

Finnish Accent

Your newsletter regarding all things Finnish in the U.S.
Brought to you by the Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley



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Beyond the Atlantic: Finland's Independence Viewed from Across the Sea

While Finland may not have been the first country to go to the moon (or **at all**, contrary to the picture above), the Nordic country celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year has certainly been the first in many other groundbreaking areas: women were the first in Europe to receive the right to vote AND to be parliamentary candidates; Finland is the first European country to pay its unemployed citizens a monthly, unconditional "citizen pay"; it will be the first in the world to get rid of all school subjects and implement phenomenon-based holistic, interdisciplinary learning by 2020.

Author and historian Marianne Wargelin (right) at ASHM on May 21



To learn more about Finland and its unique history, FASDV has invited author and historian **Marianne Wargelin** to give a centennial lecture, in which she will take a new vibrant look at how Finland arrived at independence and maintained its independence in the 20th century.

She will examine the vision and bravery of its citizens, who were willing to pay a huge price and endure an enormous sacrifice, and how they played a pivotal role in the destiny of Finland. The uniqueness of her lecture is in how she takes a fresh look at the country's historic and contemporary details through the lens of the Finnish diaspora living in the US.

Marianne Wargelin has co-authored *Women Who Dared: The History of Finnish American Women* and published numerous essays and articles on Finnish and Finnish American folklore, popular culture and the arts. She studied at the Universities of Michigan and Minnesota and is currently completing her dissertation at the University of Tampere, Finland. She lives in Minneapolis, MN. She became an Honorary Consul of Finland in 1999 and President of FinnFestUSA in 2004. ~

FASDV Centennial Lecture by Marianne Wargelin

WHEN: May 21, at 2pm

WHERE: American Swedish Historical Museum ASHM at 1900 Pattison Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19145

COST: Free (Admission to ASHM is free on May 21 as well)

FASDV Annual Meeting

will take place at ASHM on May 21 at 12:45pm, just prior to the Marianne Wargelin lecture. All are welcome.



JUHANNUS IN D.C. - JUNE 17

While there most likely will be no *juhannus* bonfire on the National Mall, the Finnish Embassy in Washington D.C.

will organize a midsummer *Juhannus* event on June 17 from 10am until 2pm at the



German-American Friendship Garden, Washington D.C.

German-American Friendship Garden, which is located between the Washington Monument and the White House. Information about Finland will be handed out, and everyone can try out uniquely Finnish sports, like *mölkky* and *polttopallo*. All are welcome!

Stay tuned for more info on the Embassy's Facebook page. ~

CHESTER MONUMENT CEREMONY - June 11 at 3pm



Sylvia and Earl Seppälä at the Chester Monument



The tradition continues on Sunday June 11 at 3pm, when FASDV and DVFA (Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans) together honor the Finns and Swedes, who came to the Delaware Valley in 1638 and thus became the first

permanent European settlers in the Tri-State area. They developed friendly relationships with the Lenape and Susquehannock Indians and learned invaluable skills from them that helped them survive and eventually thrive in the new continent.

The ceremony begins at 3pm on Sunday, June 11, followed by a dinner at 4pm at the Embers Restaurant at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, off of I-95 at Naamans Road exit. For more info and directions to the Monument, contact Barbara Palo at dvfa@live.com ~

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017? IF NOT, GO TO fasdv.org FOR QUICK AND EASY RENEWAL OR TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER! MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$20/INDIVIDUAL, \$25/FAMILY.



Valtteri Filppula - #51 with the Flyers

Finns once again have representation in the Philadelphia Flyers! Forward Valtteri Filppula, 33, native of Vantaa, Finland, began playing for Jokerit at age 16 while still in Finland.

Valtteri has won two bronze medals at the World Junior Championship in 2003 and 2004, Olympic bronze medal in 2010 and the Stanley Cup title in 2008 with the Detroit Red Wings. Once he signed a \$25M five-year deal with the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2013, he helped them to the Stanley Cup Playoffs during all of his three seasons there.

They say about Valtteri that "...he is more than capable as a defensive center... and he'll kill penalties effectively and win face-offs at a decent enough clip..." Go Valtteri!



LOVELY AND LIVELY TIME AT OLD SWEDES CHURCH



From top left: Aimo Tuomi, Charie McAuliffe, Bill Eaton, Antti Seppälä, Vappu Seppälä, Iris Kean, Tim Nurvala.
From bottom left: Sirpa Cossaboon, Pastor Lisa Thomas, Daniel McAuliffe.

FASDV members spent lovely and reflective time at the Gloria Dei "Old Swedes" Church in South Philadelphia during the Easter Service on April 8.

Lisa Thomas from the Lutheran Theological Seminary lead the service, which was held both in English and Finnish.

FASDV President Marja Kaisla played the organ and the congregation sang traditional hymns in Finnish.

Afterwards, the happy group spent some quality time visiting with one another and enjoying *kahvi ja pulla*, courtesy of FASDV member Melissa Stout, also conveniently a pastry chef (!) ~



The Finnish Embassy in Washington D.C. publishes a 12-part "Centennial Story of Finland" on its social media sites. Here is a link to part five, which examines the years 1947–1977 when Finland recovered from the Second World War and hosted the Summer Olympics.

<http://www.finland.org/public/default.aspx?contentid=361566&nodeid=35833&culture=en-US>

Finland100 centennial events are listed at <http://www.finland100usa.com/calendar.html> and updated throughout the year, so visit the link often!

As the Traveling Sauna delights locals across the US during the centennial year, you can follow its adventures at <http://travelingsauna.blogspot.fi/>