



Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter Newsletter

October 2026

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION SEATTLE CHAPTER

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Members-at-Large serve two-year, staggered terms. 1st year terms begin July 1. Please send all membership inquiries, payments or changes of address to FFSC, PO Box 5024 Bellevue, WA 98009-5024 or e-mail info@finlandiafoundationseattle.com.

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Letter from the President

Another beautiful Pacific Northwest summer has come and gone, and as the days grow shorter, our calendars fill up. This fall there are a mix of events across our Finnish and Nordic communities – some that are familiar to most of you, and some that perhaps are not. I hope you'll join us for a few of them.

Nordic Mixer – Friday, October 16

Hosted by the Northwest Danish Association at the Swedish Club, this casual evening is a chance to meet people from across Seattle's Nordic community and learn about the organizations and traditions that make it so vibrant, all with good food, drinks, and music. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

Seattle Sauna Festival – November 7–8

At the National Nordic Museum. Details at seattlesaunafestival.com.

Finnish Holiday Market – Saturday, November 14

The annual market at Leif Erikson Lodge is a cozy way to kick off the holiday season. Browse Finnish handicrafts and treats, enjoy a cup of coffee, and catch up with friends.

IDDD – Saturday, December 5

Planning is well under way for this year's celebration at the National Nordic Museum. Tickets have sold out quickly in recent years, so don't wait! They are available on our website and, if any remain, at the Finnish Holiday Market on November 14.

Nordic Christmas Concert – Tuesday, December 8

An evening of Nordic and Baltic choral music to welcome the holiday season. The location will be announced soon, so watch our website for details.

The National Nordic Museum and Seattle Finnish Lutheran Church also have fall and early-winter programs, so be sure to check their websites.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make these events possible. I look forward to seeing you this season.

Nikko Männistö

FFSC BOARD PRESIDENT



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Sign up for the E-News or dive into our archive to discover past issues. Start your Finnish journey today and start exploring at the Newsletter Archive: <https://finlandiafoundation.org/e-news-newsletter!>

Letter from the Editor

After three weeks of traveling through Finland and Denmark with my family, I'm so happy to be back in Seattle. Fall is beautiful here, and pumpkins seem to be everywhere, in yogurts, pastries, porches, and, well, you name it!



This November will mark three years since I started as the editor of this newsletter. I can hardly believe it! When I look back at my first issues, I can see just how much I've grown as an editor — and how much I've learned along the way about storytelling, our community, and the many ways we can keep our Finnish connections alive here in Seattle. And now, I'm doing it with my almost-9-month-old son by my side. We traveled to Finland with him this summer, and I have to admit I was a little nervous about the long-haul flights. But with the help of my husband, we managed like a pro team and he did wonderfully! It was also incredibly special to experience Finland with him and introduce him to a place that is such an important part of my own story.

It's hard to believe there are only three months left in the year, and yet there is still so much to look forward to. The Nordic Mixer, Finnish Holiday Market, and Finnish Independence Day Dinner & Dance are just some of the events coming up in our Finnish-American community.

There is plenty to discover in this issue as well. In our Three Questions feature, we meet Finnish-born architect Sini Kamppari, founder of Studio Kamppari in Washington State. Sini designs custom homes and spaces inspired by Nordic principles of simplicity, durability, and practical living, adapted to the landscapes and climate of the Pacific Northwest. Through her architecture and writing, she explores what Finland can teach us about creating homes that make our lives better.

Our Finnfo section is packed with interesting facts including this one: more than 12.5 million travelers passed through Finnish airports between January and July 2026.

Our wonderful contributor Gary London shares his insights after spending the summer in Finland. From theater, concerts, opera and ballet to shopping, getting around, and discovering local art, Gary's reflections offer plenty of inspiration for anyone planning a Finnish adventure or simply dreaming of one from Seattle.

You'll also discover fascinating connections between Finland and Seattle, including notes on Tove Jansson and Tuulikki Pietilä, as well as a full list of upcoming Finnish Lutheran Church events, from yoga and museum visits to Christmas songs and other community gatherings.

And finally, on the last page, you'll find the event many of us have been waiting for: the Finnish Independence Day Dinner & Dance at the National Nordic Museum on December 5. Get ready — tickets will be available soon!

Thank you for being part of our Finnish-American community and for following along with this newsletter. Nearly three years in, I'm still learning, still discovering new stories to share, and now getting to do it with a little one.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

Laura Galeev

FFSC NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Save the Date: Nordic Fall Mixer

Mark your calendars for the annual Nordic Fall Mixer on **Friday, October 16, 2026**, at the **Swedish Club** in Seattle.

This year's gathering will be hosted by the **Northwest Danish Association**, with the Swedish Club graciously serving as both venue and co-host. The evening will begin at 5:00 PM, followed by a light dinner service, remarks from participating Nordic organizations, and an opportunity to connect with friends from across the Nordic community.

Attendees are also welcome to stay for the Swedish Club's popular Berserkaraoke Night beginning around 7:00 PM.

Additional details and registration information will be shared in the coming months. We hope you'll join us for an evening of Nordic fellowship and fun!

The Three Questions

Sini Kamppari is a Finnish-born architect and head of Studio Kamppari in Washington State. She designs custom homes and spaces inspired by Nordic principles; simplicity, durability, and practical living adapted to the landscapes and climate of the Pacific Northwest. Through her architecture and writing, she explores what Finland can teach us about building homes that make our lives better.



In this column, we interview fascinating Finnish individuals and explore their lives in the Seattle area. We asked Sini Kamppari our Three Questions and are excited to share her insights.

Could you start by telling us a little about yourself and your background as an architect, and what brought you to the Pacific Northwest?

I was born in Finland and have spent most of my life in the United States. My family moved from Varkaus, Finland to the Silicon Valley in the late 1980's. Growing up between two cultures has given me a unique perspective on architecture. I studied at MIT and Yale, and spent one semester "abroad" at TKK, now called Aalto University. A road trip to Seattle in 2004 planted the seed to live here

one day, to a place that immediately felt familiar because of its forests, shorelines, and culture of bright summers and long winters. I first moved to Seattle in 2007 to work for Olson Kundig and Miller Hull, two firms known for their pioneering PNW style. In 2013, I launched my own design studio.

Having lived in both Finland and the United States for many years, what are some of the most interesting differences you have noticed between Finnish and American homes and the way people use their living spaces?

Like many other Finns living in the US, I have observed big and small differences between the US and Finland. Only recently did I collect my

my thoughts on how these differences are expressed in everyday architecture. While the landscape and climate here remind me of Finland, the way homes are designed is often very different, and that contrast inspires my work.

When people think about Finnish architecture, they often notice the clean lines and minimalist aesthetic. Those qualities are certainly there, but I think the deeper differences are cultural rather than stylistic.

Finnish homes tend to prioritize everyday life. Entrances are practical, bedrooms are more equal in size, and the best bathroom is for everyone, not a luxury for the primary suite. There is often a stronger emphasis on practicality, maintenance, and making the most of every square foot, or meter.

American homes are larger, designed to impress, dedicate space for entertaining, and aspire towards opulence. Large primary suites, formal dining rooms, and voluminous spaces are more common. With larger budgets these choices may be appropriate, yet at other times these choices are impractical and are simply what people associate with a nicer house, making homes prettier but not necessarily better. It is a curious phenomenon that people's dreams can be limited by what they see and know.

Of course, there are wonderful examples of homes in both countries.

Many of us live in houses designed by someone else, designed with someone else's assumptions of what works.

When designing a custom home, there is an exciting opportunity to question your assumptions.

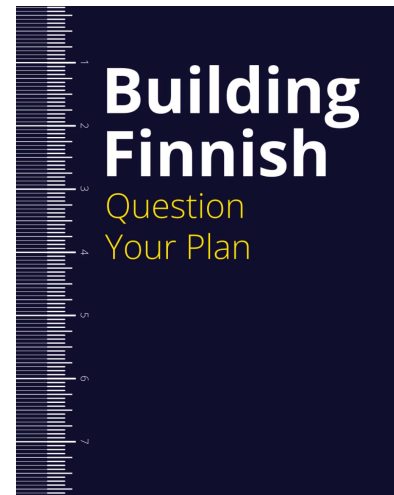
As an architect, I find this process fascinating.

You recently explored these themes in your book *Building Finnish: Question Your Plan*. What inspired you to write the book, and what do you hope readers will take away from it?

The idea for the book grew from conversations with my clients. The Pre-Design phase for projects often feels rushed, and I wanted to create books for homeowners that they could explore well before design and construction begins.

My first book, *Before the Plan*, provided a framework for describing what you want. *Building Finnish* is the book that followed with a practical, real-world example.

The premise of the book is that we transform a typical American floor plan into a Finnish home using one Nordic principle at a time. The book explores what I believe is the real lesson, not that we should all build houses that look Finnish, but



that we should be more intentional about how we design for our own lives. Every room is a vote for how we want to live. If you are designing a custom home, be sure to make something that really works for you.

A well-designed home is not about following trends or maximizing square footage. It is about creating a place that supports the life you want to live.

Through architecture and writing, I aspire to create beautiful, tailored homes with qualities that I admire in Finnish homes: practicality, durability, and building for the every day.

FINNFO – FACTS ABOUT FINLAND

Contributor: Gary London

12.5M

Number of travelers passing through Finnish airports from January through July, 2026.

15.2M

Number of travelers passing through Finnish airports from January through July, 2019.

18

Number of endangered ringed Saimaa seals caught in various fishing devices through July of 2026.

530

Number of endangered ringed Saimaa seals in existence.

1922

Year Finnish bicycle manufacturer Tunturi was established.

2026

Year Finnish bicycle manufacturer Tunturi declared bankruptcy.

53

Percentage of Finns who regard income tax as too high in 2026.

75

Percentage of Finns who regarded income tax as too high in 2002.

100

Number of data centers in Finland as of August 2026.

1.3M

Amount in euros given over the past four years by Google to various organizations in the vicinity of Hamina, where Google operates a data center.

1.31

Birthrate in Helsinki in 2025.

**2.68 &
0.42**

Comparative birthrates in Landbo and Torkkelinmäki areas of Helsinki.

FINNFO – FACTS ABOUT FINLAND

Contributor: Gary London

200

Average annual number of liters of cloudberry picked by former border guard in Kuusamo.

2

Average number of hours to pick a 10 liter bucket of blueberries by picker from Vietnam.

21,600

Number of notices for summer employment in Finland in 2026.

43,000

Number of notices for summer employment in Finland in 2023.

245

Number of Hondas sold in Finland in 2025.

6,500

Number of Hondas sold in Finland in 2007.

293

Number of municipalities in Finland where there are more men than women in the 20-39 age range.

15

Number of municipalities in Finland where there are more women than men in the 20-39 age range.

Source: All from Helsingin Sanomat. 1 and 2, 8/20/26, A14; 3 and 4, 8/8/26, A17; 5 and 6, 8/7, 26, A26; 7 and 8, 8/2/26, A9; 9 and 10, 8/8/26, A4; 11 and 12, 8/3/26, A12; 13 and 14, 8/5/26, A13; 15 and 16, 7/9/26, A11; 17 and 18, 7/7/26, A22; 19 and 20, 7/19/26, A16

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION SEATTLE CHAPTER FINNISH LANGUAGE COURSES WINTER 2027



MONDAYS/THURSDAYS ONLINE VIA ZOOM (10 SESSIONS)

Monday Beginners Class Starting: 1/4 – 2/15 and 3/8 – 3/22/2027
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. PST

This class will introduce you to more verbs and conjugation so that you can talk about your day. We will also practice more partitive and Minulla on structures. Vocabulary is centered around the home. Excellent for anyone who has taken 1–2 beginner classes OR would like a recap of verb usage. Class meets on the following dates: 1/4 – 2/15 and 3/8 – 3/22/2027. Ten sessions of 90 mins.

Thursday Advanced Class Starting: 1/7 – 2/18 and 3/11 – 3/25/2027
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. PST

In this class, we will learn to make a story in Finnish. We will practice different sentence structures, connecting verbs with an object or PAIKKA, and using different verbs for different purposes. This is a good class for you if you have taken at least 3 previous classes. Class meets on the following dates: 1/7 – 2/18 and 3/11 – 3/25/2027. Ten sessions of 90 mins.

About our classes:

- Tuition for winter is \$150 per course (= 10 sessions) and is due at the start of the semester.
 - Courses are first-come, first-served. Please complete this registration form, scan it, and email it to languageclasses@finlandiafoundationseattle.com. OR mail it with your payment check made to Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter to:

Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter
PO Box 5024 Bellevue, WA 98009

Online payment can be done at <https://www.finlandiafoundationseattle.com/language-classes/>

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full Name			Phone Number	
Email		Mailing Address		
City		ZIP/Postal Code		

☒ CLASS LEVEL ☐ Vocabulary Class ☐ Locations Class

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|--|--|
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| ☐ Couple/Family \$30/yr | ☐ Senior Couple \$25/yr |
| ☐ Supporting \$55/yr | ☐ Lifetime \$350 |

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment amount: tuition \$		Membership \$		Total \$	
Check #		Payment date		Class Level	



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The Finlandia Foundation of Seattle Chapter membership is by the calendar year.

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IS FINLAND AMERICAN?

Contributor: Gary London

During my stay in Finland this past summer, I watched several excellent documentary series on Yle. One of my favorites was “Suomi on Amerikkalainen” (Finland is American). The ingratiating, young host, Olavi Seppänen, traveled to the United States, interviewed a number of experts and ordinary people in both countries, and drew conclusions about the similarities and differences that exist. For the most part, he was concerned with the major bases for comparison — beliefs and values, government and politics, economy and commerce, culture and folkways. The series, however, got me thinking about the smaller, yet significant, ways in which the two countries are similar and different. What follows reflects some of those observations, with the caveat that my frame of reference is essentially Helsinki and Seattle.

Attending Theater, Concerts, Opera and Ballet

While I was not in Helsinki for the high season of high culture, I did manage to see several plays, an opera, a ballet and a number of concerts this summer. One way in which the two countries are converging in this area is in dress for such occasions. The dress code for being seen at high culture events persisted longer in Finland than in the United States, but I can report that just about anything goes in both countries these days. In times past, for example, I recall Finnish women, including my wife, bringing a pair of nicer shoes to replace the walking shoes or boots they wore on the street. Some of that may continue, especially during the winter, but now I saw women (and men) shod in sneakers at all times, apparently having decided to put comfort above convention. Similarly, I saw attendees attired in everything from evening gowns to jeans, much as would be the case in Seattle.

Americans sometimes assume that, as in their own country, the start time for a cultural event is an estimate. Not so in Finland. If the concert is slated to begin at 19:00, that is when the doors will close, and stragglers are left to await the intermission. Information is always posted on how long the event will last, which is helpful information for planning. Intermissions are often spent downing pre-ordered drinks or nibbling on savories or sweets — the abundance and quality of which seems to be much higher than is the case in Seattle.

Rarely is a free program available at a Finnish theater, concert hall or opera house. Programs can be purchased, typically for three to five euros.

One of the sharpest differences between audiences in the two countries comes at the end of a performance, when standing ovations are as rare in Helsinki as they are common in Seattle. Not that Finns are unappreciative. There is often enthusiastic and sustained applause, sometimes even becoming synchronized, but standing is very infrequent. At one concert late this summer, a few brave souls rose to their feet, but finding no support, rather quickly resumed sitting.

Movie-going is quite similar in Finland and the United States, as more and more theaters here sell numbered seats for showings. Prices do not differ greatly, and, in both places, one must sit through what seems like an unending number of sponsored adverts before the film actually begins. American movies still very much dominate in Finland, but there is much greater accessibility there to films from other countries, especially those from Europe.

Shopping

Good manners in Finland require that one greet the staff of a shop, especially a small one, on entering and offer thanks when departing. This is reflective of what appears to be a greater relationship of equality between customer and clerk there than here.

Although returns are now less rare in Finland than previously, they are not nearly as common as in the United States. I recall an episode of several years ago when my request for a return of a now-forgotten item was treated as though I'd ask for a pound of flesh. Now, there are actually Finnish companies that advertise return policies. I did an effortless return/exchange this summer at a Marimekko shop, for example. My sense is that there has been some embarrassment attaching to requesting a return in Finland. American retailers, like Amazon, doubtless long for such sentiment on the part of their customers.

Some shops, like offices and service centers, ask that customers take numbers, making for more orderly, fairer attention from staff. Speaking of staff, one of America's "gifts" to Finland has been the idea of self-service bays, especially in grocery stores. Even in our neighborhood Alepa, there are three such spaces, though customers clearly still prefer having an actual clerk run up their tally. Customers, in either case, are left to bag their own groceries — a mild shock to Americans who may be accustomed to having this service provided for them.

One feature of Finnish grocery stores lacking in the United States is the plastic bottle return. These automatic devices read the bar code as bottles are placed on a conveyor, and a receipt is printed when the process is completed. Small bottles are worth 20 cents and large ones worth 40 cents. Receipts are redeemable for groceries in the store. This strikes me as one of the best ideas Finns have to offer. Why not here?

It is worth noting that the most common word for shopping in Finnish is *shoppailu* — borrowed directly from English. Equally fascinating is that this word is now applied to more than shopping for goods. A case in point: the Finnish media this summer was awash in stories about parental *shoppailu*. Which is more worrisome — the shopping for schools or the use of the English-derived word to describe it?

Getting Around

There is absolutely no contest between the public transportation systems in Greater Helsinki and Greater Seattle. The former has a network of trams, busses, Metro and commuter trains that gets people around with remarkable efficiency.

On the other hand, getting tickets for public transit has become more complicated in Helsinki. For example, I have been accustomed to using a HSL transit card that could be reloaded with funds at the local R Kioski. This summer, I had misplaced my blue card. When I went to the corner Kioski, I was informed that I would have to go to Pasila to get another. Like some many other public services (tax, immigration, police, passport, etc.), transit offices have abandoned the central city in favor of Pasila for reasons unknown to most Finns with whom I spoke. (Some opined that rent was probably cheaper.) There was, however, an alternative to making the trip to the concrete towers of Pasila: the food delivery company Wolt could bring a card to one's doorstep in a matter of minutes. (A curious reporter for the Helsingin Sanomat wondered why the public transit agency HSL was operating through a private delivery company, but that is a whole other matter.). I found the best solution for me was to simply use my American credit card, which could be read just as a transit card. What an idea!

For generations, Finns avoided contact with others in public transportation by fixing their attention on a newspaper or a book. Now, of course, it is a mobile phone. Sitting apart is a standard practice, though sitting next to someone happens when conveyances fill up. There appears to be some awkwardness associated with having to get by someone sitting on an aisle seat if someone is occupying a window seat. Signaling is done by subtle changes in posture, shifting of bags or backpacks, or clearing of voice.

Finally, transit etiquette in Helsinki, as I suspect in Seattle, no longer seems to require that the younger give way to the older in crowded conveyances. Only rarely did I see anyone offer to relinquish a seat to the elderly or infirm. In the single case involving me, it was a foreigner who offered his seat. There are some seats set aside specifically for the elderly, the pregnant and the infirm, but it appeared that only passing attention was paid to such. So, is Finland American, or to put it more succinctly, is Helsinki Seattle? The answer is clearly unclear. Yes and no. Somewhat. Partially. Though, in the final analysis, it is the little things that make a place unique and drive us to the conclusion that, occasional annoyances aside, we would probably have it no other way.

Eating Out

While the "No Tipping" tradition continues in Finnish restaurants, there is some gradual undermining, particularly in establishments frequented by unknowing tourists. For example, this summer some friends and I had lunch at the historic Kappeli on the Esplanade in Helsinki. Lo and behold, at the conclusion of the meal, the waitperson presented me with the not inconsiderable bill and an opportunity to include a tip. I did so, but later regretted having contributed to an alien element undermining a long-held Finnish standard.

Speaking of waitstaff, it is not uncommon these days to find servers who do not speak Finnish. On more than one occasion, my placing an order in Finnish was met with a response in English. In practice, this probably makes little difference, as most Finns and many tourists are proficient in English. Still, one of the joys of being in Finland for me is to hear and speak Finnish. I get enough English the other ten months of the year.

Seattleites hoping to get their Starbucks coffee fix in Finland are likely to be disappointed. The previous downtown location near the Akateeminen Kirjakauppa is now the home of the Danish Joe & The Juice. For weary travelers in need of a caffeine jolt, there is still a Starbucks at the airport. Evidently, Finland's long coffee culture had little need for an American assist.

So, is Finland American, or to put it more succinctly, is Helsinki Seattle? The answer is clearly unclear. Yes and no. Somewhat. Partially. Though, in the final analysis, it is the little things that make a place unique and drive us to the conclusion that, occasional annoyances aside, we would probably have it no other way.

FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH EVENTS

FROM YOGA TO MUSEUM VISITS & CHRISTMAS SONGS

Sunday 11th October

10 AM Service and coffee time at FLC. After coffee at 12-1 PM Hiljaisuuden joogan harjoitus – Practice of Yoga on Stillness at Maki Hall. Free of charge, just bring your own yoga matt.

Sunday 18th October

1 PM Service in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue

Sunday 25th October

10 AM Kantelemessu and Holy Communion with Livakat Evergreen kantele group at FLC

Sunday 1st November

10 AM Service and coffee time at FLC. After coffee at 11:30 am information and discussion event about the future steps of FLC. Come and let your voice and opinion be heard!

Thursday 5th November

Museum visit with FLC: Northwest African American Museum NAAM at 1 PM. Address: 2300 South Massachusetts Street, Seattle, WA 98144 Price: 10 USD adults, 8 USD seniors (55+) and students

Sunday 29th November

10 AM Holy Communion First Sunday of Advent at FLC. Come and sing Hoosianna!

Thursday 3rd December

Museum visit with FLC: Museum of History and Industry MOHAI at 5 PM. Address: 860 Terry Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109 Price: Free on 3rd December from 5 to 8 pm

Sunday 13th December

1 PM Kauneimmat joululaulut at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue

Friday 25th December

10 AM Christmas Day -Joulukirkko at FLC

LOCAL ART NOTES

Contributor: Gary London

The Nordic Chamber Series continues its season with a program of Finnish organ music performed by James D. Hicks. The varied program, “**Sisu in Seattle**,” will be presented at Saint Luke’s Memorial Episcopal Church in Tacoma on October 10 at 1:00 p.m. and at the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle on October 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Hicks, a New Jersey resident, holds degrees in music from the Peabody Institute Of Music of Johns Hopkins University, Yale University and the University of Cincinnati. He has also studied at the Royal School of Church Music in London and is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. In addition to recording extensively, Hicks has curated and edited all ten volumes of The Nordic Journey Series, reflecting a passionate interest in bringing the organ music of the Nordic countries to greater awareness. He has played church organs over the length and breadth of Finland and in June of 2021 performed at the **Helsinki Cathedral** during the Helsinki Organ Summer. His recordings feature, among others, organs at the Turku Cathedral, St. Michael’s Church and St. Martin’s Church in Turku, the Central Pori Church and the Kallio Church in Helsinki.

All concerts in the series are sponsored by the Northwest Grieg Society, with Laura Loge as Artistic Director. Additional information about the series is available at nwgriegsociety.org. Concerts are billed as “free with suggested donation” through pre-registration.

For years I have wondered about the Seattle band **Swedish Finnish**. I finally had an opportunity to hear a performance at the Wallingford Bratwurst Festival on September 19. Following the concert, I chatted with Tina Anderson, founder of group of four musicians. Some 15 years ago, she stepped away from her pre-retirement career to pursue a long-time dream of playing in a band. She is now drummer for the group, which also includes three guitars, including Rod Moody also doing vocals.

As for the name of the band, Anderson said that she had grandparents from both Sweden and Finland, so it made sense to her to acknowledge them. Following the concert, several fans came up to share with her their Swedish or Finnish ancestry.

Despite the name of the band, it does not play music with Nordic roots. Indeed, the playlist consists of

self-generated compositions. Band members, from Vashon Island and West Seattle, clearly have an easy rapport and enjoy performing together. Swedish Finnish is scheduled to play at Tim's Tavern in West Seattle on October 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Regrettably, word of **The Rasmus** concert at the El Corazón Funhouse on October 3 did not make it into the last edition of the Newsletter. It is to be hoped that many local fans of this beloved Finnish band got the word through some other forum. Formed in 1994, The Rasmus has sold six million albums worldwide and represented Finland in Eurovision in 2022 with "Jezebel."

There is ample time to enter into calendars the Seattle visit of Finnish bands **Insomnium** and **Amorphis** on December 2 at 7:30 at the Showbox Market. Insomnium has built its reputation, since its formation in Joensuu in 1997, on the marriage of Nordic death metal and traditional Finnish folk music. Its newest album, "Netherworlds," is soon to be released. The six-member Amorphis is promoting its most recent album — its 15th — "Borderland." True to its name, Amorphis is not easily classified, though "progressive melodic death metal" is sometimes used.

The combined tour begins after a full slate of fall concerts in **Finland** by Insomnium and an international tour by Amorphis that has taken it to China, Australia, Mexico and South America. The North American Tour begins on November 17 in Boston and ends on December 19 in New York City. Concerts in 25 cities in a little over a month make this a bruising schedule for these two representatives of Finland's famous heavy metal reputation.

Tickets for the Seattle all ages concert may be purchased on line at AXA.com, by phone at 1-888-929-7849 or at the Showbox Box Office.

The artistic family of **Tove Jansson** is the subject of a current and rewarding exhibition at the Helsinki Art Museum. It is also a reminder of the connection of Jansson to Seattle. What precisely is that link? Jansson's long-time partner and successful graphic artist in her own right, **Tuulikki Pietilä**, was born in **Seattle** on February 18, 1917. Her immigrant father, Frans Lehtinen, in Seattle. She had moved there from Vancouver BC, where she had been a domestic servant, after emigrating in 1912. Three years after the birth of her daughter, Ida Pietilä returned to Finland, and her husband followed shortly thereafter. They established a household in Turku, and it was here that Tuulikki's equally famous architect brother Reima was born in 1923.

Tuulikki Pietilä began her art studies in Turku, then continued at institutions in Helsinki, Stockholm and Paris. She returned to the Kuvataideakatemia (Academy of Fine Arts) as a professor in

She and Tove Jansson met in 1955 and were lifelong partners until the death of the latter in 2001. They spent legendary summers together on the small, remote island of Klovharun in the Gulf of Finland recorded in their joint work, *Notes from an Island*. Pietilä died in 2009 at the age of 92. With the 110th anniversary of her birth in Seattle approaching, isn't it time for a local exhibition of the works of Tuulikki Pietilä, surely one of the best-known Finns with a connection to the city?

A reminder that the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art is featuring the works of Finnish metalsmith **Heikki Seppä** beginning on November 21 and continuing through January. Included in the exhibition are jewelry, functional hollowware and decorative art. Following Seppä's death in 2010, BIMA acquired 45 pieces of his work from his wife, Laurie A. Lyall, herself a jewelry designer who lives on the Island.

Save the Date: Finnish Holiday Market

One of Seattle's favorite Nordic holiday traditions is this November. The Finnish Holiday Market takes place on **Saturday, November 14**, from **10 AM to 3 PM** at **Leif Erikson Hall in Ballard**, bringing together local makers, Finnish treats, seasonal music, and the wider Nordic community.

Come browse handcrafted gifts, enjoy Finnish baked goods and coffee, and take part in a festive, family-friendly start to the holiday season.

Saturday, November 14 | 10 AM–3 PM
Leif Erikson Hall | 2245 NW 57th St, Seattle
Free admission!

Donations greatly appreciated. The organizers love bringing this holiday market to the community each year. As an entirely volunteer-run event, donations help cover the costs of hosting the market, including the venue and free parking for guests and vendors, and help keep this holiday tradition going for years to come.

A festive poster for the Finnish Holiday Market. The title "FINNISH HOLIDAY MARKET" is in large, red, outlined letters at the top. Below it, a red banner contains the text "HANDICRAFT GIFTS - FINNISH BAKED GOODS", "LIVE SEASONAL MUSIC - KID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES". The date "NOV 14 2026" is displayed with the number 14 inside a circle. The time "10:00 AM - 3:00 PM" and "FREE ENTRY" are listed below. The illustration shows a winter scene with snow-covered evergreen trees in the background. In the middle ground, there are three wooden market stalls with festive decorations. People are depicted in winter clothing: one person carries a large green quilt, two others stand at a small wooden table, and a group carries a large Christmas tree. The bottom of the poster provides the address: "Address: Leif Erikson Hall - 2245 NW 57th St, Seattle".

**FINNISH
HOLIDAY MARKET**

HANDICRAFT GIFTS - FINNISH BAKED GOODS
LIVE SEASONAL MUSIC - KID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

NOV **14** 2026

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FREE ENTRY

Address:
Leif Erikson Hall - 2245 NW 57th St, Seattle

DISCOVER LOCAL EVENTS

Date & Time	Event	Location	Details
Monday Beginners Class Starting: 1/4 – 2/15 and 3/8 – 3/22/2027 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM PST	Finnish Language Classes (Beginner)	Via Zoom	Ten-session beginner Finnish language course.
Thursday Advanced Class Starting: 1/7 – 2/18 and 3/11 – 3/25/2027 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM PST	Finnish Language Classes (Advanced)	Via Zoom	Ten-session beginner Finnish language course.
October 16, 2026 5:00 PM	Nordic Fall Mixer	Swedish Club, Seattle	Hosted by the Northwest Danish Association. Light dinner, Nordic networking, and Berserkaraoke beginning around 7:00 PM.
November 7–8, 2026 9 AM - 8 PM	Seattle Sauna Festival	National Nordic Museum	Details at seattlesaunafestival.com .
November 14, 2026 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Finnish Holiday Market	Leif Erikson Hall, Ballard	Local makers, Finnish treats, seasonal music, and the wider Nordic community. Free admission.
December 5, 2026 6:00 PM	Finnish Independence Day Dinner & Dance	National Nordic Museum	FFSC's annual Independence Day celebration. Tickets at https://www.finlandiafoundationseattle.com
December 8, 2026	Nordic Christmas Concert	Location TBA	Nordic and Baltic choral music welcoming the holiday season.



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION
SEATTLE CHAPTER
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BELLEVUE, WA 98009 -5024

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SATURDAY • DECEMBER 5 • 6:00 PM
NATIONAL NORDIC MUSEUM, SEATTLE

The Finnish Independence Day Dinner & Dance 2026

LIVE MUSIC

Pirske, featuring
vocalists Maria Männistö
& Finnish Choir

DINNER & RAFFLE

Join us for a festive evening of
dinner, live music, and the chance
to win incredible raffle prizes!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Washington State
Senator
Marko Liias

ADMISSION

\$125

RAFFLE TICKET

\$50

Tickets available at www.finlandiafoundationseattle.com

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