The wheels are in motion. The brakes are off. Finlandia Foundation is moving forward with energy and imagination, fueled by generous donors who are making it possible to produce and improve today’s programs, and to plan for the future.

In recent months we have invested in operational aspects of FFN, including adding a full-time administrative assistant, purchasing necessary equipment and making behind-the-scenes improvements to our long-neglected office in Pasadena (see page 22). Our marketing committee conducted a search for a company to redesign our rudimentary website into a dynamic, functional and better representation of FFN. Watch for our new look in the New Year!

Our drive to improve FFN visibility and connectivity is showing results, with increased collaboration and cooperation with key organizations and offices in the U.S. and Finland. Examples of this include several webinars that you will find on the FFN YouTube channel, produced with the Consulate in New York, Finnish Embassy in the U.S. and Suomi-Seura. Our Young Leaders Board was invited by Ambassador Mikko Suomi-Seura to meet with the team at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. (page 19).

As a representative of Finlandia Foundation, I am making it a priority to explore mutually beneficial opportunities that will strengthen our organization and establish contacts in the Finnish-American community, with an eye on succession planning. This is one of the most important factors in all operations, yet it is a topic that is often discussed but not acted upon. It’s risky to let succession planning slide. Not having people to follow current leaders can be fatal. Our approach is to be proactive, to cultivate relationships that will help us to thrive.

I hope you enjoyed our wonderful, three-part series based on the award-winning novel Ice, by Ulla-Lena Lundberg. We were thrilled to conduct interviews in Finland with the author and Jaakko Kivistö, composer of the opera based on the story. They are available at the FFN YouTube channel. We were privileged to be granted by the Finnish National Opera a limited-time online screening of the production exclusively for FFN members (page 15).

You’ll read about many other activities, including the inaugural National Sauna Week, declared by FFN to be the last week of February (page 6).

We have the momentum. With your support and involvement, we’ll carry that into 2022 and beyond.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and great start to the New Year,

Anne-Mari Poster

FINNISH AMERICAN REPORTER

RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Since 1906, The Finnish American Reporter has delivered news about, of interest to the Finnish-American community in the U.S. and Canada. The monthly newspaper carries feature articles, personality profiles and historical and general information about Finnish America and Finland that may otherwise reach its audience across North America. That the journal continues to arrive in mailboxes each month is a testament to its value.

“As The Finnish American Reporter celebrates its 95th anniversary, we are proud to recognize this important journal with the Finlandia Foundation National Award of Excellence 2021,” says FFN President Anne-Mari Poster, who presented the award during the organization’s board meeting in the Detroit area on October 16.

“Finlandia Foundation National inaugurated its Award of Excellence in 2018 as a means of recognizing and honoring individuals and organizations committed to supporting and uplifting Finnish America and Finland in the United States,” explains Anne-Mari. “The Finnish American Reporter, the largest such publication in North America, provides a great service to our community.

“We must recognize how fortunate we are to have a quality, monthly heritage newspaper dedicated to the common interests of Finnish America and Finland, and what an achievement it is to be able to celebrate its longevity—especially now, when print publications are facing challenges to survive.”

FFN presented its first Award of Excellence to the Seattle Symphony Orchestra’s week program in March of 2015, “Luminous Landscapes: The Sibelius Symphonies.”

In 2017, FFN recognized Pauline Maki, editor of the monthly Finnish-American newspaper published at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan, for her extraordinary involvement and support of the Finnish-American community. The 2019 recipients were Finnish cellist Jussi Mäkelä and pianist Maarit Annanen, for their dedication to performing and building awareness and appreciation of music from Finland—especially that of Sibelius—in the United States.

“Finlandia Foundation appreciates the contributions and commitment of The Finnish American Reporter, and wishes for its continued success.”

FFN President Anne-Mari Poster presents the Finlandia Foundation Award of Excellence to The Finnish American Reporter, accepted by David Maki, editor. The monthly Finnish-American newspaper is published at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan.

FINNISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION NATIONAL

INSPIRING, CELEBRATING AND CONNECTING THE FINNISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1953

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To reach a trustee by
e-mail, contact
office@finlandiafoundation.org

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Communications Committee: Jacqueline Harjula, chair, and Katarina Lehman, Betsey Norgard and Tarja Silverman. Additionally, FFN produces a monthly, free e-news; sign up to receive it at the FFN website. Submit chapter news and other items of interest and photos to:

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John Koskinen’s parents taught him a few important lessons growing up: believe in yourself, make the most of whatever you do, work hard, and whatever you start, finish it! These were valuable Finnish lessons that carried into a career that spanned some of the most challenging assignments in the private and non-profit sectors, and to the highest offices of government — all the way to the White House.

His upbringing was an integral part of his success. John’s grandparents were Finnish on both sides. His mother’s family settled in Minnesota and his father’s family in Ohio, and their heritages was always a source of pride. His parents met at a Finnish dance hall in Cleveland, and John remembers sipping the sauna at his grandfather’s farm in Minnesota, and his mother baking Finnish coffee bread and letting it rise on the radiator.

John’s parents believed that everyone should be assimilated into American society without any accent, and did not teach their children the Finnish language, even his maternal grandfather spoke only Finnish, and John picked up a few words here and there. His mother’s family settled in Minnesota and his father’s family came from the area. Finland was always a source of pride. His parents met at a university dance in California, and his mother baking Finnish coffee bread and letting it rise on the radiator.

John grew up in Cleveland until the age of 12, when his father took a job in Kentucky. Education was Education was an age of 12, when his father took a job in Kentucky. Education was an age of 12, when his father took a job in Kentucky. Education was an age of 12, when his father took a job in Kentucky. Education was an age of 12, when his father took a job in Kentucky. Education was an age of 12, when his father took a job in Kentucky. Education was.

After college, he worked as an attorney in a large law firm in California. But he felt a stronger calling for public service. In 1967, the cities were burning and he was energized to do something. He went to Washington, D.C. in August to find a job in government, and arrived just a few days after the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (known as the Kerner Commission) was created. When the opportunity arose through a mutual acquaintance to work for the commission, he seized it. The Kerner Commission investigated the causes of the racial riots during the long, hot summer of 1967, and made programmatic recommendations to avoid a recurrence.

John loved the work and the city, and took a position in the U.S. Office of New York Mayor John Lindsay. He then was Chief of Staff for Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut. After several years of public service, John — with college-bound kids — moved to a better paying, private sector job with the Palmieri Company, where he helped manage the non-rail business. In 1981, he joined the Financial Services Administration (the IRS) where he held the job of Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget for three years.

Following that post, while on a brief tour of Europe with his wife, Pat, the White House rang and said, “We have a Y2K problem,” referencing the government and nation’s IT systems in the transition to the year 2000. After a call from President Clinton offering him the position of Y2K Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget for three years.

Upon leaving city government, John seized the opportunity to work in the White House, where he held the job of Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget for three years.

John’s planned retirement was derailed by a call from Secretary of Treasury Hank Paulson’s office requesting his turnarounds skills at Freddie Mac. In September 2008, the economy was in free-fall, and the government was taking over the failed mortgage lender, which had helped precipitate the global recession. In his position as Non-Executive Chairman, he rebuilt the board, helped to turn the organization around, and left it in a stabil (and much better place) than when he started. He looked forward to retirement.

After Y2K, he served as Deputy Mayor and City Administrator of Washington, D.C., during challenges such as 9/11, the anthrax scare, and the 2002 Super Bowl which killed 1 on October 2002. Upon leaving city government, John was confirmed as IRS Commissioner, and for four years provided steady leadership through some of the most tumultuous times in the organization’s history.

In all of his important jobs, the hours were long and the decisions were sometimes lonesome. “I can recall talking to my wife Pat on the phone every night while still at the office. We would sometimes light a candle and we would both eat our dinner together while talking on the phone. One time, a co-worker passing by my office didn’t notice the phone and thought I had lost my mind eating alone and talking to myself,” he laugh.

“I feel fortunate to have been at the right place at the right time, do perhaps the wrong thing at the right time, in light of the positions I filled,” he says. “I took the jobs nobody wanted, but I feel blessed to have had these opportunities.”

His Finnishness helped. John notes that “instinctively you try to help other people and solve problems. Working with other great people made all the difference.”

John sees Finlandia Foundation as a catalyst to bring our community together to learn from one another. He advises the organization to keep up the visibility of Finland and our Finnishness. “It’s a small country, but with a great reputation for excellence. Finns have made admirable accomplishments.”

He also thinks it’s important to preserve our Finnish history and heritage, and support scholarships for young people. “Supporting scholarships honors our Finnish values. Finland is one of the best educated countries in the world.”

Although John now likes to think he is finally retired, everyone knows that opportunities will call again. Given his success, we hope he’ll take the call.

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For the second time, his retirement was interrupted by a call from the White House. In 2013, the Obama administration asked if he would run and help turn around the IRS. He was confirmed as IRS Commissioner, and for
Finlandia Foundation National has declared the last week of February to be National Sauna Week. The inaugural event is set for February 20-26, 2022.

Sauna is undoubtedly the most known Finnish word in the U.S., within and outside of the Finnish-American community. While many people have experienced sauna at hotels, spas and gyms, in the time of COVID-19, home saunas have become popular additions.

Sauna is becoming more widely appreciated in the United States, and UNESCO has inscribed the Finnish culture and Finnish-American life. "While many people recognize its physical and social benefits, they don't realize, for example, the role that sauna plays in Finnish business and diplomatic dealings."

"With National Sauna Week, we hope to inform and spread awareness of the importance of sauna," says FFN President Anne-Mari Paster. FFN believes it's time to raise visibility of this part of Finnish culture and UNESCO in its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Finland on its behalf.

FFN is working with its affiliated chapters across the country as well as sauna societies and organizations in the U.S. and Finland to make National Sauna Week an opportunity for FFN to share information about the history, culture, customs and traditions as well as the correct pronunciation of sauna.

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"National Sauna Week is an opportunity for FFN to share information about the history, culture, customs and traditions as well as the correct pronunciation of sauna."

Sauna Week a collaborative celebration. FFN is planning programs and encouraging chapters to host events throughout the week.

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Lecturer of the Year Program Open for Applications

By Hilary Virtanen FNN Trustee and LOY Chair

With the Finn Cooks Sous Chef Anderson and Eleanor Ostman keeping us entertained with their popular YouTube videos, and cautiously getting their Lecturer of the Year appearances back on the road to chapters, we continue to navigate this signature program's development in these COVID-19 times. Soile and Eleanor will finally complete their extended term in June 2022 by fulfilling commitments made before the pandemic, and we thank them for their grace and flexibility through this long and unusual period.

Beginning with the 2021 LOY, we are opening an application process in order to better identify people who are interested in presenting their expertise to audiences across the U.S. Chapter members are encouraged to identify potential lecturers and let them know about the program.

The application is available at FinlandiaFoundation.org. The application period for the 2022-2023 LOY will close February 11, 2022. Applications include the form, letters of recommendation and materials demonstrating the applicant’s suggested topic and approach to presentation. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact LOY Chair Hilary Virtanen, at hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu. We look forward to seeing where this new process takes us!

A New COVID-inspired Form of Concerts

By Teuvo Pulkkinen FNN Trustee

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian, who have a long relationship in performing in collaboration with Finlandia Foundation, were forced to cancel their planned U.S. concert tour. Instead, they developed a two-way streaming concert concept with their sound and film technician. This allowed the performers to be connected with their audience around the world in real time, and also being able to communicate with them. It’s as though the artists and audience are sharing the concert experience in the same space, despite the long distances.

Jussi and Nazig hope to be able to return to the U.S. in 2023-25 to continue the concert tour that was interrupted by COVID-19. It’s something that they are looking forward to. During these times, we need music and culture more than ever, and feel privileged to work with these talented artists.

Cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian continue their co-operation with Finlandia Foundation National Sauna Week.

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By Katarina Lehtonen
FFN Trustee and POY Chair

FFN has selected award-winning jazz vocalist Eeppi Ursin as Performer of the Year 2022. Originally from Finland, now based in New York City, the singer-songwriter is a versatile artist appearing with various types of groups, from A Cappella ensembles to symphony orchestras. Eeppi offers pop, jazz, dance — even children’s music, such as Muuminlauluja (Moomin Voices) — in her programs. She has 40 recordings, of which five are platinum or gold albums, and just released two singles from her upcoming fourth solo album, Speechless, which will be out in February of 2022.

Eeppi has performed all over the world, with acclaimed artists such as American trumpeter Leroy Jones and Spirit of New Orleans, Vocal Ensemble Club for Five, UMO Jazz Orchestra and Warp. She’s taken the stage at the Shanghai Concert Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, Hong Kong A Cappella Festival, Riverboat Jazz Festival, Pori Jazz Festival and Jazz au Chellah.

Her New York City appearances include Rockwood Music Hall, Zinc, Prohibition, Dizzy’s, The Back Room and The Bitter End, where she was invited in 2018 by the New York Songwriters Circle as the first Finnish artist. The singer also collaborates with the Emmy-awarded composer Stephen Lawrence, known for his work for Sesame Street, and Finnish composers Kaj Chydenius and Jukka Linkola. In 2014, Eeppi was chosen as the soloist at the President’s Independence Day Reception in Finland.

Eeppi will perform in-person or virtually in events/concerts for chapters from January through December of 2022. If interested, please contact Katarina Lehtonen at lehtonenk@comcast.net. Find more information about the POY at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

“Killer voice, amazing piano and wonderful lyrics” — The New York Songwriters Circle

Find more information and hear Eeppi at eeppiursin.fi

Photo by Ari Myllymäki

CEO of HackerOne Mårten Mickos

For her program In Conversation, Maria Voltaire has talked with filmmaker Eric Saarinen and Remmel, of the popular band Steve ‘N Seagulls. Maria, who was FFN Performer of the Year in 2012, teamed up with musicians Miska Kajanus and Jaakko Manninen for “Juhannustanssit,” fun dance tunes for Midsummer.

FFN has also started to share oral history videos produced by FFN chapters, including “Immigrant Families Remember” by the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and “Finns in the News” from the Columbia-Pacific Chapter in Portland, Oregon.

After a summer hiatus, original programming resumed this fall with “Soiva Music Camp 2021: A Virtual Showcase,” a wonderful recital by the 10 students who attended the abbreviated, online classes with five Soiva faculty members. Michel Wendell and My American Dream returned with a fascinating interview with Mårten Mickos, a native of Finland who came to Silicon Valley in 2003, and found success as a serial entrepreneur in the tech world. Six years ago he became CEO of HackerOne, the world’s leading vendor of hacker-powered security.

For Finland’s Independence Day, pianist Ruusamari Teppo and soprano Maria Mannistö created another beautiful concert, as they did in February, for Valentine’s Day. And the icing on the Finnposium cake is Ice, the three-part series about the novel by Ulla-Lena Lundberg (see page 15).

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Grants & Scholarship Deadlines

Applications are open for Finlandia Foundation National 2022 grants as well as scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and law students. Deadlines are January 17 for grants and February 1 for scholarships. All applications must be submitted via e-mail and received by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific) on the deadline date. Awards will be announced in spring 2022.

Find complete information on the application process and learn about the variety of projects and programs that have received grants, and profiles of past scholarship recipients, at the FFN website: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Grants
Richard Ahola
FFN Trustee and Grants Chair

Grants of up to $5,000 have been made available to projects in the areas of history, research, the arts, music, events, and preservation of property such as saunas, log cabins and Finnish halls.

In developing a grant proposal consider the following:

- Projects should benefit the general public, not only the sponsor or sponsoring organization
- Grants should show evidence or testimony of high cultural, educational, artistic or scientific merit
- Grants are limited to a maximum of $5,000 per award
- Special consideration is given to projects endorsed or sponsored by an FFN chapter
- Salaries to project staff or employees are not allowable

Scholarships
Pirjo Kujansuu Schulbach
Scholarships Chair

The Finlandia Foundation scholarship program was inaugurated in 1956, and initially was known as the Sibelius Memorial Scholarship Fund, for music students. Today, those in all areas of academic study in the U.S. and Finland are eligible.

Scholarships are awarded to fulltime undergraduate (sophomore or higher level) and graduate students enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution in the U.S. or Finland.

- A minimum 3.0 GPA is required
- Applicants of Finnish-American heritage will be given primary consideration
- Financial need and course of study are considered
- U.S. or Finnish citizenship is required
- Scholarships are awarded to law students in both countries. The P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Scholarship is available to qualified American law students studying in Finland, and Finnish law students in the U.S.

President Niinistö in FinnTown

New York attorney Robert Alan Saasto, who has been a driving force in actions to commemorate Brooklyn’s FinnTown, was honored to accompany Finland’s President Sauli Niinistö on a tour of the Sunset Park area on September 21. Mika Koskinen, the Consul General of Finland in New York, requested the 30-minute tour while President Niinistö was in the city for the United Nations General Assembly.

They were able to stop by Alku One, the first non-profit residential co-operative in the United States. Both Alku One and Two were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in May of 2019, confirming the significant contribution made by the Finnish immigrants who introduced this residential concept to the U.S. “It is indeed a source of pride for all Americans of Finnish descent, and for Finns visiting from abroad,” says Robert.

Additionally, the tour took in the Finlandia Street sign, memorializing the heart of FinnTown, and the former Imatra Hall, a hub of activity that once was the scene of a speech by Finland’s President Urho Kekkonen.

Valerie Landriscina, the architect who is to be credited for her tremendous work on the application for historical designation, and John Amman, owner of Alku One, were present and answered questions that the president posed about the buildings.

President Niinistö commented on several occasions throughout the tour that the more-than-century-old structures, including Imatra Hall, were good examples of the skills and workmanship of the Finns, a trait that extends to the present day.

Robert recalls that at the dedication of the Finlandia Street sign, which he had secured in 1992, he commented that one day the Finns would be gone, but the street sign would remain. “The thought never entered my mind that almost 30 years later, I would be showing that sign to the President of Finland.”
New Diplomatic Appointments

Okko-Pekka “Oikkis” Salmimies has been appointed Consul General in Los Angeles, where he is responsible for 13 western states. He most recently was Visiting Senior Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and prior to that, from 2016–2020, served as Ambassador for Team Finland. Previous assignments include Ambassador and Head of Mission at the Permanent Delegations of Finland to the OECD and to UNESCO in Paris. He holds a Masters in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki, and enjoys running, cross country skiing, tennis and golf, playing drums and reading.

Veikko Valli is the new Honorary Consul of Finland in Oregon. A native of Finland, he is the co-founder and chief investment officer of Snowstorm Capital, based in Portland. The honorary consulates augment Finland’s network of diplomatic missions, made up of embassies and consulate generals. They provide citizens and permanent residents of Finland with assistance and advice.

Diplomats in Dialogue

By Katariina Lehtonen
FFN Trustee

On September 13, I was happy to attend the “Diplomats in Dialogue” of the Nordic Innovation Series at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle. Finland’s Ambassador Mikko Hautala and Norway’s Ambassador Anniken Krutnes discussed and answered questions from the public about sustainability, green transition, technology, security and Arctic matters.

Anniken Krutnes discussed Norway’s Ambassador Mikko Hautala in Seattle

Eilert Hanoa, CEO of Kahoot, and Mårten Mickos, CEO of HackerOne, co-moderated. National Nordic Museum Executive Director and CEO Eric Nelson opened the meeting and introduced the participants, including Finland’s new Consul General in Los Angeles, Okko-Pekka Salmimies. A reception followed the discussion session, where I had an opportunity to meet with Mikko Männistö, president of the FFN Seattle chapter. We discussed FFN programs, and a possible joint webinar about genealogy via Zoom with the FF Seattle, Columbia-Pacific and Naselle chapters. Mikko liked the idea and encouraged involving Swedish-speaking Finns, as well.

Although Ambassador Hautala had a very busy schedule, I was able to extend regards from Finlandia Foundation National and thank him for inviting the Young Leaders Board of FFN to the Embassy in Washington, D.C. in August. He expressed great interest in developing an exchange program for young adults working in Finland, and helping them to experience the Finnish business culture. He was also impressed with how knowledgeable the YLB members are.

In conclusion, the meeting left a very positive and encouraging feeling. The National Nordic Museum’s Innovation Series will continue every two months, and I hope to be able to attend in the future.

By Lauren Tuiskula
YLB Member

After just over nine months of collaboration, the Young Leaders Board (YLB) has achieved a handful of our goals as we continue working to bring the next generation into FFN by sharing Finnish culture and opportunities with fellow young Finnish Americans.

Following our introductory Zoom meeting in February, the eight-member YLB hit the ground running. We started hosting monthly planning and discussion meetings, we created a Young Finnish Americans LinkedIn page to network and share career opportunities, we curated a Spotify playlist of our favorite Finnish music and we even interviewed Awak Kuier, the first Finnish woman drafted into the WNBA.

YLB members have also collaborated with the FFN board through various committee assignments. Most recently, we’ve worked alongside the marketing committee to begin the project of rebuilding the FFN website. We are especially excited to see the outcome of these efforts, and know the new website will help amplify FFN’s messaging and events.

The highlight from our first nine months together was undoubtedly our August trip to the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C. The trip marked the first time the YLB gathered in person, and we were all incredibly grateful for the opportunity to meet with Ambassador of Finland to the United States Mikko Hautala and his team. Discussions about opportunities to further collaborate with the Embassy are ongoing.

As we reflect on our first nine months, the YLB feels energized and hopeful for what’s to come. When we first met on Zoom, we were all surprised (and thrilled) to learn that like-minded Finnish American millennials even existed. We’re excited to tackle our long-term goals in the months ahead and to continue broadening FFN’s reach to the younger generation.


Members of the YLB make a presentation to the Ambassador (foreground) and Embassy team
FFN Recognizes James Kurtti

James “Jim” Kurtti is an integral part of the Finnish-American community in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, particularly in Hancock and the Keweenaw Peninsula. He is native of the area, which has been densely populated by people of Finnish descent since the late 19th century, when immigrants came to work in the copper mines.

That Finnishness wasn’t really celebrated until the late 1980s, when grant money became available for small cities to develop programs along themes. “There were public meetings to get input from the community, and only Finnish people showed up. That’s why we have the peculiar name (Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock),” explains Jim.

He would go on to develop a number of heritage-related initiatives, from the Hekimipaima midwinter celebration and Finlandia American Folk School, to production of documentary films and publication of books. His involvement, work and commitment to Finland and Finnish America reach far beyond Michigan, and during its board meeting in the Detroit area, Finlandia Foundation recognized him for that passion and his many contributions.

Earlier this year Jim retired from his position as Director of the Finnish American Heritage Center at Finlandia University, where his responsibilities included the Finnish-American archive and artifact collection, and publication of The Finnish American Reporter.

He will continue to be involved in Finnish America, through the Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock, Finlandia Foundation Copper Country Chapter, and as the Upper Peninsula’s Honorary Consul for Finland.

Going, Going, Gone

At the time of FFN News publication the numbers were being tallied, but based on the enthusiastic response — including a few bidding wars — it’s likely that there is another auction on the horizon to benefit the programs of FFN.

FFN extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this Fundraiser.

Auction items included an assortment of Periit ornaments donated by Fossil Style of Minnesota

Ice: a three-part series on the story that gripped Finland

By Betsey Norgard
FFN Trustee

Åland author Ulla-Lena Lundberg’s 2012 novel Ice—the book, its adaption to opera and the actual production created by the Finnish National Opera—was featured this fall in a video series as part of FFN’s Finnposium.

The original Swedish (def in Finnish, Ice in English) was awarded the 2012 Finlandia Prize, Finland’s highest honor in literature. The original and the English translation in 2016 won the hearts of readers everywhere.

The setting is the southernmost islands and skerries of the Åland archipelago, between Sweden and Finland. The time is 1946, as post-war Finland is recovering from the lack of food and supplies during the war years. Lundberg’s storytelling puts readers directly into the rhythm of daily life and experiences in the remote Orland islands, as young pastor Peter Kummel arrives and settles into the small community with Mona, his wife, and their young daughter Sanna.

They immediately feel at home, but come face-to-face with the rugged and sometimes tragic forces of winter. The story is autobiographical, as the author’s father was a minister in Kökar, the model for Orland, and the family is recovering from the lack of food and supplies during the war years. Lundberg’s family is recovering from the lack of food and supplies during the war years.

Lundberg in Kökar her birthplace and summer home. She talks about the remote islands, and how—through intersections of fact and fiction — she connects the story of young Pastor Kummel and his family to her own family’s life there.

• Part One: Ice, the opera — Finnish composer Jaakko Kuusisto is interviewed by journalist Pekka Haikó about the creative inspiration in adapting the libretto to music.

• Part Two: Ice, the Finnish National Opera production was accessible to FFN members for a short time.

• Part Three: Ice, a visit with Ulla-Lena Lundberg in Kökar, her birthplace and summer home. She talks about the remote islands, and how—through intersections of fact and fiction — she connects the story of young Pastor Kummel and his family to her own family’s life there.

At her summer home in Kökar, author Ulla-Lena Lundberg (center) chats with FFN Trustees Hanna Wagner (left) and Betsey Norgard.

Composer Jaakko Kuusisto (left) talks with journalist Pekka Hako about the opera based on the novel Ice (Ice) photo courtesy Finnish National Opera
December 3-5, the days leading up to Finlandia’s annual observance of Finnish Independence on December 6. The 125th anniversary celebration includes exhibits, performances, lectures, worship and more from President Philip Johnson.

"Today, 125 years later, Finlandia serves a very diverse student body from across the country and from around the world, educating to foster enduring wisdom cry out, and does not understanding lift up her voice?" says Nick. Perhaps aided by sisu inherited from his mother, who is of Finnish descent (her grandparents came to Ellis Island on the RMS Lusitania), Nick stuck with his money-maker through high school. Throughout his four years at the University of Maine, he returned to the farm on fall weekends to sell his pumpkins and squash. In 2014, with business degree in hand, he joined those who “feed, fuel and fiber the world.” Nick and his father raise pastured beef cattle, grass hay — round and square bale — and oats, barley and other feed crops for horses, sheep, goats and beef herds, plus the pumpkins and squash.

"I made a plan to go into agriculture, and at the end of five years, if it was still viable, if I was keeping the business headed in a positive direction, I would give it another five years," says Nick. After just two years, he bought his own acreage; in 2019 he renewed his five-year commitment to farming.

The 29-year-old has been active with the Young Farmer & Rancher Program and Maine Farm Bureau, where members meet to set policies and enjoy fellowship. Nick is a member of the Finnish Heritage House in nearby South Thomaston, but admits that he’s got little free time to dedicate to events and activities there.

"Farming is a wonderful thing, but it is a business, and must be treated as a business," says Nick. He is committed to his own operation’s viability and sustainability. “I have to be innovative and financially vigilant." Above all, he says, "I want to maintain financial independence."
Some semblance of pre-pandemic days returned this summer, with several chapters hosting Juhannus celebrations and other events adapted to accommodate COVID limitations.

Alaska

The Anchorage Suomi Finland Club enjoyed a great turnout for its Summer Solstice party, and in October had a table selling Finnish goods in the annual Nordic Market. The October meeting featured Kansallispuvut—Finnish National Costumes. Beautiful clothing and accessories were modeled and on display, with information about the different Finnish regions and outfits, jewelry and more. For dinner, there was traditional Karjalanpaisti (Karelian stew) with mashed potatoes and blueberry pie.

Connecticut

The Finnish American Heritage Society has returned to a busy schedule, including a Juhannus celebration with an informal performance by Hannu Makipuro. He followed that in August with his much-anticipated benefit concert. There was a huge tag sale in August and September’s drive-thru, carryout-only version of the popular FAHS Chicken BBQ. October brought the welcome return, with the other New England organizations, to the FinnFinn Weekend in New Hampshire.

Maine

June was busy for Finnish Heritage House in South Thomaston, with Deep River author Karl Marlantes talking about his novel, and Soile Anderson (above right) and Eleanor Ostman, with their hands-on “Finn Cooks” FFN Lecturer of the Year program.

Maryland

FF Baltimore Chapter President Yolanda de Prado–Slack, who is Finnish-Swedish, missed the traditional rapajuha — crayfish parties — that were a summertime tradition. In 2019, the chapter held its first rapajuha, but it was COVID-cancelled last year. The crayfish party returned this summer at the property of member Sanna Massala, with 30 adults in attendance from both the Baltimore and National Capital chapters.

Yolanda ordered live crayfish from Louisiana, and cooked them Finnish-style, with Porter beer and lots of dill crowns. The menu included homemade gravlax, breads, meatballs and more. Schnapps fueled the lively singing during dinner.

“This is a unique Scandinavian tradition,” says Yolanda. “We truly enjoyed hosting this event and getting people together to celebrate our lovely heritage, surrounded by great food and atmosphere! Meeting more Finns from the region was an added bonus! It has become our most beloved event after our Christmas get together.”

Massachusetts

This summer, five Finlandia Foundation-affiliated groups within close proximity cooperated to create a shared calendar of events hosted by their organizations. Their goal is to broaden awareness and encourage greater participation of activities in the Finnish-American community by centralizing the information in an easy-to-access format.

Cape Ann Finns, Finlandia Foundation Boston, Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod, Finnish Center at Saima Park, and The Finnish Heritage Society—Sovittaja, are responsible for posting details of their activities, which are color-coded to indicate which is the host organization.

It has been populated by Cape Ann Finn’s “Preserving Finnish Heritage Materials/Finnish Farm Stories” session; FF Boston’s “Finnish Legends – 70 Years Later!” celebration of Marimekko and Long Drink; Saima Park’s Classic Car Cruise and Tori; and Sovittaja’s Scandinavian Smorgasbord Dinner/Dance, to name a few.

Web address for the Finlandia Foundation National Affiliate Events calendar is ffnationalaffiliates.org/calendar.
Linda (Sippola) Riddell reports that the Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula had an interesting summer celebrating the 15th anniversary of its Cultural Center. At the log structure on every Saturday in July, a different ethnic group told its heritage stories, including Swedish, Irish, Hispanic, German, Italian, Hungarian and Native American.

The Finn Fish Fry returned in August and the October meeting speaker was Gregor Olsavsky, who talked about the Finn language and his 11 trips to Finland. Pikku Joulou, on the first weekend in December rounds out the year.

The Columbia–Pacific Chapter resumed its quarterly publication, Cumtux. Linda (Sippola) Riddell reports that the Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula had an interesting summer celebrating the 15th anniversary of its Cultural Center. At the log structure on every Saturday in July, a different ethnic group told its heritage stories, including Swedish, Irish, Hispanic, German, Italian, Hungarian and Native American.

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By Hilary Virtanen
FFN Trustee and History Committee Chair

Following feedback from interested chapter members, the Finlandia Foundation National History Committee is developing an Oral History Program so that we may collect and share our Finnish American stories, wherever they may be. This program will provide resources for local chapters to engage in oral history work, including how-to materials covering interviewing methods, recording device information, consent and archiving, as well as a central platform for sharing recorded oral histories.

The stories we collect today will help us to understand our changing community over time. The histories we collect will be helpful for students, researchers and descendants of interviewees.

By Hilary Virtanen
Meetup in NYC

The survey will be used to help us determine:
• existing oral history projects and resources
• interest level of chapters in oral history projects
• needs with regard to oral history program development
• chapter-identified ideas for an oral history project and programming

Anyone who has questions is invited to contact History Committee Chair, Hilary Virtanen at hilary.virtanen@finlandia.edu.

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Thank you for the money for going to Salolampi. It will be good to get out of my house.” That handwritten note of appreciation from eight-year-old camper Ginny likely sums up the feelings of many who attended Salolampi Language Village this summer, assisted with funds from Finlandia Foundation.

FFN Salolampi Chair Eeva Syvanen reports that 17 young people received scholarships to attend the 2021 residential camp of Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota. In a setting of woods, water and authentic architecture, Salolampi students are immersed in the language, culture, foods and activities of Finland.

The 2022 Salolampi schedule has been released, and offers one-week virtual sessions, and one-, two- and four-week residential camps for ages seven to 18. There are also day camps and an intense session for high school credit. FFN will again offer a $300 scholarship for either the virtual or in-person camps. Travel grants are also available.

Application deadline is April 30, 2022, and scholarships are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

By Dennis Anderson

FFN Trustee and Melodee Bahr, Soiva Co-Directors

Although Soiva International Music Camp did not meet in person in 2021, we had a busy year, with a virtual camp and the production of two videos. The first program, “From Soiva, With Love,” was completed for marketing purposes with nine participating student musicians, ages 11 to 19.

The second video was a recital by 10 students who participated in the Soiva 2021 virtual camp, which was held via Zoom from June 21–23, with five faculty. Again, the musicians are a wonderful cross section of ages, instruments, and skill levels. Both videos were produced and edited by Maria Mannistö, and are available to view on the Finlandia Foundation YouTube channel.

We hope to resume the in-person Soiva experience in June of 2022, and a reservation has been made to host the camp at Kalliö–Kuninkala in Finland (COVID protocols permitting). We are monitoring the situation and travel restrictions, and are ready to offer an alternative Soiva experience.

Information will be posted as it develops at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

OFFICE UPDATE

For the first 51 years, Finlandia Foundation was fully operated by volunteers. FFN hired its first employee and established its first physical office, in Pasadena, in 2004. In fall of 2018, Kath Usitalo was retained as communications manager on a part-time basis, working remotely from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Now, as its outreach, scope of programs and involvement with other organizations and audiences continue to expand, FFN welcomes the addition of a full-time administrative assistant, Jessica Ann, to the home office in Pasadena. Jessica has experience in office administration, historical research and community outreach. She developed an interest in cultures, world history and languages during her years as an undergraduate student in social science, and hopes that her diverse experiences will help the FFN team. Jessica wishes to learn more about Finnish culture, and looks forward to connecting and building bridges with the Finnish community. As a California native, she enjoys hiking, museums, movies and camping.

Maria Volta, who previously handled FFN administrative work, is now Operations Manager. She will continue to be a point person in the office, and manage a myriad of programs including online meetings, webinars and shows.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Rauhallista Joulua ja Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!

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The best laid plans, as it is said, often go awry. That’s been especially true throughout this pandemic period. The fall meeting of the Finlandia Foundation National board was held, as planned, in the Detroit area October 15–16, but COVID concerns kept eight of the 18 trustees at Zoom’s length. The hybrid session was held on Friday at the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills.

FFN was graciously welcomed with an introduction to the organization by past Finnish Center Association President Lois Makee, who shared a treasure trove of archival material. Lois told of the FCA’s founding in 1966, dedication of its cultural center in 1974, and subsequent expansion and renovations to the main hall, lounge, library, gift shop, kitchen and offices. The grounds boast a woodshop and extensive gardens developed and tended to by volunteers, including Master Gardeners. Mother Nature rained on David Sharpe’s plans to guide a tour of the property, but he was prepared with a slideshow to offer a glimpse of the award-winning gardens that he and others have worked tirelessly to maintain.

Trustees conducted Zoom committee meetings in advance of the day-long business session, resulting in a more efficient workday.

The focus was on multiple initiatives FFN has launched to build greater understanding of FFN; its growing volume and variety of programs for the public; internal changes to improve operational productivity and efficiency; and, importantly, securing funding to support today’s activities and the future of FFN.

FFN Trustees enjoy a beautiful autumn morning on a tour of Cranbrook (front, from left), Hilary Virtanen, Jacqueline Harjas, Katarina Lahtinen, Richard Ahola, (rear, from left) Anne-Mari Paster, Dirk Schulbach, Tim Nurvala, Hanna Wagner, Tarja Silverman, Michel Wendell

Left. Standing in front of the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, a monument of rock from Hanko, Finland, commemorates the departure port for some 250,000 Finns headed to America. Photo by Anne-Mari Paster
Detroit’s Finnish American Community

Saarinen @ Cranbrook
On Saturday morning, trustees and guests headed to the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, about 25 miles north of Detroit. An extensive guided tour included the Saarinen House. The Art Deco treasure was the home and studio of Eliel Saarinen, Cranbrook’s resident architect, Art Academy president and head of the Architecture Department, and his wife Loja Saarinen, who was the head of the Academy’s Weaving Department.

The tour extended to the garden and sculpture-filled campus, with a focus on Saarinen-designed buildings.

Finn Camp
Detroit’s automotive and other industries attracted Finnish immigrant workers from Finland, as well as second-generation Finns, many from northern Michigan, who found their way to Finnish-American neighborhoods in the city. They socialized informally, founded churches and formed groups including the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp, a retreat in the country about 40 miles northwest of their homes in the city.

FFN was fortunate to host a gathering on Saturday evening at “Finn Camp,” meeting members of that organization as well as some from the Finnish Center Association and Finlandia Foundation of Michigan. A tour of the property took guests to the clubhouse and main hall, the spring-fed lake, large sauna, athletic field, and a few of the dozens of “camps,” where owners welcomed FFN to step inside their seasonal tiny houses.

Longtime member Harry Kansman shared a brief history of Finn Camp, followed by tasty appetizers accompanied by traditional folk music, led by Steve Niemi, that got dancers onto the floor. The main meal was a supper of mojakka and pasties, the pastry-wrapped meat and root vegetable pie that was a staple for Finnish copper miners in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Anne-Mari Paster then presented the FFN Award of Excellence to The Finnish American Reporter and a special recognition of James Kurtti for his contributions to Finnish America. Capping the evening, The Bowery Trio premiered some of the works they commissioned by four composers in Finland for their Cosmopolite Project, which was supported by a grant from FFN.

FFN extends many thanks to Finn Camp President (and mojakka master chef) Chris Nordin, Vice President Amber Martin for coordinating everything, the many Finn Camp volunteers, and Dan Linick for his support. Finnish Center member Sarah Wildemen created beautiful, rustic tablescapes and, in addition, she and FCA member Kathryn Hill escorted the trustees’ guests on a Friday tour to the Detroit Institute of Arts.
In an effort to better plan for income and budgeting for programming and the grant and scholarship awards, FFN President Anne-Mari Paster invites donors to join her in a multi-year pledge to Finlandia Foundation. “So much of our revenue depends on your yearly gifts, and at budget-planning time it is difficult to predict the amount of support we can count on for the coming year,” she explains.

*Please consider doing more than making a contribution to FFN. Instead, make a multi-year promise, which will allow us to more effectively plan on the amount of support we can offer.* This promised donation may be in any amount per year for a suggested four-year commitment.

As part of this initiative, FFN has launched the “Chairman’s Challenge,” which asks donors to pledge a minimum of $2,500 each year for four years ($10,000 total). This program has already attracted nine participants, whose promised donations will allow better long-range forecasting by FFN.

Please remember that all gifts are matched by the Paloheimo Foundation (up to $100,000 per year), so your contribution can have double the impact.

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**Tax Laws Encourage Giving in 2021**

By Tim Nurvola

FFN Trustee

The tax laws were changed for 2021 to help support charitable non-profit organizations, like Finlandia Foundation, during the global pandemic. Benefits include the following:

**For Those Who Take the Standard Deduction:** Last year, everyone filing a return (individuals and couples) could deduct up to $300 for cash donations made to non-profit organizations, including Finlandia Foundation. This year, the laws were changed to make that deduction $600 per person. Individual filers can deduct $300 and married couples filing jointly can deduct up to $600 on the 2021 tax return. The deduction is limited to cash contributions, so gifts of clothing or personal items do not count. Gifts to donor advised funds are also not eligible for these deductions.

**For Those Who Itemize Their Tax Deductions:** In 2021, you can deduct cash donations up to 100% of your adjusted gross income to organizations like Finlandia Foundation. Previously, people who itemized their taxes could only deduct cash donations of up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. This is an enormous benefit to those who would like to give more to charity and pay less in taxes.

**Required Minimum Distributions:** If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can transfer up to $100,000 from a traditional IRA to a qualified non-profit organization. This is a nice benefit to those who are required to take a minimum distribution and do not want to pay taxes on the amount taken. In addition, a qualified charitable distribution will reduce the size of your IRA, which will reduce the amount of future required withdrawals, and your future tax bill, too.

Plus, the transfer could help keep your income below the threshold at which you are subject to the Medicare high-income surcharge, as well as reduce the percentage of your Social Security benefits subject to tax. Be sure that any transfers from IRA accounts are made in advance of New Year’s Eve. To qualify for the tax break, the money has to be out of your account and transferred to Finlandia Foundation before the end of the year.

Many of these benefits are set to expire in 2022, so please be sure to take advantage of these opportunities before December 31st. You’ll find information about giving to FFN at FinlandiaFoundation.org, or contact office@finlandiafoundation.org.

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**Honor Loved Ones with a Special Finlandia Foundation Tribute**

The names of Finlandia Foundation members and friends below are followed by those they have remembered with a Centennial Honor Gift to FFN.

Add the story and photos of your loved ones to the Finlandia Family Tree. For more information or make an honor gift, visit FinlandiaFoundation.org.

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**On the Road Again**

Since assuming the voluntary position of Finlandia Foundation president in April 2020, Anne-Mari Paster’s FFN mantra has been “visibility and connectivity.”

Building on the groundwork laid by past presidents — most recently, Osu Kaukonen — she is increasing awareness of, and initiating and improving relations between, FFN and other organizations, offices and individuals in the U.S. and Finland.

When COVID-19 all but eliminated in-person activities in 2020, Anne-Mari turned to the phone, e-mail and Zoom sessions to connect with Finnish America. She conducts regularly scheduled phone and online meetings with contacts who are key partners in addressing common interests, concerns and initiatives relevant to Finnish America and Finland in the U.S.

As pandemic restrictions are loosened, she has been able to visit in person, to meetings of the Massachusetts Cape Ann Finns, the Finnish Heritage House in Maine; FinnFinn Weekend in New Hampshire; and with Lisa McMahon of the Finnish-American Society of the Midwest and the Chicago area Honorary Consul Jon Jurva; Embassy Cultural Counselor Suvi Jäärelä-Haggström; and others.

Anne-Mari has also attended events in Washington, D.C. and New York, such as a luncheon hosted by Consul General Mika Koskinen (below left).

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**Help FFN with AmazonSmile**

Your online shopping through AmazonSmile can benefit Finlandia Foundation National. Amazon will direct 0.5% of your qualifying AmazonSmile purchases to FFN. To get started, sign up at https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-6098250.
Thank You For Your Gifts!

Gifts from $1,000 through $9,999

$5,000 to $9,999
- Janet & Richard Ahola
- Finnish-American Historical Society
- Arja & Pater Makla
- Mani Makela
- Carol & Bill Tietz
- Angela & Michael Andrus
- John & Jillian
- Helen & Michael

$2,000 to $4,999
- Helen & William Alberth
- Robert & Lorna
- Carol & Andrew
- John & Justin
- Emily & Michael
- Mary & Donald
- Martha Ann & Gary
- Robert & LuAnn

$1,000 to $1,999
- Susan & Kurt Waananen
- Kari & Tim
- Gary & Karen
- David & Carole
- Pat & Michael
- Mary & James
- David & Cecile

$500 to $999
- Alice & Parish
- Robert & Karen
- Mark & Susan
- David & Cathy
- Thomas & Susan
- Shannon & Justin
- James & Yuko
- Richard & Irene

$200 to $499
- Marc & Rebecca
- Bill & Joann
- Jeff & Lisa
- John & Linda
- Gary & Susan
- Carl & Linda
- David & Marsha

$100 to $199
- Linda & John
- Eddie & Mary
- Peter & Karen
- John & Lisa
- Steve & Gayle
- Jack & Mary
- Jon & Marcia

Gifts to March 2021

Major Gift

Anonymous

$2,000 to $5,000
- Deiri & Peri Schubach

$1,000 to $1,999
- Helen & William Alberth
- Carol & Michael
- Robert & Lisa
- John & Judy
- Edward & Susan
- Mark & Nancy
- David & Jennifer

GIFTS TO $99

John Atto
- David & Catherine
- Kevin & Linda

Anonymous

In memory of cabbage
- In memory of John Doe
- In memory of Marjorie
- In memory of Donald
- In memory of Suzanne
- In honor of Catherine

John Hyttinen
- Beverly & Bill
- Roger & Janet

Donor Recognition

David Hyttinen
- John & Alice
- William & Margaret

Sharpe Donation

David Hyttinen
- Sharpe and Jeanette

Mance Sharpe, members of the Detroit area Finnish Center Association, have made a significant contribution to Finlandia Foundation in memory of their mother, Ruth Viola Hyttinen. In the Centennial Family Tree stories at the FFN website, David shares some of his mother's story. Along her path, she showed siu, from losing her father in a mining accident when she was a young girl in the Upper Peninsula town of Champion, to attending Suomi College, moving to Detroit for a variety of interesting work, and raising a family. (Read more at this centennial Gift page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.)

Per his request, this gift will be applied to the scholarship program, "to further the education of students who fulfill the requirements who qualify for the scholarship program." Finlandia Foundation appreciates this tremendous gift.
Finlandia Foundation® National Chapters: Year affiliated with FFN and president/chairman

Find more information about the chapters, including websites and Facebook pages, at FinlandiaFoundation.org

ALASKA
Anchorage Suomi Finland Club
2015 Hanna Eklund
ARIZONA
The F-A Club of Tucson
2007 Tommi Koskinen
Finns and Friends of Phoenix
2010 Joy Dorvinen
CALIFORNIA
Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley
2006 Chad Riding
FF Berkeley Chapter
2016 Kaj Rekola
FF Los Angeles Chapter
1974 Sirvo Wiemero
FF San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
1956 Elina Fahlgren
Hanna Peltonen
F-A Home Association Sonoma
2005 Markku Ratilainen
Salla Väerma-Jadlos
The House of Finland-San Diego
2015 Timo Luostarinen
COLORADO
FF Colorado Chapter
Denver
1993 Kirsi St. Marie
CONNECTICUT
F-A Heritage Society of Maine
Canterbury
2011 Steven Bousquet
DELWARE
Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans Newark
2017 Roy Palo
New Sweden Alliance Yorklyn
2017 Affiliated Member Sheila Romine
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FF National Capital Chapter
1959 George Elliott
FF Florida Chapter Lantana
1954 Kaarina Langeland
FinnsConnect South Florida
Miami-Dade-Broward Counties
2017 Päivi Kaufman
GEORGIA
Atlanta Finland Society, Inc.
1975 Verna Bush
IDAHO
FF Inland Northwest Chapter
1970 Don Heikkila
ILLINOIS
F-A Society of the Midwest Chicago area
1997 Dan Martin
MAIN
F-A Heritage Society of Maine
West Paris
2012 Karen Bennett
Finnish Farmers Club Monson
2012 Inez Goodine
Finnish Heritage House South Thomaston
2007 Jacqueline Harjula
MARYLAND
FF Baltimore Area Chapter
1974 Yolanda Messia de Prado-Slack
MASSACHUSETTS
Cape Ann Finns
2017 Rob Ranta
FF Boston, Inc.
1955 Sirkku Kottinen
F-A Society of Cape Cod
2012 Stephen Trimble
The Finnish Center at Saima Park, Inc.
Fitchburg
2005 Linda Byrne
The Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja Rutland
2006 Barry Heiniluoma
MICHIGAN
FF of Michigan
Royal Oak/Detroit area
2012 Frank Gottberg
F-A Society of West Central Michigan Coopersville
2007 Marie Godell Fowler
Finnish Center Association Farmington Hills/Detroit area
2004 Mary O’Brien
Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock - FF Copper Country Chapter
2006 David Maki
James Kurtti
FF National, Lake Superior Chapter Marquette
2006 Ron J. Hill
MINNESOTA
Northland Chapter of FF Duluth
2010 Mary Lukkarila
FF Twin Cities Chapter
1994 Betsey Norgard
Finnish-Americans and Friends-Hibbing Chapter
1998 Edward Paunen
Kaleva Building Corporation Virginia
2017 Art Maki
Red River Finns Moorhead
2011 Ellen Liddle
MONTANA
FF Montana Missoula
2017 Jenni Rohrbach
Finn Club of Helena
2007 Marjorie Peura Reilly
Red Lodge Knights and Ladies of Kaleva Roberts
2011 Claudia Morley
NEW YORK
Finger Lakes Finns Spencer
2006 Restina “Rusty” Wigg
FF New York Metropolitan Chapter
1954 Eero Kilpi
OHIO
F-A Heritage Association of Ashtabula County
2003 Linda Sippola Riddell
Finnish Heritage Museum Fairport Harbor
2015 Lasse Hiltunen
OREGON
FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter Portland
2001 Greg Jacob
PENNSYLVANIA
FF Pittsburgh Chapter
1990 Seija Cohen
F-A Society of the Delaware Valley Philadelphia
2006 Marja Kaisla
SOUTH DAKOTA
Frederick Forward - FF Dakota
2012 Heidi Marttila-Losure
Sons and Daughters of Suomi Deadwood
2015 Larry Rantapaa
TEXAS
Dallas/Fort Worth F-A Society
1991 Jeremy Martin
Finnish Language School of North Texas
Dallas
2018 Leila Jaamuru
UTAH
FF Utah Chapter Provo
2016 Tiina Watts
VIRGINIA
FF Tidewater Virginia Chapter
1979 Rikka Mohorn
WASHINGTON
FF Seattle Chapter
1968 Mikko Männistö
FF Suomi Chapter Bellingham
2010 Tapio Holma
F-A Folk Festival Naselle
2011 Jennifer Ullakko Boggs
Swedish-Finn Historical Society Seattle
1981 Bill Carlson