



# FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2012

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

## Events 2012

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Finnish Church  
Service

**September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Picnic at Olney Park,  
VA

**October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Finnish Church  
Service

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Sauna Evening,  
Embassy of Finland

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Finnish Church  
Service

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Finn Spark's  
Christmas Bazaar

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Party &  
Most Beautiful  
Christmas Carols,  
Resurrection  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church, VA

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Service,  
Embassy of Finland

More info at  
[www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.org)



## PRESIDENT LEILA TAKALA'S MESSAGE

**Dear FFNCC Members,**

I hope all of you had a pleasant summer wherever you were. The summer in the Washington area was hotter than ever but luckily it will soon be over. I spent a refreshing week by a lake in the Adirondacks camping and kayaking. It was almost like being in Finland where – sadly – I was not able to go this summer. Of course, the Olympic Games from London were interesting but there was more than enough of beach volleyball. It seemed to be the most popular and most broadcast event. And the Finns were almost nowhere to be seen. It truly makes you wonder what has happened to the Finnish athletes.

On September 29, we will open the fall season with a picnic at Olney Park in Falls Church, VA, which has almost become a traditional venue for our picnics. An invitation will be coming soon.

The main event this fall will be the Seeli Toivio and Kalle Toivio's concert at the Embassy of Finland on October 19. Seeli Toivio is a Finnish virtuoso cellist, and her brother, Kalle Toivio, will accompany her on the piano. The concert is a part of their U.S. tour. Seeli Toivio holds a Doctorate in music from the Sibelius Academy. Kalle Toivio has a Master's degree from the Sibelius Academy and is now studying for his Doctorate in organ music at the Manhattan School of Music in New York. He is also the Cantor at the FinnChurch in New York. Their first duo record "Virtuoso Cello" was published by Alba Records in November 2011. Seeli Toivio has performed all over the world, in England, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Japan, U.S., and in Italy. Invitations will be sent out in September. This will be one of the highlights of our program.

The next sauna evening at the Embassy will be two weeks after the concert, on November 2, and the Children's Christmas Party followed by the Most Beautiful Christmas Carols at the Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington on December 8.

The Kennedy Center is holding a Nordic Festival "Nordic Cool 2013" beginning on February 19 and ending on March 16, 2013, with interesting performances from all the Nordic countries. You can find the program on our web page and, of course, on the Kennedy Center web site.

The next Newsletter will be published in October.

I hope to see many of you in our coming events,

**Leila Takala**

## FFNCC Board of Directors 2012-2013

**President:** Leila Takala [president@finlandiadc.org](mailto:president@finlandiadc.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 [newsletter@finlandiadc.org](mailto:newsletter@finlandiadc.org), **Members at Large:** Robert Cavanaugh, Stephen Frey, Jenna Reilly, Ville Uusimäki



News, 8/24/2012 | Foreign Ministry of Finland

## Team Finland is ready to roll

Ministers Stubb and Häkämies gave an introduction to Team Finland for the Heads of Mission at their annual Meeting.

"There's a new kind of buzz in Team Finland," said Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade Alexander Stubb when speaking about new trends in Finnish exports promotion at the Foreign Ministry's Annual Meeting of Finnish Heads of Mission on 21 August. Co-speaker with Minister Stubb, Minister of Economic Affairs Jyri Häkämies agreed: "Team Finland is an excellent initiative, designed to facilitate things for enterprises while promoting opportunities for growth and internationalization".

The Team Finland concept refers to a new, networked way of organizing export promotion and internationalization services for companies. Close collaboration between different service providers will be used for making the services more customer-oriented. The Team Finland operating model is based on the action plan on economic external relations, adopted by the government in the spring, which supports employment and internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular. "Our goal is to provide seamless services, so that the users would be unaware of dealing with different organizations," Minister Häkämies said.

The importance of shared goals was also mentioned by Minister Stubb, who stressed the radical changes in the world and global markets: economics and politics are becoming closer to one another. Moreover, enterprises operate differently today because of global value chains, among other factors. The old Finnish export promotion model was too soloed; there was a lack of shared goals and the system's ability to react to changes proactively was weak. According to Stubb, operating models resembling Team Finland have already been implemented successfully in Shanghai and Madrid, to name a few.

What difference will Team Finland make compared with the previous model? Strategic guidance of the operating model is a new feature. Team Finland has an appointed steering group chaired by Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen. Customer-orientation will have a central role in all operations. At the Meeting, Minister Stubb asked the diplomats representing Finland in different parts of the world to ask themselves the following question every morning: "What can I do for Finnish enterprises today?" – naturally in cooperation with other links in the Team Finland network. As Minister Häkämies pointed out to the audience, the role of Embassies is a very pivotal one in the modern world. Their expertise is needed, for example, in analyzing forthcoming changes in the operating environments of Finnish enterprises. Minister Stubb stressed that the entire Government is responsible for securing equal operating environment for Finnish enterprises compared with the competing countries. The Ministers of different political sectors can promote enterprises associated with their respective fields while doing export promotion abroad.

Minister Häkämies added that discussion about internationalization is not only about export promotion; we also need import promotion. Finland needs investments, and we are in a good position for attracting them: Finland has skilled people and good references, such as Google. Finland has also paid specific attention to tax reliefs on research and development.

Roll-out of the Team Finland operating model will have a kick-start on 10 September at the Finlandia Hall, on SME internationalization day. The speakers in the event include President of the Republic Sauli Niinistö, Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen, Ministers Alexander Stubb and Jyri Häkämies, and representatives of companies that have succeeded internationally. More importantly, the organizing parties want to hear the views of SMEs in the workshops, where they can express their needs to the providers of export promotion and internationalization services. The event is organized by the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the Confederation of Finnish Industries, the Central Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Finnish Enterprises and Finpro.

Updated 8/24/2012 © Embassy of Finland, Washington - Consulates General of Finland, New York and Los Angeles  
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### Hyvä ulkosuomalaisjärjestö,

Suomen kesäsää on ollut kovin vaihteleva, ja varsinaisia hellepäiviä on jääty kaipaamaan. Toivottavasti lämpimiä säitä on vielä tulossa.

Parhaillaan Suomi-koulujen opettajat ovat vuotuisilla koulutuspäivillään Helsingissä. Tänä vuonna Suomi-Seura ry oli viime vuosia enemmän mukana järjestelyissä. Päävastuun tapahtumasta kantaa Opetushallitus.

Tänään juhlietaan myös Vuoden ulkosuomalaista, professori Outi Hovattaa.

Ulkosuomalaisparlamentin istunto lähestyy kovaa vauhtia. Aloitteita tuli tällä kertaa normaalia vähemmän, mutta istuntoon on osallistumassa kuitenkin 105 järjestöä. Järjestöjen on ilmoitettava istuntoon tulevat edustajansa ja tarkkailijansa sihteeristöön, Suomi-Seuraan 14. syyskuuta mennessä.

Tänäkin vuonna monet jäsenenämme ovat järjestöt ovat noutaneet lahjoituskirjansa seuran toimistosta. Kiitos teille siitä – siten säästämme tuntuvasti rahaa, joka voidaan käyttää uusien lahjoituskirjojen hankintaan.

**Parhain terveisin  
Suomi-Seura ry**



Poet, songwriter and novelist

**Naomi Shihab**

Picture and text from U.S. Embassy of Finland Face Book page

The U.S. Embassy Helsinki is proud to sponsor the visit of American poet, songwriter and novelist Naomi Shihab Nye to Helsinki. She will read her poems at the Night of the Living Poets (Elävien runoilijoiden Ilta) at Restaurant Kaisaniemi on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 20:00. Free entrance. Nye is the author of numerous books of poems, including *You and Yours* (BOA Editions, 2005), which received the Isabella Gardner Poetry Award, as well as *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* (2002), a collection of new and selected poems about the Middle East, *Fuel* (1998), *Red Suitcase* (1994), and *Hugging the Jukebox* (1982). Nye has received awards from the Texas Institute of Letters, the Carity Randall Prize, the International Poetry Forum, as well as four Pushcart Prizes. She has been a Lannan Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a Witter Bynner Fellow. In 1988 she received The Academy of American Poets' Lavan Award, selected by W. S. Merwin. Nye is the author of numerous books of poems, including *You and Yours* (BOA Editions, 2005), which received the Isabella Gardner Poetry Award, as well as *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* (2002), a collection of new and selected poems about the Middle East, *Fuel* (1998), *Red Suitcase* (1994), and *Hugging the Jukebox* (1982). Nye has received awards from the Texas Institute of Letters, the Carity Randall Prize, the International Poetry Forum, as well as four Pushcart Prizes. She has been a Lannan Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a Witter Bynner Fellow. In 1988 she received The Academy of American Poets' Lavan Award, selected by W. S. Merwin. Her poems and short stories have appeared in various journals and reviews throughout North America, Europe, and the Middle and Far East. She has traveled to the Middle East and Asia for the United States Information Agency three times, promoting international goodwill through the arts.



AN UNIDENTIFIED FINNISH COMPETITOR

### MOBILE-PHONE COMPETITION IN FINLAND

A Finnish teenager has smashed the *world record* -- and probably his phone - - in this year's annual mobile-phone throwing contest in *Finland*.

Eighteen-year-old *Ere Karjalainen* launched a phone the "amazing" distance of 101.46 meters (332 feet 10 inches), Finnish public television network YLE said after Saturday's event. Second place went to *South African Jeremy Gallop*, who threw a phone 94.67 meters.

According to contest organizers, the competition offers *mobile phone* users a unique opportunity to "pay back all the frustrations and disappointments caused by these modern equipments." Finland is the home of Nokia and is awash in obsolete phones, organizers said.

"There will be no doping tests," organizers said on their English website. "However the jury can rule out the contestant if his/her mental or physical preparedness is not adequate for full a performance."

The event has been held in the southeastern town of Savonlinna since 2000.

SUOMI-KOULU

BEGINS

15<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER



THE FINNISH  
SCHOOL OF  
WASHINGTON D.C.

We hope you are having a great summer. Many of us are getting ready for the fall, so we wanted to give you some information regarding the school already now. Please let us know if you have any questions. See you at the Resurrection Lutheran in Arlington on September 15th at 10am!

#### School dates:

#### Fall 2012

September 15th and 29th

October 13th and 20th

November 3rd and 10th

December 1st and 8th or 15th (Christmas party date to be confirmed with Finn Church)

#### Spring 2013

January 12th and 26th

February 9th and 23rd

March 9th and 16th

April 6th and 20th

May 4th and 18th

June 1st (snow date)

#### Other important dates:

Parent meeting in the fall during the school hours Date TBA

Parent meeting during school hours January 12th

Kevätieha - Spring party and fundraising event March 9th

School end of the year celebration May 18th (or June 1st if we have snow day in the spring)

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



Parent Category: [World](#)  
 Category: [Finland in the world press](#)  
 23Aug2012

“FINLAND’s foreign minister, Erkki Tuomioja, has said that European governments must prepare for a euro zone break up, adding that the Finnish government was prepared: our officials like everybody else and like every general staff, have some sort of operational plan for any eventuality.

This is one of the strongest warnings given by an elected European politician, and is particularly noticeable coming from a member of the Social Democratic Party of Finland...”

REASON.COM 17 August. MATTHEW FEENEY  
 LEHTIKUVA / MARTTI KAINULAINEN

## SAUNAILTA AT THE FINNISH EMBASSY

3301 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington D.C., Friday, Nov. 2nd



**Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. and the event will start at 6:00 p.m. Sauna will be open for women for an hour starting at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and for men starting at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.**

**Don't forget to bring your towel, "seat cover", soap, shampoo etc.**

**We ask you to bring some type of vegetable or potato casserole in a disposable container, large enough to serve your group and two other people. FFNCC will supply the sauna sausage, hot mustard, dessert, beer and soft drinks.**

**\$15 for members and \$20 for non-members and guests. You can respond through the FFNCC web page [www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.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 Oct. 31st!****



Eila Annikki Lewis

**Eila Annikki Lewis**, a long-time member of the FFNCC, passed away on August 15 at Future Care of Annapolis due to complications from a stroke which she suffered nine months ago.

Born March 15, 1932 in Lappee, Finland, Eila was educated in Finland. She was a retired customer service bank officer of Wachovia/Wells Fargo. Eila was a member of the Garden Club Annapolis Roads, Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter, and St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Annapolis. She served as a member of the board for the FFNCC for many years in the 1980's and 1990's.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Robert Lewis, whom she married May 28, 1960. Eila is survived by two daughters, Suvi K. Lewis and Kirsi E. Lewis, both of Annapolis; two brothers, Matti Stockmakkari and Taisto Lautala, both of Finland; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was laid to rest on Monday, August 27. Online condolences can be made at [www.johnmtaylorfuneralhome.com](http://www.johnmtaylorfuneralhome.com).



Credit Photographer:  
CAROLYN RUSSO



Credit Photographer:  
JARMO GLADER

**A new exhibition “Project Santaranta - Building Dreams,” made possible with a 2012 grant from the *Finlandia Foundation National* coming soon to the Embassy of Finland.**

“*Project Santaranta - Building Dreams*,” is an exhibition of 36 large-format photographs and accompanying text featuring the organic architecture of Eric Lloyd Wright and the mystic of nature in Finland. The exhibit will be on display during Architecture Week at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, DC in **September 2012**.

*Santaranta* is a unique international project creating an architectural bridge between the United States and Finland. It is an inspiring story about a Finnish native, Simo “Sipe” Santapukki, the drummer for the popular rock band *Apulanta* and his dream of building a home in the style of organic architecture, the *Santaranta* home in Heinola.

As the only Lloyd Wright structure built in Europe, the documentation of *Santaranta* became a project in itself. The Finnish photographic company Eirikuva organized a team of professional photographers to capture the historical structure shown in the light of all four seasons – the only way to understand the true beauty of Finnish nature.

Carolyn Russo, a member of the *Finlandia Foundation NCC*, was the American photographer selected for the project and she also served as international curator and producer of the exhibition. She was a recipient of a 2012 grant from the *Finlandia Foundation National*, which allowed her to produce the exhibition. Russo says, the exhibition production was a collaborative effort and was made possible with not only a grant, but with member support of the *Finlandia Foundation NCC* and local businesses. Russo states, “Ossi Rahkonen, member of *Finlandia Foundation NCC* and a *FFN* Trustee was instrumental in the grant process and provided a letter of recommendation. Rahkonen remarked, “the proposal was very strong and ranked in the top five.” Russo also relied on the in-kind support of local graphic designer, Ana Schwar, of Chebela Design House, to complete the project within budget. There are plans to make the exhibition available to other venues in the future pending funding. For more information about the exhibition please contact: CARO International Art Productions at 571-220-6038 or e-mail [caro@carolynrusso.com](mailto:caro@carolynrusso.com)



The author and the photographer stayed in this lakeside house in Keuruu for a month during an artist residency.



## Taking the Finnish rest cure

JANUS ANATTA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

By Judith Turner-Yamamoto/ GLOBE CORRESPONDENT, AUGUST 26, 2012

KEURUU, Finland — Summer in Finland is a brief, perfect moment made of a soothing sun that shines well into the night, scudding white and purple clouds, and birches and evergreens tossing in a lilting breeze. From the moment the sun begins its ascent into the sky in May, Finns escape to their cottages, retreats handed down through generations. During our several visits to Finland, many of them artist residencies, we often encountered friends and acquaintances on a Friday afternoon outside the market, where, pausing to stock up on essentials, they murmured something about hurrying off to the mökki, rustic cottages outfitted with wood-burning saunas. In early spring we had sailed through the iced archipelago between Helsinki and Stockholm, admiring the red and brown wood cottages dotting the myriad islands. But even more lay just a few hours away to the

north, in the wonders of the lake region in a country lousy with lakes — 187,000 to be exact. Back home we discovered that out of the roughly half million cottages (for a population of 5.3 million) there were plenty available for tourists, for rent on an individual basis, or at holiday villages and campgrounds. We researched artist residencies looking for one that would offer us a lakeside cottage. Thrilled with a subsequent invitation to Keuruu, a small town in central Finland, last August we headed for the shores of Keuruselkä.

After flying into Helsinki, we provisioned at the farmers' market near the train station for the 3½-hour ride ahead. As the train stopped in small towns along the way we ate sweet fat peas in the pod and curried chicken sandwiches with cucumbers on thick, crusty bread. Arriving in Keuruu, a small town of 11,000, we set out on the short walk to Santu's House, named for a local artist whose estate left the cottage to the town. We found it just down a gravel lane, by the 18th-century Lutheran church: a brown wood cottage with ochre shutters and overhanging eaves set in a clutch of birch trees and a riot of raspberry canes that would be our home for the next month.

Only a walking path separated the cottage from Keuruselkä, one of Finland's largest lakes, covering 45.3 square miles. The opposite shore was rimmed by a deep forest of evergreens and birches, punctuated by the occasional house or cottage barely perceptible through the trees. Our first evening, we settled onto the back porch overlooking the water for a dinner of smoked mackerel smothered in rosépipuri, a dark red peppercorn with a sweet, moist center. A salad of tomatoes, cucumber, leaf lettuce, and fresh dill followed, and a fresh bread laden with pumpkin and sunflower seeds and split grains of whole rye, washed down with smoked beer.

Giddy with the light's tenacious hold, we set off on a midnight walk to the island beach of Saurasauri. Only our footsteps and the slow drip of water from an earlier shower falling from the birches and evergreens broke the deep silence. Darkness never came. Instead there was perpetual twilight, all but the softest light drained from the sky.

The next day, despite intermittent showers, we followed the footpath near the cottage, climbing a hill to cross the lake and reach the nearby beach. In this moment Keuruselkä was ours alone. Stepping in, the water was cold, probably 65 degrees, and tinged a remarkable beer bottle brown by sediment from the lake's bottom. Waist deep, the sandy beach dropped off into mud. Swimming out we crossed currents, pockets of warm, then invigorating cold.

We slipped out of our suits in the beachside changing room and hurried home where the warm sauna waited. Inside its close pine walls, the sharp green smell of the birch branches we had gathered that morning greeted us.

The old Finnish proverb, *Saun on koha apteet* — "The sauna is the poor man's apothecary" — took on new meaning. Besotted with the luxury of an at-home sauna, we found ourselves in the coming weeks seeking its warmth on chilly mornings, before and after swimming to leach out the chill of the lake, and at night to relax muscles tight from a day of hiking.

Over half of the world's sauna sales are in Finland, evidenced by the sauna accessories found in every market in the village. We brought home bottled tar concentrate to mix with water and throw on the rocks to emulate the smell of the smoke sauna. We smeared ourselves with lavender honey that liquefied with the heat to moisturize the skin. As the days bled pleasurably into one another we walked the intricate system of bike and walking paths that traverse Keuruu, making it possible to go nearly anywhere in town without encountering cars. We stopped to watch the clouds float over the lake, to listen to the water wash the shore, and to forage.

Like true Finns, we enjoyed "everyman's right," the unspoken law that allows hiking, picking berries, apples, mushrooms, and even short-term camping nearly anywhere. I grew accustomed to the taste of berries in my mouth and fingers stained accordingly. Here was the hill where bilberries, small cousins of the blueberry, and lingonberries flourished. The red of raspberries, huge and untouched, broke the green of the woods; currents and chokeberries begging to be preserved (we did, and shipped them home) proliferated on the vacant lot by the library. Nettles for soup lined the path, dandelion greens provided us with salad, and apple trees gave us more fruit. We swore off picking mushrooms after a photo e-mailed to a friend in Helsinki brought this rapid response: "Do not eat! This is *kärpässi*, our most poisonous mushroom, also known as death cup and destroying angel."

Instead, at the market we supplemented our wild bounty with fresh chanterelles and ceps, sautéing them with garlic and a bit of cream to serve over pasta; salmon and whitefish planked on birch and smoked over juniper branches; beet pancakes with sour cream; and an array of hearty rye breads.

By the end of our stay, the birches were just beginning to turn to gold, signaling the beginning of autumn. We would miss the cowberries, crowberries, and cranberries September would bring. But the act of scrubbing down the sauna and kitchen, sweeping out the porch, laundering the linens and hanging them to dry in the now crisp air, and closing the double-paned windows allowed us to feel we were readying the cottage for winter and engaging in a timeless ritual that reinforces Finns' special bond with nature.

[Try BostonGlobe.com today and get two weeks FREE.](https://www.bostonglobe.com) *Judith Turner-Yamamoto can be reached at [editorial@pickworthbell.com](mailto:editorial@pickworthbell.com).*

Uutiset, 20.8.2012

## Suomen passin ulkoasu muuttuu

Suomen passin ulkoasu muuttuu uuden passinvalmistussopimuksen astuessa voimaan 22.8.2012. Uuden passin käyttöönotto ei vaikuta aiemmin myönnettyjen passien voimassaoloon.

Viikoilla 34–35 myönnetään rinnakkain uuden ja vanhan mallin passeja siten, että viimeistään 27.8. alkaen kaikki myönnettävät passit ovat uutta mallia.

- Passin tietosivulle ja sirulle taltioitavat tiedot säilyvät uudistuksessa ennallaan.
- Passin biometrisiin tunnistuksiin ei tule muutoksia.
- Uuden passin käyttöönotto ei vaikuta aiemmin myönnettyjen passien voimassaoloon.

### Muutoksia ulkoasussa:

- Kaikkien passityyppien tietosivujen ja viisumisivujen värit ja kuviointi muuttuvat, ja passikirjoihin lisätään muutamia uusia turvatekijöitä. Lisäksi väliaikaisten passien kansien värejä muutetaan siten, että ne erottuvat selvemmin normaaleista passeista. Erottelu on yleistävä kansainvälinen suuntaus. Asiakkaan odottaessa yksilöivät väliaikaiset passit eivät ole turvallisuudeltaan samalla tasolla kuin normaalit passit, ja niitä myönnetään vain erityistapauksissa.
- Tavallinen kansallinen passi ja Ahvenanmaan passi ovat jatkossakin viininpunaisia, mutta väliaikaisen kansallisen passin ja väliaikaisen Ahvenanmaan passin kannet muuttuvat vaaleanpunaisiksi. Vastaavasti muokalaisspassi säilyy harmaana, mutta väliaikaisesta muokalaisspassista tulee keltainen.

Tarjouskilpailun perusteella passinvalmistajaksi uudelle sopimuskaudelle on valittu nykyinen passinvalmistaja Sagem Segenmark Oy.

Suomen passin ulkoasu muuttuu (Poliisi: tiedote 20.08.2012)

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| Tietoa palvelusta | Yhteystiedot

## Finland is a model for education/ The Columbus Dispatch / Saturday August 18, 2012 6:28 AM

Urban schools are desperate to meet the No Child Left Behind requirements. A *Dispatch* editorial on Aug. 2 stated, "The report cards are a vital part of Ohio's system for school accountability."

No, they are the only measure of accountability.

Unfortunately, when school rankings are based solely on numbers, be it attendance or achievement, then numbers are all that matter. This is the game that schools are forced to play, the hand that they are dealt. Michael Gottfried, who studies attendance issues in urban schools, stated that student achievement rates shouldn't be so low if the kids are present, "unless their teacher quality is so dire in those schools." (*Dispatch* article, June 17 ).

The real answer? The one that politicians don't address for fear they'd be voted out? Parents, genes and environment deeply affect a child's attendance and achievement levels, and, unfortunately, urban schoolchildren often face more challenges than their suburban counterparts.

Here's a test, should anyone dare to try it: Exchange a teacher from a suburban classroom with a teacher from an inner city classroom. Then watch both teachers' scores. And now that young teachers know their careers will be based on scores, they will flock to the suburban schools, where it will be an easier ride. Why wouldn't they? The harsh reality of the No-Child rating system is that one number can mean you're good or bad.

Finland gets it. It has surprisingly high achievement outcomes.

True, their immigration and poverty problems are less daunting than in the United States, but the Finnish culture values education far more than ours. They plan their schools for students with different natural abilities and needs (not one size fits all).

In contrast to the U.S., the Finns implemented a radically different model of educational reform— based on a balanced curriculum and professionalization, not ranking and testing. Not only do the Finns provide students with more recess than their U.S. counterparts, they also mandate arts and crafts and learning by doing. They have rigorous standards for teacher certification (master's degree), resulting in higher teacher pay and attractive working conditions. All are better served.

## Seeli Toivio and Kalle Toivio's concert at the Embassy of Finland on October 19, 2012



**Seeli Toivio** is a Finnish virtuoso cellist and Doctor of Music. She regularly performs as a soloist and chamber musician in her home country Finland and abroad. She has recorded CD's and DVD's in Finland, Belgium and Bulgaria, and has performed in radio and TV in many countries (Finland's YLE, England's BBC, Belgium's KLARA, etc.). Among other chamber groups, Seeli Toivio often performs as a duo with her brother, pianist and organist Kalle Toivio – they have performed together in Japan, USA, South Africa, and in many countries in Europe. Seeli Toivio has performed at such important venues as Finlandia Hall (Helsinki, Finland), Bozar – Palais de Beaux Arts (Brussels, Belgium), Queen Elizabeth Hall (Antwerp, Belgium and London, UK), Purcell Room (London, UK), Liszt Academy Concert Hall (Budapest, Hungary), Sibelius Academy Concert Hall (Helsinki, Finland), among others. Seeli **Toivio** has performed in almost all concert halls in Finland on numerous concert tours since 2006.

Toivio started her cello studies at the age of four at the Lahti Conservatoire of Music with Jouko Paavola. She also studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Liszt Academy in Budapest (Hungary), and at the Royal Academy of Music in London (UK) with Erkki Rautio, Hannu Kiiski, Marcel Bergman, Martti Rousi, David Strange, and Miklós Perényi.

Seeli Toivio's repertoire includes soloist and chamber music works from the 17th century to the present day – she also arranges virtuoso violin works for cello (Sarasate, Paganini, Wieniawsky, Bazzini, Monti, etc.) which she often performs in her concerts. Alongside her solo career, she also enjoys performing versatile chamber music in various groups, and often plays new music at new music festivals.

**Kalle Toivio** has performed as soloist and chamber musician in Finland and around the globe with his sister, cellist Seeli Toivio. They performed on a long concert tour in Japan in 2003, and in 2007 they performed at the international *Servais Festival* in Belgium. In Winter 2009 they performed together in New York with Seeli's husband, saxophonist Olli Pekka Tuomisalo .

Kalle Toivio started his musical education at the Lahti Conservatory of Music. He received a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the Sibelius Academy in 2004. In 2005, he started his studies at the Church Music Department of the Sibelius Academy – majoring in organ playing – with the well-known Finnish organist Mr. Ville Urponen. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Department of Church Music in the spring of 2008. Since the fall of 2008 Kalle Toivio has studied organ at the Manhattan School of Music. He received his Master of Music degree in Organ Performance in May of 2010. He was honored with the Bronson Ragan Award, given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding ability in organ performance. In the spring of 2010 Kalle Toivio was accepted to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree- program at the Manhattan School of Music.

Kalle Toivio is the Cantor of the Finnish Lutheran Congregation of New York and Music Director of the Finland Center Foundation in New York, which promotes Finnish and American Culture



### THE FINNISH CHURCH SERVICE / PASTOR TIINA TALVITIE

The Finnish Church Services at the Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA, will be held at 2.00 p.m.  
On Sunday, September 8  
On Sunday, October 13 and  
On Sunday, November 10

Pastor Tiina Talvitie will hold lectures on the meaning and importance of liturgy in the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Services. The lecture will begin at 1.00 p.m. prior to the Finnish service



## FFNCC'S FALL PICNIC 2012



**Saturday, September 29, 2011**  
**Olney Park, Falls Church, VA, 12 noon to 3 p.m.**

Soft drinks, grilled sausages, and dessert provided by FFNCC!  
Please bring a side dish large enough to serve your group + two  
Finlandia Foundation members welcome ...along with family and friends!  
Fee: \$10.00 per person, (children 0 to 12 free) to be collected at the entrance.  
Please respond by September 27  
Mikko Mäkäräinen at [mmakarainen@gmail.com](mailto:mmakarainen@gmail.com) with number in party.

**Olney Park, 1840 Olney Road, Falls Church, VA**  
**Directions via Beltway I-495s from Virginia/inner loop**  
Merge onto VA-123/Dolly Madison Boulevard via exit 46B towards Chain Bridge Road/McLean  
Turn right onto Great Falls Street/VA-694  
Turn right onto Magarity Road  
Take first left onto Olney Road  
**Directions from Beltway I-495 from Maryland/outer loop**  
Take left exit 45B toward I-66  
Merge onto VA-1223/Dolly Madison Boulevard via exit 19B toward McLean  
Turn right onto Great Falls Street/BA-694  
Turn right onto Magarity Road  
Take first left onto Olney Road



<http://www.2012finnfestusa.org>

### What is FinnFest USA?

FinnFest USA is a festival with strong academic, cultural, and commerce components presenting Finnish and Finnish American culture and heritage. It's a festival that brings modern Finland together with historic and contemporary America. FinnFest USA is an ethnic festival like no other in the USA.

From November 8-11 2012, Finland and Arizona will meet and engage in a vibrant, educational, and festive celebration where visitors share information and learn about contemporary Finland and Finnish American culture during stimulating, fun-filled days packed with activities and events for all guests.

The local and regional community becomes a central part of the festival by contributing local performers, vendors and participants who engage with Finnish and Finnish-American presenters, artists and guests. The public is welcomed to all events, both ticketed and free.

Come share and explore your **Creativity**. Engage your **Curiosity** about other cultures. **Connect** with local and international visitors who want learn from and experience Finland and Arizona!

To find more about our [events](#), presenters, [accommodations](#) and [registration](#), visit [www.2012finnfestusa.org](http://www.2012finnfestusa.org), where you can join our e- mailing list.

Tervetuloa! Welcome!