



Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

www.finlandiafoundationboston.com

February 2018

Message from Our President Linda Ilona Lindell

My sincere and humble thank-you for entrusting me as your 2018 Finlandia Foundation-Boston, Inc. President. I am honored.

I am a retired registered nurse. I graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I was raised in a 100% Finnish family who immigrated to the United States in 1912 and 1920 from Jämijärvi and Forssa. My father, Lauri Armas Lindell, was instrumental in founding the local chapter of Finlandia Foundation, Finlandia Foundation-Boston, in 1955. Our first meeting was held at the International Institute on Beacon Street in Boston. My mother, Ellen Elizabeth Lindell, received the Order of the White Rose of Finland in 1984.

Finland has always had a special place in my heart. As little girls, my sister Elizabeth and I were involved with Finnish traditions, culture, and foods. Over the years I have visited four generations of family still living in Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Lieksa, Lahti, Pori, and Rovaniemi - such wonderful Finns with gracious hospitality, sauna, lakes, music, folk dances, and nature. Plan your visit to Finland - a trip to remember!

Mark your calendars: FinnFest 2018 in Tampere, Finland, June 24-July 1 & Finn Funn weekend in Troy, NH, October 19-21.

FF-Boston has some wonderful programs planned for you this year as well. Please see our calendar on page 2. Plan on attending and bring a friend!

We will start our 2018 programming on February 25th. February (*helmikuu*) is Kalevala month. Kalevala is the national epic of Finland, consisting of fifty cantos (*runot*) and 22,795 lines of poetry. The poem tells the story of the people from the beginning of the world to the introduction of Christianity. The Kalevala has been translated into about 48 languages and has been an important cultural inspiration for the Finnish people for many years.

Tervetuloa! Welcome!

- Linda Ilona Lindell

Email us at FinlandiaBoston@gmail.com

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!

Cultural Program for February

February is Kalevala Month!
FF-Boston invites members and friends to a lecture by
Finlandia Foundation National Centenary Lecturer

Thomas A. DuBois



Finland & The Kalevala

Sunday, February 25th
3:00 PM

Scandinavian Cultural Center
Newton

In 1835, a young Finnish intellectual, Elias Lönnrot, published the Kalevala, the Finnish “national epic.” That book became the basis of a notion of Finnish national identity that developed in remarkable ways over the course of the 19th century. It was the focus of literary, folkloristic, symphonic, operatic, dramatic, artistic and political activities. It helped Finnish nationalists resist Russian oppression and imagine a national independence that became a reality in 1917. Over the course of two wars against the Soviet Union, and through the tense era of the Cold War, the Kalevala remained an important implement in imagining and defending a sense of Finnishness in the world. In more recent years, the Kalevala and the musical traditions and ancient heritage it enshrines have helped Finns think through the implications of EU membership and imagine the place of Finnish identity in a global world. It is a world in which international authors like J.R.R. Tolkien could experience and borrow from Finnish culture, while Finns themselves adapted the styles and rhythms of heavy metal music to stories drawn from the epic.

The lecture begins with the Finnish and Karelian song traditions that Lönnrot used to create his epic, surveys the epic itself, and samples some of the myriad artistic products that have come since, both Finnish and international. It explores the many ways in which the ancient messages of the Kalevala become revealed and renewed in culture over time. (continued on page 2)

Tom DuBois is the Halls-Bascom Professor of Scandinavian Studies and Folklore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds a Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on Finnish and Sámi culture, past and present. His books include *Finnish Folk Poetry and the Kalevala*; *Lyric, Meaning and Audience*; *Nordic Religions in the Viking Age*; *Sanctity in the North: Saints, Lives and Cults in Medieval Scandinavia*; and the co-edited volumes *Finnish Folklore* and *The Nordic Storyteller*. Tom is a member of the Kalevalaseura, is a past president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and is a past co-editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*.

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

June 29, 2018 application deadline for all scholarships!



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ARLINGTON, MA 02474-0007

Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 17, 10 am
Suomi-Koulu, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, February 25, 3 pm
Cultural Program: Finland & The Kalevala
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: A House of Finland
Finlandia Foundation National Centenary Lecture
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:
Pianist MacKenzie Melemed & Soprano Ilona Jokinen
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