



Finlandia Foundation - Boston

January 2022 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

January 2022

Message from Our President Sirkku Konttinen

Dear members,

We started 2021 by celebrating our long-time member and former Board member Roy Helander, whose mind and heart are much younger than his impressive age would suggest. A documentary of Roy's acting career prepared by the Finnish American Heritage Society gave us a glimpse of the many things he is famous for in our Finnish community. We thank him for his contributions and look forward to seeing him at our future meetings.

Our last event for the year was an interview with Paralympic champion and Finland's Athlete of the Year Leo-Pekka Tähti, who connected with us via Zoom from Spain. He was born with paraplegia but that did not break his competitive spirit. He had a very normal childhood in Pori Finland with a loving family and friends, with whom he played games and shared adventures growing up. Leo-Pekka's inspiring life story was a great uplift as we entered the holiday season.

In 2021, we also celebrated Marimekko, the seventy-year-old star of Finnish design. This was our only in-person event of the year and it reminded us how much fun it is to be together gathered in the same room. We are optimistic about the future and the planning of more social events this year has already started.

I would like to give a special shout-out to our long-time membership chair Liisa Chanoff, who will be leaving the Board this month. For many decades, Lissu has been the first one to greet you at our meetings and the one to remind you about paying your dues. She has catered events for hundreds and always brought food to our meetings. Before our membership meetings she always says: "I will be there. How can I help?". She is also a long-time board member of the Scandinavian Library and you can sometimes find her serving coffee and pastries in "Kaffestugan", when the little coffee shop is short of staff. In addition to taking care of her own family and grandchildren, she is also a "Mom" for numerous Sudanese refugees who have made this country their home. We are grateful for her exceptional service to our organization and to our community. Fortunately, she is not going anywhere, and you will still see her at our membership meetings.

This also marks the end of my term as President of Finlandia Foundation-Boston, and I want to thank our hard-working Board and all our members for being part of our organization. It has been an honor to serve and a privilege to meet all of you along with so many inspiring guests. Boston is a place where presidents, prime ministers, musicians, artists, scientists and sportsmen visit and gather. That is why Finlandia Foundation-Boston will always be strong and have interesting programs to offer.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year 2022! And thanks again for your support of our organization. I look forward to seeing you soon.

-Sirkku Konttinen, FFB President

Annual Meeting on Sunday January 23, 3 p.m.

We invite you all to attend our Annual Meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday January 23, 2022 via Zoom. At this meeting, we will elect several new Board members for Finlandia Foundation - Boston. The 2021 Nominating Committee will put forward the following slate of candidates:

President: Tuija Vainio (Boston)

Clerk: Henna Capone (Scituate)

Treasurer: Tarja Vuolteenaho (Weston)

Directors:

Netta Mäkinen (Cambridge)

Edith Eash (Lexington)

Nathalie Forssell (Framingham)

Saana McDaniel (Boston)

Karoliina Muukari (Wellesley)

Teresa Möller (Framingham)

Tuija Voutilainen-Lynch (Chatham)

All these positions are for two-year terms starting January, 2022. Greta Ljung (Lexington), who was elected to a two-year term in January 2021, will continue to serve on the Board through 2022.

Nominating Committee: Tuija Vainio, Tuija Voutilainen-Lynch, and Anne-Mari Paster

The Zoom link for this meeting is:

<https://mit.zoom.us/j/94922487196>

Scandinavian Film Festival in Progress

Scandinavian Film Festival is virtual again this year. It began January 6th and runs for three weekends. Here is information about the schedule and tickets:

http://www.sffla.net/?fbclid=IwAR1QZYE_Ultbwi5WskG5ASsj6TnxrCFT15ZbF9wNscgcIZRt2uT6Zj7Gpu8. The

Finnish Oscar submission Compartment Number 6 was scheduled for the weekend of January 22nd.

(Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rzi7QQ_AqCo).

There is also Gravedigger's Wife, a co-production from France, Somalia, Germany, and Finland screening the third weekend. For details, see http://www.sffla.net/film-detail.php?film_id=613&date_id=107&year_id=37

National Sauna Week to be celebrated February 20-26

Sauna is the best-known Finnish word in the United States and in many other countries. Many people in the US have experienced sauna at hotels, spas and gyms. But home saunas have also become popular during the pandemic. The last week of February 2022 has been declared National Sauna Week by Finlandia Foundation National. The goal is to build awareness and appreciation of this aspect of Finnish and Finnish-American culture. Information about activities planned by FFB for the week are available here: <https://finlandiafoundation.org/national-sauna-week/>. Information about local activities during Sauna Week will be posted in our February newsletter.

Programs at the Scandinavian Cultural Center

Our meetings at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton are still on hold due to the pandemic. However, there are interesting programs offered by the Center that we can take advantage of in the meantime:

- Saturday January 22, 1 p.m.: Book Talk: "Men of Terror - A Comprehensive Analysis of Viking Combat". A lecture by Dr. William R. Short
- Saturday February 5, 1 p.m. "Oskar Stenmark and Bruno Råberg in Concert"
- Saturday April 30, 1 p.m.: "Miolina – Maple & Spruce, Birch & Pine". This concert includes new work by Finnish composer Tomi Räisänen and is free to FFB members.

Further details and registration information can be found at <http://scandicenter.org/events/>. Also, make sure to check out Hulda's Swedish Baked Goods. Upcoming dates for ordering are January 22 and February 19. Baked goods are added the Sunday before delivery.

Scholarship Opportunities

Finlandia Foundation – Boston is pleased to make the following scholarship available for the 2022-23 academic year:

1. Savele Syrjala Journalism Scholarship

For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying in the field of Journalism or Communications.

2. Aina Swan Cutler Music Scholarship

For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying music (excluding hard rock and electronic music).

For an application form or for further information, please contact: Edith Syrjala Eash, 80 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02421; syrjalaeash@gmail.com. The application form is also available online at the Finlandia Foundation – Boston website given below.

The application deadline is May 31, 2022 for both scholarships!

Newsletter Co-Editors: Greta Ljung, Teresia Moller, and Tapani Ronni
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Eeppi Ursin Selected as FFN Performer of the Year

Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) has selected award-winning jazz vocalist Eeppi Ursin as Performer of the Year 2022. Eeppi sings in English and Finnish, and accompanies herself on piano. She will perform in-person or virtually in events/concerts for FFN chapters throughout the year. We hope to have her visit Boston in April or May.

Membership: Please Renew or Join Us!

It is now time to renew your membership or to become a new member of Finlandia Foundation – Boston for 2022. The annual membership fee, which runs from January through December, is \$20 for individuals, \$10 for senior members, and \$30 for families. To renew your membership please send a check to:

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION – BOSTON
P.O. BOX 308
Arlington, MA 02474-0007

You can also pay your annual membership or make a donation using a credit card **with PayPal** by going to <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/membership/>. Thank you!

Happy January 2022!



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