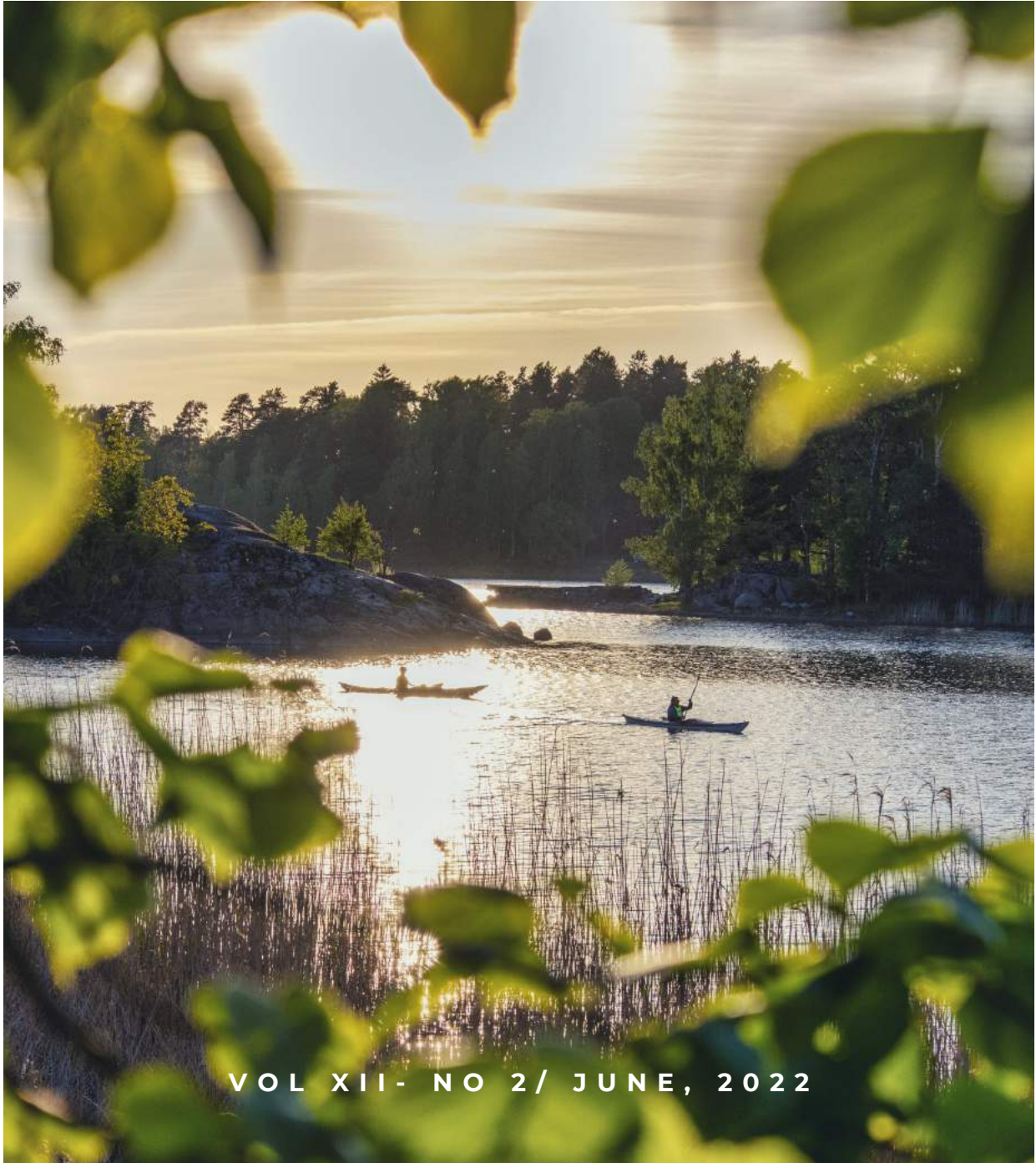


FINLANDIA FOUNDATION  
SUOMI CHAPTER

# FINNOVATIONS

PROMOTING FINNISH HERITAGE FROM THE  
EVERGREEN STATE TO THE GOLDEN STATE



VOL XII- NO 2/ JUNE, 2022

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*Cover Photo: Kayakers enjoy a spin in the  
Mustikkamaa recreational area near Helsinki. Photo  
by Mikko Huotari.*

*Below Photo: A rainbow of tulips. Photo by Tapio  
Holma.*



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## Editor's Column

### Our Story

Some 12 years ago, we decided to establish Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter. If I recall, we were the 38th chapter at that time to join the Finlandia Foundation National Organization. Today there are 58 chapters in the country promoting Finnish heritage, culture and language. From five founder members, we have now grown to some fifty and we are still growing. The youngest member is just four years old and the oldest is 84!

In the early years we had a chance to bring some talented artists from Finland, not only to Bellingham but to the whole west coast.

First there was the Helsinki Policemen Choir, which toured at the leadership of Maestro Pasi Hyökki. Their tour extended from Vancouver to San Francisco. The most memorable was their performance here in Bellingham, where they were hosted by the local police department. I still remember the power of the piano duet with Pasi and his lovely wife when they played double on the grand piano the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic with the choir in the background.

Later came the Vaasa Orchestra visit (Vaasa being our sister city). The tour from Bellingham reached Astoria and Portland in Oregon.

Then there were the Finnish solo artists. First from Finland was Janne Mertanen, a Chopin interpreter who performed on the Old City Hall rotunda. Later the Jazz guitarist Olli Hirvonen from New York entertained the folks at Boundary Bay restaurant.

The choir, Helsinki School of Economics (my Alma Mater), visited seven US west coast cities.

For the Sibelius Jubilation Year, we had a chance to invite Ms. Kati Valimaa, the violinist from the Sibelius Academy who performed with our own Youth Orchestra at the Mt Baker Theatre. We also had the pleasure of getting a talented concert pianist Marja Kaisla from Philadelphia to visit us for a Vappu recital in 2014 at the Rotunda of the Old City Hall. She came again in 2019 to perform as a soloist Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concert at the Nordic National Museum in Seattle, which was accompanied by our local youth orchestra.

Likewise, our own orchestra visited Vaasa and the surroundings at the leadership of Maestro Sharyn Peterson. Their trip to Vaasa is in the minds of many of the orchestra members even today.

Last but not least, Finland's second oldest male choir, Viipurin Lauluveikot celebrated their 125-anniversary tour travelling from Vancouver to California with stopovers here in Bellingham & Seattle! What a nice collection of musical artists from Finland.

The Covid-19 virus took its toll and much has not been seen lately due to travel restrictions, etc.

However, the future looks promising and many groups have already contacted us with an idea of visiting the Finnish folks in the West.

It has been my privilege and a great honor to accompany many of these artists during their tours and act as the local host. My best thanks to our active boards for the support from various years. Without our membership support and the industrious work of many, it would have not been possible. Kudos to all, too many to mention.

**Tapio Holma**

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## Cooking Corner: Gravlax

Gravlax is a delicacy you will often find on a Finnish Christmas table, along with several kinds of pickled herring, boiled potato, and other goodies. Gravlax adds to the festive appearance of the Christmas table.

### Ingredients:

2 lbs boned salmon filet  
2 tbsp coarse sea salt  
2 tsp granulated sugar  
2 tsp coarsely crushed white pepper corns  
1/2 cup of chopped baby dill

### Directions:

Combine salt, sugar, pepper and dill. Place filet skin side down in a stainless steel or porcelain dish, Spread the mixture over the filet. Cover with plastic wrap and put in the refrigerator for 24-48 hours.

Should be ready in two days for serving.

Some folks like to have mustard dressing with the salmon when served.

**Submitted by Tapio Holma**



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## Fishing in Bristol Bay, Alaska

*By Asko Hämäläinen*

On August 3rd 1969, I flew to Seattle to do research at FRI (Fisheries Research Institute) of College of Fisheries, UW for one year. My host, Dr. Ernest Olavi Salo, picked me up. When crossing Mercer Island's Floating Bridge, a squadron of Blue Angels flew over us, welcoming me to Washington State! Immediately, I became the oldest (23) of 4 "kids:" Ernie's blond Finnish cousin (21), daughter (17), and son (15). Both Ernie's parents were born in Finland. Ernie and Martha were, and are, the nicest people I will ever meet. How lucky I was!!!

The College of Fisheries is the oldest college in the Western hemisphere, and no question the most famous and number 1 in the world. Dr. Lauren Donaldson, the first person I met on the campus, was the most recognized in the world. By selective breeding, he had developed rainbow trout that could increase egg production from about 500 to 24,000!!!

My first job at the Hood Canal research station was to assist a graduate student in seeing if Donaldson trout could be called by a "dinner bell" to congregate in a large pond to be fed. In about 3 days, I was able to get them "boiling" around a hydrophone (loud speaker). Most likely, the first success in the world!!

Later, we mapped their range of hearing (240-600 Hz), a very low sound. Ernie was the director of the station. His PhD student, K Victor Koski, was studying the spawning behavior of chum salmon in an artificial channel. Three Finns together!!! Later in the fall, chums returned and started spawning. Koski had been studying salmon for more than 10 years, but had never witnessed an actual spawning act. Along comes a very simple country boy from Finland, and he sees it 3 times in 3 months!!



I got a B&W photo, which was later published in an international fisheries hand book by my professor, in addition to a Finnish magazine.

There were a number of grad students studying many areas, of which I was able to participate and learn from.

In March of 1970, Ernie and I were enjoying our usual sauna when he said: "Bristol Bay is expected to have about 74 million sockeye salmon. Do you want to go?"

One June 1st, I flew to Dillingham on the northern side of the Bay. The 24 mile gravel road to Wood River Lakes was snowed in, so we flew in a "Grumman Goose" (a boat with wings, wheels, and 2 engines) to the research station. It was in a small (about 250 people) Aleut village.

After that, there were 5 wilderness lakes for the next 70 miles. The second lake had a fishing lodge owned by Bob Curtis. On the 4th, a young family was building a "log castle", which could sleep up to 50 people. Otherwise there were only a few cabins.

Wood River Lakes had "only" 1.5-2.5 million sockeye returning. Still, in 1 day I saw more than Finland's yearly salmon and trout catch!

For the next 3 1/2 months we worked every day and many nights on all aspects of fisheries. Our boss, Dr. Don Rogers, made forecasts for Bristol Bay returns. We traveled up and down by many boats, and in several types of float planes. I LOVED my time at W. River Lakes!!!



After returning to UW, I started studying at the College of Fisheries, skipping freshman year.

I worked at least half time on last Summer's samples and data, and so qualified for in-state tuition. High quality Finnish education was very beneficial for me. My main problem was language.

I returned to W. River Lakes the following Summer. The highlight was seeing a wolverine, which is extremely rare. Another memorable moment was to be a "dog", and my friend shot a huge moose in front my eyes. The antlers were 55" from tip to tip, and had 11 and 12 points.

Summer of 1972 was the most memorable. A totally IMPOSSIBLE event took place on June 22nd. We were about 55 miles (by air) from Dillingham, and most likely there was not a single person within a 20 mile radius. At 2:30 P.M., we heard a plane flying across Lake Beverley. Often several days went by not seeing any sign of people. Boats were often absent for weeks.

Soon we recognized Bob Curtis' 2 float planes heading straight at us. One plane taxied to the other side of Agulukpak River, and the other one pulled just below our (pilot's) cabin. We ran down to talk to the pilot. We all knew each other and were like a big family. Tommy Thompson said: "Just some fishermen." He followed us inside to have some coffee and talk. Then Tommy dropped a bomb shell!!! They were 5 Finns!! And big shots; the one fishing 20 yards below was a general, and one was a president!!!

I thought bank or company president, but no way - Kekkonen! I grabbed my life vest and ran down, reached out, and in Finnish introduced myself.

General Urpo Lepo (Rest), the Chief of Staff jumped in a long river skiff, and motored to the other side. People were fishing a couple hundred meters down the river. We ran across the tundra, met a single guy and greeted him. Soon we reached the group, greeted Bob Curtis, and waded into the water. Then I introduced myself: "Herra 'residentti', Asko Hamalainen Parikkalan poikii." (Mr. President - Asko from Parikkala!) Everybody was very surprised to meet in the middle of Alaskan wilderness!!

He stopped fishing, and started talking to me on the bank. We met other guys in the group: Tauno V. Maki (Hill), the head of Fish and Game, Uolevi Raade, Director of Finnish Oil, and Rikke Sotamaa (War land), personal physician. Plus a couple of Americans.

I told Bob: "All the fish are down at the mouth." We were studying the Arctic char predation on sockeye smolts, and doing a population estimate. On average, I caught a char every 3-4 minutes. I had to measure the length, shoot a Dennison tag near the dorsal fin, record the length and throw it back. When a school of smolts arrived, the water was boiling like in shark feeding frenzy and arctic terns and seagulls were diving in. AMAZING!!!

I stupidly suggested to Bob: "I can take folks down to Lake Nerka in the river skiff." He said: "Go ahead, Asko, I'll fly the planes down there."

I piled guys in the skiff and headed down river. It was already pretty low, and rocky. Had to hug the left side, and just before hitting an island, I had to gun over to the right side. Luckily, we did not swamp the skiff!!

We anchored at the mouth, and they were catching quite a few char. Nothing like we did early morning or late evening, though. We fished for a couple hours, and pulled to the shore where we had a long discussion.

Bob told about burning a juhannuskokko (mid-Summer bonfire), and wanted us to join them at Bob's Tickchik Narrows Lodge!!! Kekkonen asked about wildlife (he was very avid hunter and fisherman). Luckily, I was able to tell about the wolverine and the gigantic moose!

For the first and last time in my life asked for autographs, and I still have them!! The whole afternoon was like a dream. What are chances of meeting 5 Finns in the middle of Alaskan wilderness!!?

Fast forward to Christmas, 1972. Karen and I "put our Ry-Tacks together", i. e. got married. Surprisingly, we got congratulations on official Presidential Stationary for our nuptials.

My 4th Summer of 1973 was my last time at Wood River Lakes. I have tons of great memories over my time there. After 50 years, they are as vivid as if they were happening now.

A few days before getting my B. S. in Fisheries, we flew to Finland for Christmas. It just happened accidentally that my Fisheries degree was the first one for any Finn in this solar system. I got my M. S. from College of Fisheries in 1978.



After New Years, we moved to Laukaa (near Jyväskylä) to a State Research Hatchery, which was just being built. There were a couple surprises over next 2 years. Rikke Sotamaa had been "his whole life" Laukaa's physician. After meeting in Alaska, we were living less than 2 miles apart!!! We had many get-togethers.

At that time, a new Veterans Health Center was built about 1 mile from the Hatchery and named Urho Kaleva Kekkonen Spa. It was a great place to go. It had a current pool, i. e. you had to swim against adjustable current.

Because of the Spa, and his personal physician, President Kekkonen spent quite a bit time in Laukaa. In the Summer of 1975, I was having lunch at our apartment, when saw a group of men walking by. I jumped on my bike, and "accidentally" met the President again. We sat down on the rocks and chatted for about 20 minutes. He said he was wondering: "What happened to that Alaskan fellow?"

Life certainly can take unexpected turns. Just a simple country boy arrives at UW for 1 year, and 53 years later still lives in Washington State!

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## Host Finland Outlasts Canada, Completes 'Unbelievable' Run With World Hockey Championship Title

From *ESPN.com*

TAMPERE, Finland -- Sakari Manninen scored on a power play at 6 minutes, 42 seconds of 3-on-3 overtime and Finland beat Canada 4-3 on May 29th for its fourth world hockey championship title.

Host Finland completed an Olympics-world double after winning in China in February, joining Sweden in 2006 as the only countries to win Olympic and world titles in the same year.

"It's unbelievable," Finnish coach Jukka Jalonen said. "You can't even understand what has happened. Maybe in the summer, we can figure out what really happened. But three months and two gold medals -- it's unbelievable!"

The countries met for the third straight time in the finals. Finland beat Canada in 2019 in Slovakia, and Canada topped the Finns last year in Latvia. The 2020 event was canceled.

Ottawa Senators defenseman Thomas Chabot was sent off for hooking, setting up the winning power play. With the 4-on-3 advantage, Manninen scored on a one-timer from the right circle off a pass from Nashville Predators center Mikael Granlund.

"It was crazy," said Granlund, who joined the team after the Predators were eliminated in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. "It was great! What an ending to the game. They tied it up in the third period, but we found a way in the end and this is just awesome."

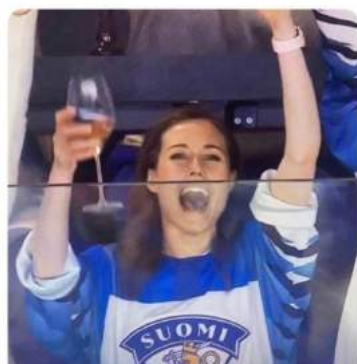


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## Finland's Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, Goes Viral While Celebrating Finland's World Hockey Championship

What a prime minister looks like when their country wins the Ice Hockey World Championship!!

🏆🏆🏆👏👏 #LEIJONAT



 **Raphko** @Raphko3 · May 30  
Replying to @lilygrutcher  
What a legend

 **MirriNeko** @MirvaR · May 30  
Replying to @lilygrutcher  
I am so proud of our Sanna! 🥳👏

 **LauraDeSuedia** · 15 days ago  
🇩🇪 to 🇫🇮

Was watching from Prague. Amazing match, so happy for you guys! Brought out your inner sisu for that one and won!

👍 172 🗨️ Reply Share Report Save Follow

 **flashen** · 15 days ago  
She looks happy! Congratulations Finland!!!  
👍 1 🗨️ Reply Share Report Save Follow

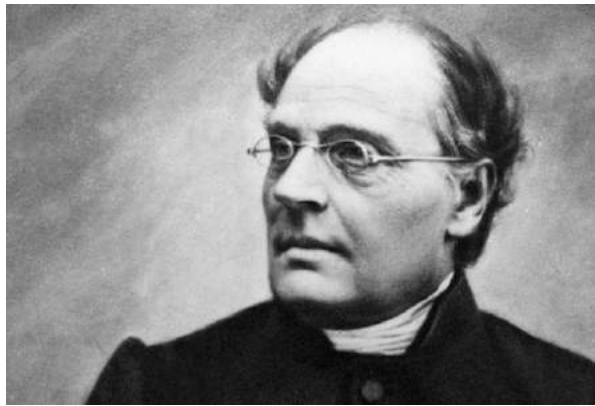
 **Vlastimil Balaty** 🇨🇪 🇫🇮 @VlastimilBalaty · May 29  
Replying to @VFinnishProbs  
Finland is cold but Sanna Marin melts our hearts.  
🗨️ 🔄 ❤️ 30

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## Life of the Poet

*By Tapio Holma*

Johan Ludvig Runeberg is generally accorded a place among significant poets of modern literature. His life was happy and uneventful. He was born February 5, 1804 at Jacobstad (Pietarsaari), a small city on the west coast of Finland about halfway up the Gulf of Bothnia. He came of educated stock and, showing an aptitude for study, entered the University of Turku.



Being in need of means to complete his courses, he became a private tutor to the family in the interior of Finland, where he came into closer touch with the life of the people. He finally graduated in 1827, continued his tutoring for a time, then became established as instructor in Latin at the University, which had now been moved to Helsinki.

In 1837 he accepted a position as a teacher in the gymnasium of the small town of Porvoo where he was to spend the rest of his life and where his house is still preserved as a shrine. In 1831 he married Fredrika Tengstrom, a niece of Archbishop Tengstrom.

In character, the poet was modest and retiring, happiest among a small circle of friends. He was always a lover of nature, in particular hunting and fishing. Unlike so many of his contemporaries, he seems to have been utterly content in the seclusion of his home.



On a trip to Sweden in 1851, at the height of his fame, he was received with the greatest enthusiasm, but he never again left the confines of his beloved Finland!

Runeberg also wrote the words for the National Anthem of Finland. Although The hymn was sung in Swedish first by the Helsinki University Student Choir, first time on Flora's Day, it later was translated into the Finnish.

Runeberg wrote most of his poems in Swedish, such as the Tales of the Ensign Stål. However he was considered as one of the leading artists to pursue the Independence of Finland from Russia that time.



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## The Filmmaker's Hut is a "Mystical" Black Cabin Overlooking a Finnish Lake

*From Dezeen.com*

Tar-coated wooden shingles cover the walls and roof of this small cabin, which architecture office Pirinen & Salo designed as a studio for a filmmaker on a wooded site beside lake Porovesi in Finland. Helsinki-based practice Pirinen & Salo drew on the "mystical" worlds of 1980s adventure films for the design of The Filmmaker's Hut, which it describes as a "shrine to cinema".



Positioned on a gentle slope alongside the ruined foundations of an old stone building, the 15-square-metre studio is accessed via a wooden walkway that runs along the lake's shoreline.

To create a sense of mystery and escapism, the architect wanted both the age and size of The Filmmaker's Hut to be hard to intuit and so created a play in scale between the oversized gable-roof form, arched window and small wooden shingles.

"The path acts as a transition from the mundane to the dream world of creative work," described the studio. "The exterior of the small hut is a delusion. It's made to appear much larger than its physical size. This, in turn, makes the surrounding nature and landscape appear colossal."

A black wooden staircase leads from the stone foundations up inside the cabin and directly into the workspace – a double-height barrel-vaulted room lined with dark oak panelling.

On either side of the space are built-in desks and storage units made from contrasting pale oak. These units incorporate a bookshelf, sound system and an integrated leather sofa, as well as a black cast iron fireplace.

Using the language of church architecture, the practice describes the centre of the structure as the "nave" and its desks as the "side aisles", while posters of the client's favourite films act as "the saints".

"The side aisles are for working while the main nave has enough height and air for ideas, dreams and imagination," explained the architecture studio.

"All the technical appliances that might give away the actual age of the hut are carefully hidden away to make the building appear ageless."



At the rear of The Filmmaker's Hut sits a bathroom and technical store.

A wooden ladder leads up to a small mezzanine that is designed for "catching ideas and daydreaming" while looking out into the forest through a porthole window.



The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a renewed interest in spaces that separate work and home life in the absence of shared offices.

In Aarhus, Danish practice Sleth recently completed a copper-clad cabin workspace for an author, which focuses on creating a connection to its natural, wooded site. Elsewhere, Finnish practice Studio Puisto designed an adaptable, prefabricated cabin to offer people who have been forced to spend more time at home during the pandemic a space to work or unwind.



## Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter Membership Form

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Supporting: \$50/yr, Lifetime: \$300

NEW! Student \$10/yr

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Telephone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My donation to FFSC \_\_\_\_\_

Grant & Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you **DO NOT** wish to be acknowledged as Donor to FFSC

I would like to see my chapter support the following: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer  New/returning member  Renewal

Dues and donations are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Return this form with your dues in the enclosed envelope to:

Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter - P.O. Box 2544 Bellingham WA 98227

# Happy Vappu!!



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## Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter



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Hanna Winter



### Future Events Calendar:

This summer we do not celebrate our traditional Juhannus (\*Midsummer Festival) due to many folks traveling to Finland and there are no board members available to organize.

July 29, 30, 31 2022 there will be Finnish American Folk Festival in Naselle, Washington. A lot of exhibits, lectures, music, dance, food, etc. If interested, please contact for details direct to Festival organizers:  
360 484 3602. [info@nasellefinnfest.com](mailto:info@nasellefinnfest.com)

October 21-23 in New York City there is a gathering with all various chapter members of US cities. For details contact our office in case you would like to participate.

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## Membership and Donation

To be able to offer a number of affordable, high-quality events, our budget will require more resources to keep admission costs affordable for all. We appreciate any and all donations. You may now pay online by credit card via PayPal.

Please visit our website, <http://www.ffsuomi.com> and choose the "Donate" button. Alternatively, you can send a check payable to FF Suomi Chapter to the PO Box listed above left.