



# Finlandia Foundation - Boston Newsletter

www.finlandiafoundationboston.com

November 2018

## Message from Our President Linda Lindell

Our last meeting of 2018 will be a traditional Finnish dinner along with singing Finnish Christmas songs. You are all invited. Bring your friends and family.

Do you know our Finnish Traditions?

Finnish Christmas celebrations begin on Christmas Eve. In the afternoon of December 24<sup>th</sup>, Finnish public transport stops and stores close. The country is still and quiet when people start getting prepared for the evening. Some attend Christmas Eve church services and many visit cemeteries to light candles on the graves of their deceased relatives and loved ones.

Many Finns have a tradition of going to the sauna to bathe and relax before attending celebrations of the evening. My childhood Christmases were memorable. My father would prepare lutefisk by soaking fish in water for three days, then adding two tablespoons of lye in a gallon of water and soaking the fish for another 3 days, then soaking fish in clear water for another 4 days, changing water every day. It was delicious. My mother would make white cream sauce to put on the cooked lutefisk and sprinkle allspice on top. We baked cookies, listened to Finnish Christmas songs, and decorated the tree with Scandinavian ornaments. Candles in the windows added to the Christmas ambiance. The dinner table was filled with all kinds of vegetables, ham and turkey. We opened our presents after dinner and then enjoyed desserts – cookies and rice pudding with cooked dried fruit.

Christmas day was a time of rest and peace. We would often call relatives in Finland and enjoy our gifts from Joulupukki.

I hope to see you all at our Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Come and enjoy! Terveisiä! Welcome!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

-Linda Ilona Lindell

## Membership Dues

The annual membership fee is \$30 for families, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for senior members. Please renew for 2019 by sending your check to:

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

Tax-deductible donations are also greatly appreciated!

## Cultural Program for December

Members and friends, please join us for our

★ *Christmas Celebration* ★

**Sunday, December 9, 4-6 pm**



**Scandinavian Cultural Center,  
206 Waltham Street, West Newton, MA**

Come join us for the Finlandia Foundation's Christmas celebration! Festivities begin with hot, spiced wine or juice (glögi) and caroling. A traditional Christmas buffet with smoked salmon, ham, rosolli salad, rutabaga casserole and more will follow. Gingerbread cookies and prune tarts (joulutorttu) are some of the desserts. \$10/person. Beer and wine - \$5. Please pay at the door. Hope to see you there!

**RSVP by email to [FinlandiaBoston@gmail.com](mailto:FinlandiaBoston@gmail.com)**

## Suomi-koulu Christmas Party on Saturday 12/15

We would love to invite you all to the Finnish School's Christmas party on Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am. There will be a special visitor from Lapland and delicious potluck food. We will have a raffle with prizes from Marimekko and Studio M as well as tickets to see a Celtics basketball game. If you are looking for a perfect way to start the festive season, please join us!

## Finnish Christmas Service and Sing 12/15

Welcome to sing Finnish Christmas hymns and carols! A Finnish Christmas Service will be held again at the Lutheran Church of the Newtons (ELCA) on Saturday Dec 15 at 7pm. Although the service itself will be in Finnish, there will also be English and Swedish used in some of the prayers. The church is conveniently located close to the Newton Centre T-station (Green Line D). The address is 1310 Centre Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02459. Parking can be found just next to the church as well as at the Newton Center parking lots on Pelham and Pleasant Streets (both off of Centre St). More information about the church:

<http://www.lutheranchurchofthenewtons.org>

## Christmas Revels 2018 features Nordic Culture!

For those who don't know, Christmas Revels is a national performing arts organization founded in Cambridge, MA in 1971. Its performance calendar changes with the seasons culminating in its winter solstice celebration, a truly unique blend of music, dance and storytelling, that focuses on a different culture each year. This year Revels features Nordic culture with a special emphasis on the Kalevala! The show is a family event adored by young and old alike. The audience joins in at times singing a few simple songs and dancing spiritedly into the vestibule at intermission. The Christmas Revels is performed at Sanders Theater in Cambridge December 14-29. There are matinees and evening shows. Please go to [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) for more information and tickets. It's a great way to catch the seasonal spirit!

## Kiitos, kiitos, kiitos!

Many thanks to Anneli Johnson, Raija Nieminen, Terttu Savoi, Laura Tilus-Korhonen and Sirkku Kontinen for their contributions to preparing and serving our concert reception on October 28<sup>th</sup>

## 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.

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

Newsletter Editors: Molly Pratt & Tapani Ronni



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

## FF Boston Calendar of Events

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

Sunday, December 9, 4 pm  
**Cultural Program: Christmas Celebration**  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

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

Saturday, January 5, 10 am  
**Suomi-koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, January 19, 10 am  
**Suomi-koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, January 27, 3 pm  
**FF Boston Annual Meeting**  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, February 2, 10 am  
**Suomi-koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, February 16, 10 am  
**Suomi-koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Sunday, February 24, 3 pm  
**Cultural Program: To Be Announced**  
Scandinavian Cultural Center, Newton

Saturday, March 2, 10 am  
**Suomi-koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

Saturday, March 16, 10 am  
**Suomi-koulu**, Waldorf School, Lexington, MA

**Please save these dates for Spring 2019:**  
FF Boston will offer programs on Sunday, March 24  
and Sunday, April 28 at 3 pm.  
Suomi-koulu meets on Saturdays March 30, April 13,  
April 27, May 11 and May 25.