

Sutinat – November 2016

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,

Winter has arrived in Helsinki and all over Finland.

The fall organizational grants have been approved and will be paid out by the new year. Suomi-koulu grant applications are being processed. Finland 100 Worldwide grants will be reviewed shortly. The deadline for the next round of Suomi-Seura grants is February 28.

Please note June 15, 2017 in your calendars. A Finland 100 Worldwide concert will be organized then to celebrate expatriate Finns across the world. The concert will recognize Finland's 100 years of independence, Suomi-Seura 90 and Finnish Expatriate Parliament's 20 years of work. The USP Congress will be organized June 16-17 at the University of Helsinki.

Those joining Suomi-Seura during the remainder of the year get a free membership until the beginning of 2017 and two bonus Suomen Silta magazines. As a member you support Suomi-Seura and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, both of which work on behalf of expatriate interests. Organizational members with a library receive 20 books annually.

All staff members are now located on the left side of the floor.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP) Speakers Council met in Helsinki

The fall meeting was held in Helsinki on Oct. 20-21. The meeting with the Interior Minister Paula Risikko dealt with legal status of FEP and the formation of a working group. Discussions with Education and Culture Minister Sanni Grahn-Laasonen received information on the funding of Suomi-koulut and Suomi-Seura, so that they can continue to work on behalf of expatriates.

The well advanced mail vote situation was reviewed with the Constitutional Committee chairman Annika Lapintie. The funds have been found, legal changes will be prepared during 2018-19 in time for implementation in the 2019 Parliamentary elections. External Affairs Committee chair Matti Vanhanen received an update on mail vote and legal status for the Expatriate Parliament. Discussion re the same matters were held also with Legal Committee chair Kari Tolvanen and vice chair Eva Biaudet.

External Affairs Consular unit, the Passport and Visa unit meetings were hosted by Juha Savolainen.

Info at www.usp.fi. Parliamentary Secretary is Sini Castrén info@usp.fi, tel. +358 9 6841 2127. Finnish Expatriate Parliament and Suomi-Seura ry are on Facebook.

The Finnish Expatriate Parliament 2017 Session - invitations to be sent in December

The 20th Anniversary session of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament will be held at the University of Helsinki on Friday and Saturday, June 16-17, 2017. The invitations will be sent to members on 16.12.2016. The deadline for organizational registration and initiative submissions is 16.3.2017.

The Congress will be preceded by the usual Senior seminar, Suomi-koulu seminar and the expatriate church service on Thursday, June 15. On Thursday is also the expatriate concert, followed by the City of Helsinki reception on the Friday evening.

More info at www.usp.fi The secretariat will help with both the Congress and submitting initiatives.

New organizations are warmly welcome to participate in the USP. There are no financial requirements. At the moment there are over 500 member organizations representing 38 nations.

Finland 100 Worldwide grant application deadline was 31.10.

A total of 94 applications were submitted. They will be processed by the year end and paid by 31.1.17.

Finland 100 Worldwide concert in June

Date and location: Thursday 15.6.2017 in Helsinki

The unique concert demonstrates the expatriate excellence in music and offers a diverse musical experience. The concert celebrates Finland's 100 years of independence, Suomi-Seura 90 years and Finnish Expatriate Parliament 20 years. The program offers the following artists:

- **Uusikuu** (Great Britain and Germany) and **Justice in Motion** Dance Theatre (Great Britain) www.uusikuu.com / www.justiceinmotion.co.uk
- Soprano **Marja Männistö** and Director **Benjamin Mosse** (USA) www.hamara-twilight.com, www.mariamannisto.com
- Flute artist **Ulla Suokko** (Peru) www.ullasuokko.com
- Jazz pianist **Karri Luhtala** (Italy) www.karriluhtala.com
- The band **Surunmaa** (Sweden) Facebook: Surunmaa

The details of the program and the location will be published later. You will also be informed when the tickets will go on sale.

Suomi 100 Maailmalla / Suomi 100 across the World

We welcome all Finns living across the world to celebrate 100 years of independence together!

Please have a look at our homepage www.suomi-seura.fi/suomi100maailmalla

You can register big and small events in the **Events Calendar**, so that everyone knows about them.

Do you need ideas for your celebration? The **Idea Bank** collects all possible suggestions.

Entertainer Bank will list singers, musicians, bands, choirs, dancers, theatre groups, lecturers. They are all asked to register with the bank so that they can be contacted.

Material Bank will collect all kinds of information of interest to expatriates. If you know for example great websites, please share them with other expatriate Finns. That is how the celebrations begin!

This is a joint program by Suomi-Seura ry, Church of Finland and the Migration Institute. Additional support comes from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Merimieskirkko ry.

<http://suomi-seura.fi/suomi100maailmalla/fi/materiaalipankki/>

You can copy and distribute the brochure materials freely, e.g. on your own website.

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 24, 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.

The Suomi-Seura Advisory Service will help those emigrating abroad, living abroad or returning back to Finland. If you need further personal information on social services, health insurance, taxation, pensions, moving, customs regulations, pets or other such matters, please contact by telephone, e-mail or by letter. You are also welcome to visit the office, open weekdays 9-16 o'clock, to study the guide publications and other information materials. **Suomi-Seura ry, Mariankatu 8. (3. Floor), 00170 Helsinki, tel. +358-(0)9-684 1210, info@suomi-seura.fi, www.suomi-seura.fi**

Expatriate students applying for student assistance to send transcripts to Kela

Expatriate students are reminded to send certificates of attendance and report cards to Kela. Without the documents Kela will stop paying support starting in November. The documents can be scanned or photographed for submission to Kela. Subject line – Opiskelijan tuet ja Opintotuki. www.kela.fi

Citizenship applications and notifications to Migri starting in 2017

Applications for permits by foreigners are submitted to a police station until the end of this year. Starting on 1.1.2017 the Migration Office will receive residency and citizenship applications and notifications, as well as all other applications dealing with foreigners. www.poliisi.fi www.migri.fi

EU directive eases the mobility of students, researchers, trainees and volunteers

Interior Ministry has established a project to join EU with the above. Researchers and students can complete their research or study in a member country. The directive also requests that there will be time period to look for work or start a business. Graduates in Finland have one year to look for employment. The project ends 31.5.2018. More info at: www.intermin.fi/fi/lainvalmistelu/opiskelija_ja_tutkijadirektiivi

Qatar Airways started direct flights between Helsinki and Doha

Qatar Airways started the daily flights on October 10. Due to this new route the position of Helsinki-Vantaa is strengthened within Scandinavia.

Qatar Airways has been selected the World's best airline. The new route adds connections to the Southern hemisphere, to Australia, Africa and India. Qatar flies to 150 destinations on six continents. In addition to the Doha route, Helsinki-Vantaa has added connections to Europe, Asia and North America. Helsinki-Vantaa beats Stockholm, Copenhagen and Oslo in the number of connections.

Busiest season in this decade forecast for Lapland

The airports in Lapland are preparing for a very busy winter season. Lapland expects 500 charter and regular flight during December. Lapland can expect 450 charter flights. The busiest is Kittilä (150 flights) and Rovaniemi (140 flights). Ivalo will receive 36 charter flights more than last year, a total of 93. Enontekiö will witness 58 landings and Kuusamo 11. During the week before Christmas there will be about 30 flights per day. Most tourists will arrive from Great Britain, but there will be flights from Germany, Italy, Netherlands, France and Spain. Asian traffic to Lapland grew last year by 9%. Majority arrives from Japan, but most growth occurred in passengers from China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Air Baltic will have direct flights from Tampere to Riga

Air Baltic will begin direct flights from Tampere to Riga on March 26 six times a week.

More Flights from Helsinki to Tokyo and Hong Kong

Finnair will fly daily to Tokyo and Hong Kong using the A-350 aircraft. Tokyo Narita will have four extra flights per week. Together with Japan Airlines there will be 18 flights per week. Finnair flies also to Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka, offering in the summer a total of 35 flights to Japan. www.finnair.fi

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.

Member e-mail address and Year of Birth to Suomi-Seura

Suomi-Seura is collecting its membership's e-mail addresses. Please send your e-mail address to Suomi-Seura, and update both your e-mail and mailing address as necessary. Suomi-Seura would also like to have the year of your birth on record. This applies only to individual members. Club's membership does not permit individual service. Please send your name, e-mail address, mailing address including country and membership number to: info@suomi-seura.fi.

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 – 89 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

The **next newsletter** will be published in the beginning of December 2016.

Ads

Tours of Finland in July 2017 – two unique tours by Riikka Pajunen - travel@dooris.fi.

Special prices for Suomi-Seura ry members.

<http://suomi-seura.fi/news/214/98/Suomi-kiertomatkat-kesaekuu-2017>

BookBeat offers a month long free trial of Finnish talking books and e-books to a smart phone. <https://www.bookbeat.com/fi?koodi=suomiseura>

Furnished residences from Kotimaailma

Kotimaailma is a family business that offers furnished residences in 14 locations for both domestic and international individuals as well as businesses and clearance operations. The firm was established in 2007 and is now one of the biggest companies offering temporary accommodation in Finland. www.kotimaailma.com

Suomen lasten Suomi – opens up new perspective on Finnishness.

Otava has published a children's book by Kirsti Manninen and Carlos da Cruz.

<http://www.suomalainen.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/fi/skk/suomen-lasten-suomi-p9789511280019--77>

Are you emigrating or returning back to Finland?

Did you know that returning back to homeland is often harder than emigrating. We can coach you to prepare for both temporary and permanent moves. <http://sinkkonenconsulting.fi/>

Film: Maanpakolaisen laulu - Viisi lastua Kallaveden laineilta

In Finnish, 2016, 51 min. The song Kallavesj has its roots in the repression years prior to independence. Lawyer Aaro Jalkanen had to leave Kuopio because of his independence activities. The words of the song were written in Fitchburg, USA, without knowing if he can ever return back to Finland.

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

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