

Triangle Finnish Association President's Letter –2025

Dear TFA Members,

It's an honor to serve as your President for 2025, and I'm excited about the opportunities this year brings for our community. TFA is more than an organization, it's a family that celebrates Finnish heritage. It is about fostering connections and creating memories.

A heartfelt welcome to all our returning members and to all those who have joined us recently - last year we got 29 new members! Whether you've been part of TFA for years or are just now discovering our community, we welcome you with open arms. Everyone is accepted just as they are - that's what makes TFA unique and vibrant. Whether you carry Finnish DNA or simply love Finland, you are one of us: a Finn at heart.

A Year of Collaboration and Growth

This year, we're building on the strong foundation established in 2024 and the earlier years. I joined TFA shortly after moving to United States (North Carolina) early last year, seeking not only a connection with fellow Finns, but also opportunities to share Finland's culture with others. I've been honored to hear the unique and inspiring stories of our members and learn about their journeys to the U.S.

Thank you to last year's President, Tom Dunder, for your guidance and preparation, and to Charles for your outstanding work as Webmaster and Secretary. I'm thrilled Charles is continuing in these roles in 2025. Kathe Dunder, thank you for your incredible dedication as Treasurer and for staying on board also this year.

Above all, my deepest gratitude goes to all our 2024 members for your enthusiasm, volunteering, and hospitality. Hosting events, preparing wonderful dishes, and contributing your time are what keep our organization thriving. Volunteers are truly the heart of TFA, and your involvement ensures our events are meaningful and successful.

Membership and Dues

Renewing your membership ensures you remain connected to our vibrant community. Membership dues are \$25 per family or \$15 per individual. Admission to most events is \$5 per person (children under 12 are free), with the Independence Day celebration costing more due to venue rental and food.

Visit trifinn.org to renew your membership today. Invitations to events will only be sent to paid members, so don't miss out!

Exciting Plans for 2025

We're thrilled to continue beloved traditions like Laskiainen, Vappu, Piirakka Party. **Families** with children, we want to see and hear you! Let us know how we can make our events even more child friendly.

We're exploring additional activities outside our traditional event calendar to bring even more variety to our offerings. Some additional events may have a participation fee, which will be clearly stated in the event description.

If you have suggestions for additional activities, events, or **know someone (including yourself!) who could lead a workshop, perform music, or speak at one of our events, we'd love to hear from you!** Let's collaborate to make these events as enriching and engaging as possible - and above all, let's make them look like our members!

A list of our annual events will be included in this email. As this list will not be available on our website, please be sure to save it for your reference. We will follow up with another email in the near future with details about additional events.

Staying Connected

Charles will kindly continue updating our **Facebook** page. This year, we're launching a **LinkedIn** page, which I will manage throughout 2025.

Our social media platforms help us stay connected, celebrate Finnish culture, and grow our community. Be sure to like and share posts to help potential new members find us!

If you have **photos or videos** from our events, I'd love to feature them. Please send them to **sini.nurmi@brandidus.com** or via mobile at **984-318-6588**. Let's showcase our community spirit together!

Looking Back and Moving Forward


For those new to TFA, our roots date back to the late 1980s as an informal gathering of Triangle-area Finns. Since then, we've grown into a formal organization that celebrates Finnish holidays, culture, and traditions with Finns, those of Finnish descent, and friends of Finland alike.

Our first event of the year is the **Late Laskiainen in March**, and we can't wait to kick off 2025 with this fun outdoor tradition. Once you get the invite to your email, be sure to RSVP by the deadline to join in!

Thank you for being part of Triangle Finnish Association. Together, we'll make 2025 a year to remember; full of joy, celebration, and Finnish spirit (and Sisu!). If you have any questions, ideas, or simply want to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,
Sini (Sini-Tuulia) Nurmi
TFA President 2025

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 **984-318-6588**