NOVEMBER 2026
Newsletter

President's Greetings

TERVETULOA

Dear Members:

In a recent conversation I was sharing how we have many members but all members do not attend one event, we have a large membership with diverse interests! Smaller chapters struggle with this because they worry their events aren't big enough or serving everyone. That being said, I hope our chapter events are offering a nice variety of activities and interests that support the culture of Finns and the legacy of Finns before us. If you have a program or event idea, we want to welcome you to be more involved in planning or creating an event! I challenge you to prove me wrong in the next two months by coming to one of our larger group events (so not-Finnish I know!)! Our craft night hopes to engage the very "crafty" as well as the novice crafters alike, the Annual Christmas Bazaar (hosted by FinnSpark) will be held at a new location with more parking and a larger café area and in early December we will co-host a speaker with her presentation about "Nordic Winter" As with any event, we hope you will tell friends or bring one with you to share your Finish culture.

At the writing of the newsletter, we are still working on our venue for Independence Day so whether you joined us last year or haven't yet, we hope you will mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec 6! Keep your eye on the website for information. You will be able to RSVP as soon as we have a few details settled.

In the meantime, enjoy hockey, the changing weather and of course the puppy channel Finland has created for all to help with their stress (Pentulive: Puppy Live 2026)

Kiitos, Andrea Pakonen Rasmussen, President



PLEASE NOTE: The Christmas Bazaar has MOVED from Bethesda to Springfield!!!
Same Great Event – New Location!

Invite Friends and Neighbors Great Food, Convenient Parking

Creative and Crafty Event!

Whether you want to show off a skill or try a new one – Join us!

Sunday November 22, 2:00-5:00

Feel free to drop-in or to help with crafts!

Christmas Crafts w RSVP




RSVP required. Payment estimate about $15.00 for materials
Once we receive RSVPs we can place order and tell you your indiv cost
Please register at www.finlandiadc.org

Time to make some items to bring a little Finnish crafting to your holiday home and table. Simple projects for all ages.
Kids and Adults are welcome! RSVP for specific crafts required
Drop-ins welcome to use regular yarns.





If you crochet or knit we welcome your assistance with this activity!
The crochet activity will have a small cost to pay for materials. We have a LOT of free yarns available
The Heart Garlands in blue will have a fee- choose from a string of hearts of 1-5-+++
Dishtowels use a specific cotton yarn we will have it available, an email will be sent with prices after RSVP.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

6201 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22205

Thanks to all for joining us at the Book Talk for newly published: ***What the 56 Pledged!***



On Friday, October 30, Members and friends of FFNCC gathered to hear Reijo's book talk with details and trivia about the lives of the 56 signers.

If you are looking for an interesting gift to give this holiday season, consider a book! The author is quite accessible here in DC and can add a personalized message!

Consider sharing if you know any history groups or a history class in this area.

Many thanks to our member, Jonathan, for hosting the event at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. The venue was as impressive with its own history and a wonderful guided tour following the book talk



Let Asahi Move You!

Go to AsahiWorld.com or YouTube

Exercise daily at locations around the world!

Local Classes In Bethesda, MD:

Margaret: MHilton8@gmail.com

Contact directly for Class times/location

In Falls Church, VA:

Catharine: CCashner@yahoo.com

HOCKEY GAME VIEWING PARTY

Join FFNCC and friends at Crystal City Sports Pub to watch the Caps take on the Panthers -- *Game Time 3:00pm*

We will make it fun with some prizes and Finnish Hockey Trivia! (Ample street parking and walking distance to Metro!)

Interesting facts about Finland (continued)

189. Did you know all this about Finland's population?

Finland's population consists of the residents of the Republic of Finland, both nationals and foreigners. The country's population in 2026 is over five and a half million.

Most of the population is ethnically Finnish. Of the population, 83.5 percent spoke Finnish as their mother tongue and 5.0 percent Swedish at the end of 2025. The share of people speaking other languages was 11.4 percent, and those born abroad accounted for 1.7 percent. But there also is a significant number of foreign nationals living in Finland; according to this year's population register, they were a total of 432,654. They made up 7.7 percent of the population. The largest groups of foreigners were Estonians, Russians, Ukrainians, and Iraqis.



During 2025, 14,168 foreign nationals permanently residing in Finland received citizenship. Despite the government including a party that opposes immigration, the number of people gaining citizenship increased by 23 percent compared to the previous year.

In 2025, the most Finnish citizenships were granted to Iraqi citizens, with 1,960 receiving citizenship, 608 more than the previous year. The second largest group gaining Finnish citizenship were Russian citizens, with a total of 1,494. The third largest group were Syrian citizens, with 1,282, and fourth were Afghan citizens, with 1,075.

Finland is a fairly homogenous country in terms of religion and mother tongue, as 83.5 percent of the population speaks Finnish and 61.2 percent belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The largest linguistic minority is the Swedish-speaking Finns, who mainly live in Uusimaa, Åland, the Turku archipelago, and the Ostrobothnian coast.

The Finnish population is relatively well-educated. In 2024, 75.1 percent of the population aged 15 and over had completed some form of post-basic education.

Sources: Wikipedia; open internet. Photo: Yle Archives (Some top people of Finland – Pekka Haavisto; past Minister of Foreign Affairs, currently Personal Envoy to Sudan by UN Secretary General; Alexander Stubb, President of Finland; Jussi Halla-Aho, Speaker of Parliament) . Contributor: Turto Turtiainen (Interesting Facts will continue in upcoming newsletters.)

FFNCC 2026-27 Calendar

October 18 1:00pm	Finnish Worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA
October 24 4:00-6:00	Crafting w Finn Friends Learn new skills or share current projects Resurrection Lutheran Church 6210 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA
October 30 7:00pm	Book Review: *What the 56 Pledged - Written by FFNCC Member, Reijo Koskenoja* Cosmos Club Washington, DC
November 15 1:00pm	Finnish Worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church 6210 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA Celebrating All Saints few weeks late
November 21 11:00-3:00	Finnish Christmas Bazaar – NEW LOCATION Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA
November 22 2:00-5:00	Craft Night: Making Holiday Crafts Resurrection Lutheran Church 6210 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA
November 27 3:00	Washington Capitals v. Florida Panthers Hockey Game Watch Party Crystal City Sports Pub, 529 23rd Street S Arlington , VA
December 6 4:00pm	Independence Day Party Location TBD
December 12 100:00-12:00	Suomikoulu Christmas Celebration
December 13	Carol singing and Eucharist
December 23	Christmas Worship Service in Nordic Languages Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, DC
January	Annual Membership Renewal Begins
January	Baking Event Location TBD
February 15	Membership Renewal Ends
February 12-22	National Sauna Week Various locations DMV
March	Annual Dinner w Entertainment
March 14 3:00-5:00	FFNCC and Washington Accordion Society present An evening of Finnish Music w Vocal and Accordion pieces To be confirmed: Elks Lodge, Arlington, VA
May 1	Vappu Celebration
June	Juhannus Celebration