



# Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

www.finlandiafoundationboston.com

September 2018

## Message from Our President Linda Lindell

Dear Members,

In June I attended the 35th FinnFest in Tampere Finland. I flew Delta to Amsterdam and KLM to Helsinki. Friends picked me up from the airport and I stayed with them in Kirkkonummi for 4 days before taking the train to Tampere on Juhannus Eve. Quite an experience - to arrive in Tampere in daylight at 10 PM! Our lodging was the boutique Lapland Hotel in Tampere with an abundance of reindeer antlers and fur skins surrounded by nature murals that gave a feeling of being in Lapland.

Juhannus Sunday we walked to Tuomiokirkko for a sermon by Pastor Jarmo Tarkki and a meaningful tour of the church with significant architecture and art work placing it into Finland's cultural history. Coffee and munkki were served in the outdoor front foyer. We were fortunate to have warm days in the 70's. Some of us went to see Pyytikki observation tower while others went to visit with relatives as I did as my last family visit was 2010.

All opening ceremonies and lectures were held at Tampere University, within walking distance of the hotel. Monday was the opening ceremony convocation. The national anthems of the USA, Canada and Finland were sung, lead by the Sonore Chamber Choir. Marianne Wargelin welcomed everyone along with Ossi Rahkonen, President of Finlandia Foundation National. We enjoyed lectures on the Finnish Civil War of 1918, panel discussions (Finland 100 years later, Women & Children in the Civil War, Immigration Past & Present) along with musical performances from early 20th century Finland, and Finnish art music composed to national poet Eino Leino's work (Maria Svan, Soprano, and Taina Marja-Aho, Pianist). We walked to Kaleva Cemetery and placed flowers at both monuments - White and Red. One of the highlights was the video showing of the opera production of *Veljeni vartija (My Brother's Keeper)* that premiered in February 2018 by the Tampere Opera. Olli Kortekangas, composer, was present to answer questions.

The following day we took a taxi to Tampere city to see a play, *The Reading Room*, performed by Theater Fiasko from Joensuu. This was a one act play written by Ann Tuomi. Two Finnish men whose unfulfilled dreams as emigrants end up alone and homeless in Northern Minnesota and spend long days in the safe haven of the public library's reading room. It was very well presented by eight actors. After the play we walked to the Lenin Museum and then to the harborside to board the ferry to Viikinsaari for dinner and a musical performance by Maitolaiturin Tytöt (Milk Maid Girls).

We had many sauna nights & daily Asahi exercises at Sorsapuisto (park) next to Tampere Talo that houses

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## Cultural Program for September

Finlandia Foundation - Boston invites members and friends to join us at the Scandinavian Cultural Center's

### NORDIC BITES FOOD FESTIVAL



**Saturday, September 22nd, 11 am – 3 pm  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton**

Enjoy tastes from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland while visiting Nordic vendors, listening to live music and taking part in other foodie fun! Don't forget the return of everyone's favorite Vikings! Visit their encampment, listen to their music and watch them fight to the "death." General Admission: \$20 advance (\$25 at door); \$15 for SCC Members; \$7 Kids 12 & under. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance: [scandicenter.org/event/nordic-bites-2018/](http://scandicenter.org/event/nordic-bites-2018/)

## Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

The Scholarship Committee met in July and was pleased to make the following awards:

### The Savele Syrjala Scholarship for Journalism/Communications

To Michael Claussen from Illinois attending Indiana University; Jessica Kouvo from Massachusetts attending Gordon College; and Emily Walsh from Texas attending Ohio University.

### The Aina Swan Cutler Music Scholarship

To Sara Pajunen (for the second year in a row) from Minnesota attending New England Conservatory. Learn more and listen to Sara at [www.sarapajunen.com](http://www.sarapajunen.com).

## Suomi-Koulu Back In Session Adult Classes Added!

Suomi-Koulu was founded in 1991 to teach, and perpetuate the Finnish language and Finnish traditions among expat families, those of Finnish heritage, and of course, Finnophiles. The school offers language classes for children of all ages and adults too. The classes take place in Lexington 2 Saturdays/month; each school day concludes with social time over coffee and refreshments; the semesters close with seasonal celebrations in true Finnish style. All this and affordable tuition too! The semester price starts at \$145 and there are discounts when multiple family members register. You can find more information at the school's website: <https://sites.google.com/site/bostonsuomikoulu/Home>

*President's Message Continued*

the Moomin Museum with exhibits and illustrations by Tove Jansson. Other museums we toured were Finlayson and Amurin with a reception at Vapriikki hosted by city Executive Director Teppo Rantanen. The last day was a day of Finnish visual arts. A bus took 34 travelers to the Mänttä Art Festival and the Gösta and Gustaf Serlachius Museums, stopping at Kangasala to see the vista on the way back to Tampere. It was a wonderful, educational tour so I am looking forward to FinnFest 2019 in Detroit! Hope you had a wonderful summer and will save our calendar dates so as not to miss any of our exciting FF Boston programming.

Tervetuloa! Welcome!

-Linda Ilona Lindell

**Directions to Scandinavian Cultural Center  
206 Waltham St., 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 1<sup>st</sup> light onto Cherry St, then take the 1<sup>st</sup> right onto Webster St. At the end of Webster, turn left onto Waltham St. and stay on it for ¾ mi.

**Membership**

The annual membership fee is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members. Kindly send your check to:

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION – BOSTON

P.O BOX 308

Arlington, MA 02474-0007

Tax-deductible donations are also greatly appreciated!

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



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

**Calendar of Events**

Saturday, September 22, 10 am  
**Suomi-Koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, September 22, 11 am – 3 pm  
**SCC Nordic Food Fest**  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, October 6, 10 am  
**Suomi-Koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, October 13, 10 am  
**Suomi-Koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, October 28, 3 pm  
**Cultural Program (to be announced)**  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, November 3, 10 am  
**Suomi-Koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

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

Saturday, December 8, 10 am  
**Suomi-Koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, December 9, 3 pm  
**Cultural Program (to be announced)**  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, December 15, 10 am class,  
11 am Christmas Celebration  
**Suomi-Koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Newsletter Editors: Molly Pratt & Tapani Ronni