



# FINLANDIA FOUNDATION®, INC.

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

November 2010

Miriam Leino Eldridge, Editor

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

### Message from the President

#### Books and scholars

Our chapter is most fortunate to have members who are not only talented writers, but also passionate about preserving our history and culture.

Julene Johnson tells us that after receiving a Finlandia Foundation grant two years ago to study *kanteles* on the West Coast, she subsequently received a Fulbright grant to study at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland (see her guest editorial below).

Writer and journalist Stina Katchdourian's recently published book, **The Lapp King's Daughter**, will be presented to our members and friends on Nov. 7 at the Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto. Stina's book presents a much broader picture of the years 1939-45 than most other books written about that era. (See enclosed flyer with all the information!)

Arlene Sundquist Empie's book, **The Legacy of Ida Broända**, is the story about her grandmother, Ida Maria Andersdotter Lillbroända, from the time that she emigrated from Kronoby, Finland, in 1893, as a 17-year-old, until the family settled down in Skagit Valley, Washington. A compelling story. The book can be obtained via [www.boulderhousepublishers.com](http://www.boulderhousepublishers.com).

As the long fall evenings settle in, Happy Reading.

George



#### Walima Donation

Past President Sue Walima has donated \$250 to our "Nordic Music Fund" in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of her father, Adolph Alexander Walimaa. Sue's gift is gratefully acknowledged.



### 2010 Events Schedule

#### Sunday, November 7

Book talk by Stina Katchadourian on her history **The Lapp King's Daughter**  
Fireside Room, Lucie Stern Theatre  
1301 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto  
2:00 Wine Reception, 3:00 Talk, 4:00 Coffee  
Donation \$10.00

Stina will have books available for purchase and signing.

#### Sunday, December 12, 2:00 p.m.

Pikkujoulu – Lilla Jul – Christmas Party  
Isle Cove, Foster City

Traditional Scandinavian Smörgåsbord  
and Accompanying Beverages  
Lucia Pageant – Music – Santa Claus

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



#### Preisung Donation

We have some bad news and some good news. The bad news is that Ulla Preisung broke her kneecap some weeks ago. We don't have news of her condition, but we sincerely hope she's doing OK.

The good news is that we received and hereby acknowledge the Preisings' \$100 donation to the Chapter. Speedy recovery, Ulla, and thanks for being such a stalwart supporter of our Chapter!

#### Error Correction

In the last Newsletter I misstated the Board status of Mae Kaven and Pirjo Polari-Khan. Both are full members of our Board of Directors.

## Guest Editor

*Julene Johnson writes about her sojourn in Finland:*

**Hei** from Jyväskylä, Finland, where I am a Fulbright scholar for the fall semester. I am studying the influence of choir singing on healthy aging at the University of Jyväskylä (gerontology and music departments). It is a fascinating topic, as Finns often sing in choirs for many years. I was fortunate to attend the 100-year celebration of one women's choir in Jyväskylä called Vaput.

Jyväskylä, Finland, is also home to the new Kantele Museum (*Kantelemuseo*) that opened in 2009 and is directed by Finnish kantele player and researcher, Kari Dahlblom. The museum is located on the top floor of a 154-year old farmhouse that was converted into a *Pelimannitalo* (folk musicians' house) (see picture below). The museum is home to over 100 kanteles and includes kanteles from several famous Finnish kantele players and makers (such as Arvi Pokela and Pasi Jääskeläinen)

In addition to many kanteles that represent the local middle Finland area, there are also kanteles from Russia, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. When asked about why a kantele museum is important for Finland, Kari stated, "It is important to know how Finnish music roots come from the kantele". He also believes that kanteles from many generations should be available for people to see and hear. In fact, you can play several kanteles when you visit the *Kantelemuseo*. There have already been visitors from several countries, including the United States.

The *Kantelemuseo* recently hosted the annual meeting of the Finnish Kantele Association (*Kanteleliitto*), which included a discussion about contemporary kantele building and an evening concert by players of the kantele, Japanese koto, and Irish folk harp.

As implied by its name, the folk musicians' house also hosts music lessons, jam sessions by local musicians and concerts. This museum is a must-see for Finnish music lovers.



## Picchetti Winery Picnic

After the Vappu party that introduced us to the picturesque mountain hideout that is the Picchetti Winery in the far Cupertino hills, our movers and shakers decided that it would be the ideal place for our Fall event on September 19, and so it was.



*Winery Grounds (Photo: George Sundquist)*

The formidable catering trio of Marion and daughters Stacey Anstead and Britt-Marie Sundquist provided the picnic fare, and the winery provided wine to taste.



*The Food Ladies (Photo: Birgitta Strom)*



*"Smiler" (Photo: Mae Kaven)*

I was unfortunately unable to attend, but Birgitta Strom, Mae Kaven and George Sundquist were kind enough to record the event in pictures.

When I called the winery to ask the above chap's name (Mae reported that he spoke with a lovely British accent), I was told by a winery employee that the chap's name is Smiler. I had a feeling that my leg was being pulled, but never mind. The important thing is that he seems to have represented the winery admirably.

And finally, the outdoors, with conviviality.



Center: Mae Kaven, Juhani Linna (photo: Birgitta Strom)

In the picture below, I can identify Anita Stewart, Kaj Rekola and Juhani Linna. My apologies to those I can't, but thanks for attending!



## Carl Rahkonen new LOY for 2011

Finlandia Foundation National has announced its choice for 2011 Lecturer of the Year: Carl Rahkonen.

Carl Rahkonen is a second generation Finnish American, who works as a Music Librarian and Professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He earned a Ph.D. degree in Folklore and Ethnomusicology from Indiana University, Bloomington, with a dissertation on the "Kantele Traditions of Finland." During this research, he and his wife lived in Finland for two years. He is an active researcher, most recently studying Finnish- and Scandinavian-American music, and

American folk fiddling. He is a practicing musician who plays classical, popular and folk music in a variety of ensembles. More detailed information may be found on his home page at <http://www.people.iup.edu/rahkonen/>

[*Editor's Note: I heard Carl lecture at the recent FinnGrandFest . His topic was the life and career of the famous Finnish-American accordionist, Viola Turpeinen. It was a fascinating lecture.*]

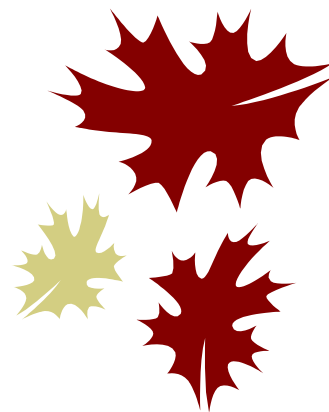
## NBC Features the Finnish School System

Christina Lin of National sends this link to a story that NBC Nightly News did on the justifiably admired Finnish school System:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39154226/vp/39428489#39428489>

## Ralliryhmä Performance Postponed

We had originally planned to feature this group, with their "Funny Finnish Folk Songs," along with Stina's book talk and signing at our November 7 program. Unfortunately, key member Heikki Koskinen is recovering slowly from recent hip surgery and is not yet ready to perform, so the group must regretfully cancel. We promise to present this delightful ensemble sometime in 2011.



## 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 2011.

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)