



Finlandia Foundation - Boston

November 2022 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

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Message from Our President Tuija Vainio

Dear Members,

Today, November 13th, Finland celebrates Father's Day. As my own Dad passed away in October, it is both a sad day and a day of gratitude for me. I'm grateful I had him in my life for 58 years, grateful that he did not have to suffer at the end, grateful we had a chance to get together as recently as in September when he was in good physical and mental shape. My childhood hero and the one who was always there for me is gone, all that is left is love and memories. May he Rest in Peace.

Each person has their own way of dealing with loss. Mine is action. When I returned from Finland earlier this month, there was FFB work to dive into. The Board is already at work planning events for 2023, which is the 70th anniversary year of Finlandia Foundation. The Performer of the Year and the Lecturer of the Year have been announced and for the first time also the Artist of the Year. All very exciting! Please consider a donation to FFB to make all these planned events a reality. Your contributions will be much appreciated!

On November 6, Finlandia Foundation-Boston hosted an online conversation with Finnish author Emmi Itäranta. Emmi talked about her process of writing in both Finnish and English, what has influenced her and how environmental themes are present in her books. She also read an excerpt from her latest book 'Moonday Letters' which was a real treat! I like to thank our Board member Nathalie Forssell for an excellent job as the interviewer. We hope to hear more of Emmi when her next book is out.

North American Sauna Society had its Annual Meeting on November 11th. We heard about wellness trends in the USA and the projected residential sauna market growth - about 800 percent by 2030. If you are passionate about sauna and would like to educate people about authentic sauna experience please consider becoming a Sauna Ambassador. More info from Eero Kilpi, the President of FF Metropolitan New York. Also, please mark your calendars for the Second Annual Sauna Week held the last week of February 2023, when FFB plans to repeat its popular mobile sauna event at Scandinavian Cultural Center.

The most touching presentation of the Sauna Society meeting was by Mikkel Aaland, who spoke from Slovakia after returning from Ukraine only a few hours earlier. He talked about The Sauna Aid Initiative which was launched by the International Sauna Association only a few days after Russia started its war against Ukraine. In Ukraine sauna is also a place of wellbeing and peace, they call it "the second mother" for the comfort it can bring. The Initiative provides movable sauna facilities, designed and tested in Finland. If you want to know more please go to their website <https://sauna-aid.com/>.

The Holiday Season is almost here. On Thanksgiving we count our blessings and many of us

decorate the Christmas tree soon after that. Some events to join in December are described below. You are invited and I hope to see you there!

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

-Tuija Vainio, FFB President

Come Celebrate the Holidays with Suomi-koulu

Please join us to celebrate the Christmas holidays at the Finnish School of New England, also known to us as Suomi-koulu. The festivities will include a Bake Sale on Saturday December 3 and Christmas Party on Saturday December 17, 2022. Both will be held from 10 AM to 12 noon at the Weston Methodist Church located at 377 North Avenue in Weston, Suomi-koulu's current location.

The bake sale on December 3 will feature traditional Finnish pastries such as pulla, joulutorttu, piparkakku, and Karelian pies; all the things Finnish Christmas is made of.

There will also be a raffle with amazing prizes such as four tickets to Boston Ballet's Our Journey and "A Cottage Weekend" at Sunday River, ME. Finnish glassware and other collectables will also be included. The raffle tickets will be sold beginning 12/3 and the raffle draw will be held on Saturday 12/17 at the Christmas Party. To purchase raffle tickets, you can pay using either cash or a check.

At the Christmas Party on December 17, we will have a coffee table, traditional Finnish Christmas songs and - of course - the Special Guest; the one that is "coming to town".

Please join us and let's make this a truly special and memorable holiday celebration!



Finnish Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4, 12-3 p.m. at Val's Restaurant in Holden

All members, friends, relatives, and anyone who would just like to come to a Christmas Party are invited to join in the Yule Tide Festivities organized by the Finnish Center at Saima Park and the Finnish Heritage Society, Sovittaja. This year's celebration will be held at Val's Restaurant in Holden, MA. The meal will be The Grand Buffet, which includes mixed green salad, freshly baked rolls, chicken marsala, baked New England Haddock, sirloin angus tips, roasted red potatoes, butternut squash, coffee, and of course dessert, apple crisp a la mode.

In the spirit of Christmas giving, we are going to

challenge your "Finnish Frugality" with a special Yankee Swap. Please bring a wrapped gift with a value of \$5, plus or minus. Look at home for a regifiable item, consumable item (perhaps bake cookies), or some other alternative. If needed, you might even check the thrift stores. The gifts will only be swapped at the table where you are seated. There will be Christmas music by Bernie Nowak for your listening pleasure and dancing.

Price per person \$39 (tax/gratuity included). The deadline for the dinner reservation is November 29, 2022. To make your reservation, please send a check payable to FHSS to Peter Heaney, 30 Davis Street, Rutland, MA 01543, or call at 508-886-6073.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Author Emmi Itäranta Interviewed by Finlandia Foundation-Boston

On Sunday, November 6th, our chapter hosted a Book Talk by Emmi Itäranta. The author covered many topics and did a reading from her latest book, "*The Monday Letters*". Following the talk there was a Q & A. We learned about her writing process, how Finland's history and culture influences her writing, and how the shaman healing practices that our ancestors used were integral to building the main character.

Finland has one of the most avid reader bases. Finns purchase more books per capita than any other nationality in recent statistics. We are fortunate to have the services of the organization called: Lukukeskus (The Reading Center) to coordinate Finnish author visits for the benefit of our members. With the growth in online events as a new norm, many authors are available to do virtual book talks. We hope to bring more Finnish literature to our members in the future.

--Nathalie Forssell -Reading is FUNdamental

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Joint FFN Chapter meeting held in New York City. October 21-23

FFN is currently affiliated with nearly 60 chapters and related organizations located all across the United States. On October 21-23, representatives of these organizations, along with FFN trustees and members of the Young Leaders Board met in New York City for the "Fiercely Finnish" Joint Chapter Meeting. This was an opportunity for the representatives to meet face-to-face, share information and ideas, and strengthen the relations within the FFN.

The meetings opened Friday evening with a reception and a concert, "Diamonds of the North", hosted by the New York Metropolitan Chapter. The day-long meeting at the Scandinavia House on Saturday was filled with news, exchange of ideas, and networking. The recently appointed New York Consul General, Ambassador Jarmo Sareva, was a special guest at the evening reception.

On Sunday, there was an optional tour of the historic "Finntown" in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The tour was guided by Robert Saasto, an attorney who is working to document and preserve the Finnish history of the area.

At the meeting, it was also announced that Finnish singer and songwriter **Ida Metsberg**, who now lives in New York, is the 2023 FFN Performer of the Year. The Boston-based poet and author **Suzanne Matson**, a Professor at Boston College, is FFN Lecturer of the Year 2023. Starting in 2023, FFN is will also recognize visual artists with the inaugural FFN Artist of the Year. This first recipient of this award is Vermont based artist **Eric Aho**, who has been called "one of the leading painters of landscape and the environment of his generation." Congratulations to all!

Membership in FFB; Time to Renew!

It is now a good time to renew your membership or to become a new member of Finlandia Foundation – Boston for 2023. The annual membership fee, which runs from January through December, is \$20 for individuals, \$10 for senior members, and \$30 for families. To renew your membership please send a check to:

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You can also pay your membership or make a donation using a credit card **with PayPal** by going to <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/membership/>.

Thank you! And Happy Holidays to All!