



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

May 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Spring greetings to all FCA members.

Your Board of Trustees has received a challenge from members of the FCA regarding the FCA annual election, held February 19, 2012. The issue challenged was the acceptance of proxy votes solicited by a very few members of the FCA. The proxy votes contributed to over half of the votes cast in the election. The FCA by-laws provide for absentee votes, but does not address the issue of proxy votes. The Board of Trustees was unaware of the proxy voting going on during the election process. The challenge is directed to the process of the proxy voting, not to the individual candidates standing for election.

As your Chairman I have spent considerable time researching the use and application of proxy voting. I also took into consideration three legal opinions. (all three varied in their interpretation). What additionally concerns me is that none of the proxy votes were requested from the FCA Board of Trustees, nor were they returned to the Board.

Since a formal challenge was submitted concerning the election process I called for a special Board meeting to resolve this issue. After much discussion, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to revote the election by use of a mail ballot, mailed to ALL paid membership of the FCA. The ballot will also include brief information on each candidate. The ballots will be in the mail by May 15, 2012 with a return postmark of not later than June 1, 2012.

My thanks to all of the Board of Trustees for their consideration in working with me to resolve a difficult situation.

Sincerely, Cortland R. Book, Chairman.



Finlandia Gardens
Photo by David Sharpe



**Volunteer to keep
our community
clean!**

**Thursday,
April 19**

**Meet at FCA
9:00 am
Lunch to follow
at noon**

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WEEKLY EVENTS**Finnish American Singers**

Mondays 7 pm to 9 pm
(no rehearsal in Summer)

Library

Open Mondays 9 am to 2 pm

NikkarinTalo

Mondays 9 am

Finlandia Garden Club

Mondays 9 am

MONTHLY EVENTS**Gift Shop—Meeting**

2nd Monday 1 pm

Card and Game Party

1st Wednesday 11 am-4 pm

Finnish Conversation

1st Friday of the month 10 am

Book Club

Last Monday of month, 1 pm

APRIL

- 9-12 **Poker Nights**
 12 **Board Meeting 6:30 pm**
 13 **FCA Bakers 9:45 am**
 14 **Finnish Language Class 10:30 am**
 15 **Finnish Breakfast noon-1:30 pm**
 18 **101st Luncheon 11 am**
 18 **“Finland Calling” 2 pm**
 19 **Adopt A Highway 9 am**
 19 **Flea Market Set up 12-4 pm**
 20 **Flea market 10 am-4 pm**
 21 **Finnish Language Class 10:30 am**
 (at Tapiola Village)
 24 **Rental 10 am-2 pm**
 25 **Monthly Luncheon Noon**
 25 **Rental 6:30 pm**
 28 **Finnish Language Class 10:30 am**
 28 **FAHS Annual Meeting 12-2 pm**
 29 **Open House 1-4 pm**
 29 **Vappu 6 pm-midnight**

MAY

- 5 **Finnish Language Class 10:30am**
 9 **FCA Bakers 9:30 am**
 10 **Rental 6:30 pm**
 10 **Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm**
 11 **FCA Pasty Prep 10 am**
 12 **FCA Pasty Bake/Sale**
 12 **Finnish Language Class 10:30 am**
 13 **Mother’s Day Potluck 1-4 pm**
 16 **101st Luncheon 11 am**
 19 **Finnish Language Class 10:30 am**
 20 **Suomi Koulu 11:30 am**
 20 **Scholarship Reception 2:30 pm**
 20 **FASM Spring Concert 3 pm**
 21 **Scholarship Committee 11:30 am**
 23 **Rental 6:30 pm**
 27 **Open House 1-4 pm**
 28 **Memorial Day—Closed**
 30 **Monthly Luncheon Group Noon**

**FINNISH PROVERB**

Apu pyytämättä paras

"A willing helper comes without asking".

**LOOSE CHANGE**

As part of our efforts to support the Finnish Center through donations we have added a new opportunity. During FCA events you will find blue donation containers at your table for your loose change. A nearby church has raised significant funds through just collecting spare change from its members. We also have a larger container in the accounting office for all those coins you have collected.

Bring the nickels, dimes and quarters you have saved on your dresser and jars. Bring them in and you will support our center into the future. If you would like to take an orange container home in order to collect change for the FCA, we can accommodate that as well. Thank you for making this part of our development program successful.

PROGRAM CANCELLED

Sulo Raina “Hand Saw” Performance originally scheduled for May 19 has been cancelled due to lack of funding.

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 Farmington Hills, MI
 48335-5108
 Tel: (248) 478-6939
 Fax: (248) 478-5671
 fcacenter@sbcglobal.net
 www.finnishcenter.org

Officers

Cortland Book, Chairman
 Lois Makee, Vice Chairman
 Marlene Ruuskanen, Secretary

Board of Trustees

1 Year
 Gerald Malstrom, Roger Wanttaja,
 Lois Makee

2 Year
 Frank Gottberg, Cortland Book,
 David Sharpe

3 Year
 Carl Aebersold, Olli Lamminen,
 Marlene Ruuskanen

Alternates

#1 Ruben Nayback
 #2 Francis Fadie
 #3 Gayle Gullen

Financial Review

Neil Manley, Jr., Dagmar Malstrom
 Marlene Ruuskanen

Treasurer

Christine Johnson

Committee Chairpersons**Building & Grounds**

Frank Gottberg

Cultural

Carl Aebersold & Hilka Ketola

Education

Hanna Hall

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Margaret Laurila

Mailing

George Koskimaki

Membership

Mia Lamminen

Publicity & Publications

Nancy Sannar

Social

Ilene Yanke

Sunshine Lady

Eunice Potti Gould

Garden Club

David Sharpe

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

GARDEN NEWS

Will it frost or freeze? That was our question in March and April when the unusual weather fluctuations made it seem like summer one day and winter the next, far too early in the growing season. Our perennial flowers, shrubs, and trees were leafing out earlier than usual and we stood on pins and needles each day wondering what the nighttime temperatures would be. Fortunately, perennials are able to withstand temperatures below freezing, in most cases, and we got through those months of unusual weather without serious frost damage.

Our annual seeds have been planted and seedlings are growing with great gusto. Soon they will be placed throughout Finlandia Gardens for your visual enjoyment and pleasure. This month our vegetable gardens will be planted. If you still want to plant a vegetable plot at the FCA, contact us as soon as possible, as we have only a few boxes still available.

A new lighting system has been installed to illuminate our Finlandia Garden sign at the front of the gardens near Eight Mile. See if you can spot the improvement when you come by after dark. This twelve volt lighting system is inexpensive to operate and was donated by a local homeowner.

During the last few years the number of members assisting in our gardens has declined and we now are at a point where we must ask you for your assistance. For many reasons we no longer have enough help to keep our gardens at their best. We need more volunteers or we need to hire additional gardeners and your donations can make this possible. During the last nine years we have developed an award-winning garden landscape and we hope to continue this FCA tradition.

Please consider writing a check to the Finnish Center, designated for Finlandia Gardens, and we will continue to keep our gardens at their best.

David Sharpe

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PASTY ORDER



The next pasty bake is Saturday, May 12. Make your reservations by signing up on the sheet in the FCA lobby, by calling the Finnish Center, or by email at fca-pasties@comcast.net. All orders must be picked up on Saturday between 11 am and 4 pm.

The cost is \$5 each, but for orders of 10 or more, you can save 10%. Here is how: first, email your order and phone number to fca-pasties@comcast.net by 10:00 pm on Monday, May 7. To receive the discount you must pick up your order on Saturday.

Volunteers are always needed to help with the pasty bake. Simply sign up on the sheet in the lobby or contact Paul Rajala. (Pasty-making volunteers can pick up a free pasty on Saturday).

Please note that the pasty bake raises needed funds for the FCA!



SPRING FLEA MARKET

APRIL 20 and 21
1-4 pm

Denise Book, Chairperson
Nancy Rajala, Co-Chairperson
Luise Leppanen, Bake Sale

Olde tyme candy, jewelry, glassware, furniture, bake sale, garden items, handicrafts, and slightly used items. Stop by the concession window for a light snack or lunch.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

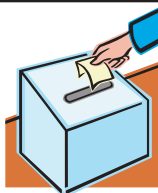
There has been discussion that we cannot continue to support the Finnish Center. We own seventeen and one half acres in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Eleven and a half acres are part of our Senior Housing Corporation. Our Senior Housing is not in economic difficulty.

Is our center too extensive for us to continue to support? Our center is certainly one of, if not the most beautiful Finnish Centers in the United States. Our Finlandia Gardens and our extensive interior are exceptional. The question is can we continue to support this center? Expenses are going up and our membership has declined.

Some suggest that we should sell our FCA property and purchase a smaller facility, a home or small building that would have fewer expenses.

In order to continue in our present location we will have to raise at least \$50,000 per year into the years ahead. Do we have the commitment to do this? The answer to this question will determine our future.

If you agree that the Board of Trustees should continue in the direction of preserving our great "Center", please consider making a donation. If you have already done so, thank you.



FCA SENIOR HOUSING BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

The FCA Senior Housing Board met in March and elected officers for 2012. Elected Chairman was Paul Hendrickson, Vice chairman, Frank Gottberg, Secretary, Charlotte Lytikainen, and Treasurer, Christine Johnson.

Members of the FCA are automatically members of FCA Senior Housing. Affordable housing in a beautiful setting is offered to all. We should all take pride in the many services offered by the Finnish Center community. Come by and see what we have to offer.

GIFT SHOP

Come in and see all the beautiful imported glassware, dinnerware, candle holders, mugs, candy, coffee and more.



Hours of Operation
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10 am to 4 pm
and during all FCA functions



FINLAND CALLING

Carl Pellonpaa has been on the air for 49 years and we have the opportunity to hear him speak.

The television program "Finland Calling" (Suomi Kutsuu) has been filmed at Marquette station WLUC in the U.P. It is the only Finnish-Language television program in the United States, and has aired since March 25, 1962. Also it is the longest running talk show and is certainly the longest running television show in the United States.

Join us on Wednesday, April 18 at 2:00 pm to hear Carl Pellonpaa live at the FCA and visit with him.



Elina Simmonen

Want to Taste the Best Rye Bread?

By Louise Hartung

I was honored to be asked by *Finnish American Reporter* co-editors Jim Kurtti and Dave Maki to write a “FinnRoads” travelogue-column about Finnish American activities of southeast Michigan for their April issue. This proved to be an unexpected and fascinating opportunity to learn more about our area, and the history and contemporary doings of local Finnish immigrants and Finnish-heritage Americans. Through interviews and research, I learned much more than could be included in the “FinnRoads” column, so that information has become the basis for an on-going series of *FCA News* articles.

How did we all get to this area? Many came down from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, especially from the Copper Country. Call us “Yoopers.” Others moved north from Ohio, south from Minnesota, east from Washington state, or west from New York. Call us “transplants.” Some came from Canada, while still others came more recently from Finland, often drawn to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan as students, researchers, or business people. Call us “immigrants.” We are getting to know each other better here at the Finnish Center, we Finnish-heritage and Finnish-immigrant people, as more of us move here and join the Finnish Center.

In this article, meet Finnish rye bread and Karelian pie baker Elina Simmonen. Elina has a day job working as a physical therapist, but she hopes that one day baking will be her day job. When she came to the United States in 1993, she looked for the delicious baked goods that she had enjoyed at home in Finland, but they were not to be found in local grocery stores. Never having been much of a rye bread baker while she was in Finland, she learned that skill from a friend here. After years of just selling bread to friends, she began her business, Best Rye, LLC, in May, 2011. Weekends are now devoted to baking four items: three types of *ruisleipä*, or rye bread; and the Karelian pie known as *Karjalanpiirakka*. She sold her products at the Finnish Center’s Scandinavian Bazaar last fall, and the Gift Shop now carries one of her breads. People can buy any of the other products from her, which relatively-close-neighbor Ilene Yanke can often bring to the Finnish Center on Mondays from fall through spring.

In addition to her bakery business, Elina is active in maintaining connections among local Finnish immigrants-and having fun doing it. She knows about 70-100 Finnish immigrants in the southeast Michigan area. Elina and her husband, Heikki, have had a giant May 1st *Vappu* party, and last December had an equally large Finnish Independence celebration.

Want to find out about more about the delicious baked goods? Come to the Gift Shop, call in an order to her at 248.977.0661, or visit her website www.bestrye.com.

Read the next issue of *FCA News* to learn about the **Finnish American Club of Detroit at Walnut Lake.**

MEMORIALS

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/FinnFolk 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: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

Donations received by the 5th of each month will be published in the next month's newsletter.

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.

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the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

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In memory of FCA life member Ethel Dorfi Stefaniak (1/17/12) a donation was made by Eva J. Bessonen.

In memory of Norman McCue (2/11/12) donations were made by Deidre Anderson and Gayle Gullen.

In memory of Pauline Leinonen Moilanen (3/30/12) of Warren a donation was made by Pearl and Ray Wanttaja.

The FCA also wishes to extend its condolences to the families and friends of these FCA members.

FCA life members:

Judith Keranen (10/6/11)

Ethel Dorfi Stefaniak (1/17/12)

John Nivala (3/13/12)

Merton Brevik (3/20/12)

Captain Donald Erickson
(3/26/12)

FCA member:

Lucille Simms (March 2012)

Maynes Insurance

2450 Old Novi Rd, Novi, MI
(248) 668-5800, FAX (248)-668-5803

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Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

nlehto@sbcglobal.net

4051 Wakefield Road
Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

GOING PLACES

Caesars Windsor-1 day-Thursday, April 12, 2012-\$15, Free Show: Florence LaRue and the 5th Dimension. \$10 Casino package. Departs 8:30 am and returns 7 pm. Combo with Nardineers. Passport, passport card, enhanced drivers license or certificate of naturalization required.

Cornwell's Dinner Theater-1 day, Tuesday, May 8, 2012-\$73 Featuring: *Funny You Don't Look Like a Grandmother* and includes Cornwell's delicious carved turkey luncheon. Combo with Nardineers. Departs 9:30 am & returns 6 pm.

Please be sure to get your deposits in! We need 30-36 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.

Pearl Wanttaja
(248) 541-0054



BEAUTIFUL WOMAN MONTH

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.



Audrey Hepburn

MONTHLY LUNCHEON



Friends joined together for a breath of spring at the March luncheon. Over forty guests were served pasties, fruit cup, salad and pie for dessert. Thanks again to all the volunteers for your wonderful help.

Dee Aebersold introduced Elmer Hanninen, celebrating his 90th birthday. We enjoyed singing "Happy Birthday" to him.

With many winners, the 50/50 went to Eleanor Manley. Our big red basket raffle ticket was pulled by Elmer Hanninen, with Kathy Hall the winner. Kathy, enjoy the many goodies in the basket worth over \$50. Thanks to all who bought the tickets.

Our door prize winner was Ellen Slaris; Millie Harju and Delores Rajala won the candy corn. Other donated prize winners were: Nina Ranta, Arne Hanninen, Milda Mattila, Liz McCue. Fritz Putkela. Margaret Laurila, Shirley Ward, Marge Salo, Elmer Hanninen, Millie Harju, Connie Fosness, Seija Usitalo, Delores Aebersold, Kay Simo, Dagmar Malstrom, and Will Rajala.

Thanks to all who attended. Their time was spent in fun, fellowship and meeting old and new friends. On April 25th our menu will be ham, scalloped potatoes, Jello and dessert. See you there.

Lila and Terry Ball



SUNSHINE LADY

Sending get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards and words-of-encouragement cards to FCA members

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

Thank you, Eunice Potti Gould



FROM THE FCA LIBRARY



One hundred years have passed since the tragedy of the Titanic on April 15, where a number of Finns also perished. Various sources give differing figures for the number of Finns aboard, as well as the number who perished and the number of survivors. This is attributed to the fact that when the passenger list was compiled in Southampton some names may have been misspelled and become unrecognizable as Finnish. Some records list 43 Finns lost, 20 survivors; the New York Sun of April 1912 mentions that 78 Finns had been on board. Since most of the Finns were in third class or steerage, their chance of survival was slight, for there was never a general alarm and word of the danger reached them too late. Some who realized the danger were barred from escaping because the gates dividing the ship between classes were locked. An article in *Siirtolaisuus/Migration* 1/1998, published by the Institute of Migration in Turku, lists the names of 63 Finnish passengers, 43 of whom are listed as having perished.

I searched our library for something on the Titanic disaster and found only one article in the vertical file, as well as this poem in *A RASCAL'S CRAFT*, translated from the Finnish. It was probably written shortly after the tragedy.

THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC

Ship of doom, bark of death
The scatterer of weeping
Was launched upon the billows
A thing of pride for all to see.

With happy songs, shouts of joy
The people gave their greeting
To this modern marvel
As they gazed in wonder.

Titanic, yours a name so proud
How magnificent is she
Largest plowman of the oceans
King of all the ships at sea.

Clouds so dark did cover
The harbor of South Hampton
When the ship got under way
America her destination.

It glistened, oh, so brightly
In light of evening sun
That giant in her departing
Leaving darkening land behind.

Singing echoed, music blared
Wine flowed like a river
The youth they danced, the rich they drank
In the palace's salons.

All were there without a care
On human might depending
This was like a paradise
Upon the ocean's billows.

The captain calm and unperturbed
Directs the ship and cargo
Two thousand and three hundred souls
Were on the ship with him.

Director Ismey sits alone
In his salon a-brooding
We must win this race, he vows
It must be so, swears he.

The engines run so noisily
Titanic cleaves the waves
The waves they foam, the sea it rages
Ismey's laughing all alone.

"Do slow down, for Heaven's sake"
A shout comes from below
We have just received a word
That ice is on the move.

Ismey laughs a devilish laugh
And gives the captain orders
To go ahead with roaring speed
As though the ship were flying.

Slowly crept the evening shadows
O'er the wide Atlantic
The fog it covered everything
The waves at last were quiet.

Like a shadow speeds the ship
Ripping through the waves
But the dread death angel
Is soon to claim his booty.

The captain now pours on the coal
Ismey shouts, the engines roar
The ship now races toward destruction
But the fog just hides it all.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

From The Library (continued)

The ship proceeds at swiftest pace
Swiftly looms the crack of doom
There's a giant mount of ice
And soon the ship it butchers.

The captain sees the icy mountain
Bids the ship to backward go
But all's too late, for now the ship
Is punctured in her side.

And so the giant's ribs are ruptured
Ice has done its dirty work
What a racket! What a banging!
People shouting everywhere!

The captain's shouting orders
Trying the passengers to calm
Man the pumps immediately!
Prepare the lifeboats to go down.

The starboard side is smashed to pieces
Water's rushing like a flood
The pumps are pumping, but the ship
Slides slowly into waters deep.

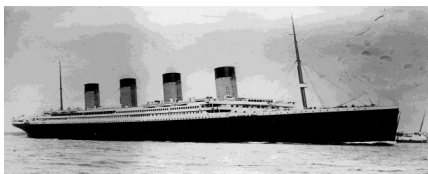
The threat of death fills every mind
A prayer is on many-a-lip
Death approaches with his scythe
For help is far, so far away.

Women screaming, children crying
Many-a-man has tear-filled eyes
The distress signals are howling,
The telegraph operator's at wit's end.

Captain Smith stands on the deck
As noble as can be
He shouts commands here and there
Steadfast, firm is he.

Ismy scrambles from his cabin
What is that he's shouting now?
"Why is our ship standing?
Now we'll lose the race!"

But the danger he can see
His faint heart is frightened now
So into the first lifeboat
This poor coward turns to flee.



Mother's Day Potluck Sunday, May 13 1-4 pm

Come and celebrate mothers.
All are welcome.
Bring a dish pass.
Sign up sheet in the FCA lobby.

FCA BAKERS

We are happy about the success of the sales of the home-baked desserts at the six fish fries. Proceeds went to the FCA. Five of our members baked and donated the treats. We appreciate those who purchased from the variety of dessert selections.

The May Pulla/Nisu baking date is Wednesday, May 9. We begin at 9:30 am, but you may come later than that. We provide lunch for our bakers. Clean-up helpers are especially appreciated. Orders may be telephoned in, or you may use the sign-up sheet in the lobby. This is the last Pulla bake until September.



Kiittos,
Ilene Maki Yanke

E & G Heating
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Mostly Residential
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Greg Makila



Finland Today



First, for years, Nokia has been the most valuable company in Finland, and one of the most valuable companies in world. For example, in 2007, Nokia was valued at \$110 billion. Now Nokia is valued at \$14.8 billion, in second place in Finland. The number one valued company in Finland is now Fortum, an electric utilities company valued at \$15.8 billion. Nokia's problem is that it got so late into the smartphone industry with its Windows-based phone. Most of the smart phones in the world are either Apple or Android phone systems.

Finland has raised its forecast for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for this year. Originally it had been 0.4%, but now the forecast is 0.8%, and 1.3% for next year. This doesn't seem much unless you compare it to the rest of the EU countries, where the GDP is expected to decrease by 0.3% this year. The budget deficit will widen by 1.1% this year. This brings the total government debt to 51.9% of the GDP. This again sounds very bad, but compare it to the rest of the EU, at 90.9% of the EU GDP, it's not that bad. Much of the EU problems can be traced back to the bail outs of Greece, Ireland, and Portugal.

A Columbia University "think tank", The Earth Institute, has released the "World Happiness Report", which lists the "happiest countries in the world." On the top of the list is Denmark, followed by Finland, Norway, Netherland, and Canada. The U.S. was 11th on the list. What are the things that make people happy? On the national level there are items such as political freedom, strong social networks, and an absence of corruption. On the individual basis there are things like good mental and physical health, someone to count on, job security, and a stable family life.

The European Masters of Poker Championship held in Lisbon, Portugal was won by a Finn, Joni Jouhkimainen. In second place was another Finn, Tomi Huuskonen.

And finally, Heikki had just finished his meeting at the Finnish Center, when he started to look for his car keys. He checked his pockets for the keys, but they weren't there. Feeling a little bit of a panic, he checked the meeting room, but no keys. Than Heikki realized that he must have left the keys in his car. He remembered Hilma telling him many times, "Don't leave the keys in the car, someone is going to steal it."

When Heikki got to the parking lot, he didn't see his car there. Heikki came to the terrifying conclusion, someone must have stolen his car. Heikki called the police and told them that he must have left the keys inside the car and that someone must have stolen it.

After the police came to the Finnish Center to see Heikki about the stolen car, Heikki waited for awhile before he made the most difficult call of all, to Hilma to confess that he must have left the keys inside the car, and that it must have been stolen.

After Hilma answered the phone and Heikki told her what had happened, there was a long silence, but finally Hilma said, " Heikki, I dropped you off at the Finnish Center!" Now it was Heikki's turn to be silent. Finally, feeling really embarrassed, he said, "Well, come and pick me up." Hilma answered, "I will as soon as I can convince the police that I didn't steal your car."

Markku Ketola marketola@yahoo.com



**NOVI COMMUNITY
CONCERT BAND**

The Novi Community Concert Band will present their 27th annual concert at the FCA Friday, June 1 at 7 pm. Dinner will be served from 5 to 8 pm. Call the FCA at (248) 478-6939 for dinner reservations. (see menu choices below) Concert only is \$5.00. Walk-ins are welcome.

We hope to see you for this highly enjoyable program.

Baked or Fried Fish
French Fries or Baked Potato
Cole Slaw
Dessert
\$12.00

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Vegetable
Dessert
\$12.00

Chef Salad
Dessert
\$7.00

Children 5-12 Meals \$5



VAPPU

Celebration
Saturday, April 28
6:00 pm to Midnight

Potluck
Bring a dish to pass.
Bring a friend.
Bring the family.



The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

DeAnn Hollis

The FCA needs YOU!

ROGER HEWLETT
CROWNED
KING OF CELEBRATION



SOCIALLY SPEAKING

Many members and guests attended the Fish Fry and St. Urho celebration on March 16. Soittoiniekat/FinnFolk provided their fine music at this and all of the six Fish Fries.

Charlotte Lytikainen read “Ode to St. Urho” to begin the program. Frank Gottberg provided viili for anyone caring to taste it. We played the favorite “Stomping the Grapes” game that brings a lot of laughter!

Roger Hewlett, longtime member of Soittoiniekat/FinnFolk, was chosen as the King of the St. Urho celebration. He led the parade in his honor after his coronation. We closed with a sing-along of funny songs about St. Urho.

The Juhannus celebration plans have not been finalized. However, the event will be held on either Friday, June 22, or Sunday, June 24. FinnFolk have agreed to perform but we must still decide about food, etc., and will report details in the June newsletter.

Ilene Maki Yanke

The Horse that Leaps Through Clouds

By Eric Enno Tamm

Those who came to the Finnish Center on April 1 to hear author Eric Enno Tamm learned much about both contemporary and 100-years-ago China, and even more about Gustaf Mannerheim, the subject of his book. The title of Tamm’s book comes from Mannerheim’s Chinese name, “Ma Dahan,” which means “the horse that leaps through clouds.” In 2006, one hundred years after Mannerheim’s journey to China, Eric Tamm followed that same route for approximately six months in order to learn about modern China.

Gustaf Mannerheim was a colonel in the Russian Imperial Army when he was asked to carry out a secret intelligence-gathering trip for the Czar along the Silk Road. The goal was to document the modernizations and reforms being carried out in China. During this two-year journey of approximately 2,000 miles, he disguised himself as an ethnographic collector. Along the way, he took 1,300 photographs, sketched twenty garrison towns, and collected military intelligence. In 1940, Mannerheim published *Across Asia from West to East*, and during the Winter War completed his memoir of the trip. And now, books are being published about him in both Russia and China. Visit Tamm’s website, www.horsethatleaps.com to discover more fascinating information and to see many of Mannerheim’s historical photos.

People had a chance to socialize after the presentation, while enjoying delicious treats from the coffee table. The event was jointly sponsored by the FCA Cultural Committee and the Finnish American Historical Society of Michigan, with support from the Finnish American Cultural Corporation. You may check out the book from the Finnish Center library if you didn’t buy a copy from the author.

By Louise Hartung

Eric Enno Tamm
& Lois Makee





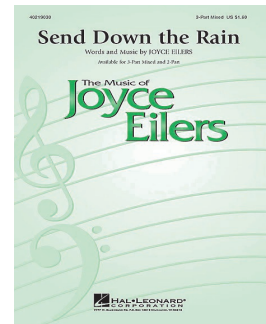
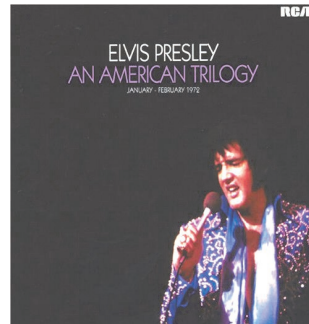
FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS



The Finnish American Singers of Michigan present their spring concert on Sunday, May 20, at 3:00 pm. The performance includes songs in Finnish, English, and Latin. A few of the featured selections are:

- The popular *Sininen ja Valkoinen* (Blue and White), written in 1972 by Finnish composer/performer Jukka Kuoppamäki, tells of a man leaving Finland in his youth. As he matures, he develops an appreciation for the homeland that he left, as the refrain describes images of the blue lakes and sky with white clouds, white snow and summer nights. William Gramzow, IV, highlights this Finnish tango with a lively piano accompaniment.
- *Synnyinmaani sä kallehin* puts Finnish words to Giuseppe Verdi's "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from his opera *Nabucco*. In the text the slaves reminisce of the land that they left so long ago. "Oh, my country so beautiful and lost! Oh, remembrance so dear and so fatal!"
- FASM director Henry Naasko composed the music and words for *Hymn to Finland*. The beautiful harmonies pair with the words of praise for the people and the land. "Finland, our native homeland – long may she stand!"
- Although Elvis Presley made *American Trilogy* famous in his Las Vegas act in the 1970's, the piece is actually an arrangement by Mickey Newbury of three 19th century songs: *Dixie*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and *All My Trials*, a Bahamian lullaby. An instrumental echo of *Dixie* concludes the song.
- Charlotte Lytikainen reprises her popular performance from last year in this soulful lament by Joyce Eilers. *Send Down the Rain* is a prayer to send rain to a parched desert.

In addition, there are Irving Berlin favorites, some choir standards and a moving song of hope in the face of death. See the flyer on next page for full details.





The Finnish-American Singers of Michigan

Celebrate Their 30th Anniversary with
“Say it with Music!”



Featuring:

**Finnish Favorites, Classic World Gems &
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Date: Sunday May 20, 2012 Time: 3:00pm

Price: Adults (over 12 yrs. old) - \$10

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Under 5 yrs. old - free

(Price includes the luncheon afterward)

**Place: Finnish Cultural Center
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Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335**

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