



Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

www.finlandiafoundationboston.com

January 2018

Message From Our President Tapani Ronni

Dear Members of the Finlandia Foundation Boston Chapter, this is my last column! The year 2017 was full of programming related to Finland and its 100 years of national independence, capped off by the Finland 100 Gala in December that many of you celebrated with us. We started our cultural programming with Kalevala expert Professor Börje Vähämäki in February. His expert lecture was further enlivened by his rune singing – a rare treat indeed. In March we showed a documentary movie about architect Eero Saarinen, the son of Eliel Saarinen, and a visionary in his own right. If you missed the movie, it is called “Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future”. I highly recommend it.

And what would the year be without parties? We wanted to balance our cultural programming with some child-oriented fun so we held a “Vappu” spring party in late April at the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Our many young guests enjoyed doughnuts and “sima” (non-alcoholic mead). The kids had balloons and streamers to play with, while the parents joined our own soprano talent, Ilona Jokinen, in a sing-a-long. We sang many classic Finnish spring songs and some evergreen pop songs – it was great fun for everyone!

Our young ones celebrated 100 years of Finnish independence as well, with a very special Suomi-koulu Christmas party. The Suomi-koulu of New England teaches Finnish to children. It meets 20 times a year at the Waldorf School in Lexington. It has been part of our chapter, as a semi-independent organization, for almost 30 years. Nowadays we are focusing mostly on younger children who come every second Saturday to play and learn some Finnish on the way. The school's great auditorium was decorated with white linen and blue banners, and children and their parents enjoyed a nice pot-luck luncheon. I was invited to give a brief talk as the president of Finlandia Foundation-Boston, Inc. I took that job seriously and addressed what independence means for me and what it means for families. I also told the children about the school system in Finland and how it has become more equal and fair since I was in elementary school in the 70s. Now Finland has some of the best schools in the world and equal learning opportunities are a big part of the success story.

Finlandia Foundation-Boston has many exciting events planned for the year ahead. Come join us! I wish you all Happy 2018!

Tapani Ronni

Email us at FinlandiaBoston@gmail.com

Annual Membership Meeting

FF-Boston, Inc. welcomes members to the

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28, 3:00 PM

Scandinavian Cultural Center,

206 Waltham Street, West Newton, MA

The president's and treasurer's reports and reports from the scholarship committee and Suomi-koulu will be presented. Members will vote on the 2018 Board nominees offered by the Nominating Committee.

President: Linda Lindell (Lexington, MA)

Vice President: Tapani Ronni (Medford, MA)

President Elect: To Be Announced

Treasurer: Anne-Mari Paster (Lexington, MA)

Clerk: Teresia Moller (Framingham, MA)

Program Chair: Ilona Jokinen (Northborough, MA)

Hospitality Chair: Sirkku Kontinen (Belmont, MA)

Membership Chair: Liisa Chanoff (Marlborough, MA)

Newsletter Editors: Molly Pratt (Cambridge, MA)

and Tapani Ronni (Medford, MA)

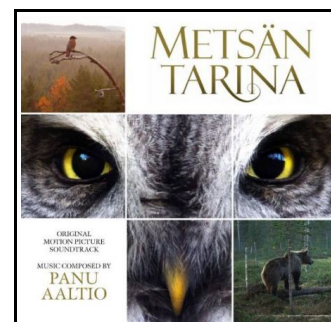
Scholarship Chair: Edith Syrjälä-Eash (Lexington)

Nominating Committee: Nathalie Forssell (Sudbury,

MA), Saana McDaniel (Lexington, MA), TBA

There are a few positions yet to fill. If you have a little time to lend, please consider joining the Board. You'll help bring quality programs that share the best aspects of Finnish and Finnish-American culture with our local audience. Please get in touch with us at finlandia-boston@gmail.com to learn more. We need you!

Once business is concluded, we'll enjoy coffee and a bite to eat, followed by a documentary film about the old growth forests in Northern Finland.



TALE OF A FOREST

In Finnish with English subtitles

Kiitos, kiitos, kiitos!

Our heartfelt gratitude to so many loyal, patriotic members whose donations made our Suomi 100 Gala possible. We could not have done it without you!

Scholarship Opportunities

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 for the architecture scholarship, please contact:

Linda Iona Lindell
471 Waltham St.
Lexington, Mass 02421
lindalindell@verizon.net

June 29, 2018 application deadline for all scholarships!

Membership Dues

The annual membership fee is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members.

Please check your mailing label for your membership standing. If your membership has expired or is about to expire, kindly send your check to:

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

Tax-deductible donations are also greatly appreciated!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 28, 3 pm

Annual Meeting & Movie

Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, February 3, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, February 17, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, February 25, 3 pm

Cultural Program: To Be Announced

Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, March 3, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, March 17, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, March 25, 3 pm

Cultural Program: To Be Announced

Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, March 31, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, April 14, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, April 22, 3 pm

Cultural Program: To Be Announced

Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, April 28, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, May 12, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, May 26, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, June 2, 10 am

Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Newsletter Editors: Molly Pratt & Tapani Ronni



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