

Sutinat – January 2017

This is a summary of the Suomi-Seura ry newsletter. For full details, please see the original Finnish version. The acronym USP (Ulkosuomalaisparlamentti) stands for Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP).

Dear Finnish Expatriate Organization,

All the best for 2017!

The year has started very busily – Suomi-Seura celebrates 90 years, Expatriate Parliament 20 years in addition to Finland’s centennial of independence. Hopefully you will answer the Finnish Expatriate of the Year and “Lippu korkealla” surveys. You have until January 27 to submit. More later in the newsletter.

The magnificent Finland 100 Worldwide concert will be held in Musiikkitalo on 15.6. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster. More about the concert and Finland 100 Worldwide later in the newsletter.

Suomi-Seura membership cost is 35 euros, 17 euros for additional family members. Feel free to advertize memberships, for these fees fund Suomi-Seura’s and USP’s work on behalf of expatriates.



Finnish Expatriate Parliament anniversary Congress approaches

The USP/FEP 20th anniversary year complements its secretariat’s 90th anniversary. After the inaugural USP/FEP meeting on 4-5.8.1997, seven congresses have been held. The ninth general meeting will be held on 16-17.6.2017 in the Festival Hall, University of Helsinki. In the spirit of the celebration’s theme, “Together”, we call on all Finnish Expatriate organizations, which have ratified the USP constitution, to gather in Helsinki. Active member organizations can send both delegates and observers. Non-member organizations have until 16.3.2017 to join by ratifying the USP constitution. Registered member organizations must inform of their delegates by 4.5.2017.

Subsidized youth travel (see below) and recommended accommodations information is updated at [kotisivun istunto-osio](#).

The preliminary program on Thursday, 15.6 includes an opening church service in “Vanhakirkko”, Senior and Suomi-koulu seminars. Some regions will elect their Deputy Speakers and alternates also on this day. The City of Helsinki will host the Congress participants on Friday evening.

Did your organization receive the Congress invitation? If not, perhaps your contact information has changed. If USP was unable to confirm a new mailing address, that is likely due to a change in the e-mail address as well. Please check your information at info@usp.fi or with USP secretary at Sini.Castren@Suomi-Seura.fi or by telephoning Sini at +358-9-6841-2127.

Initiatives can be made without traveling to Helsinki. Member organizations can submit one or more initiatives to Suomi-Seura. The deadline is 16.3.2017. USP secretary or regional Chairman can assist with the initiative. Their contact information can be found at www.usp.fi.

Youth Travel Subsidy to attend the USP Congress

Youth delegates (30 years of age or younger) attending the Congress will be given an extra travel subsidy. Those crossing an ocean will receive 500 euros, Scandinavian, Baltic and Russian delegates will receive 100 euros, and the remaining Europeans will be given 300 euros.

Subsidy applications will be accepted until 28.2.2017. The outcomes will be announced by the end of March. The condition of funding is that the recipient will represent a member organization. Priority will be given to delegates over observers. The subsidy application form is at www.usp.fi > Istunto 2017. More information from Hanne Selin at hanne.selin@suomi-seura.fi, +358-9-6841 2137.

Organizational and communication grants now available

Grant applications must be received by February 28. Remember to attach all required information, attachments, explanations of projects or purchases and complete banking and contact information. More information regarding organizational grants from hanne.selin@suomi-seura.fi, and regarding communication grants from leena.isbom@suomi-seura.fi tel. +358-9-6841210). Accounting of the previous grants must be completed by the end of February in order to receive additional grants.

Regional Suomi-koulu teachers training seminar grants

Applications are now accepted until the end of March. The application form is available at: <http://suomi-seura.fi/fi/apurahat/avustukset-suomi-koulujen-alueellisille-koulutuspaeville>
More information from: Maarit Hyvärinen, maarit.hyvarinen@suomi-seura.fi, +358-(0)9-68412138

Suomi-koulu teacher training days again in Helsinki in August

Training seminar will be held on August 1-2. Program and registration forms will be available in the spring. More info from Maarit Hyvärinen, maarit.hyvarinen@suomi-seura.fi, +358-(0)9-68412138.

230,000 Euro additional budget for Suomi-koulut

The budget committee of the Finnish Parliament has approved an additional 230,000 euros for Suomi-koulut in 2017. This is a strong message from the Parliament that supporting Suomi-koulut helps students, their families and Finland's objectives.

Suomi-koulut teach the Finnish language and culture to expatriate students. There are about 4,300 students at the moment and the number is growing. More information on the budget from: <https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/tiedotteet/Sivut/Valtiovarainvaliokunnan-budjettitiedote.aspx>

Finland 100 Worldwide concert tickets available

Welcome to Finland 100 Worldwide concert in Helsinki at 6 p.m. on 15.6.2017. The concert is in the magnificent Musiikkitalo and will feature the following extraordinary expatriate performers:

- Singing legend **Eino Grön** (USA/Finland) <http://www.einogron.fi/>
- Jazz pianist **Karri Luhtala** (Italy) www.karriluhtala.com
- Soprano **Marja Männistö** and Director **Benjamin Mosse** (USA) www.hamara-twilight.com,
www.mariamannisto.com
- Flute artist **Ulla Suokko** (Peru) www.ullasuokko.com
- **Uusikuu** (Great Britain and Germany) and **Justice in Motion** Dance Theatre (Great Britain) www.uusikuu.com / www.justiceinmotion.co.uk

The concert tickets cost 35 euros. They can be purchased from the Ticketmaster net store. Link to Ticketmaster: <https://www.musiikkitalo.fi/fi/tapahtuma/suomi-100-maailmalla-konsertti>

Finland 100 Worldwide homepages

All expatriate Finns are invited to celebrate together Finland's centennial of independence: www.suomi-seura.fi/suomi100maailmalla

Please enter small and major celebrations in the event calendar. This is how everyone can share. The idea bank has examples of how your organization can participate in the festivities. Performers can be found in the artist bank – singers, musicians, bands, choirs, dancers, theatre groups and lecturers. The bank will collect useful resource materials for use by expatriate Finns.

Finland 100 Worldwide is a joint project by Suomi-Seura ry, Church of Finland expatriate section and the Migration Institute. Foreign Ministry and Merimieskirkko ry support the project. Facebook group: Suomi 100 Maailmalla. You are invited to join.

Archive your celebration

Finnish Literature Association - <http://muistikko.finlit.fi/>
 Finland 100 Worldwide idea bank will store photos and stories of past and coming celebrations.
 You can share festivities on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1572269349769778/>

Suomi 100 program for expatriates

The new listing of programs to embassies and expatriates demonstrates small budget projects.
 They can be found on the government's website: <http://suomifinland100.fi/oppaat-ja-aineistot/>

100 steps towards Finland's future

The Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation invites all expatriates to build Finland's future by organizing citizen forums. What would we like Finland to be in 2017? The answers are being sought by the *100 steps into Finland's future* project, which will organize nearly 30 forums throughout Finland, among expatriates and via internet. The foundation will provide materials, methods and support to the forum organizer. The organizer will be responsible for local arrangements, securing discussion leaders and inviting the participants. The forum can be held anytime January – May. More information: Anne Tastula, | Kansanvalistusseura, anne.tastula@kvs.fi, +358 40 152 3830, www.100askelta.fi, www.facebook.com/100askelta, @100askelta #100askelta

Invite an author for a virtual visit

Lukukeskus arranges virtual author visits: <http://www.lukukeskus.fi/virtuaalivierailut/>

Talk about your roots

On this 500 year anniversary of Reformation Finns are talking about their roots. Where are your roots? What type of preparation have you received at home for living your life? What and which values have been important to your family? What do you wish to contribute to the upcoming generations. Write, photograph or produce a video of your story and send it via e-mail to turku.reformaatio@evl.fi or by mail to: Reformaation merkkivuosi/Juuritarina, Turun ja Kaarinan seurakuntayhtymä, PL 922, 20101 TURKU. <http://www.turunseurakunnat.fi/uutiset/-/news/17219251>

Nominate Finnish Expatriate of the Year

From 1993 on Suomi-Seura ry has selected a Expatriate of the Year from among Finnish Expatriates or their children, who has been successful in his/her field, fostered Finnish culture and possibly improved cultural exchanges, trade or other cooperation between Finland and the new homeland. An expatriate organization or its representative can be also be nominated. Suomi-Seura invites you to nominate a person or an organization as the Finnish Expatriate of the Year 2017. The selection will be made by the Suomi-Seura ry board, and the award will be presented at the USP/FEP Congress on June 16, 2017. The deadline for nominations is January 27, 2017. Nominations are submitted via Webropol survey: <https://www.webropol-surveys.com/S/3C9C5522B7D7005C.par>

Lippu korkealle – a survey of expatriate use of flags

In honour of Finland's 100 years of independence, Suomi-Seura's 90th and Finnish Expatriate Parliament's 20th anniversaries, Suomi-Seura would like to record the flag use practices of expatriate Finns across the world. What does the flag of Finland and the flag raising mean to you? Where and how do you raise the flag(s)? How important is it to you that expatriate Finns have their special flag raising day? The deadline is January 27, 2017. The survey can be opened from: [tästä linkistä](http://tasta.linkista) or from: www.suomi-seura.fi Thank you in advance.

Suomi-Seura ry looking for tenants

Reorganization of office space has freed up some space at Mariankatu 8, 00170 Helsinki. More details from the Executive Director Tina Strandberg, tel. 09-684-1210, tina.strandberg@suomi-seura.fi.

Acquire a New Member for Suomi-Seura

We encourage you all to acquire a new member – or several of them – for Suomi-Seura ry (The Finland Society). We will give Suomi-Seura gifts for each new member you can acquire for us. In the end of the year 2017 the winner of a special prize will be selected by drawing a lot among all of you who have acquired new members for us.

Send your and the new member's contact information to Suomi-Seura address info@suomi-seura.fi. The membership fee is 35 euros in 2017 and 17 euros for a member of the family living in the same address with the primary member. Membership fees for societies and organizations vary on the basis on the number of members. Inquiries: tel. +358-(0)9-6841210, info@suomi-seura.fi

Groups are welcome to visit Suomi-Seura

Do you wish to have a get-together or a meeting with your friends at Suomi-Seura's office in the center of Helsinki? Suomi-Seura will provide coffee, a presentation on Suomi-Seura and a meeting room for your use. Let's have coffee together!

If you are a member of Suomi-Seura, an expatriate Finn - or one who has returned to Finland - interested in Suomi-Seura, bring your friends or acquaintances to visit us. The capacity of our meeting room is 20 people, and the space can be used for two hours at a time.

Inquiries: Suomi-Seura ry, Mariankatu 8, 00170 Helsinki, Finland, +358-(0)9-6841210, info@suomi-seura.fi Reservations can be made during our office hours, Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM.

Suomi-Seura info days in 2017

Retiring abroad info days will be held on Friday, March 10 and on September 22 at 10 – 14 o'clock. There will be information on both temporary and permanent stays abroad. You can receive both personal advice and copies of prepared guides and materials. The following sessions will be offered:

10:15 Social services for permanent or temporary expatriates

11:30 The effect of tax agreements on pension taxation.

The cost of the session is €50 for Suomi-Seura members, others €70. The fee includes breakfast, information packages and the guide "Eläkepäiviksi ulkomaille".

More information about all sessions from: info@suomi-seura.fi, tel. +358 – 9 – 684 1210

Returning Expatriate discussion session will be held on Friday, April 21, 12-15 o'clock.

The event is designed to share experiences in returning to Finland. Personal advice will also be available. There is no admission charge.

Returning Expatriate info day will be held on Friday, August 11, 10 – 14 o'clock. The program will include information on health care, pensions, taxation, seeking employment and children's education.

Info session at 10:15: Registration in Finland, moving belongings, social security and taxation in Finland.

Other topics include immigration, health care, pensions, taxation, employment and education.

Costs: Free admission to Suomi-Seura members, others €30.

Identity cards issued in Europe

Starting on 1.1.2017, identity cards will be issued in European embassies. It can be used as a travel document within EU. More info: http://www.poliisi.fi/henkilokortti/henkilokortin_kaytto

New Board of Education started up at the beginning of the year

CIMO and the Board of Education joined to form the new Board of Education. The office has as its mandate to direct education, early childhood education, life long learning and advance international learning. The General Manager is Olli-Pekka Heinonen. All 370 staff will move to the new board.

The board has an annual budget of 223 million euros. About 58% will be distributed to clients via grants, subsidies and project funding. About 32% of that amount is directed to international initiatives. The budget for educational institutions operating under the Board of Education in Finland is 50 million euros. Funding is received mostly from the Ministry of Education and Culture, but the European Commission is also a major financial contributor.

Finnish Citizenship to 749 persons by notification in 2016

A total of 788 notifications were received. Of those, 772 proceeded to a decision stage, of which 749 were positive and 23 negative. Former Finnish citizens can receive citizenship by notification, as well as their children under 18 years of age, when included in the application.

A total of 11,918 persons applied for Finnish citizenship. A positive decision was given to 9,644 applicants. Most applicants were Russians, Somalis, Iraqis, Estonians and Afgans.

YLE Suomi Finland 100 channel can be viewed

Yle Arena has inaugurated a Suomi Finland 100 channel. It is a net channel designed to tell the story of Finland with the aid of archived materials. How was Finland built, how have the vistas, culture, customs and citizens changed during these decades? The archival materials will take you to the nostalgic centennial of Finland.

Suomi Finland 100 is visible worldwide with a few exceptions due to rights issues. There will be twenty different themes, which show the history of Finland, its literature, culture and sports. A magnificent program on the Finnish nature, filmed over three years, will be shown later. Expatriate Finns can offer videos of their own celebrations. YLE has also produced programs about expatriate Finns. YLE will film all major events in Finland, starting with the New Year's Eve coverage of the beginning of the celebratory year. <http://arena.yle.fi/1-3857930>

Suomi-Seura member benefits on Finnlines vessels

By joining Star Club, Suomi-Seura members will receive the best available prices and a 3% discount on cabin, passenger and vehicle fares. The discounts apply both to Standard and Special fares.

International telephone +358 9 231 43 100 e-mail passenger@finnlines.com

Homepage: www.finnlines.com

Star Club: www.finnlines.com > Star Club

Online reservation: www.finnlines.com/laivamatkat > Reserve now (green button upper right)

Membership payments

Personal memberships, renewals, gift and organizational memberships can now be handled by the Suomi-Seura website, and payments can be made either by debit or credit cards (Visa, Eurocard, MasterCard). Click on www.suomi-seura.fi => Jäsenasiat => Liittyminen/Jäsenmaksun maksaminen Please mention your membership number when renewing. Personal membership is required to receive Suomi-Seura benefits. Memberships support the work of Suomi-Seura ry and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament on behalf of expatriate Finns.

Join Suomi-Seura now and you will receive this year's last two issues of "Suomen Silta" for free. The membership fee for this year is 35 Euros; additional members in the same household are €17.

Organizational memberships for 2017 are €115 for organizations with less than 100 members, €195 for 100-499 members, €380 for 500-999 members and €550 for organizations with 1,000+ members.

Applications for Suomi-Seura honors

Suomi-Seura ry awards annually honors to deserving members of expatriate organizations based on the applications by the said organizations. Awards are given at the bronze, silver and gold level, each with different requirements. The application form is available in the Suomi-Seura office. Suomi-Seura Board grants the awards. Because the committee does not meet often, please apply early. The printing of the certificate and mailing of the pin require some time.

Further info from Suomi-Seura office: Tel. +358-9-684-1210 or info@suomi-seura.fi.

Sutinat is also available through Internet

Sutinat can be read on the Suomi-Seura homepage www.suomi-seura.fi in the "Ajankohtaista" section a few days after its e-mail publication.

Suomi-Seura ry since 1927 – 90 years in great company

Suomi-Seura ry is the expatriates' rights, advisory and expert organization, which offers emigrants, expatriates and immigrants information re social services, taxation and pensions. Suomi-Seura ry coordinates a support network in over 20 countries and functions as the secretariat for the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, founded in 1997. During the summer Suomi-Seura ry organizes an intensive Finnish language and culture course to expatriates and their children and spouses. Suomi-Seura publishes six issues of Suomen Silta (Finland Bridge) magazine. More info: www.suomi-seura.fi

Please consider Suomi-Seura ry membership as a **gift!**

The **next newsletter** will be published in the beginning of February 2017.

Ads

Kotimaailma has furnished accommodation in 14 communities

Kotimaailma is a family business established in 2007, offering furnished accommodation in 14 locations to both domestic and expatriate as well as business clients ranging from one day to 36 months. www.kotimaailma.com

Unique Tours in Finland in June 2017

In honour of Finland's centennial year 2017 Suomi-Seura ry (The Finland Society) and Riikka Pajunen (former Executive Director of the Finland Society Travel) have put together two unique tours in Finland in June 2017. <http://www.dooris.fi/finland>

There is a special rate available for the members of Suomi-Seura ry.

Worldwide travel from Suomi-Seura Travel

Suomi-Seura Travel provides a wide variety of travel opportunities: www.suomiseuranmatkat.fi
Telephone: 09-7422-8800 or e-mail: service@suomiseuranmatkat.fi.

If you wish to receive/stop receiving the Finnish version of Sutinat, please contact tiedote@suomi-seura.fi

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