



# Finlandia Foundation – Boston Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

February 2021

## Message from Our President Sirkku Konttinen

It was good to see so many of you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday January 24. Thanks for attending and thanks for supporting Finlandia Foundation – Boston (FFB). It was a pleasure to have Roy Helander as our special guest at the meeting, both in person and by video. There is so much Finnish history in our area and it was interesting to hear from someone who has been part of it for over ninety years. Roy is a life-long resident of Maynard, a town known as a mill town and also a red little Finn town. As the Finns got settled, there was usually a temperance society, Lutheran church, co-ops, saunas, and socialist halls, where plays and operettas were played regularly. It was fascinating to hear details about these activities directly from Roy.

Starting a new year, I like to thank the members of the FFB Board who supported me in 2020. I look forward to working with them again in 2021. A special thanks goes to Anne-Mari Paster, who has done a terrific job as treasurer over the past few years. As announced at our meeting, she is stepping down from this position and Tarja Vuolteenaho of Weston is now our new treasurer. Anne-Mari was elected President of Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) last spring. In the role, she has already led the development of many new and wonderful programs. Many of these are available at 'Finnposium' and can be watched on the new FFN YouTube Channel. Please make sure to take advantage of these programs.

Looking back at our own programs, we have had many memorable ones over the years. We all remember the fabulous visit of Tarja Halonen, Finland's first female president. Another favorite of mine is a visit by artist and award-winning author Hannu Väisänen. I had contacted a friend in Finland to find out who would be a good author to invite as our guest speaker. She told me that writers are often difficult and they do not like to talk. But then she said: "Hannu on ihana", Hannu is wonderful. Hannu is a visual artist and also a writer, who in 2007 won the Finlandia prize, the highest literary award in Finland, for his book "Toiset kengät". His presentation was very special as he described his life story and talked about his work as an illustrator for the new edition of Kalevala. With his beautiful tenor voice, he also sang songs based on poems in the book. Later, Liisa and David Chanoff, who have hosted many of our speakers, organized a wonderful birthday dinner for him and one of our members ordered a painting by him.

We hope to have programs of this type again when we are able to resume our in-person meetings at the Scandinavian Cultural Center. In the meantime, I invite you to attend our Zoom meetings, some of which will be held jointly with other New England Chapters and/or organized with the help of FFN.

Enjoy the winter! And please stay well!

- Sirkku Konttinen, FFB President

## February Programs

### "Aalto Journey" by Kirk Gastinger 4 p.m. on February 9

In this presentation, Architect Kirk Gastinger shares never before published original blueprints by Alvar Aalto. The facade of a Brooklyn, NY church, damaged by fire in 1947 was the subject of a proposed re-design by Aalto. Learn more about this remarkable discovery in Kirk's livestreamed presentation followed by Q & A session. The presentation, which is sponsored by FFN, is free but advance registration is required by 5:00 p.m. on February 8<sup>th</sup>. To register, please go to: <https://finlandiafoundation.org/aaltojourney-2-9-21/>

### "The Finnish Way" by Katja Panzar, Cape Cod Finns 12 noon on February 20

Katja Panzar, author of "The Finnish Way" presents a program about living in Helsinki. She shares the delights of outdoor living, daily sea swimming, sauna, and sisu. For registration information, please contact Marilyn Lariviere ([mlariv@comcast.net](mailto:mlariv@comcast.net)) at the Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod.

### Concert by Pianist Ruusamari Teppo and Soprano Maria Männistö at 3 p.m. on February 28

Please join us at 3 p.m. on Sunday February 28 for a mid-winter concert featuring Pianist Ruusamari Teppo and Soprano Maria Männistö. The program will include works by Sibelius, Copin, and Scriabin.

**Ruusamari Teppo**, who is a direct descendent of Jean Sibelius, graduated from the Sibelius High School in Helsinki. She has studied in Paris and earned certificates from music schools in Prague and Budapest. **Maria Männistö** is a Finnish-American soprano with an extensive performing history as an opera singer, concert soloist, pianist, and organist. To register, please email us at [finlandiaboston@gmail.com](mailto:finlandiaboston@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Finnposium

Finlandia Foundation National is pleased to bring you **Finnposium**, a variety of online chats, webinars, musical performances, and other presentations related to Finland and Finnish culture in the U.S. There is no charge to participate but registration is required for some programs. Some recent programs include, among others:

- Finn Cooks Prepare Rosolli, a Traditional Christmas dish
- 'Deep River' Author Talk with Karl Marlantes
- Interview with Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen
- A two-part webinar on the Education in Finland and Studying in Finland
- A webinar on Dual Citizenship in Finland

Current *Finnposium* programs include "My American Dream", a monthly program hosted by Trustee Michel Wendell, where he interviews Finns who are pursuing their professional dreams in the U.S. Also offered is a series of "Coffee Concerts" on the last Saturday of each month, January 30 through May 29. All *Finnposium* programs are available for viewing on the FFN YouTube Channel. Please be sure to check these out.

**Membership: Please join or renew now!**

It is now time to renew your 2021 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. Thank you so much for your support! It is truly appreciated!

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**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](mailto:syrjalaeash@gmail.com)  
For further information about the architecture scholarship, please contact: Linda Lindell, 471 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02421; [lindalindell@verizon.net](mailto:lindalindell@verizon.net). **The application deadline is June 30, 2021 for all three scholarships!**

