



SPRING | 2022

Finlandia Foundation National

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA SINCE 1953

Scholarships, Grants
and All That Jazz



My two-year term as president of Finlandia Foundation National ended at the recent board meeting in Phoenix, and it has been quite a journey. I thank the board for its trust and confidence in me as the trustees, at the April meeting, re-elected me for another two years.



I have presided over the organization since the early days of COVID-19, and despite the pandemic, we have accomplished so much. We, as all businesses and organizations, had no choice but to reinvent the way we do things.

A lot has been done, with many working hours and sweat — but no tears. Instead, we experienced much joy in keeping FFN not only alive, but actually growing. You have read some of our success stories in our previous newsletters and monthly e-news, and there is more positive news in this issue.

However, there is still work to be done. We continue to build on my initial goals for the organization: VISIBILITY and CONNECTIVITY. The next steps include succession planning to ensure a strong future for Finlandia Foundation, on the national and local chapter levels. I want to build collaborations primarily with members, chapters and other Finnish and Nordic organizations. I want to listen and find what works, to energize and inspire our community into the future.

All of this is possible thanks to the strong support of our stakeholders. Fortunately, we have seen increased interest and involvement by a wide range of parties who understand and appreciate our work on behalf of Finnish America and Finnish culture in the U.S.

I must mention the atrocities in Ukraine. It is a heartbreaking situation that reminds us to think of the priorities in life. We have no way of knowing what the future holds, but we do know what has happened since early this year. As we reflect on the impact of these events on culture, ancestry, community, belonging, togetherness and inclusiveness, we realize, now more than ever, their importance.

Anne-Mari Paster

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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: kathusitalo@mac.com

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WELCOME, NEW TRUSTEES

As Finlandia Foundation Trustees Anita Smiley and Dennis Anderson end their terms on the board (see page 28), FFN welcomes two new members, Ellen Harju and Jarno J. Vanto.

Ellen Harju, Ph.D., is a full-time chemistry instructor at Pasadena City College. She earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Washington, followed by a master's, Ph.C. and Ph.D. in geochemistry from the University of California.

She is currently the treasurer of both the Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation (LAFF) and the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC). Ellen, originally from Washington state, is an enrolled member of the Cowitz Indian Tribe. She is one-quarter Finnish—a Finndian—her great-grandparents emigrated from Finland in the 1800s.

Ellen joined LAFF when she moved to LA for graduate school. She quickly stepped into leadership positions, serving as vice president and then two terms as president. In 2018, a career opportunity took her to Vancouver, Washington, where she joined FFCPC. She brings vast experience in



organization operations from her work for both FFN chapters, and she assisted FFN in its 60th anniversary gala in Pasadena in 2013.



Jarno J. Vanto is Partner, Data, Privacy and Security in the New York City office of King & Spalding, a Global 50 law firm. Jarno, a native of Finland, earned his Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws at the University of Turku, and LL.M. from NYU Law School. He has practiced his expertise in privacy and data security at law firms in Brussels and New York.

He is interested in Nordic-focused chambers of commerce and non-profits. For three years he was counsel for primarily Nordic venture-backed startups in the U.S. at his own New York firm, Vanto Law PLLC.

Jarno was president of Friends of Sibelius Academy and is an executive trustee on the American Scandinavian Foundation board.



A “Sharpe” Way to Live!

By Tim Nurvala
FFN Trustee

David Hyry Sharpe and Jeannette Mance Sharpe have dedicated their lives to serving others through education, hard work and creating beautiful gardens. David’s heritage is Finnish and Jeannette’s is Croatian. Their love story is based on shared values, common goals and a devoted partnership. Their work continues – and they would likely tell you there is still much more to be done.

David gets his inspiration from his Finnish mother, Ruth Viola Hyry. She was born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and attended Suomi College (now Finlandia University). She was the embodiment of *sisu*. Unable to find work in the business field, she took a job as a maid with a Jewish family in Detroit.

She did not enjoy the experience and placed an ad seeking further employment as a maid to “gentiles only.” She was immediately contacted by a Mrs. Levin, who was Jewish. Mrs. Levin invited her to come to their home to work, where she would have a different experience. With the Levins, she was treated as a member of the family, and through this experience raised David and his brother without any prejudices against others.

The trajectory of David’s life was changed by a chance meeting in college. He had potential, but there was never much discussion about going to college. However, in a high school physics class he raised his hand for an opportunity to work for tuition in the chemistry lab at Dearborn Community College, and off he went.

There, he noticed a beautiful girl named Jeannette, who was the only girl in his class. They had hardly become acquaintances when things took a turn. He unexpectedly showed up at her house to ask her to a dance. She walked into the room and immediately asked, “What are YOU doing here?” When he asked her to the dance, she indicated she already had a date. But that effort must have had some effect, somewhere along the line. They got together, and they’ve now been married for more than 63 years.

They both taught school in Detroit for 34 of those years. What David learned in that chemistry lab paid off. He became a middle school science teacher, while Jeannette taught business education in high school. Together, they also taught English as a Second Language, helping new immigrants from Azerbaijan, Bosnia, China and Colombia become Americans.

Jeannette was raised in the Salina neighborhood of south Dearborn, a multi-cultural community in

suburban Detroit with more than 30 ethnic groups that complemented her own Croatian upbringing. She also grew up with an appreciation of cultural differences.

The couple became active in the Finnish community when they were building their home in Farmington Hills and noticed that construction had also started on a new Finnish Center nearby. They decided to become Life Members. David eventually served on the board of directors as vice chairman.

Along the way, David developed his love of gardening. In 2002, he achieved Master Gardener status, which he used to benefit the Finnish Center. He started a garden club and became the Landscape Coordinator of the Finnish Center.

Since then, he has used his time and skills to turn the site into an environmental oasis, called Finlandia Gardens (finlandiagardens.org).

The six acres feature wetlands, a woodshop, greenhouse and numerous vegetable and flower gardens. To maintain the site, he works with many different community and corporate groups who assist from time to time.

David has even created sculptures throughout the gardens. With great pride and accomplishment, the site has now been designated as an Urban

Wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. It is a Monarch Way Station and a location for Michigan State University Master Gardeners to put in their annual hours.

The idea of living simply and giving back is a strong one for David and Jeannette. They have lived within their means their entire lives. Jeannette was a smart investor and kept an eye on their finances. When they were young professionals, their idea of a splurge was going out to a dinner of fish and chips on Friday night.

At one point, David had an extensive stamp collection that took up two full rooms in their house. He enjoyed the process of collecting and when he was ready to part with it all, it required two full vans to carry it away. He also had a 1966 Corvette convertible for many years, but eventually passed it on to another, as well.

“I decided that life is not a matter of getting more and more. Not one thing lasts forever, so it’s important to give back,” says David.

As a result, they have supported many different organizations including the Michigan Nature Association and other environmental groups, Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College, among others. Education is still their top priority and

they have supported scholarships that celebrate Jeannette’s heritage through the Croatian Fraternal Union, and David’s heritage through the Finlandia Foundation.

“When you give to others, you get something back yourself, as well.” It’s a saying that has stayed with both of them for all of these years.

Drawing on the years of teaching and observations of cultural changes, David and Jeannette have wonderful advice to share for the future.

For the Finlandia Foundation, they advise our organization to change along with the changes in society. David says, “Keep growing in every way you can. Keep making connections and drawing in young people. You might even consider creating an internship program of college students to help keep our chapters and organization thriving.”

What keeps David and Jeannette eternally young is their love and devotion for one another, and their optimism for the future. In partnership, they have dedicated their lives to education and to helping others. The number of lives they have touched – through education, scholarships, philanthropy and providing beautiful gardens – is immeasurable.

Most importantly, theirs is a love story that carries the lessons learned through their Finnish and Croatian heritage forward, to the benefit of us all.

Advice for Young Leaders From Jeannette and David Sharpe

1. You should look back on your heritage with great pride. Look at what the previous generation did with the limited resources they had. With your education, so many things are possible.
2. Don’t let your heritage disappear. Celebrate it. It’s worth preserving.
3. Connect with your parents and grandparents. Hear their stories and learn from their experiences. Be sure to pass those stories onwards into the future – they’re worth preserving.
4. Don’t forget your *sisu*! To us it means persistence, caring and helping others. These are things our parents taught us by example.

2022 GRANTS

ARTS

STUDIO MIKKO RASILA POP-UP GALLERY

Finnish photographer Mikko Rasila's work, mainly male nude studies, have been celebrated for their inclusiveness and artistry. For three months in late 2022, he will exhibit his images at a pop-up gallery in Los Angeles as a new way to spread art directly among people, and a way to break the spiritual threshold from the path of experiencing art. Queer visibility, artistic accessibility and long-term work for a more equal society are the cornerstones of his company's operations.

FINNISH BIRCH BARK WEAVING

Elaine Moe is on a mission to preserve traditional Finnish birch bark basketry and provide a cultural link between practitioners of this folk craft in Finland, and with Finnish America and Americans more broadly. Working with birch bark weavers in Finland, she'll gain insights into their experience, processes, practices and techniques. She teaches and shares this knowledge to promote continuity of birch bark weaving into the future of Finnish America.



FOLLOWING THE THREAD

Lelia Byron Madison will create a public mural in Rauma, Finland, that talks about the tradition of bobbin lace making in Rauma, and uses lace making as a metaphor for the interconnectedness of people. This mural will be based on interviews with lacemakers in Rauma. In addition to the mural, workshops will be given in collaboration with the Rauma Art Museum.



DANCE

"THE PEOPLE DANCED: A CELEBRATION OF FINNISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE"



This program is an evening of performances and of participation in historic Finnish dances that were brought to America and danced in the Finn Halls of Cape Ann, Massachusetts. It's a major piece of a wider effort by Cape Ann Finns, which is researching and archiving historic documents, and conducting interviews with those who remember the rich legacy of this culture of social dance. It is a part of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of immigrant dances that will be recognized for Gloucester's 400th anniversary celebration in 2023.

DANCE AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Over the past 20 years, international dance companies have begun to incorporate dancers with intellectual disabilities (ID) into their membership, choreography and performances. In her project "Delving into the Culture and Artistic Process of a Dancer with Intellectual Disability," Sydney Michelle Erlikh will conduct observations and interviews and facilitate new work by a dancer with ID. She will collaborate with Kaaos, an inclusive dance company in Helsinki, to explore how it incorporates the artistic expression of dancers with ID.



The FFN grant applicants in 2022 proposed a variety of creative projects and events showcasing many aspects of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, talent and topics, through books, film, online programs and music, to historical preservation and research. Several requested support for travel and for staging live shows and festivals that are returning after the pandemic.

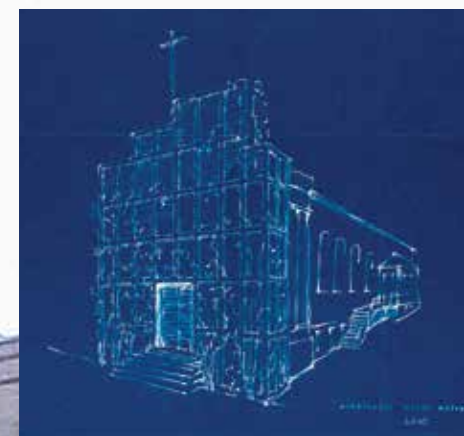
FFN received 41 grant applications in the amount of \$184,068. The proposals came from all over the U.S. and from Finland. After careful review the Grants Committee, chaired by Richard Ahola, with trustees Jacqueline Harjula, Katariina Lehtonen, Anita Smiley and Päivi Tetri, awarded \$124,800 to 34 applicants. Congratulations to all!

The next FFN grant application deadline is January 17, 2023. Find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

BOOKS

THE RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE OF ALVAR AALTO

This work by Sofia Singler is the world's first monograph on the religious architecture of Finland's most famous modern architect, Alvar Aalto (1898–1976). It introduces Aalto's realized and unrealized schemes for churches, chapels and cemeteries, including a Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finntown, Brooklyn, and contributes significantly to scholarship on Finnish modern architecture and its international adaptation and reception.



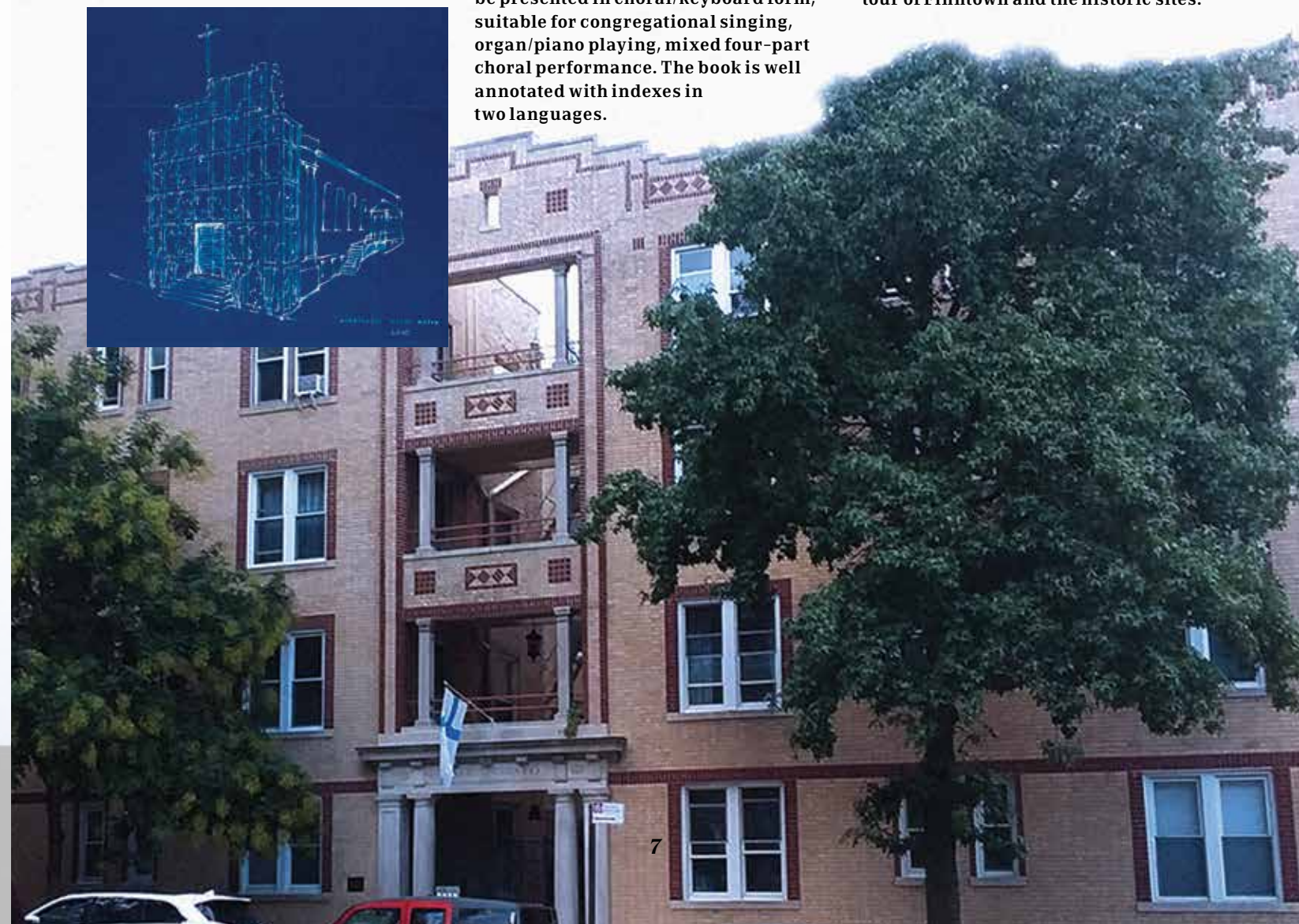
FINNISH AMERICAN HYMNBOOK

After many years of research and editing, the Finnish American Hymnbook Committee is ready to publish a hymnal for use in congregations and communities in the U.S., Canada and other English-speaking regions. The 80 hymns, chosen from among those best remembered Finnish immigrant childhood memories, will be presented in choral/keyboards form, suitable for congregational singing, organ/piano playing, mixed four-part choral performance. The book is well annotated with indexes in two languages.

HISTORY

FINNISH CO-OP BUILDINGS IN BROOKLYN

Robert Saasto continues the effort to recognize the former Finn co-op apartment buildings surrounding Sunset Park in Finntown of Brooklyn, New York. Grant monies will assist with installation of additional plaques commemorating the Finns who built the innovative co-ops in the early 1900s, and brought the concept of non-profit cooperative housing ownership to the U.S. The New York attorney recently gave Finnish President Sauli Niinistö a quick tour of Finntown and the historic sites.



"Thank you for all you do for Finnish Culture in the USA."

Marlene Broemer

R E C O R D I N G S

ITKUJA SUITE

Composer and bandleader Rent Romus will record a new joint project in June 2022 with composer, educator, and musician Heikki Koskinen and the Life's Blood Ensemble. *Itkuja Suite*, pronounced it-koo-yaw and meaning "invocations on lament," is an original ethno-music research project knitting together jazz, mythopoetic structures, and free improvisation. It explores the basic human connection between oral traditions and healing practices of the lament from Finland and other Finno-Ugric cultures.

ASK ME TO

Songwriter, singer and musician Ida Metsberg (below) will record and publish a five-song EP, *Ask Me To* (working title), a collaboration between musicians from Finland and the U.S. The purpose of this project is to get Finnish musicianship and artistry on display, and to market these songs to a larger audience all over the world, but especially in the U.S.



YLI RAJOJEN /ACROSS BORDERS

The Finnish Expatriate Choir, under the direction of Maria Männistö (Seattle) and Eva-Christina Pietarinen (Hamburg, Germany) will create *Yli rajojen/Across Borders*, a recording featuring traditional Finnish choral music as well as songs written by Finns abroad. Singers come together virtually from around the globe to rehearse, record and perform in an international choir celebrating Finnish culture across time zones, languages and history.

KAISA'S MACHINE

Kaisa Mäensivu (on the cover and below), upright bassist, composer and leader of the Finnish-American jazz quartet *Kaisa's Machine*, will record the band's second album of her original compositions. Funds will assist the New York-based Finnish musician with recording and release of the album.

R E S E A R C H & DEVELOPMENT

FINNISH FOLK & CHURCH MUSIC

The Finnish-American Rundman Family Quartet (Jonathan and Dawn Rundman, son Paavo, 18 and daughter Svea, 15) will travel to Finland in June to research, arrange and perform Finnish folk tunes and church music. Jonathan, an MDiv student at Luther Seminary working toward ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will share his seminary research project, *Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod*. The book is a resource for congregations in Finland and North America, shaped by Jonathan's familial and theological heritage.

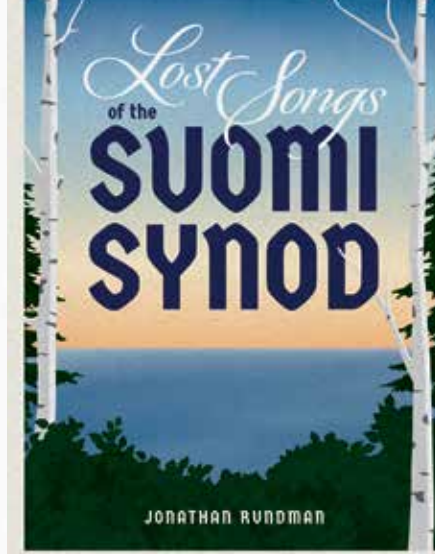
FINNISH-AMERICAN WEBINARS

This proposal requests funds to aid the expansion of the FinnFest USA webinar and internet-based programming. The funds will support the technical staff needed to create the platform; an internship program that provides experience in creating Finnish-related programming for a national audience; and the webinar license needed for the expansion.

P R E S E R V A T I O N & R E S T O R A T I O N

LOJA SAARINEN TEXTILE

Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research will reproduce a handwoven curtain designed by Loja Saarinen and produced by Studio Loja Saarinen in 1930 (above right). It was made for the second floor hallway seating alcove of Saarinen House, the Detroit area home of Loja and architect Eliel, on the Cranbrook campus. This translucent linen curtain—with its supplementary weft wool inlay patterns inspired by traditional Finnish Karelian folk textiles—is integral to the beauty and interpretation of the home, which is open to the public as a historic house museum.



SAVING THE LOG SCHOOLHOUSE

The Sebeka Area Historical Society is leading the restoration of a rare 1880s Finnish log schoolhouse so that it will meet requirements for the Minnesota Historical Society's Historic Register. The project involves community members through financial contributions, emotional support and labor. The organization will spread knowledge of the historic schoolhouse through Facebook and local, regional and national/international media.

THE LODGE AT FORT POND

The Kalevaiset Civic Association Lodge, overlooking a beautiful pond in Littleton, Massachusetts, was built in 1922. Some of the original Finnish-Americans who donated their time and talents through *talkoots*, work sessions, are having issues accessing the building to participate in community events, including a planned centennial celebration of the lodge this year. The Ladies & Knights of Kaleva will build a ramp and improve accessibility so those of all abilities can take part.

E V E N T S

55TH ASTORIA SCANDINAVIAN MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Funding will assist with the return of this June event, after two years of pandemic cancellations. Funds will help entertainers with travel costs to Astoria, Oregon, and assist the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association with festival expenses, equipment rental and the services of sound technicians and electricians.

FAHS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury, Connecticut, founded in 1987, will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Sunday, June 5, with many members and friends of the historical society. It will include a review of key milestones and historical events, a tribute to FAHS charter members and early supporters, speakers from the community, musical entertainment and a buffet meal with Finnish-related recipes.

NASELLE FOLK FESTIVAL

These funds will assist in bringing performers from Finland for the Finnish-American Folk Festival in July in Naselle, Washington. Past and new festival performers are interested in being a part of the biennial event. Talent from Finland adds authenticity, brings a larger audience and creates more interest for the festival.

FINNISH FILM SHOWCASE

This event hosted by the FFN Suomi Chapter in Bellingham, Washington, is a celebration of the breadth and depth of Finnish film. The showcase will include a variety of films and genres, old and new, by known and up-and-coming filmmakers, shorts, children's movies and a student film. It includes a reception for enthusiasts to discuss the films and a keynote presentation on Finnish film and what makes the Finnish perspective so unique in the movie world.

NORDIC WEEK 2022

This event in Los Angeles is for business owners, entrepreneurs, students, interns, creative industry and other individuals interested in learning about American business culture and networking, and features workshops, talks and expos hosted by Innovation Home. The Finland-based coworking space and support company will broadcast several events simultaneously from Los Angeles and Helsinki for remote attendees.

BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

Finnish writer Mia Kankimäki, author of *The Women I Think About at Night*, will participate in a panel with two other writers in Northern California's largest literary weekend. The May event in downtown Berkeley features 200 authors, 80-plus literary sessions and an outdoor fair, with 25,000 attendees (pre-COVID).



MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

ISMO'S NORTHERN STATES TOUR

Finnish comedian Ismo Leikola (below left) will hit the road for live appearances with fellow Finnish comedian and actor Miska Kajanus. Their 2022 stand-up comedy tour will visit Finnish-American communities in northern areas of the U.S.

EEPPI URSIN IN SAN DIEGO

The House of San Diego hosts FFN Performer of the Year Eeppi Ursin at an outdoor concert at the International Cottages in Balboa Park, where she will present contemporary Finnish music and Finnish children's music. The program features Finnish cultural music, dance and ethnic foods.

SUOMEN SALOSSA

Jazz saxophonist and singer Juli Wood returns with her quartet to Michigan's FinnCamp, where she entertained as FFN Performer of the Year. The September



appearance will feature *Suomen Salossa*, a jazz take on Finnish folk songs, as well as other tunes suitable for an audience of all ages.

FINNISH PROGRAMMING AT SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

American Scandinavian Foundation's Summer Jazz Series at Scandinavia House will include performances by Finnish musicians Joonas Haavisto, Eeppi Ursin, Olli Hirvonen and Kaisa Mäensivu. In addition, Finnish films will be screened at the New Nordic Cinema, the 5th Annual Sámi Film Festival in October and the Nordic and Baltic Oscar Contenders in November/December 2022.

THE SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022

The Scandinavian Music Festival is a series of three concerts presented on Sundays in June at Fort Tryon Park in northern Manhattan. The concerts

feature composers of Scandinavia, including numerous contemporary Finnish compositions, and are performed by musicians of the New York Scandia Symphony under the direction of Dorrit Matson.

TV & FILM

SAUNA STORIES



Finnish screenwriter/director Matleena Saarensalmi is developing a series that will explore American sauna culture by traveling the U.S., visiting interesting saunas and talking with their owners.

AMERIIKAN POIJAT BRASS SEPTET DOCUMENTARY

This grant will assist Ameriikan Pojat (Boys of America) in compiling concert recordings and video of this Minnesota-based, traditional Finnish brass band's more than 30 years of performances and activities.

FINNISH AMERICAN STUDIES

In a serial short form documentary, Dan LaGrone will chronicle his journey to Finland and relevant aspects of Finnish culture and society. He will produce videos and upload them once a week on YouTube, subtitled in Finnish and presented using a cartoon avatar.



The project will also involve input and artistic contributions from the Finnish livestreaming community.

REUNION

Miska Kajanus will apply this grant to post-production (editing and sound design) on his feature film (written with Katri Manninen). It is about a Finnish man, Pekka, who returns to California 20 years after his exchange student year and reunites with his American host brother Mark. *Reunion* is a Finnish-American story about two cultures, friendship, and growing into adulthood.



RAUMA IN MOTION 2022



A follow-up to their 2012 film *Rauma in Motion: A Dance-U-Mentary*, award-winning choreographers and filmmakers Colette Krogol and Matt Reeves of Orange Grove Dance return to Rauma, Finland to document the communal depth and richness of life there. Teaming up again with acclaimed composer Dylan Glatthorn, *Rauma*

in Motion 2022 will utilize human and environmental movement as a mechanism for understanding a city's identity.

SPORTS

CHEER FOR TEAM FINLAND!

Cheerleading is a growing sport in Finland, exemplified by the Spirit Shakin Cheerleader's team Blast. It not only qualified as the Team Finland All Girl Junior team for the April 2022 International Cheerleading Union Junior World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, the team took the Silver medal, behind the U.S.A. The FFN grant assisted with travel to the competition.

FASTEST MAN IN FINLAND

The FFN board elected to award a grant from the Jaakko Tuominen Memorial Sports Fund to Finnish athlete Samuli Samuelsson, a sprinter with 18 national titles. He is training to compete this summer in the Track & Field World Championships in Eugene, Oregon.



SCHOLARSHIPS

FFN Awards Scholarships for the 66th Year!

By **Pirjo Kujansuu Schulbach**
Scholarship Committee Chair and FFN member

In this 66th year of Finlandia Foundation National's scholarship program, FFN is proud to introduce the award recipients for 2022. Four are American citizens, five are Finnish citizens and 10 are dual U.S./Finnish citizens. Seven of the 19 are members of FFN. Congratulations to the 2022 FFN scholarship recipients!

In early April, the FFN Scholarship Committee and the FFN Board of Trustees voted to award a total of \$46,000 in scholarships to 19 recipients. They will receive individual scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for the school year beginning in fall 2022. As a scholarship bonus, *The Finnish American Reporter*, the largest independent newspaper about Finnish America, will send a complimentary one-year subscription to each recipient.

As you will read in the following introductions, the scholarship recipients are talented individuals majoring in a wide variety of fields including agricultural sciences, economics, education, engineering, environmental science, Finnish language, international business, math, music, medicine, physics, psychology, religion, sports management and veterinary medicine.

The next deadline to apply for scholarships is February 1, 2023.

New for 2022: Applications for P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Scholarships will open a second time this year. The new Lindfors application deadlines are October 1, 2022 and February 1, 2023.

Find more information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Are you a past FFN scholarship winner? We would like to connect with you! Please email us at office@finlandiafoundation.org. Current and past scholarship recipients are encouraged to participate in FFN chapter activities in their areas, and keep in contact with FFN.

To support FFN's scholarship program for future generations, see FinlandiaFoundation.org.

The FFN Scholarship Committee thanks each of the 44 scholarship applicants for 2022. The committee is chaired by Pirjo Kujansuu Schulbach with members Ellen Harju, Mikko McFeely, Turto Turtiainen and FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner.

18. Oona Vanhatalo

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Roosa Armstead-Lehti was born in Kailua, Hawaii. Her mother's

side is from Helsinki, and she finds great value in understanding her heritage. Roosa spent her junior year of high school abroad in Finland. During that time, she was studying at Mäkelänrinne Lukio, which allowed her to fully engage in the Finnish culture. Currently, she is majoring in psychology and planning on a minor in sports management at Wells College.



2. Suvi Birch is a sophomore at the University of Arizona studying environmental science. She developed her love of nature through exploring and spending time with her maternal family in Finland. Suvi is a part-time employee of the UA Herbarium, a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Ambassador, and an Arizona's Science, Engineering & Math Scholar. This summer, she will be working as a fellow in the Climate Adaptation Scientists of Tomorrow Program on how to control invasive species. Suvi wants to address the issues of climate change and environmental justice, and use Finland as a guide to promote sustainability in the U.S.



3. Anna Braganza was born and raised in Finland, and emigrated to the U.S. in 1997. She settled in Maryland, where she lives with her husband and five children. To add to her previous theological studies, Anna is completing her Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Biblical Counseling degree at Luther Rice College & Seminary. Anna discovered her desire to assist people in crisis during her volunteer work as an end-of-life doula at Gilchrist Hospice. Among many activities within the Finnish-American community in the Greater Baltimore Area, Anna served the Finlandia Foundation Baltimore Chapter as president and board member.

4. Connor Dailey is a Finnish/U.S. dual citizen. The maternal side of his family lives in Finland, which he loves to visit as often as he can. He is a student at Stephen F. Austin University where he is studying finance, and is a part of the Division 1 football team. He was named to the Dean's List at his university this past fall. Connor also speaks Swedish, and enjoys cooking Finnish cuisine and learning more about the Finnish culture in his spare time.



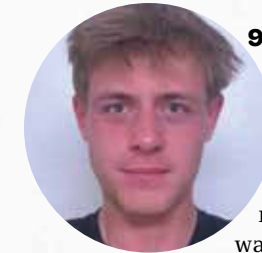
5. Margaret Fairborn is a student at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. As the end of her freshman year approaches, Meg is looking forward to spending the summer as a NASA research intern. She is pursuing a dual major in physics and mathematics. Her paternal grandmother is from Tampere, and Meg looks forward to returning there soon to visit her extended family again. She is a dual citizen and hopes to do graduate work in Finland one day.

6. Mia Filardi is a rising senior at the University of Washington studying Finnish Language and Culture and International Studies with a minor in Scandinavian Area Studies. She is a member of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program and works as executive assistant at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. Mia aspires to a career in the foreign service, so that she may continue to learn about other cultures and advocate for the needs of others.



7. Linda Hamrick was raised in the United States, but is well connected to her Finnish family who she visits frequently in Finland. She is a graduate student in the Department of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, where her master's thesis focuses on clinical applications of social robotics. After she graduates, she hopes to pursue a Ph.D., and continue her research.

8. Venla Harkonen was born in Espoo, Finland, and moved to Atlanta when she was young. Currently, she is majoring in business administration at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In the summer, she will be studying abroad while interning for a non-profit company in Budapest. She hopes to use this opportunity to represent Finland by giving back on the international level. In the future, she plans to work as a strategy consultant around the world.



9. Eemil Herranen was born in Helsinki, Finland and lived in Kauniainen until his parents' dream of living in the U.S. became a reality, when his mother had the opportunity to work in the best city in America, San Diego. Eemil attended middle and high school in San Diego, and was awarded an offer to become the first ever Finnish-born Division 1 punter/kicker. Currently the starting punter at Northern Arizona University, he is studying business economics with the goal of a career in business within sports.

10. Lauri Kytömaa is a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the University of Texas at Austin, and studies consumer debt markets using advanced statistical methods. His dissertation focuses on improving foreclosure prevention policy in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. After earning his doctorate in 2023, Lauri plans to continue investigating debt markets and become more involved in antitrust policy. Though originally from Boston, Lauri learned to speak Finnish before he could speak English. His biggest successes in Texas include finding an ice hockey league and a sauna that gets hot enough.



11. Mikaela Langbacka is a sophomore who plays NCAA Division 1 women's ice hockey at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. She is a dual citizen of Finland and the U.S. Her goals include finishing her degree in Business Administration and Information Systems, and one day playing hockey in Finland. She plans to live in Finland to connect to her roots there.



12. Elias Mäntyä is a 21-year-old student from Finland who is studying music at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He has been living in New York since 2017, and started studies at Berklee in 2019. Elias is dual majoring in film scoring and guitar performance. His goals are to be able to make music for well-known movies, while also maintaining his love for classical guitar on the side.



13. Leo Matthews is currently a sophomore civil engineering student at Oregon State University. He was born and raised in Astoria, Oregon, and plans on finishing his schooling in 2025-26 with a master's in civil engineering. He would like to do an internship in Finland in the next two years. His Finnish background has had a significant influence in his life. *Aune E. Koski Scholarship recipient*



She also works at the Honey Bee Lab. She is appreciative of the support of the Finlandia Foundation!

18. Oona Vanhatalo became fascinated with animals as a young girl in Finland. Her family moved to San Diego when she was 15 years old. Oona received her BS in Animal Science from UC Davis, and is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine candidate at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Oona is a very proud Finn, and through her volunteering, research projects and future career, she hopes to inspire future Finnish females in the STEM field.

19. Catherine Wheeler is an undergraduate student at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire, working toward a degree in Sports and Recreation Management, minoring in coaching. Cate is currently playing with the NEC Women's soccer team, and her career goal is to create a youth recreation soccer club or academy, internationally, to build more opportunities for girls in women's soccer. She plans on getting a master's degree overseas. Cate is a devout book reader and Harry Potter fan, whose favorite quote is, "We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on...that's who we really are." -Sirius Black (J.K. Rowling)



History of the FFN Scholarship Program

In 1956, Finlandia Foundation established its first program, a scholarship fund dedicated to music students in the United States and Finland. It was named for the organization's first Patron, Jean Sibelius. FFN awarded the inaugural Sibelius Scholarship to Einojuhani Rautavaara, a student at the Sibelius Academy who applied his funds toward study at The Juilliard Academy in New York City. Rautavaara (1928-2016) would go on to become one of Finland's most important composers. Until 1991, only music students were eligible for FFN scholarships.

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



14. Saara Olli is actively pursuing an Associate in Music degree at Edmonds College in Washington state. She started her music studies years ago in Finland, with kantele and piano. After moving to the U.S. with her family, she also picked up the cello. Besides music, Saara loves teaching and plans to further her studies in music education. Outdoors is a great interest of Saara's, and during her free time she can be found snowboarding or hiking the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

15. Marjukka Pitkänen started her studies in the elementary school teacher program in 2019 and is eager to learn about education in different countries. The Tampere University student is interested in working in the field of development cooperation, and has been accepted to study abroad in the U.S. for the fall semester of 2022. Marjukka is actively involved in music, playing viola in different assemblies. She has also been involved in organizing music events at her local church.



16. Joonas Pyörny was born and raised in Finland. He is currently expanding his knowledge by completing a dual degree in medicine and business at the University of Tampere. Also, he is conducting medical research, which will lead to a Ph.D. thesis. In fall 2022, during his student exchange in Colorado, he will extend his knowledge in statistics and health sciences. His professional goal is to improve the well-being of others.

17. Adeline Rang is a sophomore at Oregon State University pursuing an Honors BS in Agricultural Science and Honors BA in International Studies, with a minor in Comparative International Agriculture. She is active on campus serving in the ASOSU Legislature, Scholarship Chair of Sigma Alpha, Vice President of Public Relations for the Collective Greek Council and Vice President of Collegiate Farm Bureau.



16. Joonas Pyörny



YLB Partners with Finnish Embassy for Virtual Event on Sustainability

By Lauren Tuiskula, YLB

In February of this year, Finlandia Foundation National's Young Leaders Board (YLB) partnered with the Embassy of Finland for the first meeting of the Young Finnish Americans Club, hosting a virtual event titled "Visions on Sustainability." It featured representatives from Finnish companies Neste, UPM, and Wärtsilä, and marked the beginning of what the YLB hopes will be a long and fruitful partnership with the Embassy.



The Young Finnish Americans Club idea was born out of initial conversations in August 2021, when the YLB gathered in person for the first time and had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Mikko Hautala at the Finnish Embassy in D.C. The YLB and the Embassy's shared goals of reaching a younger audience while highlighting career opportunities in Finland and with Finnish companies led to the formation of the event series.

More than 130 virtual attendees joined the initial February 10th meeting and were treated to a welcome from Ambassador Hautala.

Participating in the program were Theodore Rolfvondenbaumen (Head of Communications, Neste) Kaisa Vainikka (Senior Manager, Social Responsibility, UPM) and Vesa Koivumaa (Head of

Growth, Americas for Voyage, Wärtsilä). The Q&A proved lively, with ongoing discussion both in the chat and via direct audience engagement.

"It's clear that young Finns in the U.S. really want to connect with each other and with Finland and Finnish companies," says Susanna Shillman of the attendance and engagement. The Embassy's public diplomacy intern was instrumental in planning the event. "There definitely is a need for an actor like YLB. We got many messages afterwards from young Finns who wanted to get more involved. YLB really has a possibility to build a community for young Finns and reconnect young people with their roots."

The session also provided an opportunity for the YLB to introduce themselves and their initiatives to the broader Finnish-American community. More than 35 attendees joined the YLB's Young Finnish Americans LinkedIn group following the event, a group the YLB will utilize to further engage young Finns in FFN's activities.

YLB member Tommy Flanagan, who took the lead in planning the initial event, was pleased with its outcomes. "We reached more people than we thought we would have," he says. "It's so nice to know that Ambassador Hautala and the Embassy are focused on engaging with the young Finnish-American community. We look forward to more to come!"

The YLB and the Embassy intend to collaborate on at least two virtual events and one in-person event each year, continuing to raise the profile of Finland in America while connecting and engaging young Finnish Americans.

"Visions on Sustainability" is available to view at [YouTube.com/finlandiafoundationnational](https://www.youtube.com/finlandiafoundationnational)

YLB LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/groups/13959445/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13959445/)

INAUGURAL NATIONAL SAUNA WEEK WAS HOT!

Sauna is the best-known Finnish word in the U.S., although most people don't know how to properly pronounce it, and many have not had an authentic sauna experience. Finlandia Foundation launched National Sauna Week, February 20-26, to celebrate this important Finnish tradition and aspect of life in Finnish America, and to share information with increasing numbers in the wider population who are discovering the benefits and enjoyment of sauna.

"Sauna Week was a tremendous success," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster. "In keeping with our mission to support Finnish culture in the U.S., we created this annual observance to build awareness and appreciation of sauna. The response has been nothing but positive. Our speakers

and panelists were happy to share their expertise in presentations via Zoom, and our audiences joined in from several countries."

Finlandia Foundation was also able to secure a rare screening of the acclaimed Finnish documentary Steam of Life, which proved to be very popular. All of the FFN sauna week events were offered online to the public at no charge.

The informative and entertaining programs are available at the FFN YouTube channel:

- The Sauna in America: the history of sauna with Finnish log construction expert Frank W. Eld
- Sauna Wars: a panel discussion about traditional Finnish sauna

vs. contemporary bathing methods using heat

• The Opposite of Cold - The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition: book talk with author Michael Nordskog and photographer Aaron Hautala

• Sauna and Wellness: the health benefits of sauna with Dr. Hans Hägglund, medical doctor and adjunct professor at Uppsala University

• Ismo and Miska Go Sauna: the Finnish comedians compare saunas typical of American gyms, with the authentic bath

Short videos feature more than two dozen people, including New York Consul General Mika Koskinen and LA Consul General Okko-Pekka Salmimies, Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen, authors Karl Marlantes and Naomi Moriyama, and musicians Ruusamari Teppo, Kent Washburn and Steve'n'Seagulls. They share anecdotes about sauna, and pronounce "sauna" and related terms.

An Instagram contest, "Just Add Sauna," with sauna supplies from FinnStyle, promoted the virtual programs

and attracted new followers to FFN social media.

Additionally, FFN offered a mini-grant to chapters hosting Sauna Week events, and several participated. Boston, Cape Ann Finns and Saima Park in Massachusetts; Finnish-American Society of the Midwest in the Chicago area; New York Finger Lakes Finns; and Red River Finns in Minnesota hosted in-person events with mobile saunas, traditional foods and displays.

Mark your calendars for the next National Sauna Week, February 19-25, 2023.

In the meantime, check out the FFN website for sauna-related information and links to sauna week programs; go to FinlandiaFoundation.org/national-sauna-week/.



The Red River Finns of Moorhead, Minnesota hosted a Sauna Festival at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, North Dakota. There was a free display of sauna memorabilia (above left) and coffee and cookies inside the museum, plus a mobile sauna outdoors.

Finlandia Foundation Boston and Cape Ann Finns both hosted events with the roaming Abundance Sauna on wheels (left).

WELCOME, ASTORIA!

Finlandia Foundation is excited to welcome its 59th chapter to membership in the premier network of Finnish-American organizations and source of support for Finnish culture in the U.S.

Officers are President Karen Van Cleave, Vice President Peggy Nikkila, Secretary Mike Duncan, Financial Secretary Katie Ryding and Treasurer Faith Swanson.

MANY NAMES, ONE GOAL

By Karen Van Cleave
Astoria Chapter President

When Finnish immigrants in large numbers started arriving in Astoria, Oregon in the early 1880s, the realization came that they needed an organization---an organization to support the arriving immigrants and help them adjust to a new land.

In December of 1886, with 50 founding fathers, the United Finnish Kaleva Brothers was established as a social and fraternal organization. For many years the organization met at different locations around the city, until 1934 when the members were able to purchase Suomi Hall from the Finnish Temperance Society. Our Suomi Hall was built in 1893 on the hill a few blocks above our current location. In 1910 the building was moved down to the river, turned

Suomi Hall dates to 1893

Chapter NEWS



Members of the Astoria Chapter include (from left) Lella Koskela Collier, Karen Van Cleave, Judith Lampi and Mike Duncan

around, and raised up one floor, with an addition constructed on the east side.

Time has taken its toll on our building. In 2019 we became a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Friends of Suomi Hall. Our first goal is a new foundation, and then we hope to restore Suomi Hall's more historical characteristics.

We are a very active group with monthly meetings, lots of traditional meals and activities such as

our Laksloda Luncheon, Lutefisk Dinner, Christmas tart sale and our involvement with our annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.

Over the years we have been known by many names: The United Finnish Kaleva Brothers, The United Finnish Kaleva Brothers and Sisters (women were invited in 1914), Astoria Finnish Brotherhood Lodge, Friends of Suomi Hall, and now, Astoria Chapter of Finlandia Foundation National.



JOINT CHAPTER MEETING

FFN-affiliated organizations will network at the Joint Chapter Meeting (JCM), October 21-23, 2022 in New York City. The JCM was last held in Washington, D.C. in November of 2016.

"This is an opportunity to meet face-to-face, share information and ideas, and build a stronger Finlandia Foundation," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster. "We look forward to a healthy turnout for this important session. It is an investment in our future on the local and national levels."

JCM opens Friday with a reception hosted by the New York Metropolitan Chapter. Saturday's all-day meeting at Scandinavia House will feature a panel by the FFN Young Leaders Board about involving younger people with their Finnish heritage.

There will be an optional tour on Sunday of historic Finntown in Brooklyn and the TWA Hotel in the terminal at JFK airport designed by Eero Saarinen in 1962.

Chapter leaders have received information about the program and FFN subsidies to assist with the cost of attending.



The tupa on the grounds of the Fenyes-Paloheimo home in Pasadena is now the Finnish Folk Art Museum

CALIFORNIA

LAFF

Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation has been looking forward to the return of three special springtime activities: its May 1st Vappu potluck picnic; Museums of the Arroyo Day (MOTA) on May 22; and the Scandinavian Festival in Thousand Oaks, June 4-5.

The first two events are held at the Pasadena Museum of History, which includes the home of Yrjö "George" and Leonora Fenyes Paloheimo. This is where Finlandia Foundation was founded in 1953.

Yrjö added a rustic tupa, or farmhouse, with sauna, to the grounds of the estate. He and Leonora filled it with antique furnishings and household items from Finland, and it is now the Finnish Folk Art Museum, cared for by LAFF. The mansion and Folk Art

Museum are open for public tours, including for MOTA.

Northern Chapters

Chad Riding, president of Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley says, "We're so fortunate to have many opportunities to celebrate Finland here in Sacramento and Northern California. I was able to help out at the Finnish language weekend in March at Finnish American Home Association, and it was great to get that enthusiasm from people learning Finnish."

The 2022 calendar to date has included attendance with Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area members at the NHL San Jose Sharks Finnish Heritage Night on April 2; the women's getaway weekend in April at FAHA; and the May Vappu picnic.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

By Turto Turttiainen
FFNCC President

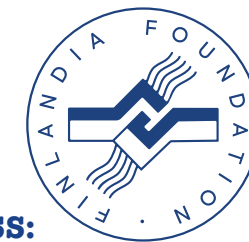
The highlight of the Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter in December was the pre-Christmas party that we arranged together with the Finnish language school for children – Suomi koulu – and Finn Spark. We were hoping that the coronavirus and omicron would not scare people from attending the party, and our hopes and intensive advertisement were rewarded.

About 70 children and adults turned up at Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington to celebrate the Finnish pre-Christmas tradition. The program included a piano recital

by Kent Washburn (FFN Performer of the Year) and a visit from Santa, as well as favorite Christmas foods such as porridge and warm glögg. Santa told me afterwards that there are few sights more rewarding than seeing the bright eyes and cautious curiosity that the small children showed when they saw the much-awaited Santa.

Stymied again by COVID variants early this year, FFNCC has shared and promoted online presentations by Cape Ann Finns and FFN in lieu of in-person events. But, on March 17, the Kalevala celebration took place at the Embassy, with dinner catered by Chef Mikko, a silent auction and pianist Ruusamari Teppo performing.

All ages enjoyed the FFNCC Christmas party



**PLEASE NOTE
OUR NEW
MAILING ADDRESS:**

**Finlandia Foundation National
254 N. Lake Ave. #852
Pasadena, CA 91101**



CONNECTICUT

by Anita Smiley
FAHS

The Finnish American Heritage Society got its start in 1987 as a fledgling organization owing town taxes accumulated by the Sampo Club, the previous owners of the Finnish Hall in Canterbury. FAHS will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Sunday, June 5.

As owners of a Finnish Hall that has undergone much renovation and growth,

with a current membership of over 300 members, FAHS points with pride to its many achievements over the years. Monthly membership meetings have resumed after a hiatus due to COVID-19, and a full schedule of activities is planned for 2022.

Over the years, FAHS has been the recipient of an abundance of donated treasures. In the 1990s, an addition to the historic hall included a museum and archive, along with

a display area, library, office and accessible entrance and bathroom. The items representing literature and traditional arts and crafts of the Finnish culture are being documented and will be made accessible to the public on a weekly basis, and will also be shared through the Connecticut Collections online database.

This is made possible through two grants received recently, one from The Connecticut

Humanities, a statewide non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the other from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. We are extremely grateful for this grant funding.

New members are always welcomed, as are visitors to our historic hall, built in 1924-25 and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ILLINOIS

The busy Chicago area Finnish American Society of the Midwest is offering a variety of activities, online and in person.

FASM participated in February's inaugural National Sauna Week with a day-long event at Estonia House, which has its own sauna, plus outdoor

activities and indoor crafts and delicious food.

The chapter hosted a Zoom session, "Tonttu, Haltia and Other (mostly) Helpful Household Creatures" presented by Hilary-Joy Virtanen, Ph.D., and a virtual concert by FFN Performer of the Year Eepi Ursin.

Members gathered in-person for a St. Urho pea soup lunch in March (right) and Vappu celebration in May, which featured the

inimitable Steve Solkela & His Overpopulated One Man Band.

FASM is also good about sharing information on its events calendar about programs related to Finland, such as Chicago Symphony concerts featuring Finnish performers and conductors.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Cape Ann Finns participated in National Sauna Week, and work continues on its heritage-preserving archive. With a grant from the Rockport Cultural Council and help of Raivaaja trustees, CAF is having local news articles from 1905 translated from Finnish into English. Its online archive, "Many Finns, Many Stories," will go live in May.

As part of the 2022 Lanesville May Day Festival, CAF co-hosted a Finnish dance and the program, "Cultural

Landscapes" by Valparaiso University Professor Jon Kilpinen.

CAF is working toward hosting the 2023 FinnFunn New England Weekend and projects related to the Gloucester 400 anniversary in 2023. One of these includes collecting stories about local Finnish-Americans, such as the short memoir by author Sharon Love Cook about her mother, Mary Love (below left).

OREGON

By Heli Hatanpaa-Wetzel
FFCPC President

At its March meeting at Nordia House in Portland, Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter honored outgoing president Greg Jacob (above right) with the title of President Emeritus for his service of eight years as a board member and chapter president.

Greg has been a respected leader and has built bridges between our



former board and chapter members have achieved with a lot of hard work and sisu.

The chapter is excited to be again hosting events, including the Easter Family Egg hunt, Vappu (May Day) Celebration with makkara, perunasalaatti, sima, tippaleipa and munkki, followed by the Juhannus/Midsummer Celebration in June.

Nordic clubs and Finnish affiliates in the Northwest. He will remain active in our chapter even though he stepped down from the board. Thank you again for all your hard work with FFCPC!

We also heard a few words from our other area Finnish and Scandinavian organizations. Our guest speaker, the Honorary Consul Veikko Valli, spoke about his new position and goals, and finished his speech with some touching words of the war in Ukraine and how Finns and the Finnish government are following it closely.

My goal as the chapter president is to follow the mission of FFCPC and Finlandia Foundation National to support, preserve, and cultivate Finnish and Finnish-American culture by connecting with affiliate organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

We will organize events and promote Finnish traditions and holidays, while holding the area's ancestral heritage and honoring the great work that the current and



WASHINGTON

Naselle will again host its biennial Finnish-American Folk Festival, July 29-31, 2022. The festivities include local craftspeople, performers from Finland and the U.S., traditional cuisine and a chance to learn about the Finnish-American heritage of the greater Naselle area.

All ages can participate in dances, musical ensembles, competitive games and athletic events, and specialized learning activities. FFN Performer of the Year Eepi Ursin will entertain.



FinnFest USA 2023
JULY 26 - 30 in Duluth, Minnesota
finnfest.us

EINO GRÖN



President of the Republic of Finland Sauli Niinistö bestowed the title of *Kulttuurineuvos*, a Finnish honorary title, to singer and sportsman Eino Grön. The City of Pori organized a luncheon in

his honor to celebrate the event. FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner attended on behalf of Finlandia Foundation, which supported his nomination.

Eino was born in Pori, and was a champion wrestler in his youth. He

later worked within youth sports for some years before singing became his main profession. He made his first recording in 1958 and is known for his popular, tango and jazz musical styles. In 2001 Eino was recognized with the Order of the Lion of Finland. He lives in Palm Beach.

FROM LEFT:
Kristian Vainio of Pori Jazz, Pori Mayor Aino-Maija Luukkonen, City Board Chair Arja Laulajainen, Eino Grön, Hanna Wagner, City Council Chair Mari Kaunistola, Tapio Furuholm, city board member, and Petri Huru, member of Parliament

EXPAT UPDATE

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament's Speakers Council had its face-to-face meeting in Helsinki, with the Finland Society, April 7-8. Further development of Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP) function was discussed, and four key themes for the next three years were selected:

1. Better governmental services for Expat Finns

- Digital identification
- Improvement of governmental services to expat Finns
- Consular services to Finland's Hague Embassy
- Improvement of Finnish bank services for Expat Finns
- Development and implementation of D-visa categories in Finland

2. Improvement of Finnish identity and Finnish language abroad

- Further development of Finnish schools abroad: better resources and operational development
- Development of other Finnish school opportunities (middle/high school) abroad

- Development of virtual school and virtual education for Finns abroad
- Improvements of YLE broadcasting abroad

3. Development of Expat Finns' participation in the Finnish elections

- Improvements of in-person and postal voting process abroad

4. Developing services for Finns moving back to Finland

These themes will be the focus of the FEP and Finnish Society activities until the next plenary FEP Session in 2025.

For the FEP U.S. and Latin America Region, Teuvo Pulkkinen, FEP Deputy Speaker and FFN Trustee Hanna Wagner, FEP Speaker and FFN Trustee



SEEKING LECTURER OF THE YEAR 2023



Finlandia Foundation is searching for its 2023 Lecturer of the Year. Due to COVID restrictions on travel and gatherings, the usual 12-month term had been extended for the "Meet the Finn Cooks" program by Soile Anderson (left) and Eleanor Ostman. They are available for appearances through 2022.

It's now time to plan a new LOY tour for January through December of 2023. Applications are due by October 1, 2022, and information on the touring program can be found at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Suggestions for potential LOY and topics of interest related to Finnish America and Finland are welcomed!

Please forward ideas and information to FFN at office@finlandiafoundation.org.

As pandemic restrictions are lifted and people are again gathering for socializing and entertainment, there is a pent-up demand for appearances by FFN Performer of the Year Eepi Ursin. The Finnish singer, songwriter and musician, now based in New York City, has booked a full schedule of in-person concerts at chapters across the U.S., from January through December 2022.

E E P P I ' S E P I C T O U R

In addition, Eepi has performed live, virtual shows for two chapters.

Find more about Eepi and her new album, *Speechless*, at her website: eepiursin.com.

IN SEARCH OF POY 2023

FFN is accepting applications through September 1, 2022 for Performer of the Year for January through December of 2023. Learn more at FinlandiaFoundation.org.



PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

E E P P I U R S I N

US TOUR

03/02 New York, NY	06/19 Fitchburg, MA
03/26 Boston, MA (virtual)	06/26 Anchorage, AK
04/02 Phoenix, AZ	07/29 Naselle, WA
04/03 Chicago, IL (virtual)	07/30 Naselle, WA
04/30 San Diego, CA	10/02 Boston, MA
05/22 Newfield, NY	11/05 Portland, OR

More Dates Coming Soon

WWW.EEPIURSIN.COM



Finnposium

"Finlandia Foundation's online programming during the last two years has been amazing. Such a wonderful, stimulating combination of arts, education, entertainment, and just plain fun. Thank you to the FF team and all the participants for your outstanding efforts!"

Anni Efthimiou



Finlandia Foundation's free, virtual symposium offers a variety of programming produced by FFN, collaborative content created with other organizations and select, relevant presentations related to Finnish America and Finnish culture in the U.S.

Recent additions to the Finnposium YouTube channel include a full roster of National Sauna Week programs (see page 16-17) and "Visions on Sustainability," with the Embassy of Finland in the U.S., representatives of Finnish companies and the FFN Young Leaders Board (see page 15).

In *My American Dream*, Michel Wendell chats with climate tech investor Kirsti Chou and imaware CEO Jani Tuomi (right). "For Ukraine: Songs of Comfort & Hope" is a beautiful and moving concert by pianist Ruusamari Teppo, soprano Maria Männistö, violinist Jiwon Kim and the Finnish Choral Society of Seattle.

More fresh content includes YLB's Mirva Johnson *In Conversation with Naomi*



Moriyama (left), the co-author, with her husband William Doyle, of *Sisterhood of the Enchanted Forest: Sustenance, Wisdom, and Awakening in Finland's Karelia*.

"Finn Cooks" Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman have cooked up a new food demo, and Koskenkorva vodka will host an online mixology class.

Please subscribe to the FFN YouTube channel at: youtube.com/c/finlandiafoundationnational



COMING ATTRACTION: FINNDING AMERICA

FFN is a sponsor of an exciting new video series by Santi Fox, a Finnish-American photographer, graphic designer and filmmaker. Last year he set out across the U.S. to meet and document the stories of entrepreneurs with "the Finnish edge."

FFN will be sharing his series at the YouTube channel. Stay tuned!



FFN ANNUAL BOARD MEETING



In attendance in Arizona (seated, from left) are Eeva Syvanen, Jacqueline Harjula, Betsey Norgard, Anita Häkkinen Smiley, Päivi Tetri. Standing, from left, Richard Ahola, Dirk Schulbach, Tarja Silverman, Peter Makila, Teuvo Pulkkinen, Tim Nurvala, Anne-Mari Paster, Hanna Wagner, Michel Wendell, Katariina Lehtonen, Lauren Tuiskula, Hilary Virtanen.

With nearly 100 percent participation, it had the semblance of a pre-pandemic meeting of the trustees of Finlandia Foundation. When travel was curbed, the board turned to Zoom to conduct its business, gradually moving to hybrid in-person/online meetings. But on April 2nd, all but two members of the 18-person, all-volunteer board of directors met on the campus of Arizona State University in Phoenix for a productive, day-long session. Also participating was Lauren Tuiskula, representing the FFN Young Leaders Board.

Pre-COVID-19, trustees would arrive a day, or even two days early, to do the committee work needed for the general session. With the explosion of virtual meetings, that groundwork is now accomplished in advance, via Zoom, gaining efficiency and saving travel time and money.

Many of the agenda items are covered throughout these pages, including the awarding of scholarships and grants, updates on current programs and proposals for new

activities. News of other initiatives under consideration will be shared as plans develop.

Also at the meeting, two long-time trustees, Anita Häkkinen Smiley and Dennis Anderson, stepped down from their positions. Current members Jacqueline Harjula, Anne-Mari Paster and Peter Makila were reelected, and Ellen Harju and Jarno Vanto were newly elected to the board. Members chose Anne-Mari Paster to serve a second term as FFN president.

FINNS & FRIENDS & FUN IN PHOENIX

Finlandia Foundation trustees were happy to retreat from their business meeting in the gracious University Club on the campus of Arizona State University, to a social evening with nearly 70 members of local Finnish-American and Nordic organizations.

Greeting the guests were Finns & Friends of Phoenix Secretary Kati Huhtala, Honorary Consul Emeritus of Finland Gary Waissi, Honorary Consul of Finland for Arizona and New Mexico Olli Honkkila, and Tucson Finn Club President Tommi Koskinen.

FFN was honored that Consul General of Finland Okko-Pekka Salmimies traveled from Los Angeles for the event. He spoke about

the importance of the Finnish and Nordic communities, and somberly addressed the dire situation in Ukraine.

Local artists Anita Oksanen Morford and Timo Hertel displayed some of their paintings, and FFN Performer of the Year Eepi Ursin energized the audience with a mix of her own songs and Finnish favorites.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: FFN Trustees met and mingled with members of the Finnish-American and Nordic communities in Arizona. From left: Consul General of Finland in Los Angeles Okko-Pekka Salmimies; Betsey Norgard with Olli Honkkila, Anne-Mari Paster; Peter Makila (left) with local artist Anita Oksanen Morford (second from right); Anita Smiley and Heather Mattisson; Tarja Silverman and local artist Timo Hertel; Kicka Wendell (left) and Lauren Tuiskula; FFN Performer of the Year Eepi Ursin

BELOW, FROM LEFT: Finns & Friends of Phoenix Secretary Kati Huhtala, Honorary Consul of Sweden Lars Lagerman, Honorary Consul Emeritus of Finland Gary Waissi, Tucson Finn Club President Tommi Koskinen, Consul General of Finland in Los Angeles Okko-Pekka Salmimies, FFN President Anne-Mari Paster, Honorary Consul of Lithuania Paul Zygas, and Honorary Consul of Finland Olli Honkkila





Soiva Music Camp 2022 will be a virtual experience, during which instrumental music students will work with experienced faculty in an expanded, four-day program scheduled for July 18-21.

Soiva instructors will conduct online classes in flute, clarinet, saxophone, piano, violin, viola, cello and bass for students at times to be confirmed with registrants.

NEW IN '22

In a very special session live from Finland, students will meet and learn from accomplished, professional Finnish musicians, cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian. Jussi and Nazig are award-winning artists experienced in working with students across Finland. They have performed for audiences in the U.S. under sponsorship of FFN, and have met with students at schools on their tours here.

Also visiting with the students will be Soiva Camp alumnus Markus Hiukka. Markus, who plays piano, attended the 2009 Soiva Camp. He earned his Bachelor's in Marine Biology at the University of Washington, and is currently a master's degree student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Helsinki. Markus will share his thoughts about the importance of music to him when he attended Soiva, and how his musical experiences continue to influence his life still today.

Student registration fee is \$300, and includes online instruction, the meet-up with professional Finnish musicians and a music video featuring each of the Soiva students.

ATTENTION MUSIC INSTRUCTORS

At a special, complimentary session on July 21, American music teachers will learn from Jussi Makkonen and Nazig Azezian about the Finnish music education method.

Find more information and the registration form at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Kiitos!

Finlandia Foundation has been well-served by two trustees, Anita Smiley and Dennis Anderson, who have stepped down from their long tenures on the board. "We are so appreciative of the commitment and contributions of Anita and Dennis," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster. "Through their work on a variety of committees and programs, they have shown dedication to Finlandia Foundation, its mission and its growth. Additionally, during Anita's term as president we saw a tremendous increase in our network of member chapters."

Anita Häkklä Smiley credits her immigrant parents for her deep-rooted love of her Finnish heritage. As a student in 1956, a six-month exchange program fueled Anita's passion, and eventually led to her organizing group tours to Finland. This summer, the dual U.S./Finnish citizen will escort her 25th and 26th tours.

Anita Smiley (left) with FFN Trustees Teuvo Pulkkinen and Katariina Lehtonen



Anita served for 30 years on the board of the Finnish American Heritage Society in Canterbury, Connecticut, including three as president. She and her late husband Jack were founders of the Northeast's FinnFunn Weekends, and Anita was on the committee for FinnFest USA 1998 in Maine.

In 2000, Anita joined the FFN board as trustee and served as secretary for eight years, and president from 2009-2013. For her many contributions on behalf of Finland and Finnish-America, Anita was awarded the Cross of Merit of the Order of the White Rose of Finland by President Sauli Niinistö.

Dennis M. Anderson has Finnish and Scandinavian roots in New York Mills, Minnesota, where he was born and raised on a family-owned dairy farm in the west central part of the state. His Finnish-born paternal grandfather emigrated to the New York Mills area from Oulu.

Dennis joined the FFN board in 2011, and served as the FFN scholarship coordinator for Salolampi Finnish Language Village until 2019. He has directed the Soiva International Music Camp, with his partner, Melodee Bahr, since 2012. They took Soiva Camp, usually conducted in Minnesota, to Finland in 2016 and 2019.

In addition to his volunteer work for FFN, Dennis served for several years as president of the Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society, and as board member and treasurer of the New York Mills Cultural Center and the Finn Creek Open Air Museum.



FFN Remembers Past Board Member Arthur E. Koski

Arthur Emil Koski, of Jefferson County, Colorado (April 20, 1935 - July 11, 2021), was a man of many talents and interests, not the least of which were his passions for music and for his Finnish heritage.

Finlandia Foundation National and Finnish America benefitted from that dedication, as Arthur served on the FFN board from 1997-2006, including as secretary from 1999-2001. He was also a board member and president of Finlandia Foundation of Colorado.

In 2000, for his contributions to Finnish culture, Finland's

President Tarja Halonen conferred on him Knight, Order of the Lion of Finland.

Arthur was born in Highland Park, Michigan, the son of Emil Daniel Koski and Ellen Esther (Laakso) Koski. He was the grandson of Finnish immigrants to the Upper Peninsula, and grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and Drummond Island. In the Soo, Arthur met and married Margaret Ann Mattson, and they raised five children before Margaret passed away in 1976.

As Public Affairs Director for Martin Marietta (now Lockheed Martin), Arthur traveled extensively



Visiting at FinnFest USA 2015 in Buffalo (from left), pianist and past FFN Performer of the Year Craig Randal Johnson, Buffalo Philharmonic Music Director JoAnn Falletta and Arthur Koski

and made great friends, especially astronaut Bruce McCandless.

Music was always a part of the many trips that Arthur and his second wife, Suzanne, enjoyed. While he was an ardent supporter of Finnish

music, his taste was eclectic and ranged from classical to Abba, Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and The Beatles.

Arthur is survived by his wife Suzanne, his five children and their families.

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.

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