



# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

December 2007

## FCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 school year will be available beginning

**December 1, 2007.** Interested students should call the FCA at (248) 478-6939 to request an application.

The deadline for receipt of the completed application by the FCA Scholarship Committee is **March 15, 2008** and may be sent to: Finnish Cultural Ctr., 35200 East Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48355. Note that the deadline is much earlier next year. It is very important that applicants provide all the information requested by **March 15, 2008.**

Ruth Kaarlela  
FCA Scholarship Committee

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## OVER ON FINN DRIVE

Only one month to go...we are approaching the end of another year and will be starting a brand new year, 2008.

Let's take a closer look at December. The days get shorter and the nights get longer and yet the way it works out, before December is over, the days start getting longer again. There will be fresh, crisp air that can bite the nostrils and fresh white snow that will flood the landscape. I enjoy the winters in Michigan once I have bundled up and prepare myself for all the beauty.

In December there is a calling for new ways and for better days to come. The Christian calendar has the Advent Season and is known for the coming of Christ and to prepare the way for the Christ Child. The message of Christmas is that it gives us peace and hope. A promise that a light will shine though all the darkness that we can ever comprehend. A shining light that will always show us the way. The Christmas Season is all about the birth of Jesus Christ. A wonderful gift of love that God the Father has given mankind, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit making it happen around us every day.

At the end of December comes a New Year and it will be time for making your New Year resolutions. A time for matching up and weighing in and asking, "What is the best way that I can help my fellow man in the year ahead?"

Whether it be at home, at work, at church or at the Finnish Center, a smile with some positive thoughts will lighten the load to all those you meet. You will feel better, too for a Happier New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Frank Gottberg  
FCA Chairman

# CALENDAR

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### **Crafts**

Mondays 10 to 2 pm

### **Finnish American Singers**

Mondays 7 to 9 pm

### **Library**

Open Mondays 9 to 2 pm

### **NikkarinTalo**

Mondays 9 am

### **Study Group**

Mondays 1 to 3 pm

## BI-WEEKLY EVENT

### **Blood Pressure Readings**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

11 am to 2 pm

NOTE DAY CHANGE

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### **Gift Shop**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 12:30 pm

### **Finnish Conversation Group**

2nd Thursday 11:00 am

### **Stamp Club**

Last Sunday of Month 2-4 pm

### **Weavers**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 9-12

### **Camera Club**

next meeting Sept. 12, Noon

## **NOVEMBER**

- 11 Brunch 11:30-1:30
- General Mtg 2:30
- 15 Pulla Bake
- 16 Buffet 5-7
- Cultural Mtg 7-9

## **DECEMBER**

- 1 Scandinavian Holiday
- 2 Finnish Independence Day 2-5 pm
- 13 Finnish Conversation Group 11 am
- 15 Pikku Joulu 2-5 pm
- 16 FASM Concert
- 19 Senior Luncheon
- 21 Buffet 5-7 pm
- 31 New Years Eve
- 5 pm and 9 pm

## **JANUARY**

- 10 Finnish Conversation Group 11 am
- 13 Art of Akseli Gallen Kallela
- Finland's Most Famous Painter
- 2 pm by Steve Niemi

## FCA RENTALS

Rentals for October included:

- 5 Meetings
- 1 Scrap booking class
- 1 Yoga class
- 1 Pasty bake
- 3 Dances

Rentals for November included:

- 1 General Election
- 2 Meetings
- 2 Scrap booking classes
- 3 Dances

We are well into 2008 for rentals (and some commitments for 2009) and are looking forward to a very successful year!

## FCA ELECTIONS

It is time again to consider assisting your FCA by running for elective office. Committee Chairmanships and three Board of Trustees candidates will be selected in February.

Members wishing to be candidates must be nominated by an FCA member and must agree to serve prior to notifying Nominations Committee chairperson, **David Sharpe at (248) 477-5709**. A short statement including a biography and the reason you are running must be in the office by December 5, 2007, preferably in electronic form.

Your input and participation is needed at the FCA. If you cannot chair a committee, perhaps you would be willing to co-chair or serve as a committee member. If you know someone who is willing to serve, please nominate them after obtaining their agreement. As we build our Finnish Center, your involvement is needed.

FCA Address  
35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI  
48335-5108  
Tel: 248-478-6939  
Fax: 248-478-5671  
fcacenter@sbcglobal.net  
www.finnishcenter.org  
Lois Makee, Manager

### **OFFICERS**

Frank Gottberg, Chairman  
Gene Belttari, Vice Chairman  
David Sharpe, Corresponding Sec.  
Cortland Book, Recording Sec.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1 Year  
Gene Belttari, Kristen Kreiner  
Lari Korpela

### 2 Year

Frank Gottberg, Rigmor Cuolahan,  
Fritz Putkela

### 3 Year

Maria Hill, Glenn Kujansuu, David Sharpe

### **ALTERNATES**

Jim Kettunen,  
Margaret Laurila

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Hilkka Ketola, Neil Manley, Jr.,  
Herb Piilo

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

#### Building & Grounds

Frank Gottberg, Ray Wanttaja

#### Cultural

Ruth Mannisto

#### Education

Ruth Kaarlela

#### Finance

Bob Erickson, Delores Aebersold

#### Gift Shop

Brenda Sinclair

#### Mailing

Lari Korpela

#### Membership

Shirley Brooks

#### Publicity & Publications

Gene Belttari

#### Social

Ilene Yanke

#### Sunshine Lady

Margaret Laurila

### **SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION**

Paul C. Hendrickson, Chairman

#### *Tapiola Village*

Laura Fultz, Manager  
248-471-3802

#### *Freedom Square*

Mary O'Brien, Manager  
248-442-7250

[www.fcaseniorhousing.org](http://www.fcaseniorhousing.org)

## CULTURAL

Weavers meet on the second Saturday of the month from 9 am to 12 noon. Our carpet loom is ready for weaving! We are creating a small crazy quilt of men's ties to raffle at the Vappu party in 2008.

Stamp Club will NOT meet in December, but will begin in January 2008 on the last Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Plans have changed for the "Kruunuhääät". It will be presented on September 27, 2008. We still need folks to volunteer to be in the wedding, so be bold and come join us. A folk dance workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2008 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to learn the wedding dances. No meetings are planned for December, but keep your eyes open for future meetings on Friday evenings and/or Sunday afternoons.

You can look forward to Pikku Joulu on Saturday, December 15 and be a part of this family affair with food, dancing, crafts and Santa. Please bring a gift with your child's name on it so Santa knows who to present it to.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at these events.  
Ruth Mannisto, Cultural Chair

## WOMEN'S CLUB

Baking Rieska and Pulla in October for our breakfast were Lillian Heikkinen, Dagnie Carlson, Char Lytikainen, Edith Raski, Ruth Kaarlela, Nina Ranta, Charmaine Harma, and Ilene Yanke. Many thanks to these efficient workers!

Remember, these sales benefit the Drapery Fund. We need others of you to take a turn to come and bake with us, as not all are available every month. With Christmas activities, we will not bake in December but will resume on the fourth Thursday of January.

The bakers today were Ilene Yanke, Charlotte Lytikainen, Lillian Heikkinen, Nina Rants and Edith Raski. Today we made 12 loaves each of pulls (plain and cinnamon), 6 rieska, and 100 rolls (both plain and cinnamon).

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

Edith Raski  
Secretary

## SCANDINAVIAN HOLIDAY

Just a reminder for those of you planning to attend our 14th annual Scandinavian Holiday on Saturday, December 1, beginning with a cocktail hour and appetizers at 6:30 pm. Our talented Soittoniekat musicians will play Finnish and Scandinavian music at this time.

The program and dinner begin at 7 pm. The consuls have been invited to greet us for Christmas from their respective countries, after the presentation of their flags and the singing of their national anthems. I will show several photos that I took in Iceland this past summer.

Soprano Kathy Kujala and her accompanist Thomas Czinder, the featured entertainers, will perform Christmas music. Kathy is an aspiring opera singer who very likely will bring some of her family members with her to the Finnish Center.

Armitage will prepare the dinner of favorite Scandinavian foods and Glogg. FCA Women's Club ladies will bake Finnish gingerbread and Danish sukker Kringla to accompany the rice cream pudding. Ticket price is \$25

Kiitos,

Ilene Maki Yanke  
Social

# FINLAND TODAY

## FINLAND TODAY

First, call it "global warming", but something is even going on in Finland. It was a "safe bet" to hold the first Alpine skiing World Cup event of season in Levi, which is in the Finnish Lapland. But because there wasn't enough snow, the event had to be moved to Reiteralm, Austria. Levi didn't have snow until the first week of November. It was a big loss for the tourist industry in Finland, especially Lapland. Also it was a lost opportunity for the Finnish media to show case the Lapland region, and all of Finland.

In spite of what happened this year, Levi is still scheduled to host the opening events of the FIS slalom world cup for the next four years.

Russia's economy is surging, and it is in part to blame for the massive traffic jams at the Finnish-Russian border. The amount of goods entering Russia through Finland has doubled since 2002 to 3 million tons in 2006.

Though it only takes a few minutes to go through the customs at the Finnish side of the border, some times it takes 48-60 hours to pass through the Russian border. Last winter at times the line up of trucks stretched for 60 km

Because of the Russian Bureaucracy, currently each truck has to go through seven Russian officials. Finnish President Tarja Halonen met with President Vladimir Putin in September to deal with the border problems, but so far the agreements haven't been carried out.

The World Economic Forum has dropped Finland's competitive rating by five places. Last year Finland was rated the second most competitive country in the world, after the U. S.. This year, Finland is behind the U.S., Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden and Germany.

Investors have been worried about Nokia's third quarter profit report. Many of the leading tech companies have posted poor 3rd quarter profits. Many of the financial analysts predicted that Nokia will post poor results. Boy, were the people wrong! Nokia's 3rd quarter sales were up 27.7% to \$28.4 billion, and profits up a whopping 85% to \$1.6 billion.

Nokia's share of the world wide cell phone market also rose to 39.5%. During the period from July to October, Nokia shipped out 111.7 million phones.

The highest paid person in Finland last year was Mikael Liljus, the CEO of Fortum, the large Finnish energy company. His pay was \$16.4 million. Next was former Nokia CEO Jorma Ollila at \$8.99 million. In third place was For-

tum's Tapio Kuula. As a matter of fact, six of the top 10 highest paid people in Finland work for Fortum.

But if you go on the pay period between July 2005 to July 2006, the highest paid Finn would have been Formula 1 driver, Kimi Raikkonen, whose pay was \$40 million.

Among the highest paid athletes in the world, Raikkonen ranks 4th. Leading the highest paid athletes list is golfer Tiger Woods at \$100 million, next is boxer Oscar de la Hoya at \$43 million, and third is golfer Phil Mickelson, receiving a cool \$42.2 Million.

According to the Swedish newspaper, Dagens Nyheter, Swedish coins will now be made in Finland. Sweden has signed a 3 year agreement to make the Swedish coins at the Finnish Mint in Vanttaa. It is the first time in 1000 years that Swedish coins will be made outside of Sweden.

The Finnish Tiimari chain store that specialize in household interiors and crafts, is buying a similar chain, Gallerix, in Sweden. The new combined chain will have 300 stores in seven countries.

Finland has won the 2007 Ringette World Championship held in Ottawa, Canada. Finland also won the last championship held in 2004 in Sweden.

Ringette is somewhat like hockey, but played with a rubber ring instead of a puck. It is a sport mainly played by women and girls and was first introduced in Canada. In the championship game, the Finns beat Canada 5-4, with an overtime goal by Anne Pohjola. The tournament's MVP was a Finn, Elina Raesola who had 16 goals and 16 assists.

The Finnish folk music group, Varttina is on a European tour, celebrating their 25 th anniversary. For an interview with Varttina, check out the Link TV site at: [www.linktv.org/video/1658](http://www.linktv.org/video/1658).

And finally, Heikki was speeding down the Main Street of a small town when he got pulled over by a police officer. "But, officer", said Heikki, "I can explain..." "Just be quiet", snapped the officer, "or I'm going to make you cool your heels in jail until chief Mattila gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say..." "And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail." A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief Mattila is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."

"Don't count on it," says Heikki, "I'm the groom."

Markku Ketola [marketola@yahoo.com](mailto:marketola@yahoo.com)

## \$100 BOARD

Remember the \$100 Boards? They are on the wall leading into the Main Hall. Now is the time to fill the second board. For a donation of \$100 you will get a name on a plaque. The size of the plaque will only accommodate one name. Be sure to print your name the way you want it engraved.

There are a few places left on the \$500 Board, if you prefer.

## FINNISH FACTS



Porvoo, a picturesque medieval town 50 km east of Helsinki, dates back to 1346.

With cobblestone streets and historic wooden houses, it is the most photographed town in Finland.

### Armitage Catering

Located at the FCA, we cater any event, big or small:

**Weddings**  
**Anniversaries**  
**Memorial Services**  
**Business Events**  
**Graduation Parties**

Off site catering is also available  
 248-921-7561

## REMINDER

In case you missed it earlier this year, the 2007 Directory is still available. A donation is greatly appreciated to offset the cost of printing these useful tools for keeping in touch.

## UPCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

What is a Finn? What does it mean when you tell someone you are Finnish?

**Finnish Fundamentals** is intended to be an ongoing series of talks about Finnish heritage and tradition offered to any Finn who wants to know more about themselves, or to anyone who is curious about Finnish cultural identity.

The first of the series will be on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 2 pm featuring:

### **The Art of Akseli Gallen-Kallela, Finland's Most Famous Painter**

When Finland was becoming an independent country in the early 1900's, Akseli Gallen-Kallela was able to define and celebrate Finnish national character.

Presenter will be Steven Niemi, educator at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

# MEMORIAL FUND

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund.

The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoiijakat Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, Soittoniekat Folk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

If a donation is undesignated it goes to the general fund for expenses of the Center.

The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

**Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: Pearl Wanttaja, 28235 Townley, Madison Heights, MI 48071. Do not send cash through the mail. Deadline is the first day of every month.**

You may also direct your donation toward the Elders' Housing but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

Please include full name (with middle initial), address, dates of death and birth of the deceased; also the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call me at 248-541-0054.

Thank you, Pearl Wanttaja, Chair

Since the last newsletter and up to November 2 donations to the Memorial Fund are as follows:

In memory of FCA life member Eria Lampi Hamrick (10-3-07) donations have been made by Vi Hakala, Pearl & Ray Wanttaja, her sister Laura Hirvela and the FCA.

In memory of Louise Usitalo Karvonen (10-13-07) of Boston Location, a donation has been made by her niece Donna & Larry Hamilton, Beth & Eric Peterson & Abby, Jill & Ralph Krawczyk and the FCA. Louise was the mother of member Charlene Bennett.

In memory of FCA life member Vivian Rowe (10-16-07) donations have been made by Ron & Rosemary Hella, Betty & Leonard Holmbo and the FCA.

In memory of FCA life member Lillian Liimatainen Wiitanen (10-16-07) donations have been made by her husband Carl and Bob & Marge Salo

In memory of FCA member Elizabeth "Beth" Kilponen (10-24-07) donations have been made by Blanche Maki, Norbert & Luise Leppanen and the FCA.

In memory of Paul Eklund (10-31-07) of Sugar Island, a donation has been made by his sister Char Lytikainen.

In memory of FCA life member Vernon Rowe (5-3-02) a donation has been made by Ron & Rosemary Hella.

In memory of FCA life member Wesley Timonen (9-9-07) donations have been made by Kay Simo and Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member Helen Walivaara (9-16-07) a dona-

tion has been made by Ruth & Roy Jurva.

In memory of FCA life member Anna Kulju (7-30-07) a donation has been made by Louise Hartung.

## FCA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT RECEPTION

In an atmosphere of pride and joy, 40 family members and friends gathered to honor four outstanding FCA scholarship recipients at a reception held at the FCA on Sunday, October 21, 2007.

Elthea Luoma from the Scholarship Committee, introduced the students, two of whom were present: **Graham Kozak** (Parents: Tom Kozak and Kath Usitalo and grandfather, Robert Usitalo), a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School, and enrolled in the School of Engineering at the University of Michigan. He has demonstrated an extraordinary array of interests, talents and skills including, science, mathematics, English, history, music and humor! His reference letters described him in superlative terms.

**Rachel Strauss** (Parents: Timothy and Debra Strauss, grandmother, Charlotte Lytikainen), a graduate of Avondale High School is enrolled at the University of Michigan. She is an exceptional student who has participated in a wide range of activities at school and in her community—several in leadership roles. She impresses as person-oriented, self-motivated, responsible and well rounded.

Not present at the reception were two students: **Michael Pietila** (Parents: Mike and Lynn Pietila), a graduate of Lutheran High School Northwest in

*(cont. on page 11)*

## FINNISH INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCE DECEMBER 2

Mark your calendar for 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 2 to attend the observance of the 90th Anniversary of Finnish Independence at the FCA.

The program is being finalized at this writing. The featured speaker will be the past president of Finlandia University, Dr. Robert Ubbelohbe, whose topic will be: "Heritage and Social Justice". Foreign exchange students will attend and there will be music by the Soittoniekat. Also, a coffee table! The program is sponsored by the Finnish American Historical Society of Michigan. Everyone is most welcome to come. Admission is \$5.00.

A REMINDER: The program on Finnish-name-community: OSKAR, will be held on Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 pm in the FCA lounge. Do come!

Ruth Kaarlela FAHS

## MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

The Livonia Symphony will be performing a concert, Passport to Scandinavia, on January 26, 2008. One of the numbers they plan to play is *Symphony No. 2* by Sibelius. If a group of at least 10 purchase tickets, each will cost only \$12. We are planning to meet at the FCA, have a supper for a small additional fee and then car pool to the Louis Schmidt Auditorium at 20155 Middlebelt for the concert which begins at 7:30. It would be a warm gathering for a winter evening. Plan on it! If interested, call Nancy Sannar at 734 425 6531.

## NEW OUTDOOR SIGN HONORS VERNON ROWE

A new sign adorns our float copper sample at the front of the Finnish Center near the Lounge door. The Rowe family donated this incredible representative of our Upper Peninsula heritage. It was discovered by Vernon Rowe in the Keweenaw and for many years lay in the ground at our center. Now, thanks to Fritz Putkela and his son, the copper is proudly displayed off of the ground on a stand they cleverly designed.

Next time you visit the FCA, stop by and see for yourself this beautiful, 700 pound sample of float copper.



## *Christmas Greetings*

*Phyllis & Paul Adams*

*Virginia & Tem Ahonen*

*Ellen Alanen*

*Louis R. Amundsen*

*Eva J. Bessonon*

*Denise & Cortland Book*

*Fostey-Hartung Family*

*Vi Hakala*

*Elmer Hanninen*

*Mary Ann & Arne Hanninen*

*Betty & Leonard Holmbo*

*Christine Jurgensen*

*Ruth Kaarlela*

*Sylvia Kannisto*

*Norma Kolehmainen*

*Ethel & Ronald LaCourt*

*Hulda LaCourt*

*Helen Lampi*

*Luise & Norbert Leppanen*

*Norbert Leppanen*

*Charlotte Lytikainen*



*Lois Makee*  
*Blanche Maki*  
*Ann Makila*  
*Elmer Makila*  
*Mildred McBurney*  
*Neil H. Manley*  
*Neil Manley, Jr.*  
*Karen (Leppanen) & Marty Miller*  
*Arlene Moilanen*

*Grace & Ruben Nayback*  
*Marie Negri*  
*Norwegian Club of Detroit*

*Charlotte Opie*

*Vicki & Rudy Perttunen*  
*Anita Pirslin*  
*Fritz Putkela*

*Edith Raski*  
*Elna Reinholm*

*John Saetta*  
*Marge & Bob Salo*  
*Helen Stucky*

*Pearl & Ray Wanttaja*  
*Randy Wanttaja*  
*Roger Wanttaja*

## FINLANDIA GARDENS WINS 2007 AWARD

For the second time in as many years, Finlandia Gardens has been awarded a Beautification Award from the City of Farmington Hills. The FCA Garden Club formed in 2004, was represented by fifteen members at the ceremony held last month. The Center gardens were evaluated earlier in the summer and the commission did not see our new bridge and Wedding Gardens to the west of the Center. These will await next year's visit from Commission members. The speaker at the ceremony, held at the Costick Center finished his presentation with the following very appropriate quotations:

*"Beautification is the first thing people see when they come to your facility"* and the Native American saying, *"We do not receive our natural world from our ancestors but borrow it from our children."*



The picture of our gardens and the beautification certificate can be seen on the Garden Club bulletin board near the Member's Lounge. The plaque is displayed outside the FCA entrance.

### FINNISH CONVERSATION GROUP

Visit the Finnish conversation group. We discuss a different subject every month, spiced with international language and laughter. Our next meeting is December 13, 2007. We hope to see many of you there!

### GIFT SHOP

Now is the time to do your Christmas shopping at the FCA Gift Shop. We have Iittala bowls, birds, vases and glasses, Kalevala jewelry, books, sauna items (reduced prices on the towel sets), SISU and Joulu Pukki sweat-shirts, Christmas ornaments and much more. We have numerous blue dot items entitling members to a 15% discount. During December, the gift shop hours are:

Mon/Wed/Fri	10 am - 4 pm
Saturday	10 am - 4 pm

We will also be open for short periods during certain FCA events. We wish you a blessed Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

### EDGERS AVAILABLE

The FCA Garden Club has many concrete edgers available for a donation to the Garden Club for three sections at \$10. Each section weighs 25 pounds and is 22 inches long. They come curved or straight. The edgers can be used to outline gardens and to circle trees. Contact David Sharpe at 248-477-5709 for further details.

### SOCIALLY SPEAKING

Our traditional Finnish Breakfast, in combination with Women's Club, was enjoyed by those who came to enjoy this special meal and visit with friends. Many of our guests chose the cooked oatmeal, breakfast sandwiches on Rieska, piirakkat, and wonderful Pulla (both cinnamon and plain rolls).

Very special thanks to Lillian Heikkinen and Dagnie Carlson who came at 9 am and didn't leave until 4 pm. Ruth Kaarlela and Edith Raski helped for many hours as did Ilene Yanke. Donations received were given to the FCA Drapery Fund.

## GOING PLACES

### TRIP NOTES

Please be sure to get your deposits in! We need 30 to 36 deposits at least 30 days prior to the trip or we lose the bus. If you leave your car at the FCA while on a trip, please park at the north end of the property. If you park near the main or lounge entrances you are using spaces needed for other functions.

**FOR BORDER CROSSING:** You must have two pieces of valid ID—EITHER a passport (current or expired) OR a certified birth certificate (not a photocopy) OR a Certificate of Citizenship. AND YOU MUST ALSO have a valid driver's license or government ID card with photo.

**“Every Christmas Story Ever Told”** - One day, Sunday, December 9, \$79. Includes shopping time and lunch at Canterbury Village. Then on to Meadowbrook Theatre to see the slightly skewed, crazy versions of all your favorite Christmas stories. Be at the FCA by 9:45 for 10 am departure. Return about 5:30 pm.

**Mystery Trip** - One day, Thursday, January 24, \$66. We did the final destination of this trip a few years ago

and everyone really seemed to enjoy it. What other surprises are included? Don't ask me for clues because even I don't know!! Be at the FCA by 8:15 am for 8:30 am departure. Return about 5 pm.

**Point Edward Casino, Sarnia** - One day, Thursday, February 14, 2008. More info later.

**“Big Italian Wedding”** - One day, Thursday, March 13, 2008. Lunch included at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall. More info later.

**“Moonlight and Magnolias”** - One day, Wednesday, April 2, 2008. Show will be at Meadowbrook with lunch at O'Malley's. More info later.

**Four Winds Casino** - Two days, April 28 & 29, \$125. Includes incentive package of \$35 and Bk. This is a brand new casino and hotel in New Buffalo.

Trips still in planning stage:

**“Cabaret”** at Stratford  
Ren Cen tour and Diamond Jack Cruise  
**“Church Basement Ladies”** at Turkeyville

*(Cont. from page 6)*

Rochester Hills, and enrolled in Business Administration at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. He is a superior student, active in sports and web site building. He displays a positive work ethic and leadership skills and has won awards in his workplace competitions. He anticipates that his work experience and his business education will combine to help him reach his vision of his future. Michael added that his faith is also very important to him.

**Daniel Kaskinen** (Parents: Rick and Sandi Kaskinen), graduate of Brethren High School, has completed his sophomore year in Business Administration at Northwood University. Daniel has an excellent academic record and an incredible list (pages and pages!) of wide-spread volunteer activities and awards. His Finnish heritage, as well as his faith, are important to him.

Congratulations to these remarkable students! We are proud of all of you.

We are most grateful to the members and friends of FCA who contribute to the scholarship fund, for that is what makes it possible for the program to continue. We are also grateful to all who contributed to our bountiful coffee table, and to Pearl

Wanttaja, Lillian Heikkinen and Edith Raski who set the table.

Look for Louise Hartung's interviews with our honored students in future FCA Newsletters, and for the revised scholarship application procedure printed elsewhere in the December issue.

Ruth Kaarlela, FCA Scholarship Committee



Scholarship recipients:  
Graham Kozak & Rachel Strauss

# FROM THE FCA LIBRARY

Compared to the Winter and Continuation Wars in Finland, not nearly as much has been written about their War for Independence. Immigrant Finns schooled in Finland tell me that it was not even mentioned in their history classes. Perhaps it was too painful to recollect that brother fought against brother.

Finland declared her independence from Russia on December 6, 1917, and I think many of us have had the notion that all was well after that. Such was not the case. The Russians had not left Finland, and Communist forces helped the Finnish Radical Socialists and Communists to revolt. Civil war broke out on January 26, 1918, when the Reds announced that they were in charge. On January 27, the Finnish White army began to chase the Russians out of the country. The Whites, led by Mannerheim, won the war by April 1918, and saved Finland from becoming a Communist state.

This summer I happened to run across four books dealing with the War for Independence, and happenings preceding it.

**JONAS OF KIIVIJARVI** by Leslie W. Wisuri. As a child, Leslie Wisuri spent a lot of time with his grandfather, Jonas Wisuri, in Iron River, Michigan. During the hours they spent fishing, hunting or just loafing, his grandfather told him stories about the adventures of a hero who was always nameless, but just called "the ghost". This "Ghost" lived in Kivijarvi, Finland during the time of the Russian occupation near the beginning of the 20th century. His resistance against the Russian forces made him a hero in the eyes of the Finns, and eventually inspired them to resist the oppressor and gain their freedom in 1917-18.

Years after his grandfather's death Wisuri realized that the story of the "Ghost", who he was certain was his grandfather, ought to be told. It does make for a very exciting story.

It is unfortunate that Wisuri did not have someone with a knowledge of Finnish and Finnish geography as well as cultural customs to proofread his work before publication. He misspells "Kiivijarvi" with two "I"s, explaining that it means "rock lake". "Kivi" is indeed a rock, but "Kiivi", as he spells it, is a kiwi bird. In one instance he has a husband and his pregnant wife cover the distance from Kivijärvi to Helsinki on foot in five days, an

impossibility, since Kivijärvi is 215 miles north of Helsinki "as the crow flies". There are other discrepancies, which I won't mention; perhaps you can spot them.

In spite of the fact that the errors and discrepancies are a bit jarring, the book is an interesting read. You will find it in fiction, under F We.

**VILHO, FINNISH FREEDOM FIGHTER** by Leslie W. Wisuri. This is a sequel to the above, this time based on what Wisuri imagined happened to the Ghost's friend Vilho, after the Ghost and his wife escaped to America. Under Vilho's leadership many are drawn to the resistance movement, and eventually Finland becomes independent in 1917, and truly free in 1918. You will find this book on the shelf beside the above, F Wi.

**IMARINMAA** by Artturi Leinonen. In 1952 Leinonen wrote a novel similar to the above two. It is the fictional story of Pentti Metsäpelto who is also drawn into the underground resistance movement, which eventually led to the Civil War, also called the War for Independence. This is in ficiton, F Le.

**ILKAN JA POUTIN POJAT** by Artturi Leinonen. I was indeed amazed to find that this book, a donation from a member, was written by the author of the above novel. The interesting thing is that he wrote it in 1919, shortly after the war was over. He himself was in the thick of things and he describes events as he saw them. He gives detailed information, such as how many Finns, and from which villages went to Germany for training and returned to fight as officers. There are many more interesting details, as well as pictures of numerous soldiers who fought for the Whites. This is in non-fiction, 947.1 Le.

You will find a few more books on the War for Independence by looking in the card catalog under **FINLAND-HISTORY-REVOLUTION**. Biographies of Mannerheim, of which we have several, will also contain such information.

Lillian Lehto, Librarian

P.S. We now have the sequel to **DEATH'S DOOR** by Steve Lehto. It is entitled **ITALIAN HALL: THE OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST** with an introduction by Steve. The FCA Gift Shop will also have copies for sale.

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

The splendid fall colors of October provided a lovely day for our Senior Luncheon. Lila Ball was at the podium and led everyone in table grace.

First time attendees included Art Durow, Vi Miller and Jennie Higham. Rosetta Maddick and Art Durow entertained the crowd with their musical stylings on the keyboard and guitar.

The lucky prize winners this month were Jenny Higham (fortunate first timer!), Fred Aebersold (two times in one afternoon!), Rosetta Maddick, Irene Naasko, Carol Remington and Edna Crosby. Last month's winners also included Anita Pirslin who didn't get mentioned.

Special guests, the Garden City Presbyterian Church group, presented a lively Vaudeville performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We observed a moment of silence for our deceased members Helen Wirtanen, Helen Walivaara and Eria Hamrick.

Please get your reservations in for the next luncheon on December 19. Delores Aebersold will emcee the event while her grandchildren, Rachel, Tim and Peter Lowrance will provide the entertainment.

Margaret Laurila

## GARDEN CLUB

New From Finlandia Gardens

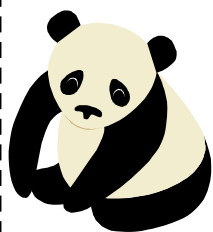
For our December report on Finlandia Gardens, we will list some of the progress we have made this year. The purchase of the trees, shrubs and perennials from a local nursery resulted in donations which allowed us to provide over two hundred additions to our gardens without cost to the Finnish Center. These included thirty trees, numerous shrubs and perennials. The value to the FCA is estimated at over \$7000. In addition, a large number of flowering plants were donated to the gardens by two local nurseries. A large garden cart was donated by Farmington Green. A donation of Trex composite decking was obtained for our bridge with a value of over \$2,400. The bridge over the swale was designed by Gene Belttari and David Sharpe and constructed by them and a group from the FCA Garden Club. A load of rocks was donated by Thesen Landscaping for the areas around the "Bridge to Somewhere". The design for the Wedding Circle was created by Master Gardener member, Anne Snudden. Additional design ideas were given by Fred Welsh, Tom Thesen and a number of our members. Enhancements were added to many gardens increasing eye appeal.

Seventeen new gardens were constructed. A site map of over forty points of interest was prepared and is available to our members and the public. Five new Garden Associates were recruited to assist us. A notice to all Master Gardeners in Wayne and Oakland counties was sent to offer learning opportunities at Finlandia Gardens.

Lastly, as a result of garden activity many persons joined the Finnish Center. All-in-all, we had a great year in Finlandia Gardens.

Many thanks to all of you who support Finlandia Gardens.

David Sharpe  
FCA Landscape Coordinator



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## ROSTER CHANGES

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Redford, Michigan 48240  
(313) 538-8043

Lampinen, Paul & Maria  
1004 Marshfield St.  
Ferndale, Michigan 48228  
(248) 543-5234  
[Maria1207@aol.com](mailto:Maria1207@aol.com)

Munro, Hazel M.  
46024 North Valley Dr.  
Northville, Michigan 48167  
(248) 344-0113  
[Ornum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ornum@sbcglobal.net)

Underwood, Michael & Nancy  
8725 Buffalo Dr.  
Commerce Twp., Michigan 48382  
(248) 363-5306  
[Nanno-3@comcast.net](mailto:Nanno-3@comcast.net)

### ADDRESS CHANGE

DeVault, Helen  
24 Highbridge Crossing  
Aptartment #1314  
Asheville, NC 28803

### TO VERIFY PHONE NUMBER

Hanninen, Arne  
(248) 442-9868  
Hanninen, Elmer  
(734) 453-6667

### PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION

Betty Modin  
(248) 349-9162

### **NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB**

Receiving your newsletter online will save paper and money. Please see page 11 and tell us if you want to stop the mailed version of the newsletter. It is available on our website ([www.finnishcenter.org](http://www.finnishcenter.org)).

Note, the web version of the newsletter is an Adobe Acrobat format file and requires the free reader program available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). If we do not hear from you, we will mail the newsletter to your home address.

## NOTES FROM THE SINGERS

We are enjoying our second month of practicing for our December Holiday Concert.

We have been invited to sing at the Rock Financial Showplace on Friday evening, November 30 for the Michigan Christmas Show. The F.A.S.M. Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm. Some of the songs will be "Christmas Tree", "Ring Christmas Bells", "Silver Bells", and other holiday favorites.

We welcome our new singers: Birgit Kuch, alto, Norm McCue, tenor, and Paul Rajala, bass. New singers are always welcome.

Our group is selling Christmas wreaths throughout the month of November as a fund raiser. Please contact any of our singers to place your order.

Many thanks to all of our hard-working pasty workers and to those who purchased pasties.

Thank you -  
Gerald Malstrom, Co-Publicity

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## ADVERTISING RATES

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 EDITOR CONTACT INFO: LOIS MAKEE  
 LAYOUT AND DESIGN: GLENN OR KAMELA  
 E-MAIL: [fcacenter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcacenter@sbcglobal.net)

### *FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS*

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of the Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,500 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue.

**Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.**

Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.

Rates for a camera-ready, b& w ad, per three month period:

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Photos: B&W photo ads incur a one-time charge of \$25.00 payable at first insertion.

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTION

The newsletter is now available for reading on the web site [www.finnishcenter.org/news](http://www.finnishcenter.org/news).

You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

**If you would like to stop your paper Newsletter delivery, please email the following information to: [fcacenter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcacenter@sbcglobal.net):**

first and last name  
 mailing address  
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In the subject line of the email, please write "newsletter".

**Attention:** If you wish to receive a directory, please fill out the form below & return to the FCA.

### REQUEST FOR FCA DIRECTORY

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<input type="checkbox"/> Annual individual membership: \$25.00 for one member (one vote) <input type="checkbox"/> Annual family membership: \$35.00 for applicant spouse and children under 18 (one vote) <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership: *\$250.00 (one vote) <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership: *\$300.00 (two votes) *Life membership requires that applicant has been a member in good standing for minimum of one year.	
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