



Finlandia Foundation – Boston

March 2021 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

March 2021

Message from Our President Sirkku Konttinen

Dear Finlandia Foundation – Boston members,

A few weeks ago, I drove to New York to renew my Finnish passport. After visiting the Finnish Consulate, I stood on 3rd Avenue at E 39th Street for a moment and felt the excitement: "I am in New York! Theater, museums, restaurants...!" But then all I did was buy a bagel and drive right back to Boston. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. But finally there is hope. The vaccinations are progressing well and spring is almost here. And with my new passport, I am ready to go when we can travel again.

The new Finnish passport has an inviting poem by Eino Leino on the first page. Translated to English, it reads:

*Oh, take your lessons from the swans!
They leave as the autumn arrives and return in the spring.
Our shores are calm,
and the slopes of our northern hills are safe.*

It is an invitation to go back to Finland, at least for a visit.

In Finland, Iittala is celebrating its 140th anniversary in Nordic design and there will be an exhibition in the Helsinki Design Museum to honor this milestone. This exhibition brings together the entire history of Iittala and features design classics by Tapio Wirkkala, Timo Sarpaneva, and other internationally renowned designers.

Responding to popular demand, Iittala, Artek, and Stockmann have started to promote their brands through their own secondhand and factory stores. And Fiskars, known for its scissors and gardening tools, has created a clothing line with Maria Korkeila for gardeners.

In other news, Finnish researchers have been developing a new testing method for COVID-19 and have also been working on a nasal spray vaccine. The company Deep Sensing Algorithms (DSA) has developed an Analyzer that is based on a unique combination of nanosensors that recognize and measure several biomarkers. The same set of nanosensors used for COVID-19 recognition can be used for detection of pneumonia or multiple types of cancer. Another talented professional is Philip Bailey, the son of one of our members. He was part of the group designing the arm of the Perseverance, the robot that landed on Mars this month.

In regards to music, the two last serenade manuscripts of Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara, who died in 2016, were found after his death and have now been recorded by American violinist Hilary Hahn with Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France conducted by Mikko Franck.

Boston can be a transient place and some of our members have gone back to Finland. One of them is Elina Lehtinen, who served as FFB president during her time here. We are delighted to have her as our guest speaker this month. We look forward to seeing you all at this event.

All the best in the meantime! And stay well!

-Sirkku Konttinen, FFB President

"What is the role of peace mediation and cooperation in the post-covid world?"

**by Elina Lehtinen
Sunday March 28 at 1 pm**



We are delighted to have Elina Lehtinen as our speaker on Sunday March 28. Elina will be speaking to us from Finland via Zoom at 1 pm. The title of her presentation is ***'What is the role of peace mediation and cooperation in the post-covid world?'***

Elina's distinguished career includes media and communications related posts in the USA, Middle East, UK and Finland. She is currently Director of Communication and Fundraising at the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari. Prior to joining CMI Elina worked in Doha, Qatar as a Senior Communications Consultant for Bell Pottinger, a leading communications consultancy. She has also been a political correspondent and journalist at the Finnish Public Broadcasting Corporation (YLE TV) and at different divisions of the Sanoma Corporation. Elina holds a Master's degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She also holds a Master's degree in journalism and philosophy from the University of Helsinki and a diploma from the private Sanoma School of Journalism in Helsinki. Elina has been the Chair of the Board of the League of Finnish American Societies (SAM) since fall 2019.

To register for a Zoom link, please email us at finlandiaboston@gmail.com

Programs at the Scandinavian Cultural Center

We all look forward to the time when we can meet again at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton. However, in the meantime, there are several interesting programs at the Center that we can take advantage of. Two upcoming events are:

- Saturday March 20: "Legendary Iceland – Land of Fire and Ice", a lecture by Heidi Herman.
- Saturday March 29: "Friluftsliv: Connect with Nature the Norwegian Way", by author Oliver Luke Delorie

Further details and registration information can be found at <http://scandicenter.org/events/>.

Scholarship Opportunities

Finlandia Foundation – Boston is pleased to make the following scholarship available for the 2021-22 academic year:

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, 2021 for all three scholarships! For additional information, see also the FFN website given below.

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Membership: Please Renew or Join Us!

It is now time to renew your membership or to become a new member of Finlandia Foundation – Boston for 2021. 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:

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Tax-deductible donations are also welcome. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you soon.

Happy Spring 2021!

