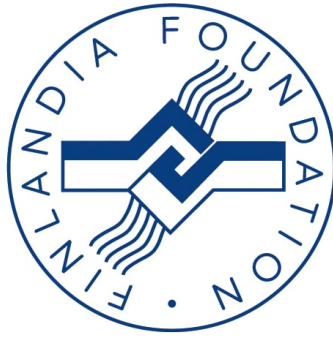




Finlandia Foundation — Boston September 2026 Newsletter



Message from our President

Dear FFB members and friends,

It is hard to believe the summer months are behind us and it is time to prepare for fall. I hope your summer was wonderful, filled with relaxation and good moments spent with family and friends.

My summer included fun family trips around New England, and one highlight of my summer was the **UKTS Sauna's 100th-year celebration in August**. My summer felt complete after spending a relaxing couple of hours in a real Finnish sauna and swimming in the pond. If you miss the Finnish sauna experience, I highly recommend visiting [UKTS](#) in Pembroke.

We have several amazing programs lined up for the fall season, starting with the Finlandia Foundation National's Lecturer of the Year, John Jay Smith. He will present **"The Story of John Morton"** at the **Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton on Sunday, September 13th**.

We also have FFN's Performer of the Year, **Ruut DeMeo**, coming to the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Newton on **October 4th**. Ruut is a Finnish-born, multidisciplinary artist whose work as a musician, author, and educator celebrates the transformative power of creativity and cultural heritage.

We look forward to seeing you all—greeting current members and making new friends—at these events.

I wish you a delightful September!

Erika Verkkonen
President, Finlandia Foundation Boston

Upcoming Events — Mark your calendar

Lecturer of the Year — Sunday, September 13

Performer of the Year — Sunday, October 4

FinnFunn Weekend — October 23-25

Independence Day Party — Saturday, December 5



The Finnish-American Who Helped Decide American Independence

Did you know that a man of Finnish descent played a pivotal role in the decision for American independence?

Join **Finlandia Foundation Boston** for a fascinating afternoon with **Jay Smith, Finlandia Foundation National's 2026 Lecturer of the Year**, as he brings to life the remarkable story of **John Morton — signer of the Declaration of Independence and a descendant of Finnish settlers in colonial New Sweden**.

Sunday, September 13, 2026

3–4 PM

Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library

206 Waltham Street

West Newton, MA 02465

All are welcome — bring a friend!



FFN 2026 Performer of the Year Ruut
Sunday, October 4 at 3 pm
Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library
206 Waltham Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Join **Finlandia Foundation Boston** for a performance by Ruut, the Finlandia Foundation National 2026 Performer of the Year. Ruut is a Finnish-born, multidisciplinary artist whose work as a musician, author, and educator celebrates the transformative power of creativity and cultural heritage. Known for two decades in Baltimore as the city's beloved "piano girl," she has released nine independent albums and performed internationally.



Community Events

FinnFunn Weekend 2026 Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25 East Hill Farm Troy, NH

FinnFunn New England 2026 takes place at The Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, New Hampshire. The working farm sits nestled among woods, fields, and trails beneath Mount Monadnock in peak autumn color.

Finnish Roots · Modern Lives is the core theme. Not a history lesson. A conversation about values that traveled across an ocean — and never stopped shaping our lives to this day.

One weekend. A lifetime of questions, finally making sense.

[Learn more and register](#)

It's time to register for Finnish lessons!

There are multiple levels available, all listed below. There will be a total of 26 meetings: 13 in Fall semester and 13 in Spring semester. If you sign up for both the fee is \$530 total. If only one semester at a time, fee is \$330. (Both fees include the yearly FFB membership that is \$30)

Please contact Saija (sajalaurila@gmail.com) with any questions and to register.

BEGINNERS, Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm,

Dates: 9/17-12/17 (no class on 11/26) Starting book Suomen Mestari 1

Spring: 1/21- 4/22 (no class on 4/1)

ADVANCED BEGINNERS, Sundays 5-6pm

Dates: Fall: 9/13-12/13 (no class on 11/ 29) Starting Book Suomen Mestari 1 chapters 5-6

Spring: 1/17- 4/25 (no classes on 1/31and 3/28)

INTERMEDIATE, Sundays 6-7pm

Dates: Fall: 9/13 - 12/13 (no class on 11/29) Starting Book Suomen Mestari 2 chapters 5

Spring: 1/17- 4/25 (no classes on 1/31and 3/28)

INTERMEDIATE, Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm

Dates: Fall 9/16 - 12/16 (no class on 11/25) Starting Book Suomen Mestari 2 chapter 5

Spring: 1/20 - 4/21 (no class on 3/31)

ADVANCED Wednesdays 7.30-6.30pm

Dates: Fall 9/16 - 12/16 (no class on 11/25) Starting Book Suomen Mestari 4

Spring: 1/20 - 4/21 (no class on 3/31)

Finlandia Foundation Boston | [Email Address](#) | [Website](#)

Finlandia Foundation - Boston | P.O Box 308 | Arlington, MA 02476 US

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