



# FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2012

[www.finlandiac.org](http://www.finlandiac.org)

## Events 2012

**Fri., Feb. 10th**

Sauna evening,  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Embassy of Finland

**Fri., March 16th**

Kalevala Dinner and  
Dance, Embassy of  
Finland

[Read more on page 5](#)

**Sat., June 16th**

Picnic in Annapolis, MD

**September**

Picnic at Olney Park, VA

**November**

Sauna evening

**Sat., Dec. 8th**

Christmas Party &  
Most Beautiful  
Christmas Carols

**Sun., Dec. 9th**

Christmas Service,  
Embassy of Finland

more info on  
[finlandiac.org](http://finlandiac.org)

We appreciate your  
suggestions and ideas for  
the next newsletter. You  
can e-mail them to  
[newsletter@finlandiac.org](mailto:newsletter@finlandiac.org)



## President Leila Takala's Message

*Dear Friends,*

What an exciting Sunday it was, first the results from the Finnish presidential elections and after that the Super Bowl! Congratulations to Sauli Niinisto, the next President of Finland. The last president from Niinisto's party, the National Coalition, was Juho Kusti Paasikivi who was the president from 1950 – 1956. The New England Patriots lost to the New York Giants, but you win some, you lose some, I guess.

This has been a very peculiar winter. Europe, including Finland, has been fighting a terrible cold spell and many people have perished. Our winter has been nonexistent and daffodils are blooming on my backyard in the beginning of February. Very unusual! The weather prophets forecast a colder than normal spring, though.

The FFNCC is going to have a marvelous spring program, whatever the weather may be. First, of course, will be our popular sauna evening at the Embassy this coming Friday. The Kalevala Dinner will be on March 16 where the Embassy representative will be Anne Vasara, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission. The program will include the great Nordic Dancers who will do a short wedding program, based on the Purpuri tradition from Western Finland. The main performer will be the Finlandia Foundation National 2012 Performer of the Year Maria Kizirian, a Finnish-American pop-singer. There is more on Maria further in this Newsletter. We are excited to have her come to Washington to entertain us. Valerie Junttila, flute, accompanied by Marilyn Harwood on piano will play for us during the cocktail hour and dinner. And last but not least, the raffle prize list is growing and the prizes are going to be excellent. I hope many of the FFNCC members and their guests will be attending the dinner-dance.

There will be a change of place for the June annual meeting and picnic. We hope to have it in a park by the Chesapeake Bay where there is a possibility for swimming in addition to other kinds of summer fun.

If you have not yet sent in your **membership dues**, please do so. We intend to publish a membership list in March and hope to have all the names included.

We have changed the FFNCC web page and listed the Finland Society and the Expatriate Parliament in their own separate sections. The Finland Society publishes a paper called "Sutinat" which contains information pertinent to everyone. "Sutinat" is going to be added to the web page. The Expatriate Parliament section, of course, will contain information about the ExPat Parliament and its meetings.

Best wishes to everyone.

**Leila Takala, FFNCC President**

## FFNCC Board of Directors 2011-2012:

**President:** Leila Takala [president@finlandiac.org](mailto:president@finlandiac.org), **1st Vice President:** Kirsti Frenzen Noring,  
**2nd Vice President:** Susanna Andersson, **Treasurer & Membership:** Mikko Mäkäräinen [mmakarainen@gmail.com](mailto:mmakarainen@gmail.com),  
**Recording Secretary:** Bruce Griffin, **Newsletter Editor:** Mirja Clement & Niina Koppinen [newsletter@finlandiac.org](mailto:newsletter@finlandiac.org)  
**Members at Large:** Robert Cavanaugh, Stephen Frey, Niina Koppinen, Jenna Reilly



## Congratulations Mr. Sauli Niinistö, the new and 12<sup>th</sup> President of Finland!



### Who is Finland's new president?

Source: YLE.fi Feb 6 12:57 PM, updated Feb 6 03:03 PM

Finland's new president Sauli Niinistö, who takes over from incumbent Tarja Halonen for a six-year term in March, has a track record of service both at home and abroad. The frontrunner since he lost the 2006 election to Halonen, Niinistö is set to become the first National Coalition Party president since Juho Kusti Paasikivi left office in 1956.

Sixty-three year-old Niinistö has an impressive resumé in Finnish politics. Most Finns remember Niinistö as the hard-nosed finance minister, a position in which he gained respect as a politician willing to take tough decisions. He served in that post for seven years from 1996–2003 rescuing Finland from the grip of recession and taking the nation into the euro.

#### Tumultuous personal life

The president-elect is no stranger to tragedy. In 1995, His first wife of 20 years died in a road accident and later he himself clung on to life in the Indian Ocean tsunami by climbing up a tree in Thailand to escape the waves. These experiences have helped temper his no-nonsense attitude and undoubtedly endeared him to voters of all ages.

Before marrying his party's communications manager, Jenni Haukio, Niinistö was engaged to an ex-beauty queen turned parliamentarian, although that relationship ended a year after the engagement.

Niinistö has been married to Haukio, 29 years his junior, since 2009. He has two adult children from a previous marriage and is an uncle of Green League chair and Environment Minister Ville Niinistö.



President-elect Sauli Niinistö takes a congratulatory phone call from president Tarja Halonen on election night. Image: Jukka Lintinen / YLE



Sauli Niinistö and Jenni Haukio. (YLE)

#### Legal training

The keen roller-blader is the last of four children born to working class parents in southwestern Finland. Niinistö, who earned his law degree from Turku University, first entered politics in the town of Salo as a councillor for the National Coalition Party. At the same time he ran his own law practice until 1988.

He quickly rose to prominence in the party's ranks, becoming an MP in 1987. Just nine years later he became Finland's longest serving Finance Minister from 1996 to 2003. Prior to this he was Finland's Minister of Justice from 1995–1996. He also held the chairmanship of his National Coalition Party.

Blond curls, 1952. (YLE, Sauli Niinistön koti-albumi)



...

Niinistö first had the presidency in his sights six years ago when he challenged incumbent Tarja Halonen. He narrowly lost the race, but settled into people's minds as the conservative frontrunner.

International service came with his selection as Vice President of the European Investment Bank from 2003–2007 and chair of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development 1999–2003. After returning home he rejoined Parliament as its Speaker from 2007–2011.

Finland's 12th president is described as being "brash and forthright."  
"I'm a real Finn at heart," he told audiences on election night.

On the job, he will be involved with foreign policy but without real influence on EU matters following the handing over of powers on that issue to the government.

Presidential powers have been gradually curtailed in recent years. That said, no major shake-ups are expected as Niinistö takes office.

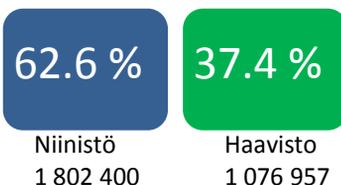
"We don't face any sudden changes -- actually the president can't do that," Niinistö told YLE News of his role in the face of diminishing presidential powers.

First indications on what might occupy Niinistö point to an initial social course. On election night, Niinistö suggested setting up a working group to investigate methods to combat the alienation of youth in society.

Source: YLE.fi, YLE, AFP



High school graduation, 1967.  
(YLE, Sauli Niinistön koti-albumi)



Results 2/5/2012, Source: Yle Areena

Read also the News of Embassy of Finland 2/6/2012 [Sauli Niinistö is Finland's 12th president](#)

On **YLE Areena**, [areena.yle.fi](http://areena.yle.fi) you can watch many Finnish television broadcasts LIVE! Some of them are available for 30 days.

Try out YLE Areena's updated test version  
[areena-beta.yle.fi/ng/areena/tv/](http://areena-beta.yle.fi/ng/areena/tv/)

### Mr. Sauli Niinistö, 12th President of Finland

ILKKA KOIVISTO, Digital marketing innovator in World Vision International  
February 5, 2012

I am 48 years old. There's never been a president from National Coalition in my lifetime. The first 18 years of my life Kekkonen was a synonym for president. Then, the next 30 years Social Democrats ruled the institution. Finally, things have changed.

I was surprised to see myself so fascinated by these elections. It was not only having these new platforms for discussions, like Twitter and Facebook – which really saw a breakthrough here in opinion formation. It was not only because of a bitter defeat 6 years ago when my candidate ran second with a very small margin, and now is looking for a compensation.

This election was something more. It was a combat between old and new, reason and emotion, integrity and fabrication. It was a supermarket for opportunists to push forward their personal agenda – regardless of how much or little this had to do with the election itself and the scope of presidential power.

The game was over three days before it was over. The last public debate was executed without any new openings or drama. The last poll was published without any significant change to previous ones. The biggest buzz in social media was gone.

Today we're going to have a new president-elect. He claims to be a man of deeds, and that's what we need. Enough talk now. And I'm afraid the time will come very soon, when Finland really needs a strong leader and a man of strong values.

God bless you Mr. President.

### Electoral Engine for Republican Presidential race

Source: finland.org

Finnish internet firm ZEF Solutions has created an online application that helps American voters pick and choose their candidates in the GOP 2012 presidential primaries.

The application, called VotingAid, marks the first time a Finnish firm has introduced an online tool to assist U.S. voters make up their minds in the country's hotly contested elections.

[Read more](#)

TAPANI KASKEALA, Director, Finland/Norway/Latvia EBRD

Sauli Niinistö, 63, a conservative, pro-European candidate won the Finnish presidential elections by a landslide. The second round of the elections put him against Pekka Haavisto, a green, openly gay candidate on Sunday, February 5. Niinistö won 62.6 percent of the vote and will become Finland's 12th President since independence in 1917.

Niinistö got 37 percent of the votes in the first round where he and Haavisto defeated the eurosceptical Paavo Väyrynen of the Center Party and the downright anti-Europe Timo Soini of the Finns Party. The success of the two in the first round and Niinistö in the run-off clearly showed that the Finns preferred a safe choice. The voters still supported the European project, despite the populist anti-EU surge of the Finns party in the last spring's parliamentary elections. Mr. Soini scored only 9 percent in the first round.

"Maybe the uncertainty and slightly fearful atmosphere that reigned last spring has been replaced by a bold, forward-looking, open, international tolerance", said Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen after the election.

Under an amended constitution President Niinistö will have less executive power than his predecessors. The remaining powers are largely in the domain of foreign policy. Even there he will have to co-lead with the Cabinet, currently lead by Prime Minister Katainen. The task is eased by the fact that they both come from the National Coalition Party.

### Finnish Voters Have Spoken

MARIANNE AND ARVID PARSSINEN, Lake Worth, Florida  
February 6, 2012

We are delighted with the results to have Mr. Sauli Niinisto as the next President of the Republic of Finland.

A day before the election day, we attended an event called Rosvopaisti here in Lantana's Suomi Talo to honor the Finnish war veterans in Florida. There were eighteen of them still present.

The President is the Commander-in-chief of the Finnish Defense Forces, which was in minds of many veterans and others as they anxiously waited for the results of the next day's election.

We wish to congratulate President Sauli Niinisto and Finland's next First Lady, Mrs. Jenni Haukio.



Renoir: Dance at Bougival

Under the gracious patronage of  
Her Excellency Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of  
Finland,  
and Dr. Ronde

*The Finlandia Foundation  
National Capital Chapter*

invites you to the

*Kalevala Dinner and Dance*

with

Nordic Dancers

and

MARIA KIZIRIAN

On Friday, March 16, 2012

at 6:30 p.m.

**The Embassy of Finland**  
3301 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC

Tickets \$50.00 for members, \$60.00 for non-members

**BLACK TIE**

Invitations, registration forms and raffle tickets will be mailed later.

**Kalevala Dinner and Dance 2012 Performers**



Anne Vasara,  
Minister and  
Deputy Chief  
of Mission



Dave Junttila



Valerie Junttila &  
Marilyn Hardwood



Nordic Dancers



Maria Kizirian

- Grand Prize: Two (2) roundtrip tickets to Finland, SAS
- Suunto Elementum Terra, a digital sports watch for mountaineering and outdoor activities – Amer Sports Winter & Outdoor
- Painting – Mirja Clement
- Painting – Arja Turtiainen
- 2 skin care gift baskets, value \$200/each – Lumene
- Set of Kalevala prints, value \$150 – FFNCC
- Classy Finnish Restaurants by Young Rascal, value \$40 – Embassy of Finland
- Mirja von Knorring: Zest; Finnish Artists in the Kitchen, value \$40 – Embassy of Finland
- Tero Kallio & Kimmo Saira: Simply Scandinavian; Traveling in Time with Finnish Cuisine and Nature, value \$36 – Embassy of Finland
- 3 copies, Pasi Sahlberg: Finnish Lessons; What Can The World Learn from Educational Change in Finland, value \$35/each – Embassy of Finland
- Henrik Meinander: A History of Finland, value \$30 – Embassy of Finland
- Gero Hottinger: Simply Delicious, value \$30 – Embassy of Finland
- Nancy and Tom Downing: Finland; A Musical Tour of Helsinki and the Finnish Landscape (music by Sibelius), value \$15
- 4-5 cheese baskets (1 case of Swiss, 4 cases of Oltermanni) – Valio USA & Skandia Bread etc.

**Raffle prizes are subject to change without notice.**



Maria Kizirian, **the Finlandia Foundation 2012 Performer of the Year**, was born in Finland's Arctic region and was raised in the USA while her parents completed their university studies. She started playing violin at the age of four, piano at eight, and finally, singing in her early teens.

Before moving to the USA, Maria had a successful career in Finland where she made a solo Pop record for EMI Music. Her singles, "Onnellinen" (Happy), "Katsoin aurinkoon" (I Looked at the Sun), and "Olipa kerran" (Once Upon a Time) were played frequently on Finnish radio stations in the late 1990's. Maria moved to the USA with her Armenian-American husband and has received an extensive audience and airplay on a number of different American radio stations. Today she focuses mainly on producing music.

Maria's music can be heard at: [www.mariakizirian.com](http://www.mariakizirian.com).

Maria also works as a music expert for a large modeling agency. Her purpose is to guide aspiring models who have musical aspirations.

Maria Kizirian was pre-selected to compete in Armenia's 2010 Eurovision national finals. Her entry represented the first time Armenia opened its doors to having an International artist participate. The jury was very impressed with her song, called "Little Red Riding Hood". She garnered very favorable attention across Western Europe with the song.



Maria Kizirian performs  
**at the Kalevala Dinner and Dance,**  
The Embassy of Finland, Friday, March 16, 2012

[Read more on page 5](#)

### EU Open House, The Embassy of Finland, Saturday, May 12, 2012

EU Open House is being held this Spring on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Like previous years the Embassy of Finland would greatly appreciate your help working as a volunteer. All of you who would be available to work on this event on Saturday 5/12, please send an e-mail to Anne Leinonen, [anne.leinonen@formin.fi](mailto:anne.leinonen@formin.fi) as soon as possible. Let Anne also know if you can work the whole day (10-16) or only part of the day.

The Embassy of Finland hopes that many of you can join to create a great day for visitors.

More information about the EU in the United States [www.eurunion.org/EUinUS/](http://www.eurunion.org/EUinUS/)



### Finlandia Foundation National

#### Salolampi Program

Concordia Language Villages are the premiere language and cultural immersion program in the United States. They are advocates for language learning and take pride in their role in creating more language advocates. For nearly 50 years, Concordia Language Villages, in the beautiful North Woods of Minnesota, have been boldly and optimistically pursuing a vision of peace and understanding by introducing learners to the languages and cultures of our world.

Finnish is one of fifteen languages in the Concordia summer language program for 7-to-18-year-olds, and is one of the six cultures that have architecturally authentic villages on Turtle River Lake. The other villages are German, French, Norwegian, Spanish and Russian. The languages without villages are taught at these existing language sites and rental properties in the area.

The Finnish language enrollment of 150 young people spans the nation each summer, usually representing 20 to 25 states. The youngest children beginning at seven years of age generally enroll for one week, but older children can stay for one, two or four weeks. The four-week sessions award one year of high school credit for a more traditional and intensive course. Some students earn as much as three years of high school credit, beginning with their freshman summer.

**Salolampi scholarships** are available through Concordia Language Villages

[www.salolampi.org/village/youthscholarships.html](http://www.salolampi.org/village/youthscholarships.html),

application form at [www.salolampi.org/applications/index.html](http://www.salolampi.org/applications/index.html).

Any remaining costs, such as travel, need to be covered by the parents.

#### FFN Scholarships

Eight (8) scholarships, \$300 each will be available in 2012, covering approximately one half of the one-week tuition, when the local chapter provides a matching or larger scholarship. The name of the participating child(ren) must be submitted to the Finlandia Foundation National office **by February 29, 2012**.

Selection will be made on a first-come first-serve basis, first-time campers receiving priority. This scholarship can be used as part of the tuition for a multi-week session at Salolampi. The individual scholarship funds will be transferred directly to Concordia Language Villages.

Additional Salolampi scholarships are also available through Concordia Language Villages web site:

(<http://www.salolampi.org/village/youthscholarships.html>), and the application form at:

<http://www.salolampi.org/applications/index.html>).

Any remaining costs, such as travel, need to be covered by other sources.

**Each scholarship recipient is requested to submit a report about the Salolampi experience by August 31, 2012.**

### The next Soiva Music Camp session is scheduled for June 17 - 24, 2012

The Soiva Music Camp will be held on June 17 – 24, 2012 at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Soiva is an international music adventure in partnership between the **Concordia College** and the **Finlandia Foundation National** with additional support from the **Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society**.

Soiva Music Camp provides a perfect opportunity to experience world-class music instruction on a whole new level. Private lessons are given on piano, flute, clarinet, violin, and composition/improvisation. At Soiva, students interact with first-rate faculty and other students from *both* the U.S. and Finland. In addition to receiving individual lessons, students also discover the joy of playing in small chamber music ensembles. Their daily musical experiences culminate in a final public concert.

Students **ages 11 to 17** may apply if they have completed three years of private lessons on their primary instrument. Tuition costs have been significantly reduced to **\$750** per student. This includes housing and meals on campus, all instruction, and the opportunity to utilize every one of the amenities of a great music school with 36 practice rooms, and 30 studios.

An “**early bird**” discount of **\$100** is available for applications received **by March 1, 2012**.

For more information and a Soiva Music Camp application please email [soivaatcord@yahoo.com](mailto:soivaatcord@yahoo.com). More information is available at the FFN website at [www.finlandiafoundation.org](http://www.finlandiafoundation.org).

## It's a Girl!



FFNCC's Board member  
Bob Cavanaugh and his wife  
Minna had their first baby.

Helmi Quinn Cavanaugh  
was born on January 30th.

On behalf of the FFNCC  
Board of Directors,  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**



### Helsinki: World Design Capital

Source: finland.org

Helsinki is the World Design Capital for 2012. It's an exciting time to pose questions and seek fresh perspectives.

As 2012 commences, Helsinki starts the year as the World Design Capital, together with the surrounding cities of Espoo, Vantaa, Kauniainen and Lahti. Since Finland is best known for great design in furniture, glassware and architecture, you might think that they'd form the focus for the year's events, too.

[Read more](#)

[www.worlddesigncapital.com/wdchelsinki2012.fi/en](http://www.worlddesigncapital.com/wdchelsinki2012.fi/en)

### Finnish Lessons

Source: finland.org

Finland is one of the rare countries that has managed to build a school system where all children learn well without harsh competition, long school days and extensive testing and homework. In his new book, Dr. Pasi Sahlberg describes the history of Finnish educational reform and examines the success of the Finnish education today.

Finnish Lessons: What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland? is a book that shows how the Finnish way of improving schools differs from the global educational reform movement and the North American education reform strategies.

[Read more](#)

[www.pasisahlberg.com](http://www.pasisahlberg.com)

### Onnittelu.fi and Suru.fi

To send a message of congratulations go to <http://www.onnittelu.fi> and to send a message of condolences go to <https://www.suru.fi>. You can select the card (address) and also the verses inside. The price is 15 euros.

### The University of the Arts will commence its courses in the beginning of 2013

In 2013, the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and Theatre Academy of Helsinki will merge and become the University of the Arts Helsinki. The faculties and students of the present academies will move to the new academy. Altogether there are about 2,000 students and the new university will consist of the three separate academies, which all will be equal in their educational and cultural contents.

### Suomikauppa.fi serving expatriate Finns

Suomikauppa.fi started in 2005 and is the largest net service of its kind, which sends Finnish products and brands all over the world. At the moment, there are over 3,000 items in the online store. With the Suomikauppa it is easy to send gifts to Finland and elsewhere in the world. There are many gift items and products for children as well as adults. By ordering through [www.suomikauppa.fi/suomi-seura](http://www.suomikauppa.fi/suomi-seura) you are also supporting the valuable work of Finland Society as the advocate for expatriate Finns.

### Magazine and newspaper subscriptions abroad through Lehtipaja

[LEHTIAPAJA.FI](http://www.lehtiapaja.fi) is a well-known and inexpensive place to subscribe for magazines and newspapers. You can subscribe for some papers for a 50% discount. To read more go to <http://www.lehtiapaja.fi/suomiseura/>. Just remember that postage will be added into the price.



**Suomikoulu DC,  
The Finnish School of  
Washington DC**  
[www.suomikouludc.org](http://www.suomikouludc.org)

### Finnish Rye Bread in the U.S.

Nordic Breads, Long Island City, New York  
[www.nordicbreads.com](http://www.nordicbreads.com)  
Scandia Bread, Fayetteville, Georgia  
[www.skabakery.com](http://www.skabakery.com)

## Article about Finntown in New York

<http://finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=234859&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

## Farming community in Georgia

In 1921 a group of Finns from New York City moved to Georgia to establish a farming community. It was through the efforts of Velma Salmi (mother of our member Tom Salmi) that the history of this Finnish community has been preserved.

<http://www.mckinnongeorgia.info/index.html>

## Finnish Holiday traditions and being Finnish in Minnesota

Read about the Finnish holiday traditions and the art of being Finnish in Minnesota (a couple of recipes included!).

<http://finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=235316&contentlan=2&culture=en-US&newsletterlink>

## Aurora Borealis, Northern lights

If you want to see an excellent display of Aurora Borealis check out the following video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc3FvNXjBs0>

## The Rautavaara Camp for Expatriate Youth in Finland

The Metsäkartano Youth and Wilderness Centre is organizing a summer camp for expatriate girls and boys ages 13-16 in Rautavaara between **July 15 – 23, 2012**.

Additional information available from  
Maija Jeskanen, International Coordinator  
Metsäkartano Youth and Wilderness Centre, Rautavaara, Finland  
Tel. +358 (0) 40 3564530  
[majja.jeskanen@metsakartano.com](mailto:majja.jeskanen@metsakartano.com)  
[www.metsakartano.com](http://www.metsakartano.com)



## Suomi-Seura - Finland Society Intensive Finnish Language School in Finland

Time: **July 16 - 27, 2012** (arriving on Sunday, July 15th)

Place: Laajasalo Folk High School, which is located in a suburb of Helsinki, about 9 kilometers from the center of Helsinki. There are good and rapid connections between the Laajasalo Folk High School and the city.

Fee: The Seminar fee is 895 euros for members (930 euros for non-members), which covers tuition, room (double occupancy) and board, study book and some free time programme.

The course is primarily for descendants of Finnish emigrants who are planning to move to Finland. The foreign spouses of expatriate Finns may also attend the course. Students should be over 18 years of age and preferably under 45 years old. Knowledge of Finnish is not required.

The language of instruction is English. Consequently, a sufficient knowledge of English is necessary. Finnish (50 lessons) will be taught in small groups at three levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Lectures (in English) give the participants information on various aspects of Finnishness and information about moving to Finland and advice in job hunting in Finland.

For application form and more information go to [www.suomi-seura.fi](http://www.suomi-seura.fi).

## Minnesotan kids get Finnishing school

Article by: HERÓN MÁRQUEZ ESTRADA, Star Tribune

### Finland's teaching methods are catching on, including in Farmington, Minnesota

Before a math test, students in Anne Shadrick's third-grade class are encouraged to pop a stick of gum into their mouths and chew.

When Shadrick teaches her two dozen students a list of spelling words, she has them jog in place, touch their elbows to their knees or do other calisthenics in between writing the words that she recites to them.

Shadrick said research has shown that body movements, even something as subtle as moving your jaw while chewing gum, improve a child's brain activity and learning.

"They move and practice the words at the same time," said Shadrick, who teaches at Akin Road Elementary in the Farmington School District but who was born, raised and educated in Finland. "The movements are incorporated into the lesson. They are not in addition to the lesson. It's a different way to do something than just pencil and paper."

Different is a good way to describe what Shadrick has been doing at Akin for years. Drawing on her Finnish heritage and education, she incorporates some of the same methodologies that have made her native country the envy of the academic world.

Not only does the Nordic country of 5 million people have a high quality of life (free daycare and college, anyone?). It also has built an education system considered among the best, if not the best, in the world.

Spurred by the publication last year of the book "Finnish Lessons: What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland?" by Pasi Sahlberg, Finnish teaching methods have become the subject of national debate in the United States and the focus of articles in every major publication from the New York Times to the Atlantic magazine. In Finland, Shadrick said, teachers are respected as much as doctors or lawyers. All teachers have master's degrees, and only the best and the brightest (10 percent of all applicants) are accepted to college to become a teacher. The state pays for the education and degrees.

"The Finnish education system is big on ... teaching kids how to learn," said Ulla Tervo-Desnick, another Finnish native and a teacher in St. Paul who also incorporates Finnish methods in her classroom at Expo Elementary. "These are not Finnish secrets. They are just good teaching methods."

Teachers in Finland are given a large degree of trust and autonomy. Students spend only four or five hours in school, do a lot of outside play and get little if any homework. Yet they still produce among the highest test scores in the world, equal to those of students from China, South Korea or Singapore.

"It's remarkable how well they do," said Shadrick. "They spend a lot less time teaching and learning, but they learn more and teach more." -->

Akin Elementary third-graders are led through a series of exercises during physical exercise time between subjects, Wednesday, January 18, 2012.  
Photo: Elizabeth Flores, Star Tribune



...

### **More play, less homework**

Shadrick said her methods include extra recess or time outside, a lot of arts and crafts for hands-on experiences, and more problem-solving projects to teach critical thinking.

The techniques are at times at odds with U.S. education systems that push standardized tests, accountability, constant progress reports and less physical activity for kids.

Finland does not have standardized tests. Teacher salaries are not tied to performance reviews or student progress. And physical activity is a fact of life in schools.

Tervo-Desnick said Finnish teachers often use one project or problem to teach multiple disciplines. Something as simple as going outside to study a leaf, for example, provides physical activity as well as the chance to study the biology of the leaf, the geometry of its design, the environment in which it grows and the art of creating something with it.

The teachers are quick to point out that cultural, societal and systemic differences mean the Finnish system cannot be completely adopted in this country. But they do believe the best bits and pieces can be used to improve U.S. education.

Tervo-Desnick believes in the Finnish education model so much that she took things a step further, returning to Finland in 1996 to teach for part of the school year so her children could attend classes there.

"We could design projects and curriculum as we wanted," said Tervo-Desnick. "Some teachers, for example, had looms in their classrooms so kids could make things with their hands."

Her daughter Elli enrolled in fourth grade there, learning Finnish and German while also connecting with her mother's native culture. "I *loved* going to school there," Elli, now enrolled at the University of Minnesota, said via e-mail. "We were always physically active, walking or biking to school, going on nature walks to collect things," she wrote.

### **Staying active**

Shadrick has her kids stretch constantly, often creating their own calisthenics routines to do during periodic breaks from learning.

"She does other stuff that most teachers don't do," said Mae Lemm, 8, one of Shadrick's students. Shadrick also uses stability balls instead of chairs at times. This year she is using Spooner boards (think curved snowboards or skateboards without wheels), on which kids sit, spin or balance while they read, spell or do math problems.

"It helps you concentrate on your books instead of your friends," said Katelyn Leichnam, another of her students. Shadrick's methods are catching on at Akin Road. Other teachers are using Spooner boards and there is talk of buying 100 more so every classroom can have four of them.

"There is a ripple effect," said Laura Pierce, the principal at Akin Road Elementary. "It's all about energizing kids and learning. She's educating me."

Siirtolaisuus-Migration 4-2011 on ilmestynyt.  
Siirtolaisuus-Migration 4-2011 has been published.

### 4-2011:

#### Artikkelit/Articles:

- Krutova, Oxana: Initial Labour Integration of Russian-speaking Students in Finland
- Dhalmann, Hanna: Maahanmuuttajien alueellinen keskittyminen ja etnis-kulttuurinen tulkinta – tarkastelussa somalit ja venäläiset
- Lamminen, Olli: "It is all in the efforts" eli kaikki riippuu yrittämisestä. Nykypäivän amerikkansuomalainen menestystarina
- Kalinitchev, Andrei: Määränpäänä Pietari. Esitutkimus Pietariin vuosina 2010-2011 muuttaneista.
- Pitkänen, Milla: Vanhan rouvan lokikirja. Laivan hytti elinympäristönä Kyllikki Villan matkapäiväkirjassa

#### Muuta /Other contributions:

- Söderling, Ismo: Lehtikirjoittelua rasismista ja amerikkansuomalaista horioppia. Pääkirjoitus/leading article (also in English)
- Heikkilä, Elli: Three times higher unemployment rates among immigrants in Finland. Tutkimusjohtajan palsta
- Mattila, Markku: Siirtolaisuusinstituutin Pohjanmaan aluekeskuksella alkoi uusi elämä. Aluepäällikön palsta
- Lahti, Tellervo: Amerikkansuomalaista musiikkia Riihimäen haalilla.
- Sainio, Kirsi: Terveisiä FinnFest-juhliilta San Diegosta

Lisäksi uutisia, kirja-arvosteluja, tulevia seminaareja.../ **more news, book reviews, seminars to be organized...**

### Subscriptions 2012:

4 issues = 15 € + postage.

Tilaushinta:

neljä numeroa 15 € + postimaksu.

Please, contact Ms. Kirsi Sainio,  
kirsai(at)utu.fi

Lehden sähköinen versio löytyy instituutin suomenkieliseltä sivulta:  
[http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/art/sml\\_ehti.php](http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/art/sml_ehti.php)

and

...www-version in:

[http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/art/smq\\_quarterly.php](http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/art/smq_quarterly.php)

Toimituksen puolesta hyvää Uutta Vuotta kaikille lukijoillemme koko instituutin henkilökunnalta,

Happy New Year 2012!

Ismo Söderling  
Director

**Institute of Migration**  
**Eerikinkatu 34**  
**20100 Turku, Finland**  
**+358-50-511 3586**

## Finland in the U.S. -Newsletter

Finland in the U.S. newsletter compiles news on Finland, Finns and Finnish organizations in the United States. Every month, we offer you a quick glance to all the new, interesting and intriguing things going on between Finland and the U.S. Source: finland.org

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Finland-in-the-U-S.html?soid=1101702987238&aid=5ip0PUKJoM0>

## Juha Raikkonen: Life is an Amazing Song

An immigrant's story unlike you have ever read before.

### Life is an Amazing Song

It is a wonderful book of a young boy's life during the war times in Finland at his grandparents in Oulu, North Finland. Later he was sent to Orsa in the Dalarna region of Sweden. After several years with foster parents in Sweden, he finally returned back to Finland to his mother, sister and brother in Hameenlinna South Finland, it was a happy homecoming after some seven years absence, but it was a shock. He found his family's life to be hard and raw. Food was scarce. They lived in a tiny firetrap apartment building. His mother worked as a prison guard and with her meager salary was barely able to support the family. His father returned from the war and immediately announced that he wanted a divorce from mother. After that he disappeared from their life without any financial support.

Not long after their misery, there was a change when mother regained her old position at the Internationally famous Hotel Aulanko, The family moved to the hotel's premises, into a solid large log cabin. Now life turned out for the better. The hotel years were exciting and uplifting. Life was beautiful again.

A "miracle" happened to the boy, at age seventeen, when he received an invitation to America, with all travel and living expenses paid, plus schooling in Philadelphia. He embraced his new life in America with vigor - in the land of opportunity-becoming a successful business man years later. He now lives in South Carolina with his wife, close to their grandchildren.

The book is a memoir in the tradition of Angela's Ashes, My Life as a Dog (Swedish book) and a hint of Tom Sawyer, Enchanting-Sad-Uplifting-Refreshing-Humorous

**John Raikkonen** (Johan in Swedish) is the Author of a new exciting memoir about Finland and Sweden during the Finnish-Russian war, year 1942 to 1945 and the after effect.

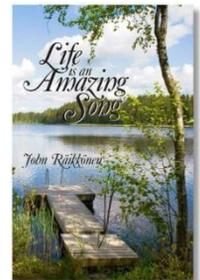
Reviewed by Siggy Buckley

ISBN 1453735100

Please view John's web page: [www.LifesAmazingSong.com](http://www.LifesAmazingSong.com)

Each copy ordered off the web site will be autographed by John.

Nationally my book has received very good press reviews and from individuals. - John (Juha)



## Info on Finns in Arizona

**Albert Lannon**, [albertlannon@powerc.net](mailto:albertlannon@powerc.net), is a retired Finnish Italian American labor educator and historian and is working with the Tucson, Arizona, committee for FinnFest 2012. He is trying to gather information on Finns in Arizona. He has some material on the miners, and is hoping somebody might be able to point him towards other areas, like the timber industry around Flagstaff.

If anyone has any suggestions or information, please get in touch with him at the above e-mail address. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Paavo Berglund, a Finnish Conductor, who died on January 25, 2012, at the age of 82, was regarded as a father figure in modern Sibelius conducting.

Berglund was the principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) from 1972 to 1979. He went on to conduct the major British orchestras – the LSO, the Royal Philharmonic, the CBSO and the BBC Symphony – and also undertook engagements with the Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, New York Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Born in Helsinki, he studied the violin from the age of 11 and joined the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1949. Three years later he was one of the founder members, and the first conductor, of the Helsinki Chamber Orchestra, the purpose of which was to expand the repertoire and improve the profile of musical performance in the Finnish capital. He became assistant conductor of the Finnish RSO and, from 1962 to 1971, was its chief conductor. Having considerably raised the standards of the orchestra, he was able to take it to the USSR, Germany and Britain.

He made his debut in Britain in 1965, with the BSO, conducting concerts as part of the Sibelius centenary festivities. He gave the first performances outside Finland of Sibelius's Kullervo Symphony with the BSO and made the first recording of the work with Bournemouth players and Finnish singers. He went on to become principal conductor of the BSO (1972-79), as well as musical director and principal conductor of the Helsinki Philharmonic (1975-79). He was also principal conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic (1987-91) and principal conductor of the Royal Danish Orchestra (1993-98), recording with the latter a cycle of the Nielsen symphonies that was praised for its insight and integrity.

It was as a Sibelius conductor that he made his greatest contribution. He made three recordings of the cycle of symphonies, with the BSO and Helsinki Philharmonic for EMI, and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe for Warner/Finlandia.

Source: The Guardian



Paavo Berglund in 1998.  
Photograph: Clive Barda/ArenaPal

# Letter from Margaret Schueman

## Onnellista uutta vuotta 2012

Kiitos kaikesta kesällä 2010. Minä käytin kaiken saamani tiedon esityksessäni San Diegon FinnFest juhlassa 2011: "Löysin tien omaan identiteettiin". Yleisö piti siitä kovasti ja sali oli tupaten täynnä. Kiitos kaikesta avustanne.

In English: Thank you for all in the summer of 2010. I used the information I learned to write a presentation at FinnFest 2011 in San Diego It was named *On My Road to Identity*. The room was overflowing and they liked it. Thank you for all your help.

Minä olen sepittänyt runon englanniksi. Toivon että joku voi lukea sen suomeksi. Se pulppuaa sydämeni pohjasta.

In English: I have written a poem in English. I hope that someone can read it in Finnish. It bubbled up from my heart.

Sydämelliset terveisemme kaikille teille kotona Suomessa meidän koko perheeltä täällä Amerikassa.

In English: Our heartfelt greetings to you all at home there in Finland from our en-tire family here in America.

**Margaret Schueman, January 2012**

### AN ODE TO OUR FRIENDSHIP

When November rains bring cold dark days,  
raindrops seemingly form wet flowing paths,  
Lessening the distance,  
between my house and yours.

When December's sun sends golden rays,  
beaming its warmth upon us,  
Bouncing from tree to house,  
with its touch renewing us.

When winter's snow quietly falls,  
magically making all equal,  
Painting all lovingly,  
in a beauty of a cold bright white.

When darkness is all around us,  
feelings of peace come over us,  
Freeing us from daily chores,  
as has always been.

When night dreams vividly appear,  
incredible calm wraps us warmly,  
Opening fleeting visits,  
to people and places of long ago.

When familiar faces appear,  
hearts quicken at that moment,  
Understanding the meaning,  
of love between friends.

When Christmas and the New Year are upon us,  
explanations are not needed,  
Enveloping all in the mystifying spirit,  
of wishing you and yours a JOYOUS new season.

**by Margaret Schueman, January 2012**

- FinnFest 2012, Nov. 8-11, in Tucson, AZ
- FinnFest 2013, June 19-23, in Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

**FinnFest web page** [www.finnfestusa.org](http://www.finnfestusa.org)



Margaret and Gerry Schueman manning the Fulbright booth at FinnFest

## Membership renewal

Please make sure your membership is current.

Your Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter membership covers a **one-year period beginning January 1st**. As a FFNCC member, you support the organization's mission of promoting cultural and educational exchange between the United States and Finland. Plus, you receive benefits your whole family can enjoy, such as discounts on events and concerts; invitations to exhibition openings; and the newsletter. Over the past year, FFNCC has distributed more than \$3,000 in grants and hosted such events as Kalevala, Pikkujoulu, picnics, and sauna evenings.

Members make the difference! Dues from members like you help ensure that we remain strong for the future and are able to continue and expand our programming. On behalf of the Board of Directors, THANK YOU for your support and continued participation.

### To renew your FFNCC membership:

**1. Pay by check:**

Print (choose only this page 18 from printer settings) and fill in the form and mail it with the check to: Mikko Mäkäräinen, 2100 11<sup>th</sup> Street NW, #307, Washington, DC 20001, **OR**

**2. Pay using PayPal:**

Go to: [www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.org)



### FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2012

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual (\$20)     Student (\$15)     Family (\$25)

Lifetime Membership (\$375)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

For any questions about the membership please contact: [membership@finlandiadc.org](mailto:membership@finlandiadc.org)

**Please make checks payable to Finlandia Foundational National Capital Chapter and mail to:  
Mikko Mäkäräinen, 2100 11<sup>th</sup> Street NW, #307, Washington, DC 20001**