



# Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter

**SYYSKUU 2011**

<http://www.finlandiadc.org>

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

## EVENTS 2011

### GRAND OPENING OF SUOMI-KOULU IN D.C.

Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Resurrection Lutheran  
Church  
6201 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22205  
12 noon to 2:00P.M.

### FALL PICNIC

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>  
Olney Park, Falls Church,  
VA  
12 noon to 3P.M.

### PIZZA, PLAY and MOVIE NIGHT

Resurrection Lutheran  
Church  
6201 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22205  
Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

### VIOLINIST VELMA PERKIOMAKI

Salmagundi Club,  
47 Fifth Avenue at 12<sup>th</sup> St,  
New York, NY

### FINNISH CHURCH SERVICE

Resurrection Lutheran  
Church  
6201 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22205  
Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>  
2:00P.M.



**FFNCC would like to welcome Finland's new  
ambassador, Ritva Koukku-Ronde and her  
family to Washington D.C.**



EMBASSY OF FINLAND  
WASHINGTON D.C.

## New Finnish Ambassador to the United States assumes office

[Washington, D.C.] Finland's new ambassador to the United States, Ritva Koukku-Ronde, assumed office Friday after presenting her credentials to President Obama. "I'm excited to be Finland's first female ambassador to the United States," says Mrs. Koukku-Ronde, who comes to Washington after serving in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for almost three decades.

Ambassador Koukku-Ronde has worked in various positions in the foreign ministry in Helsinki and at Finnish diplomatic missions abroad. Before her posting as ambassador, she served as the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki.

"I am very honored to serve my country in the United States and I am looking forward to promoting our manifold relations, which cover almost all sectors of society," she said.

Although different in size and geographic location, the United States and Finland have many mutual interests, the ambassador noted.

"We share the same values of democracy, human rights, equality and rule of law and have a common vision for the future. We also have an excellent basis for developing our relationship further in the areas of economy, education, security, environment and high technology – to mention just a few," she said.

The ambassador also stressed the importance of co-operation between the United States and Finland in peace-mediation and crisis-management operations around the world. Finland provides military, civilian and development support in many conflict areas, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The United States is a crucial and indispensable partner for us, both bilaterally and through the European Union. The EU and the United States both support free trade, democracy and human rights, and in many global issues our interests coincide. Finland is keen to see the transatlantic relationship grow stronger as it will enable us to meet our common goals and utilize our resources in the best possible way."

###

For more information or to schedule an interview with Ambassador Koukku-Ronde, please contact Press Counselor Kari Mokko (202-468-0269 or [kari.mokko@formin.fi](mailto:kari.mokko@formin.fi)) or Media Relations Coordinator Jenni Jarventaus (202-615-5811 or [jenni.jarventaus@formin.fi](mailto:jenni.jarventaus@formin.fi)).

[www.finland.org](http://www.finland.org)

3301 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON D.C. 20008

**FFN and FFNCC  
GALA DINNER and  
CONCERT**

Embassy of Finland  
3301 Maccachussets Ave.,  
NW Washington, D.C.

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>  
6:00P.M.

**FINN SPARK  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

River Road Unitarian  
Church,  
6301 River Road, Bethesda,  
MD

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
11:00-

**FINNISH CHURCH  
SERVICE**

Resurrection Lutheran  
Church

6201 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22205

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

**SAUNA EVENING AT  
THE FINNISH  
EMBASSY**

Tentative

**CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Resurrection Lutheran  
Church

6201 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22205

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
3:00P.M.

**MOST BEAUTIFUL  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Resurrection Lutheran  
Church

6201 Washington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22205

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
6:00P.M.

**FINNISH LANGUAGE  
CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE,**

Embassy of Finland  
3301 Maccachussets Ave.,  
NW Washington, D.C.  
Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>



Leila Takala

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The hot summer with its interesting and truly earth-shaking events is now behind us and we can at least look forward to somewhat cooler weather. We can also hope that future storms will pass us by and will not bring more drenching rain and flooding to the area.

I am pleased that during the first half of this year we got our new web site ([www.finlandiadc.org](http://www.finlandiadc.org)) as well as a Facebook page working. We welcome the members' participation in both with suggestions, ideas, news and information. You will find the necessary email addresses in the Contacts page. If you have not yet looked at the new sites, please check them out.

We have a full fall season ahead of us with many events coming up. I will only mention two at this time.

We will begin with an informal picnic on Saturday, September 24, at the Olney Park which now seems to have become our usual playing field. To cover the expenses for renting the premises, and supplying the drinks and food, we have to ask for a donation from all participants. I hope to see you at the picnic and hope that rain will not prevent us from having a good time.

The Trustees of the Finlandia Foundation National will hold their fall meeting in Washington, DC, at the end of October. On that occasion, on October 29, we will have a Gala Dinner and Concert at the Embassy of Finland with performances by former FFN Performers of the Year, the soprano Maarit Vaga, the accompanist and pianist Craig Randall Johnson, the great accordionists Brent Buswell and Bert Stromholm. In addition, young Elena Olshin will entertain us with her flute accompanied by her father, Robert Olshin. Of course, the Trustees and their spouses will be attending the Gala. Please mark your calendars and come to hear the wonderful performances.

As the new President of the FFNCC I look forward to working for you during my term and hope to see all of you in our future events.

With my best wishes,

Leila Takala

*Finlandia Foundation National  
and  
Finlandia Foundation National Capital  
Chapter*

### GALA CONCERT & DINNER

Maarit Vaga  
*Soprano*  
Craig Randall Johnson  
*Piano*  
Brent Buswell & Bert Stromholm  
*Accordion*  
and  
Elena Olshin  
*Flute*

Saturday, October 29, 2011 6:00 p.m.  
Embassy of Finland  
3301 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC

Members \$65/ Non-members \$75  
Black Tie



FFNCC BORD OF  
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# SUOMI-KOULU D.C. FINNISH SCHOOL WASHINGTON D.C.



Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Embassy of Finland and Rev. Dr. Scott S. Ickert, Senior Pastor, Resurrection Ev. Lutheran Church, at the opening ceremony for Suomikoulu DC, the Finnish School of Washington, DC.

## **Suomikoulu DC, The Finnish School of Washington, DC Opening Ceremony Attended by Finnish Ambassador to the United States, Mrs. Ritva Koukku-Ronde.**

Arlington, Virginia, USA - 17 September 2011 - Suomikoulu DC, The Finnish School of Washington, DC held its opening ceremony on Saturday, 17 September.

Finnish Ambassador to the United States, Mrs. Ritva Koukku-Ronde and her husband, Dr. Hidde Ronde were the guests of honor at the opening ceremony of Suomikoulu DC, The Finnish School of Washington DC. The school is located in the Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arlington VA. Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Scott S. Ickert and Administrator Gay Mount also attended the ceremony along with Pastor Tiina Talvitie from New York Finnish Lutheran Congregation, Hanna Wagner from Finn Spark, Inc. and Leila Takala from Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter. Also present were school's 40 students, their teachers and parents.

At the opening ceremony, Anuliina Santry, the president of Suomikoulu DC welcomed everyone and introduced the six classes currently held at school: Oravat/Squirrels, Siilit/Hedgehogs, Ilvekset/Bobcats, Ketut/Foxes, Porot/Reindeer and Karhut/Bears. Suomikoulu DC is under the wing of New York Finnish Lutheran Congregation and Pastor Tiina Talvitie offered a blessing for the school. Finnish Ambassador to the United States, Mrs. Ritva Koukku-Ronde stated how wonderful it was to see how many children there are who have motivation in learning Finnish history, Finnish culture and the Finnish language. She also recognized the efforts of all the volunteer workers who put an enormous amount of effort to start the school, pledging embassy support for these kinds of valuable activities. Suomikoulu DC was organized earlier this year with the goal of providing Finnish language instruction to children of Finnish Heritage living in the Washington, DC area. The school is part of the world-wide Suomi-koulu organization, which is working to preserve the Finnish culture and language among young people of Finnish origin. The primary goal of Suomikoulu DC is to teach children to understand and speak Finnish. The school also offers children various experiences related to Finnish culture and fosters a positive attitude in children towards Finnish language and heritage.

The program is hosted by the Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 6201 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA 22205 and is organized under by the NY Finnish Lutheran Congregation. The program also receives support from The Finland Society (Suomi-Seura), Finn Spark, Inc. (Kipinä-Kerho), the Finnish Language School Association, USA and the Finlandia Foundation National Capital Chapter.

Contact:

Anuliina Santry

President, Suomikoulu DC, The Finnish School of Washington, DC  
[info@suomikouludc.org](mailto:info@suomikouludc.org)





## Tapani Kaskeala nousee EBRD:n johtokuntaan

julkaistu 08.09. klo 13:35

Hallitus on nimittänyt kauppatieteiden maisteri Tapani Kaskealan, 63, Euroopan jälleenrakennus- ja kehityspankin johtokuntaan. Kaskeala korvaa tehtävässä maatalousministeriksi siirtyneen Jari Koskisen (kok.). Kaskeala on toiminut viimeksi Washingtonissa Suomen suurlähetystössä rahoitusneuvoksena sekä Finpron hankeseurannan päällikkönä. Kaskealan toimikausi pankin johtokunnan jäsenenä alkaa 1.10.2011 ja päättyy 31.5.2012.  
*YLE Uutiset*

### TUCSON TO BE SITE OF THE 2012 FINNFEST USA FESTIVAL

Tucson, Arizona, will be the site of the next FinnFest USA Festival. The festival dates, **November 8-11, 2012**, will permit the festival to commemorate **Martti Ahtisaari Day**, an official day now in Finland, a day that Finns use to honor and consider the subject of international peace mediation. For FinnFest USA, International Peace will become the theme of the 2012 FinnFest USA festival. Attendees will see its influence in all elements of program planning.

The FinnFest USA Board of Directors will function as the organizers of the festival. Local residents in the Phoenix and Tucson area will assist as they themselves decide to define their participation. They will be meeting with Ryan Braski, festival chair, in early September. At this point, it can be said that festival attendees will find that America's Southwest will indeed become part of the festival. However, holding the festival in Tucson, while organizing it with leadership living elsewhere, means that the 2012 festival administration will have a different look and feel.

FinnFest USA is now 28 years old, and the original organizing format needs to respond to audience requests for changes in programming and administration. Wanting to stay far away from competition with more traditional "FinnFest" style festivals, the FinnFest USA. Look to the FinnFest USA website for updates and further information: [www.finnfestusa.org](http://www.finnfestusa.org) <http://www.finnfestusa.org/about-us/news/Tucson.html>

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**Finlandia Foundation® National**  
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[www.skabakery.com](http://www.skabakery.com)

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### THE 2011 FINNFUN WEEKEND, October 21-23

The 2011 Fabulous Fall FinnFunn Weekend, October 21-23 (early arrival October 20) will be held at The Williams Inn in beautiful Williamstown, MA.

This year's FinnFunn is hosted by the Finnish Center at Saima Park in Fitchburg, MA. Committees have very recently formed to begin planning a Funn event for all in the northwest corner of the Berkshires. Williamstown sits in close proximity to a number of area attractions: Hancock Shaker Village, the Norman Rockwell Museum, and the Revolutionary War's Bennington Monument, just to name a few. We hope you'll join us for a Funn time!

September 21 is the cutoff date for FinnFunn room reservations at the Williams Inn, Williamstown, Massachusetts. Reservations received after the cutoff date will be subject to general availability. Don't delay! Go to [www.saima-park.org](http://www.saima-park.org), click on "FinnFunn 2011" for hotel and event registration forms or call Mauri Auvinen, 978-827-4387.



The **Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C.**, began their fall season on Wednesday September 7, at 7:30pm, at Highland View Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland. The group will meet every Wednesday. Newcomers are welcome; no prior dance experience is necessary. Learn traditional folk dances of Finland as well as dances of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. For more information, contact **Chris Kalke** at 301-864-1596 or [ckalke@verizon.net](mailto:ckalke@verizon.net) or see their website which can be found through search engines with **Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC**. The **Nordic Dancers Children's Group** meets with the adult group from 7:30 to 8:30 on the second Wednesday each month.

# Why Are Finland's Schools Successful?

The country's achievements in education have other nations doing their homework

- 1 By LynNell Hancock
- 2 Photographs by Stuart Conway
- 3 *Smithsonian* magazine, September 2011

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/Why-Are-Finlands-Schools-Successful.html#ixzz1YPrbxrSw>



## West Virginia learns Finland's 'most honorable profession': Teacher

[www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

When newly minted West Virginia Schools Superintendent Dr. Steven Paine told parents, teachers and educators in 2005 that he wanted to use Finland as a model for their education system, he got a lot of blank stares: Finland? What, people asked, does West Virginia have to do with Finland?

Pictures by Susanna Andersson,  
Melina Hoggard and Stephen Fray







Pictures by Susanna Andersson, Melina Hoggard



