



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER - March 2014

www.finlandiadc.org

EVENTS 2014

Saturday,
March, 22nd
5 pm

**Movie and Pizza Night
and a Lecture by
Lea Christiansen**
Resurrection Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Arlington, VA

Now until March 30th

**Marita Liulia's
Golden Silence
Exhibition**

Embassy of Finland
Washington, DC

Saturday,
April 12th
6 pm

**Finn Spark 65th
Anniversary Gala**
Sheraton Crystal City Hotel,
Arlington, VA

Saturday,
May 10th

10 am - 4 pm
**European Union
Embassies' Open House**
Washington, DC

Saturday
June 14th

12 noon - 4 pm
**Summer Picnic and
Annual Meeting**
Private Beach,
Annapolis, MD

Message from the President

Greetings!

I had hoped to start out by sending you "Spring Greetings", but after this latest snowstorm I can't do that just yet. Many thanks to all of you who joined us at our Kalevala celebration last month! It was wonderful to see so many people at the Embassy. The food was exceptional and the evening was filled with lively performances by Suomikoulu students, Nelli Ikola-Heiska, and the Nordic Dancers. Cultural Counselor, Keijo Karjalainen, shared with us his reflections on the meaning of Kalevala.



I would also like to report that our first silent auction was a success – raising money for our grants' and scholarships' program! I would like to especially thank our member artists who donated artwork – Trudi Arnold, Mirja Clement, Dave Junttila, Rene Guercin, Leena Iso-Ahola, Birgitta Pitcher and Tabby Takala. And, thanks also to the Embassy of Finland, the Finnish Language School Association, and the Nordic Dancers for their generous donations to the silent auction.

Not surprisingly, some of the most popular items at the auction were the baskets that included Finlandia Vodka, Finlandia Cheese, pulla, or ruisleipä! The 1950's edition of "The Kalevala" (donated by Trudi Arnold) and the two tickets to sail on the tall ship, Kalmar Nyckel, were also highly sought after. Since this was our first silent auction, we would welcome any feedback. Please let us know your thoughts.

Our next gathering is this Saturday, March 22nd at our movie and lecture night. Dr. Lea Christiansen, head teacher at the Finnish Language School Association, will give a captivating presentation on the origins of Finnish words. Pizza and an entertaining Finnish movie will round out the evening. And our summer picnic on June 14th in Annapolis will be here before you know it! We hope to see many of you there!

Kirsti Frenzen-Noring

FFNCC Board of Directors 2013-2014

President: Kirsti Frenzen Noring president@finlandiadc.org, **1st Vice President:** Stephen Frey,
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MOVIE, PIZZA, & LECTURE NIGHT



MARCH 22, 2014 5:00 PM

Welcome to Finnish Movie and Pizza Night for Adults and a Special Lecture and Discussion on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 5:00 pm!

By popular demand, we have a special treat for everyone who is interested in Finnish words. Dr. Lea Christiansen paints a fascinating picture of the origins of Finnish words. She looks at the words from a psychological point of view with her usual charm and wit. You don't want to miss this! It's going to be super fun for native Finns and Finnish language learners alike.

The film is a hilarious one called Lapland Odyssey - Napapiirin Sankarit. Check out the trailer here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlvyoLkaZp8>

The film is in Finnish with English subtitles and we have a great big screen for it at the Parish hall. Come early so we know how much pizza to order. We'll place the order at 5:15 pm.

Time:

5:00 pm Doors open

5:15 pm "Mistä on suomen sanat tehty?" Lecture and Discussion with Dr. Lea Christiansen

6:00 pm Pizza

6:15ish pm Movie: Napapiirin Sankarit - Lapland Odyssey

Tickets can be purchased at the door:

\$10 / FFNCC members

\$15 / Non-members

Place:

Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, Parish Hall downstairs (use the Washington Blvd door)

6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22205

Kalevala Celebration was a rocking success!



Nelli Ikola-Heiska charmed the audience with kantele, fiddle, and her beautiful voice.



Suomikoulu DC kids rocked the Embassy by combining old and new tunes. Hyvää Kalevalanpäivää, Everyone!



Nordic Dancers' performance had energy and speed.



The Silent Auction was anything but silent!



Leila Takala and her team made the wonderful food for the celebration. Thank you, Leila!



Ooh, the Karelian pastries, meatballs, salmon and cheese...

Thank you, Silent Auction participants!

Thank you so much for taking part in Kalevala Celebration's Silent Auction! We had a wonderful collection of beautiful artwork, delicious baked goods and fascinating items relating to Finland and Finnish culture. Thank you for everyone who donated and everyone who bid on these amazing items! We raised money for grants and for promoting Finnish culture in the Washington, D.C. Area, which is such an important part of FFNCC's work.

If you have a talent to share or a business to promote, please consider taking part in next year's Silent Auction. It can be anything relating to your hobby or profession or business or what you like to do in your leisure time. Please share your skills and talents with the Finnish-American community.

Awards and Anniversaries



Congratulations to long-time FFNCC member Kaija Wilson upon receiving the Insignia of the Knight of the Order of the White Rose of Finland last month!

Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde presented the award from the government of Finland to Kaija Wilson in recognition of her 33 years of service with the State Department's Foreign Service Institute teaching the Finnish language and later supervising the Nordic languages. She was also one of the founding members of the Finnish Language School in Arlington, VA and a co-author of a Finnish language book.

Photo credit: Mirja Clement

KIPINÄ-KERHO
FINN SPARK Inc.
SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Kipinä-Kerho will celebrate its 65th Anniversary
Under the gracious patronage of
H.E. Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of Finland, and Dr. Hidde Ronde
Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Eads Street, Arlington, VA
Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Enjoy champagne with hors d'oeuvres
A three course dinner with wine
Dance to the music of Tom Saputo and Michael Perry
Black tie optional

Maiju Wilson
6417 Bardu Avenue
Springfield, VA 22152
703-451-0036

KIPINÄ-KERHO 65th ANNIVERSARY GALA RESERVATION FORM

To make a reservation, please complete form and send with payment to be received no later than Monday, March 24, 2014, to Maiju Wilson at the above address.

Name _____ Tel. _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip code _____

Reservations (Member/avec: \$65 each, Non-members \$75)
Persons at \$65 _____ Persons at \$75 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Entrée choices: ___ Dijon Crusted Salmon with Chef's Choice of Seasonal Accompaniments
___ Pan - Seared Breast of Chicken
Each table will be provided with wine. There will also be a cash bar.

Tables seat 10. Please list below the names of your party and also indicate the choice of meal by "S" or "C" next to their names. Payments for dinner should be received with reservation form no later than March 24. Please print the names clearly.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

The Oracle of Ice Hockey

How a 70-year-old Finnish goalie coach is transforming a global sport

In Finland not long after World War II, kids would play a street game called ice ball, which had few rules and less strategy. They'd scramble through neighborhoods buried in snow, batting and kicking a piece of cork the size of a tennis ball—graduating, eventually, if they were keen and had money for skates, to a soccer field covered with ice. But some of the more serious kids wanted to play hockey. Back then, teams weren't especially well organized: the worst athlete was usually stuck in front of a net, while the better ones attacked. Until one day, in the early 1950s, a hockey team in Rauma put a kid called Upi, who had been a powerful skater since his ice-ball days, in the net. And his team began to win.

About 10 years later, Upi—emphasis on the oop—moved to Turku, on the southwestern coast, where he found a place in goal for one of the local hockey teams. Like Roy Hobbs, he fashioned his own stick. Turku was a port town, roughly halfway between Stockholm and the Soviet border, the gateway to a 20,000-island archipelago that extends into the Baltic Sea. Its people knew how to fish and build big ships. Few people had TVs. No book about how to be a goaltender had ever been translated into Finnish. And so nobody really knew what a goalie was supposed to do. (The first proper indoor ice-hockey rink in all of Finland wouldn't be completed until 1965.) In this splendid isolation, a school of goaltending was born, with Upi, who today is 70, as its first practitioner and eventual guru.

Until recently, aside from a handful of Americans and Europeans, National Hockey League goalies were overwhelmingly Canadian. But at the turn of the millennium, the Finns began to arrive. In 2002, Pasi Nurminen secured a starting role in Atlanta. The next season, Miikka Kiprusoff led Calgary to the league-championship finals. And then it was as though a dam broke: Vesa Toskala, Kari Lehtonen, Niklas Bäckström, Pekka Rinne, Tuukka Rask. Before 2002, no Finnish goaltender had ever locked down a starting role in the NHL.

Suddenly, a country with a population of just more than 5 million people was producing one-sixth of the league's starting goalies, most of them true blue chips. The Finns, who have now won just about everything a goalie can win in the league, are not particularly distinguished at any other position. (One NHL general manager suggested to me that outside of goaltending, no Finnish skater would crack a list of even the top 50 Canadians.) Yet any of Finland's three Olympic goalies could have started for Canada's team this year. How deep is Finland's pool of talent? In 2008, the Chicago Blackhawks signed an undrafted kid who'd only recently started playing in Finland's top professional league—before that he'd been driving a Zamboni in suburban Helsinki to pay his bills. Two years after he was signed, Antti Niemi led the Blackhawks to the championship.

A bunch of half-cocked theories have emerged to explain how these Finnish goaltenders came to be. People I asked would cite everything from the welfare state to the stoic national character. Then I began to hear too about Urpo Ylönen, the old man who lived on Finland's southwestern coast. People who knew hockey and Finland spoke of him the way Jedis would talk about Yoda or Obi-Wan Kenobi. That they referred to him simply as Upi only added to the mystique.

Continue reading the whole article in The Atlantic Magazine:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/02/the-puck-stops-here/357579/>



Upi

100th anniversary of the birth of the Moomin author, Tove Jansson

Among Finland's most famous exports are the cuddly and philosophical Moomintrolls. 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of their creator, Tove Jansson. A number of celebrations around the world will commemorate the occasion. Born on August 9 1914, in Helsinki, Finland, to bohemian artist parents, Jansson explored her creativity from a young age. She studied art in Stockholm and Paris before returning to Finland, where she continued to work on writing, illustration, comics, and other artwork.

Jansson's Moomins first appeared in a novella entitled "The Moomins and the Great Flood" in 1946. It was with a second longer novel, "Kometjen Kommer," or "Comet in Moominland" in English, as well as a series of newspaper comics, that they gained momentum and worldwide popularity. Since then, they have appeared in a number of television and movie adaptations and been translated into 44 languages. Naantali, Finland even boasts a Moomin theme park.

What precisely is a Moomin? In appearance, the Moomins somewhat resemble small, furry hippopotamuses. As for their habits and behavior, imagine what would happen if the wild trolls of old Nordic folklore gradually became domesticated over the generations. They enjoy a healthy balance of pancakes and outdoor adventure, hibernate through the winters, and always expand their family to include those they meet along the way, be they Snufkins, Snorks, Hemulens, Toffles, Mymbles, Hattifatteners, Whompers, Creeps, invisible children or the limitless other creatures populating their world.

Indeed, Jansson's novels differ significantly from modern children's books, being more fantasia than fantasy, and often focusing on the slice-of-life vignettes in Moominland as much as they focus on larger arcs. However, their ability to represent complex emotions such as wanderlust, love, and longing through everyday episodes distinguishes them as truly unique.

In addition to the Moomintrolls, Jansson authored a great deal of fiction for adults. Of this fiction, *The Summer Book*, *Sculptor's Daughter*, *Sun City*, *Fair Play*, and a series of short stories collected under the title *A Winter Book* have been translated into English.

The Finnish Embassy and the Tenley-Friendship Library will celebrate Jansson's centennial and the Moomins this August.

By Erika Carlson



In memoriam, Aili M. Kiuru (Age 72)



Aili M. Kiuru, an FFNCC member and a former student and board member of the Finnish Language School in Arlington, VA, died unexpectedly December 8th, 2013 in Merida, The Yucatan, Mexico.

She was born in Putnam, CT on October 29th, 1941 and graduated from Woodstock Academy in 1959. Aili studied at the Montessori School in London, England and became a Montessori teacher in Merida, Mexico for several years. She then joined the US State Department and went into the Foreign Service. For the next 20 years she was posted in locations around the world including Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Brussels, Belgium at the NATO headquarters; Asuncion, Paraguay; Montevideo, Uruguay; Bern, Switzerland and Prague, (former) Czechoslovakia.

She returned to Washington, DC upon retirement and later was very happy to move back to Merida to the town that was always close to her heart.

She is survived by her sister, Alma Kiuru Morris of Swampscott, MA, her nephews, niece and many cousins in Finland. Her burial took place in Merida, Mexico.

See more information at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/norwichbulletin/obituary.aspx?n=ailli-m-kiuru&pid=169026055>

In memoriam, Dr. PAUL E. HALLA (Age 88)



Dr. Halla's memorial service will be held at Arlington Cemetery on March 26th at 2 pm.

More details:

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Birkies Ski Race in Wisconsin



With over 10,000 skiers it is the largest cross-country ski race in North America.

Journal Sentinel file photo

Representative Sean Duffy (R – Wisconsin), one of the co-chairs of the congressional Friends of Finland Caucus, invited Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde to be his guest at the 41st annual American Birkebeiner Ski Race in Wisconsin last month.

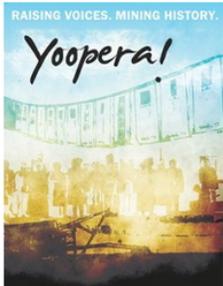
The American Birkebeiner, affectionately known as the “Birkie”, is the largest cross-country ski race in North America. It is one of the top 16 ski marathons worldwide that make up the prestigious Worldloppet circuit.

The Birkie consists of several skiing events, but over 10,000 skiers from 21 countries and 48 states participated in the 50 km Freestyle race and the 54 km Classic race from Cable to Hayward, WI.

Ambassador Koukku-Ronde served as the honorary starter of the race. She said it felt like being home in Finland and that it was “amazing to see 13,000 are gathering here. The enthusiasm of all the people - it’s outstanding. You could feel it.”

The Finlandia Hiihto ski race in Lahti, Finland is also a member of the Worldloppet Ski Federation. This year’s race in Lahti was held despite the lack of natural snow in northern Finland. Organizers used artificial snow.

Filmmaking team: Suzanne Jurva and Erin Smith Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year 2014



Suzanne Jurva



Erin Smith

The Lecturer of the Year for 2014 is the filmmaking team of Suzanne Jurva and Erin Smith, who produced the documentary Yoopera!

Since 2006, Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) has hosted a Lecturer of the Year program to encourage sharing of aspects of Finnish and Finnish-American history, culture and life.

The film tells the story of the collaboration of Finnish and American talent in the making of an opera about a labor strike in 1906 in Rockland, a mining town in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Rockland: The Opera premiered in Nivala, Finland and Houghton, Michigan in 2011.

The documentary’s title Yoopera! combines the word for U.P. residents, “Yoopers,” and the Finnish word for the musical genre, ooppera. Yoopera! weaves in the companion Story Line project that encouraged hundreds of area residents to tell their family stories on cloth banners.

Jurva, an award-winning filmmaker who is originally from Michigan and graduated from Michigan Tech University in Houghton, but now lives in Atlanta, Georgia, directed and produced the documentary. Smith, who teaches digital media and film at Michigan Tech, is the film’s editor.

Either Jurva or Smith will accompany each screening scheduled by an FFN Chapter. They will conduct a question and answer period and hope to encourage audience members to share their heritage and stories.

For details on scheduling an appearance contact LOY Coordinator Jon Saari at jsaari@nmu.edu

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL
CAPITAL CHAPTER'S

SUMMER PICNIC!

rain or shine

Saturday, June 14, 2014, noon to 4:00 pm

Private beach, [swimming is allowed](#)

By Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis, MD

Soft drinks, grilled sausages, and dessert provided by
FFNCC.

Please bring a side dish large enough to serve your group
+ two

Fee \$10 per adult, free for children

You can respond through the FFNCC web page

www.finlandiacdc.org by using PayPal or sending your
check, made out to **FFNCC**, and names of the members of
your group to:

**Mikko Mäkäräinen, 2100 11th St, NW#307, Washington,
DC 20001.**

Payments due by June 12th.

Driving directions and a map on next page



FFNCC SUMMER PICNIC ON JUNE 14, 2014, 12.00 – 4.00 P.M.
Annapolis, Maryland

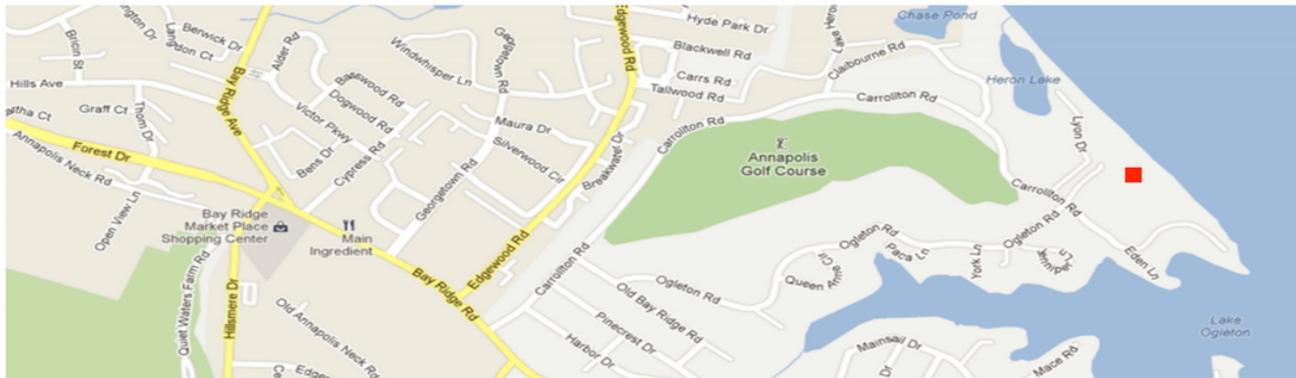
Directions from Highway 50 East (John Hanson Highway) or I-97 South:

Take exit 22 (near the intersection of Hwy 50 and I-97): Aris T Allen Blvd / Hwy 667 and Riva Road. On the exit ramp do not exit right onto Riva Road, but remain on the lanes which take you straight. (Do not take the left lane, which will take you back to Rt. 50. If you end up at Rt. 50, go to the next exit and come back.)

Proceed 4.5 miles straight passing Chinquapin Round Road and Spa Road. (The road changes from Aris T. Allen Blvd to Forest Dr and later to Bay Ridge Ave.) Appr. 1.5 mile farther are two gas stations (Shell & Exxon) across from each other. After McDonalds on your right followed closely by two traffic lights, turn left onto Carrollton Road very soon after a Seven-Eleven convenience store and across the street from the CVS.

Proceed on Carrollton and continue for one mile past the Annapolis Golf Course club house on the left, then past Lyon Drive for about 100 yards. On the left you will see a big gate with the name L'Altura. Immediately after the gate and before the house number 2558, take a left down the small private drive. Once inside the park, there is a parking area and a short walk to the beach.

For questions call Jaana Moller 410-263- 3844 or cell 443-223-5456

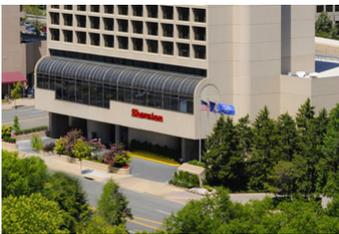




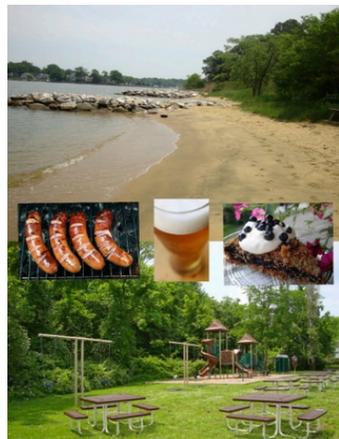
**Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church,
6201 Washington BLVD,
Arlington, VA**



**Embassy of Finland
3301 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC**



**Sheraton Hotel
Crystal City, Arlington, VA**



**Private Beach
Annapolis, MD**

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Embassy of Finland
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Saturday, April 12th, 6:00 pm

Finn Spark’s 65th Anniversary Gala

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
Arlington, VA

Saturday, May 10th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

European Union Embassies’ Open House

Washington, DC

Sunday, May 18th, 2:00 pm

Finnish Congregation Worship Service

Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

Saturday, June 14th, noon – 4:00 pm

Summer Picnic and Annual Meeting

Private Beach, Annapolis, MD

Sunday, June 15th, 2:00 pm

Finnish Congregation Worship Service

Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

Friday, August 8th - Sunday, August 10th

FinnFestUSA Festival

Minneapolis, MN

Thursday, August 28th - Sunday, August 31th

FinnFestUSA Festival

Helsinki, Finland

Welcome to our newest members!

Hanna and Juha Seppälä and family, McLean, VA

Aida Olkkonen, Arlington, VA

Nancy Eyl and Bjorn Arp, Takoma Park, MD

James and Lilibeth Bernhardt, Arlington, VA

The Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter is open to anyone who is interested in the Finnish Culture in the Greater Washington, D.C area.

Single Membership: \$20 for individual members

Family Membership: \$25 for family members living in the same household

Student Membership: \$15 for any person who is enrolled in an educational institution

Lifetime Membership: for any person who would like to become a Lifetime member, the dues are fifteen times the family membership fee

Visit: www.finlandiadc.org / Membership

Useful links:

- Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter - www.finlandiadc.org
- Finnish Children's School - www.suomikouludc.org
- Finnish Language School Association, USA - www.finnschool.org
- Finn Spark, Inc (Kipinä-Kerho) - <http://finnspark.homestead.com>
- Finnish Lutheran Congregation - www.finnchurch.org
- Embassy of Finland, Washington, DC - www.finland.org/Public/Default.aspx



- Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter
- DC Finns
- USAn suomalaiset