



Finlandia Foundation®
Florida Chapter

**PO Box 210,
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U.S.A.**

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***Working together to build a
strong Finnish America***

Contact us for additional information.

This is your Board of Directors for 2007-2008 season.

President: Birgitta Kaanto, Tel. (561) 655-7711, kaantoms@bellsouth.net, **Vice President: Peter Makila**, petermakila@bellsouth.net, **Treasurer: Mirja Silvan**, msilvan@bellsouth.net, **Secretary: Timo Vainionpaa**: vainiot@bellsouth.net, **Lena Hartikainen**, lenahartikainen@gmail.com, **Bea Haapanen**, bhaapanen@comcast.net, **Raita Karpa**, raitafila@yahoo.com, **Pirkko Karttunen** (561) 642-8504

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

REMINDER: 2008 Membership fees are now due. Please pay your annual membership now!

Individual membership - \$10 annually, Family membership - \$18 annually, Student membership - \$5 annually, Individual life membership - \$150. Make your check for **FINLANDIA FOUNDATION FLORIDA CHAPTER** and mail it to **PO Box 210, Lake Worth, FL 33460**. Registered members will receive our Florida Chapter Newsletter and Finlandia Foundation National Newsletter. Paying your dues you support the great work of Finlandia Foundation promoting and advancing Finnish culture in the United States.

NEWSFLASH

**The Board has just elected the
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:**

**TERTTU
VOSKRESSENSKY**



OUR FFFC LIFETIME MEMBERS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Glenn & Dorothy Beckman, Lake Worth
Jack Haikala, Juno Beach
Jaana Hardkvist, Lake Worth
Vuokko Hilska, Lantana
Tapani Isokangas, Lake Worth
Esa Jokela, Palm Beach Gardens
Birgitta Kaanto, West Palm Beach
Barbara Kaskinen, Margate
Taina & Harry Leinonen-Polatsek, Delray Beach
Aila Long, Palm Bay
Anne Makila-Elliott, Palm Beach
Juha Makipaa, Palm Beach

Harry Manner, Boynton Beach
Anna-Liisa Morse, Boca Raton
Toivo Nordman, Lantana
Alice Osman, Lantana
Jean & Maija Pellinen, City of Atlantis
Seija Regelman, North Palm Beach
Dot Stetson, Miami
Aili Tokkila, Lake Worth
Taimi Ukkonen Hypoluxo
Irja Vileen, Hypoluxo

**If your name is missing here by our mistake-
inform our board, please**

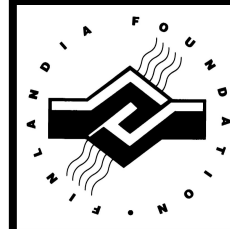
CONSULATE (CORNER):



Honorary Consulate of Finland reminds that Finnish Citizenship Declarations must be submitted by 31 May 2008 at the latest.

The petition to request a possibility to take care of passport matters through Honorary Consulate of Finland, Lake worth, has been brought up. **Please come in and sign!**

Honorary Consul Peter Makila or Anne Hyppönen/assistant, tel. 561-582-2335 or by e-mail: finnishconsulate@bellsouth.net



FFFC NEWS



Finlandia Foundation®
Florida Chapter

March the 11th
2008, No 1

BIRGITTA KAANTO, PRESIDENT:



Although our 2007-2008 season is coming to an end, it is not too late to think about the upcoming 2007-2008 season. Your membership renewal and donations are important. Not only as a vital component in the preservation of Finnish culture in the United States but giving the opportunity of Finnish descendants to pursue their dream of a higher education, sports, or furthering their talent in the world of music & art. Also, our Chapter works closely with the Salolampi Language Village where our youngest Finns are able to learn to speak Finnish and study Finnish traditions.

Let's keep Suomi, Sauna, Sisu, and Sibelius going strong!!!

**FFFC Events
for 2007/2008
season:**

MARIA KARKI EXHIBITION
4/25/2008 @ 6pm-8pm
Meet the Artist, Norton
Sculpture Garden. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33401

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS:



Christian Kotanen, Clemson University

What year are you now and your degree major?

I'm currently a Junior in the field of Bio-Engineering.

How does it feel to be a Finlandia Foundation National Scholarship Recipient and how has this helped you?

It is an Honor, especially since I have been chosen from a nation-wide spectrum of candidates. All the benefits have gone towards paying my tuition costs, for this I am thankful.

What does being a Finn mean to you?

Being a Finn can be summed up with one word: Sisu; being in college, definitely requires it.

What is your favorite Finnish tradition or event?

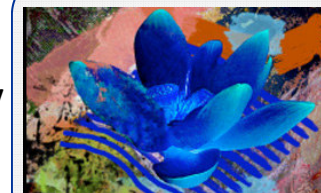
Christmas, ice hockey, Finnish music, Finnish summers. Sauna is my favorite tradition. I love sweating it out, then jumping in a cold pool. It reminds me of my childhood.

What are your plans after graduating from Clemson?

I plan to attend graduate school at Duke University and enrolling into their Bio-Engineering PHD program.

Comments.

I'm happy that there is a Finlandia Foundation to promote the Finnish culture here in America.



ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday
4/17/2008 @ 6PM
Suomi Talo
Lantana, FL

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL

Marc Coir and Susan Saarinen were chosen as 2007—2008 **Lecturer of the Year.**

Accordion Duo Brent Buswell & Bert Stromholm:
Finlandia Foundation **National Performer of the Year**



The undergraduate student body of **Clemson** is about 14,000 students and its College of Engineering and Science has about 900 students. Clemson University is a top-tier research university with highly engaged academic and social environment of a small college.



INDEPENDENCE GALA—FINLAND 90



"Finland and the Finnish people have been here for 9000 years. Our Independence is only 90 years old." Anne Lammila, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Finland, began her keynote speech with this memorable comment. Her address was one of many highlights of Gala Dinner celebrating the 90th anniversary of Finnish Independence hosted by the Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter. The Gala which was held at Benvenuto's Restaurant in Boynton Beach was the culmination of a day long activities in the Lake Worth/Lantana area celebrating Finnish Independence on December 6th. Two hundred guests enjoyed an evening of wonderful music, guest speakers, and fine food.

The evening began with a cocktail hour in the lovely court yard of Benvenuto's where guests came together to celebrate this festive occasion. *Too Many Sisters*, a choral group from Kokkola, Finland, delighted the audience with Finnish folk songs and English show tunes. Their singing was a stirring prelude to events to come.

Esa Jokela the Master of Ceremonies for the evening announced the program in both Finnish and English. After everyone was seated for dinner the honored guests were individually announced and escorted by Miika Makela and Sanna Heikkinen who were dressed in traditional Finnish folk dress. The Finnish War Veterans and *Lottas* were clearly our most important honorees. These men and women fought courageously against immense odds, but successfully to retain Finland's independence.

The second guest speaker was the Finnish Col. Jari Vaara, who is currently stationed in Tampa, Florida. Col Vaara had recently received many awards for his service with NATO in Afghanistan. This modern war hero was a reminder to all the guests that this small country of who fought valiantly to keep their independence could, also, contribute to peace and independence in many parts of the world.

The main event of the Gala commenced with Terttu Voskressensky, a well-known soprano, leading the guests in singing the national anthems of both Finland and the United States. Reijo Ikonen, a tenor and opera singer from Finland, sang familiar works in Finnish. His splendid vocal performance was supported by a remarkable and talented concert kantele player, Ulla-Stina Ikonen. Reijo and Ulla-Stina Ikonen's demonstrated how the kantele and voice complement each other so elegantly.

At the end of the evening all the guests stood up and sang *Finlandia*. This was a moving conclusion to a wonderful evening and I'm certain many of us felt the special bond that unite the Finn's in the United States and in Finland.

As a third generation Finnish-American and a new member of the Finlandia Foundation, I found this evening celebrating Finland's Independence to be an awesome experience.

Beatrice Haapanen, Lake Worth, Florida



Kaleidoscope 2008 West Palm Beach



Kaleidoscope started in 1997 when Nancy Graham was mayor. According to a recent article in the *Palm Beach Post*, leaders from the Finlandia Foundation and about five other cultural groups in the area played a role in laying the foundation for this annual festival celebrating the area's diversity. This year the Kaleidoscope theme was "Go Green" and Finlandia Foundation and others from the Finnish community paired with Palm Springs Middle School to teach Finnish dances and songs, learn about ecology in Finland, face paint designs from Marimekko and discover the art of spinning wool.

Thanks to participants from FFFC and the Finnish community: Raita Karpa, demonstrated wool spinning; Terttu Voskressensky and Irja Vileen, worked with students to teach Finnish songs, with Heikki Perttu musical accompanist; Virpi and Eino Lehtonen, Martti Kiuru and Pirjo Sillanpaa from Katrillit Folk Dancers, performed Finnish tango and waltz and taught dance. Reetta Ranttila and Peter Makila spoke about ecology and history at a school assembly program and Bea Haapanen donated Marimekko fabrics. Alice Osman, Raita Karpa and Erika Kukkonen attended the West Palm Beach Commissioner's meeting in support of Kaleidoscope; and Connie Tuisku coordinated with the school, community and FFFC.

Connie Tuisku, West Palm Beach

