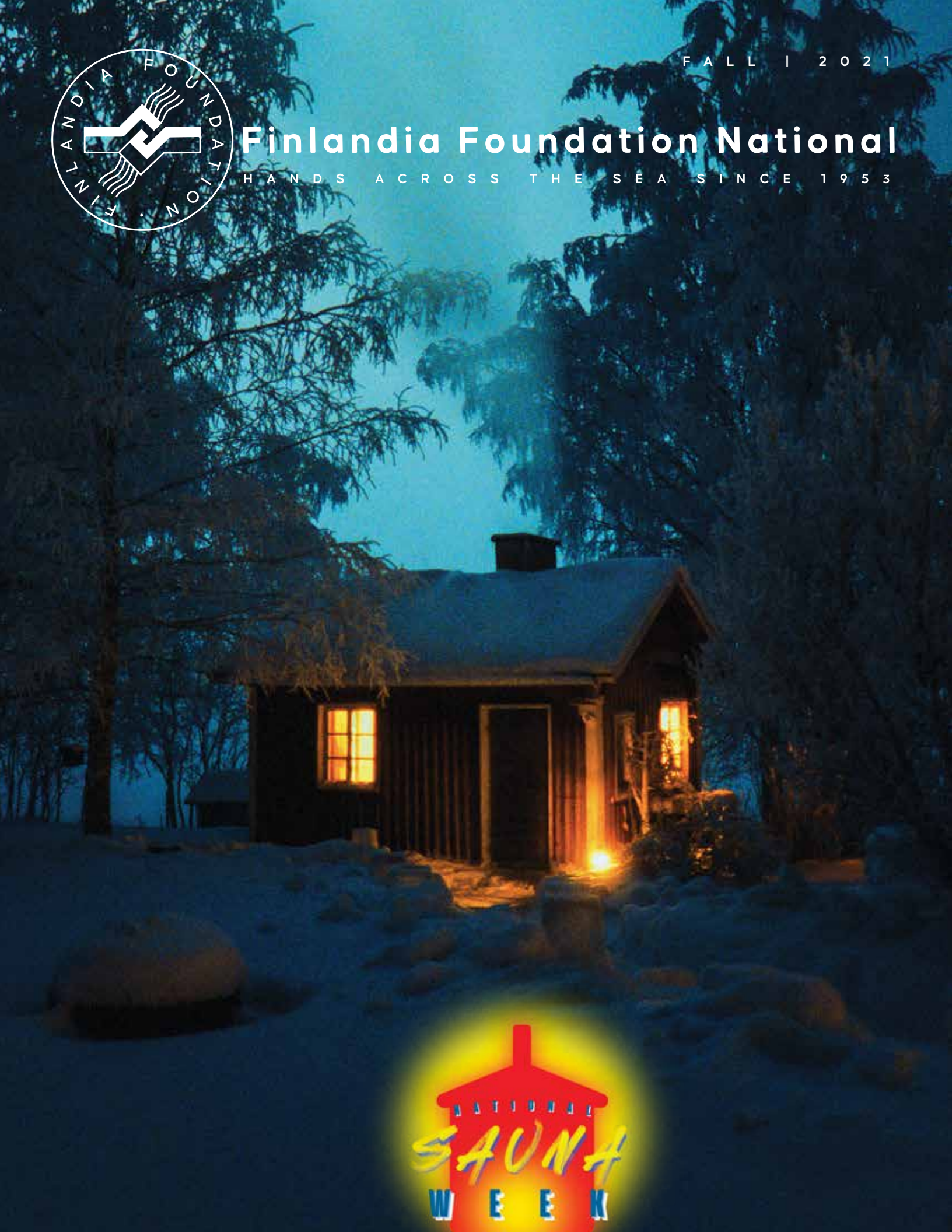


FALL | 2021



# Finlandia Foundation National

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA SINCE 1953







# Finlandia Foundation National

INSPIRING, CELEBRATING AND CONNECTING THE FINNISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1953

**The wheels are in motion. The brakes are off. Finlandia Foundation is moving forward with energy and imagination, fueled by generous donors who are making it possible to produce and improve today's programs, and to plan for the future.**

In recent months we have invested in operational aspects of FFN, including adding a full-time administrative assistant, purchasing necessary equipment and making behind-the-scenes improvements to our long-neglected office in Pasadena (see page 22). Our marketing committee conducted a search for a company to redesign our rudimentary website into a dynamic, functional and better representation of FFN. Watch for our new look in the New Year!

Our drive to improve FFN visibility and connectivity is showing results, with increased collaboration and cooperation with key organizations and offices in the U.S. and Finland. Examples of this include several webinars that you will find on the FFN YouTube channel, produced with the Consulate in New York, Finnish Embassy in the U.S. and Suomi-Seura. Our Young Leaders Board was invited by Ambassador Mikko Hautala to meet with the team at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. (page 13).



Anne-Mari Paster

As a representative of Finlandia Foundation, I am making it a priority to explore mutually beneficial opportunities that will strengthen our organization and establish contacts in the Finnish-American community, with an eye on succession planning. This is one of the most important factors in all operations, yet it is a topic that is often discussed but not acted upon. It's risky to let succession planning slide. Not having people to follow current leaders can be fatal. Our approach is to be proactive, to cultivate relationships that will help us to thrive.

I hope you enjoyed our wonderful, three-part series based on the award-winning novel *Ice*, by Ulla-Lena Lundberg. We were thrilled to conduct interviews in Finland with the author and Jaakko Kuusisto, composer of the opera based on the story. They are available at the FFN YouTube channel. We were privileged to be granted by the Finnish National Opera a limited-time online screening of the production exclusively for FFN members (page 15).

You'll read about many other activities, including the inaugural National Sauna Week, declared by FFN to be the last week of February (page 6).

We have the momentum. With your support and involvement, we'll carry that into 2022 and beyond.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and great start to the New Year,

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The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the **FFN Communications Committee**: Jacqueline Harjula, chair, and Katariina Lehtonen, Betsey Norgard and Tarja Silverman. Additionally, FFN produces a monthly, free e-news; sign up to receive it at the FFN website. Submit chapter news and other items of interest and photos to: FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo, newsletter editor katusitalo@mac.com

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# FINNISH AMERICAN REPORTER RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Since 1986, The Finnish American Reporter has delivered news about and of interest to the Finnish-American community in the U.S. and Canada. The monthly newspaper carries feature articles, personality profiles and historical and general information about Finnish America and Finland that may not otherwise reach its audience across North America. That the journal continues to arrive in mailboxes each month is a testament to its value.

"As The Finnish American Reporter celebrates its 35th anniversary, we are proud to recognize this important journal with the Finlandia Foundation National Award of Excellence 2021," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster, who presented the award during the organization's board meeting in the Detroit area on October 16.

"Finlandia Foundation National inaugurated its Award of Excellence in 2015 as a means of recognizing and honoring individuals and organizations committed to supporting and uplifting Finnish America and Finland in the United States," explains Anne-Mari. "The Finnish American Reporter, the

largest such publication in North America, provides a great service to our community.

"We must recognize how fortunate we are to have a quality, monthly heritage newspaper dedicated to the common interests of Finnish America and Finland, and what an achievement it is to be able to celebrate its longevity---especially now, when print publications are facing challenges to survive."

FFN presented its first Award of Excellence to the Seattle Symphony in the year celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius for the orchestra's three-week program in March of 2015, "Luminous Landscapes: The Sibelius Symphonies."

In 2017, FFN recognized Pauline and John Kiltinen of Marquette, Michigan, for their extraordinary involvement and support of the Finnish-American community. The 2019 recipients were Finnish cellist

Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azejian, for their dedication to performing and building awareness and appreciation of music from Finland--especially that of Sibelius--in the United States.

"Finlandia Foundation appreciates the contributions and commitment of The Finnish American Reporter, and wishes for its continued success."



FFN President Anne-Mari Paster presents the Finlandia Foundation Award of Excellence to *The Finnish American Reporter*, accepted by David Maki, editor. The monthly Finnish-American newspaper is published at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan.



# WHEN OPPORTUNITY CALLS

By Tim Nurvala  
FFN Trustee



**J**ohn Koskinen's parents taught him a few important lessons growing up: believe in yourself, make the most of whatever you do, work hard, and whatever you start, finish it! These were valuable Finnish lessons that carried into a career that spanned some of the most challenging assignments in the private and non-profit sectors, and to the highest offices of government — all the way to the White House.

**HIS UPBRINGING WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF HIS SUCCESS.** John's grandparents were Finnish on both sides. His mother's family settled in Minnesota and his father's family in Ohio, and their heritage was always a source of pride. His parents met at a Finnish dance hall in Cleveland, and John remembers enjoying the sauna at his grandfather's farm in Minnesota, and his mother baking Finnish coffee bread and letting it rise on the radiator.

**JOHN'S PARENTS BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE SHOULD BE ASSIMILATED INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY WITHOUT ANY ACCENT, AND DID NOT TEACH THEIR CHILDREN THE FINNISH LANGUAGE.** Still, his maternal grandfather spoke only Finnish, and John picked up a few words here and there. It was nice to have a secret language to use when you needed it.

**JOHN GREW UP IN CLEVELAND UNTIL THE AGE OF 12, WHEN HIS FATHER TOOK A JOB IN KENTUCKY.** Education was always highly valued in his family; his mother earned her degree later in life at Morehead College. John studied physics at Duke University (graduating magna cum laud), followed by Yale Law School. His parents were proud of his academic accomplishments, but never boastful or overly congratulatory. "They were supportive of whatever you wanted to do," John says.

**LIKE HIS FINNISH ANCESTORS, JOHN SET OUT TO MAKE HIS OWN WAY IN THE WORLD AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER OPPORTUNITIES CALLED ALONG THE WAY.**

**AFTER COLLEGE, HE WORKED AS AN ATTORNEY IN A LARGE LAW FIRM IN CALIFORNIA.** But he felt a stronger calling for public service. In 1967, the cities were burning and he was energized to do something. He went to Washington, D.C. in August to find a job in government, and arrived just a few days after the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (known as the Kerner Commission) was created. When the opportunity arose through a mutual acquaintance to work for the commission, he seized it. The Kerner Commission investigated the causes of the racial riots during the long, hot summer of 1967, and made programmatic recommendations to avoid a recurrence.

**JOHN LOVED THE WORK AND THE CITY, AND TOOK A POSITION IN THE D.C. OFFICE OF NEW YORK MAYOR JOHN LINDSAY. HE THEN WAS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR SENATOR ABRAHAM RIBICOFF OF CONNECTICUT.** After several years of public service, John — with college-bound kids — moved to a better paying, private sector job with the Palmieri Company, where he helped manage the non-rail assets of the bankrupt Penn Central. He became a specialist in turning around failing organizations, and in 21 years with the company, progressed to become CEO.

**ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY AROSE IN 1985 DURING THE ANNUAL, EXCLUSIVE "RENAISSANCE WEEKEND" WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER INVITEES FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA AT HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA.** There, he met someone who would change his career trajectory: the little-known Governor of Arkansas. When

Bill Clinton became president, John seized the opportunity to work in the White House, where he held the job of Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget for three years.

**FOLLOWING THAT POST, WHILE ON A BRIEF TOUR OF EUROPE WITH HIS WIFE, PAT, THE WHITE HOUSE RANG AND SAID, "WE HAVE A Y2K PROBLEM," REFERENCING THE GOVERNMENT AND NATION'S IT SYSTEMS IN THE TRANSITION TO THE YEAR 2000.** After a call from President Clinton offering him the position of "Y2K

John, a passionate soccer fan and member of the U.S. Soccer Foundation board, became its president. He is most proud of the increased support provided to inner-city soccer initiatives and grants to expand the growth of the game in the U.S.

**JOHN'S PLANNED RETIREMENT WAS DERAILED BY A CALL FROM SECRETARY OF TREASURY HANK PAULSON'S OFFICE REQUESTING HIS TURNAROUND SKILLS AT FREDDIE MAC.** In September 2008, the economy was in free-fall, and the government was taking over the

four years provided steady leadership during some of the most tumultuous times in the organization's history.

**IN ALL OF HIS IMPORTANT JOBS, THE HOURS WERE LONG AND THE DECISIONS WERE SOMETIMES LONELY.** "I can recall talking to my wife Pat on the phone every night while still at the office. We would sometimes light a candle and we would both eat our dinner together while talking on the phone. One time, a co-worker passing by my office didn't notice the phone and thought I had lost my mind eating alone and talking to myself," he laughs.

**"I FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, OR PERHAPS THE WRONG PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN LIGHT OF THE POSITIONS I FILLED," HE SAYS. "I TOOK THE JOBS NOBODY WANTED, BUT I FEEL BLESSED TO HAVE HAD THESE OPPORTUNITIES."**

**HIS FINNISHNESS HELPED.** John notes that "instinctively, Finns try to help other people and solve problems. Working with other great people made all the difference."

**JOHN SEES FINLANDIA FOUNDATION AS A CATALYST TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER.** He advises the organization to keep up the visibility of Finland and our Finnishness. "It's a small country, but with a great reputation for excellence. Finns have made admirable accomplishments."

**HE ALSO THINKS IT'S IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE OUR FINNISH HISTORY AND HERITAGE, AND SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.** "Supporting scholarships honors our Finnish values. Finland is one of the best-educated countries in the world."

**ALTHOUGH JOHN NOW LIKES TO THINK HE IS FINALLY RETIRED, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL CALL AGAIN.** Given his success, we hope he'll take the call.

## JOHN'S WISDOM TO YOUNG FINNISH LEADERS

- 1. ACCEPT NEW OPPORTUNITIES: DON'T BE AFRAID TO DEVIATE FROM YOUR PLANS AND TAKE THE OPPORTUNITIES WHEN THEY ARISE. YOU DON'T ALWAYS NEED TO LOOK TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD. LOOK AT ALL THE OPTIONS AND CONSIDER EVERYTHING TO BE A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE.**
- 2. NEVER MAKE A DECISION BY YOURSELF: ASK PEOPLE WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM AND GET THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT TO DO. THEY'LL THINK OF THINGS YOU DIDN'T.**
- 3. DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK: DO THE THINGS THAT RESONATE WITH YOU. "I WAS WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING SENATOR RIBICOFF'S OFFICE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY? BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO CARE, AND IT WAS THE BEST THING FOR ME TO DO."**
- 4. DO THE THINGS THAT INSPIRE YOU: FIND SOMETHING YOU ENJOY AND YOU'LL BE GOOD AT IT. DON'T DO THINGS JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE A STEPPINGSTONE TO SOMETHING ELSE. IF YOU ENJOY THE WORK, YOU'LL BE DEDICATED TO IT. PEOPLE WILL KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR.**
- 5. MAKE INCREMENTAL PROGRESS EVERY DAY: DO WHAT YOU CAN TODAY TO MOVE THINGS FORWARD, RECOGNIZING THAT THERE'S A LOT MORE LEFT TO DO. IF YOU KEEP WORRYING ABOUT AND FOCUSING ON EVERYTHING YET TO BE DONE, YOU'LL BE OVERWHELMED AND NEVER MAKE REAL PROGRESS.**

Czar," and further urging from Vice President Al Gore, John agreed to the challenge. U.S. computers did not collectively crash at midnight on January 1, 2000, thanks to John Koskinen and the teams he organized across the country and around the world.

**AFTER Y2K, HE SERVED AS DEPUTY MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR OF WASHINGTON, D.C., DURING CHALLENGES SUCH AS 9/11, THE ANTHRAX ATTACK AND THE SNIPER WHO KILLED 10 IN OCTOBER OF 2002.** Upon leaving city government,

failed mortgage lender, which had helped precipitate the global recession. In his position as Non-Executive Chairman he rebuilt the board, helped to turn the organization around, and left it in a stable (and much better place) than when he started. He looked forward to retirement.

**FOR THE SECOND TIME, HIS RETIREMENT WAS INTERRUPTED BY A CALL FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. IN 2013, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ASKED IF HE WOULD RUN AND HELP TURN AROUND THE IRS.** He was confirmed as IRS Commissioner, and for



Finlandia Foundation National has declared the last week of February to be National Sauna Week. The inaugural event is set for February 20-26, 2022.

spas and gyms, in the time of COVID-19, home saunas have become popular additions.

Now, when sauna is becoming more widely appreciated in the United States, and UNESCO has inscribed sauna culture in Finland on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,

FFN believes it's time to raise visibility of this part of Finnish culture and Finnish-American life.

"With National Sauna Week, we hope to inform and spread awareness of the importance of sauna," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster.

"While many people recognize its physical and social benefits, they don't realize, for example, the role that sauna plays in Finnish business and diplomatic dealings."

FFN is working with its affiliated chapters across the country as well as sauna societies and organizations in the U.S. and Finland to make National

Sauna Week a collaborative celebration. FFN is planning programs and encouraging chapters to host events throughout the week.

National Sauna Week is an opportunity for FFN to share information about the history, culture, customs and traditions – as well as the correct pronunciation – of sauna.

Sauna is undoubtedly the most known Finnish word in the U.S., within and outside of the Finnish-American community. While many people have experienced sauna at hotels,



## Lecturer of the Year Program Open for Applications

By Hilary Virtanen  
FNN Trustee and LOY Chair

With the Finn Cooks Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman keeping us entertained with their popular YouTube videos, and cautiously getting their Lecturer of the Year appearances back on the road to chapters, we continue to navigate this signature program's development in these COVID-19 times. Soile and Eleanor will finally complete their extended term in June 2022 by fulfilling commitments made before the pandemic, and we thank

them for their grace and flexibility through this long and unusual period.

Beginning with the 2022 LOY, we are opening an application process in order to better identify people who are interested in presenting their expertise to audiences across the U.S. Chapter members are encouraged to identify potential lecturers and let them know about the program.

The application is available at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org). The application period for the 2022-2023 LOY will close February 11, 2022. Applications include the form, letters of recommendation and materials demonstrating the applicant's suggested topic and approach to presentation. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact **LOY Chair Hilary Virtanen**, at [hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu](mailto:hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu). We look forward to seeing where this new process takes us!

Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian continue their co-operation with Finlandia Foundation National

## A New COVID-inspired Form of Concerts

By Teuvo Pulkkinen  
FFN Trustee

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian, who have a long relationship in performing in collaboration with Finlandia Foundation, were forced to cancel their planned U.S. concert tour. Instead, they developed a two-way streaming concert concept with their sound and film technician. This allowed the performers to be connected with their audience around the world in real time, and also being able to communicate with them. It's as though the artists and audience are sharing the concert experience in the same space, despite the long distances.

Jussi and Nazig have had two-way streamed concerts in Finland with the Finnish

schools as well with Finnish Schools abroad (Suomi-koulu) in co-operation with the Suomi-koulujen tukiry and Suomi-Seura (Finland Society).

In October 2020, they streamed a concert from Finland to Portland, Oregon, in cooperation with Finlandia Foundation and Nordia House, during the FFN fall Board meeting. It was a success, and proved the two-way streaming to be an important way to cross the continental boundaries through music and art.

In the spring of 2021, the duo created a "Coffee Concert" series for the FFN YouTube channel, and the performances are still available for viewing online. The five concerts, each with a different theme, were streamed from Jussi's Artist's Residence in Eastern Finland, in Nurmes. Some featured other artists,

including the legendary Finnish actress Seela Sella and violinist Liisa Makkonen. In the Mother's Day concert, Tarja Halonen, the former President of Finland, greeted the audience and wished all mothers around the world a Happy Mother's Day.

The two-way streamed concerts will continue, and the artists are exploring exciting possibilities such as a joint performance with their music from Finland and dancers in the U.S. Watch for details in the monthly FFN E-News, events calendar and social media.

Jussi and Nazig hope to be able to return to the U.S. in 2023-25 to continue the concert tour that was interrupted by COVID-19. It's something that I am looking forward to. During these times, we need music and culture more than ever, and I feel privileged to work with these talented artists.

Finland's 11th president, Tarja Halonen, delivers a Mother's Day message during May's Finlandia Foundation Coffee Concert. Enjoy all five of the programs by Jussi and Nazig at the Finlandia Foundation YouTube channel.





# EETTI URSIN NAMED 2022 PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

By Katariina Lehtonen  
FFN Trustee and POY Chair

FFN has selected award-winning jazz vocalist Eeppi Ursin as Performer of the Year 2022. Originally from Finland, now based in New York City, the singer-songwriter is a versatile artist appearing with various types of groups, from A Cappella ensembles to symphony orchestras. Eeppi offers pop, jazz, dance – even children’s music, such as *Muuminlauluja (Moomin Voices)* – in her programs. She has 40 recordings, of which five are platinum or gold albums, and just released two singles from her upcoming fourth solo album, *Speechless*, which will be out in February of 2022.

Eeppi has performed all over the world, with acclaimed artists such as American trumpeter Leroy Jones and Spirit of New Orleans, Vocal Ensemble Club for Five, UMO Jazz Orchestra and Warp. She’s taken the stage at the Shanghai Concert Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, Hong Kong A Cappella Festival, Riverboat Jazz Festival, Pori Jazz Festival and Jazz au Chellah.

Her New York City appearances include Rockwood Music Hall, Zinc, Prohibition, Dizzy’s, The Back Room and The Bitter End, where she was invited in 2018 by the New York Songwriters Circle as the first Finnish artist. The singer also collaborates with the Emmy-awarded composer Stephen Lawrence, known for his work for *Sesame Street*, and Finnish composers Kaj Chydenius and Jukka Linkola. In 2014, Eeppi was chosen as the soloist at the President’s Independence Day Reception in Finland.

Eeppi will perform in-person or virtually in events/concerts for chapters from January through December of 2022. If interested, please contact Katariina Lehtonen at [lehtonenk@comcast.net](mailto:lehtonenk@comcast.net). Find more information about the POY at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

“Killer voice, amazing piano and wonderful lyrics”  
– The New York Songwriters Circle  
Find more information and hear Eeppi at [eeppiursin.fi](http://eeppiursin.fi)  
Photo by Ari Myllymäki

**I**n Ancient Greek times, the symposium was a gathering where men would eat, drink, sing and talk philosophy, politics and current events. Finlandia Foundation has adopted that spirit with its *Finnposium*, a virtual symposium at the FFN YouTube channel.

# Finnpodium

The free, online programs reach members of Finlandia Foundation and a broader audience interested in Finnish-America and Finland. Check the FFN Facebook page and the events calendar at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org) for the latest information. Go to Finlandia Foundation National YouTube and take a look. Subscriptions are free!



For her program *In Conversation*, Maria Voltaine has talked with filmmaker Eric Saarinen and Rimmel, of the popular band Steve 'N Seagulls. Maria, who was FFN Performer of the Year in 2012, teamed up with musicians Miska Kajanus and Jaakko Manninen for “Juhannustanssit,” fun dance tunes for Midsummer.

FFN has also started to share oral history videos produced by FFN chapters, including “Immigrant Families Remember” by the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and “Finns in the News” from

CEO of HackerOne Mårten Mickos



came to Silicon Valley in 2003, and found success as a serial entrepreneur in the tech world. Six years ago he became CEO of HackerOne, the world’s leading vendor of hacker-powered security.

For Finland’s Independence Day, pianist Ruusamari Teppo and soprano Maria Mannistö created another beautiful concert, as they did in

the Columbia-Pacific Chapter in Portland, Oregon.

After a summer hiatus, original programming resumed this fall with “Soiva Music Camp 2021: A Virtual Showcase,” a wonderful recital by the 10 students who attended the abbreviated, online classes with five Soiva faculty members.

Michel Wendell and *My American Dream* returned with a fascinating interview with Mårten Mickos, a native of Finland who

February, for Valentine’s Day.

And the icing on the Finnpodium cake is *Ice*, the three-part series about the novel by Ulla-Lena Lundberg (see page 15).





# Grants & Scholarship Deadlines

**A**pplications are open for Finlandia Foundation National 2022 grants as well as scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and law students. Deadlines are January 17 for grants and February 1 for scholarships. All applications must be submitted via e-mail and received by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific) on the deadline date. Awards will be announced in spring 2022.

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](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

The National Nordic Museum in Seattle received a grant from FFN in support of the May 6-October 17, 2021 exhibition *Among Forests and Lakes: Landscape Masterpieces from the Finnish Gallery*, which examined 150 years of artistic interpretations of the beautiful and diverse landscapes of Finland through paintings, prints, and videos.

## Grants

**Richard Ahola**  
FFN Trustee and Grants Chair

Grants of up to \$5,000 have been made available to projects in the areas of history, research, the arts, music, events



Photo property of the Finnish National Gallery

## Scholarships

**Pirjo Kujansuu Schulbach**  
Scholarships Chair

The Finlandia Foundation scholarship program was inaugurated in 1956, and initially 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. 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.

Heini Katriina Korhonen received her second FFN scholarship in 2021. After earning her BFA in Illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design, Heini's interests in material science and cultural heritage led to a return to Finland, and the start of a symbiosis of BA studies in Paper Conservation (Metropolia University of Applied Sciences) and an MFA in Printmaking (Academy of Fine Arts). She is thrilled by the multitude of new opportunities these studies bring through the merging of artistic and academic research. Heini says that her heart remains stretched across the Atlantic Ocean. (Note: This is a correction to her information in the Spring 2021 News.)

and preservation of property such as saunas, log cabins and Finn halls.

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

- A minimum 3.0 GPA is required
- Applicants of Finnish-American heritage will be given primary consideration
- Financial need and course of study are considered
- U.S. or Finnish citizenship is required

In addition, FFN administers a scholarship for law students in both countries. 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.

# President Niinistö in FinnTown

New York attorney Robert Alan Saasto, who has been a driving force in actions to commemorate Brooklyn's FinnTown, was honored to accompany Finland's President Sauli Niinistö on a tour of the Sunset Park area on September 21. Mika Koskinen, the Consul General of Finland in New York, requested the 30-minute tour while President Niinistö was in the city for the United Nations General Assembly.

They were able to stop by Alku One, the first non-profit residential co-operative in the United States. Both Alku One and Two were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in May of 2019, confirming the significant contribution made by the Finnish immigrants who introduced this residential concept to the U.S. "It is indeed a source of pride for all Americans of Finnish descent, and for Finns visiting from abroad," says Robert.

Additionally, the tour took in the Finlandia Street sign, memorializing the heart of FinnTown, and the former Imatra Hall, a hub of activity that once was the scene of a speech by Finland's President Urho Kekkonen.

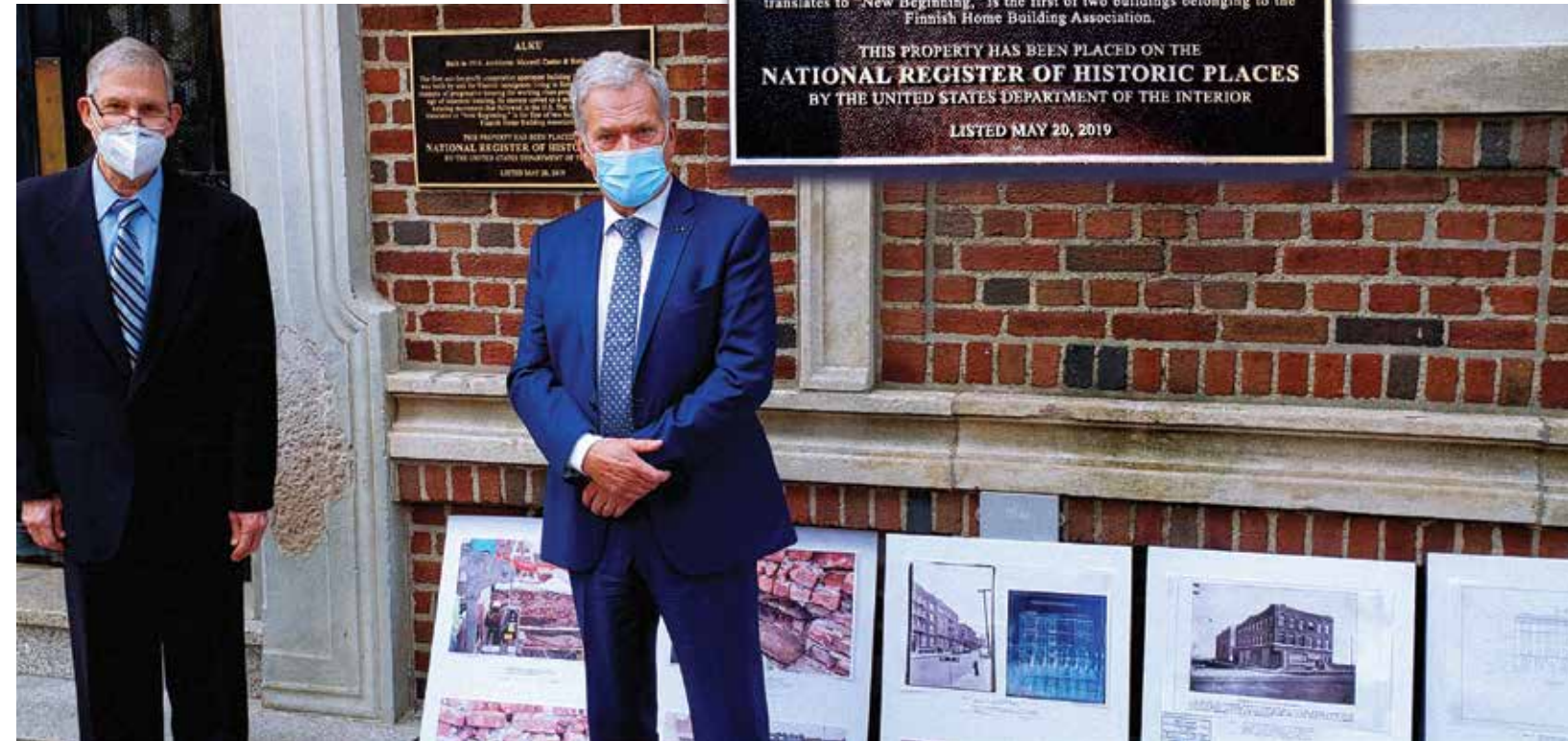
Robert recalls that at the dedication of the Finlandia Street sign, which he had secured in 1992, he commented that one day the Finns would be gone, but the street sign would remain. "The thought never entered my mind that almost 30 years later, I would be showing that sign to the President of Finland."

Valerie Landriscina, the architect who is to be credited for her tremendous work on the application for historical designation, and John Amman, owner of Alku One, were present and answered questions that the president posed about the buildings.

President Niinistö commented on several occasions throughout the tour that the more-than-century-old structures, including Imatra Hall, were good examples of the skills and workmanship of the Finns, a trait that extends to the present day.



Robert Saasto (below left) and President Niinistö pause on a tour of historic FinnTown sites in Brooklyn's Sunset Park. Robert has led the effort to commemorate the New York neighborhood, most recently with the addition of informational plaques on many buildings. A grant from FFN has aided the project.





## Diplomats in Dialogue



FFN Trustee Katariina Lehtonen chats with The Honorable Mikko Hautala in Seattle

By Katariina Lehtonen  
FFN Trustee

On September 13, I was happy to attend the “Diplomats in Dialogue” of the Nordic Innovation Series at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle. Finland’s Ambassador Mikko Hautala and Norway’s Ambassador Anniken Krutnes discussed and answered questions from the public about sustainability, green transition, technology, security and Arctic matters.

Eilert Hanoa, CEO of Kahoot, and Mårten Mickos, CEO of HackerOne, co-moderated.

National Nordic Museum Executive Director and CEO Eric Nelson opened the meeting and introduced the participants, including Finland’s new Consul General in Los Angeles, Okko-Pekka Salmimies.

A reception followed the discussion session, where I had an opportunity to meet with Mikko Männistö, president of the FFN Seattle chapter. We discussed FFN

programs, and a possible joint webinar about genealogy via Zoom with the FF Seattle, Columbia-Pacific and Naselle chapters. Mikko liked the idea and encouraged involving Swedish-speaking Finns, as well.

Although Ambassador Hautala had a very busy schedule, I was able to extend regards from Finlandia Foundation National and thank him for inviting the Young Leaders Board of FFN to the Embassy in Washington, D.C. in August. He expressed great interest in developing an exchange program for young adults working in Finland, and helping them to experience the Finnish business culture. He was also impressed with how knowledgeable the YLB members are.

In conclusion, the meeting left a very positive and encouraging feeling. The National Nordic Museum’s Innovation Series will continue every two months, and I hope to be able to attend in the future.

## New Diplomatic Appointments

Okko-Pekka “Okkis” Salmimies has been appointed Consul General at Finland’s Consulate General in Los Angeles, where he is responsible for 13 western states. He most recently was Visiting Senior Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and prior to that, from 2016–2020, served as Ambassador for Team Finland.

Previous assignments include Ambassador and Head of Mission at the Permanent Delegations of Finland to the OECD and to UNESCO in Paris. He holds a Masters in Social Sciences



from the University of Helsinki, and enjoys running, cross country skiing, tennis and golf, playing drums and reading.

Veikko Valli is the new Honorary Consul of Finland in Oregon. A native of Finland, he is the co-founder and chief investment officer of Snowstorm Capital, based in Portland. The honorary consulates augment Finland’s network of diplomatic missions, made up of embassies and consulate generals. They provide citizens and permanent residents of Finland with assistance and advice.

By Lauren Tuiskula  
YLB Member

After just over nine months of collaboration, the Young Leaders Board (YLB) has achieved a handful of our goals as we continue working to bring the next generation into FFN by sharing Finnish culture and opportunities with fellow young Finnish Americans.

Following our introductory Zoom meeting in February, the eight-member YLB hit the ground running. We started hosting monthly planning and discussion meetings, we created a Young Finnish Americans LinkedIn page to network and share career opportunities, we curated a Spotify playlist of our favorite Finnish music and we even interviewed Awak Kuier, the first Finnish woman drafted into the WNBA.

YLB members have also collaborated with the FFN board through various committee assignments. Most recently, we’ve worked alongside the marketing committee to begin the project of rebuilding the FFN website. We are especially excited to see the outcome of these efforts, and know the new website will help amplify FFN’s messaging and events.

The highlight from our first nine months together was undoubtedly our August trip to the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C. The trip marked the first time the YLB gathered in person, and we were all incredibly grateful for the opportunity to meet with Ambassador of Finland to the United States Mikko Hautala and his team. Discussions about opportunities to further collaborate with the Embassy are ongoing.

As we reflect on our first nine months, the YLB feels energized and hopeful for what’s to come. When we first met on Zoom, we were all surprised (and thrilled) to learn that like-minded Finnish American millennials even existed. We’re excited to tackle our long-term goals in the months ahead and to continue broadening FFN’s reach to the younger generation.

YLB at the Finnish Embassy (from left) Tatu Kunto, Embassy Cultural Counselor Suvi Järvelä-Hagström, Lauren Tuiskula, Anya Peck, Ambassador Mikko Hautala, Thomas Flanagan, Julia Paster and Mikko McFeely.



Members of the YLB make a presentation to the Ambassador (foreground) and Embassy team





## FFN Recognizes James Kurtti

James "Jim" Kurtti is an integral part of the Finnish-American community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, particularly in Hancock and the Keweenaw Peninsula. He is a native of the area, which has been densely populated by people of Finnish descent since the late 19th century, when immigrants came to work in the copper mines.

That Finnishness wasn't really celebrated until the late 1980s, when grant money became available for small cities to develop programs along themes. "There were public meetings to get input from the community, and only Finnish people showed up. That's why we have the peculiar name (Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock)," explains Jim.

He would go on to develop a number of heritage-related initiatives, from the Heikinpäivä mid-winter celebration and Finnish American Folk School, to production of



James Kurtti accepts congratulations and award of recognition from FFN President Anne-Mari Paster

documentary films and publication of books. His involvement, work and commitment to Finland and Finnish America reach far beyond Michigan, and during its board meeting in the Detroit area, Finlandia Foundation recognized him for that passion and his many contributions.

Earlier this year Jim retired from his position as Director of the Finnish American Heritage Center at Finlandia University, where his responsibilities included the Finnish-American archive and artifact collection, and publication of *The Finnish American Reporter*.

He will continue to be involved in Finnish America, through the Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock - Finlandia Foundation Copper Country Chapter, and as the Upper Peninsula's Honorary Consul for Finland.

## Ice: a three-part series on the story that gripped Finland

By Betsey Norgard  
FFN Trustee

Åland author Ulla-Lena Lundberg's 2012 novel *Ice*—the book, its adaption to opera and the actual production created by the Finnish National Opera—was featured this fall in a video series as part of FFN's Finnposium.

The original Swedish *Is* (*Jää* in Finnish, *Ice* in English) was awarded the 2012 Finlandia Prize, Finland's highest honor in literature. The original and the English translation in 2016 won the hearts of readers everywhere.

The setting is the southernmost islands and skerries of the Åland archipelago, between Sweden and Finland. The time is 1946, as post-war Finland

is recovering from the lack of food and supplies during the war years. Lundberg's storytelling puts readers directly into the rhythm of daily life and experiences in the remote Örand islands, as young pastor Petter Kummel arrives and settles into the small community with Mona, his wife, and their young daughter Sanna.

They immediately feel at home, but come face-to-face with the rugged and sometimes tragic forces of winter. The story is autobiographical, as the author's father was a minister in Kökar, the model for Örand, and she was born in the church's parsonage.

- Part One: *Ice*, the novel—a visit and conversation with Ulla-Lena

Lundberg in Kökar, her birthplace and summer home. She talks about the remote islands, and how—through intersections of fact and fiction—she connects the story of young Pastor Kummel and his family to her own family's life there.

- Part Two: *Ice*, the opera—Finnish composer Jaakko Kuusisto is interviewed by journalist Pekka Hako about the creative inspiration in adapting the libretto to music.
- Part Three: *Ice*, the Finnish National Opera production was accessible to FFN members for a short time.

Parts One and Two may be viewed at the FFN YouTube channel.

At her summer home in Kökar, author Ulla-Lena Lundberg (center) chats with FFN Trustees Hanna Wagner (left) and Betsey Norgard

Composer Jaakko Kuusisto (left) talks with journalist Pekka Hako about the opera based on the novel *Jää (Ice)* photo courtesy Finnish National Opera



The last gavel has come down on the November 1-7 online auction hosted by Finlandia Foundation, and the scholarship program will benefit from the generosity of donors and bidders who supported the inaugural event.

Some 70 auction items in a range of price points included gift cards, original works of art, iittala glass, Christmas ornaments, wearables, Marimekko fabric, books, household goods, vacation getaways and trinkets.



At the time of FFN News publication the numbers were being tallied, but based on the enthusiastic response — including a few bidding wars — it's likely that there is another auction on the horizon to benefit the programs of FFN.

FFN extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this FUNdraiser.

Auction items included an assortment of Pentik ornaments donated by FinnStyle of Minnesota

# Going, Going, Gone!





## Finnish Expatriate Parliament

By Teuvo Pulkkinen  
FFN Trustee and  
FEP Deputy Speaker

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament's 10th session was organized virtually June 11-12, 2021. It was originally scheduled to take place in June 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19.

A total of 262 participants from 23 countries were registered, with 173 representatives and 89 observers. Many of the delegates and observers from our region---the United States and Latin America--partook in the FEP session despite the very unfavorable hours for our hemisphere (the virtual FEP meetings were all the middle of the night in the U.S.).

Prior to the main event, during the June 8 U.S. and Latin America FEP

Regional meeting, all six regional FEP initiatives were discussed and approved. The representatives also elected Hanna Wagner to continue as the region's speaker and Teuvo Pulkkinen to continue as its deputy speaker; their reelections were confirmed at the general FEP session.

Altogether, over 90 initiatives were submitted to the FEP Session, of which 70 resolutions were adopted and approved. One of the successful initiatives, submitted by Finlandia Foundation, is the appointment of a Permanent Expatriate Commissioner to the Finnish Government to promote interests of Finns living abroad.

The resolutions were handed to Finland's Interior Minister Maria Ohisalo, to be used in preparing Finland's next three-year foreign policy. All of the resolutions are found at **Suomi-Seura's website (suomi-seura.fi)**.

## Finlandia U Turns 125

On September 8, 1896, hardy and hard-working Finnish Lutheran immigrants gathered to worship at the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hancock, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to dedicate a school: the Suomi College and Theological Seminary. J.K. Nikander, president of the Suomi Synod and the college's first president, preached from the book of Proverbs 8:1, "Does not wisdom cry out, and does not understanding lift up her voice?"

Suomi College prepared young men and women from immigrant families for work in the United States. Now known as Finlandia University, its roots are not only Finnish, they are Lutheran, as well. Today, Finlandia is one of 26 universities and colleges affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"Today, 125 years later, Finlandia serves a very diverse student body from across the country and from around the world, educating to foster enduring change in how students think, feel and act in matters of the self and others in the wider world," says Finn U President Philip Johnson.

The 125th anniversary celebration includes exhibits, performances, lectures, worship and more from December 3-5, the days leading up to Finlandia's annual observance of Finnish Independence on December 6.

Find a digital timeline of 125 years of history at: [finlandia.edu/125thanniversary](http://finlandia.edu/125thanniversary)



## GENERATIONAL: Nick Smith

Nick Smith has a passion for pumpkins. They fueled his interest in farming as a career, and helped him to achieve his goal of graduating college debt-free.

"I've always loved pumpkins since I was a little boy," says the fifth-generation farmer from coastal Cushing, Maine. When he was about five years old, he started selling them from an 8' x 10' tarp set out in the yard. He grew a following and, before he had his driver's license, his mother drove him door-to-door to sell the Halloween essential. "Everyone would look for me," says Nick.

Perhaps aided by sisu inherited from his mother, who is of Finnish descent (her grandparents came to Ellis Island on the *RMS Lusitania*), Nick stuck with his money-maker through high school. Throughout his four years at the University of Maine, he returned to the farm on fall weekends to sell his pumpkins and squash. In 2014, with business degree in hand, he joined those who "feed, fuel and fiber the world."

Nick and his father raise pastured beef cattle, grass hay — round and square bale — and oats, barley and other feed crops for horses, sheep, goats and beef herds, plus the pumpkins and squash.

"I made a plan to go into agriculture, and at the end of five years, if it was still viable, if I was keeping the business headed in a positive direction, I would give it another five years," says Nick. After just two years, he bought his own acreage; in 2019 he renewed his five-year commitment to farming.

The 29-year-old has been active with the Young Farmer & Rancher Program and Maine Farm Bureau, where members meet to set policies and enjoy fellowship. Nick is a member of the Finnish Heritage House in nearby South Thomaston, but admits that he's got little free time to dedicate to events and activities there.

"Farming is a wonderful thing, but it is a business, and must be treated as a business," says Nick. He is committed to his own operation's viability and sustainability. "I have to be innovative and financially vigilant." Above all, he says, "I want to maintain financial independence."

Generational is an occasional feature about young Americans with Finnish roots.

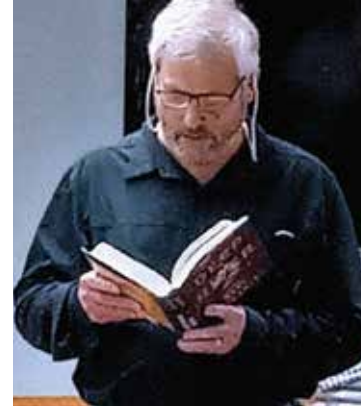


Finnish Heritage House President and FFN Trustee Jacqueline Harjula stops by Nick Smith's farm during pumpkin season



# Chapter INTERVIEWS

Some semblance of pre-pandemic days returned this summer, with several chapters hosting Juhannus celebrations and other events adapted to accommodate COVID limitations.



more Finns from the region was an added bonus! It has become our most beloved event after our Christmas get together."



Marita and Jason McLin and Pinja Larne (left to right) model authentic Finnish national costumes from the collection of Anchorage Finn Club member Juliana Armstrong

## MAINE

June was busy for Finnish Heritage House in South Thomaston, with *Deep River* author Karl Marlantes talking about his novel, and Soile Anderson (above right) and Eleanor Ostman, with their hands-on "Finn Cooks" FFN Lecturer of the Year program.

## MASSACHUSETTS

This summer, five Finlandia Foundation-affiliated groups within close proximity cooperated to create a shared calendar of events hosted by their organizations.

Their goal is to broaden awareness and encourage greater participation of activities in the Finnish-American community by centralizing the information in an easy-to-access format.

Cape Ann Finns, Finlandia Foundation Boston, Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod, Finnish Center at Saima Park, and The Finnish Heritage Society – Sovittaja, are responsible for posting details of their activities, which are color-coded to indicate which is the host organization.

It has been populated by Cape Ann Finn's "Preserving Finnish Heritage Materials/Finnish Farm Stories" session; FF Boston's "Finnish Legends – 70 Years Later!" celebration of Marimekko and Long Drink; Saima Park's Classic Car Cruise and Tori; and Sovittaja's Scandinavian Smorgasbord Dinner/Dance, to name a few.

Web address for the Finlandia Foundation National Affiliate Events calendar is [ffaffiliateevents.com/calendar](http://ffaffiliateevents.com/calendar).



## MARYLAND

FF Baltimore Chapter President Yolanda de Prado-Slack, who is Finnish-Swedish, missed the traditional *rapujuhla* — crayfish parties — that were a summertime tradition. In 2019, the chapter held its first *rapujuhla*, but it was COVID-cancelled last year. The crayfish party returned this summer at the property of member Sanna Massala, with 30 adults in attendance from both the Baltimore and National Capital chapters.

Yolanda ordered live crayfish from Louisiana, and cooked them Finnish-style, with Porter beer and lots of dill crowns. The menu included homemade gravlax, breads, meatballs and more. Schnapps fueled the lively singing during dinner.

"This is a unique Scandinavian tradition," says Yolanda. "We truly enjoyed hosting this event and getting people together to celebrate our lovely heritage, surrounded by great food and atmosphere! Meeting

Kippis! FF Baltimore President Yolanda de-Prado Slack (above, at left) and Sanna Massala toast a successful crayfish party at the Massala property

## ALASKA

The Anchorage Suomi Finland Club enjoyed a great turnout for its Summer Solstice party, and in October had a table selling Finnish goods in the annual Nordic Market. The October meeting featured *Kansallispuvut*—Finnish National Costumes. Beautiful clothing and accessories were modeled and on display, with information about the different Finnish regions and outfits, jewelry and more. For dinner, there was traditional *karjalanpaisti* (Karelian stew) with mashed potatoes and blueberry pie.

FAHS Chicken BBQ. October brought the welcome return, with the other New England organizations, to the FinnFunn Weekend in New Hampshire.



## CONNECTICUT

The Finnish American Heritage Society has returned to a busy schedule, including a Juhannus celebration with an informal performance by Hannu Makipuro. He followed that in August with his much-anticipated benefit concert. There was a huge tag sale in August and September's drive-thru, carryout-only version of the popular







FAHA members are proud of their log Cultural Center in Ashtabula

## OHIO

Linda (Sippola) Riddell reports that the Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula had an interesting summer celebrating the 15th anniversary of its Cultural Center. At the log structure on every Saturday in July, a different ethnic group told its heritage stories, including Swedish, Irish, Hispanic, German, Italian, Hungarian and Native American.

The Finn Fish Fry returned in August and the October meeting speaker was Gregor Olsavsky, who talked about the Finn language and his 11 trips to Finland. Pikku Joulu on the first weekend in December rounds out the year.

## OREGON

The Columbia-Pacific Chapter resumed its "Finnic," a summertime picnic, at the historic Lindgren log cabin site. The event included presentation of the Sauna Bucket Award, given to those who promote Finnish culture. The 2020 recipient, *Deep River* author Karl Marlantes, was belatedly recognized. For her extensive volunteer work, Liisa Penner (above) is this year's honoree. Liisa is the archivist for the Clatsop County Historical Society and has contributed many articles to its quarterly publication, *Cumtux*.



The Columbia-Pacific Chapter and Appelo Archives Center of Naselle, Washington, cooperated to host the December 11 Finnish Genealogy Webinar "Finding Your Roots in Finland" with Arto Saarinen, Board member of the Finnish-American Society of the Midwest (Illinois).



FinnFunn returned to New Hampshire, closing out October with a weekend of presentations, music, crafts, games and plenty of good food enjoyed by a capacity crowd.

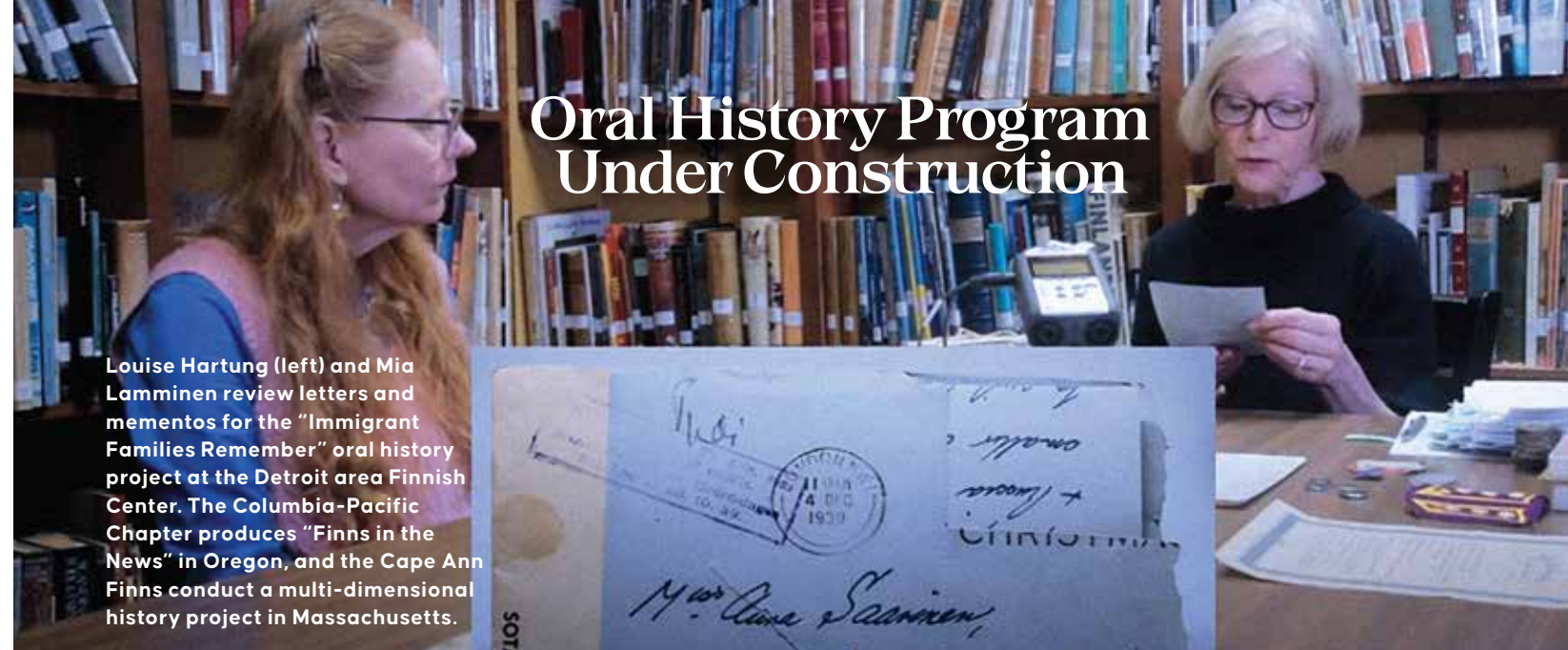
## vJCM & 2022 MEETUP IN NYC

FFN held a Joint Chapter Meeting (JCM) in Washington, D.C. in November 2016, where chapter leaders welcomed the opportunity to network with other members of FFN, to share ideas and learn from each other, in general sessions and in roundtable discussions.

Beginning last year, FFN organized quarterly virtual JCM (vJCM) via Zoom. These meetings have been well-received and attended by chapter representatives. They have given us an opportunity to learn how organizations have been coping with COVID restrictions, as well as plans for the future.

FFN will hold its next Joint Chapter Meeting in New York City in November of 2022; details to be announced.

## Oral History Program Under Construction



Louise Hartung (left) and Mia Lamminen review letters and mementos for the "Immigrant Families Remember" oral history project at the Detroit area Finnish Center. The Columbia-Pacific Chapter produces "Finns in the News" in Oregon, and the Cape Ann Finns conduct a multi-dimensional history project in Massachusetts.

By Hilary Virtanen  
FFN Trustee and  
History Committee Chair

Following feedback from interested chapter members, the Finlandia Foundation National History Committee is developing an Oral History Program so that we may collect and share our Finnish American stories, wherever they may be. This program will provide resources for local chapters to engage in oral history work, including how-to materials covering interviewing methods, recording device information, consent and archiving, as well as a central platform for sharing recorded oral histories.

The stories we collect today will help us to understand our changing community over time. These histories will also be helpful for students, researchers and descendants of interviewees.



## Oral History Survey

In order to best create a program that serves a variety of needs and interests, we want to hear from you! We are inviting chapters (as a whole unit and as individual members) to participate in a survey so we can learn about resources, interests, and needs that chapters have. Member input will help us make this program as responsive to your needs and interests as possible.

The survey will be available online until January 10 (see link at right). Leaders/officers in FFN chapters as well as members are invited to participate. Results of this

survey will be used to help us determine:

- existing oral history projects and resources
- interest level of chapters in oral history projects
- needs with regard to oral history program development
- chapter-identified ideas for an oral history project and programming

Anyone who has questions is invited to contact History Committee Chair Hilary Virtanen at [hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu](mailto:hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu).



**FIND THE SURVEY HERE:**  
<https://forms.gle/8Drcv2s1jfyieNvi6>



For its first 51 years, Finlandia Foundation was fully operated by volunteers. FFN hired its first employee and established its first physical office, in Pasadena, in 2004. In fall of 2012, Kath Usitalo was retained as communications manager on a part time basis, working remotely from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Now, as its outreach, scope of programs and involvement with other organizations and audiences continue to expand, FFN welcomes the addition of a fulltime administrative assistant, Jessica Ann, to the home office in Pasadena.

Jessica has experience in office administration, historical research and community outreach. She developed an interest in cultures, world history and languages during her years as an undergraduate student in social science, and hopes that her diverse experiences will help the FFN team. Jessica wishes to learn more about Finnish culture, and looks forward to connecting and building bridges with the Finnish community. As a California native, she enjoys hiking, museums, movies and camping.

Maria Voltaine, who previously handled FFN administrative work, is now Operations Manager. She will continue to be a point person in the office, and manage a myriad of programs including online meetings, webinars and shows.

**FFN Launches Intern Program**

This summer, Finlandia Foundation initiated a paid internship position for a college student. Digital Marketing Intern Noah Räisänen worked remotely, from his home in Minnesota, with FFN Communications Manager Kath Usitalo to improve and grow FFN's social media presence.



His projects included developing a logo for the "Share Your Sisu" Facebook group, e-mail marketing and working with the FFN marketing committee on the redesign of the FFN website.

Noah, whose parents are of Finnish descent, is a marketing major and graphic design minor in his senior year at Finlandia University. He is a musician and a FinnU soccer and hockey player, and has a special interest in the history and making of puukko, the traditional Finnish knife.

Students or recent grads with relevant studies or experience who are interested in a possible FFN internship should contact Kath at [kathusitalo@mac.com](mailto:kathusitalo@mac.com).



"Thank you for the money for going to Salolampi. It will be good to get out of my house." That handwritten note of appreciation from eight-year-old camper Ginny likely sums up the feelings of many who attended Salolampi Language Village this summer, assisted with funds from Finlandia Foundation.

FFN Salolampi Chair Eeva Syvanen reports that 17 young people received scholarships to attend the 2021 residential camp of Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota. In a setting of woods, water and authentic architecture, Salolampi students are immersed in the language, culture, foods and activities of Finland.

The 2022 Salolampi schedule has been released, and offers one-week virtual sessions, and one-, two- and four-week residential camps for ages seven to 18. There are also day camps and an intense session for high school credit. FFN will again offer a \$300 scholarship for either the virtual or in-person camps. Travel grants are also available.

Application deadline is April 30, 2022, and scholarships are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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



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

Although Soiva International Music Camp did not meet in person in 2021, we had a busy year, with a virtual camp and the production of two videos. The first program, "From Soiva, With Love," was completed

for marketing purposes with nine participating student musicians, ages 11 to 19.

The second video was a recital by 10 students who participated in the Soiva 2021 virtual camp, which was held via Zoom from June 21 -23, with five faculty. Again, the musicians are a wonderful cross section of ages, instruments, and skill levels. Both videos

were produced and edited by Maria Mannistö, and are available to view on the Finlandia Foundation YouTube channel.

We hope to resume the in-person Soiva experience in June of 2022, and a reservation has been made to host the camp at Kallio-Kuninkala in Finland (COVID protocols permitting). We are monitoring the situation and travel restrictions, and are ready to offer an alternative Soiva experience.

Information will be posted as it develops at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year



Rauhallista Joulua  
ja Onnellista  
Uutta Vuotta!



# FFN FALL BOARD MEETING

The best laid plans, as it is said, often go awry. That's been especially true throughout this pandemic period. The fall meeting of the Finlandia Foundation National board was held, as planned, in the Detroit area October 15-16, but COVID concerns kept eight of the 18 trustees at Zoom's length. The hybrid session was held on Friday at the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills.

FFN was graciously welcomed with an introduction to the organization by past Finnish Center Association President Lois Makee, who shared a treasure trove of archival material. Lois told of the FCA's founding in 1966, dedication of its cultural center in 1974, and subsequent expansion and renovations to the main hall, lounge, library, gift

shop, kitchen and offices. The grounds boast a woodshop and extensive gardens developed and tended to by volunteers, including Master Gardeners. Mother Nature rained on David Sharpe's plans to guide a tour of the property, but he was prepared with a slideshow to offer a glimpse of the award-winning gardens that he and others

have worked tirelessly to maintain.

Trustees conducted Zoom committee meetings in advance of the day-long business session, resulting in a more efficient workday.

The focus was on multiple initiatives FFN has launched to build greater understanding of FFN; its growing volume and variety of programs for the public; internal changes to improve operational productivity and efficiency; and, importantly, securing funding to support today's activities and the future of FFN.



FFN Trustees enjoy a beautiful autumn morning on a tour of Cranbrook (front, from left), Hilary Virtanen, Jacqueline Harjua, Katariina Lehtonen, Richard Ahola; (rear, from left) Anne-Mari Paster, Dirk Schulbach, Tim Nurvala, Hanna Wagner, Tarja Silverman, Michel Wendell

Left. Standing in front of the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, a monument of rock from Hanko, Finland, commemorates the departure port for some 250,000 Finns headed to America Photo by Anne-Mari Paster



# Detroit's Finnish American Community

## Saarinen @ Cranbrook

On Saturday morning, trustees and guests headed to the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, about 25 miles north of Detroit. An extensive guided tour included the Saarinen House. The Art Deco treasure was the home and studio of Eliel Saarinen, Cranbrook's resident

## Finn Camp

Detroit's automotive and other industries attracted Finnish immigrant workers from Finland, as well as second-generation Finns, many from northern Michigan, who found their way to Finnish-American neighborhoods in the city. They socialized informally, founded churches and formed



On Saturday evening at Finn Camp, The Bowery Trio premiered works for their Cosmopolite Project. From left, Anne-Mari Paster, cellist Esther Seitz, pianist Allison Wang, clarinetist Mark Allen, Jr. and composer Stephen Webb.



Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research Director Gregory Wittkopp (right) talks to FFN trustees about the Kingswood School for Girls, designed by Eliel Saarinen and completed in 1931

architect, Art Academy president and head of the Architecture Department, and his wife Loja Saarinen, who was the head of the Academy's Weaving Department. The tour extended to the garden and sculpture-filled campus, with a focus on Saarinen-designed buildings.

groups including the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp, a retreat in the country about 40 miles northwest of their homes in the city.

FFN was fortunate to host a gathering on Saturday evening at "Finn Camp," meeting members of that organization as well as some from the Finnish Center Association and Finlandia Foundation of Michigan. A tour of the property



Award-winning Finlandia Gardens fill the grounds surrounding the Finnish Center  
Photo by Anne-Mari Paster

took guests to the clubhouse and main hall, the spring-fed lake, large sauna, athletic field, and a few of the dozens of "camps," where owners welcomed FFN to step inside their seasonal tiny houses.

Longtime member Harry Kansman shared a brief history of Finn Camp, followed by tasty appetizers accompanied by traditional folk music, led by Steve Niemi, that got dancers onto the floor. The main meal was a supper of mojakka and pasties, the pastry-wrapped meat and root vegetable pie that was a staple for Finnish copper miners in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Anne-Mari Paster then presented the FFN Award of Excellence to *The Finnish American Reporter* and a special recognition of James Kurtti for his contributions to Finnish America. Capping the evening, The Bowery Trio premiered some of the works they commissioned by four composers in Finland for their Cosmopolite Project, which was supported by a grant from FFN.

FFN extends many thanks to Finn Camp President (and mojakka



master chef) Chris Nordin, Vice President Amber Martin for coordinating everything, the many Finn Camp volunteers, and Dan Linick for his support. Finnish Center member Sarah Wiidemen created beautiful, rustic tablescapes and, in addition, she and FCA member Kathryn Hill escorted the trustees' guests on a Friday tour to the Detroit Institute of Arts.



## CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE

In an effort to better plan for income and budgeting for programming and the grant and scholarship awards, FFN President Anne-Mari Paster invites donors to join her in a multi-year pledge to Finlandia Foundation. "So much of our revenue depends on your yearly gifts, and at budget-planning time it is difficult to predict the amount of support we can count on for the coming year," she explains.

"Please consider doing more than making a contribution to FFN. Instead, make a multi-year promise, which will allow us to more effectively plan on the amount of support we can offer." This promised donation may be in any amount per year for a suggested four-year commitment.

As part of this initiative, FFN has launched the "Chairman's Challenge," which asks donors to pledge a minimum of \$2,500 each year for four years (\$10,000 total). This program has already attracted nine participants, whose promised donations will allow better long-range forecasting by FFN.

*Please remember that all gifts are matched by the Paloheimo Foundation (up to \$100,000 per year), so your contribution can have double the impact.*

### On the Road Again

Since assuming the voluntary position of Finlandia Foundation president in April 2020, Anne-Mari Paster's FFN mantra has been "visibility and connectivity."

Building on the groundwork laid by past presidents — most recently, Ossi Rahkonen — she is increasing awareness of, and initiating and improving relations between, FFN and other organizations, offices and individuals in the U.S. and Finland.

When COVID-19 all but eliminated in-person activities in 2020, Anne-Mari turned to the phone, e-mail and Zoom sessions to connect with Finnish America. She conducts regularly scheduled phone and online meetings with contacts who are key partners in addressing common interests, concerns and initiatives relevant to Finnish America and Finland in the U.S.

As pandemic restrictions are loosened, she has been able to increase visits, to meetings of the Massachusetts Cape

Ann Finns; the Finnish Heritage House in Maine; FinnFunn Weekend in New Hampshire; and with Liisa McMahon of the Finnish-American Society of the Midwest and the Chicago area Honorary Consul Jon Jurva; Embassy Cultural Counselor Suvi Jäärvelä-Haggström; and others.

Anne-Mari has also attended events in Washington, D.C. and New York, such as a luncheon hosted by Consul General Mika Koskinen (below left).



## Tax Laws Encourage Giving in 2021

By Tim Nurvala  
FFN Trustee

The tax laws were changed for 2021 to help support charitable non-profit organizations, like Finlandia Foundation, during the global pandemic. Benefits include the following:

**For Those Who Take the Standard Deduction:** Last year, everyone filing a return (individuals and couples) could deduct up to \$300 for cash donations made to non-profit organizations, including Finlandia Foundation. This year, the laws were changed to make that deduction \$300 per person. Individual filers can deduct \$300 and married couples filing jointly can deduct up to \$600 on the 2021 tax return. The deduction is limited to cash contributions, so gifts of clothing or personal items do not count. Gifts to donor advised funds are also not eligible for these deductions.

**For Those Who Itemize Their Tax Deductions:** In 2021, you can deduct cash donations up to 100% of your adjusted gross income to organizations like Finlandia Foundation. Previously, people who itemized their taxes could only deduct cash donations of up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. This is an enormous

benefit to those who would like to give more to charity and pay less in taxes.

**Required Minimum Distributions:** If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA tax-free to organizations such as Finlandia Foundation, as long as you transfer the money directly to the non-profit organization. This is a nice benefit to those who are required to take a minimum distribution and do not want to pay taxes on the amount taken. In addition, a qualified charitable distribution will reduce the size of your IRA, which will reduce the amount of future required withdrawals, and your future tax bill, too.

Plus, the transfer could help keep your income below the threshold at which you are subject to the Medicare high income surcharge, as well as reduce the percentage of your Social Security benefits subject to tax. Be sure that any transfers from IRA accounts are made well in advance of New Year's Eve. To qualify for the tax break, the money has to be out of your account and transferred to Finlandia Foundation before the end of the year.

Many of these benefits are set to expire in 2022, so please be sure to take advantage of these opportunities before December 31st. You'll find information about giving to FFN at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org), or contact [office@finlandiafoundation.org](mailto:office@finlandiafoundation.org).

## 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

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

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  
Matti (Hautala) Hill &  
Aino Elizabeth (Rako) Hill  
Eva Wahlroos  
Sven Wahlroos

### GIFT OF \$250

Michael & Elaine Anuta  
Helmi Costenso-Taipala  
Michael & Elaine Anuta  
Taimi Elsa Mikkonen  
Anna Leena Christensen  
Alma (Luoma) &  
Matti Laukkonen

### GIFT OF \$100

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



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# Kiitos! Thank You For Your Gifts!

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

Donors have generously supported the following:



### Scholarships



### Anita Smiley Fund



### Soiva International Music Camp

## MAJOR GIFTS

Elsa Brule  
Rauha Cole  
Curtin-Paloheimo  
Leonora Foundation  
Aina Swan Cutler  
Finlandia Foundation  
National Capital Chapter  
Jack Haikala,  
Haikala Associates  
Ronald Helin  
Hilda M. Hendrickson Trust  
Dr. Vaino Hoover  
Pauline & John Kiltinen  
Hiikka Kinnunen Trust  
Aune E. Koski  
Esko Koskinen  
Gertrude Kujala  
Nancy & John Laine  
Edward Laisi  
Pertti Lindfors  
Earle I. Mack Foundation  
Satu & Jussi Mikkola  
Czeslawa & Ossi Narhi  
Nokia Corporate Headquarters  
Timothy Nurvala  
Paloheimo Foundation  
Leonora C. Paloheimo  
Anne-Mari & Frederick Paster  
Karin & Ossi Rahkonen  
Elma Randall  
Christine & Jon Saari  
Jean E. Sainio-Nolan Trust  
Marjatta & Bert Salonen  
Pirjo & Dirk Schulbach  
Jeannette & David Sharpe  
Anita Hakkila Smiley &  
Jack Smiley  
Marion & George Sundquist  
Suomi-Seura, Finland Society  
Eero Tetri  
Päivi & Brent Tetri  
Andrejs Udris  
U.F.B. & S. of San Francisco  
Regina Valley  
Marilyn Ware  
Armi Kuusela Williams &  
Albert Williams

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

Janet & Richard Ahola  
American Scandinavian  
Society of New York  
Phil Blackstone  
Pirkko & J. Bradford Borland  
Sirpa Ristimäki-Brock &  
John Brock  
Finlandia Music & Art Festival  
Finn Spark  
Finnish-American Literary  
Heritage Foundation  
Susan & Paul Halme  
Olavi Hiukka  
Janet Arvonen Kniffin  
Rita Vermala Koski & Al Koski  
Pirkko Tiilikainen &  
Juha O. Mäkipää  
Anja & Ray Miller  
James Morino  
Nestor Perala  
Sundquist Associates  
Hanna & David Wagner  
June Wepsala

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

Helen & William Alberth  
Madeline Bahr &  
Dennis Anderson  
Kristina Antoniadis  
Elaine & Michael Anuta  
John Borland  
Elissa Della Rocca  
Jeanne Doty  
Jenny M. Duke TTEE  
Helen Toivola Fedalen &  
Charles Fedalen  
Finlandia Foundation  
Columbia-Pacific Chapter  
Finlandia Foundation  
Seattle Chapter  
Jacqueline Harjula  
Katariina Lehtonen &  
Ola Harrskog  
Anne & Pentti Kanerva  
Stina & Herant Katchadourian  
Alvar Kauti  
Mervi Hjelmroos-Koski &  
John Koski  
Risto Laaksonen  
Los Angeles  
Finlandia Foundation

Arja & Peter Makila  
Fern Malila  
Eva & Heikki Mannisto  
Minnesota Finnish-American  
Historical Society  
Armi Koskinen Nelson  
Betsey & Alan Norgard  
Terri Muscato Normark  
Richard Ploe-Kaijala  
Marjut & Teuvo Pulkkinen  
Anita L. Raistakka  
Rapala  
Colonel George Rasula  
Duane & Cheryl Rogers,  
Raili & Miranda  
Svenska Folkskolan Vanner  
Susan Walima-Hodges  
Kicka & Michel Wendell  
Albert Wulff

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

William A. Aho  
Sandra & Theodore Benttinen  
Elana Brink  
Norah & Lars Colliander  
Irmeli & Louis Corsi  
Marjorie Knight Crane &  
Alpo Franssila Crane  
Hilja Davis  
Kaisa Inka Dolan  
Edith Eash  
Wayne Ebeling  
David Edwards  
Carola Eriksson-Durst  
Seija Farber  
Finlandia Sauna  
FinnFest USA 2007  
Finnish American  
Folk Festival - Naselle  
Finnish War Veterans  
in America, Inc.  
Georgia Federation  
T. Michael Goodrich  
Jeanine & Walter Heikkila  
Leland Hoch  
House of Finland  
Helvi Impola  
Charlotte & Seppo Jalonen  
Leila & Richard Judd  
Birgitta & Taisto Kaanto  
Ruth Kaarlela  
Virpi Kairinen  
Ilkka Kallioma  
Mae & Will Kaven  
Karen Koon  
Patricia & John Koskinen  
Maria Laine  
Donald Leethem  
Lois & Richard Lindgren  
Andrew A. Luhtanen  
Marilyn & Rod Madden  
Catherine Mannick  
Deb & Gabriel Monroe  
Nike

Kirsti Frenzen Noring  
Hillevi A. Null  
David Pistenmaa  
Aino Rouvari  
Odd Ryden  
Eva Saari  
San Francisco  
Bay Area Chapter  
Joyce & Karl Sandelin  
Aase & Borje O. Saxberg  
Scandinavian American  
Cultural & Historical  
Foundation  
Edward Sikora  
Marja Oksajarvi Snyder  
Eeva & Henri Syvanen  
Brent Thompson  
Johanna Thormod  
Maija & Timo Toukolehto  
Unilever United States  
Foundation  
Leo Utter  
Merja Vainio  
Vasa Order of America  
Hilary Joy Virtanen  
Volvo Group of North America  
Susan & Kurt Waananen  
Eva Wahlroos  
Gary Waissi  
Linnea Wilson

## Gifts from March - September 2021

### Major Gift

Anonymous

## \$2,000 to \$5,000

Dirk & Pirjo Schulbach

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

Helen & William Alberth  
Timothy Nurvala  
In memory of  
Ida Hakkila & Jack Smiley  
Anne-Mari & Frederick Paster  
Anita Hakkila Smiley  
Suomi-Seura, Finland Society  
Kicka & Michel Wendell

## \$500 to \$999

David Edwards  
In memory of  
Inger Pancoast Edwards,  
Past FFN President  
Kevin R. Jussila  
Catherine Mannick  
In memory of John Mannick  
Hilary Joy Virtanen

## \$200 to \$499

Marjorie Knight Crane &  
Alpo Franssila Crane  
Esko Historical Society  
Helene Haapala  
Susan & Paul Halme  
Marja & David Meharry  
Kirsti Frenzen Noring  
In memory of Irja &  
Donald Frenzen  
Karl Pierson  
Ulla & Paul Preising  
Christina & Lasse Saarinen

## \$100 to \$199

Anonymous  
In memory of  
Marja-Liisa Rajala &  
Bill Ehrhardt  
Paul Banttari  
Seija Cohen  
Karen Holgerson  
In memory of Alvar Kauti  
Christine Burnard &  
Greydon Hyde  
In memory of H. Greydon Hyde  
Jane Kangas  
In memory of  
Pastor Tom Kangas  
Erwin Kann  
In memory of  
Eva Kann (Jarvinen)  
Martha Keravuori  
Cynthia & Susan Kielinen  
Richard Kotila  
In memory of Ruth M. Kotila  
Anne & Barth Olson  
Elaine & Charles Lada  
Linda Lindell  
In memory of Lauri &  
Ellen Lindell  
Arja & Paul Markkula  
Barbara & James Murphy  
Betty & Gunnar Niemi  
Hillevi A. Null  
In memory of Anneli Lautamo  
Anne & Barth Olson  
In memory of  
Christopher Kanervisto  
Henry Rasof  
In memory of Emil de Portimo &  
Miriam de Portimo  
Carl Rissanen  
Ethel Margaret Salonen-Ollin  
In memory of Helena Wienola &  
Eric Salonen  
Doris & Dale Snow  
Kathleen Stoneman  
In memory of  
Lillian Rintanen Allmon  
Valerie Lindroos Taff  
In memory of Paul Taff  
Leena Varjavand  
Jo Ann Viinikainen

## GIFTS TO \$99

John Aalto  
Kevin Craig Ames  
Anonymous  
In memory of Joan Daley  
Anonymous  
In memory of Marilyn &  
Donald Harju  
Joyce Arsnow  
Patricia & Robert Balhiser  
Marlene Broemer  
In memory of Suzanne Louis  
Joanna Cain  
In honor of Katariina Lehtonen  
Doreen Dvorak  
Beverly Ellis  
Rogan Faith  
In memory of Caspar Taipale  
Nancy & Jim Fisher  
Martha Spencer & Dale Hietanen  
Kathryn A. Hill  
Marlene Houle  
In honor of Jim Kurtti  
Robert Hughes  
Deane Jakola  
Beverly Johnson  
Carol & Paul Knuti  
David Y. Kokko  
Robert Koven  
In memory of Wes & Val Koven  
Kerttu & Michael Lavallee  
Gail Lehtomaki  
Jodie Michelle Lindeen  
In memory of  
Sharon Ruth Sibilsky  
Virpi & Jim Loomis  
Carla & Gordon Lyon  
Evelyn Makela  
In memory of George Makela  
Mary & Marvin Nevala  
Kati Parttimaa  
Ruth Peterson  
Amanda Reed  
Carol Ann Rettenmund  
In memory of Ernest &  
Evelyn Manteli  
Virginia Rogers  
Carol & Thomas Salmi  
Olli Silander  
Dorothy Somers  
In memory of Dorothy &  
William Altone  
Gary Summers  
In memory of Lila Maki  
Paul Thorn  
Linda & Allan Tuomaala  
Sirpa White  
Laila Williamson  
Captain Sidney E. Wood, Jr.

## Sharpe Donation

David Hyry Sharpe and Jeannette Mance Sharpe, members of the Detroit area Finnish Center Association, have made a significant contribution to Finlandia Foundation in memory of his mother, Ruth Viola Hyry. In the Centennial Family Tree stories at the FFN website, David shares some of his mother's story. Along her path, she showed sisu, from losing her father in a mining accident when she was a young girl in the Upper Peninsula town of Champion, to attending Suomi College, moving to Detroit for a variety of interesting work, and raising a family. (Read more at the Centennial Gift page at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).)

Per his request, this gift will be applied to the scholarship program, "to further the education of students who fulfill the requirements established by the scholarship committee."

Finlandia Foundation appreciates this tremendous gift.

**Kiitos!** We want to thank attorney Tom Lippo, with offices in Washington, D.C. and Helsinki, for donating several hours of legal advice to Finlandia Foundation National.





## *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

### **ARIZONA**

**The F-A Club of Tucson**  
**2007**  
Tommi Koskinen

**Finns and Friends of Phoenix**  
**2010**  
Joy Dorvinen

### **CALIFORNIA**

**Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley**  
**2006**  
Chad Riding

**FF Berkeley Chapter**  
**2016**  
Kaj Rekola

**FF Los Angeles Chapter**  
**1974**  
Sirvo Wiemero

**FF San Francisco Bay Area Chapter**  
**1956**  
Elina Fahlgren  
Hanna Peltonen

**F-A Home Association Sonoma**  
**2005**  
Markku Ratilainen  
Salla Vaerma-Jadlos

**The House of Finland-San Diego**  
**2015**  
Timo Luostarinen

### **COLORADO**

**FF Colorado Chapter**  
Denver  
**1993**  
Kirsi St. Marie

### **CONNECTICUT**

**F-A Heritage Society**  
Canterbury  
**2011**  
Steven Bousquet

### **DELAWARE**

**Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans Newark**  
**2017**  
Roy Palo

### **New Sweden Alliance**

Yorklyn  
**2017** Affiliated Member  
Sheila Romine

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**FF National Capital Chapter**  
**1959**  
George Elliott

### **FLORIDA**

**FF Florida Chapter** Lantana  
**1954**  
Kaarina Langeland

**FinnsConnect South Florida**  
Miami-Dade-Broward Counties  
**2017**  
Päivi Kaufman

### **GEORGIA**

**Atlanta Finland Society, Inc.**  
**1975**  
Verna Bush

### **IDAHO**

**FF Inland Northwest Chapter**  
**1970**  
Don Heikkila

### **ILLINOIS**

**F-A Society of the Midwest**  
Chicago area  
**1997**  
Dan Martin

### **MAINE**

**F-A Heritage Society of Maine**  
West Paris  
**2012**  
Karen Bennett

**Finnish Farmers Club** Monson  
**2012**  
Inez Goodine

**Finnish Heritage House**  
South Thomaston  
**2007**  
Jacqueline Harjula

### **MARYLAND**

**FF Baltimore Area Chapter**  
**1974**  
Yolanda Messia de Prado-Slack

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Cape Ann Finns**  
**2017**  
Rob Ranta

**FF Boston, Inc.**  
**1955**  
Sirkku Konttinen

**F-A Society of Cape Cod**  
**2012**  
Stephen Trimble

**The Finnish Center at Saima Park, Inc.** Fitchburg  
**2005**  
Linda Byrne

**The Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja** Rutland  
**2006**  
Barry Heiniluoma

### **MICHIGAN**

**FF of Michigan**  
Royal Oak/Detroit area  
**2012**  
Frank Gottberg

**F-A Society of West Central Michigan** Coopersville  
**2007**  
Marie Godell Fowler

**Finnish Center Association**  
Farmington Hills/Detroit area  
**2004**  
Mary O'Brien

**Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock - FF Copper Country Chapter**  
**2006**  
David Maki  
James Kurtti

**FF National, Lake Superior Chapter** Marquette  
**2006**  
Ron J. Hill

### **MINNESOTA**

**Northland Chapter of FF** Duluth  
**2010**  
Mary Lukkarila

**FF Twin Cities Chapter**  
**1994**  
Betsey Norgard

**Finnish-Americans and Friends-Hibbing Chapter**  
**1998**  
Edward Pajunen

**Kaleva Building Corporation**  
Virginia  
**2017**  
Art Maki

**Red River Finns** Moorhead  
**2011**  
Ellen Liddle

### **MONTANA**

**FF Montana** Missoula  
**2017**  
Jenni Rohrbach

**Finn Club of Helena**  
**2007**  
Marjorie Peura Reilly

**Red Lodge Knights and Ladies of Kaleva** Roberts  
**2011**  
Claudia Morley

### **NEW YORK**

**Finger Lakes Finns** Spencer  
**2006**  
Restina "Rusty" Wigg

**FF New York Metropolitan Chapter**  
**1954**  
Eero Kilpi

### **OHIO**

**F-A Heritage Association of Ashtabula County**  
**2003**  
Linda Sippola Riddell

**Finnish Heritage Museum**  
Fairport Harbor  
**2015**  
Lasse Hiltunen

### **OREGON**

**FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter**  
Portland  
**2001**  
Greg Jacob

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**FF Pittsburgh Chapter**  
**1990**  
Seija Cohen

**F-A Society of the Delaware Valley** Philadelphia  
**2006**  
Marja Kaisla

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Frederick Forward - FF Dakota**  
**2012**  
Heidi Marttila-Losure

**Sons and Daughters of Suomi**  
Deadwood  
**2015**  
Larry Rantapaa

### **TEXAS**

**Dallas/Fort Worth F-A Society**  
**1991**  
Jeremy Martin

**Finnish Language School of North Texas** Dallas  
**2018**  
Leila Jaamuru

### **UTAH**

**FF Utah Chapter** Provo  
**2016**  
Tiina Watts

### **VIRGINIA**

**FF Tidewater Virginia Chapter**  
**1979**  
Riikka Mohorn

### **WASHINGTON**

**FF Seattle Chapter**  
**1968**  
Mikko Männistö

**FF Suomi Chapter**  
Bellingham  
**2010**  
Tapio Holma

**F-A Folk Festival** Naselle  
**2011**  
Jennifer Ullakko Boggs

**Swedish-Finn Historical Society** Seattle  
**1991**  
Bill Carlson