OCTOBER 2026
Newsletter

President's Greetings

Hyvää Syksy!

In September I had the opportunity to attend FinnFest in Minneapolis; colors were already vibrantly changing! It was wonderful to be with so many Finnish friends old and new! It was held in Minneapolis and various venues across the City. For me, one of several highlights of the weekend was seeing the play *MORTON: The Forgotten Founder* in an outdoor setting at Minnehana Park. Whether it has been hearing the Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, Jay Smith, then celebrating the Fourth of July or recently watching the play, I have been reminded of the work and risk of others that has given me/us the freedoms we enjoy today. Much like fall, seasons change but hopeful the message of Freedom continues for us and others. Please plan to join us as FFNCC hosts one of our Members/Board Member presenting his work, *What the 56 Pledged* on Friday, October 30 in Washington, DC. Due to limited capacity, please RSVP ASAP.

The week before, we look forward to learning or practicing our craft skills and enjoying the freedom to be creative. On October 24 we will learn to knit and crochet. This skill has become a popular hobby among all ages so I hope to see a varied group that evening! We have a number of donated yarns and materials and we will have some nice blue yarns available for purchase so we can wear our Finnish pride and freedom whether it's a hat, a little heart to carry around or a garland for at home. Come out and join us even if the craft isn't your thing!

We hope you will join us for upcoming events. We do our best to publish ahead of time but please go to our website as we do add events as we receive details.

Kiitos, Andrea Pakonen Rasmussen, President

BOOK TALK & REVIEW

Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter

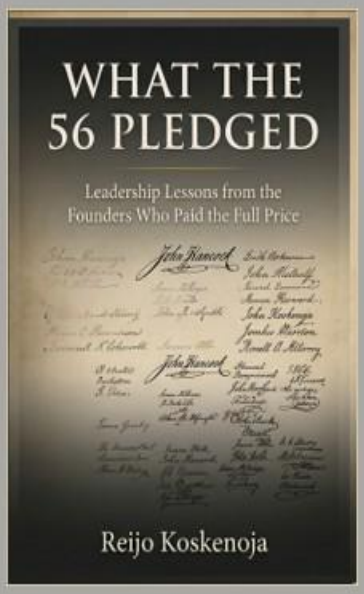
Friday, October 30, 2026 · Washington, DC · finlandiadc.org

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER PRESENTS

What the 56 Pledged

A book talk and review featuring author Reijo Koskenoja

Please join us for an insightful and knowledgeable review of what a Finn brought to our Declaration of Independence.



Reijo Koskenoja is a researcher and writer — and a Finnish American, like John Morton of Pennsylvania, one of the fifty-six signers. What the 56 Pledged reconstructs the documented record of every man who signed the Declaration of Independence, not just the famous few.

DATE & TIME

Friday, October 30, 2026

Doors open at 6:45 PM · Program begins at 7:00 PM

LOCATION

The Cosmos Club

2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008

RSVP REQUIRED

By Friday, October 24, 2026

finlandiadc.org

DRESS CODE: Business Formal. No form of athletic attire permitted, per Cosmos Club policy.

GIVING BACK: All profits from book sales at this event will be donated to the Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter.

"Eleven died before the republic was secure. Seven were captured or imprisoned. Six were financially ruined. Nearly sixty percent suffered serious, documented consequences traceable directly to their signatures."

56	25	250th
SIGNERS, FULLY ACCOUNTED FOR	CHAPTERS OF LEADERSHIP LESSONS	ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION

2 Creative and Crafty Events!

Saturday October 24, 4:00-6:00

We will have you in “stitches”

Our instructor will show how to create several simple crochet/knitting projects you can use or gift this holiday!

A strand of hearts, a hat or a dishcloth

All materials will be included. Participants will be charged only materials of their choosing.

RSVP required. On-site payment.

Please register at www.finlandiadc.org





If you crochet or knit we welcome you assistance with this activity!

Sunday November 22, 2:00-5:00

Time to make some items to bring a little Finnish crafting to your holiday home and table. Simple projects for all ages.

All materials will be included. Costs will be posted on website as soon as available

Kids and Adults are welcome! RSVP required.




Both events will be held at

Resurrection Lutheran Church

6201 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22205



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Margaret: MHilton8@gmail.com **Catharine: CCashner@yahoo.com**

Contact directly for Class times/location

Thanks to all for joining us at the Annual Picnic!

Despite rainy weather, 30 members including newlyweds, a toddler and a well-behaved pup enjoyed the food and beverages at Island Time Bar & Grill, Columbia Island Marina. Thanks to them for a great menu! And Thanks to Katja and Ashley for their desserts!















PLEASE NOTE: The Christmas Bazaar has MOVED from Bethesda to Springfield!!!

Same Great Event – New Location!

Invite Friends and Neighbors Great Food, Convenient Parking

Interesting facts about Finland (continued)

Did you know:



188. The World's Largest from Finland – Cruise Ship "Hero of the Seas"

Finland is small in terms of population, but the Finnish shipbuilding industry is an example of the country's high technical level. No other country builds cruise ships as large as those made in Finland.

The world's largest cruise ship, Hero of the Seas, was launched from the Turku shipyard (Meyer Turku) in September. The ship is 365 meters long (longer than 3.5 football fields) and 66 meters wide. It will have a crew of 2,350 and can carry 7,600 passengers. Over 60 percent of the ship, which will be delivered to Royal Caribbean next summer, is already completed, and the equipping phase of the cruise ship's interiors and navigational equipment has already begun.



Previously, the Turku shipyard has delivered three other cruise ships to Royal Caribbean Group, that is, Icon of the Seas, Star of the Seas, and Legend of the Seas. They also rank among the world's largest. These ships have already sailed for several years, mainly in the Caribbean Sea, transporting and entertaining hundreds of thousands of travelers.

Royal Caribbean Group has ordered two more ships of the same Icon class from Finland. According to the company's chairman, Jason Liberty, "The Icon class reflects bold creativity and engineering expertise that continually redefine the ways we vacation." The Hero of the Seas, to be delivered to Royal Caribbean in the summer of 2027, will refresh the ship series. The ship will feature a larger water park than its predecessor and more swimming pools, and the use of colors in the interior is expected to be bolder than on previous similar ships.

Sources: Amerikan Uutiset and open internet. Photo: Open internet. Contributor: Turto Turtiainen (Interesting Facts will continue in upcoming newsletters.)

FFNCC 2026-27 Calendar

October 18 1:00pm	Finnish Worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA
October 24 4:00-6:00	Crafting w Finn Friends Learn new skills or share current projects Resurrection Lutheran Church 6210 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA
October 30 7:00pm	Book Review: *What the 56 Pledged - Written by FFNCC Member, Reijo Koskenoja* Cosmos Club Washington, DC
November 15 1:00pm	Finnish Worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church 6210 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA Celebrating All Saints few weeks late
November 21 11:00-3:00	Finnish Christmas Bazaar – NEW LOCATION Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA
November 22 2:00-5:00	Craft Night: Making Holiday Crafts Resurrection Lutheran Church 6210 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA
November 27 3:00	Washington Capitals v. Florida Panthers Hockey Game Watch Party Crystal City Sports Pub, 529 23rd Street S Arlington , VA
December 6 4:00pm	Independence Day Party Location TBD
December 12 100:00-12:00	Suomikoulu Christmas Celebration
December 13	Carol singing and Eucharist
December 23	Christmas Worship Service in Nordic Languages Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, DC
January	Annual Membership Renewal Begins
January	Baking Event Location TBD
February 15	Membership Renewal Ends
February 12-22	National Sauna Week Various locations DMV
March	Annual Dinner w Entertainment
March 14 3:00-5:00	FFNCC and Washington Accordion Society present An evening of Finnish Music w Vocal and Accordion pieces To be confirmed: Elks Lodge, Arlington, VA
May 1	Vappu Celebration
June	Juhannus Celebration