



# Finlandia Foundation – Boston

## November 2021 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

November 2021

### Message from Our President Sirkku Kontinen

Dear Members,

The fall in New England has been beautiful and our lives are gradually returning to normal. The schools are opening, people are returning to their offices, and live performances are back for people with proof of vaccination. In October, the FinnFunn weekend took place at East Hill Farm in Troy, New Hampshire, where many of our members went and had a wonderful time. Meeting people in person and hearing live music feels very special.

Our Board meetings have continued to meet via Zoom. We have been planning future programs and been recruiting new board members. The election of the new Board will be held at our Annual Meeting in January. There are still a few openings if you would like to volunteer.

Suomi-koulu of New England has resumed its activities this fall. They have moved to a new location in Weston. They will host a Christmas Bazaar with Finnish baked goodies and other Christmas related items in early December. They are also organizing a traditional Christmas party with kids performing and adults participating in singing Christmas carols. Everyone is welcome to these wonderful holiday events.

The Finland Society selected top researcher Joy Wolfram as the Expatriate of the Year 2021. Wolfram, a nano scientist based in Florida, is working with her seven-member team to develop new treatments for cancer and other serious illnesses. We also have many young talented scientists in the Boston area and hope to hear about their work at future meetings.

Finland of course is well-known for Sibelius, the sauna, and Nokia phones. But did you know that a Finn also developed the most popular portable pizza oven? Kristian Tapaninaho and his wife Darina Garland created this perfect backyard oven in 2012. I decided to buy one of the first versions called Uuni that uses wood pellets for heating. The company has now changed its name to Ooni and made the ovens a bit bigger with more fuel options. Believe me, the pizza that comes out of this oven in minutes always tastes perfect.

Marimekko, one of Finland's best-known companies, is celebrating its 70th birthday. To mark the occasion, they are collaborating with Adidas to add Marimekko patterns to tennis outfits and other sporting clothes. I have already seen many top players wearing the popular Unikko pattern. There is also a Finnish drink that is celebrating its 70th birthday. Gin long drink is a favorite of many Finns who spent their young adult years in Finland. It is also popular among those who want something refreshing to drink after sauna other than water or beer. Finlandia Foundation Boston is organizing a gathering at the Marimekko-Newbury Steet store in Boston to celebrate these two seventy-year-olds. We look forward to a delightful evening and hope to see you all there.

-Sirkku Kontinen, FFB President



### Come Celebrate Finnish Legends – 70 years later

Finlandia Foundation Boston invites everyone to an evening event to celebrate 70 years of success of our beloved Marimekko. The event will also celebrate the rebirth of the legendary Finnish Long Drink in America. This will be an in-person evening event held 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Thursday November 18 at Marimekko's store located at 140 Newbury Street in Boston. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with welcoming remarks at 6:30 p.m. We will hear our honored hosts share success stories of their two companies. This will be followed by an evening of networking and an opportunity for some private shopping, should you so choose. Light refreshments, including Long Drinks, will be served and we will enjoy a 20% discount on Marimekko's inspirational fall and winter collection.

To reserve a spot, please register by 10/16 at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/finnish-legends-70-years-later-tickets-198287682797>

#### Event Summary:

**Date:** Thursday, November 18, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m;

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

**Parking and Public Transportation:** A parking lot at the intersection between Dartmouth Street and Newbury Street is ½ block away from Marimekko. Prudential Center Parking Garage is a few blocks away. However, due to cost of parking, you may prefer public transportation. The Copley T stop on the green line is just around the corner from Marimekko. The Back Bay Station is also relatively close.

**Note: Advance registration and masks are required.**

### Invitation to Holiday Events at Suomi-koulu

Following traditions, Suomi-koulu of New England will hold its Christmas Bazaar on December 4, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The event will take place at Suomi-koulu's new location at the Weston Methodist Church, 377 North Avenue in Weston. The Christmas Bazaar will feature Finnish baked goodies and other Christmas related items. This is an excellent opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and to mingle with some old and new friends.

On December 18, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Suomi-koulu will have its traditional Christmas party, which is open to all members of our community. There will be Finnish food, short performances by the children, and singing of Christmas carols accompanied by Riikka Pietiläinen. The coffee table with Christmas pastries will follow. You are all invited to join us!

For further information about Suomi-koulu, see <https://sites.google.com/site/bostonsuomikoulu/home-en>

### **Author Ulla-Lena Lundberg Recognized by Finlandia Foundation National**

Ulla-Lena Lundberg is a Finnish author, born in Kökar, Åland in 1947. Her novels, written in Swedish, have been translated to many other languages and have won several prestigious awards. Her 2012 novel *Is/Jää*, or 'Ice' in English, is in part based on the author's experiences growing up in Åland in post-war Finland. The novel won the Finlandia Prize for Literature in 2012 and was a finalist for the Nordic Literature Award. The story was adapted into a popular opera by the Finnish National Opera and Ballet in 2019 with music composed by Jaakko Kuusisto.

This month, Finlandia Foundation National (FFB) will host a three-part on-line series about the author and the novel *Ice*. The series will premiere on FFB's YouTube channel on Tuesday, November 9. Part 1 and Part 2 will remain in the YouTube channel for later viewings.

- Part 1 – 11/9  
*Ice, the Novel*: A conversation about the novel *ICE* with author Ulla-Lena Lundberg in Kökar, Åland
- Part 2 – 11/16  
*Ice, the Opera*: An interview of composer Jaakko Kuusisto by Pekka Hako
- Part 3 – 11/23  
*Ice, the Opera Production*: Private viewing of the opera for Finlandia Foundation members only.

For more information on this special virtual series, go to: [FinlandiaFoundation.org/ice](https://FinlandiaFoundation.org/ice)

**Newsletter Co-Editors: Greta Ljung, Teresia Moller,  
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### **Events at the Scandinavian Cultural Center**

There are several interesting programs at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton that you can take advantage of while we wait to resume our meetings at the Center. These include art exhibits, workshops, Zoom lectures, and Book Talks. Some upcoming programs include "Jazz on Tap" on Saturday November 13, opening of an art exhibit by Marty Lehman on Sunday November 14, and "Book Talk: For Love of Cod" with Eric Dregni on Saturday December 4. Also, please make sure to check out Hulda's Swedish Baked Goods that can be ordered through the Center. Further details can be found at <https://scandicenter.org/events/>

### **Membership in FFB; Please Join Us!**

We value your support of Finlandia Foundation – Boston. Our annual membership fee, which runs from January through December, is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members. To renew or join us, 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 in person soon.

Happy Thanksgiving!

