



Finlandia Foundation – Boston Newsletter

www.finlandiafoundationboston.com

February 2020

Message from Our President Sirkku Konttinen

It is a great honor to have been elected president of Finlandia Foundation-Boston. I want to thank the Nominating Committee and all the members who supported me. I also want to thank our past president Linda Lindell for her dedicated service to our chapter. We truly appreciate all she did for the chapter during her term as president.

I was born in Helsinki and received my education in Finland. I later came to the United States to join my husband when he accepted a job in the Boston area. When I turned sixty last year, it dawned on me that I have lived half of my life in Finland and half in the United States. My home is in Boston, but a piece of my heart is always in Finland. And while I often think of Finland, life in the United States has been good to me and my family.

I joined Finlandia Foundation Boston in the 1990's and I have been an active board member of the organization for over twenty years. During this time, I have attended most of our member meetings and been privileged to meet wonderful presenters. These include academics, artists, world class musicians, prime ministers, and even presidents. But even with the excellent programs, we have seen diminishing attendance in the last few years. At our monthly meetings, we have been offering gravlax on rye bread, pulla, Karelian pasties, and other Finnish delicacies. But even with these bribes, we have not been able to lure in as many attendees as we would like to have.

Hoping to reverse this trend, we have started to make some changes to how we operate. Last year we updated our by-laws and made them more flexible. This year, we are revising the board structures and increasing our outreach activities. We used to have individual chairs for different tasks. Now we have committees with multiple members performing these tasks. And we are especially pleased to welcome four new members to the board for 2020. We have a new website and we are in the process of linking it to different sites to find new audiences and to remind existing members of our programs. And we are building stronger bonds with the other Finnish and Scandinavian groups in the area.

Participation in our programs is an excellent way to learn about Finnish culture and to establish new and lasting friendships. So please come to our meetings and bring along a friend. And please send us suggestions for the type of programs that are of special interest to you. New ideas are always welcome. Finlandia Foundation- Boston is now sixty-five-years old and we want it to remain strong!

I look forward to seeing you all at future meetings!
- Sirkku Konttinen

February Event Hosted by Marimekko

Finlandia Foundation-Boston and Marimekko invite all FFB members and friends to an evening at the Marimekko store on Newbury Street in Boston. This is an excellent opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and view beautiful Marimekko products over wine and cheese.

Marimekko is generously offering 20% discount for all purchases together with a surprise gift. Additionally, all guests will participate in a Marimekko scarf raffle. Please join us and please bring along a friend.

Event details:

Date Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m – 8:00 p.m; Welcome words: 7:00 p.m

Location: Marimekko - 140 Newbury St, Boston, MA 02116

Parking and Public Transportation: A parking lot in the intersection between Dartmouth Street and Newbury Street is ½ block away from Marimekko. However, due to cost of parking, you may prefer to use public transportation. The Copley T stop on the Green line is next to Dartmouth Street, which takes you down to Newbury Street.

Please RSVP by February 21, 2020 to Sanna Card at sannacard@hotmail.com

Events at the Scandinavian Cultural Center

We plan to continue using the Scandinavian Cultural Center for our cultural events held later this spring. Other events at the Scandinavian Cultural Center may also be of interest to our members. For example, the Finnish film “The Grump”, or “Mielensäpahoittaja”, will be shown there at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Details about their other Scandinavian programs are available at <http://scandicenter.org/events/>.

Welcome to the New Board for 2020!

At our annual meeting in January, the following members were elected to the Board of Finlandia Foundation-Boston:
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 Vuolteenaho (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.

Membership: Time to Join! Time to Renew!

It is now time to renew your 2020 membership in Finlandia Foundation – Boston! The annual membership fee, which runs from January through December, 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. We truly appreciate your participation and your support for Finlandia Foundation Boston!

Scholarship Opportunities

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).

3. Lauri Armas Lindell Architectural Scholarship

For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying architecture in the United States or Finland.

For an application or for further information about the first two scholarships, please contact: Edith Syrjala Eash, 80 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02421; syrjalaeash@gmail.com
For further information about the architecture scholarship, please contact: Linda Lindell, 471 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02421; lindalindell@verizon.net. **The application deadline is June 30, 2020 for all three scholarships!**

Newsletter Editors: Greta Ljung & Tapani Ronni



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Finnish Language Camp: Salolampi 2020

Finlandia Foundation - Boston will award a scholarship of \$300 to one student who wishes to participate in the 2020 program at the Finnish Language Village Salolampi in Minnesota. A matching scholarship is 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. Additional scholarships may be available through the website: www.salolampi.org.

FinnFest USA 2020 to be Held in Joensuu, Finland

FinnFest USA 2020 that will be held in Joensuu, August 17 – 21. Pre- and post-festival travel in Finland has also been arranged. The organizers can also book your transatlantic flights to Finland 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. Tour arrangements are by Riikka Pajunen, Dooris 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.

Classes at Suomi-koulu of New England

Suomi-koulu classes take place two Saturdays per month at the Waldorf School in Lexington. Upcoming classes this spring are scheduled for February 15, 29; March 14, 28; April 11, 25; and May 9. More information is available at The school's website <https://sites.google.com/site/bostonosuomikoulu/Home>