



# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

August 2010

Dear FCA Members

Have you visited or attended a function at the Center lately?

You have been missed.

Remember your Finnish heritage and help to pass on the traditions to the youth of the community by attending cultural functions.

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Why does an individual make a financial gift to an organization? The answer to that question is probably as varied as the individual making the gift. However, basically the individual must feel that the organization has provided and will continue to provide a service to the community whether it be the community at large or to the individual members of the organization.

We are not able to meet our expenses from rentals and paid events alone. In the past these financial gifts have varied from one dollar to a half million dollars.

This year we were fortunate to receive two large gifts. One for \$42,000 from Fritz Putkela and one for \$75,000 from the Kaleva Park Association. We are very thankful for these gifts and others whether large or small.

Hopefully the Finnish Center will continue to be looked upon as a worthwhile recipient of a financial gift from members or other individuals or organizations.

Norbert C. Leppanen  
Chairman

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## DONATE BLOOD AT THE FINNISH CENTER

You can help two of our scholarship students when you donate blood at the Finnish Center on Wednesday, August 4. Graduating high school seniors Bridget Ranta and Martin Hella are eligible to earn a scholarship from the Red Cross for up to \$500 by helping bring blood donors to the Finnish Center. To schedule an appointment, you can either call Gerry at the Red Cross, phone 313.549.7092; or you can schedule on-line at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) using the sponsor code "finnishctr" (all lower case letters, one word). Walk-ins are welcome when space is available. You must be at least 17 years old, and there is no upper age limit. You must wait 56 days from your last donation to be eligible to donate again. If you have any other questions about your ability to donate, you may call the Red Cross at 866.236.3276. The Finnish Center has hosted blood drives before, but this is a new opportunity for our students to earn college scholarships while helping the many people who need blood, so we hope you will roll up your sleeves and donate!

Louise Hartung, Scholarship Committee Chair

# CALENDAR

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### **Finnish American Singers**

Mondays 7 to 9 pm

### **Library**

Open Mondays 9 to 2 pm

### **NikkarinTalo**

Mondays 9 am

### **Finlandia Garden Club**

Mondays 9:00 am

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### **Gift Shop—Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 1:00 pm

### **Card and Game Party**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 11-4 pm

### **Finnish Conversation**

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month 10 am

### **Book Club**

Day of Fish Fry 3:30pm

## **JULY**

- 3 CLOSED  
 4 CLOSED  
 5 CLOSED  
 10 Rental - Wedding 6:00 pm  
 17 Cultural Committee meeting  
 10:00 am  
 25 Open House 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## **AUGUST**

- 4 Red Cross Blood Drive  
 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
 7 Rental - Wedding 6:00 pm  
 18 Rental - Lifeline 8:15 am - 4:00 pm  
 21 Rental - Wedding 6:00 pm  
 29 Open House 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 4 CLOSED  
 5 CLOSED  
 6 CLOSED - Labor Day  
 8 Rental - Danish Bros. meeting  
 6:30 pm  
 9 Joint Board meeting 6:30 pm  
 12 Brunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm  
 15 Rental - 101st luncheon 11:00 am  
 17 FCA/FASM Pasty Sale preparation  
 18 FCA/FASM Pasty Sale bake  
 22 Rental - Danish Bros. meeting  
 6:30 pm

- 26 Open House 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
 29 Pulla/Nisu bake 9:45 am  
 Senior Luncheon 12 noon

## **OCTOBER**

- 2 Rental - Anniversary party  
 6:00 pm  
 7 Flea Market set-up  
 12 noon - 4:00 pm  
 8 Flea Market 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 9 Flea Market 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 10 Brunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm  
 13 Rental - Danish Bros.  
 meeting 6:30 pm  
 14 Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
 16 Rental - Wedding 6:00 pm  
 20 Rental - 101st luncheon  
 11:00 am  
 23 Finnish Rag Rugs lecture  
 2:00 pm  
 27 Pulla/Nisu bake 9:45 am  
 Rental - Danish Bros. meeting  
 6:30 pm  
 31 Open House 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
 Farmington Hills, MI  
 48335-5108  
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 fcacenter@sbcglobal.net  
 www.finnishcenter.org

### **Officers**

Norbert C. Leppanen, Chairman  
 Cortland Book, Vice Chairman  
 Tarja Virtanen, Secretary

### **Board of Trustees**

1 Year  
 Cortland Book, Norbert Leppanen,  
 George Koskimaki

### 2 Year

Norman McCue, Tarja Virtanen,  
 Christine Johnson

### 3 Year

Lotta Johanna Kaipainen,  
 Gerald Malstrom, Paul Rajala

### **Alternates**

#1 David Sharpe, #2 Anu Pantsar,  
 #3 Katja Jablonski

### **Financial Review**

Neil Manley, Jr., Dagmar Malstrom

### **Treasurer**

Christine Johnson

### **Committee Chairpersons**

#### Building & Grounds

Frank Gottberg

#### Cultural

Tarja Virtanen

#### Education

Katja Jablonski

#### Finance

Robert Erickson

#### Gift Shop

Margaret Laurila

#### Mailing

George Koskimaki

#### Membership

Anu Pantsar

#### Publicity & Publications

Nancy Sannar

#### Social

Ilene Yanke

#### Sunshine Lady

Eunice Potti Gould

#### Garden Club

Gayle Gullen

### **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

[Tapiola@ameritech.net](mailto:Tapiola@ameritech.net)

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

**Support**

**the**

**FCA**

**Volunteer**

**Attend Functions**

**Visit the Gift Shop**

**Speak Finnish**

**Tell Stories about your  
'Finnishness'**

## POKER NIGHTS

Up until about 7 years ago our FCA had one or two “Vegas” nights a year, in our banquet hall. There were also many “Vegas” nights held by other nonprofit organizations such as ours. These were a great fun events and a good way to raise funds. The participants at our events were mostly family members of the FCA. Even though we always had fun it became harder and harder to attract “Vegas” millionaire party goers and make a profit. Our costs were the cost of the use of the FCA banquet hall for the evening and also rental of gaming tables and other overhead costs. Our worker volunteers became less interested in organizing and running the events. So “Vegas” nights were forgotten at the FCA as well as at many other organizations.

Glenn Kujansuu learned of an outfit “Trip Kings Co.” that runs a “millionaire” card room 7 nights a week throughout the year. We signed a Poker night contract with “Trip Kings”. They provide the game rooms, equipment, dealers and room management plus an open bar and a snack counter. Most of the “Trip Kings” customers are regulars. The part we play in our agreement with Trip Kings Company is to secure state “millionaire” party licenses, manage all the selling of chips and monies and provide accurate bookkeeping records to the state of Michigan. We share the profits with Trip Kings Company. The state monitors and audits our record keeping. By state regulations we are allowed to have 12 to 16 poker nights a year, with each one lasting from 4:00 pm to 2:00 A M.

At the card rooms “Texas Hold Um” poker is played. This is the same game as many of us have seen played on T V for several years, with stakes much lower than on T V. The players are playing against each other in a mostly friendly rivalry.

In the last 18 months we have had 24 poker nights with some at Garden Lanes in Garden City and some at Northville Downs. In those 24 nights our FCA has made a profit of over twenty thousand dollars. (\$20,000.00) We have created very good relations with the card room managers because they appreciate the consciousness of our FCA volunteers. They look forward to our return. Each night we have had from six to eight volunteers and please note that at least two volunteers need to stay until two thirty a m to close the books. Altogether, I estimate that over forty of our members have stepped up to help.

Our next poker nights are at Garden Lanes on Friday Sept. 17th, to Sunday Sept 19th.

Thank you  
Gene Belttari

## GARDEN CLUB

### Children’s Garden Dedicated at the FCA

Children, parents, and FCA members gathered on Sunday, June 13 to celebrate the opening of the Children’s Gardens at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills. Gerald Malstrom led the ceremony and Pastor Kopka of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church blessed and dedicated the gardens with water from a new rainwater collection system. Natalie McCue cut the ribbon and the gardens were open for business.

After the ceremony children planted and watered vegetables. The activity was followed by refreshments in the lounge of the Finnish Center. Project chairpersons, Elizabeth and Norman McCue were congratulated for their efforts in bringing this project to the center. A bountiful crop of vegetables is anticipated.



## FINLAND TODAY

First, as far as I can tell, Finland is now the only country in the world with both, a woman President and a woman Prime Minister. By a vote of 115 to 56, the Finnish Parliament passed the resolution naming Mari Kiviniemi as the new Finnish Prime Minister. Later, the President of Finland, Tarja Halonen, approved Kiviniemi as Finland's second female Prime Minister. Kiviniemi, 41, an economist and a member of the Center Party, has been in the Parliament for 15 years.

As of June 1st, Finland became the first country in the world to make it a legal right for every citizen to have internet broadband access of at least 1Mb/s. That is, all 5.3 million people in Finland will have the opportunity to have a broadband connection. By the year 2015, the speed is supposed to increase to 100Mb/s.

It is now official, Finland will build two new nuclear power plants. They will be Finland's 6th and 7th nuclear power plants. The Finnish Parliament voted 121---71 to approve the building of the new power plants. Currently Finland has 4 nuclear plants in operation, with a 5th being already under construction. The two light-water reactors will generate a combined 3,200 megawatts, and are estimated to cost \$12.5 billion. Currently nuclear power plants in Finland generate 28% of Finland's electrical power.

Saku Koivu has signed a new 2 year contract with Anaheim Ducks for an estimated \$5 million. The 35 year old Koivu spent the first 13 years of his NHL career with Montreal, 10 years as the team captain, before signing with Anaheim last year. Koivu has 210 goals and 483 assists in 863 career games in the NHL. With the Ducks last year, Koivu had a team leading plus 14 rating.

In other signings, San Jose Sharks have signed Finnish goalie, Antero Niittymaki, 30, for a two year contract worth about \$4 million. Niittymaki replaces Evgeni Nabokov as the Sharks starting goalie. Niittymaki is one of many Finnish goalies

in the NHL, including Stanley Cup winner Antti Niemi of the Chicago Blackhawks.

More NHL news, the Minnesota Wild will play 3 games in Finland in October. On Oct 4th, the Wild will play an exhibition game in Tampere, and then open their regular season against the Carolina Hurricanes in Helsinki on Oct 7th and 8th. As expected, the games are sold out. By the way, the Minnesota Wild drafted 18 year Mikael Granlund, a center from Finland, in the first round of the NHL draft. Granlund was the 9th pick overall in the draft and was rated by the NHL Central Scouting Services as the top European skater in this year's draft.

For the second year in a row, Taisto Miettinen with his "wife" Kristiina Haapanen on his back, have won the World Wife--Carrying Championship. Miettinen, 45 years old, and a lawyer by day, raced the 250 meter long course that included two hurdles and a pool with about waist deep water, in 64 seconds. This year 51 teams from 13 countries, including the U.S., took part in the competition held in Sonkajarvi, a village about 300 miles north of Helsinki. Sonkajarvi has held the race for the last 15 years. This year there were about 4,000 spectators.

And finally, a couple of guys were in a restaurant talking about going on vacation the following winter.

First Guy: You know, I really wanted to go to Florida this winter to the Lantana area, but I heard that there are so many Finns there that I changed my mind.

Second Guy: Me too, I had planned to go to Lake Worth, just north of Lantana, but I heard that the Finns have taken over the beaches and resorts, so I also decided not to go there.

Hilma, seated in the next booth, overheard the conversation and couldn't take it anymore, so she turned to the two guys and said: "Why don't you two go to hell, I heard that there are no Finns there."

Markku Ketola, marketola@yahoo.com

## SUNSHINE LADY

She sends Get Well, Thinking of You and words of encouragement cards to FCA members.

This little known function has been around for many years, and can only be accomplished when we are notified that someone needs a card. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Also, we are running out of cards, so if you have extra cards we would appreciate receiving them.

## FINN FACTS



Finland has 187,000 lakes, 179,584 islands and 647 rivers.

## Armitage Catering

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

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

Off site catering is also available  
 248-921-7561

This could be a space for your ad.

Call the Finnish Center to advertise in the newsletter.

## WATER COLLECTION PROJECT

### Nearing Completion

A gutter and rain barrels have been installed by Dr. Z on the west side of the garden shed to collect rainwater. The collected rainwater will be used for the Vegetable and Children's Gardens reducing the need for city water.



### Save this date!

**September 25, 2010, Direct from the U.P.**

With the Suomalainen Sisters  
 (Kris, Sherry, & Linda - The Kyro Sisters).  
 Enjoy hilarious comedy and music based on their  
 Finnish heritage.

Performance at 3:00 p.m. at the  
 Finn Camp in Wixom, MI

Tickets - Adult \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door;  
 12 & under \$10 & \$15  
 can be purchased beginning July 20 at Finn Camp  
[www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org)

Or at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills  
 After the performance celebrate

Finn Camp's **Autumn Fest.**  
 Raffles, food, beverages, cash bar and the fabulous

**Mojakka Cookoff**

\$5 for tasting -  
 Proceeds go to scholarships

Event sponsored by the  
 Detroit Finnish Summer Camp Association (Finn Camp),  
 Finnish Center Association,  
 Finnish American Historical Society,  
 Knights and Ladies of the Kaleva, and  
 Finnish American Cultural Corporation

# MEMORIAL FUND

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

The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat 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: the FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Deadline is the last 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 the FCA at (248) 478-6939.**

**NOTE: Effective immediately, all memorial donations MUST BE MAILED TO THE FINNISH CENTER by the last day of the month.**

Donations to the Memorial Fund since the last newsletter are as follows:

In memory of FCA life member Irja Mattson Connolly (5-2-10) donations have been made by Kay Simo, Pearl & Ray Wanttaja, and Maria Hil.

In memory of FCA life member Neil Manley, Sr. (5-27-10) donations have been made by Kay Simo, Virginia & Richard Lopez and Family, Shirley & Gene Beltari, Pearl & Ray Wanttaja, Lillian Heikkinen, Roger Wanttaja, Randy Wanttaja, and John Saett.

In memory of FCA life member William "Bill" Parkila, Sr. (6-9-10) donations have been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member Wealthy Makila (8-12-01) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

The FCA remembers life members Leo Korpi (5-27-10) and Patricia "Pat" Ajemian (7-3-10); and in memory of member James Rintala (5-4-10).

In memory of Aili Mattson ( 2/ 1/2010) a donation was made by Alfred & Shirley Burke

In memory of Darlene Robinson ( 3/15/2010) a donation was made by Alfred & Shirley Burke

In memory of Irja Connolly ( 5/ 2/2010) a donation was made by Dominic/Martha Boscarino

In memory of Neil Manley Sr. ( 5/27/2010) donations were made by Margaret Siira, Arlene R. Moilanen, Ruth Kaarlala, Rhoda Milgrim, and Edith Raski.

In memory of Norma Kolehmainen (12/ 5/2009) a donation was made by Verner & Helen Niva.

In memory of Sally Pollard () a donation was made by Alfred & Shirley Burke.

In memory of Shirley Brooks ( 3/15/2010) donations were made by Joan & Robert Taylor, and Charmaine Elias.

In memory of Tony Burcar ( 4/27/2010) donations were made by Larry Mosher, Joseph A. Burcar, and Ellen G. Alanen.

## HAPPINESS FUND

Belated 90th Birthday Greetings to members John Kulju (Jan. 21), Irene Gauthier (June 18) and Laina Lampi (June 23): Also 80th Birthday Greetings to Norman McCue on July 12 Wished by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

## THANKS

Thanks to all who came and supported our May Luncheon. Its joy to have fun fellowship together and taking time to share our thoughts over lunch.

Life is Good. Hopefully as time goes on, our numbers will increase and the help is always appreciated. Our May winners were: Fritz Putkela, lotions; Irene Karna, nisu; Norma Aittama, box of chocolates; Ruth Kaarlala, coffee and mugs; Edith Raski, purse bug. Fred Aebersold won the fifty-fifty of \$32.

September 29<sup>th</sup> is our next luncheon

Lila and Terry Ball



## 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:** The new requirements for proof of citizenship to cross the border to Canada are:

1. PASSPORT - Must be a valid passport.
2. PASSPORTCARD or the new PASSPORT DRIVERS LICENSE.
3. CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION accompanied by a valid passport and valid U.S.. Re-Entry Permit.

Comerica Park - 1 day, Thursday, August 5, \$49. Senior Day includes coupon for a hotdog and soft drink. Departs 10:45 am and returns about 5:45 pm. Combo with Nardineers.

"The Ring of Fire" - Turkeyville Dinner Theatre - 1 day, Thursday, August 12, \$70. This wonderful show features 38 of Johnny Cash's best hits. And don't forget the wonderful turkey buffet. Be at FCA 9:15 am for 9:30 departure. Return about 6:30 pm.

Au Sable River Cruise - 1 day, Monday, September 13, \$86. Includes stop in Pinconning at Wilson's Cheese Shoppe. Departs 8:15 am. Return about 9:15 pm. Combo with Nardineers.

Pride of Toledo - Sweet Adelines - 1 day, Saturday, October 2, \$51. Departs 10:30 am. Return about 6:45 pm. Combo with Nardineers.

Frankenmuth - Tribute to Bob Hope - 1 day, Tuesday, November 30, \$78. Departs 9:15 am. Return about 4:45 pm. Combo with Nardineers.

Please call if you have questions. Pearl Wanttaja, 248-541-0054

## WRITERS' WORKSHOP

To inform you that a copy of the Writers' Workshop book has been made. I haven't put it in plastic binders and a loose-leaf album as this format may not be compatible with Heritage Center storage requirements. Normally they store in their own folders to conserve space. The plastic protectors are useful for preserving a volume that is used by many casual readers. I would like what was done with the writers project to be a model for a similar volume dealing with historical reminiscences of Finnish-Americans in the Detroit community, specifically dealing with organizational activities, especially the FCA. At the most recent historical society meeting this possibility was briefly discussed and I agreed to work on this. Louise Hartung suggested a discussion group to address this issue. Perhaps ultimately something like that would be possible but as a start I think it necessary to formalize the interview process so that a useful compilation could be achieved. I have discussed these observations with Lois Makee and Margaret Laurila. Hopefully others, especially in long-standing with the FCA, will be able to contribute to this project. Given the range of my commitments I don't foresee myself doing formal interviews but need to rely on others who are familiar with the membership and have the necessary communication skills to accomplish this task. I'm appreciative of what you did with the Writers' Workshop and would welcome your suggestions and input in this project. I need to follow-up with Kent Randell regarding the writers' book and with Norbert Leppanen regarding signing off on donating a copy to the Heritage Center in Hancock.

Prior to sending the volume there is the matter of the Deed of Gift, a legal document that grants the Heritage Center the right to use the book for educational and research purposes. There are also informed consent forms for being interviewed but since that's already accomplished, it isn't necessary in this case. I think some of these legal procedures can be intimidating to the average person and informal discussion is perhaps a better approach to describing the purpose of the form. We've discussed the matter of informed consent. I've asked Kent Randell and he was a little ambivalent as to whether everyone who participated had to sign off on it on paper. He thought it might be possible for you to act as an intermediary and sign for the group but he isn't completely familiar with our situation. My own impression is that it would be OK for you to sign a Deed of Gift for the group so long as the participants are contacted and agree to donating their stories. In the case of Herb Piiilo, I believe he would have been agreeable but his survivors should be informed and have copies of his stories so that they are aware of his contribution or should they in the unlikely possibility of having any objections. I'm attaching a "Deed of Gift" form that I edited slightly that was sent to me by Gary Kaunonen when he was director of the Finnish-American Archives. Kent Randell might have a little different approach but we should be able to work with it. Gary said the form should be limited to specific purposes. *(cont'd on page 11)*

# FROM THE FCA LIBRARY

The following article appeared in the publication of The Institute of Migration, Turku, Finland, in 1988, and shortly thereafter also in the FCA newsletter. But perhaps most current readers have not seen it; therefore we reprint it here, for the information it contains is still current.

## SOME CROSS-CULTURAL OBSERVATIONS OF A THIRD-GENERATION FINNISH-AMERICAN

By Lillian Lehto

When our grandparents came to the United States, great pressure was put upon them to conform to the customs of their adopted country, ("When in Rome do as the Romans do" or "Maassa maan tavalla.") Therefore, most customs that differed from those in the "Oid Country" were laid aside in favor of American ones. This article will compare Finnish and American customs, the latter being essentially synonymous with Finnish-American customs.

The United States is twenty-eight times as large as Finland, and Americans can travel thousands of miles without ever leaving their own country. In fact, many of them never do. This can lead to an inbred society which perceives its way of doing things as the only way and the right way. Finns, on the other hand, have over two dozen foreign neighbors in an area just slightly larger than the entire United States. Finns might be expected to have a more international outlook. Whether this is so, I'm not sure. It is an observed fact, however, that differences in cultural customs can cause friction, misunderstanding, as well as raised eyebrows when Finnish-Americans visit the home of their ancestors, or vice versa, if they have not been coached in the ways of their hosts. Verbal communication is less of a problem, for one can always resort to a dictionary, but where does one find a dictionary of social customs?

A girl with whom I spoke in Helsinki commented that when she was in the U.S. as a foreign exchange student, she found many cultural differences and had to be careful to say the right things on the right occasion. She observed that Americans are much more prone to exaggeration and profuse thanks. Finns will mean the same thing, but not be so wordy about it. A Finn may regard the American as insincere, whereas the American, receiving what to him appears "meager" thanks, may wonder whether his gift or deed went unappreciated.

Many have also observed another conversational difference: Americans will engage in casual talk with anyone and everyone, including strangers in a grocery line, at a bus stop, on public transportation, or whatever. Finns don't do this, and can be quite taken aback if a well-meaning American, ignorant of Finnish customs, attempts to initiate a conversation in

such a situation. It is as though one were invading their "space".

Conversational topics also differ in our countries. Americans, upon meeting someone for the first time, will often inquire about whether he/she is married, has a family, etc. I am told that this is not to be done in Finland or when talking with Finns. This was brought home to me recently when a Finnish guest and I were in a group where we shared a table with several others. One of the women in the group, attempting to be friendly, inquired regarding my guest's marital status and whether she had children. I thought nothing of the inquiry, it being a common American conversation-starter; however, my guest abruptly asked that we leave. When we were alone, she commented that she could not stand the inquisitiveness of the woman. I could appreciate her discomfort, but it still amazed me, as she had nothing to hide or be ashamed of. Lesson learned: avoid personal topics in conversations with Finns. It has been my observation that religion and politics should also be avoided.

Pursuing verbal differences further: "bad words" in our cultures differ. Whereas Finnish "bad words" consist of those having to do with the devil, American counterparts have to do with deity, sexual references and bathroom terms. Sometimes in learning the language of another, one inadvertently picks up these terms, not realizing they are unacceptable in polite conversation in the other culture. One would do well to learn what words are to be avoided in the other's culture, as well as what words are sanctioned, so one does not register shock upon hearing what in one's own culture might be inappropriate.

Americans are often initially surprised at the unabashed attitude of Finns toward nudity, elimination, and mixed family bathing in the sauna. This is no doubt a healthy attitude, but we find it alarming, afraid that we will be embarrassed. Americans refer to bathroom functions via euphemisms, and a (false?) modesty governs display of the nude body. An American related the following regarding her visit to Finland with her teenage son and daughter. The host family heated the sauna and then announced that it was her family's turn to take a bath. Her son and daughter both protested that they would not enter the sauna together, nor with their mother. Each bathed alone. The hostess was baffled by such "foolish" modesty!

--To be continued, when we will also list items in our library which will be of help in understanding cultural customs in Finland.

Lillian Lehto, Librarian



## GIFT SHOP

Special  
Limited Supply  
Karl Fazer Gourmet Milk Chocolates  
Karl Fazer Rye Toast

New Supply of  
Screened SISU T-Shirts.  
Only \$14.00

### GIFT SHOP HOURS:

10 am - 4 pm Mondays, Wednesday, & Friday

10 am - 2 pm Saturdays

Limited Selectin Arabia pattern:  
Aremone-Blue, Blue Bands

**Refer to the calendar for additional  
dates & times.**

## IN APPRECIATION

For all the work and attention put into making the Finnish Center look good in his quiet unassuming way; a ready smile and/or a kind word. Carl Aebersold has also gone above and beyond for each event and assisting the volunteers in their activities.

THANK YOU CARL.

### Seeking Employment

Duties as a companion/caregiver. To include errands, light housekeeping, Non medical needs provided.  
Call Margaret 248-252-3247

## SOCIALLY SPEAKING

We had a great Juhannus celebration! The Lounge was full with guests enjoying the barbecued meats and Finnish side dishes prepared by Armitage. Many thanks to 4 Soittoniekat members and 14 Finnish American Singers, and their accompanist, Bill Gramzow, who came to entertain. The singers sang four Finnish songs. We thank Sari Vuorela (from Finland), Tarja Virtanen, and Katja Jablonski for telling us about Juhannus celebrations in Finland.

David Sharpe introduced Guiliano Zuccato to recognize him for his generous gift of art called "Finlandia" which has been mounted on the wall near the main entrance.

Some of our members came for the outside part of the evening. Twelve attendees circled the Maypole which David Sharpe and others so aptly set up. Many watched this event.

Carl Aebersold, Kevin , and Bruce from Tapiola, were so helpful with the set-up. David Sharpe and helpers decorated the outside entrance, and Frank Gottberg who obtained the fire permit and set up the fire outside. Such Help! This all tells me that the FCA members want to celebrate Juhannus, or Midsummer's Day!

Kiitos,  
Ilene Maki Yanke, Social

Save the dates:

October 7, 8, and 9

More information in the September  
newsletter

or call the FCA

## DID YOU KNOW

A meeting of the Finnish honorary consuls was held in Helsinki in May, 2010. There was a full agenda during the four-day meeting, with events starting in the morning and continuing into the evening. The activities included a tour of the Suomenlinna fortress in the Helsinki harbor, and later a visit to the cell phone company Nokia. At Nokia's headquarters we sampled the latest in cutting edge cell-phone technology.

We also toured the huge Neste Oil refinery, which is the largest oil refinery in the Nordic countries. The Neste Oil company is developing various forms of alternative energy, and appears to be well-prepared for the global move away from traditional oil and gas fuels.

The Finnish Parliament was in session and we were able to observe ongoing debates. The Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Sauli Niinisto, took time from his busy schedule to meet with us and share some of the current issues confronting Parliament. We also met with and heard presentations by many other government officials, including Secretary of State Pertti Torstila. He was to host a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Clinton, but her meeting was unfortunately re-

scheduled due to flight disruptions caused by the volcanic ash.

Of course, no visit to Helsinki would be complete without a visit to Merimekko where we viewed the latest in Finnish design. Helsinki has been selected as the World Design Capital for 2012, and will be hosting many international design events during 2012.

We also enjoyed touring Porvoo, the historic town near Helsinki. We ended our meetings with a ballet performance at the Finnish National Opera.

The most memorable event was meeting President Martti Ahtisaari, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. President Ahtisaari discussed the peace building tradition that Finland has long been known for and shared his goals for the future. President Ahtisaari displayed amazing energy and I have no doubt that he will continue to contribute to world peace for years to come.

The only challenge on the trip was lost luggage. The flight from Detroit to Helsinki was diverted due to the volcanic ash, and my luggage was lost in resulting delay. However, this ended up being great for the Finnish economy, because it required a shopping trip to Stockmann's to purchase necessities!

Finland has a relatively healthy economy, in spite of the global economic crisis affecting other European countries. Finnish hospitality and service are unsurpassed in quality. If you have not been to Finland recently, please consider visiting - so that you can experience firsthand what this wonderful country has to offer!

Paul N. Potti,  
Honorary Consul, Finland

### Additional

#### Scholarship Fund Drive Donors

The Scholarship Committee sends a big KIITOS to additional donors to the recent Scholarship Fund Drive: Ray and Pearl Wanttaja, and Marge Sorensen.

Louise Hartung, Scholarship Committee Chair

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(*Cont'd from page 7*) The FCA has an extensive collection of historical documents including minutes of board meetings and newsletters. The collection is largely intact but fragmented, there are some gaps in the record, the files are located in several areas and some years have been duplicated. It is planned that the Heritage Center in Hancock could be the repository of the original documents and that copies could be retained by the FCA as required by the FCA Bylaws. The Finnish-American Archives in Hancock already had many of our newsletters but not all. Collating the minutes will be a long-term project that can be done incrementally. There are also financial documents, music archives, photo albums and other written documentation that needs to be considered. Obviously this is more than one person can handle so whatever assistance is available will facilitate things.

I appreciate the PDF copies of some of the Writers' Workshop stories. It would be good to have a complete set in PC compatible form but I understand the difficulties in converting formats and time limitations. I would suggest that the recovered volume be placed in the library on reserve where it is less likely to be lost in the future. Currently it's on a table where free handouts are available. I put a "Do Not Remove" sign on it at the suggestion of Margaret Laurila but a safer alternative might be the library. Because there are so many books there, it's whereabouts probably would have to be publicized in some manner. I don't recall if I discussed this with Lillian Lehto but she may be able to advise on the matter. If you have any suggestions as to how to display the book, let me know. Hopefully the writer's book project can be ready by FinnFest but all formalities need to be completed.

I will forward a copy of this message to other members with an interest in the subject. I should also send an update on the status of the Writers' Workshop book to inform others that it has been found and its current status.

Donald Autio

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