



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION®, INC.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

April 2010

Miriam Leino Eldridge, Editor

Web Page: www.finlandiasf.org

Message from the President

Early Finnish history in New Sweden is intriguing, and an old map published in 1976 and entitled **Pioneer Finns and Swedes of Delaware Valley** by Emil Lincoln Östman, together with written research, reveals the impact of the Finnish settlers at the time. Not only was John Hanson the first President of the United States, but names like New Vaasa, Fort New Korsholm, Tornio, Koukkojoki, Papinjoki, Uplanningjoki etc., clearly indicate the strong Finnish presence in the area.

John Hanson was of Finnish-Swedish ancestry and was a close friend of General George Washington. John Hanson was elected President at the meeting of the new government on November 5th, 1781. He also proclaimed the "First Thanksgiving Day." He died November 22, 1783.

Johannes Printz, a Finnish Cavalry officer in the Thirty Years' War, was one of the early Governors of the Delaware colony. Another Finnish settler, catching my attention, was Jöns Pahvelson (Pähvalsson). On my father's side, going back to the 17th century, the name Pafvals (Pähvals) appears in several generations. A farfetched thought?.....

The Honorable Marilyn Ware was appointed Ambassador to Finland in 2005. During her tenure in Finland, she learned that one of the leaders of the American quest for independence, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, John Morton, was of Finnish descent. While in Finland, she joined forces with Finnish and American genealogists and historians, to compile as much evidence as possible, in one definitive biography. Thus the "**John Morton Project**" was born.

An Advisory Board meeting was held in Philadelphia in November 2008. The next meeting will be held June 14 – 16, 2010, in Helsinki, Finland, where the panel will present their research and findings.

It is currently believed that John Morton's Grandfather was Marten Martensson (Mårten Mårtensson) born in Rautalampi, Finland. The

Marttinen family in Finland and John Morton's descendants in the US are undergoing DNA testing, conducted by Dr. Kostiainen of the University of Turku, in order to verify if this connection factually exists.

George



2010 Events Schedule

Sunday, May 16, 3:00 p.m.

Movie *Colorado Avenue*, a Swedish-dialect film from Finland with Finnish and English subtitles at First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper Avenue, Palo Alto. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Includes refreshments.

Sunday, September 19

Wine tasting tour. Details TBD.

Saturday, October 16, 2010 (Site TBD)

Finlandia Foundation 2010 POY (Performers of the Year), The "Finn Hall Band" from Minnesota. Dinner-Concert-Dance. Site TBD soon.

Sunday, November 7, 2010, 3 p.m., site TBD

Book talk by Stina Katchadourian
Presenting her new book, **The Lapp King's Daughter: A Family's Journey Through Finland's Wars.**

(see story)

Presentation — Book Signing — Refreshments.

Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 2 PM

Pikkujoulu – Lilla Jul – Christmas Party, Isle Cove.

**For reservations to any of the above events:
Please call: 415-673-3310 or 415-706-6218 (cell).
RSVPs are strongly recommended, especially when
refreshments must be prepared!**



Amanda Sechini

Chapter member Amanda Sechini passed away Saturday evening May 1 at the Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City at the age of 82. Complications after a recent heart surgery proved too much for her to overcome.

According to her wish, Amanda will be cremated and the remains spread at sea. She is survived by husband George and son Brian, plus family and friends.

Amanda served as the mailing coordinator for the chapter newsletter for several years.

No flowers, please. If you would like to honor Amanda's memory, you may make a donation to your favorite charity in her name.

Marion and George

Your Editor is Back

It's a pity that the last newsletter, which would have announced both the KYL concert and the LOY lecture by Prof. Arnold Alanen, had to be postponed because the editor unexpectedly landed in the hospital. Well, I'm back, minus some useless organs and apparently recovering well.

Stina's New Book is Here

Bay Area Chapter Board member Stina Katchadourian's book, **The Lapp King's Daughter: A Family's Journey Through Finland's Wars**, has been published by Fithian Press.

Basing her story on the correspondence between her parents as well as personal memories, the author brings a complex and dangerous part of Finland's history to life in a remarkable way. The main focus of the book is the little-known war between the Finns and the Germans in Lapland that led to the evacuation of the entire population of that part of the country.

The book can be ordered via your local bookstore, or by calling (800) 662-8351, or online at www.danielpublishing.com/bro/stina.html

KYL Concert

We welcomed the Helsinki Academic Choir KYL on April 6 to the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto: forty young men, splendidly togged out in full formal wear—and their admirable command of American English is just another example of how American television has penetrated the world, because, as we all know, what they're taught in school is British English. The master of ceremonies for this concert was Jussi Herlin, whose American is also that of the boy next door.

Here's a picture that shows how splendid a setting the sanctuary of the church was:



[Photo, Tuttu Tucker]

The KYL repertoire as described in their extensive program, prepared especially for this American tour from March 27 to April 9, runs the gamut from classic Finnish songs through Shakespeare and other English and American poets to Broadway tunes to "Macho Man"! For this concert, however, they ranged from Finland and Sweden through the British Isles to the U.S., for *Shenandoah*. The concert concluded with Sibelius' *Finlandia Hymn*.

An intermission with wine and snacks in the Fellowship Hall gave KYL an opportunity to mingle with the audience and sell their CDs. After the concert the audience repaired again to the Hall for coffee, cookies and *pulla*. Our thanks to Marion, Tuttu and Susanne for all the refreshments.

Prof. Arnold Alanen Lecture

In spite of a formidable downpour, a goodly number of people came to hear the lecture by Professor Alanen, of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Lecturer of the Year, on the subject of Finnish immigrant architecture in the United States. It was profusely illustrated with photographs from his collection of thousands that he has made over the years. His lecture style was lively, no doubt reflecting more than a few years striving to hold the attention of students, and his audience on this day was very responsive.

He said he had been extremely fortunate to encounter a few people who had collections of photographs that had historical value and who gave him access to them. We can only agree.

Prof. Alanen's lecture concentrated on domestic architecture, that is, farmhouses and saunas, and showed us how building styles brought from Finland were adapted for the U.S. Farmhouses were built, and expanded, as one-room units, often joined by a "dogtrot," a roofed passageway that could be used for storing hay or wood or machinery, or for many other adaptations.

He traced sauna architecture from the primitive "smoke sauna" through later versions that vented the smoke to the outdoors and gradually also adopted more modern versions of the *kiuas*, or sauna stove.



Photo: Prof. Alanen displays a quote from one of the people who had furnished historic pictures. (Photo, Jim Koski.)

A *voileipäpöytä/smorgåsbörd* followed the lecture, and lively conversations ensued among those sharing the tables. People were reluctant to leave!

AGM 2010

An artful Valentine's Day décor and sandwich-and-sweets buffet (thanks, Marion and helpers!) framed this meeting on February 14. Before we could enjoy that, of course, the usual order of business took place, at which all the previous Chapter officers were reelected. Also, Pirjo Polari-Khan was welcomed as a new Board member.

Mae Kaven has accepted the position of Publicity Chair, as a committee chair rather than a Board member for the present. You may already have become aware of her work.

The post-business-meeting program featured Don Fidler's slide show on his "Heritage Tour" to Finland with two of his cousins. Don is Finnish on his mother's side and wanted to explore his ancestry.

We were glad of his interest, because the show, accompanied by his commentary, was distinguished by beautifully composed photos and appropriate background music (some of which was composed by Don's brother). The tour took us around Finland, making a circuit: Helsinki – Rovaniemi – Seinäjoki – Korttesjärvi (where they saw their ancestral church) – Jakobstad (also known as Pietarsaari) – Lake Saimaa – a Kokko (bonfire) on Juhannus (Midsummer's Eve) – Turku – Naantali – and back to Helsinki.

Thanks to Don, who is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, we often have this church available for our meetings. Its spacious

Fellowship Hall with kitchen facilities is particularly appropriate and much appreciated

Millers are Grandparents!

Past President and FFN National Trustee Emerita Anja Miller and her husband Ray have become grandparents for the first time. The grandbabies are the twin (not identical) daughters of their daughter Elna. They were born on January 22, and their names are Marissa Rae and Julianne Amelia. They live in a little "doll house for 3 dolls," as Anja calls it, just 5 blocks from the grandparents' home.

"Life has really changed for all of us," says Anja. She hints that we may see some photos later.

African Adventure

Our new publicity chair, Mae Kaven, traveled to Africa recently to visit her granddaughter, who is a teacher in Malawi, and also to see Victoria Falls. Mae was to return on April 18 but, like so many other people, was grounded by the fallout from the Iceland volcano. She made a silk purse out of a sow's ear and extended her visit for another week, enabling more sightseeing. We look forward to hearing about her adventures.

More Member Stories Wanted!

I know that many of you travel to fascinating places during the year. (Were you, or someone you know, caught in the Iceland volcano aftermath?)

Or maybe there's an interesting change in your life such as happened with the Millers. Your fellow members and readers would like to hear your accounts of these events. Please send email to LeinoM@comcast.net or call (408) 448-5120 to tell me about it and I'll write up an item for the Newsletter, or publish what you write.

Song Recital

Danielle Crook writes:

"You are invited to my graduate recital on Sunday May 2, at San Jose State University. ... [T]he songs that make up this recital are rooted in the profound love and beauty that is present behind the moments of human suffering we all experience. ...

Featuring:
Danielle Crook, Soprano
Sharon Brook and Tristan Perotti, piano
Thanh Pham and Az Samad, Guitar

Sunday, May 2, 2010

1:30 p.m.
San Jose State University Concert Hall
Free of Charge”.

Six composers and seven languages will be featured, as well as texts by the great poets: Pushkin, Tolstoy, Hans Christian Andersen, Henrik Ibsen and more.

Soiva Music Camp at Salolampi

A reminder: this camp for musicians ages 11 –17 takes place June 14 – 20. It features instruction in violin, clarinet, flute, piano and composition. For further information, see <http://www.finlandiafoundation.org> and click on Soiva Camp.

An Enchanted Evening at Vikingsholm

The Chapter has been contacted by the Sierra State Parks Foundation regarding a fundraising event benefiting state park educational and restoration programs in the Lake Tahoe area. The event, *En Förtrollat Kväll på Vikingsholm* – An Enchanted Evening at Vikingsholm – will be held on June 27 at Vikingsholm Castle, which is widely considered the best example of Scandinavian architecture in North America. The event will feature Scandinavian food, entertainment and a silent auction.

The Board has voted to donate \$250 to this event, earmarked for preservation of the Castle.

See the accompanying flyer.

Swedish Club Spring Ball

Another accompanying flyer is the handsome invitation from the Swedish Club inviting our Chapter members to their annual Spring Ball.

Anita on Amerikan Uutiset

Anita Smiley writes that while on a visit to Florida recently, it was arranged for Mikko Koskinen of *Amerikan Uutiset* to interview her. She says: “He wrote a nice article about the work of FFN ... He is a member of the FFN chapter and is a strong proponent of the organization and our mission.

“If you go to www.amerikanuutiset.com there is a photo and headlines mentioning FFN. Those of you who read Finnish might want to get a copy of the newspaper to read the article. I hope that many of our Board members subscribe to this newspaper since we have a strong supporter there. “

Celebrating Vappu in Silicon Valley

On Saturday evening, May 1, a group of Silicon Valley Finns threw a lively Vappu party in honor of George Sundquist and our Chapter. We heartily thank the moving spirits, Maikku and Pekka Parnanen and Kicka and Micke Wendell.

The idea for this gala had originated with the group, comprising people from the Mountain View Suomikoulu, FinnPro and Nokia and other interested persons and groups. The aim was to encourage people to join the Chapter and hopefully raise funds for it. The admission price included the cost of a year's membership in the Chapter, so we gained a bunch of new members at one go!

The party was held in the tasting room of the Picchetti Winery, way up in the picturesque hills above Cupertino, beyond Stevens Creek Reservoir. A Scandinavian buffet, catered by well-known chef Pelle Nilsson (he catered our Pikkujoulu a couple of years ago), was outstanding, and the winery people were generously in pouring its wines.

Reflecting the Finnish custom of wearing your *ylioppilaslakki* (student's cap) during Vappu revels, many of these were in evidence. Some had formidable, fat tassels dangling from them; it was explained that these indicated an engineer or architect graduate of the Helsinki University of Technology.

George gave a magnificent address describing the origins and purpose of the Finlandia Foundation. He urged us to remember the sacrifices of the early immigrants who worked in the mines and forests, tried to secure better working conditions for themselves, and were often assaulted and even murdered for their efforts. This is yet another aspect of Finnish culture for us to commemorate.

In his speech, George also stressed the role of FFN in awarding grants and scholarships. He singled out the most recent grant recipients:

- Raisa Punkki, dancer and Pilates instructor in San Francisco, who received a grant last year. You can read about Raisa in the current issue of *Suomen Silta/Finland Bridge*. The English-language article is on page 22.
- Dr. Julene Johnson, who won a Fulbright Scholarship to study for six months at the University of Jyväskylä. Her stay will build on her FFgrant entitled “Finnish American Kantele Players on the West Coast,” from last year.
- Stina Katchadourian, for her book, described above.

- Gloria Weng, also present at the party, received a grant a few years ago for her International children's school in Helsinki.

We regret that we don't have a photo of Gloria. However, here is a picture of the other grant recipients (*all photos courtesy of George Sundquist*).



Raisa, Julene and Stina
and to set the scene....



The Festive Venue



Maikku Parnanen, one of the organizers, with member Pirkko Lucchesi



George with the "instigators", Micke and Kikka Wendell, Maikku and Pekka Parnanen

There was also lovely background music featuring flute and electric guitar. We didn't catch the musicians' names, but we thank them.

... And a good time was had by all, as the old cliché goes. And with all the new members we acquired, what's not to like!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: Gunnel Pero
1365 Green St., #204
San Francisco, CA 94109

(Dues: \$20 individual, \$25 couple)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email (optional) _____

I (we) wish to (join/renew) (my/our) membership in the Finlandia Foundation's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter for the calendar year 2010.

Check enclosed for \$ _____

(Please make check out to "Finlandia Foundation—SFBAC")

Note: Membership dues are tax-deductible because Finlandia Foundation SFBAC is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation under Federal tax law.

Please let us know by checking the appropriate box:

I prefer to receive the Newsletter as (check one) Email attachment (with any color material, including photos) Hardcopy (black and white)