



# FINLANDIA FOUNDATION®, INC.

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

**December 2011**

**Miriam Leino Eldridge, Editor**

**Web Page: [www.finlandiasf.org](http://www.finlandiasf.org)**

### *Message from the President*

#### **Who are we - Where do we belong?**



*Sunset view of the Gulf of Bothnia from the front of the Sundquists' cabin at Vexala in Finland*

It is the middle of September. I am sitting by the window, facing the sea. While the sun is slowly setting in the west, before me spreads a 180-degree panorama of open water as far as the eye can see. My vision is broken only by an island to my far left, and the Stubben lighthouse, blinking every 19 seconds. It has faithfully guided coastal shipping into the natural deepwater harbor between Vexala and Monäs for generations.

Vexala is a narrow peninsula approximately 20 miles long, with most of its western side facing the Gulf of Bothnia and the wide-open waters between Finland and Sweden. A few hundred years ago it was an island and could be accessed only by boat or by crossing a wooden bridge near the Munsala church. The western coast is a multitude of sandy beaches and granite rock formations, stretching to the water's edge.

In my youth, this was our private playground, shared only by a few fishermen and their cabins. Except for logging roads in the winter, no roads pierced this nature wonderland, and to

reach it, and experience it, you walked, or skied, through the woods.

The winter was more fun. The sand dunes seem to have been made for great cross-country skiing, or for building jumping hills. And when the water froze, we would venture out on the ice as far as we dared. The spring thaw produced bubbling creeks from the inland ponds. Pike and other fish would fight their way upstream, past our homemade traps, in order to lay their eggs that would secure the next generation.

Today the Vexala peninsula is lined with hundreds of summer homes, and it is no longer the private playground it was in my youth. In addition to the locals, the coast and islands are now shared with vacationers from Karleby in the north to Helsinki in the south, who have discovered the area and built their own summer retreats here.

Do I miss the way it was? Yes. And am I thankful for the privilege we have of enjoying the multiple and special beauty of California, as well as the intense Nordic summer in Finland? Yes, again.

We hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and wish you a great Holiday Season.

*George and Marion*

### **2011-2012 Calendar of Events**



#### **Tuesday, December 6, 8pm**

Recital: Karita Mattila, soprano  
Martin Katz, piano

Songs by POULENC, DEBUSSY, AULIS SALLINEN and JOSEPH MARX

Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Ave. at McAllister, San Francisco)

Sponsored by Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation (see story)

**Dec. 8, 9, 10, 8 p.m.**



Esa-Pekka Salonen  
conducts the San Francisco Symphony  
Davies Hall

**Program:**

Sibelius: *Pohjola's Daughter*  
Esa-Pekka Salonen: *Violin Concerto*: Soloist Leila  
Josefowicz  
Wagner: Excerpts from *Götterdämmerung*

**Sunday, December 11, 2 p.m.**

Pikkujoulu/Lilla Jul/Christmas Party  
Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto  
Catered Finnish Christmas Dinner  
(*Joulupukki* will be there!)  
Silent Auction  
Featured artist: Gale Fulkerson,  
vocal and instrumental  
Christmas music  
\$30.00 per person  
\$60 per family (children up to age 12)

**Note: Limit 75 people**

Please send RSVP by **December 7** with check  
(made out to **FFSFBC**)  
to Gunnel Pero, 1365 Green St., #204, San Francisco,  
CA 94109

**Saturday, February 11, 2012, 3 p.m.**

Chapter Annual Meeting of Members  
Fellowship Hall of the 1st Presbyterian  
Church, Palo Alto  
1140 Cowper St. (at Lincoln Avenue)  
Election of Officers  
Refreshments  
Entertainment: Film "The Finland Phenomenon"  


## Pikkujoulu Story

*The translation of Pikkujoulu/Lilla Jul seems to depend on your generation and degree of church affiliation. The literal English translation is, of course, "Little Christmas." To some people it means the beginning of Advent, to others the early December office party. We invite you to translate it as you will and to enjoy it with us.*

This year we have a new and different location for our *Pikkujoulu/Lilla Jul*: the Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto. Much as we love the romantic outlines and sweeping views of Isle Cove, its kitchen is inadequate and the interior sightlines are not ideal. We hope you will enjoy our new venue. **(See the flyer attached to this newsletter for all address and phone information.)**

Christmas music will be provided once again by Page Fulkerson, vocalist and instrumentalist, whom we have heard at previous *Pikkujoulu* parties.

The Silent Auction has always been a popular feature of *Pikkujoulu*. Once again we ask you to search your cupboards and other storage spaces to identify items that were once much loved but that you haven't had much use for in the past few year, and to donate them for our Silent Auction. It's a valued fundraiser for the Chapter. As noted on the flyer, please contact Tuttu Tucker at (650) 345-4504 or [finntt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:finntt@sbcglobal.net). She will give you a form to fill in where you can note the value of the item.

For all the rest, please see the attached flyer.

## Karita Mattila Recital

*This December 6 event isn't sponsored by the Chapter, but is made possible in part through the generous support of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, which is a stalwart supporter of Finnish and Swedish events in the Bay Area. Our thanks to them.*



Glamorous and intense, this Finnish powerhouse soprano is known to standing-room-only audiences for her thrilling, hard-edged top notes, "unabashed romantic longing" (*The New York Times*) and gripping characterizations.

"The opportunity to hear one of the world's great artists doing the work she does better than anyone else—[is] the reason you go to concerts."  
—*The New York Times*

Tickets: \$68/\$55/\$38 (Regular Price)—**Special 20% Discount Offer!**



For your special 20% discount use promo code **KMMK** here:

<http://www.cityboxoffice.com/ordertickets.asp?p=5454>

You may also call 415.392.2545.

To see more information as well as a link to a YouTube video of this artist:

<http://sfperformances.org/performances/1112/KaritaMatti.html>

**This performance is made possible in part through the generous support of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.**

## 2012 POY and LOYs

The 2012 Performer of the Year is Maria Kizirian of Los Angeles. She is a Finnish-American pop singer/songwriter/producer and multi-instrumentalist.

The 2012-2013 Lecturer of the Year is being split between Glenda Goss, a musicologist focusing on Sibelius, and Yvonne Lockwood, whose career has focused on the material culture of Finnish Americans.

Both Glenda Dawn Goss, the Sibelius storyteller and musicologist, and Yvonne Lockwood, the Finnish-American material culture scholar, are excited to be working with FFN through the LOY program. It is a natural confluence of interests for all parties.

Glenda Dawn Goss has the most prominence of any LOY we have thus far selected. She is the author of the critically acclaimed "Sibelius: A Composer's Life and The Awakening of Finland."

The LOY for 2013 is Yvonne Lockwood. She will be available for September–October 2012, and the entire calendar year of 2013. That gives her a total of 14 months.

## Retrospective: POY Gala October 22

This was an elegant afternoon event jointly sponsored by our Chapter and Finlandia Foundation National. Two former Performers of the Year, soprano Maria Männistö and multi-instrumentalist/vocalist Terhi Miikki-Broersma, reprised their earlier appearances before our Chapter, this time with new programs. The recital was held in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, which has excellent acoustics. Maria Männistö presented a program of mainly Finnish classical music, and Terhi combined classical, folk and even some dance in her mobile performance (after playing an organ solo in the church's loft, she came down the aisle

playing her bassoon and singing a medley of art/folk songs).

The recital was followed by a reception with wine and passed hors d'oeuvres, held in the church's lovely central courtyard, giving the audience time to mingle with the artists and one another. Then dinner was served, catered by award-winning chef Pelle Nilsson, in the church's Fellowship Hall. During dinner an address was given by Consul of Finland Kirsti Westphalen, who had been invited as our honored guest. The tone was upbeat and uplifting and left us feeling optimistic about the future of Finlandia Foundation, Finland and Finnish-Americans.

Terhi Miikki-Broersma entertained during dinner, singing popular old Finnish tunes and accompanying herself on her accordion, so we had an additional opportunity to appreciate her multiple talents.

Here are some pictures from our event.



*Soprano Maria Männistö and her accompanist, Dan Croemeens*



*Consul of Finland Kirsti Westphalen gave a rousing address*





*Chef Pelle's delicious dinner occupied everyone's attention*



*Tuttu (L.) and Marion (R.) present well-deserved bouquets to Maria and Terhi*

## Message from Anita Smiley, President of the National

November 2011

Dear Friends of Finlandia Foundation,

Having recently returned from the semi-annual meeting of our FFN Board of Trustees, I'm anxious to share news on plans and programs. We have an energetic Board, constantly searching for ways to improve what we do.

Our Performer of the Year (POY) program has been enthusiastically received by chapters, and the Board felt that it was time to bring some of our past performers together for a Gala, which led to two such evenings, one in San Francisco and the other in Washington, D.C. The latter was held on Saturday, October 29, during the weekend of our Board meeting. On the invitation of Finland's Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde, the event was

held at the beautiful Embassy of Finland, with three of our past POYs performing. Also invited to perform was Elisa Olshin, a young flutist who had attended Soiva Music Camp. The program was spectacular!

We have exciting news to share on FFN's 2012 Soiva Music Camp. After a hiatus in 2011, we are ready to unveil the changes that have been made. The Camp will be held from June 17-24 on the campus of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, for students between the ages of 11 and 17. Instruction will be on piano, violin, flute, and clarinet, and will include immersion into composition and improvisation. The cost of \$750 for the week, with possibilities for early-bird discounts and scholarships, includes dormitory housing, meals, and superior instruction by music instructors from Finland and the United States. Further information will be available on the [www.finlandiafoundation.com](http://www.finlandiafoundation.com) website after December 1, or from Dennis Anderson, FFN coordinator for the program, at [soivaatcord@yahoo.com](mailto:soivaatcord@yahoo.com).

Please encourage young people to take advantage of the **Soiva Music Camp and Salolampi Camp opportunities and check on scholarship assistance that is available for both.** Further information can be found on our website, [www.finlandiafoundation.org](http://www.finlandiafoundation.org). The immersion into the Finnish heritage in both locations is invaluable.

Please remind your members that grant and scholarship applications are due by February 1, 2012. Information on guidelines for applying can be found on the FFN website. Our spring Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 23-25 in eastern Connecticut, and we are looking for **nominees for trusteeship positions.** We urge chapters to forward any nominations, along with a resume and supporting letters, to Rita Koski, Nominating Committee chairperson, at [koskeni@aol.com](mailto:koskeni@aol.com).

Best wishes from our FFN Board for a successful year to all chapters.

Joyous holiday wishes,  
Anita Smiley, FFN President



[Editor's Note:

(1) A flyer describing all the details about the Grants and Scholarships program is attached as a separate flyer.

(2) The past POYs who performed at the National's POY Gala were accordionist Brent Buswell, soprano Maarit Vaga and pianist Craig Randal Johnson.]

## New, Free Service For Swapping Used Books In Finnish

**Finnishedbooks.com allows Finnish Americans and Finns in the U.S. to swap, sell books**

Finnishedbooks.com is a free service for buying and selling Finnish books, movies and music. The website is geared towards all Finnish-speakers in the United States. It was developed by Antti Koskenrouta, a Washington, DC-based web developer.

For now, the service works only in the U.S. to keep mailing and money transactions as simple as possible.

The system was developed with ease of use in mind. When adding a new book for sale, for example, the user enters the book's ISBN number on the page. Based on the ISBN, the system attempts to retrieve the basic information on the book (title, author) and a picture of the cover. The user can also add the back cover text as well as their own description of the book.

Each seller sets the prices for their products, but they should be nominal. "The idea is not for people to make money on the books, but to save money by buying books locally rather than ordering them from Finland," Koskenrouta says. "And if the service can help strengthen Finnish society in the U.S., all the better" he adds.

Contact: Antti Koskenrouta  
Tel: 443-564-7047

Email: antti@koskenrouta.net

## Easier Access to Finnish Citizenship

The 5/11 issue of *Suomen Silta (Finland Bridge)*, on pages 24 and 25, has an article with the above title. I quote:

**At the beginning of September, Finnish citizenship became easier to gain thanks to legislative changes. The declaration procedure available for former Finnish nationals became permanent. However, their adult descendants must still apply for citizenship through the same process as other foreigners moving to Finland.**

It goes on:

"Since September 1, the declaration process for Finnish citizenship has been more flexible than in the past. The only ones not benefiting from the law reform are the adult children of former Finnish citizens." \*

.....

"The reformed citizenship law is a step toward a more liberal immigration policy. Its aim is to make it easier to gain Finnish nationality and speed up immigrants' integration process.

.....

"[Senior Advisor **Sonja Hämäläinen**] stresses that former Finnish citizens now have a permanent opportunity to reclaim their citizenship by declaration."

All the requirements and exceptions set forth in the article are rather complicated. I would suggest that anyone interested should direct an inquiry to the following URL:

[www.mol.fi/mol/en/99\\_pdf/en/.../programme\\_expatriate\\_finns.pdf](http://www.mol.fi/mol/en/99_pdf/en/.../programme_expatriate_finns.pdf)

where you may be able to secure a copy of the article.

[\* Editor's note: Forgive me for injecting a personal note, but I deeply regret this withdrawal of a privilege. Both my parents were Finnish citizens before immigrating and becoming American citizens. The previous version of this law would have allowed me to apply for Finnish citizenship. I admit that I didn't complete the process at that time because of the extensive documentation required and also what I regarded as the high fees. (So now: \*alas\* \*sigh\* I don't have a second chance!)]





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