



FFFC NEWS

**Finlandia Foundation®
Florida Chapter**

September the 1st, 2006

No. 1 : 2006

Working together to build a strong Finnish America

The Finlandia Foundation is the most important private source of support for Finnish culture in the United States. Both the membership and the number of local chapter have been growing steadily over the years. Our members and chapters are dedicated to Finnish culture and to Finnish-American cultural exchange. The Foundation also actively supports other Finnish ethnic organizations in their efforts to preserve and promote Finnish culture.

Our Mission:

Support, preserve and cultivate Finnish culture in the United States.

- Support cultural programs and activities of Finnish-American societies, churches, rest homes and educational institutions.
- Fund for Finnish cultural archives, museums and historical monuments in the United States.

Greetings from the President

Dear Members,

I am honored to have been voted not only as the President of Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter for the 2006 - 2007 season ("FFFC") but as a Trustee on the Board of Finlandia Foundation National ("FFN"). The theme of FFN is "Working together to build a strong Finnish America". Keeping up with this theme, FFFC is excited to publicize its 1st Newsletter to its members. I urge you to become actively involved with FFFC and to join us in a wonderful year of activities. Let's keep Finnish music, arts, and entertainment alive in the United States of America keeping that indescribable feeling in our hearts when we hear it, see it, and feel it.

Best Regards,

Birgitta Kaanto

• Receive by gift, bequest, grant, purchase, lease, or transfer real or personal property. Maintain a fund or funds for the purpose of supporting Finnish culture in the United States and furthering cultural and educational exchange and relations between Finland and the United States not inconsistent with the provisions governing the Internal Revenue Code, Exempt Organizations.

• Maintain an organization open to individuals and groups in the United States who wish to support the Foundation in achieving any or all of its objectives.



**President for
2006-2007
Birgitta Kaanto**

FFFC Calendar Events for 2006/2007:

**Fall Membership Meeting:
October 12, 2006 at 6:30
p.m. Finnish Rest Home,
Pokela Room.** Featuring
general membership meeting,
refreshments and large screen
viewing of Conan O'Brien
meets President Tarja Halonen
of Finland.

**Gala Dinner at Benvenuto,
November 2nd.** Featuring
Raimo Sirkia, operatic singer
and Artistic Director of
Savonlinna Opera Festival;
Barbara Kaskinen, pianist.

Christmas Concert: Decem-
ber 16th in Ft. Lauderdale.

**Membership meeting at
Kravis Center on January
the 30th, 2007:** Join us for
a pre-concert beverage and
guest appearance of Finnish
performer Paavali Jumppanen.
Concert at 8 p.m. with the
Hungarian Symphony Orches-
tra.

**Finlandia Week in Lake
Worth: February 3rd to 11th.**
PBCC Library event during the
week, featuring professor, poet
and Finlandia Foundation Na-
tional 2006 grant recipient
Beth Virtanen.

**Main Event March 3rd at
Kravis Center Gosman
Amphitheater** featuring
2006 performer of the year
KAIKU

Popular Music Concert
April the 17th at Ft. Lauder-
dale.

Annual Meeting: April 19th,
2007 at Suomi Talo.



2005 Main Event in Mar-a-Lago was a success — Donald Trump greeted.

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION FLORIDA CHAPTER celebrated its 50th year Anniversary with Opera arias and Finnish folk songs at one of the most prestigious settings. On March 18, 2005 the Finlandia Foundation members and guests joined a black-tie Gala at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach to eat, drink and enjoy a memorable program performed by Tenor Jyrki Niskanen and his violinist wife, Sirkka Kuula. Among several honor guests were e.g. Consul General Osmo Lipponen and his wife, Ambassador John J. Haikala and Mr. Donald Trump.

The planning and organization of the event took more than a year but the outcome was successful. The event was sold out and made a nice profit to benefit the Finlandia Foundation Scholarship Fund. The Gala event of Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter was recognized by several entities and newspaper articles all over the United States.

Seija Botty van den Bruele
President 2003-2005

***FFFC has now more
than 120 members.
We welcome all
applicants.***

***Have you
remembered to pay
your membership for
2006?***

FFFC Participated Finlandia Week'06

Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter was participating Finlandia Week'06 Tori/Market Event again this year in March. This year's Tori Event was held in Community Club House in Lake Worth. We had our booth to deliver our campaign material and as we were selling our T-shirts. FFFC got several new members during this event. Thank you for all our volunteers.



In finale all together, Eija Merila, Berit, Timo Hukka, Jean Pellinen and members of the FFFC Board.

Holiday Gala Dinner at Benvenuto, December 2005

On December 1st, 2005 we had our traditional **Holiday Gala Dinner** in the **Caterestaurant Benvenuto** in Boynton Beach. This time we reached a little broader audience than just the members and friends. The event was organized in cooperation with the Consulate of Finland and in addition of celebrating the holiday season the theme was also the independence of Finland as well as making our local Finnish community better recognized by our neighbors. So among the about 120 of us we were honored with the presence of Consul General Osmo Lipponen from New York and the Mayors of local municipalities Lake Worth, Hypolyxo and South Palm Beach.

Our celebration began in the Mediterranean style courtyard with a glass of champagne and live flute music by Satu Hyvärinen. Then after the greetings we had a delicious wonderfully served dinner and great program by concert Pianist Barbara Kaskinen and famous Finnish singer Berit. The evening was concluded by a raffle and sing-along. According to the plentiful positive feedback everyone had a really great time and with no doubt we are going to continue and reinvent this wonderful tradition.

Tim Toukolehto
President for the year 2005-2006



Performer of the Year 2007

Candidates Sought

Finlandia Foundation National is soliciting candidates for its 12th annual Performer of the Year (POY) 2007. The POY 2007 term is a full calendar year starting on January 1, 2007.

Deadline

The deadline for nominations and submission of all materials is September 27, 2006.

Nominations

Nominations may be made by Finlandia Foundation chapters, other Finnish-American organizations or Finlandia Foundation Trustees. Nominations are not accepted from individuals or performers

themselves. Chapters are listed on the FFN website: www.finlandiafoundation.org, as is the Guideline Summary for the POY program.

Travel Grant

The POY's travel expenses to performances within the United States are covered by FFN up to \$5,000. Host organizations handle the local arrangements, transportation and accommodations.

Please direct questions to Satu Mikkola, POY Coordinator, email: satum@aol.com

"Finlandia Foundation, Florida Chapter, Inc. is an independent organization associated with Finlandia Foundation National, one of 27 chapters across America"

Kaiku: Rhythmic. Harmonious. Organic.

Those words can best describe the sound of Kaiku, a New York-based collective of talented and experienced Finnish and American musicians. It is a fascinating mix of spirited Finnish singing and world music instrumentation. The result is something that is unlike anything else performed and heard in New York's ever eclectic-sounding music scene.

Finnish singers Jaana Kantola and Paula Jaakkola first met four years ago through a mutual friend who wanted to start a female vocal group to sing Finnish folk songs. It was the beginning of a long-running and productive musical partnership. Kaiku's lyrics come from traditional Finnish folk songs and epic poems and stories; they are arranged to fit within the song structure. Jaana and Paula, however, didn't want Kaiku to be another strictly all-Finnish band. "I think that's our charm," Paula says about the group's unique personnel. "There are tons of Finnish folk music bands who know the styles and traditions. In our case, we have three musicians who are from different cultures. We are striving for something worldly and transcultural." There is no argument, however, that

Kaiku's signature sound comes from the two female singers with their soul stirring voices. Both Jaana and Paula cite their friendship, background, and geography as reasons for their chemistry. "Finnish women are kind of known for having strong character," says Jaana. "Also the fact that here we are in a different continent, so we have very different ways of relating to each other. It has molded us into something that brings along certain togetherness."

In October 2005 Kaiku was chosen to be the National Performer of the Year 2006 by Finlandia Foundation. With the recognition that has come along with the title Kaiku is organizing a tour in the Midwest in the summer 2006.

Kaiku will continue playing to a wider international audience, especially for people who may be hearing Finnish music for the first time. "We're very proud of the music we are doing because we consider ourselves cultural ambassadors," says Paula. "We're taking our culture forward to people who might not know much about it."



Kaiku featuring Jaana and Paula. Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year 2006.



**Finlandia Foundation®
Florida Chapter**

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

Contact us if you need some more information.
This is the board for 2006-2007.

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THINGS FINNISH IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA By Bill Aho, Hypoluxo, Florida

Palm Beach County, Florida, may well be known as the home of the rich and famous, but it also features many things Finnish. Believe it or not, a couple of years ago a Finnish-American woman visiting this county returned home disappointed, complaining to a friend that she couldn't find anything Finnish here! We don't want that to happen again, so here is a listing of some things Finnish right here in Palm Beach County.

There are two Finn Halls: Suomi Talo on Finlandia Blvd. in Lantana (561) 547-9450, and Kerhotalo, 908 Lehto Lane in Lake Worth (561) 586-3713, each with a calendar crowded with events ranging from frequent dances, rummage sales, breakfasts, dinners, special guest performers from Finland, and both English and Finnish language classes. In Lake

Worth there's an annual Midnight Sun Festival each winter, itself a not-so-mini FinnFest. There are two weekly Finnish-American newspapers, with some articles in English, and Finnish churches, some with services in English.

There is at least one Finnish physician and dentist, several medical offices and hospitals with Finnish-speaking employees, and the same in several banks, car rental agencies, travel agencies, bakeries, motels, dentists, hair stylists, gift shops and real estate agencies and many other businesses.

There is an active chapter of Hancock, Michigan's Finlandia University's Alumni and Friends, which sponsors several events of interest to Finns and Finnish-Americans each year. A Sunday morning 9:30 Finnish-language radio

AM1340 program with host Osmo Kanerva is another weekly feature of the area.

The library at the Palm Beach County Community College in Lake Worth has a collection of Finnish books and periodicals donated by the Finlandia Foundation chapter. There is also in Lake Worth the Finnish American Rest Home (Lepokoti), which has a monthly rummage sale, with pulla, cake and coffee. And check out the museum collection at the City Hall Annex on Lake Ave. in Lake Worth.

Space doesn't permit listing all of the Finnish attractions and businesses here, so stop by the Finnish Consulate at 523 Lake Avenue in Lake Worth (Peter Makila is the honorary consul) for more information about the places and events listed here. And get a copy of the American-Finnish Business Directory from Finlandia Weekly. If you read Finnish, check out the website www.USAsuomeksi.com.