Finlandia Foundation National has selected guitarist Olli Hirvonen as its Performer of the Year (POY) for 2014-15. It’s the first time since the program was founded in 1996 that a jazz artist has been named POY. Hirvonen, who was born in Lappeenranta in southeast Finland, began studying classical guitar and piano at the age of nine. He earned a bachelor of Music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and his master’s at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where he is now based.

The accomplished performer was named Pori Jazz Festival Artist of the Year in 2011 and has appeared at more than a dozen festivals and major events including last year’s Nordic Cool at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He launched his debut album in 2014.

“We are especially excited that Olli Hirvonen’s music will bring innovative and contemporary perspectives to our POY audiences,” says Satu Mikkola, who coordinates the program for FFN. “We look forward to our chapters hearing and learning about Finnish jazz.”

Hirvonen will be available for POY appearances from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. The host organization handles local arrangements, local transportation and accommodations at their cost, and pays the honorarium directly to the POY.

Please note that pianist Marja Kaisla is performing as POY through August 2014.

To arrange an appearance please contact POY Coordinator Satu Mikkola at satum@aol.com. For artist info: www.ollahirvonen.com

Members of Finlandia Foundation National’s Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee are contacting FFN chapters across the U.S. to learn of plans to recognize the anniversary of the composer’s birth in 2015. Jean Sibelius, who was born in Finland in 1865, was a supporter of FFN and its first Patron.

Chaired by FFN Trustee Marja Kaisla, the Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee hopes to serve as a catalyst to encourage chapters to create events, large or small, to celebrate the music legend in the U.S. The FFN board has approved funds to assist chapters in their Sibelius Jubilee programming, which could mean partnering with a local arts group to host a concert or creating children’s programming related to Sibelius or other aspects of Finnish culture.

The FFN committee is also gathering program information for major and local orchestras across the U.S. and will create a calendar of concerts featuring Sibelius and/or other Finnish music that will be performed in 2015. While the FFN efforts are independent of the Sibelius 150 activities in Finland, they are celebrated alongside the innumerable cultural and musical events planned in Finland for 2015.

continued on page 16
Word from the President

Ossi Rahkonen
President

The year 2014 is off to an exciting start, as you’ll see in the reports and stories throughout this newsletter. The national trustees, Maija Kemper (Treasurer), Milana Huotari (Vice President) and Katja Silverä (President). Not pictured, Trustee Helena Hänninen.

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Board. Its purpose is to apprise all of you who are willing to support our programs through donations. There are numerous ways to contribute to FFN outlined in this newsletter.

Meet the New Trustees

Newly appointed Finlandia Foundation National Trustee Marja Kaisla is no stranger to the organization. The concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015. Marja, who was born in Finland, has lived in the U.S. since 1987. She began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, with Gyorgy Sebek in Switzerland and Susan Starr in Philadelphia. The Sibelius Academy graduate and concert pianist in the United States is a resident of Portland, Oregon, Dirk’s father Roy was born in Astoria, Oregon to a Finnish mother and Estonian father. He is married to Pirjo, who is of Finnish descent. They met in a Finnish language class at Portland State University, where he earned his MBA following his undergraduate degree in Food Science and Technology from Oregon State University. Dirk has held a number of management positions, including posts as operations manager and plant manager, and served as treasurer for the Institute of Food Technologists, Oregon Section.

In addition to FFCPC and now FFN, Dirk’s volunteer activities include involvement, with his wife Pirjo, with the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and its annual holiday ScanFair.

Meet the New Trustees

Newly appointed Finlandia Foundation National Trustee Marja Kaisla is no stranger to the organization. The concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015. Marja, who was born in Finland, has lived in the U.S. since 1987. She began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, with Gyorgy Sebek in Switzerland and Susan Starr in Philadelphia. The Sibelius Academy graduate and concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015. Marja, who was born in Finland, has lived in the U.S. since 1987. She began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, with Gyorgy Sebek in Switzerland and Susan Starr in Philadelphia.

National Trustees

**President**
Ossi Rahkonen
ossi@finlandiafoundation.org

**Vice President**
Paul O. Halme
pohke@bellsouth.net

**Treasurer**
Dirk Schulbach
dschulbach@comcast.net

**Secretary**
Jacqueline Harjula
jharjula2007@gmail.com

**Board Members**

- Richard Ahola
- Dennis M. Anderson
- Janet Arvon Kniffin
- Marja Kaisla
- Peter Mäkilä
- Richard Mikkola
- Saara Mikkola
- Pete Norgard
- Jon Saari
- Päivi Anneli Tetri
- Maija Kemper
- Tarmo Silverman
- Hanna Wagner
- Jukka-Leena Leivo
- Kittisiri Sebök
- Maria Kitzian
- Maria Leivo
- Hilkka Easterwood
- Paul Suomalainen

**Contact Information**

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 92046
Pasadena, CA 91109-2546
(626) 795-2981
office@finlandiafoundation.org

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Board. Its purpose is to apprise all of you who are willing to support our programs through donations. There are numerous ways to contribute to FFN outlined in this newsletter.

Meet the New Trustees

Newly appointed Finlandia Foundation National Trustee Marja Kaisla is no stranger to the organization. The concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015. Marja, who was born in Finland, has lived in the U.S. since 1987. She began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, with Gyorgy Sebek in Switzerland and Susan Starr in Philadelphia. The Sibelius Academy graduate and concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015.

In addition to FFCPC and now FFN, Dirk’s volunteer activities include involvement, with his wife Pirjo, with the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and its annual holiday ScanFair.

**Word from the President**

Hyvät Ystävät:

The year 2014 is off to an exciting start, as you’ll see in the reports and stories throughout this newsletter. The national trustees, Maija Kemper (Treasurer), Milana Huotari (Vice President) and Katja Silverä (President). Not pictured, Trustee Helena Hänninen.

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the FFN Board. Its purpose is to apprise all of you who are willing to support our programs through donations. There are numerous ways to contribute to FFN outlined in this newsletter.

Meet the New Trustees

Newly appointed Finlandia Foundation National Trustee Marja Kaisla is no stranger to the organization. The concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015. Marja, who was born in Finland, has lived in the U.S. since 1987. She began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, with Gyorgy Sebek in Switzerland and Susan Starr in Philadelphia. The Sibelius Academy graduate and concert pianist is the current FFN Performer of the Year and is chairing its Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee, celebrating the anniversary of the Finnish composer’s birth in 2015.

In addition to FFCPC and now FFN, Dirk’s volunteer activities include involvement, with his wife Pirjo, with the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and its annual holiday ScanFair.
Exceptional Grants!

Cultural exchange between Finland and the U.S.

What differentiates this music from that of “Finnish Heavy Metal” is considered its own.

Janne Tamminen

Designed Teemu Suviala

and a workshop for all ages led by Finnish architect and designer Hella Hernberg.

Finnish design concepts and production.

Cinematographer Eric Saarinen is Eero’s son.

2014 and air by the end of calendar year 2015.

Masters.

A documentary by

Peter Rosen Productions, Inc.

in association with WNET/PBS for the award-winning national PBS series American Masters. Funds will help underwrite production of the film, which will commence shooting in 2014 and air by the end of calendar year 2015. Cinematographer Eric Saarinen is Eero’s son.

The life and legacy of iconic Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen will be explored in a documentary Produced. Minneapolis Institute of the Arts is hosting the exhibition. Finland: Designed Environments (May 10-August 17) in conjunction with FinnFest 2014. It explores contemporary Finnish design concepts and explores the role the arts have played in Finland.

Programming will include a presentation by Finnish architect and designer Hella Hernberg and a workshop for all ages led by Finnish designer Teemu Suviala.

Janne Tamminen is producing a documentary, Finnish Heavy Metal Music in the USA. “Finnish Heavy Metal” is considered its own genre within Heavy Metal music, and this film will explore the history, culture, and impact of this subgenre.

Jane Tamminen is producing a documentary, Finnish Heavy Metal Music in the USA. “Finnish Heavy Metal” is considered its own genre within Heavy Metal music, and this film will explore the history, culture, and impact of this subgenre.

expression

Finnish author Meritta Koivisto requested assistance with fees for the English translation of her novel Lontoolainen Rakastaja (A London Lover) published by Otava in 2006. American Lola Rogers is renowned as a top translator of Finnish to English literature.

The Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter is hosting jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen this spring. Hirvonen is a talented young Finnish jazz musician who currently resides in New York. Funds will help cover airfare for the Hirvonen trio.

Rusamari Teppo and Terhi Miikki-Broosma are accomplished Finnish musicians living in the U.S. who are planning a special concert series, Suomi ja Sibelius Soi- Festivalli 2014-2015 to be held in Finnish churches on the West Coast during the Sibelius 150th anniversary year. Teppo is a great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius.

The Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan will commission an ambitious radio project, "Relevant Tones" to design an architecture and history of a place. He will engage the work of Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen in the Cranbrook campus.

Filmmaker Minea Lindquist Herwitz has completed two short films, "Lentakaukaiseen" and "Swamp Wolf Dreams" with FFN funds. This grant will help to wrap up the trilogy with "Elo," the story of many contemporary Finns who leave their Northern homeland for new lives elsewhere.

Aalotar is a new transatlantic collaboration between Finnish-American violist Sara Fajanen and Finnish accordionist Teija Niku. The group plans three tours in the U.S. to promote their new album. Grant funds will make this tour possible.

The Chicago International Film Festival will celebrate its 50th anniversary with Spotlight Scandinavia. Finnish films will include three feature length films, a selection of shorts and one retrospective film. The Spotlight program will include discussions, panels and master classes designed to enhance audience experience of the films and understanding of the filmmaking process and cultural context.

continued on page 6

Sukulaiset: The Kindred is a sequel to the novel Suomalaiset: People of the Marsh by Minnesota novelist Mark Mungeni. Use funds for professional editing of the manuscript, which follows the life of protagonist Eli during Karelsei Fever as she and her family move back to Karelia, where they become trapped by the onset of the Winter War.

The New York Scandia Symphony has long sought to bring previously unknown and seldom heard compositions to American audiences, and is continuing its mission to exhibit the music of Scandinavia on the New York Metropolitan scene. Grant funds will support programming for its Scandinavian Music Festival 2014: Presentation of Finnish Composers.

Choreographer and dancer Sari Nordman created her work A Dadaesque Collage of Chauvinist Wisdom from her experience as a Finnish woman living in the U.S. In it she explores questions about the nature of women and female solidarity. She and her collaborator, dancer Kristin Halleberg, will use funds for a costume designer.

Adele Einers is well on her way to publishing her children’s picture book Animals of the Forest, with characters loosely based on Finnish folklore. The author/artist uses pictures, handicraft and digital drawing to bring the characters to life.

A grant will assist the Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts/Blue Sky Gallery with a solo photography exhibition by renowned Finnish artist Pentti Sammalahti. His work will also be seen in the annual catalogue of exhibitions and featured on Blue Sky’s website. A reception is planned in partnership with Portland’s Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and FF Columbia-Pacific Chapter.

The crown jewel of FinnFest USA’s 30th annual festival in Minneapolis August 7-10, 2014 will be classical music programming showcasing Finnish composers in a concert including music by Olli Kortekangas under the direction of Craig Johnson. Funding will help to pay for rental space for rehearsals and performances and other fees associated with the rights to perform Finnish chamber music scores.

By Päivi Tetri, FFN Trustee

Finlandia Foundation National and chapters of Finlandia Foundation across the country work hard to support and promote Finnish and Finnish-American culture in the United States and cultural exchange between Finland and America. This is quite a challenge! How do we, as Finnish Americans, move this mission forward? This year, the grants committee envisioned our mission as exploring our common heritage, educating others about our heritage, preserving our heritage for future generations and celebrating the uniqueness of our history and cultural heritage. We congratulate all of our 2014 grant recipients!

Exploration

The life and legacy of iconic Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen will be explored in Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future, a documentary Produced by Peter Rosen Productions, Inc., in association with WNET/PBS for the award-winning national PBS series American Masters. Funds will help underwrite production of the film, which will commence shooting in 2014 and air by the end of calendar year 2015. Cinematographer Eric Saarinen is Eero’s son.

Cellist Kiernan Ojakangas, violist Celka Ojakangas and violinist Lian Ojakangas are siblings traveling to Finland for their Ojakangas Trio Summer Camp for the accomplished young musicians are very proud of their Finnish heritage and look forward to sharing their talents with Finnish audiences as well as exploring and being inspired in their own compositions by Finnish music.

Sarah Cummings and Scott Thurston have a love for Finnish folk music that inspired the formation of Jamit, a synthesis of traditional and contemporary folk music fashioned after a Celtic “kitchen party” where musicians of all ages gather together to play. Grant funds will assist Cummings and Thurston with a trip to Finland to learn about musical forms, ornamentation, rhythmic emphasis and arranging that they can bring back to their local community of musicians.

Brett Stroka has been invited to attend Arteles Creative Center in Haukijarvi, Finland as an Artist in Residence. He plans to collaborate with local folk musicians on a contemporary electro-acoustic sound installation project, an extension of his previous piece “Sine Qua Non.” His grant will aid him in project research and creation.

A grant will assist Akvavit Theatre in Chicago with its Nordic Spirit Festival 2014 in which it will introduce audiences to a contemporary Finnish voice rarely heard in the U.S. Post-show discussions with audiences, actors, and other theatre professionals explore themes of community, culture and diversity in each play.

Park Cofield is in the development and research phase of his project: SISU is the Heart—A Community Based Theater Project for Fairport Harbor, Ohio. FFN funding will support travel and other costs associated with gathering stories from Finnish-American families, which will be used as the basis for a play featuring Finnish “pauper statues” and puppets as part of the performance.

Jesse McQuarters, host and producer of the internationally syndicated radio program Relevant Tones on WFMU Radio Network in Chicago, will produce several documentary-style episodes about Finnish contemporary classical music, composers and education. A grant will aid travel to Finland to collect interviews and recorded material. Relevant Tones is heard by an estimated 250,000 weekly.

Expression

Finnish author Meritta Koivisto requested assistance with fees for the English translation of her novel Lontoolainen Rakastaja (A London Lover) published by Otava in 2006. American Lola Rogers is renowned as a top translator of Finnish to English literature.

The Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter is hosting jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen this spring. Hirvonen is a talented young Finnish jazz musician who currently resides in New York. Funds will help cover airfare for the Hirvonen trio.

Rusamari Teppo and Terhi Miikki-Broosma are accomplished Finnish musicians living in the U.S. who are planning a special concert series, Suomi ja Sibelius Soi- Festivalli 2014-2015 to be held in Finnish churches on the West Coast during the Sibelius 150th anniversary year. Teppo is a great-granddaughter of Jean Sibelius.

The Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan will commission an ambitious radio project, “Relevant Tones” to design an architecture and history of a place. He will engage the work of Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen in the Cranbrook campus.

Filmmaker Minea Lindquist Herwitz has completed two short films, “Lentakaukaiseen” and “Swamp Wolf Dreams” with FFN funds. This grant will help to wrap up the trilogy with “Elo,” the story of many contemporary Finns who leave their Northern homeland for new lives elsewhere.

Aalotar is a new transatlantic collaboration between Finnish-American violist Sara Fajanen and Finnish accordionist Teija Niku. The group plans three tours in the U.S. to promote their new album. Grant funds will make this tour possible.

The Chicago International Film Festival will celebrate its 50th anniversary with Spotlight Scandinavia. Finnish films will include three feature length films, a selection of shorts and one retrospective film. The Spotlight program will include discussions, panels and master classes designed to enhance audience experience of the films and understanding of the filmmaking process and cultural context.

continued on page 6
Education

The "baby box" has long been a feature of the provision of pre- and post-natal care to mothers in Finland. These boxes of baby clothing and supplies, in conjunction with other related maternity care, are widely considered to have been instrumental in reducing infant mortality rates in Finland. The nonprofit Personal Involvement Center in Los Angeles is launching a new outreach initiative to provide these Aiti Baby Boxes to disadvantaged mothers in L.A. Funds will assist with creation of a website and marketing materials to educate the public about the service.

The Sulo & Aileen Maki Library at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan will use funds for Finnish literature collection development to supplement its collection of about 60,000 titles plus other media resources. This will aid students, faculty, local community and outside researchers in their studies.

The Salolampi Foundation and Concordia Language Villages will utilize funds for a small group Finnish language curriculum development and implementation. This "Mini-Salolampi" curriculum will be available for use outside the traditional Salolampi language camp and will be a tool for highlighting the Salolampi experience.

The New Sweden Alliance and Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley will apply its grant to an Education Seminar for Educators, Administrators and Elected Officials in Philadelphia and Wilmingtom, Delaware highlighting the Finnish Educational System. The Finnish education system is world renowned for excellence and this project hopes to share best practices from Finland with American educators, with a goal of further conversation about possible school reform in the U.S. In a related project, FFN is granting travel funding to Kathryn Johnson of Northern Michigan University to attend EdMedia 2014, an international academic conference in Tempe, Arizona. In addition to delivering the two academic papers she has been invited to present, she also plans to attend sessions on the "suodu Double U" and "Cool Lava Show," a puppet show about Finnish children and "Cool Lava Show," a variety program inspired by Finnish Lavaloomikot, stand-up comedians who performed at illuat, variety shows popular in the 1940's through the 1960's in Finland.

Preservation

The Long Valley Preservation Society of Roseberry, Idaho will use funds to restore the porch of a Finnish-built home, the Mahala House, which dates from the 1920s. The house is typical of Finnish dimensional lumber construction used in the Long Valley, and is one of the Finnish homestead buildings that will be completed with funding from the Finnish-American Homestead Foundation. FFN funds will equip the space with archival systems to properly preserve, maintain and care for its fine art collection.

Elmer Alexander Forsberg (1883-1950) was a renowned Finnish-born artist, teacher and diplomat with ties to the Art Institute of Chicago. Jeannette M. Forsberg received funds for the initial phase of a long-term project to locate, document and digitize available artworks of this currently little-known artist. Her ultimate aim is to organize an exhibit and catalog of Forsberg's work.

The rural areas around the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin were heavily settled by Finnish pioneers in the 1880s. The Old-Brule Heritage Society is preserving this heritage and will construct a new foundation for the Minnesota-Superior School, which served the area's Finnish community until 1917. Longer-term goals include building a space to house an archival collection and display venue for artifacts and documents.

The proper preservation of collections of records, photos, artifacts, textiles and artwork is critical in maintaining the connection to our heritage. Finlandia University's Finnish American Heritage Center Historical Archive is in need of funds to repair the aging climate-control system so that these valuable collections may be preserved.

Honor Schauland, a life long participant in the Finnish-American community and a life long participant in the Finnish-American community and the Finnish immigrants' history alive and growing. The Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter is planning its 60th Anniversary Gala. Funds will help underwrite programming for this celebration of the good work the chapter has been engaged in for six decades. Congratulations, Florida Finns!

There were many wonderful grant applications presented to us this year for consideration. We had grant requests totaling over $226,000 and were only able to disburse $70,000 in funds. We wish we could have done more to support these projects, but we appreciate the thoughtful and creative work that has helped bring into the exploration, expression, education, preservation, and celebration of Finnish-American life. Finlandia Foundation National is proud to be a part of the ongoing work of so many in keeping our beloved heritage alive and growing.

Zoe Bartholomew of the University of Minnesota has received an unpaid internship at the Atenum Museum in Helsinki. Funds will help with travel and living expenses while she works on digitally cataloging the museum's art collection, assisting with special exhibitions and projects.

The Keweenaw Land Trust received funds for its project, "Interpreting a Traditional Finnish-American Homestead and Its Land Use Practices" along the Copper Country Trail National Byway. The group will engage the public with a comprehensive interpretive program for a Finnish-American farmstead typical of the Copper Country's mining boom days.

Celebration

Frederick, South Dakota is a small community with a large ethnic Finland. The Finlandia’s Finns of the 1870s. 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, students will correspond with their Finnish peers and learn about cultural dancing, music, cooking, language and arts and crafts.

In this 100th anniversary year, FFN is funding Mad About Moomintroll: Celebrating Stow Johnson's Centennial, a summer program by Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children's literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

© Moomin Characters™
Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children's literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

©Moomin Characters™

In this 100th anniversary year, FFN is funding Mad About Moomintroll: Celebrating Stow Johnson's Centennial, a summer program by Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children's literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

© Moomin Characters™
Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children's literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

© Moomin Characters™
Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children's literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.

© Moomin Characters™
Sally Cragin in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. It will include a lecture series on the Moomin creator and a reading and Moomin-related crafts program for children. It is sure to be a nice introduction to the Finnish children's literature classic.

What better way to reach a wide audience than YouTube? With her grant, Vivian will produce five Finnish-themed short video web videos for distribution on YouTube. These humorous videos will assist Finnish food or Finnish baseball will introduce audiences to Finnish languages, personalities and traditions.
St. Urho joined in the winter fun
By David Maki, FFCC Chapter

Heikinpäivä 2014 proved that Mother Nature is eager to share her winter fun with everyone. In a winter that set records for cold, and snowfall, and children’s kicksled races. A few dozen of the participants navigated an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party).

Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore: dozens came out to navigate an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party). The auditorium’s stage curtains were strung with string musicians. The program began with a kantele lesson for children in a month-long Finnish Immersion program in Maine. Students learned to play the kantele.

The festival culminates on the last Saturday of January, with music, dance, food and fun. Though temperatures at this year’s festival struggled to reach positive numbers, festival-goers came by the hundreds to enjoy a torch market so large it torched the surrounding area. Two venues, performances by a variety of local and regional Finnish-American musicians, a scrumptious buffet dinner and a dance.

Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore: dozens came out to navigate an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party).

The education comes to children.

In the art classes, they crafted tonttus, the mythical and magical Finnish elves, and learned dropped-spindle yarn weaving. To commemorate the kantele’s creation from the jawbone of a pike (according to the Kalevala) the children created beautiful fish using paper quilling. The auditorium’s stage curtains were strung with string musicians. The program began with a kantele lesson for children in a month-long Finnish Immersion program in Maine. Students learned to play the kantele.

The festival culminates on the last Saturday of January, with music, dance, food and fun. Though temperatures at this year’s festival struggled to reach positive numbers, festival-goers came by the hundreds to enjoy a torch market so large it torched the surrounding area. Two venues, performances by a variety of local and regional Finnish-American musicians, a scrumptious buffet dinner and a dance.

Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore: dozens came out to navigate an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party).

The festival culminates on the last Saturday of January, with music, dance, food and fun. Though temperatures at this year’s festival struggled to reach positive numbers, festival-goers came by the hundreds to enjoy a torch market so large it torched the surrounding area. Two venues, performances by a variety of local and regional Finnish-American musicians, a scrumptious buffet dinner and a dance.

Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore: dozens came out to navigate an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party).

Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore: dozens came out to navigate an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party).

Not all activities were indoors. Despite wind-chill readings plummeting to 30 degrees below zero, hundreds of hardy people lined Quincy Street for the Heikinpäivä parade, which included appearances by characters from Finnish and Finnish-American folklore: dozens came out to navigate an obstacle course with house-sisu for the wife-carrying contest (which requires Finnish-American folklore; dozens came out to spoil the party).
FFN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2014

Hanna Wagner, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Finlandia Foundation National awarded 20 scholarships to an outstanding group of graduate and undergraduate students from Finland and the United States attending school in both countries. They were among a very strong and large pool of applicants, making the selection process a pleasant challenge.

ALEXANDER AHLGREN is a University of Washington undergraduate student with a double major: Political Science with an Economics emphasis and Finnish Language and Culture. He is on a yearlong exchange program at the University of Turku in Finland. Professor Christine Ingbritsen writes: “Of the undergraduate students I have taught at the University of Washington, Alex is among the top 5% of all those I have had the opportunity to interact with.”

ELIZABETH BRAUER is a University of Oulu graduate student in the master’s degree program in Education and Globalization. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2013 and was selected to join Phi Beta Kappa. She has an extensive Finnish background and attended Salolampi Language Village. Her Oulu transcript shows two 5’s (excellent) and one 4 (very good).

MATTI CIRIGLIANO is a PhD student in the Educational Communications and Technology program at New York University. Matti was brought up in a Finnish household and as a child attended Finnish school on weekends. He has put his skills to good use in helping to develop the FF New York Metropolitan Chapter website and stationery. Elizabeth McAlpin of NYU writes: “Matt Cirigliano...possesses immense creativity, originality, and academic performance matching an exceptional range in interpersonal skills.”

JON GOETZ is a Harvard University undergraduate pursuing a degree in history. Jon is a third generation Finnish-American who believes that his interest in history was sparked by his Finnish grandfather who told him stories of the Russo-Finnish Winter War. Professor Alison Frank Johnson writes: “Goetz is smart and works hard. But he is also thoughtful in a way that is all too rare, in a way that is special.”

PIPSA HAPPO is a graduate student at the University of Colorado in Denver where she is pursuing a master’s in Architecture. She grew up in Finnish Lapland and received a BS in Architecture from Tampere University of Technology. Shana Cohen from the University of Colorado writes: “She shows an interest in trying new representation methods to communicate her ideas, and brings a wonderfully fresh perspective to the classroom setting.”

JUULI HUTTUNEN is a University of Massachusetts Amherst undergraduate majoring in Political Science within the Social and Behavioral Sciences College. She writes: “I consider myself extremely fortunate to be part of the Finnish-American community because I have two different countries I can call my home, two languages I have mastered, a family history in Finland and another history in the making here in the United States.”

IIDA PÖLLÄNEN is a PhD student at the University of Oregon in Eugene. She is studying English, Swedish, Finnish and German literature and their intersections in 19th and 20th century prose. Iida received her BA from the University of Tampere. Associate Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature Katya Hokansson writes: “I believe Iida is among our strongest students and has an extremely bright future.”

EMILIA PENNANEN is pursuing a BFA at Maryland Institute College of Art. She initiated her studies in England in 2011 but transferred to MICA because of the excellent staff in the photography department. Regina DeLuise, chair of the MICA Photography Department, writes: “I have been teaching since 1989 and I must say, I find Emilia to be among the most interesting students I’ve had the pleasure of working with. She is a perceptive image-maker, intellectually engaged and a pleasure to be around.”

SINIKKA ROINILA is an undergraduate student at Indiana University of Bloomington pursuing a degree in the School of Journalism. She attended Salolampi mini-camps at several FinnFests and as a child she participated in Finnish language and cultural activities at the FF Pittsburgh chapter. Suzy Mester, a family friend writes: “I have watched Sini accomplish nearly all she has set out to do, earnest in her endeavors, tireless in her work ethic, honest in her assessments. She puts others first, looking for ways to learn and improve herself, making her corner of the world a better place.”

JOLENE SARKINEN is a 16-year-old, second year student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is planning to earn a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and becoming fluent in the Finnish language. Daniel Karvonen, Senior Lecturer of Finnish and Linguistics writes: “Jolene’s academic work in courses is nothing short of superb. She also has an extremely positive attitude and an obvious passion for Finland and the Finnish language.”

NEAL SIMONS is a Finlandia University student pursuing a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in Finnish. He is planning to study in Finland in the summer of 2014, and after graduation would like to teach English in Finland or possibly Finnish in the U.S. Assistant Professor Mark Lounibos writes: “Neal is an excellent student. He is mature beyond his years and deeply committed to education, both as a practical goal and a pursuit with its own inherent rewards.”

KATRI (AYRAVAINEN) STANLEY is a graduate student at Columbia University’s School of Public Affairs pursuing a master’s degree in International Relations. Her principal academic and professional interest is food security, and she points out that Finland is a leader in the realm of...
ERIKA TUKIAINEN is a second year medical student at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; she also received a FFN scholarship in 2013. She writes in her application: “After moving to Los Angeles from Helsinki at the age of 11 with my younger brother, we faced many financial and cultural, especially language barriers. However, I kept my mother’s lessons about work ethic and perseverance close to my heart, which she taught me when I was a young girl in Finland. These lessons about the “suomalainen sisu” have given me the strength and work ethic to continue my path toward medical school.”

SIRI UOTILA is a graduate student at Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School pursuing a three-year joint MBA/MPP degree. Siri graduated from Harvard in 2010 with a BA majoring in Chemistry and Molecular Biology. Hannah Riley Bowles from the Kennedy School writes: “Siri is unfailingly gracious and diligent and exceptionally smart. For the mid-term written assignment her students completed a case analyses proposing a growth strategy for a hospital for the blind. Siri’s paper was the strongest in the class.”

HANNA VÄSTINSALO is a student at the American Film Institute studying Film Directing. Hanna earned a PhD in Molecular Biology with a concentration in Molecular Genetics from the University of Helsinki, but decided after defending her thesis that, while she loved being a scientist, her passion lies with telling stories about science and scientists. Her goal is to be a director who can popularize science to general audiences.

SARA WERTANEN is a University of Central Florida undergraduate pursuing a double major in Civil and Environmental Engineering. A move from Oregon to Florida forced her to drop Finnish language studies online. Daniel Triolo, Instructor in Mathematics at Lake State College writes: “Sara is a standout student that any instructor would applaud for her attitude towards her education.”

The next deadline for scholarship applications is February 1, 2015.

**Join the FUNdraising**

It’s a fun and exciting time for FFN, which is enjoying increased interest in and response to its current programs while getting involved in new initiatives such as SXSW, the Sibelius-ISO Jubilee in 2015 and, in a few short years, the centennial of Finland’s independence in 2017.

You’re invited to join the FUN in FFN fundraising. FFN receives no public monies and its programs depend on your generosity for their success. We appreciate whatever amount you are able to give. You can:

- Donate by check and send in the enclosed envelope to: Finlandia Foundation National, P.O. Box 92046, Pasadena, CA 91109-2046.
- Make your gift online at: www.finlandiafoundation.org
- Become a monthly donor; sign up to have your gift automatically debited from your account.
- Give a gift of stock; make a planned gift or discover other options by contacting attorney and FFN Vice President Paul Halme at: pohhc@aol.com

With financial assistance from FFN and individual board members, the organization was recognized as a sponsor of Laaksonen’s appearance. I was able to attend the event and explore opportunities for broadening awareness and recognition of the work done by FFN. I made the acquaintance of Riikka Paakonen, co-founder of Spinefarm Records, the first label of two of Finland’s most famous heavy metal bands, Nightwish and Children of Bodom; and Virpi Immonen of Full Steam Management, who manages well known Finnish bands.

FFN Explores New Avenues at South by Southwest

By Maria Kizirian, Assistant to the Board of Trustees

Since its founding in 1953 it has been a goal of Finlandia Foundation National to encourage appreciation of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, history and traditions. Its Performer and Lecturer of the Year are among the programs that contribute to that mission. In its ongoing quest to grow and remain relevant to the ever-changing dynamics of the arts scene, FFN participated in the South by Southwest (SXSW) Conferences & Festivals in Austin, Texas in March.

Hatched in 1987, SXSW has grown into a 10-day celebration of music, film and interactive media that attracts an international throng---72,000 registered for the 2014 event---of those who want to learn, create, produce, communicate and entertain (Finnish gaming sensation Rovio of Angry Birds has been there several times).

A motivating factor in FFN’s involvement this year was a presentation that Laura Laaksonen, the former creative industries coordinator for the Finnish Consulate General of Los Angeles, was invited to make. In her talk, “Heavy Metal Entrepreneurship, a Ph.D Study,” she shared stories of the Finnish heavy metal bands from the 1980s and how Finns have, over the last 20 years, embraced their unique and quirky style and odd accent, rather than try to emulate American English, or be “too American.” She also spoke of different ways musicians become a business, and how to thrive regardless of the way you start making money by playing music.

Laaksonen’s invitation from SXSW acknowledges the increasing interest in Finnish heavy metal music and the FFN board saw this as an opportunity to connect with a new audience that may be interested in Finland, particularly with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sibelius in 2015 and the centennial anniversary of Finland’s independence in 2017.

Many exciting ideas resulted from our discussions and we’ll be looking into a greater presence for FFN at SXSW in 2015.

Maria Kizirian is a singer, songwriter, music producer and instrumentalist and was FFN Performer of the Year 2012.

Many exciting ideas resulted from our discussions and we’ll be looking into a greater presence for FFN at SXSW in 2015.
Teacher Studies Finnish Music

By Betsy Norgard, FFN Trustee

It’s surprising where a casual conversation can take you. For Melanie Brooks, a saxophonist and music education graduate of St. Olaf College, it began by talking with a music professor, Paul Niemisto, who is director of the Finnish brass septet Amerikan Poijat. She expressed an interest in learning about Finland’s highly-rated education system, and he encouraged her to study its music program. She helped with her research, connected her with a youth wind band, and introduced her to two visiting Finnish music educators.

These acquaintances led to an invitation to teach at a music camp in Finland which, aided by a grant from FFN, she did in 2011. Melanie worked with the military Finnish Guard Band, and with musicians from Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, where she met Peter Ettrup Larsen, a professor in the conducting program.

As director of the high school and fifth-grade bands in Pine City, Minnesota, she enjoyed a collaboration between her students and Finnish composer Janne Ikonen. In “virtual rehearsals” he worked with students he met at Soiva and looks forward to continuing last year’s experience with chamber music.

A big part of his Soiva experience for Matt was meeting and getting to know the Finnish students and teachers, especially, he says, “seeing what they’re like with their music and how well they play.” Students discover the differences in the two cultures, and understand how it affects their daily lives, noting, for example, that it costs nearly twice as much for teens to get a driver’s license in Finland than in the U.S.

Matt attended Soiva Camp with scholarships from FFN and the Twin Cities Chapter of Finlandia Foundation. During the year, he has kept in touch with students he met at Soiva and looks forward to hopefully seeing some of the 2013 students again, and continuing to learn more about both Finnish culture and awesome music-making.

Soiva Camp takes place this year from June 21-29, for students of piano, violin, viola, flute, clarinet, saxophone, improvisation and composition. For information, go to www.FinnlandiaFoundation.org/programs or www.youtube.com and search for Soiva Camp.

Eureka! Chapters Discover Yoopera!

Audiences are applauding the FFN Lecturer of the Year program featuring a screening of the documentary Yoopera! presented by the film’s director, Suzanne Jurva, or editor Erin Smith. Yoopera! weaves together the remarkable story of how Finnish and American talent created an original opera about a 1906 tragedy in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and the companion “Story Line” project that shared family histories in a public work of art. The filmmakers have enjoyed positive feedback and exchanges at the events.

“The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter recently hosted LOY Suzanne Jurva for a screening of her film Yoopera!,” reports Don Fidler, the chapter’s co-president. “It was a well-attended event with great interest in the interconnected stories and the way the movie touches one’s heart. A wonderful program. Highly recommended.”

Tales from Esko’s Corner

By Davis Helberg, Minnesota

“How Finnish was Thomson Township? Some people said even the dogs barked in Finnish.”

Thus begins one of the 70 stories in Esko’s Corner, An Illustrated History of Esko and Thomson Township, a newly published anthology of a place northeast of Minnesota settled by Finnish immigrants in the 1870s.

The book was produced by the Esko Historical Society with the aid of a $1,200 grant in 2009 from FFN, which spawned a fundraising campaign that netted about $35,000—far exceeding expectations—and led to a hard-cover history with about 160 photos.

Now a modern suburb of nearby Duluth, Thomson Township for many years was part of an unusual upper Midwest communities where a majority of residents conversed in Finnish—or a version of it that came to be known as “Finglish.” How the language evolved and how the
Florida is an attractive destination for sun-seekers, and that includes Finnish-Americans and, especially in winter, visitors from Finland.

FN Trustee Peter Mäkilä has served as Finland's Honorary Consul in Florida for 13 years, and shares a bit about the operations of his office:

Approximately 25,000 Finns and people with Finnish heritage live in Florida, with 12,000-15,000 in the Palm Beach area alone. Each winter the number increases by about 10,000 when the “snowbirds” visit from the Nordic countries. The Lake Worth office of Finland’s Honorary Consulate assists Finnish citizens with various issues and matters, and the peak winter season is an especially busy period.

The office receives requests regarding passport renewals, and it makes active use of the portable passport unit in spring and fall. It’s a great service for Florida’s Finnish citizens, as well as those from other states and even Canada, according to Peter. “In February, during the most recent visit to Lake Worth by the portable passport unit, we issued over 60 renewals and new passports for Finns.”

As Finland’s Honorary Consul he takes part in many American and Finnish-American events during the year, arranged by Finns and Finnish organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the 70th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and Finland House.

In March he welcomed Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Ritva Koukku-Ronde to the 80th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the Finnish Heritage Society.

Conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen is the most recent recipient of the Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Musical Composition. The biennial award, announced in March by the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, considers nominations from around the world to recognize “classical music composers of outstanding achievement in a body of work and a unique creativity.” The award includes a $100,000 cash prize, performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and residency at the Bienen School in Evanston, Illinois.

Finlandia Foundation National congratulates its President Ossi Rahkonen, who represented a more current, Americanized Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter, chaired the grants committee and was president from 1999-2001. Inger was also a past president of Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter.

FFN Remembers Inger Edwards

Former FN Trustee and President Inger Pancoast-Edwards passed away on March 1, 2014 in Pennsylvania, born in Finland of Swedish and Finnish descent, she grew up in Vasa and came to North Carolina to attend High Point College. She served on the FFN Board from 1995-2003, chaired the grants committee and was president from 1999-2001. Inger was also a past president of Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter.

FFN Trustee Paul Halme recalls, “She was a cheerful, lively person, always offering a big smile to her dour (he says with a grin) Finnish friends. She represented a more current, Americanized generation and was the first Swede Finnish president.”

Survivors include her husband, David E. Edwards, a daughter, son, three stepchildren and 10 grandchildren. Her first husband, Dr. David L. Pancoast, preceded her in death.

To learn more about financial assistance from FFN and matters, and the peak winter season is an especially busy period.

The office receives requests regarding passport renewals, and it makes active use of the portable passport unit in spring and fall. It’s a great service for Florida’s Finnish citizens, as well as those from other states and even Canada, according to Peter. “In February, during the most recent visit to Lake Worth by the portable passport unit, we issued over 60 renewals and new passports for Finns.”

As Finland’s Honorary Consul he takes part in many American and Finnish-American events during the year, arranged by Finns and Finnish organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the 70th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and Finland House.

In March he welcomed Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Ritva Koukku-Ronde to the 80th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the Finnish Heritage Society.

Conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen is the most recent recipient of the Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Musical Composition. The biennial award, announced in March by the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, considers nominations from around the world to recognize “classical music composers of outstanding achievement in a body of work and a unique creativity.” The award includes a $100,000 cash prize, performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and residency at the Bienen School in Evanston, Illinois.

Finlandia Foundation National congratulates its President Ossi Rahkonen, who represented a more current, Americanized Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter, chaired the grants committee and was president from 1999-2001. Inger was also a past president of Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter.

FFN Remembers Inger Edwards

Former FN Trustee and President Inger Pancoast-Edwards passed away on March 1, 2014 in Pennsylvania, born in Finland of Swedish and Finnish descent, she grew up in Vasa and came to North Carolina to attend High Point College. She served on the FFN Board from 1995-2003, chaired the grants committee and was president from 1999-2001. Inger was also a past president of Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia Chapter.

FFN Trustee Paul Halme recalls, “She was a cheerful, lively person, always offering a big smile to her dour (he says with a grin) Finnish friends. She represented a more current, Americanized generation and was the first Swede Finnish president.”

Survivors include her husband, David E. Edwards, a daughter, son, three stepchildren and 10 grandchildren. Her first husband, Dr. David L. Pancoast, preceded her in death.

To learn more about financial assistance from FFN and matters, and the peak winter season is an especially busy period.

The office receives requests regarding passport renewals, and it makes active use of the portable passport unit in spring and fall. It’s a great service for Florida’s Finnish citizens, as well as those from other states and even Canada, according to Peter. “In February, during the most recent visit to Lake Worth by the portable passport unit, we issued over 60 renewals and new passports for Finns.”

As Finland’s Honorary Consul he takes part in many American and Finnish-American events during the year, arranged by Finns and Finnish organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the 70th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and Finland House.

In March he welcomed Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Ritva Koukku-Ronde to the 80th Anniversary of American Finnish Club and organizations in the Lake Worth area, such as the Finnish Heritage Society.

Conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen is the most recent recipient of the Michael Ludwig Nemmers Prize in Musical Composition. The biennial award, announced in March by the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, considers nominations from around the world to recognize “classical music composers of outstanding achievement in a body of work and a unique creativity.” The award includes a $100,000 cash prize, performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and residency at the Bienen School in Evanston, Illinois.
November 1, 2013 to May 1, 2014, except gifts above $1,000, which are cumulative:

$2,000 to $4,999

Päivi & Brent Tetri

Anita & Jack Smiley

Jon Saari

Rita Vermala-Koski & Paul & Susan Halme

$5,000 to $9,999

SF Fund for Scholars

Eero Tetri

Bert & Marjatta Salonen

Jean Sainio-Nolan Trust

Ossi & Karin Rahkonen

Leonora C. Paloheimo

Paloheimo Foundation

Pertti Lindfors

Anja Miller has been involved in a variety of fundraising activities, but her interest in volunteering:

“We have to believe in ourselves. You have to believe in your

Why We Give: A Tale of Two Trustees

By Kath Usitalo, Fidelity Charitable

The lifeblood of Finlandia Foundation is its volunteers, the dedicated and energetic individuals who believe in the purpose established at the organization’s founding 61 years ago: to unite all Friends of Finland in America and perpetuate Finnish-American cultural institutions. Their stories are very different, but former FF Trustees Pertti Lindfors, who served on the board from 1962-82 and Anja Miller, from 1991-2003, share a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthen ing the ancestral ties to Finland in this country. Neighbors in the San Francisco Bay area—he lives in the city, she in nearby Brisbane—both have long been active in local FF programs as well as on the national board.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki. She was selected for study at a year at Mount Holyoke College, and while traveling in the U.S. met her future husband Raymond Miller. After her pioneering stint in Finnish television and marriage to Ray, the couple spent time in Pakistan during his PhD research. They settled in Brisbane and Ray continued his career as professor at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Anja earned an MA in English as a Second Language and works as a translator/interpreter. She was involved in local government and served as mayor of Brisbane (Ray was also mayor and still serves on the city council), on the board of the Finnish-American Home Association, as FF delegate to the Expatriate Finnish Parliament, and president of what was then the FF Palo Alto-Stanford Chapter. On top of this sampling of her accomplishments, she’s mother of a daughter and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris—a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter and their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person

Former Honorary Finnish Consul and retired attorney Pertti Lindfors says of his connection to FFN, “Dr. (Vaino) Hoover asked me to join the board and I’ve been involved ever since.” In some ways he’s carrying on the family tradition started by his wife Jari Lindfors, who came from the U.S. with her husband from Finland and married Pertti’s mother Kerttu. They moved to California, where Pertti grew up, and Jari served in consolate positions in San Francisco between 1921 until 1960. In addition to donating countless Finlandia Foundation hours Pertti found another way to contribute, establishing a scholarship fund through FFN. After earning his bachelor’s degree at UC Berkeley and law degree from the University of Wisconsin, he practiced law in San Francisco and worked with Finnish companies establishing businesses in the U.S. “I thought there was a need for Finnish students to come to the U.S. because there is a vast difference, vast nuances in the international trade area.”

Pertti, now 90, fondly recalls the two years he and his family spent in Finland when he was a boy. The experience helped him learn the language and connect with his roots, and instilled in him—and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris—a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter and their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person

Pertti Lindfors and Anja Miller have been friends in “Finnishness” for years and each have made valuable contributions to Finlandia tailored to their talents. They are very different, but both have a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthening the ancestral ties to Finland in this country.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki.

Their stories are very different, but former FF Trustees Pertti Lindfors, who served on the board from 1962-82 and Anja Miller, from 1991-2003, share a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthening the ancestral ties to Finland in this country. Neighbors in the San Francisco Bay area—he lives in the city, she in nearby Brisbane—both have long been active in local FF programs as well as on the national board.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki. She was selected for study at a year at Mount Holyoke College, and while traveling in the U.S. met her future husband Raymond Miller. After her pioneering stint in Finnish television and marriage to Ray, the couple spent time in Pakistan during his PhD research. They settled in Brisbane and Ray continued his career as professor at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Anja earned an MA in English as a Second Language and works as a translator/interpreter. She was involved in local government and served as mayor of Brisbane (Ray was also mayor and still serves on the city council), on the board of the Finnish-American Home Association, as FF delegate to the Expatriate Finnish Parliament, and president of what was then the FF Palo Alto-Stanford Chapter. On top of this sampling of her accomplishments, she’s mother of a daughter and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris—a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter and their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person

Pertti Lindfors and Anja Miller have been friends in “Finnishness” for years and each have made valuable contributions to Finlandia tailored to their talents. They are very different, but both have a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthening the ancestral ties to Finland in this country.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki. She was selected for study at a year at Mount Holyoke College, and while traveling in the U.S. met her future husband Raymond Miller. After her pioneering stint in Finnish television and marriage to Ray, the couple spent time in Pakistan during his PhD research. They settled in Brisbane and Ray continued his career as professor at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Anja earned an MA in English as a Second Language and works as a translator/interpreter. She was involved in local government and served as mayor of Brisbane (Ray was also mayor and still serves on the city council), on the board of the Finnish-American Home Association, as FF delegate to the Expatriate Finnish Parliament, and president of what was then the FF Palo Alto-Stanford Chapter. On top of this sampling of her accomplishments, she’s mother of a daughter and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris—a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter and their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person

Pertti Lindfors and Anja Miller have been friends in “Finnishness” for years and each have made valuable contributions to Finlandia tailored to their talents. They are very different, but both have a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthening the ancestral ties to Finland in this country.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki. She was selected for study at a year at Mount Holyoke College, and while traveling in the U.S. met her future husband Raymond Miller. After her pioneering stint in Finnish television and marriage to Ray, the couple spent time in Pakistan during his PhD research. They settled in Brisbane and Ray continued his career as professor at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Anja earned an MA in English as a Second Language and works as a translator/interpreter. She was involved in local government and served as mayor of Brisbane (Ray was also mayor and still serves on the city council), on the board of the Finnish-American Home Association, as FF delegate to the Expatriate Finnish Parliament, and president of what was then the FF Palo Alto-Stanford Chapter. On top of this sampling of her accomplishments, she’s mother of a daughter and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris—a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter and their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person

Pertti Lindfors and Anja Miller have been friends in “Finnishness” for years and each have made valuable contributions to Finlandia tailored to their talents. They are very different, but both have a common commitment to the importance of appreciating and strengthening the ancestral ties to Finland in this country.

Anja, who was born in Finland, received her BA in English and Nordic languages from the University of Helsinki. She was selected for study at a year at Mount Holyoke College, and while traveling in the U.S. met her future husband Raymond Miller. After her pioneering stint in Finnish television and marriage to Ray, the couple spent time in Pakistan during his PhD research. They settled in Brisbane and Ray continued his career as professor at San Francisco State University.

At SFSU Anja earned an MA in English as a Second Language and works as a translator/interpreter. She was involved in local government and served as mayor of Brisbane (Ray was also mayor and still serves on the city council), on the board of the Finnish-American Home Association, as FF delegate to the Expatriate Finnish Parliament, and president of what was then the FF Palo Alto-Stanford Chapter. On top of this sampling of her accomplishments, she’s mother of a daughter and eventually in his non-Nordic wife Doris—a desire to be involved in the Finnish-American community. The couple has a daughter and their granddaughter who has shown an interest in her Finnish heritage. She is the type of person

Pertti Lindfors and Anja Miller have been friends in “Finnishness” for years and each have made valuable contributions to Finlandia tailor
## Finlandia Foundation® National Chapters: Year Affiliated and President/Chairman

### ARIZONA
- **The F-A Club of Tucson**: 2007
  - President: Joel Wasti
  - Email: jhwasti@finns.org
- **Finns and Friends of Phoenix**: 2010
  - President: Hannele Waissi
  - Email: mhannele@hotmail.com

### CALIFORNIA
- **FF/Los Angeles Chapter**: 1974
  - President: Valerie Jokela Armstrong
  - Email: valeriebeth@verizon.net
- **FF/SF Bay Area Chapter**: 1956
  - President: Valerie Jokela Armstrong
  - Email: valeriebeth@verizon.net
- **FF/los angeles Chapter**: 1974
  - President: Valerie Jokela Armstrong
  - Email: valeriebeth@verizon.net
- **FF/sf Bay area Chapter**: 1956
  - President: Valerie Jokela Armstrong
  - Email: valeriebeth@verizon.net
- **FF/Colorado Chapter**: 1993
  - President: John Koski
  - Email: koski@att.net
- **FF/Baltimore Area Chapter**: 1974
  - President: Merja Laakso
  - Email: merjalaakso@hotmail.com

### FLORIDA
- **FF/Florida Chapter**: 1954
  - President: Kaarina Langeland
  - Email: plangeland@bellsouth.net
- **FF/Columbia-Pacific Chapter**: 2001
  - President: Greg Jacob
  - Email: jacobgk@comcast.net

### GEORGIA
- **Atlanta Finland Society, Inc.**: 1975
  - President: Tuula Becker
  - Email: afs.finnews@gmail.com
- **FF/Columbia-Pacific Chapter**: 2001
  - President: Frank Gottberg
  - Email: frrankkk@att.net

### HAWAII
- **FF of Hawaii**: 2014
  - President: Katja Silvera
  - Email: katjasilvera@gmail.com
- **FF of Hawaii**: 2014
  - President: Katja Silvera
  - Email: katjasilvera@gmail.com

### ILLINOIS
- **F-A Society of the Midwest**: 1997
  - President: Oscar Forsman
  - Email: oforsman@yahoo.com

### MARYLAND
- **FF/Baltimore Area Chapter**: 1974
  - President: Merja Laakso
  - Email: merjalaakso@hotmail.com

### MASSACHUSETTS
- **FF/Boston**: 1955
  - President: Leena Peck
  - Email: leenapeck@gmail.com
- **The Finnish Center at Saima**: 2005
  - President: Maija Märd
  - Email: MaijaMaidSaima.com
- **The Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja**: 2006
  - President: Barry Heiniluoma
  - Email: fhs@sovittaja.org
- **F-A Society of Cape Cod**: 2012
  - President: Stephen Trimble
  - Email: satcapecod@hotmail.com

### MICHIGAN
- **Finnish Center Association**: 2004
  - President: Mia Lamminen
  - Email: ftcenter@sbcglobal.net
- **Finnish American Heritage Assn. of Ashtabula County**: 2004
  - President: Elsa Shephard
  - Email: ellish Shepard@yahoo.com

### PENNSYLVANIA
- **FF/Pittsburgh Chapter**: 1990
  - President: Seija Cohen
  - Email: SeijaC@aol.com
- **F-A Society of Delaware Valley**: 2006
  - President: Marja Kaisla
  - Email: mjkaisla@yahoo.com

### SOUTH DAKOTA
- **Frederick Forward - FF Dakota Chapter**: 2012
  - President: Heidi Marttila-Losure
  - Email: hmlmartti@yahoo.com

### TEXAS
- **F-A Society of Dallas/Fort Worth**: 1991
  - President: Vernorn R. Ruuska
  - Email: president@texfinn.org

### VIRGINIA
- **FF/Tidewater Virginia Chapter**: 1978
  - President: Rikki Mohorn
  - Email: rikkiamohorn@verizon.net

### WASHINGTON
- **FF/Seattle Chapter**: 1968
  - President: Mikko Männistö
  - Email: mikkolm@hotmail.com

### WISCONSIN
- **FF/Copper Country Chapter**: 1954
  - President: Eero Kilpi
  - Email: kilpi@me.com
- **Finger Lakes Finns**: 2006
  - President: Pat Wallila
  - Email: wallilaranch@yahoo.com

### WASHINGTON
- **FF/SW Washington**: 1970
  - President: Don Heikkila
  - Email: idfinn@sm-email.com
- **Swedish-Finn Historical Society**: 1991
  - President: Dick Erickson
  - Email: twoswedes@aol.com

### WASHINGTON
- **FF Suomi Chapter**: 2010
  - President: Tapio Holma
  - Email: tapioholma@comcast.net