

FALL | 2020

Faced with cancellation of its in-person Performer of the Year and Lecturer of the Year programs, as well as the special concert tours that had been planned, Finlandia Foundation National decided to share Finnish culture with the world in a series of programs via the Internet.

"A great gift." - HANCY PEARL BOOKING Its first production was an author talk with Karl Marlantes, about his historical novel Deep River. Set in the Pacific Northwest more than a century ago, it tells the story of three siblings who traveled independently from Finland and were reunited in Oregon, and the different paths their lives took. In the FFN Deep River YouTube video, Karl reads passages and chats with NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF MATTERHORN Kaija Perkiömäki about that era and the research and writing of the book. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



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



Anne-Mari Paster ampaster@rcn.com

Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

Albert Einstein observed, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

That is something we have learned and experienced in this pandemic year. At this time in 2019, the FFN board had confirmed its budget and programming for 2020. We had planned to carry out the Lecturer and Performer of the Year appearances, two touring music programs and Soiva Music Camp. We would financially support students attending Salolampi Finnish Language Village. and fund cultural grants and academic scholarships. Business as usual.

And then, early this year, COVID-19 changed all that. Travel was restricted. Gatherings were banned. Campuses shut down. Although we awarded grant monies, many of the recipients had to cancel their projects. Students, particularly the Finnish law students who had planned to study in the U.S. this fall, were unable to attend school as they'd dreamed.

The FFN board decided not to be defeated by the difficulties caused by coronavirus. Instead, we looked for and found opportunities. A sampling:

- · We established a COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund, and with your donations we were able to assist many students in the Finnish-American community.
- · The leaders of our affiliated organizations met via Zoom in the first of a series of Joint Chapter Meetings that will allow them to network and discuss common concerns.
- · We turned to the Internet as a way to present interesting, entertaining and fun programs, from concerts and book talks to conversations on a range of topics relevant to Finland and Finnish culture in the U.S.
- $\cdot \, Trustees \, are \, in \, more \, frequent \, contact, \, via \, Zoom, \, to \, develop \, ideas, \, hold \,$ committee meetings, and build closer working relationships.

FFN is not alone. Every organization, business and individual has had to get creative and strategically deal with this difficult situation.

As this turn of events relates to the mission of Finlandia Foundation, we are realizing the potential to reach not only our traditional audience of FFN members, but others who are friends of Finland or just curious about what we have to share with the world.

With your continued interest and support, and our collective SISU, we will persevere. Throughout this issue you will find several ways that you can help us come through this difficult time stronger than ever.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and hope for a better year ahead. Hauskaa joulua ja onnellista uutta vuotta!

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

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 Kath Usitalo, newsletter editor

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Photo courtesy VisitFinland.com

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Time to Apply for FFN Grants & Scholarships

Applications are open for Finlandia Foundation National 2021 grants as well as scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and law students. Deadlines are January 17, 2021 for grants and February 1, 2021 for scholarships. All applications must be submitted via e-mail and be received by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific) on the deadline date. Awards will be announced in spring 2021.

Find complete information on the application process and learn about the variety of projects and programs that have received grants, and profiles of past scholarship recipients, at the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.



A grant aided the 2019 Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras' tour of Helsinki Photo by Kevin Gupana

Richard Ahola

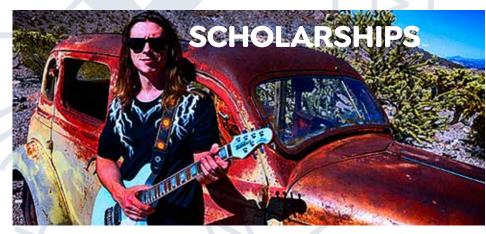
FFN Trustee and Committee Chair

Grants of up to \$5,000 have been made available to projects in the areas of history, research, the arts, music, events and preservation of property such as saunas, log cabins and Finn halls. In 2020, FFN awarded \$100,000 in grants to 31 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.
- 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



2019 scholarship recipient Dylan Koski studied guitar performance at Musicians Institute in Los Angeles

Hanna Wagner

FFN Trustee and Committee Chair

The Finlandia Foundation scholarship program was inaugurated in 1956, and early on was known as the Sibelius Memorial Scholarship Fund, for music students. Today, those 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.

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.



Columbia University and Stony Brook University in New York, received a grant to create a chamber music piece in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence the following year

As he explains, "The piece gets its title from the ancient folk instrument jouhikko, a lyre with strings and bow of horsehair (jouhet in Finnish), and from the dance of the hairs on modern bows as the string quartet charges through passages of rapid, galloping music."

"Jouhet" was written for the Grammy-nominated Aizuri Quartet, whose members are Emma Frucht, violin; Miho Saegusa, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Karen Ouzounian, cello. It premiered in 2018 in New York City at a composer profile concert of MATA (Music at the Anthology). In March 2020, "Jouhet" was released on The Bells Bow Down, an album of Ilari's chamber music performed by the Aizuri Quartet and

"All six compositions are in their own way gems," says Grego Applegate Edwards in Gapplegate Classical-Modern Music Review. "The folkfiddling traces of the quartet 'Jouhet' (2017) gives us a beautiful sort of jolt. Kaila is a musical poet, a definite talent out there."

pianist Adrienne Kim, on

innova Recordings.

Ilari is currently Composer in Residence at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Learn more about him at ilarikaila.com. Find the new recording at: smarturl.it/ubdvjt

To enjoy "Jouhet" on YouTube, go to youtube.com, search Finlandia Foundation National and go to the FFN Grant Recipients Playlist.

Students Need YOU for Scholarships

Students are returning to their studies—on campuses or online—but may face pressures due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the economy and employment uncertainty that could affect their financial situations.

Finlandia Foundation National would like to increase its assistance to students in the Finnish-American community, and invites contributions to grow its existing scholarship program.

"It is imperative that we support our young people as they navigate these trying times," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster. "We must do all that we can to assist them financially, and nurture relationships that we hope will encourage their interest in their ancestry as well as Finland today."

FFN awarded its first scholarship in 1956, to Sibelius Academy student Einojuhani Rautavaara, whose talent was recognized by Jean Sibelius. With the aid of his scholarship, Rautavaara attended The Juilliard School in New York City and went on to become one of Finland's great composers. The FFN scholarships were created for music students, but have long been awarded to post-secondary students in all areas of study.

In spring of this year, FFN distributed \$43,000 in scholarships, and has set a goal of offering at least \$65,000 in the upcoming cycle.

A gift by the end of 2020 is vital to FFN because each donation is doubled, thanks to the matching grant from the Paloheimo Foundation (up to \$100,000 annually). FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization. To donate, please go to:

FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Looking Ahead to Soiva 2021



By Dennis Anderson FFN Trustee and Melodee J. Bahr Soiva Co-Directors

Greetings to all students, faculty and friends of Soiva International Music Camp. The current year of 2020 has been unsettling, with the cancellation of many events including Soiva Camp, which had been scheduled for June at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

If the COVID-19 pandemic is under control, we are tentatively looking ahead to hosting Soiva Camp from June 11-20, 2021, at Concordia College. At the time of publication, we are cautiously optimistic about hosting Soiva next year.

NOTE: Due to the cancelation of Soiva 2020, we are changing the upper age limit for Soiva 2021 from 19 to 20!

Please check the Finlandia Foundation website for Soiva 2021 updates and news at FinlandiaFoundation.org. You may contact us at soiva2020@yahoo.com.

From Soiva, With Love

Although we have dearly missed seeing students face-to-face in 2020, the spirit of Soiva lived on this

fall as we invited a number of Soiva students to participate in a marketing effort for the camp.

The student response was outstanding, and we want to thank the following for sharing their kind words about Soiva Camp, their love of music and their terrific performances for this video: Eric Bergeman (flute), Aubrey Clarke (clarinet), Emilia Folkert and Eliza Folkert (piano), Stella Forssell (violin), Hannah Leiseth (cello), Laina Moles (cello), and duo Jacob Pfeifer (tenor saxophone) and Ben Kensok (piano). Additionally, vocalists Fanni Fagerudd and Melodee Bahr, separated by an ocean, performed a duet.

Special thanks to Maria Männistö of Seattle, who assisted with the technical aspects of producing the Soiva video.

Find the video at **FinlandiaFoundation.org** and the FFN YouTube channel. If you would like to share your comments please send them to: **soiva2020@yahoo.com**.

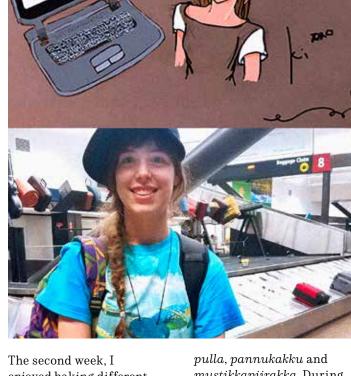
We hope that viewers will enjoy the true value of this very important Finlandia Foundation program for young musicians from Finland and the U.S.

Salolampi Finnish
Language Village,
which is traditionally
held throughout the
summer months in
Bemidji, Minnesota,
was conducted online in
2020. Annikki Laulainen
received grants from
Finlandia Foundation to
attend in person in 2019,
and virtually in 2020.

By Annikki Laulainen

The month-long Salolampi Language Village immersion camp was a very enriching opportunity for me. I was excited to learn to speak better Finnish, and also to achieve a year of Finnish credit. It was very challenging since I was almost a full-on beginner, except that last year I went to Salolampi for two weeks.

This year, during the five-week session, several weeks had special themes. During the arts and crafts week, I recreated the painting by Akseli Gallen-Kallela called "The Vengeance of Joukahainen."



Reflections of a Salolampi Language Villager

The second week, I enjoyed baking different Finnish foods (although they were quite sweet). I made a mansikkakakku,

pulla, pannukakku and mustikkapiirakka. During the nature and environment session, I created a spiral out of wishing rocks. I explained in Finnish how to play a game during the sports and games week.

It was nice to join class every day and hear Finnish music being played, as well as rating Finnish music.

In this credit class, I expanded my vocabulary and learned the language both as written and spoken language. We were graced with the presence of native speakers who joined us in the meeting from Finland. ln addition, one of the counselors was in Finland at the time and stayed up late in order to teach us every day. It was interesting to learn about schools in Finland and what things are different from our schools here.

For my passion project, I created comics to represent how art is important to living a good life.

Thank you for supporting me so that I was able to have this wonderful experience. I hope to continue learning Finnish and go there someday.

Salolampi 2021

By Eeva Syvanen

FFN Trustee and Salolampi Chair

Finlandia Foundation National believes that it is important for the Finnish language to be spoken and understood among Finnish Americans, and has long supported attendance by young people at the summertime Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji, Minnesota.

COVID-19 prohibited in-person programming in 2020, but Salolampi offered virtual learning, and FFN made funds available for online study. At this time, it's uncertain whether the 2021 Salolampi experience will take place virtually or at the Village, but FFN will again offer financial support in the form of a grant of up to \$300.

Funding News Effective in 2021

There is one major change to the FFN Salolampi grant program: students are no longer required to secure matching

funds from a Finlandia Foundation chapter in order to qualify for FFN support.

The board realized that, due to the matching funds stipulation, students who wanted to attend Salolampi but were unable to obtain funds from a chapter were not able to apply for funds from FFN.

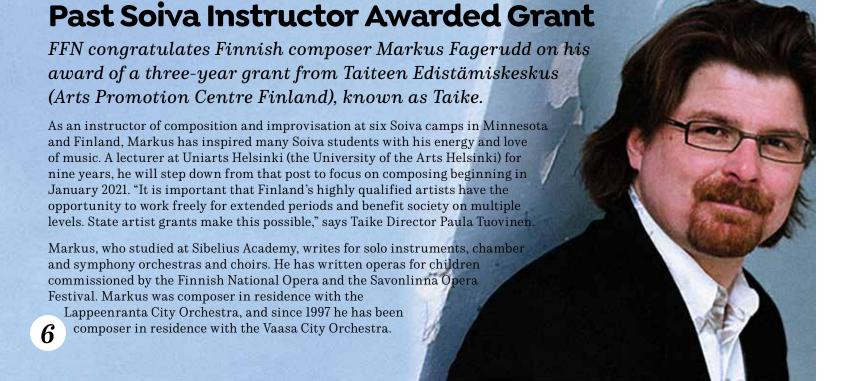
Any Salolampi support offered by chapters will be independent of an application for funds from Finlandia Foundation National. As in the past, if Salolampi Finnish Language Village is conducted on location, students may also be eligible for transportation assistance of up to \$500 from FFN.

As we learn more about Salolampi 2021, we will post updates at

FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Contact FFN Trustee and Salolampi Chair Eeva Syvanen with any questions at

 ${\tt eeva_syvanen@yahoo.com}.$



Silent Movie & Music, Virtually!



By Betsey Norgard FFN Trustee and POY Chair

During this time that live performances are curtailed, Performer of the Year Kent Washburn can offer a movie/ music experience that is as live as can be possible.

His program focuses

on a screening of the 1929 Finnish silent film, Mustalaishurmaaja (The Gypsy Charmer).

Kent will begin with a short teleconferencing program (via Zoom, for instance) to set up the experience of viewing the silent film for which he wrote an all-Finnish music organ soundtrack, including some favorite and known folk melodies and songs.

The film stars Valentin Vaala and Teuvo Tulio, who plays a Rudolph Valentino-like gypsy. Following this short introduction, the audience will view the colorful movie about gypsy life and hear its equally colorful soundtrack.

Following the movie, and imagining that viewers were just leaving the old theater where a concert organ played out the tribulations of gypsy love and jealousy on stage, Kent offers an option for questions, conversation, and virtual coffee and pulla. Find more POY information at

FinlandiaFoundation.org.

If you are interested in this movie/music experience with your chapter, contact POY Chair Betsey Norgard at **bjnorgard@gmail.com**.

Finn Cooks Will Carry on

By Hilary Virtanen

FFN Trustee and LOY Chair

Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman will continue their Lecturer of the Year term through 2021 and possibly into 2022, in response to the COVID-caused suspension of in-person presentations to FFN chapters.

In their "Meet the Finn Cooks" LOY program Soile, a restaurateur and caterer, and Eleanor, a food writer and cookbook author, demonstrate Finnish food preparation and share entertaining tips from their book *Celebrations to Remember: Exceptional Party Décor and Fabulous Food.*

"Meet the Finn Cooks" was in demand by FFN chapters until the pandemic disrupted travel and programming in the spring, and the Minnesota-based team looks forward to resuming engagements when it is safe to do so.

While the pandemic has put a halt to the traveling programs that are important cornerstones of Finlandia Foundation activities on the chapter and national levels, it has also helped us to realize the potential for virtual programming.

As FFN releases programs that can be enjoyed while socially-distancing, the LOY committee is exploring such options with our presenters. We will keep chapters informed as plans develop.

Anyone with questions and comments is invited to contact LOY Chair Hilary Virtanen at hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu.

Concert Tours Still on Hold

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage on, Finlandia Foundation's concert tours by pianist Ruusamari Teppo, and cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian, have been postponed indefinitely.

FFN is planning to host performances online, and in October at the FFN board meeting conducted a "test" of a live concert by Jussi and Nazig in Nurmes, Finland for guests at Nordia House in Portland, Oregon.

Announcements of event dates will be made through FFN social media and the free, monthly E-News. Sign up for all at **FinlandiaFoundation.org**.



FFN Hosts NextGen Meetup

As Finlandia Foundation looks to the future, the organization is working to connect with and involve the next generation of Finnish-Americans and others who are interested in Finland and Finnish culture. This is an area of concern not only on the national level. but within FFN chapters, as well.

In addition to scholarships for college students, FFN offers younger students Soiva Music Camp and financial support to attend Salolampi Finnish Language Village.

It's important that FFN maintain connections

with those who have benefited from these programs, and that effort is underway.

In trying to learn what millennials think about their Finnish heritage, whether it relates to their lives today, and what, if any interest they have in future involvement, FFN invited a number of them to an online "NextGen" discussion. FFN's Maria Voutilainen Kizirian moderated a June 7 Zoom session with 10 adults, ages 23-33.

about their attachment to their cultural identity, which ranged from noncommittal to enthusiastic. The conversation confirmed that there is much competition for everyone's time and attention today, and the once-vital purposes of heritage-based social circles are no longer relevant.

Participants were candid

The virtual meet-up was a good first step, and follow-ups are planned with others interested in participating. If you are a millennial or know someone who may be willing to take part, please contact Maria at **office@** finlandiafoundation.org.

Fresh Perspectives

An initiative of FFN President Anne-Mari Paster will tap younger people who are willing to contribute their talents to FFN in a volunteer capacity. One of the first who asked to get involved was her daughter, Julia Paster.

Julia is from Boston. Massachusetts and graduated high school in Zurich, Switzerland. She attended Emory University, where she studied Quantitative Sciences with a linguistics concentration.



Since June 2018 she has been an analyst in Private Wealth Management with Goldman Sachs in Chicago. In September, she joined the FFN Investment Committee.

Julia, who was a member of June's virtual NextGen meeting, says that it is incredibly important to her to connect to her culture.

She is passionate about engaging the younger population of Finns in the U.S., and hopes to do so through her involvement with the investment committee and FFN chapter events in Chicago.

AN OCCASIONAL FEATURE ABOUT AMERICANS WITH FINNISH ROOTS

Generational: Kaija Perkiömäki

When Finlandia Foundation had the opportunity for an exclusive interview with Karl Marlantes, author of the historical novel Deep River, it seemed natural to ask Kaija Perkiömäki, a communications professional in Portland, Oregon, to participate as interviewer for the YouTube video.

The epic *Deep River* story is set in the Pacific Northwest, and centers on three Finnish immigrant siblings. Both Karl and Kaija have histories of family moving from Finland to Oregon.

Kaija's father, Jukka, came with his parents and sister to Astoria in the 1960s, when he was about 11 years old. He and Kaija's mother, Judy Gervais Perkiömäki, are two of the founders of the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific

Chapter. Judy, who is of Norwegian descent, has been involved in the preservation of the Finnish Room at Portland State University. Kaija's Nordic roots and affiliations run deep.

"I've been highly involved with Scandinavian organizations in Portland,"

Kaija, who was crowned Lucia of Oregon 2009. Her interest

in her heritage led her to study the Finnish language in an immersive summer program at the University of Turku.

A 2015 FFN scholarship recipient, Kaija minored in Scandinavian Area

Studies at the University of Washington, where she graduated with honors in English Language, Literature and Communications.

For five years, until this pandemic summer, Kaija worked in business strategy, planning and marketing positions at Nike---perfectly aligned with her love of sports. (She played soccer, golf, and was squash captain in college.)

As a journalist, Kaija has interviewed artists and others for a Portland scene magazine, but the Deep River project was her first foray into on-camera work.

"I had such a blast doing the video," says Kaija. "It was an honor to speak about our Finnish heritage with this best-selling author.'

Post-Nike, she says, "I am exploring what I'm passionate about. I want to work in creative ways to make the world a better place."

And after meeting Karl, she is even considering writing a novel.

Your Gifts Go to Programs and Scholarships

By Tim Nurvala FFN Trustee

As Finns, we are born frugal and we watch our dollars carefully. Finlandia Foundation National does this, as well.

Nearly all of the organization's yearly operating and administrative expenses, including rent, salaries, insurance, mailings, etc., are covered by a generous gift of \$150,000 from the Paloheimo Foundation.

Prudent planning and spending, plus the Paloheimo Foundation support, means that nearly 100% of the amount that you give is dedicated to our programs, grants and scholarships.

These include our touring and virtual presentations, students attending Soiva Music and Salolampi Language camps, the college scholarship program and the grants to worthy recipients (both individuals and organizations).

And further, the Paloheimo Foundation doubles your gift to FFN by matching it dollar-for-dollar (up to \$100,000

Most of your gifts go directly to support our programs, grants and scholarships.

E OVID CONNECTION T H

By Anne-Mari Paster

FFN President

Finlandia Foundation National has a long tradition of assisting students with scholarships, but this year we confronted a new challenge, forced upon us by COVID-19. We knew that the lives of our young people would be disrupted by the pandemic. FFN trustees, led by Peter Makila, immediately proposed a COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund. With contributions from our members, we were able to financially assist 22 students from universities in 14 states.

I spoke by phone with each applicant, and I admit that it was a bit disheartening to learn of the difficulties-financial and social—that they have encountered. Yet, it was inspiring to hear of their determination to continue their studies.

Every single awardee expressed sincere appreciation for FFN efforts. They were impressed how the Finnish-American community cared enough to come together and act quickly to organize and support this program. And for that financial support, we thank all contributors who made this possible.

An example of the students' appreciation: "Thank you so much for granting me a portion of your COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund. I am so grateful! This will help me in so many ways. I will never be able to express my gratitude. From the bottom of my heart..."

We want to continue on this path of recognizing the concerns and interests of our young people. They are our future, and important to both the national organization and its affiliates. Please contribute to our efforts at

FinlandiaFoundation.org.

The idea for the video was inspired by a talk that Karl gave in February at the annual meeting of Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter in Portland.

FFN Trustee Dirk Schulbach realized that, given the rapt attention of the

audience, other FFN chapters would also enjoy a Deep River author talk. With restrictions on travel and assemblies due to COVID-19, the recording emerged as the means of providing members with the program.

Dirk guided the project by securing Karl's commitment and finding the video production team of Jerry Alto and Bruce Sturgill. Kaija Perkiömäki, whose family has been active with FFCPC since its founding, was happy to be involved as the interviewer.

In the 30-minute video, period photos illustrate the hard life and difficult work in the logging industry of that region. Some of the historic images came from the photo albums of FFN Trustee Tim Nurvala, who has family ties to the region. For additional photos, Dirk and his wife Pirjo Schulbach dove into the collections at the Clatsop County History Museum in Astoria, Oregon and Appelo Archives in Naselle, Washington.

Music by kantele artists Wilho Saari of Naselle and Ida Elina of Finland enhance the program. Wilho was 2011 FFN Performer of the Year and in 2017 Ida Elina toured the U.S. as one of Finlandia Foundation's special programs celebrating Finland 100.

FFN thanks Karl Marlantes and Kaija Perkiömäki, as well as Dirk Schulbach for conceiving and coordinating the *Deep River* project, and everyone who contributed to this, the first in a series of book talks and other online programming from FFN.

Karl Marlantes is of Finnish

and Greek descent. A graduate of Yale University and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, he was a much-decorated Marine in Vietnam. His first book. *Matterhorn:* A Novel of the Vietnam War. was a New York Times best seller for 16 weeks. Deep River was recently

named the winner for fiction in the annual Washington State Book Awards. Photo by Devon Marlantes

Just for FFN Chapters

Kaija's visit with Karl produced a bounty of material that we were unable to include in the YouTube video. FFN is making the extended program available exclusively to chapters for sharing with members at a book club or general meeting.

It consists of the original version plus five "extras" for a total program of more than an hour of *Deep* River. For a flash drive with the extended program, the chapter leader must contact Maria Voutilainen Kizirian at

office@finlandiafoundation.org (one per chapter, please)

FFN Offers Variety of Programming Online

Finlandia Foundation National has entered the world of online programming related to Finnish culture and Finland, and is committed to providing a variety of discussions, musical and other presentations for individual and group enjoyment. Check the FFN website and social media for links and information on how to access the following and future programs (some may be offered for a limited time only). FinlandiaFoundation.org

Steve'S Cocktail Show is a Facebook Live program that Steve Bousquet, president of the Finnish-American Heritage Society in Canterbury, Connecticut, hosts with his wife Katrina. In their kitchen,

they shake or stir adult beverages according to a theme. In September,

at the request of FFN, the couple agreed to mix drinks with a Finnish flavor, including Sibelius' Black Punch (left).

The happy hour aired on September 12, and is still available online; just search for Steve'S Cocktail Show on Facebook. Find the recipes at the FFN website.

Couples of Wife Carrying On

October 8, FFN hosted a watch party with the creators of the new independent film about the

wacky Finnish sport of wife carrying.

Director Evan James Bochetto and Daniel Pastewka, producer, made a mockumentary that follows two fictional couples---one Finnish, one American---as they compete in the real-life North American Wife Carrying Championship in Maine.



Photo by Liza Voll

Meet Mikko Nissinen, **Boston Ballet Artistic Director**

In a relaxed chat with FFN Trustee (and ballerina) Eeva Syvanen, Mikko Nissinen talks about his pursuit---as a ten-year-old in Finland---of ballet over sports; his rapid success as an internationally acclaimed dancer, choreographer and creative director; how the world of ballet is changing, and what he's doing to keep it relevant; his Finnishness and more. It's available at the FFN YouTube channel.



From Soiva. With Love Young instrumental music students from the U.S. and Finland combine their

love of performance with a cultural exchange at Soiva International Music Camp.

The June camp is based at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, with sessions every three years in Finland at Kallio-Kuninkala, the Sibelius Academy Music Centre near Helsinki.

Although Soiva 2020 was cancelled, students came together to talk about their camp experiences and share their talents in this video recital produced by Maria Männistö of Seattle, who was FFN Performer of the Year 2007.

My American Dream From his home base in Austin. Texas. FFN Trustee Michel Wendell, whose expertise is in working with emerging tech-based businesses in Finland and the Nordics, will interview entrepreneurs and other individuals determined to achieve success in the U.S.

Scene Performer of the Year 2012 Maria Voutilainen Kizirian, who now manages the FFN office in Pasadena, will tap her entertainment connections and influencers in a series of interviews with talent from Finland and the Finnish-American community.

Information, Please FFN is working with the Embassy of Finland in the U.S., Consulates and other Finnish organizations and offices on programs that will address contemporary topics (i.e., Finnish Educational System and U.S. students pursuing post-secondary education in Finland).

Kahvi Konsertti FFN will collaborate with Finnish and American artists to present livestreamed and recorded concerts showcasing a variety of classical, traditional and contemporary music. The concept was tested in October as part of the FFN Board meeting.

12 13

Michigan Recognizes Finnish-Americans



This year, three Michigan folk artists with ties to Finlandia Foundation National have been honored for their talents.

The Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center has selected folklorist **Yvonne** Hiipakka Lockwood, Ph.D. for a 2020 Upper Peninsula Folklife Award. As FFN Lecturer of the Year for 2013, Yvonne presented on "Traditional Material Culture in Modern Finnish America," addressing the history and culture of "tangible things crafted, shaped, altered and used across time." She talked about how, in the late 19th century when Finnish immigrants came to North America, they shared their skills in weaving, knitting, spinning, foods, woodworking and construction.

Yvonne was curator of folk life at the Michigan State University Museum, and received a grant from FFN in 2009 to research rugs for her book Finnish American Rag Rugs: Art, Tradition, and Ethnic Continuity.

Peter "Pekka" Olson received the 2020 Upper Peninsula Folklife Award for his expertise in wood carving and basket weaving. Pekka, of Chassell, was awarded a grant from FFN in 2006 toward an apprenticeship with a master wood carver in Oulu, Finland.

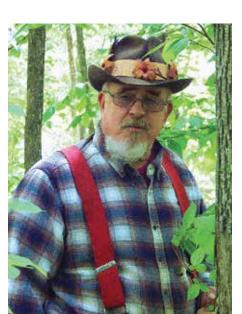
The retired forester is known for his traditional Finnish fan birds and folk figures. He has demonstrated his work at FinnFest USA, and he has served as a master in the Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program.



Paavo Nurmi was recognized with the Michigan Heritage Award for his wood carving skills, particularly the distaffs that he makes. These intricately carved *rukinlapa* (distaff of the spinning wheel), were made by Finnish men to impress young ladies they were courting.

"The Michigan Heritage Awards are presented each year to honor master tradition bearers in Michigan who continue the folk traditions of their families and communities through practice and teaching," explains Marsha MacDowell, director of the Michigan Traditional Arts Program.

Paavo took up carving as a hobby in 1978, and has exhibited his creations at FinnFest USA. He does not sell his work because of the sheer number of hours that he invests in creating each piece. Paavo and his wife Nancy live in the Upper Peninsula and are members of FFN and the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills.





Getting It Together

By Anne-Mari Paster FFN President

In our 67-year history, Finlandia Foundation has held occasional

assemblies of the leadership

membership groups. These logistical challenges of made them difficult to profit, volunteer-led

FFN most recently held

Joint Chapter Meeting in

of its affiliated

were rare, because the travel and expense organize for our nonmember organizations.

a very successful

Washington, D.C., in

November of 2016. The next in-person confab is planned for early 2022.

In the meantime, in September we launched an online Zoom meeting of the leaders of FFN chapters. We had very good participation, with 35 representatives and 14

ZOOM

FFN trustees in attendance.

The first meeting consisted mainly of a backgrounder on FFN and how we are coping with the limitations dealt by COVID-19.

The presentation was followed by a Q & A

and discussion about issues concerning the organizations, and what they desire of FFN.

Future sessions will belong to the chapters. This is a forum for the organizations to connect, and an opportunity to address the questions, interests, concerns and successes of each chapter.

We will be scheduling the next Virtual JCM for January of 2021. Stay tuned.



NEW YORK

Merger in NYC

During its annual meeting, conducted virtually on October 8, members of the Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter (FFNYMC) unanimously approved the de facto merger between it and the Finnish School of New York (FSNY). The agreement, effective October 14, 2020, is in the form of a two-year trial period during which FSNY is integrated into FFNYMC. The final decision on the merger will take place at the annual meeting in 2022.



FSNY President Virve Deutsch, FFNYMC President Eero Kilpi

FFNYMC President Eero Kilpi characterizes the joint venture as an opportunity to create synergies. "We are excited to join forces with the Finnish School of New York. It will allow us to organize an even larger array of events for our members and stakeholders. In the future, we will focus on maximizing our fundraising efforts

and expanding the current network of contacts," he states.

FSNY President Virve Deutsch considers the merger a natural step toward reinforcing Finnish culture and intergenerational interaction. "FSNY offers an environment where children and their families can strengthen their Finnish cultural roots, meet fellow



Finns, speak Finnish and celebrate Finnish traditions. Naturally, our goal is also to encourage and motivate children to learn and actively use the Finnish language, which is a relevant part of the Finnish culture," she explains.

The de facto merger does not require any action on the part of the students or their families. The school will remain in the same location at 83 Christopher Street, where it has operated since 2006.

CONNECTICUT

FinnFunn Goes Virtual

The annual FinnFunn Weekend, traditionally held in the fall in New Hampshire, was forced to go online in an abbreviated program via Zoom from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, October 31. FinnFunn was broadcast from the Finnish American Heritage Society in Canturbury,

Connecticut, and included live musical performances by accordionists Ed Hendela and Bernard Nowak, Jr., pianist Roy Helander, and the FinnFunn Sekstetti of the Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra (above).

Jim Kurtti of the Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) in Hancock, Michigan, gave a talk about connecting in this digital age, and the play "At the Post Office" was viewed on video.

Roy Helander, longtime volunteer for The Finnish Center at Saima Park, was honored with the Amerikan Suomatar Award from the FAHC.

FinnFunn is planning to return to the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, New Hampshire October 29-31, 2021.

Busy Behind the Scenes

Although social activities at the Finnish American Heritage Society have been canceled, work continued throughout the summer to make improvements to the Finnish Hall. New entry doors have been installed, flooring repaired, and interior painting done.

Carefully masked, the Archive Committee of Patti Folsom, Katrina Bousquet, Kerttu Lavallee and Anita Smiley continued its work, sorting through materials and organizing them in the climate-controlled room.

ALASKA

Nordic Market Adapts

The Anchorage Suomi Finland Club participated in the annual Scandinavian bazaar, which was held indoors and out this year on October 10 at the Sons of Norway's Viking Hall. From a table in the parking lot, Finn Club members sold Finnish chocolates, Moomin tea and coffee, berry baskets and more, including Marimekko masks.



The fall meeting of the Finlandia Foundation National board was planned for Portland, Oregon October 2-3, but constraints caused by the coronavirus pandemic threatened to derail the session. As it became clear that travel restrictions were lifting, FFN President Anne-Mari Paster decided to proceed with the meeting in Portland. Trustees had the option of participating in person or from their homes via Zoom.

meeting from

Nordia House,

cultural center;

joined online.

meetings were

held in advance

meeting involved

Committee

the Nordic

Northwest

all others

There was full attendance by the board at the October 2 meeting, with Portland area residents, Trustees Katariina Lehtonen and Dirk Schulbach joined by Trustee Tim Nurvala and Maria Voutilainen Kizirian from the Pasadena office.

Anne-Mari Paster led the

FFN Trustees Hold Hybrid Meeting

the future of FFN and how to grow the organization by strengthening relationships, building visibility and increasing involvement by talented individuals willing to assist FFN in advisory roles, and by volunteering their expertise.

It is imperative that FFN improve its fundraising success to be able to continue and improve its programs, especially scholarships.

via Zoom. With COVID-19

Much of the focus of the or limiting

gatherings, the board discussed the future of its programming. Touring presentations have been suspended indefinitely, in favor of a variety of content online (see page 12-13).

On Friday

evening, the

Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter board members hosted a lovely reception at Fogelbo, the home of Sir Ross Fogelquist, who deeded the property to Nordic Northwest. It houses one of the largest private collections of Scandinavian folk art and antiques in the U.S.

Saturday was spent touring the area (see page 19).

A livestreamed concert wrapped up the meeting on Sunday morning, when FFN visitors and members of the Portland area Finnish community gathered at Nordia House to view a performance by cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian from Nurmes, Finland.

FFN board members also tuned in to watch from home, via YouTube. It was a trial run for a future concert that FFN will make available to its members.

FFN Trustee Katariina Lehtonen coordinated the production with great success. It was an opportunity to meet members of Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter, Finnish-American Folk Festival and other organizations, says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster.

"We were honored with the warm welcome everywhere we went, and impressed by what we saw at these organizations. The hospitality was above and beyond, and it was a pleasure to meet so many members of the Finnish communities."

Pirjo Schulbach, who lives in Portland with husband and FFN treasurer Dirk, organized the Saturday tour. It started at the 1920s Lindgren Cabin in Warrenton, which was built by Finnish-Swede Erik Lindgren and his neighbor, William Merila. FFCPC President Greg Jacob greeted the group and explained how the chapter assumed responsibility for maintaining the historic site and greeting visitors in the summer months.

The next stop was the Suomi Hall in Astoria, where the Finnish Brotherhood President Karen Van Cleave and officers Carole Lyngstad, Peggy Nikkila, Katie Ryding and Faith Swanson welcomed the FFN group in a day-long Zoom meeting
October 2, those board members
who were in Portland
for the session
visited the heavily-Finnish
areas of Astoria, Oregon
and Naselle, Washington.
The neighboring cities are located
on the coast, about a
two-hour drive northwest
of Portland.

With its business wrapped up

with a *laksloda* lunch. The traditional Finnish dish of salmon and potatoes is a specialty of the organization, which was founded in 1886 and whose formal name is United Finnish Kaleva Brothers and Sisters Astoria Lodge No. 2.

During an afternoon coffee hour, trustees met *Deep River* author Karl Marlantes and Kaija Perkiömäki, who interviewed Karl in the FFN YouTube video about the book. Other members of the local Finnish community who attended were Saara Matthews, owner of the FinnWare store; Astoria Nordic Heritage Park Chair Judith Lampi and Vice Chair Janet Bowler; and Bernadette and Dave Ladd of the Viking Nordic Dancers.

Young people, including Aleks Matthews, Isabella Morrill, Adam Perkiömäki and the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival's Miss Finland and Miss Scandinavia were also in attendance. Across the Columbia River in
Naselle, the board visited the Naselle
Community Center, a former church
that the Finnish-American Folk
Festival now operates. Festival founder
Susan Holway and current Chair
Jennifer Ullakko Boggs, and Mike
Swanson and Darlene Bjornsgaard,
former chapter chairs, were among
the welcoming committee. They
were joined by Dorothy Smith, Barb
Swanson, Maria Wirkkala and Steve
and Audrey Ullakko.

Finally, the tour made its way to Appelo Archives Center, where Annika Kay is the new director. In addition to the archives, the AAC has museum exhibits, libraries, bookstore and café, and offers youth programs and adult workshops. AAC President Steve Ullakko and active members Anita Raistakka, Anneli Raistakka, Don Raistakka, Merle Reinke, Kelly Shumar and Allan Wirkkala also attended.

A special treat: visiting the Naselle home of Steve and Audrey Ullakko, which figured in the story of *Deep River*.

Snapshots of a whirlwind visit
Group photo second from right by
Darrell Alexander, Wahkiakum County
Eagle; other photos by Anne-Mari Paster
and Pirio Schulbach





It's a Virtual Finnish Expat Parliament in

By Hanna Wagner and Teuvo Pulkkinen

Deputy Speakers for USA and Latin America

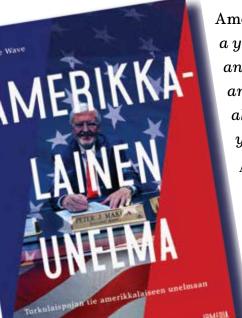
The 10th Session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament was originally planned for June 2020 in Helsinki, but due to the COVID-19 crisis it had been postponed until June 2021.

With the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic's effect on travel and large gatherings, it was recently decided that the meeting would be held virtually. This will give all 543 member organizations from 37 different countries an equal possibility to attend.

The invitation to the 2021 meeting will be sent on December 9, 2020. It will include instructions on how to sign up for the meeting and how to file motions. All motions that were sent to the parliament secretariat for the June 2020 meeting are still valid.

Please go to the webpage usp.fi for information about the Expatriate Parliament and its work. You can reach the secretariat or your area deputy speakers at info@usp.fi.





Amerikkalainen Unelma (The American Dream) is the story of a young man from Turku, Finland who came to North America and built a successful career in insurance, first in Canada and then Florida. The recently-released book by Mike Wave about Peter Makila tells of his humble beginnings, his early yearning to go to America, and many accomplishments.

As a young boy Peter remembers being fascinated with the United States, and dreaming of moving there. At age 18 he made the trip and for a short time lived with an uncle and aunt in Florida, but soon had had to return to Finland. He recalls, "It was always in my mind: 'I want to go back to Florida!'"

Through twists and turns Peter met his wife, Arja, and they did make the move, eventually settling in the Lake Worth area. Although he retired from his insurance business earlier this year, Peter continues to serve as Honorary Consul of Finland. In that position he has met many well-known personalities, and assisted Finnish visitors who have needed help with everything from lost passports to release from jail. Through anecdotes and photos, the book shares Peter's

challenges, adventures, honors and involvement in multiple professional associations and Finnish organizations.

Amerikkalainen Unelma is written in Finnish, but Peter is considering a translated version or an audiobook in English. And, he's already been approached about a second book on another subject of interest to American Finns.

Amerikkalainen Unelma is available from Peter at **petermakila@bellsouth.net**; the cost is \$20 plus postage. Peter, who is a trustee of Finlandia Foundation National, will donate a portion of sales to FFN.

Give \$300 to Finlandia Foundation Instead of Taxes

By Tim Nurvala FFN Trustee

This year, all taxpayers (including those who use the standard deduction) can deduct \$300 in charitable giving to non-profit organizations. Wouldn't you rather give \$300 to Finlandia Foundation than to the IRS?

Earlier this year, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. As part of this two trillion dollar economic stimulus package, Congress and the president agreed to amend the tax laws and encourage giving to non-profit charitable organizations, like Finlandia Foundation National, by allowing everyone to deduct up to \$300 of their charitable giving from their taxes.

Before this law was passed, only people who itemized their taxes could make deductions for their charitable giving. Now, even those who take the standard deduction (currently \$12,200 for individuals and \$24,400 for married couples filing jointly), can deduct up to \$300 of charitable giving this year.

For those who itemize their taxes, this law significantly raised the amount of charitable giving deductible from 60% to 100% of the taxpayers adjusted gross income. So, those who itemize can give more this year and receive a greater deduction.

As the end of the year approaches, we hope everyone will consider making a charitable gift to Finlandia Foundation National to help us celebrate our heritage and culture, rather than send this money to the IRS.

FFN Announces Anita Häkkilä Smiley Fund

By Tim Nurvala
FFN Trustee

Finlandia Foundation National is proud to announce the formation of the Anita Häkkilä Smiley Fund to build cultural exchanges between Finland and the United States.



This new fund will help support travel for students doing research in Finland, help Finnish performers come to the U.S., and support other projects that strengthen the ties between our two countries.

"I am honored by the creation of this fund, and delighted that it will help more Americans discover Finland, and help Finns learn more about our great country," says Anita. "We still have a lot we can learn from one another."

The fund carries forward the legacy of Anita, who has led 24 tours to Finland for Americans looking to learn more about Finnish culture and connect with their Finnish roots. These tours have created a greater understanding of Finnish history and culture, built relationships with new friends and family members, and made joyful memories lasting a lifetime.

Anita has served on the Finlandia Foundation board of trustees for more than 18 years, and as president led the organization through a very critical and pivotal time during the Great Recession between 2009–2013. She has also served 30 years on the board of the Finnish American Heritage Society in Canterbury, Connecticut. In 1989, she was a founder of FinnFunn Weekends in the Northeast, and served on the committee for FinnFest '98 held in Maine.

Anita holds dual citizenship in Finland and the United States. In 2016 at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi presented Anita (above, left) with the Cross of Merit of the Order of the White Rose of Finland, awarded by President Sauli Niinistö.

Gifts to Finlandia Foundation National, including the Anita Häkkilä Smiley Fund, are doubled and matched dollar-for-dollar by the Paloheimo Foundation.

The Smiley Fund will continue the important work that Anita has done throughout her life. It will help strengthen cross-cultural ties and enable future generations to discover, learn and share our Finnish and American heritage and values. To contribute to the fund, please go to FinlandiaFoundation.org.

20 will donate a portion of sales to FFN.

KILLOS Thank You For Your Gifts!

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

Donors have generously supported two new funds, indicated by the following symbols:

🤛 COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund 🛮 👸 Anita Smiley Fund

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News Notes

If you have a change of address or would like to receive this newsletter as a PDF by email, inform Maria Voutilainen 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 us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!

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

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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 Finlandia Foundation.org.

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(Riippi) Rintala

Ruth Ann Swanson

Eva Wahlroos

Sven Wahlroos

Matti (Hautala) Hill &

Aino Elizabeth (Rako) Hill

Mark Munger

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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ARIZONA

The F-A Club of Tucson/2007

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Finns and Friends of Phoenix/2010

Joy Dorvinen

finnsandfriendsclub @ gmail.com

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FF National, Lake Superior Chapter /2006

Marquette

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MINNESOTA

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