



Finlandia Foundation – Boston Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

March 2020

Message from Our President Sirkku Konttinen

It was good to see so many of you at our February event at Marimekko on Newbury Street in Boston. I like to thank Marimekko for hosting this event. The store is beautiful and the event was a lot of fun. The many displays show some classic patterns that feed our memories along with a variety of new designs, color combinations, and materials. We also learned that Marimekko will soon make some of its fabrics out of wood. We look forward to seeing these creations.

As the winter is winding down, I and my family are in the process of completing a major home renovation. I have had my memories in boxes during the past two years. Now I have to decide which mementos to keep and which ones to discard. Memories are in letters and postcards, photos and drawings; they are in the wooden spatulas from my parents' kitchen, toys that my children fell in sleep with and books that I read long ago.

Many of you may be familiar with the Finnish-language newspaper Raivaaja (The Pioneer), which was published from 1905 to 2009 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Through this wonderful low-key publication, the readers could learn in a nutshell what was going on in Finland and New England. The paper ran both English-language and Finnish-language content during its final years. The paper ceased publication in April 2009 due to declining subscription rates and increased mailing costs. Today, there is an ongoing project to preserve and digitize 104 years of Raivaaja. Finlandia Foundation – Boston has made donations to this project to help them towards completion. We are also working to preserve our own history as a 65-year old organization. To achieve this goal, we have added History to one of our committees. Please let us know if you have pictures or interesting stories to share. We welcome all your contributions.

The Finnish film “The Grump” will be shown at the Scandinavian Cultural Center located at 206 Waltham Street in Newton on Saturday March 21. On April 4, there will be a performance at the same location by violin duo Miolina with commentary by the Finnish composer Tomi Räisänen. At our Sunday April 26 meeting, we will hear pianist Ruusamari Teppo, who is the great-great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius. Ruusamari has access to the series of letters Jean and Aino Sibelius wrote to each other. We will include selections from these letters to our program.

Further details about these events are provided below. I look forward to seeing you all there.

- Sirkku Konttinen

Finnish Film Shown at the Scandinavian Cultural Center on Saturday March 21

Please join us at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday March 21 for a viewing of the Finnish film “The Grump”, or “Mielensäpahoittaja”. The film is an adaptation of Tuomas Kyro's popular novel about an 80-year-old Finnish farmer who, following a debilitating domestic accident, reluctantly goes to live with his youngest son and his uptight, career-oriented wife. The film is free but a \$5 donation is suggested. Refreshments are served at 1 p.m.

Concert by Violin duo Miolina at the Scandinavian Cultural Center on April 4

Violin duo Miolina (Mioi Takeda & Lynn Bechtold) will make their Boston debut at the Scandinavian Cultural Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday April 4 with a concert called MAPLE & SPRUCE, BIRCH & PINE. Miolina specializes in music that employs the natural beauty and sound of the instruments, with or without electronics and video. The duo enjoys collaborating on new compositions with composers and other artists, as well as discovering hidden gems of the past. The April 4 concert will feature new works written for Miolina by Finnish composer Tomi Räisänen, Swedish composer and sound artist Ann Rosén, and Lynn Bechtold. Other featured works, all being performed for the first time in the US by Miolina, are by Norwegian composer Ketil Hvoslef, and Swedish composers Cecilia Franke, Mauro Godoy Villalobos, and Katarina Leyman. Mr. Räisänen will be in attendance for a Q + A about his composition.

To get your free ticket to this event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/miolina-tickets-86347972109> and enter Promo Code FinlandiaBoston before check-out.

Ruusamari Teppo Piano Concert on April 26

Pianist Ruusamari Teppo, the great-great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius, will present a concert program of some of his best-known music at the Scandinavian Cultural Center on April 26. The program will also include excerpts from a series of letters Jean and Aino Sibelius wrote to each other. Teppo began playing piano in Finland at the age of five. After graduating from the Sibelius High School in Helsinki, she studied in Paris for three years, and earned certificates from music schools in Prague and Budapest.

Further details about the event will be available in our April newsletter and also on our website.

Membership: Please join or renew now!

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 of our chapter.

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!**

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“There is Magic in the Air” on March 28 in CT

For those who might enjoy a trip to Hampton, CT, Hannu Makipuro and his talented band of jazz musicians along with special guests will present a concert “There’s Magic in the Air” at StoneHurst of Hampton Valley, 119 Providence Turnpike/Route 6 in Hampton, CT, on March 28. Known by many as ‘The Singing Barber of Willimantic’, Hannu has for over 40 years been singing jazz and swing at Finnish-American events throughout the US and on tour in Finland. At Finnish events he has added traditional Finnish tunes to his repertoire and he will also include a medley of Finnish tunes in this concert at StoneHurst. Proceeds from the concert will go to the Finnish American Heritage Society. The concert starts at 7 p.m. with hors d’oeuvres served at 6 p.m. The general admission is \$35. Tickets sold on Eventbrite, or contact Eila at 860 423-3854.

Events at Saima Park in Fitchburg

St. Urho's Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 21, 5:30-10 p.m. Appetizers, meatball dinner, dessert, music and dancing, games, entertainment, 50/50 raffle. \$20. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, March 15. Contact Lorna at LDSULIN@verizon.net, or 978 407-9690.

Pannukakku Breakfast on Saturday, March 28 and April 25, 8-10 a.m.: Oven pancake, bacon, sausage, fruit, juice, Finnish coffee bread, coffee/tea/cocoa. \$8. Loaves of coffee bread will be for sale. Artist Karen Kemp will exhibit and sell her work; Raivaaja will have an information table. Eino Kauppi will be accepting donations of items for the flea market to benefit the scholarship fund.

Scholarship Flea Market at Saima Park on Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. -12noon.

Suomi-koulu of New England Classes

Upcoming classes are scheduled for March 14, 28; April 11, 25; and May 9. For details, please see the school's website <https://sites.google.com/site/bostonosuomikoulu/Home>



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