:lydiamarie@earthlink.net)

**Finnish Center Association/2004** Farmington Hills  
Mia Lamminen  
[finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com)

**Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock - FF Copper Country Chapter/2006**  
James Kurtti  
[jkurtti@chartermi.net](mailto:jkurtti@chartermi.net)

**FF National, Lake Superior Chapter** (formerly Upper Peninsula Chapter of the League of F-A Societies) /2006  
Marquette  
Ron J. Hill  
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### MINNESOTA

**FF Northland Chapter/2010**  
Duluth  
Amy B. Hietapelto  
[abhietapelto@yahoo.com](mailto:abhietapelto@yahoo.com)

**FF Twin Cities Chapter/1994**  
Betsey Norgard  
[bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com)

**Finnish-Americans and Friends-Hibbing Chapter/1998**  
Edward Pajunen  
[edwardpajunen@gmail.com](mailto:edwardpajunen@gmail.com)

**Kaleva Building Corporation/2017** Virginia  
Art Maki  
[makiart@uslink.net](mailto:makiart@uslink.net)

**Red River Finns/2011** Moorhead  
Ellen Liddle  
[ellen.liddle@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen.liddle@yahoo.com)

### MONTANA

**FF Montana/2017** Missoula  
Jenni Rohrbach  
[finlandiafoundationmontana@gmail.com](mailto:finlandiafoundationmontana@gmail.com)

**Finn Club of Helena/2007**  
Marjorie Peura Reilly  
[marjpr@jeffbb.net](mailto:marjpr@jeffbb.net)

**Red Lodge Knights and Ladies of Kaleva/2011** Roberts  
Claudia Morley  
[cmorleylau94@gmail.com](mailto:cmorleylau94@gmail.com)

### NEW YORK

**Finger Lakes Finns/2006**  
Spencer  
Restina "Rusty" Wigg  
[r16wigg@aol.com](mailto:r16wigg@aol.com)

**FF New York Metropolitan Chapter/1954**  
Eero Kilpi  
[kilpi@me.com](mailto:kilpi@me.com)

### OHIO

**F-A Heritage Association of Ashtabula County/2003**  
Linda Sippola Riddell  
[lriddell1207@gmail.com](mailto:lriddell1207@gmail.com)

**Finnish Heritage Museum/2015**  
Fairport Harbor  
Lasse Hiltunen  
[lassehiltunen1@icloud.com](mailto:lassehiltunen1@icloud.com)

### OREGON

**FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter/2001** Portland  
Greg Jacob  
[jacobgk@comcast.net](mailto:jacobgk@comcast.net)

### PENNSYLVANIA

**FF Pittsburgh Chapter/1990**  
Seija Cohen  
[SeijaC@aol.com](mailto:SeijaC@aol.com)

**F-A Society of the Delaware Valley/2006** Philadelphia  
Marja Kaisla  
[mjkaisla@yahoo.com](mailto:mjkaisla@yahoo.com)

### SOUTH DAKOTA

**Frederick Forward - FF Dakota Chapter/2012**  
Heidi Marttila-Losure  
[hmmartti@yahoo.com](mailto:hmmartti@yahoo.com)

**Sons and Daughters of Suomi/2015** Deadwood  
Larry Rantapaa  
[rantapaa@gmail.com](mailto:rantapaa@gmail.com)

### TEXAS

**F-A Society of Dallas/Fort Worth/1991**  
Jeremy Martin  
[president@texfinn.org](mailto:president@texfinn.org)

**Finnish Language School of North Texas/2018**  
Leila Jaamuru [puheenjohtaja@suomi-koulu.com](mailto:puheenjohtaja@suomi-koulu.com)

### UTAH

**FF Utah Chapter/2016** Provo  
Tiina Watts  
[tiiwatts@gmail.com](mailto:tiiwatts@gmail.com)

### VIRGINIA

**FF Tidewater Virginia Chapter/1979**  
Riikka Mohorn  
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### WASHINGTON

**FF Seattle Chapter/1968**  
Mikko Männistö  
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**FF Suomi Chapter/2010**  
Bellingham  
Pasi Virta  
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**F-A Folk Festival/2011** Naselle  
Mike Swanson  
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**Swedish-Finn Historical Society/1991** Seattle  
Bill Carlson  
[carlsonharrington@comcast.net](mailto:carlsonharrington@comcast.net)