



Finlandia Foundation – Boston

February 2022 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

February 2022

Message from Our New President Tuija Vaino



Dear members,

During the past year, it has been my privilege to meet and interact with many members of the Finlandia Foundation-Boston (FFB) Board. I have been impressed by their hard work and dedication to everything that relates to Finland. When I was nominated for President in the fall, I had mixed feelings: I was honored to be asked but I also felt rather intimidated. But being an optimist and a risk taker, I decided to accept. The learning curve will be steep and I cannot promise you perfection. But I can promise my dedication and hard work.

Fortunately, I will have the support of a strong and dedicated Board. In addition to members who are staying on, a total of four new members are added this year. The Board will be a great mix of experienced Board members, who have served in multiple roles in the past, and new members bringing in their incredible talents. Several Board members who are stepping down have also offered to help as needed. Sirkku, Lissu, Tapani, Anne-Mari, and Tuula, I thank you for your outstanding service and I look forward to your continued involvement in our activities.

We all hope that this spring is the season when we can start having in-person events again. We will start small and gradually expand when it is safe to do so. This dance with Covid-19 has been "one step forward, two steps back" and it has taken a toll on so many levels. I'm especially concerned about the impact on our children. But Suomi-koulu has been offering excellent virtual programs, which include weekly bedtime stories "iltasatu" on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. I am very much looking forward to an in-person community event with Suomi-koulu in the near future.

I would love to hear insights and ideas from all members of our community. Do you have feedback about previous programs? Or a great idea for a new one? Would you or someone you know like to become more involved in our activities. We are always on a lookout for future Board members. Please reach out to me in person at our events or send me an email to finlandiaboston.president@gmail.com

This month, Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) will celebrate its first Annual Sauna Week. Locally, we are organizing a Mobile Sauna Event in Newton with the help of a much appreciated grant from FFN. An email invitation was sent to members in January. The capacity is limited, so please book early.

Also, for those interested in cross-country skiing and willing to drive, note that Saima Park in Fitchburg will have "Open House – Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe" events from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the first three Saturdays in February.

Our budget relies on membership fees and donations. The 2022 membership fees are due in January. With the new PayPal option posted on our website, paying is fast and easy. But you may continue to pay by check as well. Please consider making an extra donation if you can. Our events come to be with a lot of volunteer work but dollars are needed also. And even small amounts will help.

I wish you a joyful winter and I look forward to meeting you all in person soon.

-Tuija Vaino, FFB President

Come Celebrate National Sauna Week on Saturday, February 26 at the Scandinavian Cultural Center

The week of February 20-26, 2022 has been declared National Sauna Week by Finlandia Foundation National. The goal is to build awareness and appreciation of this aspect of Finnish and Finnish-American culture. Information about activities planned by FFN for the week are available on their website <https://finlandiafoundation.org/national-sauna-week/>.

To celebrate sauna week locally, Finlandia Foundation-Boston is bringing a mobile sauna to the Scandinavian Cultural Center at 206 Waltham Street in Newton on Saturday, February 26. It will be parked outside the SCC building from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The sauna has a private dressing room, a hot room large enough for three, buckets of water for rinsing, and an outdoor shower (with a privacy screen). There will be birch whisks to try - wonderful for blood circulation! Or perhaps you choose to just enjoy the aroma. Your total sauna time will be 45 minutes. You can try the cold water dunk pool if feeling brave- alternating hot and cold will leave you refreshed and relaxed.

At the event, there will be a grill with complimentary sausages. You are also welcome to bring along your own favorite snacks. Take your time to recover and mingle around the fire pit or in the tent sharing your sauna experience.

Ticket Information: There will be an hourly rotation of slots. Email Mark@Gotsauna.com to check the availability of your preferred time. There will be only eight slots available so they will go fast! After booking with Mark go to finlandiafoundationboston.com to pay the \$60 sauna fee. Click the "Become a member" to find the "Donate" button. After payment make sure to add to the notes "SAUNA" and your name. After a confirmed booking you will receive a Welcome to Sauna info packet.

Please join us for some fun and let's celebrate this time-honored Finnish tradition!

FFB Welcomes Four New Board Members

In January, we elected four new members to our Board of Directors. We welcome them all! A brief summary of their backgrounds is provided below:

Tuija Vaino, our incoming president, grew up in Finland and earned her B.S. in Optometry at Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki. She also has an Associate's Degree in Travel and Hospitality from Omnia in Espoo. Her husband's career took them to the US for a few years, first to Boston and then to California. Later, they spent two years in India where she did fundraising for the Overseas Women's Club of Bangalore. Returning to Boston in 2015, she worked for Marimekko, a brand she loves.

Karoliina Muukari, a native of Espoo, holds a Master of Science degree from the Helsinki School of Economics. After completing her studies, she spent 16 years in Montreal, where she and her Canadian husband started a family that includes three children. While in Canada, she served as Editor of the Montreal Finnish newsletter and as Trustee for Canadian Friends of Finland. She is currently enjoying her expat life in Massachusetts while working as a specialist in ESG investing.

Netta Mäkinen received her M.Sc. degree from the Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Helsinki. She later earned a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Medicine at the same university. Having lived in Boston for a few years, she is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. In her spare time, Netta loves to travel, read, and try out new restaurants.

Henna Capone is a nonprofit management professional whose experience spans across five different countries. She received her undergraduate degree in International Business at Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences. She later earned a Master's degree in International Relations from University College London. She currently works as an Operations and Grant Manager at United Nations Association of Greater Boston. Henna is a dual citizen of Finland and the USA and lives in Scituate.

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Scholarship Opportunities

Finlandia Foundation – Boston is pleased to make the following scholarship available for the 2022-23 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).

For an application form or for further information, please contact: Edith Syrjala Eash, 80 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02421; syrjalaeash@gmail.com. The application form is also available online at the Finlandia Foundation – Boston website.

The application deadline is May 31, 2022 for both scholarships!

Membership: Please Renew or Join Us Now!

It is now time to renew your membership or to become a new member of Finlandia Foundation – Boston for 2022. The annual membership fee runs from January through December and is \$20 for individuals, \$10 for senior members, and \$30 for families. You can pay the fee or make a donation using **PayPal** by going to our website at <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/membership/>.

Alternatively, you can also send a check to:

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Happy February 2022!

