



# Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

[www.finlandiafoundationboston.com](http://www.finlandiafoundationboston.com)

March 2019

## Message from Our President Linda Ilona Lindell

It was great to see so many of you at our February event. I like to thank Riikka Pietiläinen-Caffrey for her wonderful presentation on Coral Traditions in Finland. In addition to being a college professor, Riikka is an active conductor, singer, and vocal coach. In her presentation, Riikka described the development of Finnish choral music starting with Piae Cantiones, a collection of medieval songs first published in 1582. She then discussed the role of Jean Sibelius and how his music helped Finland develop a national identity during its struggle for independence from Russia. It was a treat to listen to the magnificent FINLANDIA HYMN during the presentation. We also heard music by Toivo Kuula and by Einojuhani Rautavaara, one of the most notable Finnish composers since Sibelius. More recent contributors include a new wave of Finnish women composers who have incorporated folk element into their choral music. Well-known among these is a dynamic trio consisting of conductor Marjukka Riihimäki, composer Tellu Turkka, and choreographer Päivi Järvinen. During the program, we sang together a traditional folksong "Täällä yksinäni laulelen". At the end of the presentation, we heard Riikka's original composition "Kottarainen". A link to her composition can be found at <http://www.alliancemusic.com/product.cfm?iProductID=1318>

Did you know that, while many countries have an animal or bird as a national symbol, Finland has seven natural symbols? They include a national fish, a national insect, and a national tree! Finland also celebrates the Finnish Nature Day the last weekend in August every year when people leave the cities and head out into the countryside. The seven national nature symbols are interlinked with Finnish mythology, traditions and popular culture in various ways. The symbols are:

National Animal: Brown Bear  
National Bird: Whooper Swan  
National Flower: Lily-of-the-Valley  
National Tree: Silver Birch  
National Fish: Perch  
National Rock: Granite  
National Insect: Seven-Spot Ladybird

Happy St. Urho Day! And Happy Spring!

- Linda Ilona Lindell

## Kiitos, kiitos, kiitos!

Many thanks to Tapani Ronni, Sirkku Konttinen, and Linda Lindell for their donations to the February Coffee Table.

## Cultural Program for March

FF-Boston invites members and friends to a lecture by

### Saga Krantz

Director, Hayden Synchronized Skating



**"Finland ranked #1 in Synchronized Skating - What it takes and what it gives"**

**Sunday, March 24, 4:00 pm  
Scandinavian Cultural Center  
206 Waltham Street, Newton, MA**

Synchronized skating is a popular discipline around the world but especially in the U.S. and in Finland. From its early "precision skating" days when it resembled a precision dance company such as The Rockettes, it has evolved rapidly around the World! For many years the top positions have been dominated by Finland due to their incredible training system. But at this year's Worlds in Helsinki Finland (April 2019) you will no doubt see several other countries like Russia, Canada, and U.S. wanting that podium spot. Videos from both past and present events will be shown and a quick look at the today's training system in synchronized skating will be discussed. For a video, please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSaLpeXoyME>.

Saga joined the Hayden Synchronized Skating teams in 2005 as the Head Coach of the Haydenettes and Ice Mates. In 2007 she earned the position of Director of Synchronized Skating. Saga is actively involved with all the teams in the organization. She is currently the Head Coach of the Haydenettes, Lexettes, and Ice Mates.

**Email us at [FinlandiaBoston@gmail.com](mailto:FinlandiaBoston@gmail.com)**

## Scholarship Opportunities

Applications will be accepted until June 29, 2019 for the following scholarships:

### Savele Syrjala Journalism Scholarship

For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying in the field of Journalism or Communications.

### Aina Swan Cutler Music Scholarship

For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying music (excluding hard rock and electronic music).

For more information or an application for the journalism or music scholarship, please contact:

Edith Syrjala Eash  
80 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02421  
syrjalaeash@gmail.com

### Lauri Armas Lindell Architectural Scholarship

For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying architecture in the United States or Finland. For more information or an application, please contact:

Linda Ilona Lindell  
471 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02421  
[lindalindell@verizon.net](mailto:lindalindell@verizon.net)

## Art Exhibit Featuring Laura Tilus-Korhonen at the Scandinavian Cultural Center

Artist Laura Tilus-Korhonen was born in Espoo, Finland. She studied at the Turku University, and at the Helsinki University of Art (Taideteollinen). She received a Master Degree in Education, and is a certified Art teacher. Laura lives and works in West Concord, MA, where she has a studio, and she teaches drawing and painting for adults, teens and kids (also in Finnish language).

This is Laura's first solo exhibition. Under the title "Human Form", Laura shows her drawings and painting; as she sees, feels and memorizes. The exhibit will be on display from March 9<sup>th</sup> through April.

Artist Reception | Thursday, April 4th | 6:30-8:30 pm



**FINLANDIA FOUNDATION - BOSTON**  
P. O. BOX 308  
ARLINGTON, MA 02474-0007

## Membership: Time to Join! Time to Renew!

The annual membership fee, which now runs by the calendar year, is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members. Please renew your membership by sending a check to:

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION – BOSTON  
P.O. BOX 308  
Arlington, MA 02474-0007

Tax-deductible donations are also welcome and much appreciated!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Our remaining cultural programs for Spring 2019 are:

- March 24, 4 pm (**Note: Later start time**).

Presenter: **Saga Krantz**, "Finland ranked #1 in **Synchronized Skating - What it takes and what it gives**".  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

- Sunday, April 28 program. **To be announced.**

Suomi-koulu meets at the Waldorf School in Lexington, MA, at 10 am on the following Saturdays:

- March 16, and 30
- April 13 and 27
- May 11 and 25

## Newsletter Editors: Greta Ljung & Tapani Ronni

### Directions to Scandinavian Cultural Center 206 Waltham Street, Newton, MA:

From 128 take Exit 21 / Route 16 East. Stay on it for 1.5 mi. After the overpass of the Mass Pike, take left at the 1st light onto Cherry St, then take the 1st right onto Webster St. At the end of Webster, turn left onto Waltham St. and stay on it for ¾ mi.