



Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

www.finlandiafoundationboston.com

January 2020

Message from Our President Linda Ilona Lindell

Welcome to 2020 and to the new decade! This will be my last President's letter since my two-year tenure as President of Finlandia Foundation - Boston is ending now. It has been an honor to serve as your President and I have truly enjoyed participating in many Finnish events and activities during this time. Finland is a country known throughout the world for its first-rate educational system and for having the most sincere, genuine, modest, and calm people. Hospitality is showcased in the form of food and drinks, coffee, sima, pulla, and other Finnish delicacies. Our Finnish traditions and way of life set the foundation for lasting friendships. We are all proud to be Finns!

Our New Board will be voted in at our Annual Meeting on January 26th, 2020. At the meeting, we will also hear a presentation by Honorary Consul Leonard Kopelman. Please make sure to attend! We have other interesting programs coming up and they will be listed in upcoming newsletters and on our newly re-designed Website that is coming soon. We want to make our Finlandia Foundation - Boston chapter one of the best chapters. Our heritage and Finnish culture are dear to us all and provide an inspiration to keep our chapter growing.

If you want to learn the language, we have our Finnish School that meets regularly at the Waldorf School in Lexington. If you are interested in visiting Finland this summer, you may want to take a look at two group travel opportunities mentioned on page 2 of this newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank the Board Members from 2018-2020 for their wonderful team support and for their commitment to Finlandia Foundation - Boston. I know that my successor will continue to receive the same level of support.

I thank you all for your participation in our programs and I wish you all the best moving forward!

- Linda Ilona Lindell

Membership: Time to Join! Time to Renew!

It is again time to renew your membership in Finlandia Foundation - Boston! The annual membership fee runs by the calendar year and is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members. To renew your membership please send a check to:

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

Tax-deductible donations are also welcome and most appreciated!

Annual Meeting with Presentation by Honorary Consul Leonard Kopelman on Sunday, January 26

Finlandia Foundation - Boston invites members and friends to join us at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton for our Annual meeting at 3 PM on Sunday January 26. We are delighted to have Honorary Consul Leonard Kopelman as our guest speaker at this meeting.



Mr. Kopelman is Head of the Honorary Consulate of Finland in Boston whose jurisdiction includes Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island. He is Dean of the Consular Corp of Boston and has been Director General of the Consular Corps College. He is also past state chairman of the American Bar Association Committee of Diplomatic and Consular Law.

Mr. Kopelman received his Bachelor of Arts cum laude from Harvard College and his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. In addition to his law practice, he has taught at the Harvard Law School, Harvard Business School, Harvard College, and Harvard Extension School and is a Pre-Law Advisor. He has won two teaching awards at Harvard and he lectures extensively abroad. Please do not miss this opportunity to hear and meet him.

The business part of the January 26 meeting will include reports by the President, Treasurer, Scholarship Committee, and Suomi-koulu, followed by the election of a new Board for 2020. The Nominating Committee will put forward the following slate of candidates:

President: Sirkku Konttinen (Belmont, MA)

Treasurer: Anne-Mari Paster (Lexington, MA)

Clerk: Natalie Forssell (Sudbury, MA)

Board of Directors: Sanna Card (Nashua, NH); Liisa Chanoff (Somerville, MA); Edith Eash (Lexington, MA); Tuula Laskorski (North Attleboro, MA); Saana McDaniel (Boston, MA); Teresia Moller (Framingham, MA); Tapani Ronni (Medford, MA); Tarja Vuolteenaho (Weston, MA); and Tuija Vuolilainen (Boston, MA). All these positions are for two-year terms. Greta Ljung, who was elected to a two-year term in 2019, will continue to serve until 2021.

**Directions to Scandinavian Cultural Center
206 Waltham St., Newton, MA**

From 128 take exit 21 / Route 16 East. Stay on it for 1.5 mi. After the overpass of the Mass Pike, take left at the 1st light onto Cherry St, then take the 1st right onto Webster St. At the end of Webster, turn left.

FinnFest USA 2020 to be Held in Joensuu, Finland

We encourage all of you to travel to Finland for FinnFest USA 2020 that will be held in Joensuu, August 17 – 21. The following pre- and post-festival arrangements will enhance your Finnish experience: Spend two days exploring Finland's capital, Helsinki, tour the famous castle in Savonlinna, and travel to and from Joensuu for the festival with sightseeing along the way. We can also book your transatlantic flights in conjunction with this package or air-only reservations in conjunction with FinnFest USA 2020. For more information about the FinnFest activities please see <https://www.bortonoverseas.com/finnfest/>

Ten-day Group Tour to Finland Scheduled for July 31 to August 9, 2020

This escorted tour will provide first-timers a perfect introduction to Finland while repeaters will experience new places in western Finland from which many of our forebears emigrated. The tour will include over-nights stays in Turku, Brändö Island, Noormarkku, Vaasa, Tampere, and Helsinki. Tour arrangements are by Riikka Pajunen, Doors Travel. Riikka has arranged the successful Smiley tours to Finland for many years. Tour planner Steve Bosquet is president of the Finnish American Historical Society in Canterbury, Connecticut. For more information, contact stevebtours@gmail.com or 860-608-8366.

Newsletter Editors: Greta Ljung & Tapani Ronni



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Finnish Language Camp: Salolampi 2020

The Finnish Language Village Salolampi, which is part of the Concordia Language Villages sponsored by Concordia College in Minnesota, gives students an opportunity to learn Finnish in a traditional summer camp setting. Finlandia Foundation - Boston will award a scholarship of \$300 to one student who wishes to participate in the 2020 program. A matching scholarship will be available from Finlandia Foundation National (FFN). In addition, the student may also be eligible for a travel assistance for up to \$500 from FFN. More information about the program, can be found at www.finlandiafoundation.org. A free-form email application should be submitted to Finlandia Foundation - Boston at ampaster@rcn.com by April 15, 2020. Selection will be made on a first-come first-serve basis, with first-time attendees receiving priority. The individual scholarship funds will be transferred directly to Concordia Language Villages. Additional scholarships may also be available through the Salolampi website: www.salolampi.org.

Learn Finnish at Suomi-koulu of New England

Suomi-koulu was founded in 1991 to teach and perpetuate the Finnish language, provide information about Finland and Finnish culture, and maintain Finnish traditions among Finns living in the New England area. The school offers language classes for children of all ages and adults too. The classes take place two Saturdays per month at the Waldorf School in Lexington. Each school day concludes with social time over coffee and refreshments. The semesters close with seasonal celebrations in true Finnish style. All this and affordable tuition too! The tuition per school year starts at \$320 and there are discounts when multiple family members register. Upcoming classes this spring are scheduled for January 18; February 1, 15, 29; March 14, 28; April 11, 25; and May 9. More information can be found at the school's website: <https://sites.google.com/site/bostonsuomikoulu/Home>