

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.

FALL | 2019

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2019

"We are very honored and grateful to have received this award. The collaboration with Finlandia Foundation National has been excellent over the years, and we are very excited to be able to introduce contemporary music by Finnish composers in the United States in the near future."

Jussi Makkonen and Nazig Azejian

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Word from the President Hyvät ystävät:



The Board of Trustees of Finlandia Foundation National met in Helsinki in early October for the first time in more than 20 years. It was a very successful visit, as described elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was also a necessary visit, in order to strengthen our relations with important stakeholders in Finland, and to establish new ones. It was apparent that establishment of personal contacts is important, as demonstrated by the number of meetings we had and by the turnout of our Finnish contacts at the reception we hosted at Helsinki City Hall Restaurant.

We were able to present the Award of Excellence to Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian for their great work in promoting Finnish music--that of our former patron Jean Sibelius in particular--to audiences in the United States. They have really been great promoters of Finnish music and culture.

We also recognized Suomi-Seura/Finland Society, our most important contact in Finland, for the work they are doing worldwide. Suomi-Seura supports overseas Finns, and acts as the secretariat for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, which is the only one of its kind in the world. It is obvious that the FFN Board needs to visit Finland again in about 10 years.

Fundraising is another matter of key importance to FFN. Our strength is in the programs we provide to benefit the members of our 58 chapters and the Finnish-American community at large, including grants and scholarships (summarized each year in our spring newsletter). The grants we award demonstrate the very wide range of cultural areas we support, but the demand is much larger today than what we can financially assist. It is absolutely essential that we not only continue, but expand our ability to fund these projects, and to do that we must receive increased support through donations. The same applies to scholarships. We are able to fund only a fraction of the annual cost of college-level education and the gap is widening.

Finlandia Foundation does not receive any public funding; it is entirely dependent on private donations. We are making a strong plea for support in this newsletter, and I am sure that you will respond. We cannot allow our support of Finnish and Finnish-American culture to decline.

I wish you wonderful holidays and all the best in the year ahead.
Hauskaa joulua ja onnellista uutta vuotta!

Ossi Rahkonen

Please see the article on page 23 regarding a tax-free ^{PAGE} gift you may be eligible to make through your IRA. **23**

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the **FFN Communications Committee**: Jacqueline Harjula, chair, and Katariina 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**
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CONTACT Finlandia Foundation National FinlandiaFoundation.org
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Evenings of Finnish Music and Silent Film with POY Kent Washburn

By **Betsey Norgard**
POY Coordinator

Organist Kent "Aarne" Washburn, selected as the 2020 Performer of the Year, has in his repertoire a host of Finnish musical experiences to present to audiences around the country. The wide range of Finnish orchestral music that he has transcribed for organ includes traditional folk music, patriotic marches and songs, and favorites such as "Kulkurin valssi," "Kotimaani ompe Suomi" and "Finlandia."

One especially engaging program has been the screening of *Mustalaishurmaaja* (*The Gypsy Charmer*), a Finnish silent film, for which Washburn scored an organ soundtrack. The film was written and directed by Valentin Vaala and Teuvo Tulio, two Russian immigrants to Finland. They stepped into the cinema limelight in 1929 with a colorful film script featuring a Rudolph Valentino-like gypsy played by Tulio.

Washburn accompanied the film entirely with Finnish music, and to the colorful gypsy life on screen he matched a wealth of equally colorful folk and popular music. The film soundtrack premiered in 2013 at FinnFest USA in Hancock, Michigan.

Kent Washburn grew up in Ithaca, New York, where his mother, who was born in Finland, and his father were founding members of the Finger Lakes Finns. He began piano lessons at age nine and organ studies at age 14, while enjoying participating in local Finnish music and dance activities. He went on to complete organ and music studies at Syracuse University.

Washburn lives in the Washington, D.C. metro area and is organist at Arlington Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia. He has performed on piano at the Finnish Embassy for Kalevala Night, and enjoys playing organ concerts of Finnish orchestral music.

If your chapter would like to host Kent Washburn during 2020, contact **Betsey Norgard**, POY coordinator, at bjnorgard@gmail.com. Find POY hosting guidelines at FinlandiaFoundation.org.



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!

Rauhallista Joulua
ja Onnellista
Uutta Vuotta!



Juho Kuva photo courtesy Visit Finland



Finlandia Foundation National selected Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian to receive its 2019 Award of Excellence. The honor recognizes their outstanding musicianship, especially in their unique interpretation of the works of Jean Sibelius, as well as the music of other great Finnish composers, says FFN President Ossi Rahkonen. He presented the award in Helsinki at an October 3 reception during the FFN board meeting.

Makkonen and Azezian are dedicated to introducing classical music to young people through performances at schools across Finland, in Europe and the United States. They have produced two sets of CD recordings and illustrated children's books: *Soiva Metsä* (Melody Forest) about the influence of nature on Jean Sibelius, and *Lintu Sininen* (The Blue Bird), a new composition by Jonne Valtonen. The duo will bring the music of Finland to American audiences on their U.S. tour, now through 2021.

Makkonen and Azezian are among the founders of Finland's Monola Society, and

are organizers of and participants in the annual Monola Festival in Pielinen-Karelia. Monola nurtures and promotes the heritage of Sibelius, the Kalevala and Karelianism.

Finlandia Foundation presented its inaugural Award of Excellence in 2015 to the Seattle Symphony as the orchestra celebrated Jean Sibelius and the 150th anniversary of his birth.

In 2017, the Finland 100 year, the award recognized John and Pauline Kiltinen of Marquette, Michigan, for their many contributions to Finnish America.

At the Helsinki reception (above, from left): Tina Strandberg, Marjut and Teuvo Pulkkinen, and Nazig Azezian and Jussi Makkonen with their awards.

Ceramic artist Lenore Rae Lampi of Duluth, Minnesota, created the 2019 awards, which are vases that resemble birch trees. Learn more about her functional and sculptural work at lenorelampi.com.

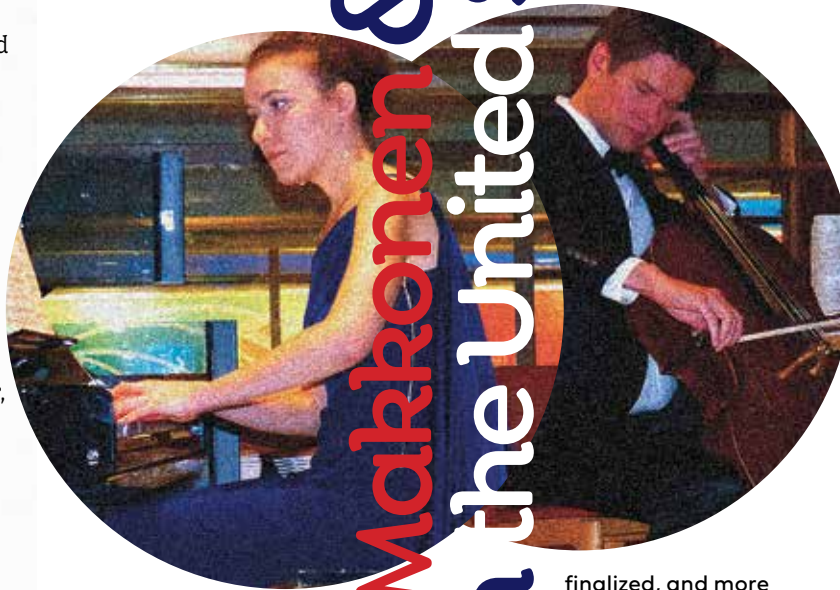


By Teuvo Pulkkinen
FFN Trustee

Finlandia Foundation National is proud to support the United States tour by Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian. The duo offers a choice of three programs:

FINNISH JEWELS, featuring the work of Jean Sibelius, Oskar Merikanto and Heino Kaski.

SIBELIUS INSPIRATION, a multi-media experience that



transports the audience into the natural world that inspired Jean Sibelius.

THE BLUE BIRD, a new piece by contemporary composer Jonne Valtonen that can be performed with or without live orchestra.

The tour program stands as follows:

2019 FALL: The November tour covered the Southwest, with concerts in Tucson, San Diego and Los Angeles.

2020 SPRING: The plan includes concerts in Florida, the Midwest and Boston in April. The schedule and tour details are under development, and more concerts may be added.

2020 FALL: The tour will begin in Alaska in late September and continue in October to Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and San Diego. The schedule and concerts still are being

finalized, and more concerts may be added.

2021 FALL AND SPRING: The tour schedule is open and will be developed based on interest from FFN chapters.

Find more information about the artists and their programs at FinlandiaFoundation.org. To discuss and schedule an appearance contact Teuvo Pulkkinen at teuvo_pulkkinen@hotmail.com or 760.975.7504.

Jussi Makkonen & Nazig Azezian Concert Tours in the United States 2019-2021

FFN Recognizes Contributions of Suomi-Seura

At an afternoon reception at the Finnish Literature Society in Helsinki during the fall board meeting of Finlandia Foundation National, President Ossi Rahkonen recognized Suomi-Seura/Finland Society for its many contributions toward building stronger connections between American citizens with Finnish roots, other friends of Finland, and contemporary Finland.

Since 1927, Suomi-Seura has worked to serve and connect expatriate Finns, and to strengthen the image and knowledge of Finland overseas through its resources, distribution of information, and magazine, *Suomen Silta* (Finland Bridge). Suomi-Seura serves as secretariat of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, the only organization of its kind. Additionally, Suomi-Seura supports Suomi-koulu (Finnish language schools) for children around the world, including many in the United States.

To learn more about the Finland Society go to suomi-seura.fi.

Ossi Rahkonen recognizes the work of Suomi-Seura in a presentation to Executive Director Tina Strandberg and Chair Markus Aaltonen.



Ceramic artist Lenore Rae Lampi of Duluth, Minnesota, created the award to resemble a scroll of birch bark. Learn more about her work at lenorelampi.com.

Finnish Literature Society

During their board meeting in Helsinki, the trustees had the opportunity to visit the Finnish Literature Society, *Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura* (SKS).

SKS was founded in 1831 by men involved with Helsinki University, who believed that "language is the foundation of nationality." It was a time of growing national spirit, and SKS supported Elias Lönnrot's trips to Eastern Finland and Karelia. There he gathered the folklore stories of the national epic *Kalevala*, which the society first published in 1835. SKS also published the first Finnish novel, *Seitsemän veljestä* (The Seven Brothers) by Aleksis Kivi, in 1870.



By 1846, SKS welcomed women and in 1890 SKS completed its current structure, "for the protection of national literature." The handsome building houses an archive, library, research department, publishing house and FILI, the export center which supports the translation, printing and publishing of Finnish, Swedish and Sámi literature in Finland.

It is possible for the public to arrange a tour; for more information: finlit.fi.

At left: Sirkka-Liisa Mettomäki, SKS director of communications, welcomes the FFN board to the Finnish Literature Society.

The ornate murals on the lobby ceiling date to construction of the building in 1890.

FFN trustees Betsey Norgard (foreground) and Hilary-Joy Virtanen admire portraits of literary figures that line the walls of the SKS Ballroom.

News from the Finnish Expatriate Parliament



FEP representatives, front row, left to right: Kati Hognes (Central Europe), Katia Brunetto (Southern Europe, Africa and Middle East), Teuvo Pulkkinen (deputy to Hanna Wagner). Back row left to right: Seija Sjöstedt (Northern Europe), Veli Niinimaa (Canada), Sakari Neuvonen (Eastern Europe), Hanna Wagner (USA and Latin America), Mikko Pekkala (Australia and Asia), Barbro Allardt Ljunggren (Swedish speaking Finns in the world), and Speaker Markus Aaltonen (Suomi-Seura).

**By Hanna Wagner
Deputy Speaker for the USA
and Latin America**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Suomi-Seura/Finland Society and Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP) informational session during FinnFest USA 2019 in Detroit. If your organization has not ratified the FEP rules yet please do so at usp.fi.

The 10th parliamentary session will convene June 11-12, 2020 at Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. The member organizations will receive their invitation late this year, and everyone should be thinking about putting forward a motion for the parliament to consider.

The FEP speakers had their meeting October 7-8 at the offices of Suomi-Seura. This time, Teuvo Pulkkinen from San Diego was also able to attend. We visited the Finnish Parliament,

where some parliamentarians have founded the group "Eduskunnan Ulkomaalaisten Ystävyyssyhmä," loosely translated as an organization that fosters friendship with expatriate Finns. The speakers also visited the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE) and discussed the viewing of Finnish programs overseas.

Our last visit was to the Population Register Center (Väestörekisterikeskus), which will be joined with the Local Register Offices (Maistraatti) on January 1, 2020. They have plans to create a means for secure identification on the internet that could be used in all government offices. This would be a world-wide, free system and would not be tied to having a bank account.

For any questions you may have, don't hesitate to contact us:

Hanna Wagner (dhkpwagner@yahoo.com) and **Teuvo Pulkkinen** (teuvo_pulkkinen@hotmail.com)

FFN Grant, Scholarship and Law Scholarship Deadlines Approach

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 the spring of 2020. Deadlines are January 17 for grants and February 1 for both types of scholarships.

Find complete information on the application processes and learn about past scholarship and grant recipients at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

GRANTS Richard Ahola Committee Chair

Non-profit cultural projects of local or national significance related to Finnish America or Finland may be eligible for a grant from FFN. In 2019, FFN awarded \$115,000 in grants to 37 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.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED;
DEADLINE IS JANUARY 17, 2020.**

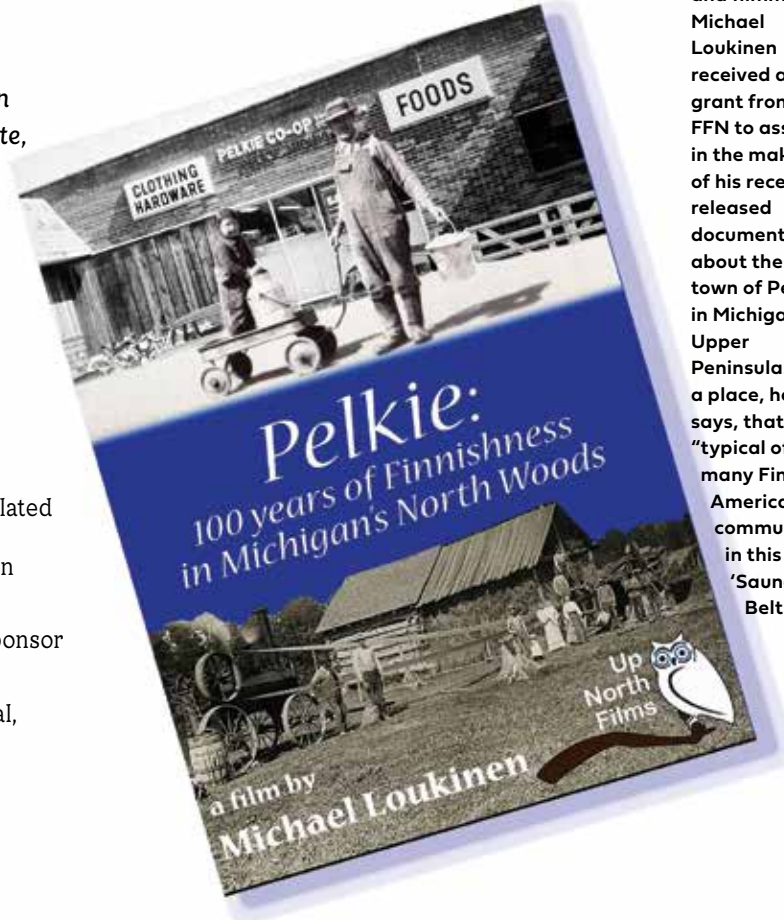
SCHOLARSHIPS Hanna Wagner Committee Chair

Shortly after it was founded in 1953, Finlandia Foundation launched its scholarship program. Initially, scholarships went to music students at Sibelius Academy and The Juilliard School.

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

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

POSTMARK DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2020



Cultural sociologist and filmmaker Michael Loukinen received a grant from FFN to assist in the making of his recently released documentary about the town of Pelkie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It's a place, he says, that is "typical of the many Finnish-American communities in this 'Sauna Belt.'"

In addition to the scholarships awarded by FFN, students should check with their FFN chapters for possible funding. One example is the Finnish Heritage Society-Sovittaja of Rutland, Massachusetts which, says chair Barry Heiniluoma (below right), has offered scholarships for 49 years.



Soiva Music Camp is “A Brilliant Concept”

By **Aubrey Clarke**,
clarinet, Fargo, North Dakota

The 2019 Soiva International Music Camp was an amazing experience. I learned a lot through the two-week program; being able to work with accomplished music professors as a high school student was an extraordinary opportunity. As a result of the camp and travel, I have grown

much as a musician and person. I really

enjoyed participating in a full orchestral group with professionals and other students as passionate as I am about making music. On top of all the musical growth, I expanded my knowledge and cultural understanding. Being fully immersed in another culture and language was not only a great way to learn hands-on about the larger world around me, but also to hold a mirror up and reflect on my own culture.

The Soiva Music Camp also provided the opportunity to make invaluable connections. I developed once-in-a-lifetime friendships with people from across the globe. I also had the chance to meet those near me that I never would have met otherwise. These relationships created many fond memories that I will look back on for the rest of my life. Studying music in Finland was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, complete with wonderful staff, people, and music. Cultural immersion is a privilege to experience and I am so thankful to have been invited to participate this year. I am beyond grateful for the entire experience which has permanently changed me for the better. The Soiva Music Camp is a brilliant concept that has such a positive impact on all involved and opens up new chances to learn and grow both musically and personally.

Thank you Finlandia Foundation for making my experience possible!

Ella-Leena (at right) who plays violin and is from Rauma, Finland notes, “Teachers were great and the daily program was good! Food was tasty and the songs were nice and challenging.”



Aubrey (left) with Laina, her cello-playing friend from Chicago, who also loved her Soiva Music Camp experience. Laina says, “Since I was the youngest, I had to work extra hard, but it was all well worth it, as we all sounded amazing during the concerts! The final concert was the highlight of my trip to Finland!”

Soiva 2020

Soiva International Music Camp will be held June 12-21, 2020 on the campus of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, for students ages 11 to 19 who play piano, violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet or saxophone, or are interested in composition or improvisation.



Soiva offers a valuable educational as well as cultural experience, with American and Finnish instructors and students from both countries working together toward the final concert at the Scandinavian Hjemkomst/Midwest Viking Festival on Sunday, June 21.

Tuition remains at \$700 through April 30; after that it is \$800. The fee includes classes, lodging in dormitory rooms, most meals and some extracurricular, fun activities. Travel grants and scholarships may be available. The fee for students who commute (no housing) is \$500. Transportation to and from the campus is not included.

For more information go to FinlandiaFoundation.org. Contact Soiva Co-Director Dennis M. Anderson at soiva2020@yahoo.com or call 218.251.0164.

For more about Concordia College: CONCORDIA COLLEGE Moorhead, Minnesota

Soiva 2019 in Finland

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

Soiva International Music Camp 2019 was held in Finland at Kallio-Kuninkala, the Sibelius Academy Music Centre, for the second time in Soiva history.

On June 7, students and faculty from Minnesota and students from Chicago, Michigan and Vancouver, B.C. departed for Helsinki for the start of their Finnish experience.

Our American group spent a couple of days in Helsinki touring the new Central Library, called Oodi, and the American Embassy, which is celebrating 100 years of diplomatic relations with Finland. We visited the Church in the Rock, Chapel of Silence, Sibelius Monument and Linnanmäki amusement park. Lauri Paloheimo arranged a tour to Ainola, the home of Jean

and Aino Sibelius, which is very near Kallio-Kuninkala.

From June 12-20, 14 American students and six faculty members from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, joined 19 Finnish students and five Finnish faculty for nine days of chamber music rehearsals and performances. Kallio-Kuninkala is a beautiful estate in the Finnish countryside not far from Helsinki. Lodging was provided at no cost by the Paloheimo Foundation of Finland, with tantalizing meals by Salmi Catering. The final student/faculty concert was held on June 20, the day before Midsummer celebrations.

Following Soiva Camp, our American delegation was lodged at Bore Hostel in Turku, which is operated by a Finnish trade school. Hanne Lund, violin teacher and Turku resident, made our stay in Turku entertaining, educational and informative. We visited the Sibelius Museum, the presidential summer residence grounds at Naantali, the Turku Conservatory and Turku Cathedral.

One of the highlights was an all-day round trip to Mariehamn, capital of the Åland Islands, via the Viking Line ships Amorella and Viking Grace. The meal service was superb, and we even got to play some miniature golf on the ship.

Soiva 2019 was perhaps the most rewarding camp to date, with super students, dedicated faculty, wonderful hosts, outstanding chaperones and a deeper understanding of Finland, its people and its culture.

Find links to Soiva performances at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

On a pre-Soiva Music Camp tour, American students and faculty enjoyed a visit to the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki (top photo, below).

Rehearsals were held indoors and out at Kallio-Kuninkala, the Paloheimo estate that is now the Sibelius Academy Music Centre.



Photos courtesy Tehti Tuominen

For nine years, FFN trustee Dennis Anderson and Melodee Bahr have volunteered their time and talents as co-directors of Soiva Music Camp. FFN is delighted with the performance opportunity she enjoyed in Finland this summer.

June 26, 2019: what a memorable day. Several months earlier I had received a phone call from Finnish composer and musician Markus Fagerudd asking me if I would like to celebrate my 80th year by giving a concert in Porvoo, Finland.

I have sung all over the world for 78 years but never in Finland, so I was flattered. Dennis Anderson and I would be in Finland with the Soiva Music Camp, so it was a convenient time. My son, Bob Gardner, writes my musical arrangements and would

be coming to Finland with us--the trip was his birthday gift from Dennis and me. For months he wrote.

When we arrived in Finland and drove to Loviisa to stay with Kati and Markus Fagerudd, I was surprised to see posters around town with my face on them advertising the concert. I also had two newspaper and radio interviews. A Swedish newspaper wrote a full-page story about the concert, but since I cannot read Swedish I had to have an interpreter translate it for me. It was so much fun!

The day before the concert we had a rehearsal with the accomplished musicians we had hired.

Making Memories, and All That Jazz

By Melodee Bahr
Soiva Camp Co-Director

their musicianship.

On the day of the concert we had a short rehearsal on the stage of the Grand Theater in Porvoo. The theater is truly "grand" and this old building was fantastic to sing in. My dressing room was the largest and most accommodating one I have ever had. My daughter, Elen, flew in and helped me with my makeup and gowns. We were amazed to have a coffee station and shower in the dressing room.

It was thrilling to hear them play Bob's arrangements, and a joy to sing with them.

We were so pleased with

Finally, the moment arrived and the concert began. It was exciting to see so many friends and strangers in the theater. I felt quite at home on this stage surrounded by family, friends and great music. After the concert, I received an armful of flowers and walked into the reception room to a champagne party. It was a perfect ending to a perfect day. This was a beautiful memory that I shall always remember, and it will always bring a smile to my heart.

To see and hear one of the songs from the concert, search YouTube for "The Jazzy Grandma---she's still got it at 80!"

Melodee Bahr and the Finnish musicians who accompanied her Porvoo concert. Her son and music arranger Bob Gardner is at upper right. Fannie Fagerudd, at lower right, sang duets with Bahr.



Villagers Value the Salolampi Experience

By Betsey Norgard
FFN Trustee

The Salolampi Language Village near Bemidji, Minnesota, was once again a busy place during June and July with children of all ages. Programs varied from a week of day camp sessions starting at age six to the four-week camp for high school students, who receive language credit for this experience. In addition, family weeks were offered.

Villagers are immersed in Finnish culture and language from the time they wake up and throughout the day in everything they do. Lena Luostarinen, from San Diego, notes that even "games like rock, paper, scissors in Finnish contained a variety of vocabulary and often helped teach the language in an engaging manner."

She also appreciates that an elective class was offered part of the time. "My class based on STEM was very engaging, and despite being taught in Finnish even managed to teach me new math, rather than just vocabulary."

Daniel Huisentruit, a five-time villager from Silver Spring, Maryland, always has trouble describing Salolampi. He says, "...a broad summary doesn't do it justice, because there are so many little things that happen each and every day. Whether it's the little meal skits before we eat, or the giant, well-thought-out iltaohjelmas (evening programs), being at Salolampi is an experience like no other, and I look forward to the next unforgettable session."

He has already decided that his sixth year at Salolampi will be in the four-week credit camp.

Salolampi 2020

Finlandia Foundation National offers matching grants to students who secure funding from FFN chapters to attend Salolampi Language Village. In addition to the FFN grant of up to \$300, students may be eligible for transportation assistance of up to \$500.

Matching grant applications and requests for travel aid must be submitted to FFN by May 1.

Find details at FinlandiaFoundation.org. Also, be sure to check the funding available at the [Salolampi Foundation website \(Salolampi.org\)](http://Salolampi.org); the application deadlines vary.

Contact Salolampi Coordinator Eeva Syvanen with any questions at eeva_syvanen@yahoo.com.

Annikki Laulainen, a villager from Renton, Washington, illustrated her appreciation in a card thanking FFN for Salolampi financial assistance.



In July, Salolampi hosted the visit of a journalist and a photojournalist from Helsingin Sanomat, Finland's largest newspaper. They spent the day learning how the villagers absorbed Finnish culture and language through everything they did in classes, activities and having fun.

The long article that was published likened their time spent at Salolampi to a visit to Chinatown, where "Everything was familiar, even though the place was foreign."

Finnish is one of 16 language and culture programs of Concordia Language Villages, which was founded in 1961.

Find more information at: concordialanguagevillages.org.

FFN CHAPTER NEWS

MAINE TO WASHINGTON

Ruusamari Teppo Delights with "Sibelius at the Piano"



The Finnish-American Folk Festival of Naselle, Washington hosted pianist Ruusamari Teppo for a concert in October in Rosburg. The program, sponsored by Finlandia Foundation as a special music program from 2019-2020, was beautifully received by the audience of 100.

Especially endearing was the duet performed when her four-year-old daughter Annabel joined her at the piano.

In addition to the Washington concert, Teppo has recently performed for Finnish Heritage House of South Thomaston, Maine, and in Lanesville, Massachusetts, hosted by the Cape Ann Finns. She will appear in Portland, Oregon December 6, hosted by FF Columbia Pacific Chapter; she is working out details on additional concerts.

For FFN chapters interested in booking Ruusamari Teppo's program, go to FinlandiaFoundation.org or contact **Betsey Norgard** at bjnorgard@gmail.com.

At top left: President of Finnish Heritage House and FFN trustee Jacqueline Harjula with Ruusamari Teppo at Thomaston Federated Church, where the pianist performed in October.

In Rosburg, Washington, Ruusamari and Annabel were welcomed by Barb Swanson, program director for the Folk Festival and the new Naselle Community Center, and Mike Swanson, Naselle chapter chair.



OHIO

Finnish Heritage Museum Sponsors Cleveland Cultural Garden

By **Ken Quiggle**
FHM member and delegate to the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation

In 1916 the City of Cleveland established a series of gardens that would be developed by ethnic communities to represent the cultures of the world, and be enjoyed as a symbol of peace.

A century later, the Finnish Heritage Museum (FHM) in Fairport Harbor became aware that the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation Board had serious concerns regarding the Finnish Garden, which had been created in 1958. A small group of Finns in Cleveland that had managed the garden was no longer able to devote the time and energy to maintaining it.

Subsequently, a meeting was set to discuss the pros and cons of FHM assuming responsibility for the garden, located 30 miles away in Cleveland's Rockefeller Park. The leadership of the museum felt that the garden represented the Finnish culture and needed to be preserved. Scarce resources, distance and service hours from our members were the cons. Preserving a Finnish

cultural presence and a desire to help were the pros. Several members volunteered, and the FHM agreed to take over the maintenance.

The first year was the most difficult in terms of getting the garden back into shape. Many museum members and non-members volunteered to do the work. They donated their time, energy and personal resources.

The Finnish Garden, which includes sculptures of important figures Aleksis Kivi, Jean Sibelius, Elias Lönnrot, Johan Ludvig Runeberg and Johan Vilhelm Snellman, gets many compliments, although it is sorely in need of an update. Much of the concrete work needs to be replaced and the landscaping must be redone. Museum resources are limited and the greater Cleveland Finnish community has aged. True to the *sisu* nature of Finns, museum members participate each August in the gardens' One World Day celebration.

FHM demonstrates what makes the Finnish culture unique in concert with over 30 other cultures represented in the park.

Please visit the Cleveland Cultural Gardens and the Finnish Garden. For more information: clevelandculturalgardens.org.



FHM believes in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens' motto "Peace through Mutual Understanding." Photo by Jane Hiltunen

CONNECTICUT

Finland Comes to Pomfret Community School

In May, the Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury participated in a weeklong series of activities at the Pomfret Community School, a preschool through grade eight program with nearly 400 students.

For over 25 years the school has conducted a "visit" to another country, and this year it was Finland. FAHS members Anita Smiley, Katharine Leigh, Stan Karro, Arlene Baril, Saul Ahola and Sandra Ahola worked hard to engage children and inspire them to appreciate and be aware of another culture with local roots.

With the Finnish flag flying in front of the school and teachers wearing "Ask Me About Sisu?" pins, Anita Smiley kicked off the week with a presentation describing Finland and its scenery, customs, culture and education. The students--and teachers--loved that the Finnish school day consists of 45 minutes of class and 15 minutes of outdoor recess, repeated all day.

Throughout the week, Katharine Leigh spoke on design, arts and architecture; Stan Karro shared his love of Finnishness; and Saul Ahola included Sibelius' "Finlandia" in his explanation of Finnish independence.

Dianne Hawes and her daughter, Liz, described the sauna and its role. Arlene Baril, dressed in traditional clothing, shared children's stories from Finland, and Laura Sasser-Cuff and her mother, Marita Sasser, presented the Finnish language. Woodcarvers



Roy Tapio and John Harris demonstrated their craft, and Rita Kelly and Saul Ahola played the kantele. There was also a tori.

At the pulla baking demonstration the children made braids and sampled the bread. An art activity included making a picture of the northern lights. Assemblies featured Kasha Breau on the kantele and her group The Wild Notes, and The Revontulet Dancers from northern Massachusetts and New Hampshire led by Leila Luopa.

Books were presented to the PCS Library and a magnificent exhibit was on display in the school foyer. Saul Ahola and Kasha Breau prepared a video on the kantele for the music teacher to show to all the students. PCS students, through their art club and computer classes, completed posters and large murals for display.

It was a resounding success for all involved. PCS students became aware of many facets of Finland, and FAHS members carried out their mission of sharing their culture.

This story was adapted from an article by Sandra Ahola, former principal of PCS when the Cultural Art Program was launched.

FINLANDIA PAPER NEWS

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

The Band Played On at Cape Ann



contemporary pieces from Finland, and the American classics "Anchors Aweigh" and "God Bless America."

Jason Howard's rendition of "Trumpeter's Lullaby" recognized both Cape Ann's outstanding Finnish-American trumpeter, Sylvester Ahola, and Massachusetts' favorite Swedish-American composer, Leroy Anderson.

Performing with the band were guest musicians Erik Aho (Ohio, euphonium), John D. Hopkins (Finland, trumpet), Martina Gallo (Gloucester HS, percussion), and veteran band member Walter McGrath.

It was an occasion for assimilated Finnish-Americans to celebrate their Cape Ann heritage. Some came from Pennsylvania, Florida, New Hampshire, Maine and central and southern Massachusetts. When Niemisto asked who did not have a Finnish connection, the small show of hands in the audience of about 275 told the story.

The Legion Band was formed in 1932 on a shoestring and hope by 32 Rockport men, about two-thirds from Finnish homes. They were honored in the musical selections,

Dr. Niemisto's historical narration, reminiscences by third-generation band members Steve Niemi and Wally McGrath, and a colorful program detailing the band's history.

Concertgoers described it as a "remarkable, memorable Tribute Concert, well organized, nostalgic, fantastic." Many older listeners dabbed their eyes as familiar Finnish selections evoked memories of earlier generations.

The Legion Band and Cape Ann Finns, co-sponsors of the event, are grateful to Finlandia Foundation National and other cultural organizations whose grant funding enabled a professional outcome.

For more information about the concert or for a printed program (\$5 including postage), email capeannfinns@gmail.com.

I L L I N O I S



The Finnish American Society of the Midwest hosted a delicious Karelian stew lunch and program by Dr. Richard Hansen on November 3 at the Chicago Estonian House. In "Rajalta Rajalle: A Ski Odyssey Across Finland," the retired oncologist and avid Nordic skier shared how he, with his Finnish cousin and thousands of others, completed the Rajalta Rajalle, an annual seven-day cross-country ski event that travels 262 miles near the Arctic Circle between the Russian and Swedish borders.

N E W Y O R K

New York Chapter Celebrates 65



New York Metropolitan Chapter President Eero Kilpi listens as FFN President Ossi Rahkonen address celebration of the organization's 65th anniversary. It is one of the earliest and longest-standing affiliates of Finlandia Foundation; the FF Florida Chapter also joined in 1954.

By **Binnie Kirk**
FFNYMC Board Member

The Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter celebrated its 65th anniversary on October 19 (the actual anniversary date was April 12). Since its inception in 1954, FFNYMC has nourished strong cultural and educational ties and fostered a solid relationship between the United States and Finland while bringing together people of all ages.

This was no exception. Borenus Attorneys P.C. hosted the event in their Park Avenue office in Manhattan. Exquisite hors d'oeuvres and wonderful ambiance created a festive yet relaxed opportunity to mingle before the program started. Our oldest member will be turning 99 soon, and the youngest attendee was an adorable baby! Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, music was performed by talented singer Johanna Telander and guitarist Olli Hirvonen.

President of Finlandia Foundation National, Ossi Rahkonen, made this already special event even more momentous by honoring us with his presence. Author John B. Simon shared interesting insights into his fascinating novel *Strangers in a Stranger Land* concerning Judaism in Finland, with a special emphasis on how Jews fought alongside with Nazis during the wartime---something that seemed impossible.

In addition, the Arts & Letters Award was received by Leland J. Hoch, a longtime supporter of Finland, who has a particular interest in classical music and the Sibelius Academy.

In his address, FFNYMC President Eero Kilpi exuded optimism and positivity over the organization's future. "A charity is a mirror of its members, and we work hard to bring the organization to match the needs of the present day Finnish-American population in the tri-state area. Our goal was to raise \$5,000; we raised \$6,000. We are humbled. We have a fantastic team and we can show the results. Cooperation is the muscle that we want to use for continued success."



By **Rob Ranta**
Cape Ann Finns

Besides the timeless granite of Cape Ann, which precedes human habitation, a handful of places and organizations symbolize our enduring heritage. These include the Rockport Legion Band, honored on July 21 with a Tribute Concert to the band's 32 charter members.

A heavy downpour began just before the start of the outdoor event, but the rain soon abated and according to Susan Ginkus, "Hardly a soul had left. Finns are a stubborn, hardy group along with most New Englanders. Cooled, we were rewarded with a top notch concert."

Guest conductor Paul Niemisto led the band in a spirited performance featuring pieces by Finnish-American immigrant composers, traditional and

Boston

Anne-Mari Paster of Finlandia Foundation Boston reports that on September 22, "Rachel Lee Priday, a world class violinist from Seattle, performed pieces of Saariaho, Bach, Salonen and Nielsen chosen specifically for our audience. We want to acknowledge and thank Sirkku Konttinen for her generous donation as well as her hard work in coordinating the logistics to make this beautiful and memorable event possible. We truly enjoyed this performance and welcomed a peaceful afternoon to remember our friend and benefactor Leena Peck, as well."

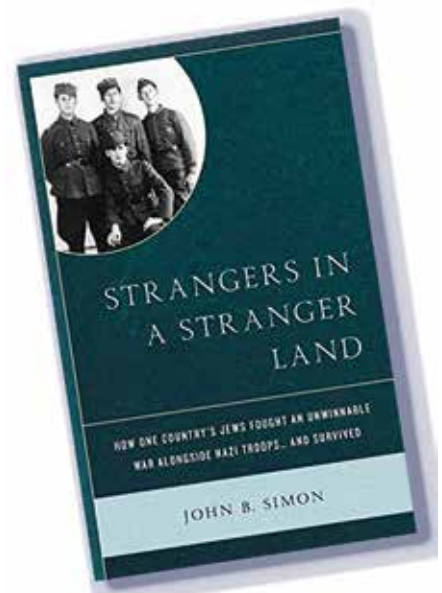


FFN CHAPTER NEWS

EAST COAST

Author Visits Multiple Chapters

Strangers in a Stranger Land, John B. Simon's historically factual novel about Finnish Jews who fought alongside Nazi troops in World War II, was a 2017 finalist for History Book of the Year in Finland. The fascinating story has been released in English, and Simon's recent U.S. book tour has taken him to FFN chapters in New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Connecticut and Massachusetts.



The first Jews arrived in Finland in the mid-19th century when the nation, then part of imperial Russia, was taking shape. During WWII, Finnish Jews fought as part of the Finnish army alongside Germans against the Soviet Union. Not a single one was harmed by the Nazis. A field synagogue functioned on the front line, and several openly Jewish soldiers were awarded the German iron cross.

This happened nowhere else. How was it possible in Finland?

Simon, an American Jew who lives in Finland, may be available for additional appearances. Contact him at John.Simon@kone.com.

MONTANA



The Knights and Ladies of Kaleva of Red Lodge, Montana are proud of their sauna, which dates to 1924. The well-used sauna dressing room was in need of refreshing, and member Kirsi Parker proved more than up to the task.

With the help of many members, especially Bill Calvois and his son Bill, the cleaning, painting, rearranging and decorating transformed the space in time to welcome members for the summer season.

A saunatonnttu (sauna elf) carved from a single piece of wood by member Barb Grove watches over the sauna and bathers.

The sauna is located in Finnish Kaleva Park, along Rock Creek north of Red Lodge. The community attracted a sizeable number of Finnish immigrants in the area's coal mining heyday, and a walking tour notes several historic buildings that remain of its "Finn Town."

By Hilary-Joy Virtanen
LOY Coordinator

The 2019 Lecturer of the Year "Meet the Finn Cooks" program by Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman kicked off with a well-attended presentation for Finnish-Americans and Friends, the Hibbing, Minnesota FFN affiliate.

The food experts have scheduled presentations at FinnFunn Weekend (co-hosted by several FFN chapters in Troy, New Hampshire) in November and in Portland, Oregon in April with Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter. Additional appearances are in the works.

In September, at FinnFest USA in the Detroit area, the duo conducted a sold out, hands-on session in the kitchen of the Finnish Center Association's Cultural Center.

The "Meet the Finn Cooks" presentation on Finnish foods can be tailored to the interests and resources of individual chapters, with possibilities ranging from demonstrations to workshops and more. Chapters collaborate with the lecturers to create a program best geared toward their needs.

Learn more about the LOY program and presenters at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

For more information or to plan a presentation at your chapter, please contact

LOY Coordinator Hilary-Joy Virtanen at hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu or 906.483.0171.

LOY Program is Cookin'



MICHIGAN

FinnFest USA 2019 in Metro Detroit

The program for FinnFest USA 2019, held September 19-22 in the Detroit area, was packed with interesting panel discussions, tours, demonstrations, film screenings, sporting activities, tori, a worship service and variety of musical performances. Food events included traditional mojakka and pea soup suppers and an elegant Finnish cuisine buffet. Finnish comedian Ismo had audiences roaring at two performances the evening before FinnFest opened.

Many of the participants, from presenters to performers, have been or are affiliated with Finlandia Foundation, including former Lecturers of the Year and Performers of the Year, grant recipients, chapter leaders and trustees.

FinnFest USA 2020 will be held in August in Joensuu, Finland. For details check the website at finnfest.us or the FinnFest Facebook page.

Clockwise from top left: FFN's Maria Kizirian visits with FinnFest attendees at the tori booth; Tiina Watts, chair of Finlandia Foundation Utah Chapter, performs on the tori stage; FFN trustee Tim Nurvala presents the gift basket won by Laura Tuomi; Kardemimmit, the popular kantele group from Finland, performs at the Finnish Center Association's Cultural Center; Steve Solkela, an FFN scholarship recipient, entertains with his "Overpopulated One-Man Band."



FFN Board Meets with Stakeholders in Helsinki



FFN trustees gathered at the Finnish Literature Society for a coffee reception and recognition of Suomi-Seura. Seated, from left: trustees Anita Smiley, Jacqueline Harjula, Hanna Wagner, Betsey Norgard, Hilary-Joy Virtanen, Katriina Lehtonen and Päivi Tetri. Standing, from left: Suomi-Seura board member Kimmo Kajaste; FFN trustees Paul Halme, Dirk Schulbach and Tim Nurvala; Suomi-Seura's Markus Aaltonen and Tina Strandberg; FFN trustees Teuvo Pulkkinen, Ossi Rahkonen, Peter Makila, Eeva Syvanen, Tarja Silverman and Anne-Mari Paster; and Tuomas Martikainen of the Migration Institute of Finland.

In a special session, the Finlandia Foundation National trustees held their fall meeting in Finland October 3-5. Suomi-Seura/ Finland Society generously hosted the first two days of meetings at its office in Helsinki.

On Saturday, the trustees traveled about 40 miles to Järvenpää for a tour of Ainola, the home of Aino and Jean Sibelius. The meeting then moved to nearby Kallio-Kuninkala, which had been the Paloheimo estate. The Paloheimo Foundation donated the property to Sibelius Academy, and it is where Soiva Music Camp has been held twice (see story on page nine).

This was the first time in more than 20 years that the FFN board met in Finland. In addition to conducting its normal business, the agenda included discussions with representatives of several stakeholders, as a means of building and strengthening relations and exploring mutually beneficial interests.

"We felt it was the right time to personally connect with these individuals and to look to the future and see what potential there might be for cooperation between our organizations," says FFN President Ossi Rahkonen. "As a result, we have a better understanding of each other's missions and goals."

In addition to Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess and the theater group Onnikka (see stories on page 20), the FFN board heard from the following:

Joni Brunnsberg, senior manager of business development at **FAZER CONFECTIONARY**, said that the fourth generation

leadership of the company continues in the tradition of founder Karl Fazer in using premium ingredients and developing innovative products that capture the Nordic spirit and flavors unique to Finland.

Fazer was founded in Helsinki in 1891, and its products are now available in more than 40 countries. In 2019, after an absence of more than 20 years, Fazer has restarted its marketing in the U.S. with Nordi, a new line of premium dark chocolate bars.

Fazer was interested in obtaining feedback from FFN, as the organization representing a large number of Finnish-American groups, regarding Fazer's presence in the U.S. For more about Fazer: fazergroup.com.

MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF FINLAND Director Tuomas Martikainen informed about the organization, which was founded in 1974 and is headquartered in Turku. It carries out

research and collects and documents material related to international and internal migration within Finland. It also publishes reports and provides information on migration.

Within Finland and abroad, the institute works with universities and other organizations that are related to migration. It is primarily funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

Martikainen was interested in cooperation with FFN, and a memorandum was distributed to the trustees outlining areas of possible cooperation. For more about the institute: migrationinstitute.fi.

SUOMI-SEURA Executive Director Tina Strandberg shared a summary of the survey of young expatriates conducted earlier this year by Outi Arvola, a doctoral student in the Department of Education at the University of Turku. Suomi-Seura commissioned the survey, which drew 611 responses. A quick look reveals, among other things, a desire for more activities aimed at young people; meetings with a low threshold; bringing up the benefits of organizational work; and more extensive use of social media.

Strandberg suggested that FFN could conduct its own survey among its membership of 58 chapters, as the Suomi-Seura survey was limited in respect to coverage in the U.S.

Find the article (in English) starting on page 18 of Suomen Silta magazine online at: lukusali.fi/?p=Suomen%20Silta&i=9e3f3ce4-daa9-11e9-91af-00155d64030a

Ambassador Okko-Pekka Salmimies of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, described **TEAM FINLAND** as a network of 14 Finnish government ministries, agencies and organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the country as a hub of world class knowledge and know-how.

It connects foreign professionals and investors with Finland, collects



and shares world market information, and offers grants and other financial services.

Team Finland is interested in working with organizations such as FFN in promoting Finnish business interests abroad. For more about the organization: team-finland.fi.

Pia Dolivo, chief of communications and community relations at the **UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI**, shared information about the best-rated university in Finland, which is also ranked within the top .5% of universities in the world. In addition to the main City Centre Campus, it has three other campuses in Helsinki and nine at locations elsewhere in Finland.

The University of Helsinki is interested in expanding its outreach activities internationally, including the U.S., and in cooperation with FFN. To date, its activities in the states have consisted of alumni meetings and exchange

student agreements with universities and colleges, but there is a need for expansion with increased focus on fundraising. For more about the university: helsinki.fi.

At left, clockwise: Tuomas Martikainen, O.P. Salmimies, Joni Brunnsberg, Tina Strandberg.

Above: Pia Dolivo (standing) and her associate Iiris Wirtasalo (seated at left) meet with the trustees.

On the third day of their board meeting, FFN trustees traveled about 40 miles from Helsinki to Järvenpää for a tour of Ainola, the home of Aino and Jean Sibelius.

The meeting resumed at nearby Kallio-Kuninkala (below), the former Paloheimo estate, now the Sibelius Academy Music Centre. It was the location of Soiva Music Camp in 2016 and 2019.

Paloheimo Foundation Board Member Martti Paloheimo (below, at left) describes how the former barn was transformed into a rehearsal and performance space.





How do we prepare for the future?

Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess shared her expertise and suggestions regarding strategic planning for the future.

By **Betsey Norgard**,
FFN Trustee

Last year, the Finlandia Foundation Board of Trustees created a Future Committee, with the charge to study the impact of generational changes, and recommend how Finlandia Foundation can remain current, attract younger generations, and become more visible as a source of information and resources about Finland and Finnish America.

During its recent meeting in Helsinki, FFN board members had the opportunity to meet and hear from Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess, a futures consultant and chief specialist in the Prime Minister's Office.

Her work for the past two years has been to assist Finland's administration, ministries and Parliament in creating strategy-based policies and annual reports for their programs that reflect on possible future scenarios. These policies, when shared across the government, can inform discussions among the ministries and with Parliament, and provide messages and strategies for policy-making.

These ministry "future reviews" do not attempt to predict what will happen in the future, but rather use strategic forecasting tools to consider what could happen and what various government offices would be open to see happening in Finland in the future, leading to the creation of scenarios that better prepare the country for change.

Across the government, these foresight scenarios serve to provide a shared understanding of future trends or occurrences, a common language in which to consider possible futures, and strategic dialogue to address various situations that occur.

Tapanainen-Thiess is an expert in strategic foresight, with 25 years of residence abroad, working in both the private and public sectors. Just before returning to Finland, she was a futures consultant in the United Arab Emirates, leading their work in developing future scenarios.

As one example of her work, in Finland last August she participated on a panel sponsored by Suomi-Seura/Finland Society and the Institute of Migration that discussed perspectives on the changing nature of expatriatism and the needs of Finns abroad.

John Morton: The Musical

John Morton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Pennsylvania in 1724, the son of Finnish immigrants. His great-grandfather, Martti Marttinen (his name anglicized to Morton), had come to the New Sweden colony in 1654.

Morton, a judge who was elected to the Continental Congress, sided with Benjamin Franklin and James Wilson in the 1776 debate on a resolution of independence. His life is the subject of an original Finnish musical production, *Ratkaiseva ääni* (Deciding Vote), which has been staged in Finland by Musiikkiteatteri Onnikka. Members of the theater group performed a few show numbers in the course of a meeting with FFN trustees about the possibility of translating the play for American audiences.

The board has taken it under consideration and will make a decision in the near future about the potential for this interpretation of the story about the Founding Father of Finnish descent.

See a scene from *Ratkaiseva ääni* at:
[youtube.com/watch?v=mA0dKBHIU9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA0dKBHIU9s)

FFN trustee Hanna Wagner (second from left) with the *Ratkaiseva ääni* creative team (from left): playwright Terho Arhelius, director Riitta Wulff-Mäkelä, actor Jussi Luhtamäki (John Morton), composer Pär Cole'rus, and Martti Kavekari, chairman.



Making Connections in Helsinki

A primary reason for the Finlandia Foundation trustees meeting in Helsinki October 3-5 was to strengthen relationships that have been built between FFN and contacts in Finland. In the more than 20 years that have passed since the board last met there, FFN has worked to increase awareness of the organization in Finland.

At a Thursday evening reception hosted by FFN at the Helsinki City Hall Restaurant, more than 100 guests and trustees were able to meet and mingle.

Attendees included former Ambassadors of Finland to the U.S., staff from the Office of President Sauli Niinistö, representatives of the Paloheimo Foundation, Suomi-Seura, Sibelius Academy, Business Finland, Crisis Management Initiative and other organizations, as well as recipients of FFN grants and scholarships.

In addition to hearing from FFN trustees, President Ossi Rahkonen presented the Finlandia Foundation Award of Excellence to Jussi Makkonen and Nazig Azejian, and the guests were treated to a performance by the musicians.

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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 stories, including that of Ruth Viola Hyry Sharpe (right) and to make an honor gift, visit FinlandiaFoundation.org.

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By **Tim Nurvala**
FFN Trustee

Did you know that you may make a donation to the Finlandia Foundation through your IRA that is completely tax-free?

A lot of people over age 70½ must take their required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA before the end of the year.

Many retirees don't necessarily need this distribution to cover living expenses. By giving it directly to a charity, like Finlandia Foundation National, it will not count as part of your adjusted gross income (saving you money on your taxes).

Under regulations adopted by Congress and the IRS, if you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year through your IRA—even if that's more than your RMD. You can give your RMD to charity anytime during the year.

The key to the tax savings is that you must make the transfer directly to the charity, like the Finlandia Foundation.

If you receive any of the RMD in the form of a check or fund transfer to your bank account, it will count as part of your adjusted gross income and be taxed by the IRS.

Instead, ask your IRA administrator about making a direct transfer, or you can have the IRA administrator send a check from your account directly to the Finlandia Foundation. If you have check-writing privileges for your IRA, you can write a check to Finlandia Foundation.

If you make a tax-free transfer from your IRA to charity, unfortunately you cannot also deduct that money as a charitable contribution. But the tax-free transfer option could give you extra benefits.

You don't need to itemize your deductions to get a tax benefit from the gift (and many people who no longer have a mortgage don't itemize their deductions).

Making the tax-free transfer also keeps the money out of your adjusted gross income. That could help you avoid the Medicare high-income surcharge and make less of your Social Security benefits taxable.

Note that these rules apply only to IRAs and not 401(k) plans.

Please let the Finlandia Foundation know of your intentions to make a contribution through your IRA. This way, we will know that the contribution came from you and we can send you an acknowledgment.

FFN Vice President Paul Halme is ready to assist you with options for giving to Finlandia Foundation National; contact him at 805.688.6225 or paul@halmeandclark.com.

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.

Join our international community for tips, fun news items and event information:

Friend us on **Facebook** and follow us at **Instagram/finlandiafoundationnational**.

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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