



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER - May 2015

EVENTS 2015

**Saturday,
May 23rd, 12 - 4 pm**
**Summer Picnic and
Annual Meeting**
Private Beach,
Annapolis, MD

**Saturday,
June 6th, 8 pm**
**Baltimore Symphony
Orchestra plays
Sibelius**
Strathmore
5301 Tuckerman Lane,
North Bethesda, MD

**Sunday,
June 21st, 2:30 pm**
**Scandinavian
Midsummer
Celebration and
Picnic**
Carderock Picnic Pavilion
Potomac, MD

**Friday,
June 26th, 7 pm**
**Tapiola
Chamber Choir**
Serenade!
Choral Festival
St. Anne's Parish,
199 Duke of Gloucester St.,
Annapolis, MD

**Saturday,
June 27th, 7 pm**
**Tapiola
Chamber Choir**
Serenade!
Choral Festival
Church of the Epiphany,
1317 G St NW,
Washington, DC

**Sunday,
June 28th, 6 pm**
**Tapiola Chamber
Choir**
Millennium Stage,
The Kennedy Center,
Washington, DC

Dear Members,

Happy Memorial Day!

It's hard to remember how cold the weather was only a couple of months ago and how a snowstorm falling on the eve of our Kalevala celebration made for such a memorable event! Many thanks to our members who managed to attend the Kalevala dinner and to Cultural Counselor, Keijo Karjalainen, for his welcoming remarks and to the Nordic Dancers and the Olli Hirvonen Trio for their much anticipated and much appreciated performances!



Thanks also to all of our donors to the silent auction and to board member, Tabby Takala, for help in acquiring such a wide array of donations this year. A kantele donated by The Kantele Shop in Duluth, MN and a catered Nordic meal for 6 donated by Chef Mikko Catering garnered the highest bids and helped us to successfully raise funds for our grant and scholarship programs.

If you were not able to attend Kalevala there are still more chances to join us as the Sibelius 150th Jubilee continues throughout the year. Our chapter will co-host a Sibelius concert with the Embassy of Finland on September 23rd. Cellist, Jussi Makkonen, and pianist and great granddaughter of Sibelius, Ruusamari Teppo, will perform for us at the Embassy. Please refer to the events listing for upcoming concert dates for the BSO and the Tapiola Chamber Choir.

And lastly, I would like to thank two board members who are leaving us. Irina Watkins is moving to Massachusetts to pursue a doctorate in Counseling Psychology with a focus in Athletic Counseling at Springfield College. She will travel to Columbia this summer as an assistant manager with the USA Track & Field Youth National Team at the IAAF World Youth Championships.

Newsletter Editor, Susanna Andersson, is moving back to Turku with her family this summer. Her husband's new job will be to build a 4G network in Finland. Susanna's primary job will be making sure their three kids can find their way to school using public transportation. Eventually, she'll continue to work as a psychologist and health coach. Susanna has been an integral member of the board for many years.

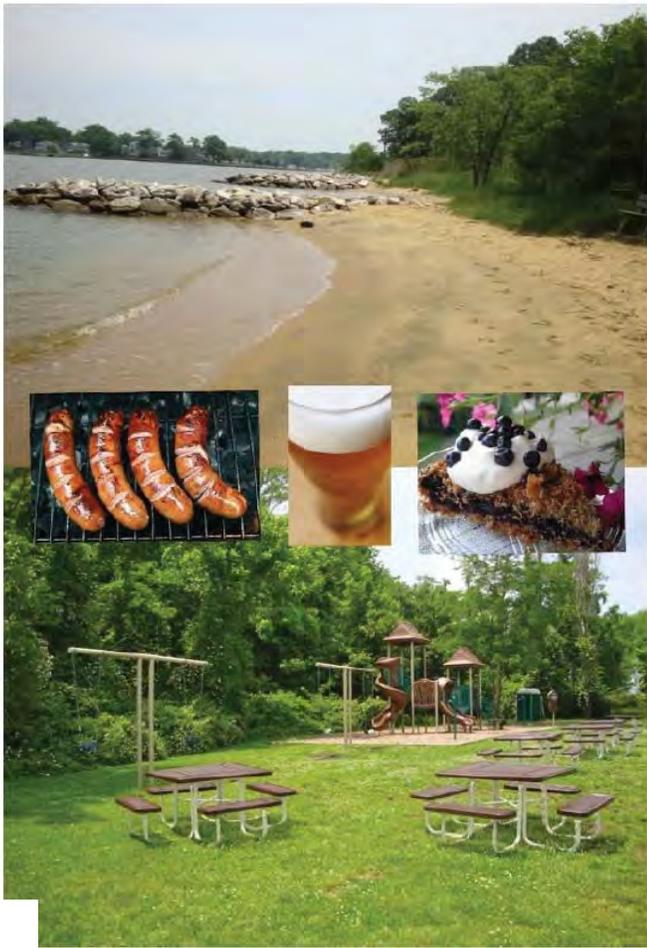
Both Irina and Susanna were also teachers at the Finnish Language School and I know the whole Finnish community will miss them! Please join us at our picnic with the Baltimore Chapter near Annapolis this Saturday to bid them farewell! The weather forecast looks perfect so far!

Kirsti Frenzen Noring

FFNCC Board of Directors 2014-2015

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

It's Summer Picnic and Annual Meeting Time!



Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter
and Baltimore Area Chapter's

SUMMER PICNIC!

Rain or shine

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Noon to 4:00 pm

Private beach

By Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis, MD

Swimming is allowed

Soft drinks, grilled sausages, and dessert
Provided by FFNCC and FFBAC

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

Bring a folding chair or a picnic blanket

Fee \$10 per adult, free for children

Please register at FFNCC's website
www.finlandiadc.org by using PayPal

Due to shortage of parking, registration is limited.
Please register early and carpool if possible.

*Registration and payments due by May 20th
while space is still available*

Driving directions and a map on next page



The weather looks lovely for Saturday's Picnic
by the Chesapeake Bay!

Bring swim gear for the kids! And adults, too.

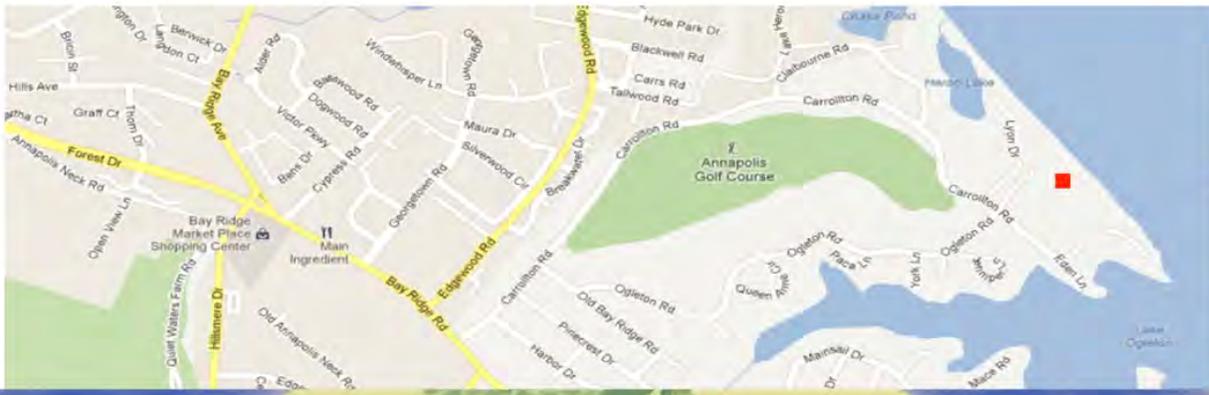
Directions from Highway 50 East (John Hanson Highway) or I-97 South:

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

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

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

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



The FFNCC Nominating Committee, appointed by the FFNCC President in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Bylaws, and consisting of Susanna Andersson, Irina Watkins and Robert Cavanaugh, has submitted its report, containing the following proposed Board slate for the July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 period.

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER, Nominations for Board of Directors 2015 –2016

President: Kirsti Frenzen Noring
1st Vice President: Stephen Frey
2nd Vice President: Mikko McFeely
Treasurer: Mikko Mäkäräinen
Recording Secretary: Bruce Griffin
Newsletter Editor: Erika Carlson
Members at Large: Leila Takala, Tabitha Takala, Juha Seppälä, Kaija Wilson and Sonja Mushahid

The FFNCC Annual Meeting and Election, as stipulated by paragraph 6 of the Bylaws, will take place on Saturday, May 23rd, 2015.

If you have any questions about the nominations, please contact
Susanna Andersson susanna.andersson@gmail.com, Irina Watkins irina@irinawatkins.com or
Robert Cavanaugh, robertjamescavanaugh@gmail.com.

Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät goes Euroviisut!

Every spring, for going on sixty years now, Europe has gone to war not with arms but with music, dance, and over-the-top costumes.

The relative seriousness of Eurovision has waxed and waned over the decades, and even over the runtime of single contests. While many countries have entered serious ballads or songs based in their country's folk traditions, still others capitalize on camp, spectacle, or outright bizarreness to hold the rest of the continent's attention. Past winners have included such well known acts as ABBA (who swept Eurovision 1974 with "Waterloo") and Celine Dion of Titanic fame. Memorably strange acts, on the other hand, include a Ukrainian team dancing wildly to bright silver outfits, a vampiric Romanian opera singer, and a singing turkey puppet competing for Ireland.

Finland has only won Eurovision a single time, in 2006, when the contest was hosted in Athens. The victors, a band called Lordi, captured the hearts of Europe in true Finnish style with a blend of daring eccentricity and monster metal. At the time, they broke the record for points scored in both the grand final and the semi-final. Lordi succeeded not only due to their catchy stage performance of their song, "Hard Rock Hallelujah" but by remaining in costume and in character throughout the duration of the contest. Even as they relaxed by the pool, band members made sure that they were photographed in their monster outfits. After their victory, Lordi were honored with a postage stamp, a soft drink, and a square named after them in the center of Rovaniemi.

Vienna will host 2015's song contest, after bearded Austrian drag queen Conchita Wurst took first place with her Bond movie theme "Rise Like a Phoenix" last year. This year, Finland will send an original act of their own. Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät, a band of the punk genre, will perform the song "Aina Mun Pitää." According to the BBC, their act represents a number of firsts for the Contest. "Aina Mun Pitää" is Eurovision's first punk number, and Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät is their first band with developmentally disabled members to enter.

Already an established act, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät has toured throughout Europe and the US and been featured in a documentary. Unfortunately, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät didn't make it to the Eurovision finals. The world was not ready. But regardless, PKN has already made a huge difference in the lives of many people. That is a real victory.

The Eurovision Song Contest can be watched Saturday, May 23 at 3 PM Eastern Standard Time.



Text: Erika Carlson

Photo: BBC <http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-32628661>

Kalevala Celebration was also a celebration of SISU!

Our Kalevala Celebration in March was full of surprises. First, a snow storm made the roads slightly slippery, but it also made the scenery out of Embassy windows beautifully festive. Second, the Performer of the Year Olli Hirvonen's car met a sudden end somewhere in Delaware. Luckily, all's well that ends well. This was a fun evening with fabulous food, wonderful silent auction wins, performances to remember, and excellent company.



Accommodation for The Tapiola Chamber Choir?

The Tapiola Chamber Choir will be coming to the East Coast in June 18-29 as part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Jean Sibelius. FFN is bringing them to perform concerts in New York City, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the DC area.

The choir is scheduled to perform at the International Serenade Choir Festival [Classical Movements, Inc. - Serenade! Washington, DC Choral Festival](#) on June 26 and 27, and at the Millenium Stage at the Kennedy Center on June 28.

It would be a HUGE help if we could find housing in private homes in the DC area between June 25 and June 28 for at least some of the 30 choir members. Would you be able to provide accommodations for all or part of their stay in DC? If so, please contact pianist Marja Kaisla: mjkaisla@yahoo.com.



Celebration of Finland's Centenary in 2017

Finland will commemorate 100 years of independence in 2017. Planning for a year long celebration has already begun. A Centenary Board, appointed by the Finnish government, has chosen "Together" as the main theme of the commemoration. Representatives from local Finnish groups recently met with Ambassador Koukku-Ronde and embassy staff to discuss underlying centenary themes and ways to mark the occasion.

The celebration is open to all Finns, Finnish-Americans and friends of Finland. The Finlandia University Finnish Council in America has formed a planning committee and is soliciting input for ideas on how to make the anniversary a "truly national and international effort to lift up Finland's 100th birthday."

Hopefully, more Finnish-American entities – including the 48 Finlandia Foundation chapters, the Finnish American Chambers of Commerce, Finnish language schools, the Finnish honorary consuls and Finnish companies – will begin planning for centenary celebrations throughout the US in 2017.

Look for more information on the Centenary in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, send us any ideas you may have to observe this significant milestone!



Finnspiration

FinnFest USA 2015

Buffalo, NY October 9-12

Music, architecture, art, history and culture – Finland and Buffalo meet for a cultural festival like none before!

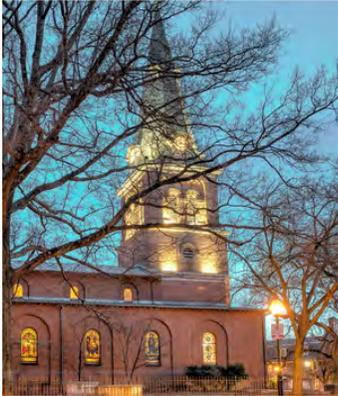
Join us at FinnFest USA 2015 in Buffalo, NY to experience the thrill of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius's symphonies performed by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in the restored splendor of Kleinhans Music Hall, designed by Finnish architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen. Be immersed in the film and video work of Eija-Liisa Ahtila, one of Finland's most important contemporary artists, and explore the influence of Sibelius's music on Western New York watercolorist Charles Burchfield. You'll learn about Finland's history, culture, and inspiring contemporary social innovations, and discover the surprising connections between Finland and Western New York. And you'll have a great time with plenty of shopping, food, friends, music, and dancing! Come be "Finnspired" at FinnFest USA 2015 Buffalo!

The basic outline of the festival schedule and information about hotel reservations can be found on our website: <http://www.finnfestusa.org/buffalo2015.html>.

Registration information and program details will be added throughout the spring and summer. Keep up to date with the latest FinnFest USA news by following our [FinnFest USA 2015 event page](#) on Facebook and signing up for our email newsletter to receive updates!



Private Beach,
Annapolis, MD



St. Anne's Parish,
199 Duke of Gloucester St.,
Annapolis, MD



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1317 G st NW,
Washington, DC



The Kennedy Center,
Washington, DC

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Sunday, June 28th, 6 pm

Tapiola Chamber Choir

The Millenium Stage,
The Kennedy Center,
Washington, DC

Wednesday, September, 23rd

Sibelius Concert, Jussi Makkonen, cello Ruusamari Teppo, piano

Embassy of Finland,
Washington, DC

Friday - Monday, October 9th - 12th

FinnFest 2015

Buffalo, NY

Thank you for becoming a Life Member and Welcome New Members!

❖ Life Member Sonja Lillrank

- ❖ Matthew Bergstrom
 - ❖ Mary Knuti
 - ❖ Alice Markham
 - ❖ Mikko McFeely
 - ❖ Sonja Mushahid
 - ❖ Alexa Risseeuw
 - ❖ Zachary Risseeuw
- ❖ Anna Leigh Turtiainen

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



**Finlandia
Foundation[®]
National**

Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953.

Sign up for the free, monthly E-News for the latest from our parent organization Finlandia Foundation National:

www.finlandiafoundation.org

Useful links:

- Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter - www.finlandiadc.org
- Finlandia Foundation National - www.finlandiafoundation.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
- American Scandinavian Association - <http://scandinavian-dc.org/>

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