It is said that there is nothing so bad that there isn’t something good as well. It is true also in these hard times of social distancing.

Due to the cancellation of Sunday services at the Finnish Lutheran Church of Seattle, Maria Männistö, FFN Performer of the Year in 2007, united Finnish singers into a virtual church choir as part of the live-streamed Palm Sunday service. The choir members from Washington and Oregon connected and practiced the songs virtually and sent their own recordings to Maria. She gathered all of the voices together, and the virtual choir was born.

For as long as necessary, the Finnish Lutheran Church Choir plans to perform virtually on Sunday mornings during the virtual church service, followed by the virtual coffee hour where people can exchange their news and thoughts. Information about the church and services is available at finnishlutheranchurch.org.
Word from the President Hyvät Ystävät:

I am honored to have been elected president of Finlandia Foundation National during the spring meeting of the FFN board.

My predecessor, Ossi Rahkonen, ably led the organization for seven years, after serving as a trustee for a decade. During his tenure as president, Ossi oversaw FFN programs celebrating two milestone anniversaries, strengthened ties to organizations and offices in Finland; conducted a Joint Chapter Meeting for a growing number of FFN affiliated groups; and improved the financial health of FFN. His contributions to Finlandia Foundation are many, and are highlighted on page 20.

Planning for the future of Finlandia Foundation was a board priority under Ossi’s direction, and will continue to take precedence as I assume the leadership. Now in its 67th year, FFN is the leading independent supporter of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, and we intend to maintain that status even as we recognize the challenges we and FFN chapters face, as each generation grows further from our roots.

We also, however, see opportunity in expanding our traditional Finnish American membership base to welcome recent Finnish transplants and expatriates, as well as friends of Finland—who are interested in modern Finland and its culture, education, business and the arts. Of course, it is vital to develop a strong connection with all ages and it is important that we increase multi-generational involvement and support.

As always, the spring board meeting agenda was full, and in this newsletter you’ll read about the 2020 grant and scholarship awards and program decisions we made due to the impact of COVID-19. In fact, because of travel restrictions the meeting itself was conducted remotely, via Zoom.

I look forward to launching initiatives that will increase our endowment and stakeholder base so that we may build on our existing programs and offer new and exciting reasons to participate in and support Finlandia Foundation. Please stay tuned, and feel free to contact me with your thoughts.

FFN Offers COVID-19 Aid

As an organization, Finlandia Foundation National has taken action to help our members through one aspect of this coronavirus crisis. FFN has always focused on Finnish culture and the next generation, with a long tradition of supporting scholarships to Finnish-American students and those studying Finnish-American topics. FFN chapters may have students among their members whose university studies have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and the abrupt closure of campuses. If so, please let me know prior to June 15. We would like to see if we can offer assistance.

On the cover, virtual chaos

From left to right by row, from top: Erica Presley, Maria Karppinen, Heikki Männistö, Aino Bakos, Yvonne Vollan; Marja Hall, Ilkka Kallio, Ilkka Lähdesmäki, Katariina Lehtonen; Eva Männistö, Anne Karppinen, Heikki Männistö, Lähdesmäki, Katariina Lehtonen; Eva Männistö, Anne Karppinen, Heikki Männistö, Eeva Syvanen; Maria Kizirian, Betsey Norgard and Tarja Silverman.

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Communications Committee: Jacqueline Harjula, chair, and Katariina Lehtonen, Betsey Norgard and Tarja Silverman. Additionally, FFN produces a monthly, free e-news; sign up to receive it at the FFN website. The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Communications Committee.

Join the new FFN Facebook group for inspiring articles, FFN on social media? The FFN Facebook page carries news of Finnish America and Finland, the FFN chapter activities: and Finnish fun facts:

Get Social

History

A Handshake across the Sea

Since 1953

Updated version

Circa 2020

FFN Refreshes Logo Art

The Finlandia Foundation has long used the tagline “Hands Across the Sea Since 1953” to describe its goal of connecting Finland and Finnish American, and to mark the year of the organization’s founding. The design of the FFN logo graphically expresses that purpose in the two-clasped hands over wavy lines, executed by the words Finlandia Foundation.

About 20 years ago, FFN slightly modified the logo by spinning the name and spelling out Finlandia Foundation National on a typestyle popular at the time.

Now, as the phrase goes “everything old is new again," and FFN is refreshing its image by returning to the earlier version of the logo art. The updated logo is being phased in as new materials are produced, and FFN is asking all chapters to do the same in their publications, websites and other communications as it becomes possible to do so. The logo art is found on the website at FinlandiaFoundation.org/logos/

Note that use of the registered trademark and design is limited to do so. FFN is asking all chapters, or for other purposes as approved by Finlandia Foundation National.

CONTACT Finlandia Foundation National

FinlandiaFoundation.org

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P.O. Box 92046
Pasadena, CA 91109-2046

PLEASE INFORM US OF A CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS

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Due to COVID-19, 2020 spring schedule had to be cancelled, but the tour will resume in the fall in Portland, Oregon, with the U.S. premiers of The Blue Bird with the Portland Chamber Orchestra. That will also be the first time that Jussi and Nazig will perform with a full orchestra in the U.S. Additional concerts are scheduled in Seattle, at a festival in Lynden, Washington, and at the Consulate General of Finland in Los Angeles and in San Diego at House of Finland, as well as several California libraries and schools. In fall 2019, they performed at Arizona State University for FNF's Phoenix Friends and Friends chapter.

Jussi and Nazig’s spring 2019 tour included FFN-sponsored concerts in Los Angeles and in San Diego at House of Finland, as well as several California libraries and schools. In fall 2019, they performed at Arizona State University for FNF’s Phoenix Friends and Friends chapter.

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The tour schedule is still under development for spring and fall of 2021. Chapters interested in hosting a program will find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org. For those interested in hosting a program and online learning. Finlandia Foundation is committed to promoting and supporting Finnish culture in America. We are keeping an active eye on the situation and our top priority is to protect the health and safety of everyone who participates in and benefits from our programs.

As it becomes clear that travel is once again safe and permissible, we will first coordinate with chapters whose engagements were cancelled or who were already working to finalize a program. We will also welcome the potential for additional appearances as schedules and the budget permit.

If you have any questions, please contact LOY Chair Hilary Virtanen at 906-483-0071 or hilaryvirtanen@finlandia.edu (note new email address). Find more information on Soile and Eleanor and the LOY program at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

We wish you all health and safety, and look forward to sharing the delight of Finnish cookery through the LOY program in the future.

The FFN special touring music program includes piano concerts by Ruvuamari Teppo, who performed for the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter in Portland in December; her daughter Annabel joined her for a duet. Ruvuamari had additional concerts scheduled before the coronavirus pandemic erupted. She plans to resume touring in September, through December 2020.

Find details about the special music program at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

To Promote Finnish Food

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This year the Grants Committee, chaired by Richard Ahola with FFN trustees Jacqueline Harjula, Katarina Lehtonen, Paivi Tetri and Anita Smiley, assisted by Maria Kizzirian, reviewed 38 grant applications from across the United States as well as Finland, Denmark and Tanzania. California led the states with 10 proposals, with others from Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Applicants may request up to $5,000; the committee awarded $100,000 to 31 projects, which must be completed within the coming year.

Unfortunately, with restrictions due to COVID-19, some of the projects have been or may be postponed or cancelled.

The next grant application deadline is January 17, 2021; find information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

**Arrival: Songs of Praise**
St. Paul Lutheran Church, established by Finnish immigrants in Gloucester, Massachusetts, commissioned this original composition of liturgical music by Sara Pajunen (left) and Teija Niki (right). The two, who perform as Aallotar, combine traditional Finnish folk music with contemporary musical explorations. The new work will reflect the Finnish roots, strength and beauty of a people finding their way in a new land.

**Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod**
The Rundman Family Quartet of Edina, Minnesota proposed travel to Finland to research, arrange, create and perform a collection of music for church congregations in the U.S. and Finland.

**Lynden Music Festival**
The Vancouver Chamber Choir from Canada, in its 50th season, will perform under the direction of its new artistic director from Finland, Dr. Kari Turunen. The October 17 concert is one of about 30 performances at the annual, four-day festival in Washington State.

**Concert/Workshop Tour**
Suomikuoro, a choir from Washington State and British Columbia under the artistic and musical direction of Terhi Miikki-Broersma, planned a three-day workshop followed by a 10-day concert tour in Finland in August.

**Scandinavian Music Festival 2020**
New York Scandia Symphony musicians and guest artists perform works by Finnish composers in three concerts each summer, at Manhattan’s Fort Tryon Park overlooking the Hudson River.

**Music**

Documentary films, dance performances, play productions, archival work and the restoration of historical sites are among the hundreds of projects that Finlandia Foundation National has aided through grant funding since the first award was made in 1956. Every year, FFN invites proposals for programs that relate to Finnish and Finnish-American culture, past and present.

Resurrection:
T-bone Slim
North Carolina musician John Holma Westmoreland will produce and record an album of songs by an ancestor, the Finnish-American songwriter, labor columnist and hobo philosopher Matti V. Huhta (1882-1942), better known by the moniker “T-bone Slim.” This project features the music of an iconoclastic and unique figure in the U.S. labor movement and will include a book of lyrics, pictures and new biographical information.

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Art
Colors from the North
Artist Alison Aune planned a two-week Kakslauttanen Visual Arts Residency in Finnish Lapland in August. She would develop an exhibition and workshop with inspiration from Sami Designs.

Serlachius Residency
Takeshi Moro was selected to an artist-in-residence program maintained by the Serlachius Museums and Mantta Art Festival in Mänttä, Finland, to create short films with local artists.

Human Migration and Network Analysis
The HUMANA team of Francis Flavrin (U-M), a member of Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter, and Ranja Andersson (top right) and Sarea Joki (of the University of Helsinki, will use dynamic network modeling to better understand migration from Finland to Sugar Island, Michigan, and the process by which Finns formed communities after arrival. The grant will support travel to conduct interviews, visit archives and deliver presentations in Michigan and Washington.

HUMANA (above) seeks to further his knowledge in the field of theater and comedy by studying at the UpRight Citizens Brigade Training Center in Los Angeles. His goal is to organize culturally Finnish comedy shows for adults and for children, and present a one-day comedy workshop for the Finnish community in Southern California.

Research

Human Mobility Studies
Actor and comedian Maisa Kajanus (above) seeks to further his knowledge in the field of theater and comedy by studying at the UpRight Citizens Brigade Training Center in Los Angeles. His goal is to organize culturally Finnish comedy shows for adults and for children, and present a one-day comedy workshop for the Finnish community in Southern California.

D.C. FFN joins Finland’s Kone Foundation and the University of Helsinki to support of this project.

Feed My Soul: The Sisterhood of Finland’s Enchanted Forest
Co-authored by Californian artistic collaboration, dramaturge Emil Santtu (U-M) and Chicago-based performance artist Vicente Ugartechea focus on the silences of the shared queer history of the U.S. and Finland. The grant will support research at the ONE Archive in Los Angeles and GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco.

Pleasure and Fragile Knowledge
In an ongoing, bi-lingual artistic collaboration, dramaturge Emil Santtu (U-M) and Chicago-based performance artist Vicente Ugartechea focus on the silences of the shared queer history of the U.S. and Finland. The grant will support research at the ONE Archive in Los Angeles and GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco.

Books

When Birds Take Flight
Sussanna Erkko, a Finn living in Chicago, Oregon, writes about the joys and challenges of immigration, multi-cultural love and the personal growth that accompanies leaving the safety of home. Through the lens of a young woman’s journey to Chicago, readers will be given a sympathetic view of American and Finnish cultures, including the sometimes ugly reality found in both.

TV & Film
Sister Sistra

Modern Warfare
Filmmaker Hannu Askia’s dark comedy finds Daniel faced with a new reality as his wife’s career takes the family to Silver Lake, California. When she is harassed by a neighbor-bully, stay-at-home dad Daniel decides to confront the man to show what it means to be a good person. In doing so he examines the role people play and how we see ourselves and others.

Finnish Invasion
Nina Sallinen and Hanna Jounrakko propose a comedy series about modern-day Finnish immigrants to Los Angeles. For an online platform such as Netflix, it tells the story of a 33-year-old who visits her aunt and ends up in the Finnish center in North Hollywood, where residents live in a Finnish bubble of the past. The series will highlight cultural differences among Finns and Americans.

How do the lives of their inhabitants intertwine, mirror and harmonize? Filmmaker Olivia Ebertz documents a day in the life of inhabitants of the Sister Cities of Duluth, Minnesota and Petrozavodsk, Karelia, in her ode to world citizens and their connectedness.

Seima Society
Theater Legacy Lives On! In a multi-dimensional project focusing on the Finnish Center at Saima Park in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Judith Linstedt will stage and film the Finnish play Alkahius, written by Alexis Rivi in 1866. She will have the play translated from Finnish to modern English, and follow the production from auditions through performance. The 90 minute documentary will inform audiences of all ages about Saima Hall and the importance of theater to early Finnish immigrants.

Finnish women at the Joensuu Mariat chapter. They taught her the magical powers of the forest and Finnish nature. Pajunen will publish the book in 2021, and it will be distributed by Simon & Schuster.

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Preserving Finnish History

The Beechwood Historical Society continues phase two of its Translation of Journals 1896-1956 from Finnish to English. The papers document the establishment of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The English translation will be displayed next to the original Finnish pages and will become part of a permanent exhibit at Bethany Church, which is being restored as a museum and archives.

Preserving and Passing Down Local Traditions
A team of teachers from Oulu, Wisconsin, will assist in funding a transportation and storage program for archival records donated to the Finnish American Heritage Center and Heritage Archive in Hancock, Michigan. It is the sole archive collecting Finnish-American historical materials on a nationwide scope.

The Raivaaja Foundation will convert into digital format the first 35 years of archived print editions of the Raivaaja newspaper, from 1904 to Finnish independence in 1917. The ongoing project, which has already digitized over 90 years of print editions, preserves the real-time chronicle of the Finnish-American social, cultural and political experience in this country. This phase will be the most precarious because the newspaper has deteriorated to the point that it would crumble when handled. Digitization will make the entire 104-year archive available to anyone with computer access.

Entertainment & Events

NOW: Nordic Oscar Weekend
Nordic creative industry meets Hollywood at this three-day conference, in an ongoing effort to strengthen the LA community. The programs of speakers, networking opportunities, and workshops culminate in a dinner and Nordic Oscar Celebration on Academy Awards weekend 2023.

SCandinavian Film Festival Los Angeles
Each January, film lovers, industry professionals, and people with a link to Scandinavia and the Baltic countries look forward to the screening of films from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Baltics. This year, it is one of the longest-running European film festivals in LA.

Preservation

The Raivaaja Foundation

The Lodge at Finnish Kaleva Park, located between Robert and Red Lodge, Montana, will get a new roof with the help of FFN funds to support the Finnish history, which is nearly a century-old, in an important gathering spot and a touchstone for the local Finnish community. It also houses treasured collectibles and books and art from Finland.

Midsummer Festival 2020
Nordic Northwest works with other Nordic groups such as Finlandia Foundation and Columbia Pacific Chapter to create a Midsummer event with Nordic foods, games, dances and entertainment. It is attended by more than 3,000 people of all ages.

FinnFest 2020
due to COVID-19, this year's FinnFest (traditionally held in the U.S.) was scheduled for August in Jönköping, Finland. FFN funds would have supported a workshop featuring Finnish and Finnish-American authors.

Digitalization of Raivaaja Archive

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Microfilm of Journals 1917-1956

The Raivaaja Foundation has a microfilm of Journals 1917-1956, and a digitized version of the same would be an addition to the Finnish-American Historical Archive. It is a project the organization is planning for the future.

Preservation

Raise the Roof

The Lodge at Finnish Kaleva Park, located between Robert and Red Lodge, Montana, will get a new roof with the help of FFN funds to support the Finnish history, which is nearly a century-old, in an important gathering spot and a touchstone for the local Finnish community. It also houses treasured collectibles and books and art from Finland.

MARIus SyvanEN

An occasional feature about Americans whose Finnish roots run deep. After graduating high school in San Diego, he returned to Finland to study and work in the music industry, returned to the U.S., and eventually moved to Los Angeles, where he created his own label, Snow Label, and released his own material. His music has been featured in films, TV shows, and commercials, and he has performed at numerous events around the world.

Future, Now!

Planning for the Future, Now!

By Betsy Norgard

By Betsy Norgard

Future Committee Chair

The Finlandia Foundation Future Committee was established to examine how the organization can renew itself with programming that will connect its members more broadly with Finnish America and provide connections and opportunities in Finland, while keeping the interests of a younger population in mind. FFN seeks to assist its chapters in strengthening their local groups and providing assistance and opportunities to meet the challenges of a much-changed ethnic organizational landscape.

Thank you to chapters that completed the survey sent earlier this year, telling us about your group’s membership, interests, and programs. This information will help us create a series of programs and resources to bring us all together and plan for the future. To do this, regional workshops and webinars are among your requests, and we will work to address these as we also plan for the next Joint Chapter Meeting.

At the fall board meeting in Helsinki, trustees enjoyed meeting representatives of various Finnish organizations who share much in common with FFN, and we are looking forward to partnering with them to create interesting and educational opportunities for chapters and members.

If you have questions or ideas for programs, contact Future Committee Chair Betsy Norgard at bjorgard@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more information!
1. Patricia Bigos

As a history major at the University of Florida in my second year, I have had the privilege of studying a field that I am truly passionate about for quite some time. I have plans to study the topic of European history, as that has been of much interest to me my whole life. I was inspired to study history here at the University of Florida given the summers I spent in southern Finland growing up where I would hear all about the local history and culture of that region. Thus, I now take my studies very seriously and find it truly enjoyable to learn more about the past. I hope to continue my education so that I may one day become an expert in this field.

2. Viivi Fellin

As a recipient of the Anne E. Koski Scholarship, I am currently an undergraduate in the class of 2022 at Villanova University. This scholarship will help support me in my studies and pave the way for me to pursue research in pharmacological chemistry. In the spring I began my research with Dr. Konstantinos Agras of the Chemistry department in his research on autoimmune disease treatments. The field of new drug development interests me because of its potential to improve the quality of human life. Research aims to identify potent and patentable small molecule Factor D (FD) inhibitors targeting the alternative complement pathway of the immune system. I hold a work study job at school, as a chemistry stockroom assistant and a service desk assistant at the Falvey Memorial Library.

4. Brian Junstilla

is pursuing a master’s degree at Florida State University in music composition, where he plans to graduate next spring. His goal as a composer is to maintain a semblance of tradition while pushing through the modern era. To that end, his projects to date include writing for unusual ensembles, picking culturally relevant texts for his vocal music, and collaborating with dancers and visual artists. Recently inspired by his Finnish heritage, he plans to write a series of homages in the styles of different composers, one of whom being the late Einojuhani Rautavaara.

5. Kyle Koutonen

is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is an active member of the AIAA Design Build Fly club, where members design and build model planes to accomplish various missions. He says that he fell in love with engineering at a young age by watching his father fix anything, which inspired him to always want to see how things work. "Now, I am very close to making my dream reality. I am a third generation Finnish American growing up in a town with a rich Finnish history and culture. In my free time I love to do anything outdoors. I go on long hikes in the spring, snowboarding all winter long, and spend my summers at the lake, which has a sauna my grandfather built."

6. Anna Laine

will be a sophomore at St. Louis University in Missouri in the fall. "I am an education major and am hoping to add a major in international studies or history. I was supposed to be studying abroad in The Netherlands during fall 2020 but unfortunately, it got canceled. I hope to still be able to study abroad during my next few years of college.”

7. Markus Lang

is a recipient of the Marion and George Sundquist Scholarship, which is awarded to a student in the arts. “My studies in double Bass Performance first began in Philadelphia, where I attended Temple University under the guidance and instruction of Joseph Cooper. After two years, I transferred to The Juilliard School of Music and will be receiving a Bachelor of Music degree this spring. I am thrilled to be continuing my studies at the Curtis Institute of Music next fall with double bass professors Hal Robinson and Edwin Meyer.”

8. Vilmiina Nupponen

is studying at Sand Diego State University, where she is a liberal studies student interested in becoming an elementary school teacher and shaping the lives of young students. Born in Tampere, Finland, she moved to California at a young age and has grown up with her Finnish culture and language, and prides herself on her heritage. It is a significant part of her life.

9. Olivia Raisenen

is a Master of Architecture candidate at Taubman College at the University of Michigan, with a Bachelor of Science in Design and Architectural Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Barretts, the Honors College at Arizona State University. "My interests within architecture include improving the built environment for its users from a global, urban generation focus, focusing on caring for the design of sustainable architectures for the experience of the human and the non-human." She is studying integrating artificial intelligence with parametric design methods into the urban design process. "Architecture has the power to improve both the longevity of the earth and the everyday experience of its users when designed carefully, and this is what my education emphasizes."
world major financial and commercial centers and their implications for the world’s major financial and commercial systems. She looks forward to deepening her knowledge and skills in international business law as well as gaining understanding of the U.S. legal system.

Sonja Heiskala is a Finnish Master of Laws and an AILA Fulbright Graduate Grantee from the University of Helsinki, and will be pursuing LL.M. studies in the U.S. in the field of intellectual property law. She plans to focus on corporate and commercial law transactions in her studies in Helsinki. Mira Hänninen currently works as an associate in a Finnish business law firm, where she focuses on dispute resolution and tax law. She holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki and an M.Sc. (Econ) degree from Aalto University School of Business. In August 2020 Mira will enter Harvard Law School’s one-year LL.M. program. She looks forward to deepening her knowledge and skills in international business law as well as gaining understanding of the U.S. legal system.

Leila Ahlström will be studying as a Fulbright scholar in the LL.M. program of Columbia Law School, class of 2022. “Now, more than ever, it is crucial to support growth of businesses with long-term, sustainable goals and strong ethical principles.” My aim is to gain state-of-the-art knowledge for driving change, weaving together perspectives of law, ethics, technology, social impact and economic growth.”

Joonas Aho plans to focus on corporate and transactional law at Columbia Law School, where he wants to “further expand my knowledge of the U.S. legal system, to study at a prestigious U.S. university and to meet new, inspiring people. I want to be able to capitalize on Columbia’s location in one of the world’s major financial and commercial centers and their curriculum, which allows me to consider legal issues from both theoretical and practical perspectives.”

Mikael Nordenswan holds an LL.M. degree from the University of Helsinki, and a M.Sc. in Economics & Business Administration from Hanken School of Economics, and is a Certified European Financial Analyst (CEFA). He is currently pursuing a post-graduate degree at Berkeley Law with a focus on Business, IP and Technology Law. Mikael previously worked at the global law firm White & Case, and is currently working for the global telecommunications company Nokia.

The candidates for the Lindfors law scholarship receive awards. For example, the Lindfors Scholarship Committee was chaired by FFN President and FFN Board member, Pirjo Schulbach and Turto Turtiainen.

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Finnish Classroom Still a Dream

With steady determination, Finlandia Foundation Pittsburgh Chapter continues to lead the effort to build a Finnish Nationality Classroom in the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. The first classrooms opened in 1938, and there are now 30 rooms, each representing the culture, heritage and architecture unique to an ethnic group in the U.S. The design of the planned Finland room showcases Finnish log construction and the Kalevala.

The fundraising campaign, which was launched in 2003, has collected $135,000 of its $400,000 goal. The budget includes materials to create the aesthetics and functionality of the space, as well as construction costs to meet mandatory code standards for electricity, water sprinkler system and air conditioning.

The Nationality Classrooms are used by university students and are open for public tours. Find information at nationalityrooms.pitt.edu. For more about the Finnish room project and how to make a donation go to pittsburghfinns.net or contact FFPC Chair Seija Cohren seijac@aol.com.

Frank Eid, Finnish log construction expert and past FFPC Lector of the Year, is a consultant on the Finnish Nationality Classroom. He holds a model of furnishings for the space.

Notes from the Northwest

By Greg Jacob
President, FFCPC

Karl Markantes, author of the novel Deep River, spoke at the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter’s annual meeting in February. He was captivating, personable, and a fountain of knowledge regarding Finnish immigrants and their struggles, setbacks and successes in northwest Oregon and southeast Washington during the early years of the 20th century.

Karl grew up in Seaside, Oregon in a multigenerational family hearing Finnish, Swedish, Greek and Norwegian. His novel is based partly on the Finnish epic Kalevala, and readers will recognize references and allusions to the epic. Deep River is an engaging novel, one that reminded me of John Steinbeck’s Grapes of Wrath. He is also the author of Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War, which is based on his experiences as a decorated Marine who commanded a platoon there.

Also at the annual meeting, the chapter selected a high school senior as its youngest board member. KatjaErringer (above) will start college in the fall to study biology. She is Finnish-American with dual citizenship and has fond memories of visiting Finland as a child; spending time with extended family and hunting for blueberries and mushrooms in the forests.

Katja wants to help organize Finnish events and promote Finnish heritage. The 2019 Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. It will be held June 10-11, 2021.

All submitted initiatives remain valid and new invitations will be mailed to FEP organizations by December 9. Find more information at fep.fi. Chapter representatives with questions can contact FEP Deputy Speaker for the USA and Latin America Hanna Wagner at dskpwagner@yahoo.com.

Holiday Happenings at the Finnish Center

Imported home goods, candies and holiday decorations filled the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills for the Scandinavian Market on November 9. Always well-attended, this was a record year for shoppers who came for the variety and quality of handcrafted items, from knitwear and jewelry to rag rugs, variety and quality of handcrafted items, year for shoppers who came for the Scandinavian Market on November 9.

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Food for Body and Soul

By Oscar Forsman
FASM

Members of the Finnish American Society Midwest turned out in January for the Lecture of the Year program to “Meet the Finn Cooks” and learn from SoilaAnderson and Eleanor Ostman how to make Finnish foods.

On February 29, FASM sponsored a group outing to Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. It will be held June 10-11, 2021.

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Ex-Pat Parliament Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 situation the board of Suomi-Seura (Finnish Society) postponed the 10th session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament that was scheduled for June 2020 at Finlandia Hall in Helsinki. It will be held June 10-11, 2021. All submitted initiatives remain valid and new invitations will be mailed to FEP organizations by December 9. Find more information at fep.fi. Chapter representatives with questions can contact FEP Deputy Speaker for the USA and Latin America Hanna Wagner at dskpwagner@yahoo.com.

ULKOSUOMALAISET PARLAMENTTI

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creating items for fundraisers, to their volunteer activities spanning 40 filled eight pages with descriptions of In 2019 the honorees were Dirk and Pirjo Year Award, which recognizes those who organization has honored dozens of organizations with Scandinavian of the Finlandia, Iceland, Norway and Sweden Portland, with Scandinavian Schulbachs Honored with Scandinavian of the Year Award Nordic Northwest in Portland, celebrates the culture, and artistic talent to improve our world and contribute their time, talents and treasures. “Enthusiastic, hardworking, dedicated, no job is too small or too big And being Finns, they don’t feel the need to brag about what they do or bring attention to themselves.” Among their many activities, Dirk is treasurer of Finlandia Foundation National, and Pirjo serves on the FFN Scholarship Committee. Each year, Christine, Pirjo and Dirk dedicate hours to the annual ScanFair and other programs. In 2017, Pirjo chaired the Finland 100 celebration in Portland, with the involvement and support of Dirk and Christine. The Nordic Northwest tribute summarizes “The Schulbachs work with heart, dedication, creativity, precision and artistic talent to improve our world and keep us in touch with our Nordic; especially Finnish, roots.” One of the chapter’s past presidents proposed establishing a scholarship in recognition of her father’s long involvement in the organization. She still administers the Sävele Syyjälä Scholarship for a student of Finnish-American heritage in the field of Journalism or Communications, as well as the chapter’s Aina Swan Cutler New England Music Scholarship. In recent years, Edith also volunteered her time to the FFN Scholarship Committee. “I enjoy meeting the young people and seeing how they think,” she says of her involvement. “Edits are so desperate for funds these days, it’s a very valuable contribution.” Edith wants to impress the importance of connecting with your roots. “It gives you a grounding and a sense of where you came from. It expands your horizons and knowledge of what Finland is doing. You can be a voice for what’s happening in Finland.” She adds, “Your background is really a part of you. It’s important to cultivate that. You just don’t know how it will affect you. It’s an important touchstone that I want to keep as a part of my life.” “Why I Give” features individuals who value their Finnish American heritage and contribute their time, talents and treasures. “I am honored to have been elected as president of FFN and excited to strengthen and grow this wonderful organization. I see an opportunity to expand FFN’s visibility and connection to the Finnish and Finnish-American communities,” says Anne-Mari, who has held board positions as treasurer and as chair of the finance and investments committees. She has extensive experience in the finance and investment fields, most recently as a managing director and chief financial officer of Omega Funds, where she is responsible for the financial and administrative operations of the international healthcare investment fund. Prior to that, she was a partner and CEO of venture firms involved in life sciences and biotech industries. If “Finlandia Foundation is to survive and excel, it will have to come up with new ways of attracting the younger generations and develop its offerings accordingly, but without letting go of too much of its past,” he says. “I look forward to being an active part of exploring how Finlandia Foundation has come from, where it is now and where it can go from here.” At FinnFest USA 2017 in Minneapolis, Finland’s President Sauli Niinistö and spouse Jenni Haukio meet FFN trustees Teuvo Pulkkinen, Ossi Rahkonen and Anne-Mari Paster. A native of Turku, Finland, Anne-Mari received her BS in Engineering at the Turku Institute of Technology. Before moving to the U.S. in 1992, she was an international project manager for Wartsila Marine, and then founded APS Material Services, a marketing and sales company representing high-end Finnish suppliers to the international luxury hotel and cruise liner markets. Anne-Mari is also treasurer of Finlandia Foundation Boston Chapter, and has served on the boards of the International Institute of Boston and YWCA Boston. She and her husband, Fred, have lived in Lexington, Massachusetts for more than 20 years and have two adult children. Finnish heritage and language are important to the family, and they make frequent visits to Finland. In her free time, she enjoys Scandinavian and British TV series and yarn craft. Why I Give Edith Eash Edith Eash and Anne-Mari Paster visit at Saima Park during the fall 2018 FFN board meeting in Massachusetts. Schulbachs Honored with Scandinavian of the Year Award Nordic Northwest in Portland, Oregon, celebrates the culture, heritage and innovation of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden through events, classes, lectures and exhibitions. Since 1956, the non-profit organization has honored dozens of individuals with its Scandinavian of the Year Award, which recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the region’s Nordic community. In 2019 the honorees were Dirk and Pirjo Schulbach and Christine Schulbach, Dirk’s sister. The nomination document filled eight pages with descriptions of their volunteer activities spanning 40 years, from serving on boards and creating items for fundraisers, to...
Each spring and fall, the leaves for Finlandia Foundation will last. Recognize that the financial legacy he has created during his tenure. The 2015 Sibelius Jubilee Year, the 2016 FFN Joint Chapter Meeting and the 2017 Finland 100 celebrations were all funded during his tenure. Since the organization has funded 272 grants and scholarships and program support. The organization also awarded more than $2,700,000 in grants, which is more than $2,000,000. Today, seven years later, we have 58 chapters and an endowment that stands in excess of $2,800,000. These statistics are even more remarkable when one realizes that during this time Finlandia Foundation has given away more than $2,700,000 in grants, scholarships and program support. The organization has funded 272 grants and 138 scholarships to students during this time. Additionally, major events, such as the 2015 Sibelius Jubilee Year. 2016 FFN Joint Chapter Meeting and 2017 Finland 100 celebrations were all funded during his tenure. As he retires from the board, his leadership and impact on Finnish America is enormous. His training as an economist and his understanding of the financial market set our organization on an upward trajectory during sometimes uncertain economic times.

We are grateful to Ossi Rahkonen and recognize that the financial legacy he leaves for Finlandia Foundation will last for decades to come.

One Man’s Financial Legacy
By Tim Nurvala
FFN Trustee

In 2013, the Hobbit was the most popular movie at the box office, President Obama was sworn in for a second term, and the Boston Marathon bombers were captured. It was also the year that Finlandia Foundation National elected trustee Ossi Rahkonen as president. When Ossi assumed that position, Finlandia Foundation had 45 chapters and an endowment that stood at just over $2,000,000. Today, seven years later, we have 58 chapters and an endowment that stands in excess of $2,800,000.

The Coronavirus, the CARES Act and Finlandia Foundation Donors
By Tim Nurvala
FFN Trustee

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. The $2 trillion economic stimulus bill aims to provide immediate relief for individuals, nonprofits, businesses and state and local governments.

What Does This Mean for Finlandia Foundation Donors? As it relates to donations, the CARES Act incentivizes charitable giving from individuals and corporations by increasing tax deductions for charitable donations. Below, please find a broad overview of the most impactful ways that the CARES Act affects donors and nonprofit organizations for tax year 2020.

Individual Donors:
- All taxpayers (both those who itemize and those who use standard deduction) can deduct $300 in charitable giving to nonprofit organizations such as Finlandia Foundation in 2020.
- Prior to the CARES Act, those who used standard deduction could not deduct any charitable giving.
- For those who itemize their taxes, the CARES Act significantly raises the amount of charitable giving deductible from 60% of the filer’s adjusted gross income (AGI) to 100%.
- Gifts to donor-advised funds and private foundations do not receive the revised deductible under this provision.

Corporate Donors:
- The CARES Act raises the amount of charitable giving that corporations can deduct from 10% of taxable income to 25% of taxable income.
- The bill also raises the amount of in-kind donations of food that corporations can deduct from 15% of taxable income to 25% of taxable income.

This article has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not to be construed as tax advice. Individuals should consult their accountant or tax advisor with regard to such matters.

CHEERS TO OSSI RAHKONEN

After serving on the FFN board for 10 years, Ossi Rahkonen stepped into the role of president in 2013, in the midst of festivities honoring the founding of Finlandia Foundation in Pasadena.

He and Satu Mikkola, then a trustee, chaired the gala 60th anniversary dinner and concert, the first of three major events during Ossi’s seven years as president. In 2015 FFN joined in the international celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius by sponsoring concerts and offering grants to chapters to assist them in organizing their own Sibelius 150 Jubilee events.

Then, two years later, in recognition of the centennial of Finland’s Declaration of Independence from Russia, FFN sponsored six Finland 100 Signature Events. Grants were again available to FFN chapters to support their 100th anniversary activities throughout 2017.

Also during this time, FFN inaugurated its “Award of Excellence” to acknowledge outstanding contributions by individuals or organizations on behalf of Finnish and Finnish-American interests. Additionally, throughout his term, Ossi worked to improve relationships with appropriate Finnish organizations and offices, in keeping with the historical mission of FFN to maintain a connection with Finland.

Ossi has been a member of Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter for 48 years. He was a board member for many years, including two terms as chapter president.

With much appreciation, FFN wishes Ossi and his wife Karin all the best in their future endeavors.
Thank You For Your Gifts!

Gifts from $1,000 through Major Gifts are cumulative

MAJOR GIFTS
Raisa Cole Estate
Curtin-Paloheimo
Leannor Foundation
Aina Swan Cutler
FF National Capital Chapter
Haikala Associates
John A. Helin
Rudolfo A. Helin
Helin Korpela Fund
Hildre M. Henderson Trust
Dr. Vaino Helin
John & Pauline Helin
Hiliska Kinnunen
Anne E. Koski Estate
Eska Koskinen
Gertrude Kuja
John & Nancy Laine
Edward Lassi Estate
Petti Lindfors
Earle I. Massey Foundation
Osi & Casawmi Noshi
In memory of Emili & Hilli Noshi
Timothy Nuvala
PalohieOTTOM Foundation
Leannor C. Paloheimo
Osi J. & Karin Rahnikon
Elma Randall Estate
Jon & Christine Soo
Jean Saino-Nolan Trust
Bart & Mary Jay Salonen
George & Marian Sundquist
FF San Francisco Bay
Seija & Lawrence Farber
Andrejs Udris
Päivi & Brent Tetri
Suomi-Seura, Finland Society
Jean Sainio-Nolan Trust
In memory of Inger Edwards
David Edwards
$500 to $999
$5,000 and more
In honor of
Marcus Alan Johnson

$5,000 to $9,999
3. Bradford & Pirkka Borland
John Brock
& Sirpo Ristikamio-Brock
Finlandia Music & Art Festival
Finnish-American Literary
Heritage Foundation
Paul & Susan Holme
Olavi Huikka
Janet Arponen Kniffin
Rita Verralmos-Koski
& Alvar Koski
Juho O. Määttä
Satu & Juhani Mikkola
Nokia Corp.

$2,000 to $4,999
John & Janet Ahola
Annamieko
Kristine Anttoniadis
Elissa & Benato della Rocca
Jaeun Day
Jenny M. Duke LTE
FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter
FF Los Angeles Chapter
Fin Spark, Inc.
In memory of Sirkka Sippolka
Jacqueline L. Harju
Anne K. Hanver
Marvi Hjelmroz-Koski & John Koski
Sini & Harmo Korttahoudri
Alvar Kautu
Janet Kniffen Estate
Pitu & Saulo Laaksonen
Katarina Lahtonen
Peter & Anja Makola
Anja & Raymond C. Miller
Nasdaq Stockmarket, Inc.
Betsy & Alan Norgard
Terri Muscutt Normako
Anne Nelson
Anne-Mari & Frederic Pastor
Richard W. Pio-Kaipiaja
Anita L. Raatsalu
Baptista U.A.
Cal. George's Rosso
Dianne & Cheryl Rogers,
M עסקית החינוך
Hanna & David Wagner
Susan E. Walima
Armijo Huusala
Alvar Wulf

$1,000 to $1,999
Helen & Bill Alberth
Dennis Anderson
& Madeline Bahr
Michael & Elaine Anuta
Ilmari Cord
& Louis Gerhard Cordi
Maurice & Edith Cress
In memory of Rachel & Carin Hietaharju
Seija & Lawrence Farber
FF San Francisco Bay
Area Chapter
FF Seattle Chapter
Finfest USA 2007

$500 to $999
Pirkka Borland
David Edwards
In memory of Inger Edwards
Hilve Nilanen
Hilvi Nivali
Jyrki Ollikainen
Jack & Barbara Osman
Carol J. Pahan
Eileen Liljander
Pouly & Nancy Rajola
Red Lightning & Friends of the
Kaleva
William Raynen
Kirk St. Jude
Baneta V. Shaw
Mark A. Silkoski
Norman J. Taylor
In memory of Nelly Taylor
Walter & Worknish Tiani
In memory of
Mikael Tuaninen
W. Allan Tuomas
Aija Turkkinen
In memory of
Richard Vinkinen
Masanl VIslab
Eva Wahlohus
In memory of Sven Wahlohus
Ristina M. Wigg
In memory of Paul Wigg
John & Judith Yesso
In honor of Anita Sytze

Gifts from November 2019 through April 2020

$10,000
John A. Helin

$5,000 and more
Timothy Nuvala

$2,000 and more
Takeshi Onemeadow
Päivi & Brent Tetri

$1,000 and more
Helen & Bill Alberth
Dennis Anderson
& Madeline Bahr
Michael & Elaine Anuta
Ilmari Cord
& Louis Gerhard Cordi
Maurice & Edith Cress
In memory of Rachel & Carin Hietaharju
Seija & Lawrence Farber
FF San Francisco Bay
Area Chapter
FF Seattle Chapter
Finfest USA 2007

 Finnish Festival Festival - Noliello
Helen Vakkila
Jyrki Ollikainen
Jack & Barbara Osman
Carol J. Pahan
Eileen Liljander
Pouly & Nancy Rajola
Red Lightning & Friends of the
Kaleva
William Raynen
Kirk St. Jude
Baneta V. Shaw
Mark A. Silkoski
Norman J. Taylor
In memory of Nelly Taylor
Walter & Worknish Tiani
In memory of
Mikael Tuaninen
W. Allan Tuomas
Aija Turkkinen
In memory of
Richard Vinkinen
Masanl VIslab
Eva Wahlohus
In memory of Sven Wahlohus
Ristina M. Wigg
In memory of Paul Wigg
John & Judith Yesso
In honor of Anita Sytze

Gifts to $99
Clyde W. Ylitalo
Richard Sirola
Michael M. Short
Bette & Barry Roy
John David Planting
Michael M. Short
Richard Srota
Marline & Harlan Streh
Lila Wilkinson
Clyde W. Ylitalo

Suomi-Seura Awards
Grants
FF is pleased to have received two grants from Suomi-Seura (Thorp, Wisconsin). One is to support publication of this newsletter, and the other is for the U.S. portion of the Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazif Azzam.

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

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 Honorary Centennial 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.

GIFT OF $500+
Paul & Susan Holme
Omar & Saima Halme
Lorettta (Puss) Willis
Carolyn (Puss) Willis
Paisi-Raino Families
Dettu Lindfors
Consul Jari Lindfors
Kari Ennaus Piersson
Helmi Wartianen Pierson
David & Jeanelina Sharpe
Ruth Viola Hardy Sharpe
Anita Sytze
Jack & Ed (Lillquist) Hakkila

GIFT OF $250+
Michael & Elaine Anuta
Helmi Costensira-Taipale
Michael & Elaine Anuta
Taina Elisa Mikkonen
Anna Leena Christensen
Alma Leena Christensen
Mati Lohikainonen
Kristi Frenzen Noring
Donald Frenzen
Hillelu Nutt
Amalia & Amado Domiguez
James R. Riehle
Alise Kaartinen
Pirjo Kujuvansalo Schulbach
Olli Elisabet Kujansuu
Joyce & George Aroon
John M. Austin,
In memory of Military Austin
Kirsten Barnett
Virginia Benninghoff
In memory of
William Bennninghoff
Marlene Brouwer
In honor of
Helen Virtanen
James Arthur Butler
Douglas Chadfief & Kea Rhann
James D. Cook
Sovia DeCastrofino
Finlandia Foundation
Northland Chapter
Joyce M. Hoikko
Jose E. Hollander
In memory of
Helma Haikila
Deena A. Jouko
William F. Jenil
Heli Annelli Johnson
In honor of
Marcus Alan Johnson

Jane & David Kangas
In memory of
Rerender C. Thomas Kangas
Erwin Kann
David Y. Koikko
Mark G. Koski
Richard J. Koski
William M. Koski
In honor of
Oscar & Maria Koski
Virpi Luota
Walter & Joye McGrath
In memory of
Nami & Salo variation
Karen M. Michael
Peggy Rondine Moreno
John David Planting
Robert & Barby Roy
Michael M. Short
Dennis Anderson
& Madeline Bahr

FRIENDS OF FF
Aino Rouvari
Nike, Inc.
Gabriel & Deb Monroe
In memory of
Kari Annen
Kari Annen
In memory of
Ina Pohto Holmstrom
Anonymous
Karin Auto
Pirkka Borland
Susan E. Walima
Armijo Huusala
Albert Wulf

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