



Finlandia Foundation - Boston

September 2022 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

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Message from Our President Tuija Vainio

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a great summer and are now ready for your upcoming fall whether they involve work, school, volunteering, or hobbies. I had a wonderful summer myself and want to share some of the highlights.

In June, my husband and I along with some friends took a trip to the Montreal Grand Prix and spent the weekend watching the car drivers race in very mixed weather. We were naturally rooting for fellow Finn Valtteri Bottas! He finished seventh out of twenty drivers and scored some valuable points for him and his team. Montreal was wonderful as usual and the annual mural festival held in June was an extra bonus.

I spent most of July in Finland. Since I don't have the luxury of my own sauna in Boston I really made the most of the opportunities in Finland. I went to one of the public saunas in Helsinki called Löyly Spa, owned by a famous Finnish movie actor Jasper Pääkkonen. There are three saunas to choose from- even a smoke sauna, which is kind of a rare treat nowadays- and from the sauna one can take a dip in the Baltic Sea. I took about five! The water had cooled down to the refreshing 15C/60F. There were quite a few American tourists experiencing sauna for the first time and it was great to witness their enthusiasm.

Another highlight of my trip was a visit to the Bengtskär Lighthouse, located about 25 kilometers south west of Hanko. It is the tallest lighthouse in Nordic countries and has some interesting history. In July 1941, Soviet troops tried to destroy the lighthouse so it could not be used to observe what was happening in Soviet occupied Hanko. The Finns fought bravely and the lighthouse was saved. Today it is a popular tourist attraction with hotel accommodation.

I also visited Old Rauma, which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. This medieval town on Finland's west coast is charming with wooden architecture, museums, and lovely cafes. Walking the cobblestone streets gives you a strong sense of history in a town that is also thriving in the present. Finns have a reputation of being reserved but I found Rauma people really welcoming and warm. I highly recommend a visit!

On August 9, the Finnish flags were flown throughout the country to celebrate Tove Jansson and Finnish art. Although Tove Jansson is best known for her Moomin books, she was also a versatile painter and illustrator. The Flag Day in her honor is most appropriate.

After all the Summer fun, I now look forward to our upcoming Finlandia Foundation - Boston events. Please join us in the Zoom meeting on September 17 to hear from two Finnish scientists discuss their research in Boston. On October 2 we'll have the opportunity to see Eeppi Ursin perform in a live concert at SCC in Newton. I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely,
Tuija Vainio, FFB President

Meet Finnish-born Scientists Netta Mäkinen and Minttu Rönn via Zoom on Saturday September 17



Join us for a Zoom session at **3 p.m. on Saturday September 17** to meet two scientists who grew up in Finland and who now reside in the Boston area.

Netta Mäkinen received her a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Medicine at University of Helsinki in 2015. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. In her work, she uses sequencing technologies such as whole genome and single-cell DNA sequencing to better understand the molecular mechanisms that underlie the early phases of cancer development.

Minttu Rönn was born in in Turku and received a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology from University of Helsinki. She completed her MPH and Ph.D. in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College London. Minttu is currently a Research Scientist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Her research interests focus on understanding how different infections impact population health, identifying risk factors for diseases, and estimating the impact of existing and novel preventative efforts.

In their presentations, Netta and Minttu will tell us more about their backgrounds and provide an overview of their research. Examples will be used to illustrate the importance of the work. A Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the event.

Eeppi Ursin in concert at the Scandinavian Cultural Center at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 2



Please mark your calendars for an in-person concert by Eeppi Ursin, Finlandia Foundation National Performer of the Year, to be held at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 2.

Eepi Ursin is a New York -based platinum-selling, award-winning singer, songwriter and pianist originally from Finland. She is known for her angelic-strong voice and exceptional skill set ranging from top-class performance to writing original music. Eepi has performed all over the world, with acclaimed artists such as American trumpeter Leroy Jones and Spirit of New Orleans, and has taken the stage at the Shanghai Concert Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, Pori Jazz Festival, to name just a few.

To register for Eepi's concert, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eepi-ursin-in-concert-tickets-403696506117>. The registration is free but donations are welcome.

Upcoming Exhibit and Workshop Featuring Ann Bausman at the Scandinavian Cultural Center

Works by textile artist Ann Bausman of Belmont will be on display at the Scandinavian Cultural Center in September and October. Please join us to celebrate the opening of Ann's exhibit on Saturday September 24, 4 - 6 p.m. A workshop by Ann on Meditative Stitching will also be offered at the Scandinavian Cultural Center with two dates to choose from: Saturday, September 10 or Saturday, October 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration information for the two events can be found on SCC's website at <https://scandicenter.org/events/>.

As a textile artist, Ann is committed to working with "found textiles" that may include clothing, old linens and lace or other fabric. She often finds inspiration in the layering of fabrics and buttons, enhancing patterns and color. Ann attributes her love of textiles to her mother who grew up in Finland.

Finland Loses Two Beloved Actors

Vesa-Matti "Vesku" Loiri died at age 77 on August 10, 2022 in Helsinki. Vesku was an iconic and beloved Finnish actor and musician, best known for his character of the typical Finnish man Uno Turhapuro and his Eino Leino poem interpretations.

Antti Litja died at age 84 on July 13, 2022 in Helsinki. Antti was an award-winning and beloved Finnish actor whose career span over five decades. His breakthrough role was in the film 'The Year of the Hare' (1977). They will both be missed!



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Suomi-koulu Begins a New School Year

Suomi-koulu, or the Finnish School of New England, offers language classes and information about Finland and Finnish culture to children of all ages and adults too. The language classes meet on Saturdays twice a month 10 a.m. to 12 noon at **the Weston Methodist Church located at 377 North Avenue in Weston.**

Classes this fall be held on September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22; November 5 and 19; and December 3 and 17. The October 8 event will be an outdoor gathering at Castle Island in Boston and the December 17 meeting will be a Christmas Celebration in Weston. For further details including how to enroll, see <https://sites.google.com/site/bostonsuomikoulu/home-en>.

FinnFunn Returns to Troy, New Hampshire



The FinnFunn 2022 event will be held at the East Hill Farm in Troy, New Hampshire, during the weekend October 28-30. Come meet old and new friends at this event that celebrates Finnish heritage and culture. This year will be extra special since it is the 30th FinnFunn weekend. The program will include lectures, workshops, music performances, photo exhibits, sauna, and even a tori. For details about the festivities and how to reserve space, see the FinnFunn website at <https://www.finnfunn.org/>. Space is limited so please register early. We look forward to seeing you there!

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