

FINNFEST USA 2019 PROGRAM
(Subject to change and adjustments as planning continues)

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Registration Desk Open

8:00 AM-8:00 PM

Tori set-up time for vendors

Sheraton Detroit Novi Ballrooms

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Tori Open:

12 noon– 5:00 PM

The following Thursday's day-time events are ticketed events and **require pre-registration. Space availability cannot be guaranteed for walk-ins.** FinnFest USA 2019 registrants will receive discounted prices.

Genealogy Seminar: Is My Family Tree History really Finnish?

9:00 AM-4:00 PM; Location: Sheraton Detroit Novi, Novi, MI

Labor History Seminar: The Detroit Automobile Industry & the Finns

9:00-12:00 noon Presentations: Detroit Labor History & the Finns

Location: Sheraton Detroit Novi

12:00-4:00 PM Bus tour of Detroit labor sites and Finntown

Finnish American Art History: What & Where?

9:00-12:00 noon Cranbrook and Finnish American Art; America's Monumental Art and Finnish America

Location: Sheraton Detroit Novi

12:00-4:00 PM Bus tour of Detroit labor sites seen in the context of "Transcending" the monument to workers in downtown Detroit & the Diego Rivera murals at the Detroit Institute of Art

Tulkaa oppimaan! Adult Finnish Language Immersion

9:00 AM -3:00 PM Finn Camp, Wixom, MI

Hyvää ruokahalua! Cooking Class: Finnish foods and preparations

Soile Anderson & Eleanor Ostman share Finnish cooking ideas.

9:00 AM -11:30 OR 2:00 PM-3:30

Thursday Evening: Two ticketed events

Opening Ceremonies and Concert

7:00-8:30 PM Farmington Civic Theater

Transportation: Free parking at Sheraton with shuttle bus to the theater

FinnFest USA Reception

9:00-11:00 PM Mackinac Room, Sheraton Detroit Novi

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

Tori Open

8:00-5:00

Sheraton Detroit Novi Ballroom

Registration Desk Open

8:00-5:00

8:30 - 10:00 Program Session I

1. Finnish family history and migration: Past & Present as studied and presented in Finland

Dr. Tuomas Martikainen, Migration Institute, Turku;

Dr. Antti Häkkinen, University of Helsinki

2. Minna Canth: A Finnish Voice for Equality & Justice

“Minna Canth: Theater for the People”

K. Marianne Wargelin, Tampere University

“Gender, Race and Class in Minna Canth’s *Työmiehen vaimo*” (The Workman’s Wife)

Helena Halmari, Sam Houston University

“Minna Canth and Finland”

Wade Hollinghaus, Brigham Young University

3. Climate Change I

Finland’s Arctic region: Changes and Concerns

4. Finland and the USA: Comparing and Contrasting 21st century approaches to religion in two different countries

Jarmo Tarkki, Finnish Ministries West of the Mississippi for the Church of Finland & the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Fuller Theological Seminary

5. The Saarinens and Cranbrook

Convener: Max Stevenson, Program Director, Norway House, Minneapolis
Presenter: Peter MacKeith, Dean, Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas

6. Choir singing in Finland and Finnish America

“Choral singing In Finnish America”

Carl Rahkonen, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Choral singing In Finland”

Terhi Miiki-Broesma

7. Finnish American documentary film:

“Cooperatively Yours: Settlers Co-operative in Bruce Crossing”

10:00 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 12:00 Program Session II

1. Rural and small towns in the 21st Century: The view from Finland and the American Midwest

Convener & Commentator: Arnold Alanen, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Presenter: Hanna Mattila, Aalto University & University of Minnesota
Response: America’s 21st Century rural areas and small towns
Michael Loukinen, Northern Michigan University
Janet Gilmore, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Diane Rogers, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

2. “Created in Finnish America, Preserved in Finland, Returned to the USA: the Collection work of Simo Westerholm and the Efforts of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to return it to Americans”

Convener & Commentator: Jim Leary, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Participants: Tom DuBois, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Tallari Folk music ensemble, Finland

3. Loja Saarinen: Textiles in Interior Design

Convener: Helena Niskanen

Kevin Adkisson, Collections Fellow, Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research

4. Working-Class Literature: Finland

Convener: Helena Halmari

“The Libraries of the Finnish Workers’ Associations: Ideals of Education at the Turn of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries”

Alpo Väkevä, Library of the Labour Movement, Helsinki, University of Helsinki

“Working Class Narratives in the 1890s Finland”

Minna Sannikka, Finnish Labour Archives, Helsinki

“Finnish Working-Class Literature of the 1970s and the Modernization of Society”

Jussi Lahtinen, Tampere University

5. Retrieving and Saving Finnish America’s Invisible History: Two Individual Efforts created for the Public

Convener: Tuomi Forrest

“Child of Teuva: Suomi Finland”: A published family history project

Anni Korpi Putikka and Arlene Putikka Tucker, Duluth

“Kalmer Nyckel & Finnish log construction: A history research project”

Frank Eld, 2018-2019 Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year

6. Climate Change II

“Land of 10,000 Lakes: How is the water today?”

7. Finnish American documentary film II

“Children of Labor” a film made in 1978

12:00-1:30

LUNCH BREAK

12:15-1:30 **LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Women's Equality Issues: Past & Present
Commemoration of Minna Canth's 175th Anniversary
 Mackinac Room, Sheraton Detroit Novi

1:30 - 3:00 **Program Session III**

1. Women in Finland in the 21st century

Saara Särmä, Ph.D. Co-Founder, Feminist Think Tank *Hattu*,

2. Preserving Finland's history as found in the USA

Finland's Mid-20th Century wars: A Detroit-based project to preserve first-hand experiences of Finns who came to the USA after the Wars and now live in Detroit

Convener & Commentator: Dr. Sharon Franklin Rahkonen

Presenters: Louise Hartung and Glenn Kujansuu

3. Climate Change

"Environmentally sensitive actions and long-term goals for Finland"

4. Working-Class Literature in Finland and Finnish America

Convener: Helena Halmari

"Hilja Pärssinen: The International Poet of Working Women"

Marjaliisa Hentilä, Finnish Labour Archives, Helsinki

"The Literary Archetype of the Hard-Working Finnish American and Its Origin in the *Kalevala*"

Alana Kosklin, University of Newcastle, Australia

"Work and Workability of Finnish Immigrant Women in Paula Ivaska Robbins' *Below Rollstone Hill* & Lauri Lemberg's *St. Croix Avenue*"

Mehdi Ghasemi, University of Turku & Tampere University

5. Folk Songs of Another America: Finnish American Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest

Convener and Commentator: Carl Rahkonen

"Viola Turpeinen: Accordionist Virtuoso"

Jim Leary, University of Wisconsin-Madison, emeritus

6. Finnish Americans: Food and Identity

Convener: Yvonne Lockwood, Curator, Michigan State University Museum, emerita

“Culture is in the Kitchen: Finnish Women and Culinary Roots in Florida, US”
Laura Kihlstrom, University of Southern Florida

“Creating Finnish foods for an American audience”
Soile Anderson, Master Chef, and Eleanor Ostman, Food editor, St. Paul Pioneer Press, retired

7. Finnish American Documentary film III

Loukinen film on the Upper Peninsula

3:00 – 3:30 BREAK

3:30 - 5:00 Program Session IV

1. Preserving the voices, the visuals, and sounds of Finnish America.

How are we doing? A Conversation with Finnish American documentary filmmakers and archivists.

Archivists:

Joanne Chopp, Finnish American Heritage Center, Finlandia University
Daniel Necas, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota
Film makers: Kristen Ojakangas, Michael Loukinen

2. Finland, its “Sote” debate: Reflections on the 21st century in Finland and the USA

Changes occurring in Finland’s small towns and villages and their
Comparison/Contrast with America’s small towns and villages

Participants: Hanna Mattila, Janet Gilmore, Jarmo Tarkki, Markus Aaltonen

3. Finnish and Finnish American Authors Read from their work

Convenors: Scott Kaukonen & Helena Halmari

Readers:

Mehdi Ghasemi: “Flight to Finntastic Finland: A Noveramatry Reading”

Beth L. Virtanen: TBD

Melissa Chichester: “Lay Down on the Good Earth”

Question & Answer and Book Signing

4. Co-operativism writ large in Finnish America

Convener & commentator: Prof. Arnold Alanen

“The Kesämökki Writ Large: Finn Camp, Detroit
Finn Camp representatives

“The Co-operatives in the Upper Peninsula”
Bill Pratt, History Dept., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, emeritus

5. Finnish hymns: Singing the hymns of Finland

Come to sing well-loved Finnish hymns. We’ll sing a selection of traditional, centuries-old and contemporary hymns. We’ll provide the words and music. As we sing, we’ll answer questions about the Finnish sacred music tradition and add interesting information about the hymns.

Liisa Keränen, Laestadian Lutheran Church of North America, Music
Coordinator

Matthew Keränen, Laestadian Lutheran Church of North America,
Director of Publications

6. Documentary Film IV:

“Sirkka”

5:30

Viola Turpeinen Tribute

Location: Finn Camp

Participants: Finn Folk, Finn Hall & others

Food available

7:00 PM

Contemporary Finnish Film Screening

Location: Farmington Civic Theater

7:00 PM

Classical Music Concert

Järnefelt Trio

Location: Finnish Center, Farmington Hills

8:30 PM

Music from America performed by Finns

The American Premiere of the Simo Westerholm Collection
performed in concert by Tallari

Location: Mackinac Room, Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Tori Open
8:30-5:00
Sheraton Detroit Novi Ballroom

Registration Desk Open
Time: 8:00-2:00

Finnish language camp for Children
9:00 AM-3:30 PM
Finn Camp, Wixom, MI

8:30 - 10:00 Program Session V

1. Finland and the USA's 100 years of Diplomatic Relations: An Introduction

“On the Finland Watch: An American Diplomat in Finland during the Cold War”
James Ford Cooper, U.S. State Department, Retired

2. Finland and the USA: Preserving the material culture of Finnish America.

Convener: Jim Kurtti, Finnish American Heritage Center

“The experience in Seinäjoki, Finland”
Tellervo Lahti, Siirtolaisen Museo (Immigrant Museum)

“The experience in Fairport Harbor, Ohio”
Lasse Hiltunen, Fairport Harbor Finnish American Museum

“The experience at the Michigan State University Museum”
TBD curator at MSU

3. J. R.R. Tolkien and the Kalevala

Convener: Frog

“The Lord of the Rings” and its Kalevala influences”
Hilary Virtanen, Finlandia University

4. How & Where to Find Finnish American Literature and Finnish Literature in Translation: Virtual Book Club Ideas

Convener: Sally Moreno

Discussion: Beth L. Virtanen, Scott Kaukonen, & the audience

5. Finland and its Guggenheim Museum experiences

Convener: Peter MacKeith

Hanna Mattila, Aalto University and University of Minnesota

6. Sami: Finland's Indigenous people in the 21st century

John Peuaynaki, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thomas DuBois, University of Wisconsin-Madison

7. The Shrinking Lutheran Church of Finland: SWOT Analysis

Jarmo Tarki, Finnish Ministries for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Church of Finland in the USA

Veli-Matti Kärkiäinen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Tiina Talvitie, Finnish Lutheran Church, New York City

8. Documentary Film:

“Children of Labor”

10:00 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 12:00 Program Session VI

1. The Kalevala: readings and understandings in the 21st century.

Eila Stepanova, University of Helsinki

2. Finnish American life after the Finntown; Preserving the Finntown community spirit in a 21st C. urban world

A. Detroit: the Finnish Center Association

B. Fairport Harbor, Ohio: Finnish Heritage Museum

C. New York City: The Finnish Lutheran Church

3. Workers, labor unions and the Detroit Automobile Industry**4. Immigrants and Refugees in 21st century Europe**

Finland: its refugees and immigrants

Tuomas Martikainen, Migration Institute, Turku

United Nations: Refugees and resettlement

Daniel Necas, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota

5. Workshop for Students: Using Finland and Finnish America as a topic for projects and papers. How to find topics and sources from Business, Science, Technology, and the Liberal Arts

Tom DuBois, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Hanna Mattila, University of Minnesota & Aalto University

Hilary Virtanen, Finlandia University

6. Finland/US Diplomatic Relations: The Finnish American & Expatriate experience, past and present

Marianne Wargelin, Jim Kurtti, Paul Potti, James Ford Cooper, Markus Aaltonen

Respondent: Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi (invited)

7. Documentary Film:

Oulu, Wisconsin

12:00-1:00

LUNCH BREAK

Salad buffet and conversation: Finland's own Global Village
Connecting and meeting with Finns around the world
through visits and meetings in Finland

Salad buffet and conversation: FinnFest USA in the 21st Century
Come and share your thoughts with the FinnFest USA Board

1:00 - 2:30

Program Session VII

1. "History will record that...", but who gets to tell the story? The experience in Finland and America

Convener: Tuomi Forrest, Historic Germantown

"Barbed wire and DeKalb Illinois: Where were the Finnish Americans who lived and worked there?"

Diane Rodgers, Northern Illinois University

Respondents: Miika Tenhunen, Migration Institute, Turku

Tellervo Lahti, Finnish Migration Outdoor museum

Saara Särnä, Ph.D. Co-Founder, Feminist Think Tank Hattu,

Marianne Wargelin, University of Tampere

2. Workshop for Junior high and High school students: Creating a History Day project and taking it to Nationals: how to use Finnish and Finnish American history sources and projects.

Instructor: Sharon Franklin Rahkonen, Indiana University of
Pennsylvania

3. Interview: Private Collectors and Private Collections, An interview with Finnish American collector of Finnish American art

Interviewer: Max Stevenson; Interviewee: Tim Nurvala

4. The Kalevala Today

Convener: Helena Halmari

“A Romance with the *Kalevala*”

Frog, University of Helsinki

“The *Kalevala* in Modern Finland: The Use of the *Kalevala* in Popular Culture, Arts, and Business Life”

Tuomas Hovi, University of Turku:

“*The Land of Kaleva*”: the author reads from his novel

Scott Kaukonen, Sam Houston State University

5. The Kantele: Finnish folk instrument in America

Convener & discussant: Hilary Virtanen, Finlandia University

“The Kantele: its preservation and revival in Finnish America’

Carl Rahkonen, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

6. Pasties: Yooper soul food and Finnish American heritage

Convener and commentator: Yvonne Lockwood, Michigan State University Museum, Emerita

A panel discussion with Jason Edberg, owner of Motor City Pasty Company; Representative from Finnish Center Association; Janet Gilmore.

7. Muslims: The Differing efforts to create Relationships in Finland and the USA

Veli-Matti Kärkiäinen, Fuller Theological Seminary

8. Documentary Film:

“Sirikka”

2:30 – 3:00

BREAK

3:00 - 4:30 Program Session VIII**1. I'm 20% Finnish: Am I Finnish? Perspectives on Finnish DNA**

Convenor and Commentator: Hilary Virtanen, Finlandia University

A panel discussion with Finnish and US scholars

2. Finnish American Humor: What distinguishes it?

“Telling jokes in the Upper Midwest”

Jim Leary, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Response: The audience

Bring your humor to share with the group.

3. Finnish America Authors Reading and Talking about their work

Conveners: Scott Kaukonen and Helena Halmari

Hanna Pylväinen, Virginia Commonwealth University, reads from her novel, *We Sinners*

Lauri Anderson, Finlandia University, reads from his work

Dennis Frahmann reads from his work

Followed by interviews with the authors by Dr. Scott Kaukonen, Q and A, and book signing

4. Landscape & Contemporary Finland: What does it mean that every 9th species of floral and fauna in Finland is endangered?**5. “I’m decluttering: what should I save to give to an archives? What are the different goals of my local community archives, a regional archives ...and those archives that collect for the nation?”**

Convener: Aileen Caldwell

Joanne Chopp, Finnish American Heritage Center, Finlandia University

Daniel Necas, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota

Detroit Historical Society

6. Tulkaa laulamaan! Let’s sing the old songs and learn new pop songs sung in Finland

Terhi Miihi-Broesma and Margaret Vainio, Leaders.

Come to sing. Come to hear. Old traditional songs of Finland and the pop songs of 20th century Finland give a different glimpse at who Finland is today in the 21st century. We’ll provide the words and music. This session should be fun for families and people of all ages.

7. Finnish Expatriate Parliament and the Finland Society (Suomi Seura): their value and purpose to Americans of Finnish descent

Markus Aaltonen, Chair of Suomi Seura (Finland Society & Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament

Hanna Wagner, Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (USA and Latin America

Finnish Americans and Finnish citizens living in the US have two ready sources to assist them connect to contemporary Finland. Come to learn how Suomi Seura has, since its origins 90 years ago, keeps Finnish roots alive for the Finnish diaspora. What are they doing right now? What resources do they have today that could help you connect? What would you like them to do?

This session is a discussion with two people who want you to talk with them about your experiences with Finland and help them understand more about how they could help you become more connected. Through the discussion, they will share information about their resources.

8. Documentary Film

“Paavo: a Life in Five Courses”

- 7:00** **Saturday night moijakka and musical evening**
Finn Camp
Finn Hall playing for listening and dancing
- 7:00** **“Tom of Finland”** Finnish biopic film & Finland’s entry in the
2018 Best Foreign Picture Oscar competition.
- 8:30** **Celebrating the Finnish Graphic Novel**
Celebrate the 2019 publication of the Finnish graphic novel, *Me, Mikko and Annikki* in an English translation. Watch the documentary film “Poetry Comes to Town”, a film about the Annikki poetry festival occurring each year in Tampere, Finland. Afterwards, we’ll have our own Open Mike for people to read from their poetry. Cash bar.

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

8:00 **FUN RUN &/or NATURE WALK**

8:00 **Finnish style Breakfast**
-10:00 Sheraton Detroit Novi

8:30-12:00 **Tori**

10:30 **Worship Service with Finnish hymnody (in translation)**
 Pastor Jarmo Tarkki, Officiant & Terhi Miiki-Broersma, Cantor
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Southfield, Michigan

Kirkkokahvi: Church coffee and tour of church building following

12:00-5:00 **Family fun at Finn Camp** (pre-registration required)

Finn Camp sauna (additional reservation required)
 Finnish and Finnish American games to try: Möllky, horseshoes,
 Hobbyhorse competition, Boot toss.
 Pickleball on Finn Camp's new court; Pesäpallo exhibition game

Walking tour of Finn Camp with additional video/slide presentation

“Finnish Log Construction: The Art”
 Frank Eld, Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year

“The Benefits of the Sauna”
 Craig Lahti, FinnLeo Sauna

1:00-5:00 **Tours:** (*pre-registration required*)

- Detroit Labor history and Finntown
- Cranbrook Art Museum & Saarinen residence

5:00-6:00 **Workshops at the Finnish Center**

Kantele workshop with Kardemimmet
 Writing workshop: writing about Finnish and Finnish America themes
 Music jamming with musicians attending FinnFest USA

5:00-6:30 **Finnish-style pea soup supper at Finnish Center (proposed)**

7:00 PM **Concert: Kardemimmet (kantele ensemble)**

Finnish American Singers of Michigan: the opening act

The Ladies of Kaleva of North America will be given the honor of membership in the **Robert W. Selvala Society**, a FinnFest USA award created to acknowledge the vital contributions made to FinnFest USA. This award will be given at the end of the concert. It is given in keeping with the 175th anniversary of the birth of Minna Canth; it honors women's contributions to FinnFest USA in general and the Ladies of Kaleva's contributions in particular.

MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**9:00-4:00****FinnFest USA Board of Directors meeting**