



# Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

[www.finlandiafoundationboston.com](http://www.finlandiafoundationboston.com)

November/December 2019

## Message from Our President Linda Ilona Lindell

The holidays are fast approaching and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Last month's movie *Oma Maa*, "Our Own Land", was enjoyed by all who attended. At our September meeting, Rachel Lee Priday, a world class violinist from Seattle, performed pieces of Saariaho, Bach, Salonen and Nielsen chosen specifically for our audience. The event was held in memory of our dear friend and benefactor Leena Peck who passed away earlier this year. I wish to thank Sirkku Konttinen, in particular, for her generous donation and her dedicated work that made this wonderful event possible.

During the weekend of November 15-17, I had the opportunity to attend the 2019 FinnFunn festivities held at The Inn @ East Hill Farm in Troy, New Hampshire. FinnFunn is designed to promote and preserve the Finnish American heritage and provide an educational learning environment and active social interaction for its attendees. As in past years, the program included lectures, workshops, movies, Finnish plays, folk dancing, and a Tori featuring Finnish Imports. Artist Eric Aho presented his paintings and Dr. Riikka Pietiläinen-Caffrey gave a talk on choral music in Finland. Dennis Hill spoke on the efforts to digitalize 104 years (1905-2009) of the Finnish newspaper *Raivaaja*. Other highlights included Finnish folk music played by the group Oivan Ilo and an afternoon of Finnish Plays presented by the Rockport Community Theater. Also featured were Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year Soile Anderson & Eleanor Ostman, who co-presented a program about Finnish foodways.

As we will not be having a Program in December this year, I invite you all to attend the two Suomi-koulu events in Lexington and the Christmas Carols event in Newton described below. Our Annual meeting will take place at the end of January, as usual. In addition to various reports, the meeting will include the election of several new Board members for 2020.

My two-year term as President has come to an end and I would like to thank those that supported me through 2018-2019. We had some wonderful programs, hospitality with traditional Finnish delicacies along with making new friends & reuniting with old friends- This is our Finnish Family- Lets keep it going! We would not have this wonderful Chapter without our member's attendance.

May you all enjoy the upcoming Holidays! And I wish you good health, peace, love & a very happy 2020!

- Linda Ilona Lindell

## Kiitos, kiitos, kiitos!

Many thanks to our Hospitality Chair Sirkku Konttinen and to all others who have contributed to our Coffee Table during the year! We truly appreciate your contributions! We also thank our members for their participation in our programs!



*Hyvää Joulua ja Onnellista uutta  
Vuotta 2020!*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**December 14, 10:00-12:00 - Christmas bazaar at  
Suomi-koulu of New England**

**Location:** Waldorf School, 739 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA.

Baked goods will be for sale at the bazaar. If you are a baker, please consider donating some goodies to the table or just bring yourself to buy some. Last year, the proceeds almost fully covered the classroom assistants for the year. The bazaar will also include a market of Finnish children's books (lightly used).

**December 21, 11:00 am-12:30 pm - Christmas party  
at Suomi-koulu of New England**

**Location:** Waldorf School, 739 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA.

We invite all members of Finlandia Foundation Boston to attend this holiday celebration. The program will include Christmas songs, children's performances, Joulupukki (Santa Claus), a raffle, and last but not least, the coffee

table. We welcome raffle prize and coffee table donations. If you are looking for a perfect way to celebrate the season, please join us! For any questions, please contact Mel at irmelivaara@hotmail.com.

**December 21, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm - Christmas Carols at the Lutheran Church of the Newtons**

Once again, the most beautiful Christmas Carols event is held at the Lutheran Church of the Newtons. Pastor Kari-Jo Verhulst and Organist Martta Desanges will lead the service. We hope you can join us! The church is located at 1310 Centre Street in Newton, and there is a public parking lot across the street on Cypress Street.

After the Christmas service there will be a potluck reception at the congregation hall. We hope the participants will bring gingerbread, mulled wine (glögi), and other Christmas treats. This is a great tradition for many Finns in the region just before Christmas. Come and sing with us!

**Message from the President of Finland**

Dear Expatriate Finns, Dear Friends,

The year is drawing to a close and the time has come to celebrate Finland's 102nd year of independence. The past year been eventful for us here in Finland as it must have been for all of you around the world.

The global situation is becoming increasingly unpredictable. For our part, Finland is working for international stability and cooperation. The promotion of security and global challenges – notably the eradication of poverty and prevention of climate change– call for extensive cooperation. Finland can make a valuable contribution based on its own experiences.

We also need to take care of the affairs of expatriate Finns. Next June the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, the cooperation forum of expatriates, will convene in Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. It will offer us here in Finland an opportunity to learn about the views and concerns of expatriate Finns. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Winter War. Although a long time has passed since these events, the veterans and Lottas who secured our independence always deserve our greatest respect. Their efforts have provided a sound basis for building the modern Finland.

It is of great significance that you celebrate Finland's Independence Day in all parts of the world. You represent Finland holding the blue-white flag high. Our independence deserves to be honored. I express my heartfelt thanks to you for your participation.

I wish you all across the world a pleasant Independence Day in anticipation of the Christmas season!



Sauli Niinistö

**Report by the Scholarship Committee**

This past year, the Scholarship Committee was pleased to award scholarships of \$1,000 each to the following students:

- Mr. Michael Claussen was awarded the Savele Syrjala Scholarship for a student majoring in Journalism/ Communications. He is a student at Indiana University and comes by his Finnish heritage on his mother's side.
- The Aina Swan Cutler Music Scholarship was awarded to Ms Kristina Thums of Poplar, Wisconsin. She is a student at the University of Wisconsin - Superior majoring in Instrumental Music Education. She also comes by her Finnish ancestry through her mother.

This Fall, in order to add to our dwindling funds, the committee sponsored a table at the Saima Park Tori. It was a beautiful day with an enthusiastic crowd and we were able to make \$400. We would welcome any donations our members would like to make in order to enable us to continue this worthwhile cause.

-Edith Syrjala Eash, Chair

**Membership: Time to Join, Time to Renew!**

The annual membership fee, which runs by the calendar year, is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members. Please renew your membership by sending a check to:

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

Tax-deductible donations are also welcome and much appreciated! Please help us keep our programs going.

**Please Join us on Facebook!**

Please join our Finlandia Foundation Boston Facebook-page! We are actively posting our events as well as other Finnish or Finland related activity and news there. We are also inviting you to post, "like" and/or comments there.

**Newsletter Editors: Greta Ljung & Tapani Ronni**

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