

Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter, Inc.

Newsletter Fall 2010

P.O. Box 2590, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
www.finlandiafoundationny.org



facebook

Are you on Facebook?! If so, join us on our brand new page by searching "**Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter**" for the latest news, events, photos, and more!

President's message:

As summer days become a distant memory, we slowly accept the changing of the season, making room for autumn's offerings – crisp days and nature's bountiful gifts.

This is my favorite time of the year. My hope is that you will also enjoy the bounties of the season with Finlandia Foundation Metropolitan Chapter's fall programs. Come and be refreshed as many exciting and interesting events are waiting for you all!

The first memorable event will be a Lee Alperin lecture about Jews of Finland, giving us a deeper look into their history. Mr. Alperin will offer fresh perspectives on Finnish history not well known to the world. It is definitely a must see performance.

A fantastic new Finnish movie is coming to town, Finnish Director Arto Halonen will come to present and show his hit new movie "Princess" at the Walter Read Theater at Lincoln Center, and they would love to see a strong Finnish presence welcoming Arto to New York.

In addition, another fun and exciting, must-see event for all Finns in the New York Metropolitan area is Otso Huopaniemi's world premiere play of the "Finnish Mafia at the Bronx", which will be held at the Scandinavia House this November. I'm so excited and proud that Finlandia Foundation can be part of this special event with the talented actors Tuomas Hiltunen, Heli Sirviö, and Helsinki based Finnish Director Irene Aho.

This fall we will have another informative and heart moving event at the Scandinavia House, the Book Talk with Stina Katchadourian's memoir, *The Lapp King's Daughter*, which tells the story of what one Finnish family had to go through during World War II.

Let's not forget our beautiful Independence Day Celebration and traditional Christmas party with a sing-along, two events we cannot do without. They always move us deeply and maintain our Finnish roots.

As you can see we have a bountiful fall events line-up just for you. We hope you can be a part of these wonderful exciting programs and become part of us, the Finlandia Foundation family.

Looking forward to seeing and meeting you all !

Warm greetings to you all, enjoy the bounties of the season!

Tarja Silverman
President, FFNYMC



Celebrating Midsummer with a Picnic in the Park by Laura Cirigliano

Unless you're lucky enough to make it out to a kesämökki in Finland each year, it's easy to disregard a Midsummer vacation. This year however, Finlandia Foundation honored "Juhannus" with the Scandinavian American Heritage Society by having a picnic in Vasa Park on Saturday, June 26.

Located in Budd Lake, New Jersey, the festival was set deep amongst the trees.

"Home to small summer cottages and dozens of Scandinavians, this beautiful park was the perfect setting for Juhannus, the only difference celebrating in America, was that the sun actually set on us," exclaimed Katri Saunders, FF Board Member. Complete with dozens of picnic tables, vendors, a playground, music, and familiar Nordic

languages spoken by the hundreds of attendees, it was an event which, for a moment, became more Finnish than Finland.



Hilkka Kosinsky at the membership booth

The Finlandia Foundation membership booth was set up at the front entrance.

"We were within great eyeshot of individuals first coming into the park and managed to attract many who were quite interested in the brand new bags that we had made for potential members," added Ceridwen Koski, FF Board Member. In addition, a private picnic area was lined with Finnish banners and food was plentiful as members sampled pancakes, pea soup, homemade ice cream, hot dogs, and (of course!) beer.



Hilpi and Helina

While there was plenty of food to be eaten, other activities included, a Scandinavian flag parade, Maypole folk dancing, and Professor Rolf Stang dressed as a Viking for the children. Finnish musicians, Helina Pakola and Hilpi Kantola, also performed, featuring a special film created by *Singing Strings Institute Children of Minnesota*. The project was especially made for Finnish language schools nationwide, called "Tuohitorvi Soi."

Later that evening, members were invited to a dinner dance, while enjoying Swedish meatballs and watching a performance by Swedish singer, Titti Sjoblom. The evening culminated in a raffle drawing, which included airline tickets to Scandinavia. Winner, Anneli Alperin, won a dinner for two on the World Yacht.



Rolf Stang

Maybe some 40 Finns attended the event, in addition to all the other Scandinavians. "We came home inspired by our heritage after such a nice day," exclaimed Katri, "and were especially happy to avoid the 75 minute delay at the George Washington Bridge by taking Lincoln Tunnel back to Manhattan."

Photos: Katri Viikari

Welcome to our first fall meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 starting at 6.30 pm

Estonian House

243 East 34th St, New York, NY 10016 (near 2nd Ave)

Mr. Lee Alperin

of The Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter
is Proud to Present the Fascinating Story of:

The Jews of Finland

(Multi-media presentation assisted by Juha Mäkipää)

“While Jews serve in my army I will not allow their deportation.”

Marshal Mannerheim, commander of the Finnish army

This presentation in Florida, March 2010, sponsored by the Finlandia Foundation Florida Chapter, was exceedingly well received by the large lecture hall filled to capacity.

Mr. Alperin will tell us why the Jews first settled in Finland (in 1858), how they were treated. He will talk about the situation that developed when the Germans arrived in 1942 and tried to convince Finland to send Jews to death camps.

This is a program not to be missed!

Refreshments, catered by Anne Ermini, served before the lecture.

Please RSVP to rsvp@finlandiafoundationny.org by Oct 15, 2010.

Non-members: \$10, Members: \$5

~ In Memoriam ~



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Paul Hanslin, former president of Hanslin Travel Service and a long term supporter of Finlandia Foundation, who died in his home in Charlestown, RI, on July 17, 2010.

Mr. Hanslin, a very active member of the Finnish-American community, belonged to over 20 organizations including the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce New York, Finlandia Foundation National and New York Metropolitan Chapter, and the New England Finnish-American Bicentennial Committee. He was also a contributor to the Finnish newspaper, Raivaaja, and served as a host for WEIM, a local Fitchburg radio station. Born October 17, 1928 in Helsinki, Mr. Hanslin was the son of Emil and Aino (Anttila) Hanslin. After serving in both the U.S. and Finnish armies, he immigrated to the states. Mr. Hanslin later founded Hanslin Travel & Reality, while serving as an active member of the local Fitchburg community, and later purchased Leeman Travel in New York City. Looking to expand Finnish tourism, he later built Hanslin Travel and Holiday Tours of America into one of the largest promoters of Finnish tourism.

Mr. Hanslin is survived by his wife, Mirja, son Mark Hanslin and daughter-in-law Suzy Hanslin of Princeton Junction NJ, daughter Merit (Hanslin) Mailloux and son-in-law Paul Mailloux of Fitchburg, loving daughter Meria Hanslin of Charlestown RI, five grandchildren, Christopher Mailloux, Jessica (Mailloux) Tuoti, Tom Hanslin, Brian Hanslin and Sarah Hanslin as well as a brother, Mauri Hanslin of Helsinki. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margit (Rontu) Hanslin of Fitchburg, and a brother, Arnold Hanslin of Helsinki, Finland.

Scandinavia House, the Nordic Center in America, and
the Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter, Inc.

Present

“The Finnish Mafia in the Bronx”



A world premiere play by the Finnish Playwright, Otso Huopaniemi and the Finnish Theatre Group.

Monday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.

58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Streets.), NYC
(212) 879-9779; www.scandinaviahouse.org

Free, Reception to follow

After spending almost two decades in Finland, a Finnish playwright who grew up in New York returns to the U.S. with his singer songwriter fiancée. While the couple tries to iron out their differences concerning the future of their relationship, they find themselves living amongst a peculiar Finnish community in the Bronx, headed by two tough ladies. In the course of the play, the focus shifts from a deeply personal perspective to the power struggles and inner conflicts of the so-called Finnish Mafia. As the unlikely neighbors bathe in an illegal sauna, two unexpected love triangles collide and new alliances are forged.

Directed by Irene Aho, *The Finnish Mafia in the Bronx* features well-known Finnish actor Tuomas Hiltunen, (*Confessions of a Shopaholic*, 2009), and freelance actress, Heli Sirviö.

IRENE AHO is a Helsinki-based freelance director. She was born in Manhasset, NY. Since 2001, Aho has directed plays by leading Finnish playwrights including Juha Jokela, Anna Krogerus, Miika Mylläho, among others. In addition to her artistically and commercially successful productions at Kansallisteatteri (The Finnish National Theater) and KOM-teatteri in Helsinki, she has directed at several regional theaters, including Turku, Lahti, Oulu, and Jyväskylä. She has held permanent positions at the Jyväskylä and Kouvola City Theaters. MA, Theater Academy of Finland. Member of The Union of Finnish Theatre Directors.

TUOMAS HILTUNEN trained at Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London and he was an American-Scandinavian Foundation, Finlandia Foundation and Fulbright fellow in Columbia University's MFA acting program. While at Columbia, he performed in Kelly Stuart's *The Life of Spiders* at The Culture Project and in Andrei Serban's *Benvenuto Cellini* at The Metropolitan Opera. Most recently Tuomas has performed in *The Marvelous Rooming-House of Madame Le Monde* by Tennessee Williams with Target Margin Theater; *The Verge* by Susan Glaspell at the Ontological-Hysterical Theater; *Pitch* with Richard Schechner's East Coast Artists at La MaMa; *Artfxxrs* by Michael Dimitrovich at DR2; *The Magnificent Cuckold* by Femand Crommelynck at The Connolly Theater; *Artfuckers* at Theater for the New City. Tuomas's on-camera experience includes "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" (NBC), "Jonny Zero" (FOX) and *Confessions of a Shopaholic* (Disney). His extensive radio work includes voice-overs and narrations, most notably for PBS, History Channel, Oxford University Press and Apple. Tuomas teaches voice and speech at Barnard College.

OTSO HUOPANIEMI is a New York-based bilingual playwright and Fulbright Scholar. Born in Kerava, Finland, he has been writing plays since he was accepted to the Theater Academy of Finland in 1997. There he studied under playwright Pirkko Saisio, director Kaisa Korhonen, and dramaturg Juha-Pekka Hotinen, among others. Otso's play *Perillä/Arrived* was published in Helsinki in 2009 and is currently being translated into English. At Columbia, Otso studied playwriting under playwrights Charles Mee and Kelly Stuart. He is currently in his final year as a MFA candidate and is working on his thesis play *The Finnish Mafia in the Bronx* with his mentor, playwright Sheila Callaghan. Plays in English include: *The Story of Martha and George's Son (As Told by a Chorus of Objects)* (Schapiro Theater, 2010); *Snow Fleas* (Schapiro Studio, 2010); *Bleeding Radiators* (Schapiro Theater, 2009); and *A Fanfare for the Common Man* (Schapiro Studio, 2009). Plays in Finnish include *Kahden puolen ikkuna* (KOMteksti, 2002), and *Hamann eli vieraisa huoneissa* (TeaK, 1999). Devised work includes *Are We Here Yet?* (PS 122) with director Anna Brenner and ensemble. Otso recently worked as Edward Albee's assistant at Playwrights Horizons and is assisting Sheila Callaghan on an upcoming project in New York. He is a proud member of The Finnish Dramatists' Union.

HELI SIRVIÖ is a Finnish actress and theater and TV producer. She trained at the Theater Academy of Finland, and received her MFA in 2001. Since then she has worked in several TV and theater productions in Finland. Her stage work includes "The Cherry Orchard" by Chekov, "Macbeth" by Shakespeare, "The Master and Margarita" by Bulgakov, "Those Learned Ladies" by Moliere, "Long Christmas Dinner" by Wilder, "Heavenly Creatures" originally by Jackson (adapted for the stage by Juha Luukkonen), and the musical "Crazy for You" by Ludwig/Gershwin, in various Finnish theaters such as Q-Theater, Kuopio City Theater and the National Theater of Finland. Ms. Sirviö also acts in two major Finnish TV series this winter, both of which she has a principal role. In New York her work has included "The Christmas Revels" in Symphony Space and the Columbia University production of "Come Back Little Sheba" by Inge. In both productions Ms. Sirviö played the female lead role. Ms. Sirviö also does voice over work in both New York City and in Helsinki, Finland.



The Lapp King's Daughter Book Talk with Stina Katchadourian

Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 p.m. at Scandinavia House
Free

From 1939 to 1945, Finland fought three wars: the Winter War of 1939, when the Soviet Union attacked the country; the Continuation War, when Finland fought the Soviet Union alongside Germany; and the Lapland War of 1944-45 against Germany.

Stina Katchadourian's memoir, *The Lapp King's Daughter*, tells the story of how these three wars uprooted the lives of one Finnish family. The book draws on the author's childhood memories and also on the correspondence between her parents, who were separated during most of World War II, with the father on the front, fighting the Soviets.

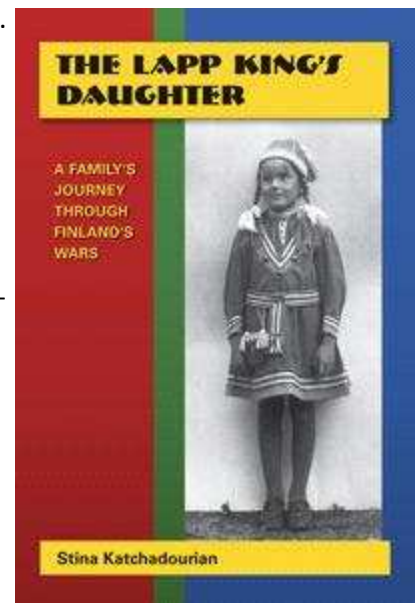
In 1944, the mother took her two daughters from their home in Helsinki and moved them to the presumed safety of a farm in Finnish Lapland. A pawn in the power play between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, Finland had allied itself with Germany, hoping to stave off a Russian occupation. But in the summer of 1944, Finland could no longer fight, and so concluded a separate ceasefire with the Soviets. The peace conditions were harsh. No one knew what the Red Army would do next.

Things did get worse. Strongly urged by the Russians, the Finns attacked the Germans in Lapland. This conflict was preceded by a mass evacuation of the population of Finnish Lapland (100,000 people and their livestock), as the retreating Germans, using the scorched-earth tactic, burned down all of Finnish Lapland.

Sixty years later, after both her parents had passed away, Stina Katchadourian read their wartime correspondence for the first time, while she was a resident at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. Through those carefully saved and chronologically bundled letters emerges a little girl who, sheltered by her parents' love, never realized how close to the brink she and her country had come.

Finland's dramatic political history during World War II and how this small country retained its independence despite facing occupation by the Soviet Union or domination by Nazi Germany is told in riveting detail in this eyewitness account, which also includes family photos, maps, historical photos and other unique material from Swedish and Finnish archives.

[Co-presented in collaboration with the Finlandia Foundation.](#)



Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America

58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Streets), NYC
(212) 879-9779; www.scandinaviahouse.org

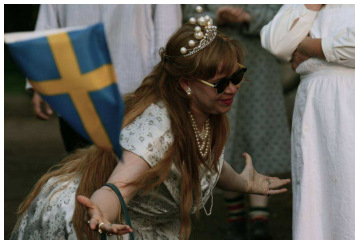
Also at Scandinavia House: Contemporary Scandinavian Reading Series

For Sheer Love of Me/Rakkaudesta minuun

October 18, 2010, Pre-reception 7:30 p.m./reading 8:00 p.m.

Free

Written by Anna Krogerus (Finland, 2005) & directed by Sebastian Nyman Agdur (Sweden). The Northcliff family is slowly falling apart in their large apartment in a wealthy neighborhood. Tina, an interior decorator, and Edward, a TV psychologist, are growing apart, while their ten year-old daughter, Sylvia (named after Sylvia Plath), becomes increasingly lonely and isolated. All these suppressed feelings surface with the arrival of a new neighbor, Sally Peak. The entire family piles their hopes and desperation onto Sally, which leads to an inevitable collision. *For Sheer Love of Me* is a melancholy, perceptive, compassionate and subtly humorous examination of alienation within a family.



Artwork from "Princess"

Harlan Jacobson's TALK CINEMA in New York

is pleased to present a special screening of

Arto Halonen's movie, "PRINCESS"

at its preview series at

the Walter Reade at Lincoln Center

165 W 65th St.

New York, 10023

(212) 875-5600



Director Arto Halonen

TALK CINEMA

50 Hudson Ave

Peekskill, NY 10566

914-737-7654

www.talkcinema.com

harlan@talkcinema.com

susan@talkcinema.com

Sunday October 24, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Princess is the latest film from Finland's Arto Halonen, based on the true story of Anna Lappalainen (1896-1988) the famous "Princess" of the Kellokoski Psychiatric facility in Tuusula, Finland. A just published book by one of the attending doctors who witnessed her story has been released to great acclaim in Finland, and Halonen's film only last week rocketed to the top of Finland's box office.

Film critic Harlan Jacobson saw the film at the recent Montreal World Film Festival, and invited Halonen to meet with the Talk Cinema group in attendance at the festival.

After the preview screening, Director Arto Halonen will talk about his new film, which is currently the hit art film of Finland.

Special offer to members of Finlandia Foundation NYC:

Members will be offered "2 for 1" tickets, as supplies last, by calling 914-737-7654 or email susan@talkcinema.com. (General admission seating is available for \$25 per person with check or cash the day of the show at the Walter Reade at Lincoln Center)

The fun and ever entertaining cabaret trio act

The SkanDivas Reunion Tour!

With hearts on their sleeves and tongues planted firmly in cheek, the SkanDivas (Julie Leedes: vocals, Maja Sidebaeck: vocals, and Paula Jaakkola: piano/vocals) is a high-spirited cabaret act. They have fresh interpretations of timeless classics from the Great American Songbook along with contemporary pop cover tunes.

Exploring the world of "I Want To Be Evil" (their last show) proved to be destructive for the Divas. As many legendary groups have experienced, the stress of tremendous success and glamour can be too much to handle. But after realizing the devastation of their fans the SkanDivas are returning to the stage once more! Will this outpouring of devotion, together with the Divas' deep love of music (and the spotlight) be enough to truly reunite them or will it all end in disaster?

All shows will be at the Duplex, 61 Christopher Street at 7th Avenue

Friday, November 5, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 13, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.

These shows tend to sell out so make a reservation! No joke!

The best way to make a reservation is to visit www.theduplex.com

go to the cabaret calendar and select your show of choice.

You can also call (212) 255 4538.





Independence Day Celebration

Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 3.00 pm

Park Avenue Methodist Church, 106 East 86th Street, New York City
(corner of Park Avenue and 86th Street)

Come to celebrate the 92nd Anniversary of Finland's independence and pay tribute to the men and women who made it possible. *The event is open to the public with no admission fee.*

Our traditional program includes:

Distinguished speakers, musical and recital performances, singing of the national anthems, Finlandia

Refreshments to follow the program!

This celebration event is open to the public free of charge. Therefore we are asking for your financial support to cover the costs. With your help Finlandia Foundation will be able to continue this very important tradition for years to come.

Please send your contribution check made payable to **Finlandia Foundation NY Metropolitan Chapter** to our Treasurer: Hannele Turja-Sansbury, 13 Dante Street, Larchmont, NY 10538

If the check is received by November 26, 2010 your name will be listed on the program as a sponsor. Please include the following information: your name, full address, telephone number and email address.

FINNISH CHRISTMAS PARTY "PIKKUJOULU"

Friday December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Estonian House, 243 East 34th Street, New York City

Traditional Finnish Christmas specialties, songs, fun, raffle

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 5th, 2011

The Finlandia Foundation, New York Metropolitan Chapter, Inc.
52nd Annual Awards Dinner Dance to benefit Cultural and Grant Funds
at The Helmsley Park Lane Hotel

Dinner, Dancing & Entertainment

Other Finnish related programs in New York area this fall/winter

Violinist Joshua Bell Performs Sibelius with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Alan Gilbert

Debussy: Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun
Sibelius: Violin Concerto
Richard Strauss: Don Juan
Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, NYC
(212) 875-5030, www.nyphil.org

The New York Philharmonic performing Sibelius and Lindberg

Alan Lindberg, conductor
Joshua Bell, violin
Magnus Lindberg, piano
Carter Brey, cello
Christopher S. Lamb, percussion
Daniel Druckman, percussion
Markus Rhoten, timpani
Juhani Liimatainen, electronics

Debussy: Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun
Sibelius: Violin Concerto
Lindberg: Kraft (New York Premiere)

Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 8, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, NYC
(212) 875-5030; www.nyphil.org



Violinist Joshua Bell performing Sibelius with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Alan Gilbert at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts

Debussy: Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun
Sibelius: Violin Concerto
Richard Strauss: Don Juan
Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber

Saturday, October 9, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, Long Island University, Brookville, NY
(516) 299-3100; www.tillescenter.org

Other Finnish related programs in New York area this fall/winter

RAJATON, a cappella ensemble performing with the New York Pops
Essi Wuorela, Virpi Moskari, Soila Sariola, Hannu Lepola, Anti Paunu, Jussi Chydenius
Steven Reineke, conductor

Friday, October 15, 2010 at 8.00 pm

Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Avenue, NYC
(212) 247-7800; www.rajaton.net



Minor Musics: Finland in Issue Project Room in Brooklyn

Finnish musicians who exhibit a dual relationship to both historic Finnish musical traditions and contemporary experimental practices.

Friday, October 22, 2010

The Collective Kiila (Niko-Matti Ahti, Juho Kaitajärvi, Pekko Käppi, Jukka Räisänen, Jari Suominen and Jaakko Tolvi) Jan Anderzén (Tomutonttu), electronic sound art Pekko Käppi, "jousihikko", an ancient Finnish knee-fiddle

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Panel discussion between Pekko Käppi and Juho Kaitajärvi on Finnish folk traditions and the historical trajectory of Finnish experimental music

Kemialliset Ystävät will present new, improvisation-based works in collaboration with a dynamic array of NY-based performers including Dave Nuss, Karl Bauer, Samura Lubelski, Marcia Bassett, Lucas Crane, C. Spencer Yeh and Daniel Lopatin.

Issue Project Room, Old American Can Factory, 232 3rd Street, 3rd fl, Park Slope/Gowanus area of Brooklyn, NYC
Information: (718) 330-0313; www.issueprojectroom.org

Karita Mattila performing with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Alan Gilbert

Beethoven: Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93
Beethoven: Concert aria Ah! perfido, Op. 65
Sibelius: Selected Songs for Soprano and Orchestra
Nielsen: Symphony No. 2, The Four Temperaments

Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, January 28, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, NYC
(212) 875-5030; www.nyphil.org

Osmo Vänskä conducting the Minnesota Orchestra at Carnegie Hall

Lisa Batiashvili, violin

Beethoven: Violin Concerto
Sibelius: Symphony No. 6
Sibelius: Symphony No. 7

Monday, February 28, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Carnegie Hall, Stern Auditorium, 881 Seventh Avenue, NYC
(212) 247-7800; www.carnegiehall.org



**Finlandia Foundation
New York Metropolitan Chapter, Inc.
P.O.Box 2590, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual (\$40) Student (\$20) Family (\$60) Corporate (\$300)

Patron (\$600) Benefactor (\$2,000)

Life Membership

Individual Life (\$400) Family Life (\$600)

I would like to make an additional donation to support the Foundation's programs \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please mail your check to:

**The Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter, Inc.
PO Box 2590, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163**

Name: _____

Please print

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: day _____ evening _____

For any questions about the membership please contact jkosinsky@finlandiafoundationny.org.