



# Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

September 2020

## Message from Our President Sirkku Konttinen

It has been a beautiful summer in New England and I hope that you have been able to enjoy it in spite of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The signs of the pandemic are everywhere. People are distancing themselves and wearing masks. And many events and activities, that we typically enjoy, have either been postponed or cancelled. As for myself, I was not able to travel to Finland this summer, as I often do. Instead, my husband and I have spent time in Wellfleet on the Cape, walking the beaches and swimming in the kettle ponds, reading books, and watching movies. The best moments have been when after careful quarantining and multiple tests we have been able to get together with our adult children and their companions.

Cape Cod has a rich Finnish history. On our drive there, we pass Quincy that has Suomi Road, granite quarries, and a sauna owned by Seppo Pakkala. Then we pass Pembroke with another Suomi Road and a sauna owned by Uljas Koitto Temperance Society. Further down, we pass Hyannis with yet another Suomi Road and with a meeting place for the Cape Cod Finns.

The local history books include many accounts of hard-working Finns, who excelled in cranberry harvesting, dairy farming, and as lumber jacks. They built saunas and made rugs for their communities. The first woman to be issued a quahog shellfish license on the Cape was a Finn. And the last inhabitant of Billingsgate Island in Wellfleet, that is now under the sea, was Emil Poikonen, also a Finn.

The Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) provides us many opportunities to celebrate our Finnish heritage. In Massachusetts we have five FFN Chapters plus places like the Kaleva Lodge in Littleton with rich history of Finnish culture. This summer, Robert Ranta from Cape Ann Finns created a calendar that combines the events of the Massachusetts Finlandia Foundation Chapters.

At the moment, most of our events are on hold due to the pandemic. However, our program group is working to create virtual programs using Zoom, Webex, and other online tools. For example, there are interesting new documentaries about artist Helene Schjerfbeck, architects Alvar and Aino Aalto, and the Saarinen family that we will bring you as soon as they are available. FFN is also producing many interesting programs that will be made available to our members, once they are released. Please stay tuned for updates in future newsletters.

In the meantime, if you would like a change of scenery, you may want to visit to the Finnish Center at Saima Park in Fitchburg, where the annual Nordic Market (Tori) will take place on Sunday, September 20.

Please enjoy the beautiful New England fall! And please stay safe and healthy!

- Sirkku Konttinen

## Greetings from Finlandia Foundation National

Dear Members,

During this unprecedented time, Finlandia Foundation has had to cancel or postpone the Performer of the Year, Lecturer of the Year and touring music programs. What has not changed in 2020 is our dedication to Finlandia Foundation. Instead, we have taken this time as an opportunity to think outside of the box in terms of reaching our traditional audience of FFN members and beyond, to others interested in Finnish America and Finland.

As a challenging summer, in a challenging year, comes to an end, we have a lot of plans for the future. You will soon be hearing about a variety of exciting FFN programming that will be available online. Several presentations are in the works, from concerts and cultural and business interviews to a video program with Deep River author Karl Marlantes.

Stay tuned!



Anne-Mari Paster  
President

## Nordic Market (Tori) at Saima Park

**Organizer and location:** Finnish Center at Saima Park; 67 Scott Road, Fitchburg, MA

**Date and Time:** Sunday September 20; 10:00am-2:30pm

Activities will include:

- A Mini Tori with baked goods, arts, crafts, bee products, hot coffee, and pulla
- A mini flea market to benefit the Scholarship Fund. As in past years, we anticipate that Finnish collectibles (Arabia, Iittala glassware, etc.) will be offered for sale.
- Basket Ruffle and 50/50 Ruffle
- BYO lunch; Enjoy a picnic on the beautiful grounds. Tables will be available.

Come join us in the fun! For directions, please see <https://www.saima-park.org/directions.html>

**The Board of Finlandia Foundation – Boston (FFB)  
Welcomes New Board Members**

We are delighted to welcome Tuija Voutilainen Lynch and Tarja Vuolteenaho as new members of the FFB Board.

**Tuija Voutilainen Lynch** earned her B.S in International Business and German Language from the Helsingin Liikemiesten Kauppaopisto in Finland. She lived and worked in Germany for several years before coming to the United States thirty years ago. Tuija has served as the Admissions Director at the Waldorf School in Lexington and Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay. Previously, Tuija was also the Business Manager/Treasurer at the Waldorf School of Atlanta, Georgia. Tuija is the mother of four children, and she is fluent in four languages: English, Finnish, German, and Swedish.

**Tarja Vuolteenaho** is a self-employed homemaker whose background is in business administration and accounting. She has a master's degree from Helsinki School of Economics (Aalto University). Tarja started her career in management consulting, and she worked as a Chief Financial Officer for Sonera USA, and as a Business Controller for Nokia Networks USA after moving to the United States. She currently volunteers in her children's school as well as in various charity organizations. Tarja and her family live in Weston, MA.

The Board also welcomes back **Tuula Laskorski** of North Attleboro, MA, and **Sanna Card** of Nashua, NH, who are returning to the Board after a few years of absence. We appreciate their service and look forward to working with all of them.



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

**Finland has a new Ambassador in Washington, DC**

The President of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, has appointed counselor for Foreign Affairs Mikko Hautala to serve as head of mission at Finland's Embassy in Washington DC, starting September 1, 2020.

Hautala moves to Washington DC from Moscow, where he has served as head of mission since 2016. In 2012–2016, he worked as Foreign Policy adviser in the Office of the President of the Republic of Finland. In 2011–2012, Hautala worked as deputy head of mission at the Embassy in Moscow. In 2007–2011, he was diplomatic adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the diplomatic service, he has also held posts in Brussels and Kiev. Hautala joined the Foreign Ministry in 1999. He holds a Master's degree in social sciences and a Master of Arts degree.

**Membership: Please Join Us!**

There is still time to renew your 2020 membership or to become a new member of 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 thank you for your support and look forward to your participation.

**Newsletter Editors: Greta Ljung & Tapani Ronni**  
**Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/>**  
**Email: [finlandiaboston@gmail.com](mailto:finlandiaboston@gmail.com)**