

**Finlandia  
Foundation®  
National**

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA SINCE 1953

S P R I N G | 2 0 2 0

## Finnish-American Community Comes Together

Turn off Original Sound



*By Katariina Lehtonen  
FFN Trustee*

**It is said that there is nothing so bad that there isn't something good as well.  
It is true also in these hard times of social distancing.**

**Due to the cancellation of Sunday services at the Finnish Lutheran Church of Seattle,  
Maria Männistö, FFN Performer of the Year in 2007, united Finnish singers  
into a virtual church choir as part of the live-streamed Palm Sunday service.  
The choir members from Washington and Oregon connected and practiced the songs  
virtually and sent their own recordings to Maria.**

**She gathered all of the voices together, and the virtual choir was born.**

**For as long as necessary, the Finnish Lutheran Church Choir  
plans to perform virtually on Sunday mornings during the virtual church service,  
followed by the virtual coffee hour where people can exchange their news and thoughts.  
Information about the church and services is available at [finnishlutheranchurch.org](http://finnishlutheranchurch.org).**





**Finlandia Foundation<sup>®</sup> National**

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



*AMP*

**Anne-Mari Paster**  
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**Word from the President**  
**Hyvät Ystävät:**

**I am honored to have been elected president of Finlandia Foundation National during the spring meeting of the FFN board.**

My predecessor, Ossi Rahkonen, ably led the organization for seven years, after serving as a trustee for a decade. During his tenure as president, Ossi oversaw FFN programs celebrating two major anniversaries; strengthened ties to organizations and offices in Finland; conducted a Joint Chapter Meeting for a growing number of FFN-affiliated groups; and improved the financial health of FFN. His contributions to Finlandia Foundation are many, and are highlighted on page 20. Planning for the future of Finlandia Foundation was a board priority under Ossi's direction, and will continue to take precedence as I assume the leadership. Now in its 67th year, FFN is the largest independent supporter of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, and we intend to maintain that status even as we recognize the challenges we and FFN chapters face, as each generation grows further from our roots.

We also, however, see opportunity in expanding our traditional Finnish-American membership base to welcome recent Finnish transplants and expatriates, as well as friends of Finland--those who are interested in modern Finland and its culture, education, business and the arts. Of course, it is vital to develop a strong connection with all ages and it is important that we increase multi-generational involvement and support.

As always, the spring board meeting agenda was full, and in this newsletter you'll read about the 2020 grant and scholarship awards, and program decisions we made due to the impact of COVID-19. In fact, because of travel restrictions the meeting itself was conducted remotely, via Zoom.

I look forward to launching initiatives that will increase our endowment and stakeholder base so that we may build on our existing programs and offer new and exciting reasons to participate in and support Finlandia Foundation. Please stay tuned, and feel free to contact me with your thoughts.

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.

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**FFN Offers COVID-19 Aid**

As an organization, Finlandia Foundation National has taken action to help our members through one aspect of this coronavirus crisis. FFN has always focused on Finnish culture and the next generation, with a long tradition of supporting scholarships to Finnish-American students and those studying Finnish-American topics.

FFN chapters may have students among their members whose university studies have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and the abrupt closure of campuses. If so, please let me know prior to June 15. We would like to see if we can offer assistance

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Original logo medallion, Yrjö Paloheimo's office in Pasadena

Updated version



Circa 2020



**FFN Refreshes Logo Art**

The Finlandia Foundation has long used the tagline "Hands Across the Sea Since 1953" to describe its goal of connecting Finland and Finnish America, and to mark the year of

the organization's founding. The design of the FFN logo graphically expresses that purpose in the two clasped hands over wavy lines, encircled by the words Finlandia Foundation.

About 20 years ago, FFN slightly modified the logo by spinning the name and spelling out Finlandia Foundation National in a typestyle popular at the time.

Now, as the phrase goes, "everything old is new again," and FFN is refreshing its image by

returning to the earlier version of the logo art. The updated logo is being phased in as new materials are produced, and FFN is asking all chapters to do the same in their publications, websites and other communications as it becomes possible to do so.

The logo art is found on the website at **FinlandiaFoundation.org/logos/**

Note that use of the registered trademark and design is limited to Finlandia Foundation National, its affiliated chapters, or for other purposes as approved by Finlandia Foundation National.

**Get Social**

**Are you following FFN on social media?**

Check out the following addresses, or find the links at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org)

**Facebook Share Your SisU**

Join the new FFN Facebook group for inspiring articles, stories and photos that express the uniquely Finnish trait of sisu: [facebook.com/groups/ShareYourSisu](https://facebook.com/groups/ShareYourSisu)

**Instagram**

Photos of Finnish America, Finland and FFN chapter activities: [instagram.com/finlandiafoundationnational/](https://instagram.com/finlandiafoundationnational/)

**E-News**

Free monthly missive with the latest FFN news, stories of Finnish America and more: [finlandiafoundation.org/about-ffn/newsletters/](http://finlandiafoundation.org/about-ffn/newsletters/)



**On the cover, virtual choir:**

From left to right by row, from top: Erica Presley, Maria Männistö, Aino Bakos, Yvonne Vollan; Marja Hall, Ilkka Kallio, Ilkka Lähdesmäki, Katariina Lehtonen; Eva Männistö, Anne Karppinen, Heikki Männistö, Satu Mikkola; Mark Hillman and Mary Hillman, Candace McKenna, Marta Kuivinen Brown





### Special Music Programs Continue

Following a performance last spring at the home of the Consulate General of Finland in Los Angeles, Jussi Makkonen and Nazig Azejian presented a copy of *The Blue Bird* to Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Kirsti Kauppi; Teuvo Pulkkinen is at left.

Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian are in the midst of a three-year program of tours to Finlandia Foundation chapters, under the sponsorship of FFN and its special touring programs that began in 2019.

The duo offers three music programs: *Finnish Jewels*, featuring pieces by Finnish composers; the multi-media *Sibelius Inspiration*, which evokes the countryside and culture of Eastern Finland; and *The Blue Bird*, a new work written for the duo by contemporary Finnish composer Jonne Valtonen.

Jussi and Nazig's spring 2019 tour included FFN-sponsored concerts in Los Angeles and in San Diego at House of Finland, as well as several California libraries and schools. In fall 2019, they performed at Arizona State University for FFN's Phoenix Finns and Friends chapter.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 spring schedule had to be cancelled, but the tour will resume in the fall in Portland, Oregon with the U.S. premiere of *The Blue Bird* with the Portland Chamber Orchestra. That will also be the first time that Jussi and Nazig will perform with a full orchestra in the U.S. Additional concerts are scheduled in Seattle, at a festival in Lynden, Washington, and at the Consulate General of Finland in Los Angeles.

The tour schedule is still under development for spring and fall of 2021. Chapters interested in hosting a program will find information at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org). Teuvo Pulkkinen, FFN trustee and tour coordinator, [Teuvo.pulkkinen@hotmail.com](mailto:Teuvo.pulkkinen@hotmail.com).



The FFN special touring music program includes piano concerts by Ruusamari Teppo, who performed for the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter in Portland in December; her daughter Annabel joined her for a duet.

Ruusamari had additional concerts scheduled before the coronavirus pandemic erupted. She plans to resume touring in September, through December 2020.

Find details about the special music program at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

## COVID-19 Affects Youth Programs



By Dennis Anderson  
FFN Trustee and Soiva Director

With profound sadness the decision was made—with input from Hanne Lund, our Finnish faculty member and trip coordinator—to cancel Soiva International Music Camp, which had been scheduled for Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, for June 12-21, 2020.

There were two contributing factors. The first and most important was that with the rampant increase in COVID-19 infections worldwide, it was deemed necessary to limit any exposure of students and faculty to airports and travel-related contacts.

In addition, Hanne was told that Finnair, on which seats had been reserved for students and faculty, was canceling all flights between Finland and the United States through June 30, 2020.

It would have been unacceptable to risk having a student or a faculty member contract the virus and have to be quarantined at Concordia College or at some other venue during travel. Assuming this crisis ends in a timely fashion we are planning to host Soiva at Concordia College in June of 2021.

I hope that you are in good health, and remain so.

## Salolampi Finnish Language Village

By Eeva Syvanen  
FFN Trustee and Salolampi Chair

Concordia Language Villages has changed its summer 2020 programs, including those at Salolampi, which will host a limited residential program and online learning. Finlandia Foundation will support attendance at either with matching funds for students who secure grants from their FFN chapter.

There will be only two-week sessions for ages 8-18 and a four-week course for high school credit, offered between July 27 and August 22. (Note: depending on COVID-19 circumstances, these are subject to change.)

Salolampi is also offering a series of one-week Virtual Village Sessions for students ages 8-18, and a five-week course for high school credit for grades 9-12.

FFN grant application deadline is June 19.

Find details at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).



## Lecturer of the Year Extended through June 2021

By Hilary-Joy Virtanen  
FFN Trustee and LOY Chair

After the postponement of several engagements due to COVID-19, Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman will extend their Lecturer of the Year tenure—which was to have concluded at the end of June 2020—with engagements tentatively available through June 30, 2021. This will allow our LOY to monitor the travel situation and fulfill existing commitments with our chapters, as well as the possibility of additional engagements, should scheduling permit.

Authors of the book *Celebrations to Remember: Exceptional Party Décor and Fabulous Food*, they have proven to be

a popular, engaging team, presenting as “Meet the Finn Cooks” at chapters in Minnesota, Illinois (above), and at FinnFunn Weekend. The Minnesota residents have been teaching the art of making Karjalan piirakka and other Finnish foods to students of all ages.

While we must simply wait for the pandemic to subside, FFN is committed to promoting and supporting Finnish culture in America. We are keeping an active eye on the situation and our top priority is to protect the health and safety of everyone who participates in and benefits from our programs.

As it becomes clear that travel is once again safe and permissible, we will

first coordinate with chapters whose engagements were cancelled or who were already working to finalize a program. We will also welcome the potential for additional appearances as schedules and the budget permit.

If you have any questions, please contact LOY Chair Hilary Virtanen at 906-483-0171 or [hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu](mailto:hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu) (note new email address). Find more information on Soile and Eleanor and the LOY program at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

We wish you all health and safety, and look forward to sharing the delight of Finnish cookery through the LOY program in the future.



## A Night at the Movies with Kent Washburn

By Betsey Norgard  
FFN Trustee and POY Coordinator

Kent Washburn, the 2020 Performer of the Year (POY), was eager to launch into his year of travel around the country to perform for FFN chapters and meet FFN members.

His first opportunity came in late January—not to an FFN chapter, however, but on a work trip that took him to New Zealand. Not to miss an opportunity, he contacted the Auckland Finnish Society and arranged a house concert for their group that included the screening of

*Mustalaishurmaaja (The Gypsy Charming)*, a 1929 Finnish silent movie for which he composed a soundtrack borrowing from colorful Finnish folk and popular tunes.

Mari Petterson, president of the Auckland Finnish Society, commented,

“I’ve never seen a silent Finnish movie nor experienced a live soundtrack for one before. [Kent’s] music added impressive drama to the already entertaining movie. What a treat!” He also played piano selections, including *Finlandia*, which brought a tear to many eyes.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this has been his only performance so far, and he is looking forward to programs and travel resuming. Kent can offer a wide range of Finnish orchestral music he has transcribed for organ, including traditional folk music, patriotic marches and songs, and other favorites. If no organ is available, piano is also an option.

At the recent spring board meeting, the POY Committee decided to extend Kent’s term for an extra year, through 2021, so that chapters will have the opportunity to take advantage of this unique program.

Find more information about Kent Washburn and his music at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org). If your chapter wishes to invite the POY or you have additional questions, email POY Coordinator Betsey Norgard at [bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com).



# GRANTS

Documentary films, dance performances, play productions, archival work and the restoration of historical sites are among the hundreds of projects that Finlandia Foundation National has aided through grant funding since the first award was made in 1956. Every year, FFN invites proposals for programs that relate to Finnish and Finnish-American culture, past and present.

This year the Grants Committee, chaired by Richard Ahola with FFN trustees Jacqueline Harjula, Katariina Lehtonen, Päivi Tetri and Anita Smiley, assisted by Maria Kizirian, reviewed 38 grant applications from across the United States as well as Finland, Denmark and Tanzania. California led the states with 10 proposals, with others from Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Applicants may request up to \$5,000; the committee awarded \$100,000 to 31 projects, which must be completed within the coming year.

Unfortunately, with restrictions due to COVID-19, some of the projects have been or may be postponed or cancelled.

The next grant application deadline is January 17, 2021; find information at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

## Music



### **Resurrection:** *T-bone Slim*

**North Carolina musician John Holma Westmoreland**

will produce and record an album of songs by an ancestor, the

Finnish-American songwriter, labor columnist and hobo philosopher Matti V. Huhta (1882-1942), better known by the moniker "T-bone Slim."

This project features the music

of an iconoclastic and unique figure in the U.S. labor movement and will include a book of lyrics, pictures and new biographical information.

### **"Northern Lights"**

**The Portland Chamber Orchestra**

and Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter are collaborating on two performances of *The Blue Bird* by contemporary composer Jonne Valtonen, featuring Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian. The concerts are scheduled for October 2020.

### **Three Concerts in San Diego**

**Percussionist Kelle Hakosalo**

will present concerts featuring five new works by five Finnish composers. By using different instruments with other media, such as vibraphone, bicycle, and electronics, the program aims to help reduce prejudices about modern art.

### **Arrival: Songs of Praise**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church,**

established by Finnish immigrants in Gloucester,

Massachusetts, commissioned this original composition of liturgical music by Sara Pajunen (left) and Teija Niku (right). The two, who perform as Aallotar, combine traditional Finnish folk music with contemporary musical explorations. The new work will reflect the

Finnish roots, strength and beauty of a people finding their way in a new land.

### **Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod**

**The Rundman Family Quartet**

of Edina, Minnesota proposed travel to Finland to research, arrange, create and perform a collection of music for church congregations in the U.S. and Finland.

### **Lynden Music Festival**

**The Vancouver Chamber Choir**

from Canada, in its 50<sup>th</sup> season, will perform under the direction of its new artistic director from Finland, Dr. Kari Turunen. The October 17 concert is one of about 30 performances at the annual, four-day festival in Washington State.

### **Concert/Workshop Tour**

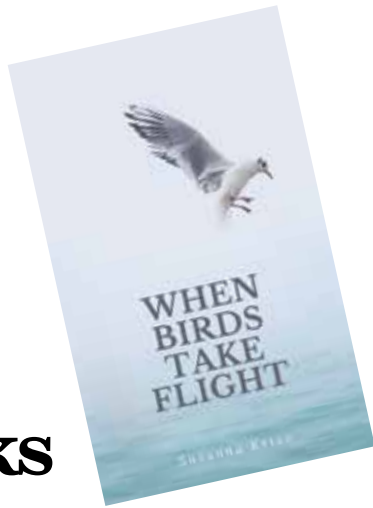
**Suomikuoro,**

a choir from Washington State and British Columbia under the artistic and musical direction of Terhi Miikki-Broersma, planned a three-day workshop followed by a 10-day concert tour in Finland in August.

### **Scandinavian Music Festival 2020**

**New York Scandia Symphony** musicians and guest artists perform works by Finnish composers in three concerts each summer, at Manhattan's Fort Tryon Park overlooking the Hudson River.





## Art

### Colors from the North

Artist Alison Aune planned a two-week Kakslauttanen Visual Arts Residency in Finnish Lapland in August. She would develop an exhibition and workshop with inspiration from Sami Designs.

### Serlachius Residency

Takeshi Moro was selected to an artist-in-residence program maintained by the Serlachius Museums and Mänttä Arts Festival in Mänttä, Finland, to create short films with local residents and refugees at the Finnish Red Cross.

## Research

### Human Migration and Network Analysis

The HUMANA team of Francis Flavin (blow), a member of Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter, and Rani Andersson (top right) and Saara Kekki of the University of Helsinki, will use dynamic network modeling to better understand migration from Finland to Sugar Island, Michigan, and the process by which Finns formed communities after arrival. The grant will support travel to conduct interviews, visit archives and deliver presentations in Michigan and Washington,



D.C. FFN joins Finland's Kone Foundation and the University of Helsinki in support of this project.

### Pleasure and Fragile Knowledge

In an ongoing, bi-lingual artistic collaboration, dramaturge Emil Santtu Uttu of Helsinki and Chicago-based performance artist Vicente Ugartechea focus on the silences of the shared queer history of the U.S. and Finland. The grant will support research at the ONE Archive in Los Angeles and GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco.



### Comedy Studies

#### Actor and comedian Miska Kajanus

(above) seeks to further his knowledge in the field of theater and comedy by studying at the Upright Citizens Brigade Training Center in Los Angeles. His goal is to organize culturally Finnish comedy shows for adults and for children, and present a one-day comedy workshop for the Finnish community in Southern California.

## Books

### When Birds Take Flight

Susanna Krizo, a Finn living in Portland, Oregon, writes about the joys and challenges of immigration, multi-cultural love and the personal growth that accompanies leaving the safety

of home. Through the lens of a young woman's journey to Chicago, readers will be given a sympathetic view of American and Finnish cultures, including the sometimes ugly reality found in both.

### Feed My Soul: The Sisterhood of Finland's Enchanted Forest

Co-authors Naomi Moriyama and William Doyle tell the true story of how a woman's life was transformed after moving from New York to rural Finland, where she was "adopted" into a sisterhood of

Finnish women at the Joensuu Martat chapter. They taught her the magical powers of the forest and Finnish nature. Pegasus will publish the book in 2021, and it will be distributed by Simon & Schuster.



## TV & Film



Sister Sistra

### Finnish Invasion

#### Nina Sallinen and Hanna Juurakko

propose a comedy series about modern day Finnish immigrants to Los Angeles, for an online platform such as Netflix. It tells the story of a 33-year-old who visits her aunt and ends up in the Finnish center in North Hollywood, where residents live in a Finnish bubble of the past. The series will highlight cultural differences among Finns and Americans.

### Trailhead

#### Finnish actor Samuli Vauramo

who now lives in California, will produce a demo for a documentary-style television series to share his adventures as he explores his adopted state's natural wonders and travels on his personal journey through a foreign culture. It will explore the differences and similarities of American and Finnish approaches to life.

### Sister Sistra

Rural cities in the Russian and American northwoods are twin sisters with a Finnish lineage, separated at birth.

How do the lives of their inhabitants intertwine, mirror and harmonize? Filmmaker Olivia Ebertz documents a day in the life of inhabitants of the Sister Cities of Duluth, Minnesota and Petrozavodsk, Karelia, in her ode to world citizens and their connectedness.

### Saima Society Theatre Legacy Lives On!

In a multi-dimensional project focusing on the Finnish Center at Saima Park in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Judith Linstedt will stage and film the Finnish play *Kihlaus*, written by Alexis Kivi in

1866. She will have the play translated from Finnish to modern English, and follow the production from auditions through performance. The 90-minute documentary will inform audiences of all ages about Saima Hall and the importance of theater to early Finnish immigrants.

### Modern Warfare

Filmmaker Hannu Aukia's dark comedy finds Daniel faced

with a new reality as his wife's career takes the family to Silver Lake, California. When she is harassed by a neighborhood bully, stay-at-home dad Daniel decides to confront the man to show what it means to be a good person. In doing so he examines the roles people play and how we see ourselves and others.





## History & Archives

### Preserving and Passing Down Local Traditions

A team of teachers from Oulu, Wisconsin, will apply grant funds toward the purchase of equipment for volunteers and K-12 students who will interview folk artists and document their cultural traditions. The training will be held as part of a summer school class at the Oulu Cultural and Heritage Center.

### Rescuing the Legacy

Addressing Finnish America's Nationwide Crisis. The grant will assist in funding a transportation and storage program for archival records donated to the Finnish American Heritage Center and Historical Archive in Hancock, Michigan. It is the sole archive collecting Finnish-American historical materials on a nationwide scope.



### Preserving Finnish History

The Beechwood Historical Society continues phase two of its "Translation of Journals 1918-1956" from Finnish to English. The papers document the establishment of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the rural Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The English translations will be displayed next to the original Finnish pages, and will become part of a permanent exhibit at Bethany Church, which is being restored as a museum and archives.

### Digitization of Raivaaja Archives

The Raivaaja Foundation will convert into digital format the first 13 years of archived print editions of the Raivaaja newspaper, from 1904 to Finnish independence in 1917. The ongoing project, which has already digitized over 90 years of print editions, preserves the real-time chronicling of the Finnish-American social, cultural and political experience in this country. This final phase is the most precarious because the newsprint has deteriorated to the point that it will crumble when handled. Digitization will make the entire 104-year archive available to anyone with computer access.



## Preservation

### Raise the Roof

The Lodge at Finnish Kaleva Park, located between Roberts and Red Lodge, Montana, will get

a new roof with the help of FFN grant funds. The historic structure, which is nearly a century-old, is an important gathering spot and

a touchstone for the local Finnish community. It also houses treasured collectibles and books and art from Finland.

## Entertainment & Events

### NOW: Nordic Oscar Weekend

Nordic creative industry meets Hollywood at this three-day conference, in an ongoing effort to strengthen the LA community. The program of speakers, networking opportunities, workshops and breakout sessions culminates in a dinner and Nordic Oscar Celebration on Academy Awards weekend 2021.

Foundation San Francisco Bay Area Chapter at the Picchetti Winery in Saratoga, California.

### Scandinavian Film Festival Los Angeles

Each January, film lovers, industry professionals and people with a link to Scandinavia and the Baltic countries look forward to the screening of films from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Baltics. Entering its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, it is one of the longest-running European film festivals in LA.

### ISMO

The Finnish comedian Ismo Leikola, who now lives in Los Angeles, will appear at a fall social event hosted by the Finlandia

### Midsummer Festival 2020

Nordic Northwest works with other Nordic groups such as Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter to create a Midsummer event with Nordic foods, games, dances entertainment. It is attended by more than 3,000 people of all ages.

### FinnFest 2020

Now cancelled due to COVID-19, this year's FinnFest (traditionally held in the U.S.) was scheduled for August in Joensuu, Finland. FFN funds would have supported a workshop featuring Finnish and Finnish-American authors.



A professional skater for the past six years, Marius has traveled the world, performing incredible tricks on his board. He has been to all continents except Antarctica, yet one trip stands out.

"In 2014, when my best friend Wes Kramer won Thrasher Magazine's Skater of the Year and got to choose any location in the world for a trip, he chose the Canary Islands. I joined along with a group of 10 guys. It was amazing! They have some of the most incredible places to skate!"

Marius' days focus on finding street locations to film his skating. He creates the material for his sponsors, such as Levi jeans. He needs sponsors to be able to keep up with the profession---especially footwear, since a skater can go through a pair of shoes in a few days!

Despite Marius' cosmopolitan lifestyle, his Finnish roots run deep. After graduating high school in San Diego, he headed to Finland to start his military service, as required of all Finnish men. He was declined, due to a screw in his wrist from a skating accident. Marius says he would have loved to have done his duty, had he been allowed.

Now that he plans to stay in Finland longer term, he aims to create skating content from Finland for the entire world to enjoy.

INSTAGRAM HANDLE: @SUOMI\_BOB  
MAIN SPONSORS: HABITAT SKATE BOARDS, INDEPENDENT TRUCKS, OJ WHEELS, LEVI STRAUSS & CO., NEW BALANCE.

## GENERATIONAL: MARIUS SYVANEN

BY MARIA KIZIRIAN  
An occasional feature about Americans with Finnish roots.

FFN spoke with pro skateboarder Marius Syvanen of San Diego, who is sheltering in place in Finland due to COVID-19.

"I came here in early March, just before the shutdown began," says the 30-year-old. "I have been enjoying it so much in Finland that I am not currently planning on returning to San Diego!"

Marius' parents, Henri and Eeva Syvanen (an FFN trustee), moved to San Diego in 1994 with their three sons, when Marius was five years old. At seven years of age, he discovered skating, and a lifelong passion. He has always walked to the beat of his own drum to create a lifestyle where skating was front and center.

Already industrious at the age of eight, he used the family videocam to capture himself skating. Boldly, he took the tape to a local skate shop and declared, "I would like you to sponsor me!"

In high school Marius started "Skate PE," a physical education program that included skateboarding. It continues today.

## Planning for the Future, Now!

By Betsey Norgard  
FFN Trustee and Future Committee Chair

The Finlandia Foundation Future Committee was established to examine how the organization can renew itself with programming that will connect its members more broadly with Finnish America and provide connections and opportunities in Finland, while keeping the interests of a younger population in mind. FFN seeks to assist its chapters in strengthening their local groups and providing assistance and opportunities to meet the challenges of a much-changed ethnic organizational landscape.

Thank you to chapters that completed the survey sent out earlier this year, telling us about your group's membership, interests, and programs. This information will help us create a series of programs and resources to bring us all together and plan for the future. Tool kits, regional workshops and webinars are among your requests, and we'll work to address these as we also plan for the next Joint Chapter Meeting.

At the fall board meeting in Helsinki, trustees enjoyed meeting representatives of various Finnish organizations who share much in common with FFN, and we are looking forward to partnering with them to provide interesting and educational opportunities for chapters and members.

If you have questions or ideas for programs, contact Future Committee Chair Betsey Norgard at [bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com).

Stay tuned for more information!



From its inception in 1956, the Finlandia Foundation scholarship program was named for Jean Sibelius, who was the organization's first Patron.

Until 1991, only music students were eligible for FFN scholarships.

Since then, students in any field of undergraduate or graduate study at an accredited American or Finnish college or university may apply. In addition, law students in the U.S. and Finland are eligible for scholarships from the P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Studies Fund.

In 2020 the Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications of 22 post-secondary students, and awarded \$29,000 to 12 students in programs ranging from music to architecture, neuroscience and teaching. The recipients include American, Finnish and dual U.S./Finnish citizens.

The 2020 Scholarship Committee was chaired by FFN trustee Hanna Wagner with Sonja Grulich, Mikko McFeely, Pirjo Schulbach and Turto Turtiainen.

The next application deadline for scholarships is February 1, 2021. Find details at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

**1. Patricia Bigos** As a history major at the University of Florida in my second year, I have had the privilege of studying a field that I am truly passionate about for quite some time. I have plans to specify my studies to the field of European history, as that has been of much interest to me my whole life. I was inspired to study history here at the University of Florida given the summers I spent in southern Finland growing up when I would hear all about the local history and culture of that region. Thus, I now take my studies very seriously and find it truly enjoyable to learn more about the past. I hope to continue my education so that I may one day become an expert in this field.

**2. Viivi Fellin** is recipient of the **Aune E. Koski Scholarship**, which is awarded to an outstanding student from the Pacific Northwest. This fall, Viivi will be a senior at Washington State University studying speech and hearing sciences with a minor in psychology. She is planning to obtain a master's degree so she can become a bilingual speech language pathologist and work with children. When she is not studying, she enjoys volunteering at a local spoken language preschool program for deaf and hard of hearing children. Viivi was born in Vancouver, Washington to a Finnish mother and American father. She is fluent in Finnish and has retained her Finnish citizenship. Her fondest childhood memories are the summers she spent in Pohjois-Pohjanmaa visiting relatives.

**3. Lukas Gardner** I am a chemistry major in the class of 2022 at Villanova University. This scholarship will help support me in my studies and pave the way for me to pursue research in pharmaceutical chemistry. In the spring I began my research with Dr. Konstantinos Agrios of the Chemistry department in his research on autoimmune disease treatments. The field of new drug development interests me because of its promise to improve the quality of human life. My research aims to identify potent and patentable, small molecule Factor D (FD) inhibitors targeting the alternative complement pathway of the immune system. I hold work study jobs at school, as a

chemistry stockroom assistant and a service desk assistant at the Falvey Memorial Library. I was born in Finland and speak Finnish at home. Finnish dedication to education is an inspiration to me. I aim to make connections with Finnish research institutions in the future.

**4. Brian Junttila** is pursuing a master's degree at Florida State University in music composition, where he plans to graduate next spring. His goal as a composer is to maintain a semblance of tradition while pushing through the modern era. To that end, his projects to date include writing for unusual ensembles, picking culturally relevant texts for his vocal music, and collaborating with dancers and visual artists. Recently inspired by his Finnish heritage, he plans to write a series of homages in the styles of different composers, one of whom being the late Einojuhani Rautavaara.

**5. Kyle Koutonen** is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is an active member of the AIAA Design Build Fly club,

where members design and build model planes to accomplish various missions. He says that he fell in love with engineering at a young age by watching his father fix "anything," which inspired him to always want to see how things work. "Now, I am very close to making my dream a reality. I am a third generation Finnish-American growing up in a town with a rich Finnish history and culture. In my free time I love to do anything outdoors. I go on long hikes in the spring, snowboarding all winter long, and spend my summers at the lake, which has a sauna my grandfather built."

**6. Anna Laine** will be a sophomore at St. Louis University in Missouri in the fall. "I am an education major and am hoping to also add a major in communications and a minor in international studies or history. I was supposed to be studying abroad in The Netherlands during spring 2020 but unfortunately, it got canceled. I hope to still be able to study abroad during my next few years of college."

**7. Markus Lang** is recipient of the **Marion and George Sundquist Scholarship**, which is awarded to a student in the arts. "My studies in Double Bass Performance first began in Philadelphia, where I attended Temple University under the guidance and instruction of Joseph Conyers. After two years, I transferred to The Juilliard School of Music and will be receiving a Bachelor of Music degree this spring. I am thrilled to be continuing my studies at the Curtis Institute of Music next fall with double bass professors Hal Robinson and Edgar Meyer."

**8. Vilmiina Nupponen** is enrolled at San Diego State University, where she is a liberal studies student interested in becoming an elementary school teacher and shaping the lives of young students. Born in Tampere, Finland, she moved to California at a young age and has grown up with her Finnish culture and language, and prides herself on her heritage. It is a significant part of her life.

**9. Olivia Raisanen** is a Master of Architecture candidate at Taubman

College at the University of Michigan, with a Bachelor of Science in Design in Architectural Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University. "My interests within architecture include improving the built environment for its users from a global, urban and interior scale, focusing on caring for the design of (sustainable) architecture for the experience of both the human and the non-human." She is studying integrating artificial intelligence with parametric design methods into the urban design process. "Architecture has the power to improve both the longevity of the earth and the everyday experience of its users when designed carefully, and this is what my education emphasizes."

**10. Saana Teittinen-Gordon** is an undergraduate student at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, where she is double majoring in neuroscience and music. Saana grew up in the U.S., but her mother is Finnish and she has dual citizenship and is fluent in Finnish. Saana has visited Finland every summer since she was young, and lived in Finland for three years. She is proud of her Finnish heritage and hopes to continue educating Americans about Finnish culture.

**11. Tiina Watts** has been teaching at Salolampi Finnish Language Village adult weeks since 2002, and is now the director of the adult week programs. There is a great need for a Finnish language curriculum for adult programs at Salolampi, so, at age 58, Tiina started a master's degree in Second Language Teaching at Brigham Young University last fall, with the goal to write a curriculum as her master's thesis or project. She will be studying and working on this project until summer 2021.

**12. Madison Wheeler** is studying elementary education at New England College, in Henniker, New Hampshire. "To become a teacher has been a dream of mine since second grade. My goals for the future are to study abroad and to continue with a master's degree, hopefully in Finland. I plan to travel and gain as much experience as I can. I will be participating in the NEC student abroad program." Madison was selected to play for a U.S. soccer team touring Spain in June 2021, and will compete in Florida for a possible position with a northern European professional soccer/football program. "I am just beginning and cannot wait for the adventures I am about to partake in. I want to be able to share all these experiences with my students when I become a teacher."





**Cross-cultural understanding in the legal field is important to Finnish-American attorney Pertti Lindfors of San Francisco, who established a legal studies fund to assist Finnish law students in the U.S., and Americans enrolled in the law faculty of a Finnish university.**



The candidates for the Lindfors law scholarship were very strong in 2020, and the committee recommended that the seven applicants—all from Finland, studying at American law schools—receive awards.

The Scholarship Committee was chaired by FFN trustee Hanna Wagner with Sonja Grulich, Mikko McFeely, Pirjo Schulbach and Turto Turtiainen.

The next application deadline for Lindfors law scholarships is **February 1, 2021**. Find details at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

**Leia Ahlström** will be studying as a Fulbright scholar in the LL.M. program of Columbia Law School, class of 2021. “Now, more than ever, it is crucial to support growth of businesses with long-term, sustainable goals and strong ethical principles. My aim is to gain state-of-the-art knowledge for driving change, weaving together perspectives of law, ethics, technology, social impact and economic growth.”



**Mikael Nordenswan** holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki, and a M.Sc. in Economics & Business Administration from Hanken School of Economics, and is a Certified European Financial Analyst (CEFA). He is currently pursuing a post-graduate degree at Berkeley Law with a focus on Business, IP and Technology Law. Mikael previously worked at the global law firm White & Case, and is currently working for the global telecommunications company Nokia.

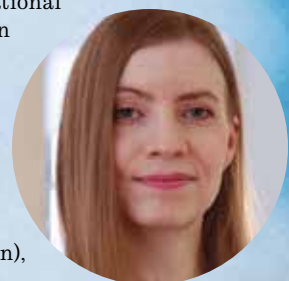
**Joonas Aho** plans to focus on corporate and transactional law at Columbia Law School, where he wants to “further expand my knowledge of the U.S. legal system, to study at a prestigious U.S. university and to meet new, inspiring people. I want to be able to capitalize on Columbia’s location in one of the world’s major financial and commercial centers and their curriculum, which allows me to consider legal issues from both theoretical and practical perspectives.”

**Timo Rautiainen** holds an LL.B. degree from Queen Mary, University of London and an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki. “Next fall I am pursuing an LL.M. degree at Columbia University in New York City. I work in mergers and acquisitions in Helsinki, and I plan to focus on corporate transactions in my studies in New York.”



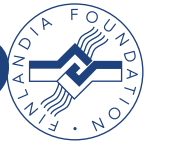
**Mira Hänninen** currently works as an associate in a Finnish business law firm, where she focuses on dispute resolution and tax law. She holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki and M.Sc. (Econ.) degree from Aalto University School of Business. In August 2020 Mira will enter Harvard Law School’s one-year LL.M. program. She looks forward to deepening her knowledge and skills in international business law as well as gaining understanding of the U.S. legal system.

**Venla Stång** holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Turku, Finland. In her master’s studies, she specialized in criminal and procedural law. She has worked in the public sector with the Finnish National Prosecution Authority, Eurojust (European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation), and the Ministry of Justice of Finland. In the fall of 2020, she will begin her post-graduate LL.M. studies in International Law and Justice at Fordham University in New York City. Her main focus will be in the study of human rights protection and humanitarian law.



**Sonja Heiskala** is a Finnish Master of Laws and an ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grantee from the University of Helsinki, and will be pursuing LL.M. studies in the U.S. in the field of intellectual property law. In her studies she will focus on the role of technology in the global climate change response, especially on how the development and distribution of innovative technologies can help climate change mitigation and adaptation.

*Joonas Aho*



## Joint Chapter Meeting Coming in 2022

In its history, Finlandia Foundation National has hosted a handful of meetings between chapter leaders for the purpose of building a stronger network among its affiliated organizations. The most recent Joint Chapter Meeting (JCM) was held in Washington, D.C. in November of 2016. The previous such gathering was in 2006.

Over the course of the well-attended three-day session in 2016, representatives learned more about FFN as well as other key Finnish-American organizations. There were roundtable discussions and opportunities for members to share success stories, ask for advice and socialize. The consensus of the attendees was that FFN should host the JCM more frequently than every 10 years. With that in mind, the trustees voted to set the next meeting for spring of 2022.

No details on specific date or location have been set, but will be announced as they become available.

OHIO



The Vikings of Vulksgaard

By Sharon Ojanpa Mackey  
Finnish Heritage Museum

Vikings—horned invaders raiding villages and towns in northern Europe, taking what they wanted from anyone in their way. This is what the Vikings were. Uncivilized, unhygienic, raiders, right? Wrong. Most people today have a lot of misconceptions about who the Vikings

were and how they behaved, as Finnish Heritage Museum members and guests discovered.

The Vikings of Vulksgaard is a group of Viking reenactors from Geneva, Ohio, who were welcomed guests at the monthly meeting of the Finnish Heritage Museum in Fairport Harbor on February 10. Museum members Terttu and Tom

The visiting Vikings of Vulksgaard (from left): Justin Fiorelli, Tom Revolinsky, Viking Chieftain Tristin Kujanpaa, Sigrid Seidkona, Terttu Kangas Revolinsky, Shane Starlin and Kelly Lynn. Photo by Jane Hiltunen

Revolinsky and a number of other Viking participants dressed in costume and brought several tools and examples of Viking culture to the Museum. The leader of the group, Tristan Kujanpaa, introduced his colleagues, who then explained about the Viking traditions and put to rest a lot of the myths about their culture.

The Viking period was from about 790 AD when a monastery in Lindisfarne was attacked by these invaders, to 1100 AD. The word Viking means pirate, or Scandinavian raider. The Vikings were the greatest military power in the years between the Roman Empire and the Army of the Crusaders.

This is an excerpt from the full story that you will find at the museum website: [finnishheritagemuseum.org](http://finnishheritagemuseum.org).

MASSACHUSETTS

## From Sirkka to Symphony

In Rockport and Lanesville, Cape Ann Finns (CAF) had two opportunities in February to view *Sirkka: Past and Present*, a documentary by Kristin Ojaniemi about activist Sirkka Tuomi Holm.

Sirkka lived for six years in Lanesville in the 1920s, while her father worked in the granite quarries and her parents participated in theater and music activities at the Finn Hall. Sirkka, now 99, went on to serve in World War II and devote her life to progressive causes. In the McCarthy era, she was the first woman on the East Coast to be called to testify before the House Un-American

Activities Committee. This documentary is a remarkable lens into the lives of Finnish-Americans on Cape Ann.

Rob Ranta of CAF reports, “Many in the audience called *Sirkka Past and*



PAST AND PRESENT  
a Kristin Lee Ojaniemi film

*Present* the most powerful of all the Finnish heritage events in recent years. Sirkka’s voice, the old photographs, and reenactments brought levels of understanding and sympathy unmatched by lectures. The Ojaniemi documentary is a treasure, just like Sirkka Tuomi Holm.”

CAF organized two outings in March. First up was the Boston Ballet performance of *rEVOLUTION* under the artistic direction of Mikko Nissinen, a native of Finland.

Next, a group headed to the Boston Symphony Orchestra concert with Hannu Lintu conducting three pieces including Sibelius’ *Symphony No. 2*. He has been chief conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra since 2013.





PENNSYLVANIA

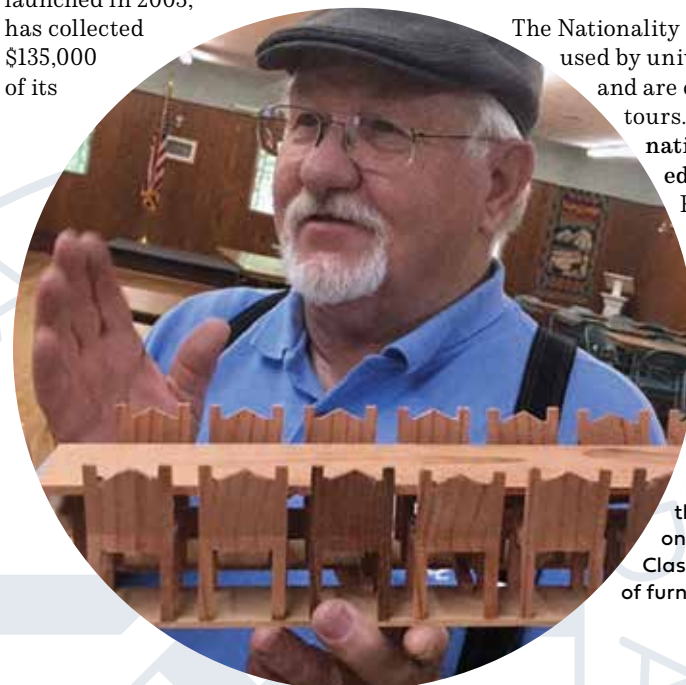
## Finnish Classroom Still a Dream

With steady determination, Finlandia Foundation Pittsburgh Chapter continues to lead the effort to build a Finnish Nationality Classroom in the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning.

The first classrooms opened in 1938, and there are now 30 rooms, each representing the culture, heritage and

architecture unique to an ethnic group in the U.S. The design of the planned Finland room showcases Finnish log construction and the *Kalevala*.

The fundraising campaign, which was launched in 2003, has collected \$135,000 of its



The Nationality Classrooms are used by university students and are open for public tours. Find information at [nationalityrooms.pitt.edu](http://nationalityrooms.pitt.edu). For more about the Finnish room project and how to make a donation go to [pittsburghfinns.net](http://pittsburghfinns.net) or contact FFPC Chair Seija Cohen, [seijac@aol.com](mailto:seijac@aol.com).

Frank Eld, Finnish log construction expert and past FFN Lecturer of the Year, is a consultant on the Finnish Nationality Classroom. He holds a model of furnishings for the space.



Photo by Glenn Kujansuu

MICHIGAN

## Holiday Happenings at the Finnish Center

Imported home goods, candies and holiday decorations filled the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills for the Scandinavian Market on November 9. Always well-attended, this was a record year for shoppers who came for the variety and quality of handcrafted items, from knitwear and jewelry to rag rugs, toys and soaps. Baked goods tempted and the aroma of Karelian piirakka, stew and pasties wafted from the kitchen as FinnFolk entertained with traditional tunes.

The Finnish Center bustled in December with a concert by the Finnish American Singers of Michigan, plus an Independence Day dinner, the annual Candlelight Memorial Service in honor of loved ones, and Christmas celebrations.

A Valentine's party brightened February with hearts and flowers.

Then in March, Finnish American Heritage Center Director Jim Kurtti hosted a screening of the documentary, *Sirkka: Past and Present*.

ARIZONA



Gem of a Concert

From left: Finns and Friends President Joy Dorvinen; Nazig Azejian; Caio Pagano, Regents Professor of Piano, ASU Herberger Institute School of Music; Jussi Makkonen; Consul General of Finland Stefan Lindström; Gary Waissi, Honorary Consul of Finland to Arizona and New Mexico and a professor at ASU.

*Finnish Jewels* was the theme of the concert by cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian, as they performed in Phoenix for the first time on November 23, 2019. The concert at Arizona State University's Katzin Concert Hall included pieces by Finnish composers Jean Sibelius, Heino Kaski and Oskar Merikanto. The performance was streamed by ASU and may be seen at [youtube.com/watch?v=iXg00nxCMes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXg00nxCMes).

The event was made possible by Finns and Friends of Phoenix and ASU. Finlandia Foundation National is the main sponsor and organizer of the duo's concert tours in the U.S.

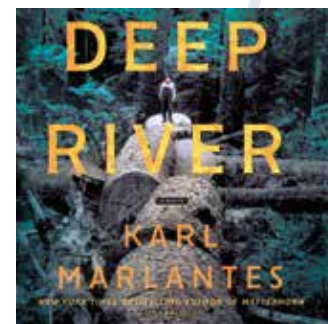
OREGON

## Notes from the Northwest

By Greg Jacob  
President, FFPC

Karl Marlantes, author of the novel *Deep River*, spoke at the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter's annual meeting in February. He was captivating, personable, and a fountain of knowledge regarding Finnish immigrants and their struggles, setbacks and successes in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington around the early years of the 20th century.

Karl grew up in Seaside, Oregon in a multilingual



family hearing Finnish, Swedish, Greek and Norwegian. His novel is based partly on the Finnish epic *Kalevala*, and readers will recognize references and allusions to the epic. *Deep River* is an engaging novel, one that reminded me of John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. He is also the author of *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War*, which is based on his experiences as a decorated Marine who commanded a platoon there.

Also at the annual meeting, the chapter elected a high school senior as its youngest board member. Katja Erringer (above), 17, will start college in the fall to study biology. She is Finnish-American with dual citizenship and has fond memories of visiting Finland as a child, spending time with extended family and hunting for blueberries and mushrooms in the forests.

Katja wants to help organize Finnish events and promote



Finland in the Pacific Northwest, as well as find ways to involve young people in Finnish activities. Her interests include wildlife rehabilitation, environmental protection and recycling, reuse and repair. Katja volunteers with the Audubon Society of Portland and was vice-president of Grant High School's National Honor Society.

Since 2007, the Sauna Bucket Award has been presented to an individual or organization that has shown pride in their Finnish heritage. The 2019 honoree was Andrea Tolonen at the annual Finnic (Finnish picnic) at the Lindgren Cabin on Cullaby Lake. Her name will be printed inside the sauna bucket along with all of the past winners. Andrea said that she didn't think that she deserved the award, but exclaimed, "I'm not giving it back!"



## Ex-Pat Parliament Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 situation the board of Suomi-Seura (Finland Society) postponed the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament that was scheduled for June 2020 at Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. It will be held June 10-11, 2021.

All submitted initiatives remain valid and new invitations will be mailed to FEP organizations by December 9. Find more information at [usp.fi](http://usp.fi). Chapter representatives with questions can contact FEP Deputy Speaker for the USA and Latin America Hanna Wagner at [dhkpwagner@yahoo.com](mailto:dhkpwagner@yahoo.com).

ILLINOIS

## Food for Body and Soul

By Oscar Forsman  
FASM

Members of the Finnish American Society Midwest turned out in January for the Lecturer of the Year program to "Meet the Finn Cooks" and learn from Soila Anderson and Eleanor Ostman how to make Finnish foods.

On February 29, FASM sponsored a group outing to "A Nordic Celebration" by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra led by Maestro Hannu Lintu, conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. The program featured violin soloist Pekka Kuusisto, performing the rarely heard *Violin Concerto* by Danish composer Carl Nielsen. The orchestra also performed the composer's *Helios Overture*.

Of course, no program of Nordic music would be complete without the work of Jean Sibelius, and this one featured his *Symphony No. 5* and *Finlandia*. Both guest artists received glowing media reviews. Lintu did a masterful job leading the orchestra, and Kuusisto's playing was a reflection of his personality, playful and animated. He displayed his down-to-earth quality when he slipped into the back section of the violins to sit in on *Symphony No. 5*.

A highlight of the evening was an informal post-concert reception with Lintu and Kuusisto, attended by members of FASM and the Finnish American Society of Milwaukee. Host and event organizer Oscar Forsman introduced their presidents and past and present Honorary Consuls Olavi Göös and Jon Jurva. The artists were generous with their time, mingling with the 44 attendees. It was a perfect ending to a wonderful evening.

With bouquets, Maestro Hannu Lintu (center left) and Pekka Kuusisto mingle with FASM members at the informal reception following the Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert.







## Why I Give: Edith Eash

Edith Eash and Anne-Mari Paster visit at Saima Park during the fall 2018 FFN board meeting in Massachusetts.

**If not for a Russian judge sympathetic to Finns at the turn of the last century, the history of the Finnish community of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, would look very different today.**

Edith Eash explains that her grandfather, Frans Syrjälä, had been jailed for speaking out against the conscription of Finns into the Russian army. While in prison he contracted pneumonia, and after the judge allowed his release, Frans and his young family emigrated to Canada. They soon moved to Fitchburg, where the activist became editor of the Finnish newspaper *Raivaaja* (*The Pioneer*).

Edith's father Sävele Syrjälä also became involved in Finnish causes, and in 1947 wrote the booklet, "The Story of a Cooperative: A Brief History of United

Co-operative Society of Fitchburg." He, too, was editor of *Raivaaja* and a prominent member of the Finnish-American community.

"My family has always been very involved in politics and Finnish affairs," she says. It was her father who was contacted by visiting Finnish dignitaries, and she remembers attending many activities, picnics and gatherings. "It's a nice heritage to be a part of, and I'm very proud of the association."

She did not, however, inherit the journalism gene. "Writing is not my thing at all," laughs Edith, who attended Simmons College and became a dietician. She worked in hospitals and taught nutrition before becoming executive director of the New England Dairy and Food Council. It was through that work that she met Maurice Eash; they married in 1981 and lived in Chicago.

Eventually, they moved to Lexington and Edith revived her association with Finlandia Foundation Boston, a relationship that dated to 1955 when her father and Finnish-born mother, Rachel, were among the charter members of the chapter. Sävele served as the first FFB president, and on its board for 25 years. He also was a trustee of Finlandia Foundation National from 1963-69.

"Many members of Finlandia Foundation Boston were family and friends. I was so



**At the 2019 ScanFair in Portland, (from left) Christine, Dirk and Pirjo Schulbach celebrate with Santa.**

conceiving, planning and executing events. It states, "They are the type of volunteers every group would want:

glad to see them again. When you form a connection, your personal associations are so important," says Edith.

One of the chapter's past presidents proposed establishing a scholarship in recognition of her father's long involvement in the organization. She still administers the Sävele Syrjälä Scholarship for a student of Finnish-American heritage in the field of Journalism or Communications, as well as the chapter's Aina Swan Cutler New England Music Scholarship. In recent years, Edith also volunteered her time to the FFN Scholarship Committee.

"I enjoy meeting the young people and seeing how they think," she says of her involvement. "Kids are so desperate for funds these days, it's a very valuable contribution."

Edith wants to impress the importance of connecting with your roots. "It gives you a grounding and a sense of where you came from. It expands your horizons and knowledge of what Finland is doing. You can be very proud of what's happening in Finland."

She adds, "Your background is really a part of you. It's important to cultivate that. You just don't know how it will affect you. It's an important touchstone that I want to keep as a part of my life."

*"Why I Give" features individuals who value their Finnish-American heritage and contribute their time, talents and treasures.*

"Enthusiastic, hardworking, dedicated, dependable; no job is too small or too big. And being Finns, they don't feel the need to brag about what they do or bring attention to themselves."

Among their many activities, Dirk is treasurer of Finlandia Foundation National, and Pirjo serves on the FFN Scholarship Committee. Each year, Christine, Pirjo and Dirk dedicate hours to the annual ScanFair and other programs. In 2017, Pirjo chaired the Finland 100 celebration in Portland, with the involvement and support of Dirk and Christine.

The Nordic Northwest tribute summarizes: "The Schulbachs work with heart, dedication, creativity, precision and artistic talent to improve our world and keep us in touch with our Nordic, especially Finnish, roots."

## FFN Has New President

**Trustee Anne-Mari Paster was elected to a two-year term as president of Finlandia Foundation National during the board's April meeting.**

She replaces Ossi Rahkonen, who stepped down after serving as president for seven of his 17 years on the FFN board.

"I am honored to have been elected as president of FFN and excited to strengthen and grow this wonderful organization. I see an opportunity to expand FFN's visibility and connection to the Finnish and Finnish-American communities," says Anne-Mari, who has held board positions as treasurer and as chair of the finance and investments committee.

She has extensive experience in the finance and investment fields, most recently as a managing director and chief financial officer of Omega Funds, where she is responsible for the financial and administrative operations of the international healthcare investment firm. Prior to that, she was a partner and CFO of venture firms involved in life sciences and biotech industries.

## FFN Welcomes New Trustee

**During their April meeting, the trustees of Finlandia Foundation National elected Michel Wendell to a three-year term on the board.**

A native of Finland, Michel is the general partner and co-founder of Next Ventures, which invests in small, emerging tech-based businesses in Finland and the Nordics to bring them to the U.S. market. When he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area more than 25 years ago, he was among the first "Finnish



**At FinnFest USA 2017 in Minneapolis, Finland's President Sauli Niinistö and spouse Jenni Haukio meet FFN trustees Teuvo Pulkkinen, Ossi Rahkonen and Anne-Mari Paster.**

A native of Turku, Finland, Anne-Mari received her BS in Engineering at the Turku Institute of Technology. Before moving to the U.S. in 1992, she was an international project manager for Wartsila Marine, and then founded APS Material Services, a marketing and sales company representing high-end Finnish suppliers to the international luxury hotel and cruise liner markets.

Anne-Mari is also treasurer of Finlandia Foundation Boston Chapter, and has served on the boards of the International Institute of Boston and YWCA Boston. She and her husband, Fred, have lived in Lexington, Massachusetts for more than 20 years and have two adult children. Finnish heritage and language are important to the family, and they make frequent visits to Finland. In her free time, she enjoys Scandinavian and British TV series and yarn craft.

organizations as a teenager in Helsinki, sees both challenges and opportunities for FFN in the future.

"If Finlandia Foundation is to survive and excel, it will have to come up with new ways of attracting the younger generations and develop its offerings accordingly, but without letting go of too much of its past," he says.

"I look forward to being an active part of exploring where Finlandia Foundation has come from, where it is now and where it can go from here."





## One Man's Financial Legacy

By **Tim Nurvala**  
FFN Trustee

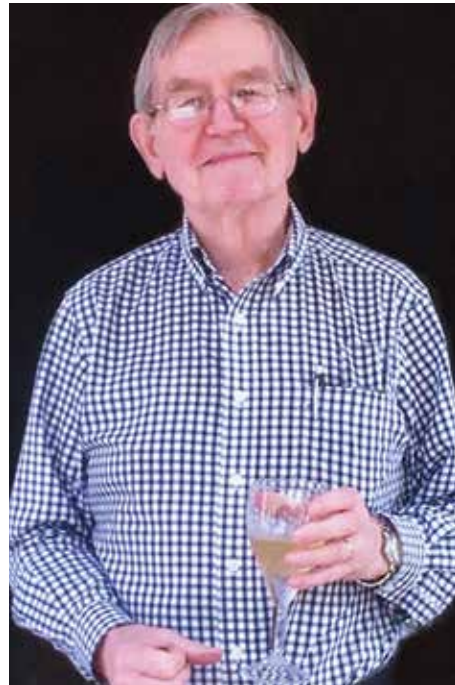
**In 2013, the Hobbit was the most popular movie at the box office, President Obama was sworn in for a second term, and the Boston Marathon bombers were captured. It was also the year that Finlandia Foundation National elected trustee Ossi Rahkonen as president.**

When Ossi assumed that position, Finlandia Foundation had 45 chapters and an endowment that stood at just over \$2,000,000. Today, seven years later, we have 58 chapters and an endowment that stands in excess of \$2,800,000.

These statistics are even more remarkable when one realizes that during this time Finlandia Foundation has given away more than \$2,700,000 in grants, scholarships and program support. The organization has funded 272 grants and 138 scholarships to students during this time. Additionally, major events, such as the 2015 Sibelius Jubilee Year, 2016 FFN Joint Chapter Meeting and 2017 Finland 100 celebrations were all funded during his tenure.

As he retires from the board, his leadership and impact on Finnish America is enormous. His training as an economist and his understanding of the financial market set our organization on an upward trajectory during sometimes uncertain economic times.

We are grateful to Ossi Rahkonen and recognize that the financial legacy he leaves for Finlandia Foundation will last for decades to come.



### CHEERS TO OSSI RAHKONEN

After serving on the FFN board for 10 years, Ossi Rahkonen stepped into the role of president in 2013, in the midst of festivities honoring the founding of Finlandia Foundation in Pasadena.

He and Satu Mikkola, then a trustee, chaired the gala 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner and concert, the first of three major events during Ossi's seven years as president. In 2015 FFN joined in the international celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius by sponsoring concerts and offering grants to chapters to assist them in organizing their own Sibelius 150 Jubilee events.

Then, two years later, in recognition of the centennial of Finland's Declaration of Independence from Russia, FFN sponsored six Finland 100 Signature Events. Grants were again available to FFN chapters to support their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities throughout 2017.

Also during this time, FFN inaugurated its "Award of Excellence" to acknowledge outstanding contributions by individuals or organizations on behalf of Finnish and Finnish-American interests. Additionally, throughout his term, Ossi worked to improve relationships with appropriate Finnish organizations and offices, in keeping with the historical mission of FFN to maintain a connection with Finland.

Ossi has been a member of Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter for 48 years. He was a board member for many years, including two terms as chapter president.

With much appreciation, FFN wishes Ossi and his wife Karin all the best in their future endeavors.

## The Coronavirus, the CARES Act and Finlandia Foundation Donors

By **Tim Nurvala**  
FFN Trustee

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. The \$2 trillion economic stimulus bill aims to provide immediate relief for individuals, non-profits, businesses and state and local governments.

**What Does This Mean for Finlandia Foundation Donors?**

As it relates to donations, the CARES Act incentivizes charitable giving from individuals and corporations by

increasing tax deductions for charitable donations. Below, please find a broad overview of the most impactful ways that the CARES Act affects donors and non-profit organizations for tax year 2020.

**Individual Donors:**

- All taxpayers (both those who itemize and those who use standard deduction) can deduct \$300 in charitable giving to non-profit organizations (such as Finlandia Foundation) in 2020.
- Prior to the CARES Act, those who used standard deduction could not deduct any charitable giving.
- For those who itemize their taxes, the CARES Act significantly raises the amount of charitable giving deductible from 60% of the filer's adjusted gross income (AGI) to 100%.

- Gifts to donor-advised funds and private foundations do not receive the revised deductible under this provision.

**Corporate Donors:**

- The CARES Act raises the amount of charitable giving that corporations can deduct from 10% of taxable income to 25% of taxable income.
- The bill also raises the amount of in-kind donations of food that corporations can deduct from 15% of taxable income to 25% of taxable income.

*This article has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not to be construed as tax advice. Individuals should consult their accountant or tax advisor with regard to such matters.*

## FFN Trustees Meet Online

Each spring and fall, the Finlandia Foundation conducts its board meeting in a city or area where there is an affiliated chapter. This provides an opportunity for the trustees, after completing the business at hand, to meet local FFN members.

The spring meeting was scheduled to be held in Fort Lauderdale April 3-4, but due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19 the board met remotely, via Zoom, on those dates.

Committee meetings, usually conducted the day and morning prior to the start of the full session, were also held in advance, via Zoom.

Reports on the business handled appear throughout this newsletter.

While the meeting was efficiently managed, one notable session had to be postponed: an in-depth discussion of the future of FFN. That will be addressed at the fall meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon.



At each meeting, FFN trustees traditionally assemble for a group photo. This screen shot captures most of the participants in the first-ever FFN board meeting via Zoom.

From top, left to right: Ossi Rahkonen, Dirk Schulbach, Betsey Norgard, Katariina Lehtonen; Anita Smiley, Hilary Virtanen, Eeva Syvanen, Peter Makila; Teuvo Pulkkinen, Tim Nurvala, Dennis Anderson, Anne-Mari Paster; Päivi Tetri; Jacqueline Harjula, Hanna Wagner, Maria Kizirian (FFN office). Present but not pictured: Paul Halme, Richard Ahola, Tarja Silverman, Kath Usitalo (FFN communications)



# Kiitos! Thank You For Your Gifts!

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

## MAJOR GIFTS

Rauha Cole Estate  
Curtin-Paloheimo  
Leonora Foundation  
Aina Swan Cutler  
FF National Capital Chapter  
Haikala Associates  
John A. Helin  
Ronald A. Helin  
Helin Korpela Fund  
Hilda M. Hendrickson Trust  
Dr. Vaino Hoover  
John & Pauline Kiltinen  
Hilkka Kinnunen Trust  
Aune E. Koski Estate  
Esko Koskinen  
Gertrude Kujala  
John & Nancy Laine  
Edward Laissi Estate  
Pertti Lindfors  
Earle I. Mack Foundation  
Ossi & Czeslawa Narhi  
In memory of  
Emil & Hilli Narhi  
Timothy Nurvala  
Paloheimo Foundation  
Leonora C. Paloheimo  
Ossi J. & Karin Rahkonen  
Elma Randall Estate  
Jon & Christine Saari  
Jean Sainio-Nolan Trust  
Bert & Marjatta Salonen  
George & Marion Sundquist  
Suomi-Seura, Finland Society  
Eero Tetri  
Päivi & Brent Tetri  
Andrejs Udris  
U.F.B.&S. Lodge #1  
of San Francisco  
Regina K. Valley  
Armi Kuusela-Williams  
& Albert Williams

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous  
J. Bradford & Pirkko Borland  
John Brock  
& Sirpa Ristimäki-Brock  
Finlandia Music & Art Festival  
Finnish-American Literary  
Heritage Foundation  
Paul & Susan Halme  
Olavi Hiukka  
Janet Arvonen Kniffin  
Rita Vermala-Koski  
& Alvar Koski  
Juha O. Mäkipää  
Satu & Juhani Mikkola  
Nokia Corp.

Nestor Perala  
Anita & Jack Smiley  
Sundquist Associates  
June M. Wepsala

## \$2,000 to \$4,999

Richard & Janet Ahola  
Anonymous  
Kristina Antoniadis  
Elissa & Renato Della Rocca  
Jeanne Doty  
Jenny M. Duke TTEE  
FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter  
FF Los Angeles Chapter  
Finn Spark, Inc.  
Jack & Sinikka Haikala  
Jacqueline L. Harjula  
Anne K. Kanerva  
Mervi Hjelmroos-Koski  
& John Koski  
Stina & Herant Katchadourian  
Alvar Kauti  
Janet Kniffin Estate  
Risto & Satu Laaksonen  
Katariina Lehtonen  
Peter & Arja Makila  
Anja & Raymond C. Miller  
Nasdaq Stockmarket, Inc.  
Betsey & Alan Norgard  
Terri Muscato Normark  
Armi Nelson  
Anne-Mari & Frederick Paster  
Richard W. Ploe-Kajjala  
Anita L. Raistakka  
Rapala USA  
Col. George Rasula  
Duane & Cheryl Rogers,  
Raiili & Miranda  
Dirk & Pirjo Schulbach  
Paivi & Brent Tetri  
In memory of Eero & Helli Tetri  
Hanna & David Wagner  
Susan E. Walima  
Armi Kuusela-Williams  
Albert Wulff

## \$1,000 to \$1,999

Helen and Bill Alberth  
Dennis Anderson  
& Madeline Bahr  
Michael & Elaine Anuta  
Irmeli Corsi &  
Louis Gerard Corsi  
Maurice & Edith Eash  
In memory of Rachel &  
Savele Syrjala  
Seija & Lawrence Farber  
FF San Francisco Bay  
Area Chapter  
FF Seattle Chapter  
FinnFest USA 2007

Finnish Folk Festival - Naselle  
Walter Heikkila  
Richard & Helvi Impola  
Birgitta Kaanto  
Ruth Kaarlela Living Trust  
Virpi Kairinen  
Ilkka Kallioma  
Wil & Mae Kaven  
Al & Rita Koski  
Kaino & Donald Leethem  
Richard & Lois Lindgren  
Andrew A. Luhtanen  
Marilyn Madden  
Fern Malilla  
Eva & Heikki Mannisto  
Gabriel & Deb Monroe  
Nike, Inc.  
Teuvo & Marjut Pulkkinen  
Aino Rouvari  
Odd Ryden  
Eva Saari  
Prof. Borje O. Saxberg  
Scandinavian American  
Cultural & Historical  
Foundation  
David & Jeannette Sharpe  
Marja O. Snyder  
Brent Thompson  
Johanna Thormod  
Leo Utter  
Merja Vainio

## Gifts from November 2019 through April 2020

### \$10,000

John A. Helin

### \$5,000 and more

Timothy Nurvala

### \$2,000 and more

Takeda Pharmaceuticals  
Päivi & Brent Tetri

### \$1,000 and more

Juha Mäkipää  
Anne-Mari & Frederick Paster  
Teuvo & Marjut Pulkkinen  
Ossi & Karin Rahkonen  
Bert Salonen  
Hanna & David Wagner  
Albert Wulff

### \$500 to \$999

Pirkko Borland  
David Edwards  
In memory of Inger Edwards

Charles & Helen Fedalen  
John J. Haikala Trust  
Maria Laine  
Peter & Arja Makila  
Betsey & Alan Norgard  
Pirjo Schulbach

### \$200 to \$499

Richard & Janet Ahola  
Steven Bousquet  
Eva Mannisto  
Fern Malila  
David Pistenmaa  
In memory of Robert Hautala  
Pentti & Anna Liisa Rinne  
Anita Smiley  
John E. Sundgren  
Eeva & Henri Syvanen  
Mary Wurzer

### \$100 to \$199

Arnold Alanen  
& Lynn Bjorkman  
Dennis Anderson  
Anonymous  
Kari Autio  
Pirkko Borland  
In memory of Al Koski  
Elana M. Brink  
Marilyn Brothers  
In honor of Carl &  
Ina Pohjo Holmstrom  
Karl & Grace Bystrom  
James D. Cook  
For the FFN COVID-19 Fund  
Elissa Della Rocca  
Kaisa Dolan  
Jonene Eliasson  
Sonja Haugen  
Philip M. Hill  
In memory of  
Anna M. Kumpula Hill  
Paul & Carol Knuti  
Richard B. Kotila  
In memory of Ruth M. Kotila  
Tracy Koutonen  
Andy & Sheila LaVoie  
In memory of George Rasula  
by Glenn Berts  
Linda Lindell  
Yvonne Lockwood  
Aila Tuulikki Loring  
In memory of Seldon Loring  
Harry G. McIntosh  
In memory of Helen Elizabeth  
Tammi & Parents  
Robert McKenzie Sullivan  
Liisa McMahan  
Catherine V. Mannick  
Eva & Heikki Mannisto  
In memory of Al Koski

Hilve Niiranen  
Hillevi Null  
Jyrki Ollikainen  
Jack & Barbara Osman  
Carol J. Palin  
Eileen Partanen  
Paul & Nancy Rajala  
Red Lodge Knights & Ladies  
of Kaleva  
William Reynen  
Kirsi St. Marie  
Renata V. Shaw  
Mark A. Suokas  
Norman J. Taylor  
In memory of Nelly Taylor  
Walter & Workinesh Tianen  
In memory of  
Mae & Henry Tianen  
W. Allan Tuomaala  
Arja Turttainen  
Jo Ann Viinikainen  
In memory of  
Richard Viinikainen  
Maarit Visbal  
Eva Wahlroos  
In memory of Sven Wahlroos  
Ristiina M. Wigg  
In memory of Paul Wigg  
John & Judith Yesso  
In honor of Anita Smiley

### GIFTS TO \$99

Markku Ahonen  
Sandra & James Anderson  
In memory of  
Frederick Karkkainen  
Anonymous  
Sara Ann Arbegast  
Ruth Armstrong  
Joyce & George Arsnow  
John M. Austin, Sr.  
In memory of Hillary Austin  
Kirsten Barrett  
Virginia Benninghoff  
In memory of  
William Benninghoff  
Marlene Broemer  
In honor of  
Hilary-Joy Virtanen  
James Arthur Butler  
Douglas Chatfield & Kea Rehn  
James D. Cook  
Susan DeCristofaro  
Finlandia Foundation  
Northland Chapter  
Joyce M. Hoikka  
Joan E. Hollander  
In memory of  
Hilma Hollander  
Deane A. Jakola  
William F. Jelin  
Helvi Anneli Johnson  
In honor of  
Marcus Alan Johnson

Jane & David Kangas  
In memory of  
Reverend C. Thomas Kangas  
Erwin Kann  
David Y. Kokko  
Mark G. Koski  
Richard J. Koski  
William M. Koski  
In honor of  
Oscar & Maria Koski  
Virpi Loomis  
Diane Luoto  
Walter & Joyce McGrath  
In memory of Niemi & Salo  
Karen M. Michael  
Peggy Roanne Moreno  
John David Planting  
Bette & Barry Roy  
Michael M. Short  
Richard Sirola  
Marlene & Harlan Stoehr  
Laila Williamson  
Clyde W. Ylitalo

## Suomi-Seura Awards Grants

FFN is pleased to have received two grants from Suomi-Seura (Finland Society). One is to support publication of this newsletter, and the other is for the U.S. concert tour by Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian.

## Help FFN with AmazonSmile

Your online shopping through AmazonSmile can benefit Finlandia Foundation National. Amazon will direct .5% of your qualifying AmazonSmile purchases to FFN. To get started, sign up at:  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-6098250>



## Honor Loved Ones with a Special Finlandia Foundation Tribute

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

Add the story and photos of your loved ones to the Finlandia Family Tree. For more information or make an honor gift, visit [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://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) Häkkinen

### 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  
Pirjo Kujansuu Schulbach  
Oili Elisabet Kujansuu Peterson  
Kath Usitalo & Tom Kozak  
Robert & Elsie Usitalo,  
Ellen & Reino Lahti,  
Isaac & Anna Usitalo  
Marlissa Westerfield  
Finnish Grandparents & Father

### GIFT OF \$100

Mark Andstrom  
Karen Andstrom LaBonte,  
Elizabeth Herbert Andstrom  
Roger & Karen Ashenfelter  
Juho K. Sievila  
Leo & Lois Balander  
Marie Balander

Jeffrey & Louise Clarke  
Helmi Tarkiainen Lehto  
David Erkkila  
Irene Lahti Erkkila  
David Erkkila  
Reino J. Erkkila  
Lindsay Gwyther  
Eva Hirvi  
Kristie Hanson  
Gertrude Ethel Maki Hanson  
Louise Hartung  
Katri Maria Hill  
Andrew & Debra Hepokoski  
Hulda Hepokoski  
Joan Hollander  
Hilma Hollander  
Richard Kotila  
Ruth Kotila  
Ariel & Anita Larson  
W.W. Toppila  
Charles & Judith Larson  
Charles Wilfred & Lillie Larson  
Allan Lepp  
Gertrude Lepp  
Tuulikki Loring  
Nelly Taylor  
Betsey Norgard  
Doris Ann-Mari  
Grönlund Robbins  
Marjaliisa Rajala  
Jack Rajala  
Betty Ridan  
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  
Matt (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  
[tucsonfinclub@gmail.com](mailto:tucsonfinclub@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**

Sirvo Wiemero  
[sirvoj@yahoo.com](mailto:sirvoj@yahoo.com)

#### **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@newswedenalliance.org](mailto:sromine@newswedenalliance.org)

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### **FF National Capital Chapter/1959**

Turto Turtiainen  
[tturtiain@aol.com](mailto:tturtiain@aol.com)

### FLORIDA

#### **FF Florida Chapter/1954**

Lantana  
Kaarina Langeland  
[kaarinalangeland@comcast.net](mailto:kaarinalangeland@comcast.net)

#### **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 McMahan  
[liisa.mcmahan@yahoo.com](mailto:liisa.mcmahan@yahoo.com)

### 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  
[InezG.725@gmail.com](mailto:InezG.725@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  
[ydepradoslck@gmail.com](mailto:ydepradoslck@gmail.com)

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### **Cape Ann Finns/2017**

Rob Ranta  
[capeannfinns@gmail.com](mailto:capeannfinns@gmail.com)

#### **FF Boston, Inc./1955**

Sirkku Konttinen  
[skonttinen@comcast.net](mailto:skonttinen@comcast.net)

#### **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 of 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  
Mary O'Brien  
[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/2006**

Marquette  
Ron J. Hill  
[ronjhil38@aol.com](mailto:ronjhil38@aol.com)

### 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  
[VAFinnsSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:VAFinnsSecretary@gmail.com)

### WASHINGTON

#### **FF Seattle Chapter/1968**

Mikko Männistö  
[mikkotm@hotmail.com](mailto:mikkotm@hotmail.com)

#### **FF Suomi Chapter/2010**

Bellingham  
Pasi Virta  
[pasivirta@comcast.net](mailto:pasivirta@comcast.net)

#### **F-A Folk Festival/2011**

Naselle  
Jennifer Ullakko-Boggs  
[juboggs@wwest.net](mailto:juboggs@wwest.net)

#### **Swedish-Finn Historical Society/1991**

Seattle  
Bill Carlson  
[carlsonharrington@comcast.net](mailto:carlsonharrington@comcast.net)