



Finlandia Foundation® National

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

2019 Lecturer of the Year



Soile Anderson & Eleanor Ostman

2019 Lecturer of the Year “Meet the Finn Cooks” Soile Anderson & Eleanor Ostman

In 2006 Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States, introduced its Lecturer of the Year (LOY) program for the purpose of sharing the history and culture of Finland and Finnish America with audiences across the United States.

Since its inception, FFN chapters have hosted LOY on topics ranging from the Winter War to Jean Sibelius, the architecture of the Saarins, and folk music traditions.



In 2017, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Finland's Declaration of Independence, five Centenary Lecturers spoke about a variety of topics related to Finland's independence and identity.

Current FFN lecturers are Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman, who co-present on aspects of Finnish foodways. Authors of the book *Celebrations to Remember: Exceptional Party Décor and Fabulous Food*, Anderson and Ostman are well-regarded in their home region of Minnesota and far beyond.

A native of Finland, Soile (left) relocated to Minnesota, settling in the Twin Cities area. She was already a successful restaurateur and spa hotel

owner in eastern Finland before she came to the U.S. to study fast food; she planned to bring that concept back to Finland, where it was then unknown.

Instead, she stayed in America and founded The Deco Restaurant, Taste of Scandinavia bakeries, and the Finnish Bistro, where she served the likes of President Barack Obama, the King and Queen of Norway, and the Dalai Lama.

Soile has also been featured in Martha Stewart Living magazine. In 2017, she was inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame.

Eleanor (right), 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 has blossomed into joint food demonstrations and talks including at FinnFest USA 2019.

They will serve as LOY from July 2019 through June 2020.

PREVIOUS LECTURERS OF THE YEAR

2018

James Ford Cooper, "Finland and the Cold War" and Frank W. Eld, "Finnish Log Construction: The Art"

2017

Centenary Lecturers: Thomas A. DuBois, Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen, Peter MacKeith, Börje Vähämäki and K. Marianne Wargelin

2015-16

"An Evening with Taina Elg: From Finland to Stardom," also with Heli Sirviö

2014

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

2013

Yvonne Lockwood, "Traditional Material Culture in Modern Finnish America"

2012

Glenda Dawn Goss, "Sibelius: A Composer's Life and the Awakening of Finland"

2011

Carl Rahkonen, "The Finnish-American Musical Journey"

2010

Arnold Alanen, "From Finland to North America: Buildings, Landscapes and Cultural Change"

2007-09

Mark Coir and Susan Saarinen, "The Saarinen Architectural Legacy"

2006

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

Finlandia Foundation National, the most important source of support for Finnish culture in the U.S., was founded in Pasadena, California in 1953.

FFN administers scholarships, grants and programs encouraging and celebrating Finnish heritage and Finnish-American culture and traditions, and contemporary Finnish America.



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

Finlandia Foundation National P.O. Box 92046 Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

Please contact the FFN office for more information:
Phone: 626.795.2081 Email: office@finlandiafoundation.org