



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER - January 2014

www.finlandiadc.org

EVENTS 2014

Friday,
February 21st
6 pm

**Kalevala Dinner and
Silent Auction**
Embassy of Finland, DC

Saturday,
March, 22nd
5 pm

**Movie and Pizza Night
for Adults**
Resurrection Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Arlington, VA

Saturday,
April 12th
6 pm

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

TBA

**European Union
Embassies' Open House**
Washington, DC

TBA

**Summer Picnic and
Annual Meeting**

Message from the President

Happy New Year!

We are busily preparing for another wonderful Kalevala celebration. Please mark your calendars and join us at the Embassy of Finland on Friday, February 21st.

This year's event will highlight the work of some of our FFNCC grant recipients. For example, Nelli Ikola-Heiska - our newest grant recipient and a musician studying at the Sibelius Academy - will perform a range of music on her fiddle.



Besides being a performer, Nelli is a music instructor and, through a FFNCC grant, is teaching the children of Suomikoulu how to play the kantele. At Kalevala, some of the children will show us what they have learned on the kanteles, which were purchased last fall from the Kantele Shop in Duluth, Minnesota (also through a FFNCC grant). The Nordic Dancers, long-time recipients of FFNCC grants, will again demonstrate their expertise in keeping alive a part of our heritage through dance.

The Nordic Dancers recently digitized their video recordings filmed at Kalevala programs held between 1984 and 2000. The equipment used to do this was purchased partially through a previous FFNCC grant.

Instead of our usual raffle drawing, we will have a silent auction. If you have any items or services to donate – or even ideas – please let us know! We will send out a final list of auction items before Kalevala.

In March, we will host another movie and pizza night. We will try to find an upbeat Finnish film to view, but we can't make any promises!

And finally, we would like to welcome all of our new members who stopped by our table at the Finn Spark Christmas Bazaar and joined FFNCC – tervetuloa! It's through the generous support of our members – like you – that we are able to host various events and support the arts.

Kirsti Frenzen Noring

FFNCC Board of Directors 2013-2014

President: Kirsti Frenzen Noring president@finlandiadc.org, **1st Vice President:** Stephen Frey,
2nd Vice President: Mirja Clement, **Recording Secretary:** Bruce Griffin,
Treasurer & Membership: Mikko Mäkäraäinen mmakarainen@gmail.com,
Newsletter Editor: Susanna Andersson finlandiafoundationncc@gmail.com,
Members at Large: Leila Takala, Ville Uusimäki, Tabitha Takala, Erika Carlson

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 Silent Auction

Featuring Nelli Ikola-Heiska,
a kantele performance by Suomikoulu DC
and the Nordic Dancers

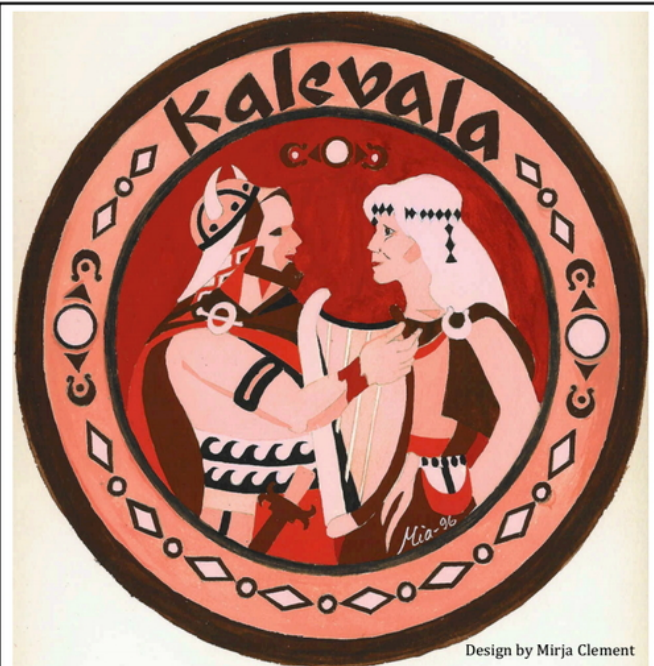
On Friday, February 21, 2014
at 6:00 p.m.

The Embassy of Finland

3301 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Members \$50
Non/members \$60



Design by Mirja Clement

*"Lähe nyt kanssa laulamahan, saa kera sanelemahan
yhtehen yhyttyämme, kahta'alta käytyämme!"*

Kalevala

A Huge Thank You

to all our members and people who attend
our events. Because of your support, we are
able to promote Finnish culture in the DC
area.

With the help of a FFNCC grant last year,
Suomikoulu DC was able to purchase five
kantele instruments for their students.

The students' hard work and dedication to
Finnish culture is highlighted at the 2014
Kalevala Celebration. With their instructor,
Nelli Ikola-Heiska, the students have
prepared a performance of a lifetime that
will truly rock you!



To register for the Kalevala Celebration at the Embassy, please send a check payable to FFNCC to

Mikko Mäkräinen, FFNCC Treasurer, 2100 – 11th Street NW #307, Washington DC 20001.

OR REGISTER ONLINE at www.finlandiadc.org.

Spotlight on our Kalevala Celebration Performer 2014

Folk Musician Nelli Ikola-Heiska

Nelli Ikola-Heiska is a Finnish musician and teacher from Helsinki, who has played fiddle and folk music her whole life. She was born in Haapavesi, which has a strong tradition in folk music. In 2010, Nelli graduated with a degree in folk music education from the Central Ostrobothnia University. Currently, she is studying at the Folk Music Department at Sibelius Academy.

She performs regularly with the band MB, which has released two albums and performed throughout Europe and Egypt. Recently, MB received a grant for exploring the old music tradition of the Haapavesi area, which culminated in a series of concerts and an album featuring music from the 1850 to the 1980s.

One of Nelli's favorite styles is Bluegrass, which she gets to play with the band Jussi Syren and the Groundbreakers. The band has performed throughout Finland and recorded several albums. Nelli has also performed with Finnish pop artists, such as Erin and Lauri Tähkä.

Teaching and working with children is very close to Nelli's heart. She has worked as an actress, musician, composer, and arranger at theatres in Tampere and Helsinki.

Whatever the situation, Nelli feels that it is very important to have an open mind and heart and find the meaning of what you are doing. She feels you should never lose your imagination and ability to play, even when you are grown up. She likes to say: "If you're having a good time [on stage], so will the audience."
(Bruce Molsky, an American old-time fiddler, banjo player, guitarist, and singer).



Our 2014 Kalevala performer, Nelli Ikola-Heiska is an amazingly talented fiddler and singer. She has arranged a concert for us that will combine old and new music in an exciting and surprising way.

The Nordic Dancers

will take us back in time with their colorful dance performance at the Kalevala Celebration!

The Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C., also welcome new participants. The group meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 at Highland View Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland, and, with the exception of the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Year's Day, will meet regularly on Wednesdays until June.

Come and learn traditional folk dances of Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Newcomers are welcome; no prior dance experience is necessary.

For more information, contact Chris Kalke at [301-864-1596](tel:301-864-1596) or ckalke@verizon.net

or see the website: <<http://sites.google.com/site/nordicdancersdc/> .

Three Finnish American Citizen Ambassadors Honored



From left: Tuula Barlow, Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Karin DaHarb and Maiju Wilson.

The FFNCC Board would like to congratulate members Tuula Barlow, Karin DaHarb and Maiju Wilson on receiving the Cross of Merit of the White Rose of Finland.

The Finnish government honored them with the award in December 2013 for their many years of dedicated work supporting Finn Spark.

Congratulations!

Source: Embassy of Finland, DC
<http://www.finland.org/public/default.aspx?contentid=296769&nodeid=35833&culture=en-US>

Olympic Task: Making Sure There's Snow

Sochi Games Turn to Finnish Expert With Stockpile Plan

HELSINKI—Mikko Martikainen bends down and picks up a handful of snow. "You see, it's dying," he says, as he feels the crystals between his fingers. "There's no connection. It's like a porridge!" He chucks it on the ground.

The 56-year-old Finn is something of a snow whisperer. Using a combination of personal ingenuity and the latest in snow-making equipment, Mr. Martikainen has created a business that solves snow quandaries everywhere from Africa to the Himalayas.

Today, he's at a Helsinki indoor ski center trying to make the snow feel less like soppy oatmeal and more like the stuff of a snowball, without raising operating costs. But the task is nothing compared with his highest-profile job: Guaranteeing snow for the coming Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in February.

"I'm not worried," Mr. Martikainen says of the conditions in Sochi. "If someone else is, let them be, but I'm not, because I have a lot of information."

Upon witnessing the near-disastrous snow shortage at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, he figured the services of his nimble one-man company, Snow Secure Ltd., could help the organizers of the subsequent games, scheduled to take place in the warmest region of Russia.

In May 2010, Mr. Martikainen set off to Russia for the first time in his life.

The day after his sales pitch in Moscow, he flew to Sochi and soon became a regular fixture in the mountains there. The task fit his company philosophy: To tackle niche snow problems too

small for what he calls "big companies doing ordinary big things." He likes "mission impossibles" on the frontier of snow-making and dreams of something he describes as "hi-tech snow."

Mr. Martikainen has been traveling to Sochi roughly once a month to prepare the Russian host city's "contingency snow master plan."

It's essentially a three-pronged approach. First, organizers will rely on ordinary snow-making equipment. Then, there are nearly 500,000 cubic meters of snow that Mr. Martikainen has stored since last season in some 14 insulated piles tucked away in the Caucasus Mountains. Lastly, organizers have imported three machines guaranteed to produce snow in temperatures as high as 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

A spokeswoman for the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee, which hired Mr. Martikainen, calls him "our official expert."

If there is too much snow, Mr. Martikainen says he has removal plans for that, too. "It's like insurance," he says.

Of his many days in Sochi, Mr. Martikainen is fairly tight-lipped. He says he has signed a confidentiality agreement. (He says Finns, anyhow, are known for being silent types.)



Source: Wall Street Journal

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303330204579248452175999202>

Mark you calenders for the Nordic Christmas Service on Christmas Eve 2014

Although Christmas is 11 months away, it's never too early to make plans for next year. If next year's service is anything like the one that just happened, perhaps you'll consider attending the Nordic Christmas Service at Augustana Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C.

The Christmas Eve service brought together the Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish churches in Washington, D.C. It was primarily a music-themed service that included songs in each of the Nordic languages, as well as English translations, so everyone was able to participate.

Not only did the service include a biblical reading in Finnish, but two songs performed by Meri Siirala, a Finnish soprano visiting from Helsinki. Who couldn't help but get in the Christmas spirit after listening to her performance of "En etsi valtaa, loistoa," which has to be one of the loveliest Finnish Christmas carols.

A number of FFNCC members were spotted in the pews. Hopefully, we'll see more of you next year.

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

A long-term FFNCC member and an established figure in the Finnish-American community in the DC area, Dr. Paul E. Halla passed away on November 30, 2013, after a brief hospitalization in Arlington, VA.

Dr. Paul E. Halla was born January 29, 1925, in New York City. In 1948, he graduated from the Columbia University School of Dentistry. Paul became Goochland County, Virginia's first dentist in 1950. He later moved to Northern Virginia where in 1967 he became the first dentist in Sterling, Virginia. He was well known and was a member of the Sterling Lyons Club, the Finlandia Foundation, the Masonic Fraternal Order, the Short of Breath Club and the Mall Walkers. Prior to his retirement in 1985, Paul learned to fly and bought his own airplane.

He is survived by three children, Paul Halla, Jr. of Bracey, Virginia, David Halla of Alexandria, VA and Betty Teichman of Venice, Florida; and three grandchildren, David Teichman, Amelia Teichman and Matthew Halla.

A visitation was held at the Murphy Funeral Home, 4510 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA on Thursday, December 5, 2013, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Inurnment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

ONLINE CONDOLENCES AT: www.murphyfuneralhomes.com

Source:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=168327610#sthash.GNQSnO7i.dpuf>

America's leading businesswomen have Finnish roots

Two of America's leading businesswomen can lay claim to Finnish roots.

Mary Barra, recently promoted to her position as CEO of General Motors, boasts a maiden name of "Mäkelä" and grandparents who immigrated to the US from Finland. A number of Finnish news sources, including YLE and Helsingin Sanomat, have devoted enthusiastic attention to Barra's heritage.

When Barra was growing up in Michigan, her parents were active members in the Finnish-American community and their local cultural organizations. Though Barra has not yet visited Finland itself, she speaks a little Finnish.

Barra is the first woman to run a global auto-manufacturing company, making her a trailblazer in her field.

Yahoo's CEO **Marissa Mayer** is descended from Finns on her mother's side. When Google appeared as a start-up, she was among its first twenty employees and its only female engineer.

Mayer grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin. Her mother, an art teacher, loved Marimekko prints and employed them as ubiquitous decorations in their family's home. Mayer claims these influenced her aesthetic when designing Google's user interface. She went on to become a long-time executive and key spokesperson for Google.

In 2011, she traveled to Finland to visit the birthplace of her ancestors.

Mayer became CEO of Yahoo in 2012 and has since been featured in a number of magazines including Vogue, Forbes, and Fortune. As CEO, Mayer has made a number of major acquisitions for Yahoo, including Tumblr, a popular social media platform. In her everyday life, she balances her career with an assortment of active hobbies, including running and dancing.



CEO of General Motors, Mary Barra

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/profile/mary-barra/>



CEO of Yahoo, Marissa Mayer

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/profile/marissa-mayer/>

...and also IRS's new commissioner, John Koskinen's roots are in Finland

In the beginning of this month, President Obama nominated John Koskinen, to be the new IRS commissioner.

John is an expert at turning around institutions in need of reform," President Obama said in a statement. "With decades of experience, in both the private and public sectors, John knows how to lead in difficult times, whether that means ensuring new management or implementing new checks and balances."

John Koskinen has Finnish roots and below is an article from Ilta-Sanomat, which explains them in more detail.

Jari Astula Ilta-Sanomista selvitti Barack Obaman veropomoksi nimitetyn John Koskisen suomalaista sukutaustaa. Suomalaistaustainen John Koskinen aloitti joulun alla työt uudessa virassaan Yhdysvaltain verovirasto IRS:n johdossa.

Koskinen kertoi IS:lle viime viikolla, että hän saa kiittää suomalaisia esi-isiään sinnikkyydestä, joka on auttanut häntä urallaan. Ilta-Sanomat ryhtyi selvittämään Koskisen sukujuuria tämän suostumuksella sen jälkeen, kun Koskinen oli kertonut, että suvun suomalaistaustat ovat hänelle monelta osin hämärän peitossa. Apuna selvityksessä oli muiden muassa sukututkimusta harrastava Hannele Kultala.

- Olen todella kiitollinen selvityksistä. Tiedän nyt suomalaisista juuristani enemmän kuin koskaan aiemmin, John Koskinen viestitti IS:lle.

Koskisen kaikki isovanhemmat olivat suomalaisia, jotka muuttivat Yhdysvaltoihin paremman elämän toivossa 1900-luvun alkuvuosina. Koskisen isä Yrjö Koskinen syntyi Clevelandissa, Ohiossa ja äiti Irja o.s. Danska Minnesotan Chisholmissa. Kumpikin puhui sujuvaa suomea, mutta eivät opettaneet sitä lapsilleen, koska halusivat näiden puhuvan englantia ilman aksenttia. Perhe oli kuitenkin tiivis osa Clevelandin suomalaisyhteisöä John Koskisen nuoruudessa.

Koskisen isän isä oli Juho Alfred Koskinen, maanviljelijä Karstulasta Keski-Suomesta ja isän äiti Ida Maria o.s. Poikonen, niin ikään Karstulasta Humpin kylästä. He muuttivat Yhdysvaltoihin vuonna 1905 juuri ennen Yrjö-pojan syntymää. Juhon nimi muuttui uudessa kotimaassa Johniksi, ja hän kuoli jo vuonna 1915. Koskisen äidin isä näyttää alustavien selvitysten mukaan ottaneen Yhdysvalloissa nimen Andrew Tanska, äidin äidin nimi muuttui muotoon Mary Tanska ja hän oli tyttönimeltään Jalonen. Alkuperäisiä suomalaisia etunimiä ei ole vielä tiedossa. Nimien kirjoitusasu vaihtelee eri rekistereissä. Äidin suku oli kuitenkin lähes varmasti kotoisin Vehkalahdelta. Koskisen Ida-isoäidin tiedoista kävi myös ilmi, että tämä oli syntynyt vuonna 1887 aviottomana lapsena, mikä siihen aikaan tarkoitti usein suurta häpeää.

- Muistan hämärästi jotain epämääräisiä viittauksia Idan syntymästä. Kuten todettua, ihmiset olivat sata vuotta sitten aika paljon ankarampia noissa asioissa, John Koskinen muisteli IS:lle.



John Koskinen ei ole koskaan käynyt Suomessa, mutta haluaisi korjata tilanteen.

- Isäni kuoli jo vuonna 1956 eikä koskaan käynyt Suomessa. Äitini, joka oli englanninopettaja, kävi kerran Suomessa sukulaistensa luona. Minä en ole vielä Suomeen ehtinyt, mutta toivon korjaavani tilanteen. Tosin uudessa työssäni ei taida olla juuri aikaa lomailuun, John Koskinen kirjoitti IS:lle.

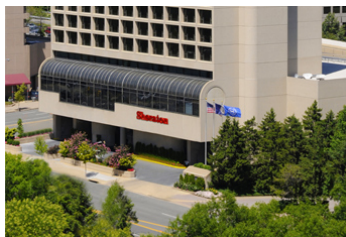
Source: <http://www.iltasanomat.fi/ulkomaat/art-1288634026097.html>



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



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



CELEBRATION, CELEBRATION!

**SAVE A DATE: April 12, 2014,
at 6 pm for a Dinner-Dance
Gala at the Sheraton Hotel
In Crystal City, Virginia!**

**We are looking forward to
have you and your friends
come to celebrate FINN
SPARK'S 65th ANNIVERSARY
in a grand style!**

**Ticket prices per person are:
\$65 for a member & avec and
\$75 for non-members.**

**For further information,
please contact: Marianne
Parssinen at [757-748-1818](tel:757-748-1818) or
parssinens@msn.com.**

EVENTS 2014

Sunday, February 16th, 2 pm
Finnish Congregation Worship Service
Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

Friday, February 21st, 6 pm
Kalevala Dinner and Silent Auction
Embassy of Finland
3301 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Sunday, March 16th, 2 pm
Finnish Congregation Worship Service
Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

Saturday, March 22nd, 5 pm
Movie and Pizza Night for Adults
Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

Saturday, April 12th, 6 pm
Finn Spark's 65th Anniversary Gala
Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
Arlington, VA

TBA
European Union Embassies' Open House
Washington, DC

Sunday, May 18th, 2 pm
Finnish Congregation Worship Service
Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA

TBA
Summer Picnic and Annual Meeting
TBA

Sunday, June 15th, 2 pm
Finnish Congregation Worship Service
Resurrection Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA



In 2014, August 8-10, we'll hold a FinnFest USA festival in Minneapolis. At this festival, we will focus special attention on contemporary Finnish culture...especially contemporary music, gaming, alternative edgy programming to entice younger attendees. Yet...we won't ignore the traditional festival aspects people have come to love and expect. We just won't make it a long or huge series of events that overwhelm the local volunteers.

In addition, we'll honor the 150th anniversary of the start of Modern Finnish Immigration to North America, (The first group got off a river boat in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1864, establishing the oldest continuous Finnish community in North America...Cokato, Minnesota.) Because local Twin Cities public institutions are already planning events around three contemporary art exhibits that the FinnFest USA will feature during this weekend, the volunteers will have smaller programming tasks.

August 28-31, we'll hold an alternative FinnFest USA festival in Helsinki and, for some, a "field trip" on the Russian rivers from St. Petersburg to Moscow. With the organizational help of Cruise Masters (who co-directed the 2009 Alaska FinnFest with us), and volunteers in Finland, we will offer a festival with a theme: "Finland as a Gateway to Russia." We'll spend 3.5 days in Helsinki where we will explore both historic and contemporary Finland connections to Russia. We intend to give attendees a unique and invaluable lens through which to look at Russia as well as at Finland.

We'll spend our festival days together with a single stream of programming for all attendees. Presentations by scholars and professionals who work with Finland/Russia perspectives will work in tandem with special guided tours to Helsinki sites. Our goal: revealing both historic and 21st C Finland. In the evenings, we can attend the annual Helsinki Festival events.

This Finland festival will have two parts: the first in Helsinki, the second on a cruise on the Russian rivers from St. Petersburg to Moscow. The two parts will work together, the first setting up the second. On the Russian river cruise, after the day's tours, Finnish commentators will provide "Finnish perspectives" and join evening conversations about Finland, now occurring in the context of the daily Russian site visits.

People can purchase as much of this festival as they want. Some will want only to attend the Helsinki events. Others will want to use the Helsinki days as an introduction and special Finnish orientation to the Russian river cruise. Of course, people could also register just for the cruise. We're hoping many will want to do both.

If this approach works, we will create other kinds of study tours for Finland in future years....while still continuing to hold annual festivals in the USA.

Signing up for the cruise is occurring now and only while space remains available. (Purchase of the cruise will include the Helsinki registration fee.) Registration for the Helsinki section only and the Minneapolis festival will be available in early fall. More information: [Nanette Padero: 253.906.4250 or npadero@msn.com](mailto:Nanette.Padero:253.906.4250)

Welcome to our newest members!

Kim Luoma and family, Arlington, VA - Lifetime members

Jeanie Mah and Mike Greene, Washington, DC

Kris Vaitkus and Bob Olshin and family, Rockville, MD

Inger Nilsson, Alexandria, VA

James Merikangas and family, Chevy Chase, MD

Henry Blum and family, Falls Church, VA

Jennifer Perala, Germantown, MD

TJ and Val Kennedy, Broadlands, VA

Ana-Liisa Davidsson and Chuck, Manassas, 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