



# Finlandia Foundation - Boston

## March 2023 Newsletter

Website: <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com>

March 2023

### Message from Our President

Dear Members,

When I took this position in January 2022, I was full of excitement and ideas for FFB programs. However, during the Spring it dawned on me that I had underestimated the workload I had taken on. I frequently invested time on our programs, marketing, emailing, creating social media content, and preparing for the Board meetings. All of which I was able to do while I had my health.

Then in the Fall within two weeks I had Covid-19 and lost my father. I flew to Finland to arrange his funeral and take care of his estate. After a few health scares of my own my worried primary care doctor asked me if there really were not any stressors I could give up. That was the moment when I knew that no amount of *sisu* would be enough to do it all, and I had to put my health first. After lengthy soul searching, I decided I had to end my term as the President of Finlandia Foundation Boston prematurely. Naturally I am disappointed I could not serve a full term. I find comfort in the wise words of Maya Angelou: *"Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation, which is not nurturing to the whole woman."*

I have sent my resignation letter to our Clerk on January 31st. Per our by-laws, there is a two-month notice period for any resigning Officer. Therefore, my last day as President of FFB will be March 31st.

The Board had a meeting on February 22nd and voted in an Interim President. Tuija Voutilainen-Lynch will serve from April 2023 until January 2024. I thank her for stepping up in this challenging situation and I will do my best to ensure a smooth transition.

My passion program project was the Finlandia Foundation National Inaugural Sauna Week and I'm proud to say our Mobile Sauna at Scandinavian Cultural Center was one of the seven local Chapter in-person sauna events in 2022. This year the event was over a three-day weekend and again, it was sold out! I enjoyed the sauna on Saturday February 25th and did the cold plunge twice leaving all worries of the world behind for that moment. I hope to attend the Sauna events in the future too.

On March 19th we will have a "Writing the Finnish-American Story" talk and workshop by Suzanne Matson, FFB Lecturer of the Year. Please note that registration is needed for both, and the workshop is limited to 15 people. I have not quite decided whether to write the Finnish or American story, but it will benefit from the professional advice for sure. I hope to see you there and chat by the coffee table!



Yours Sincerely,  
-Tuija Vainio, FFB President

### Finnish Movie: "The Renovation" on Saturday March 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Scandinavian Cultural Center (SCC) is screening a Finnish movie "The Renovation" on Saturday March 11 at 1:30 p.m. In this film the couple, Maija and Jalmary (played by Kiti Kokkonen and Sami Hedberg), inherits the house of their dreams. For a while, they live in the belief that this has really been a stroke of luck. But: the house demands a little bit of renovating. Soon the couple finds themselves in the middle of an all-time renovation. The movie is in Finnish with English subtitles. Tickets for the movie are sold at the door and are also available here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-renovation-se-mieleton-remppa-movie-screening-tickets-534568166777>

### "Writing the Finnish American Story" by Suzanne Matson, Sunday March 19, 2023

Finlandia Foundation National's Lecturer of the Year (LOY), Suzanne Matson, will be making a one-hour presentation to us on Sunday March 19, starting at 3:00 p.m. Suzanne Matson is a poet, author, and English Professor at Boston College. She holds an MA in Creative Writing and a PhD in English from the University of Washington. The **lecture** entitled, "Writing the Finnish-American Story" is based on her finding that audiences are interested in talking about the process of turning personal and public history into literature. She will also read from her works and take questions. There will be a coffee break after the lecture. Following the coffee break, there will be an optional 2-hour **workshop** titled "Writing Our Family Stories". Registered participants are asked to bring source material, such as family photographs, letters, ship manifests, recipes or family stories, that would inspire a short writing exercise. The lecture is free, but a \$30 registration fee is required for the workshop.



Suzanne Matson

Please register for the lecture here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suzanne-matson-writing-the-finnish-american-story-tickets-537777596267>

Please register for the workshop here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-writing-our-family-stories-tickets-537839822387>

### Come celebrate Vappu at Suomi-koulu on Saturday April 29

Please save the date for Vappu celebrations at Suomi-koulu, located at the Weston Methodist Church, 377 North Avenue, in Weston. The event will start at 10 a.m. with a program that includes singing and performances by the children. The picnic will take place from 11 a.m. to noon. There will be games and traditional treats such as "sima" and "munkki" to celebrate this joyous occasion. You are all welcome!

## The Finnish Parliamentary Elections

The Finnish parliamentary elections will be held on Sunday April 2, 2023. Every Finnish citizen who has reached the age of 18 on or before the day of election is eligible to vote in the parliamentary elections. Do you know how to vote in the elections from abroad? If not, below is a brief summary of the process. Also, The Ministry of Justice's website on elections is an excellent resource for additional information: <https://vaalit.fi/en/frontpage>

**Advance voting abroad:** There will be an Advance Voting Station on **Friday March 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday March 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** allowing eligible voters to vote in person. The voting station is located at the Honorary Consulate: **260 Franklin Street, ground floor, Boston, MA 02110** (Tel. +1 617 291 4040). More precise instructions on advance voting are available at <https://vaalit.fi/en/frontpage>

**Mail-in voting:** If you are eligible to vote and are living or studying abroad throughout the entire voting period of the upcoming parliamentary elections, you may vote by mail. You can order your mail-in ballot from here: <https://kirjeaanestys.vaalit.fi/?lang=fi> Remember to order the mail-in ballot as soon as possible if you decide to vote by mail, as the delivery may take a while. You can vote by mail starting **on March 2, 2023**, as soon as the candidate numbers are published. The mail-in ballot, complete with a foreign postal stamp, must arrive at the correct central municipal election board in Finland **by 7p.m. (local time) on March 31, 2023**. Votes arriving after the deadline will not be counted. More information on mail-in voting is available here: <https://vaalit.fi/en/postal-voting>

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## FFB Scholarship Opportunities

FFB is pleased to make the following three scholarships available for the 2023-24 academic year:

1. **Savele Syrjala Journalism Scholarship**  
For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying Journalism or Communications.
2. **Aina Swan Cutler Music Scholarship**  
For a student of Finnish-American heritage studying music (excluding hard rock and electronic music).
3. **Lauri Armas Lindell Architectural Scholarship**  
For a student of Finnish-American heritage in Architecture.

For questions or further information, please contact: Edith Syrjala Eash, 80 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02421; [syrjalaeash@gmail.com](mailto:syrjalaeash@gmail.com) or Linda Lindell at [lindalindell@verizon.net](mailto:lindalindell@verizon.net). The application forms are available online at the Finlandia Foundation – Boston website. **The application deadlines are May 31, 2023.**

## Membership Renewals Are Due!

It is now time to renew your membership or to become a new member of Finlandia Foundation – Boston for 2023. The annual membership fee, which runs from January through December, is \$20 for individuals, \$10 for senior members, and \$30 for families. To renew your membership please send **a check to:**

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

If more convenient, you can also pay your membership fee or make a donation using **PayPal or Venmo** by going to <https://finlandiafoundationboston.com/membership/>.

Happy March 2023!

