



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

June/July 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

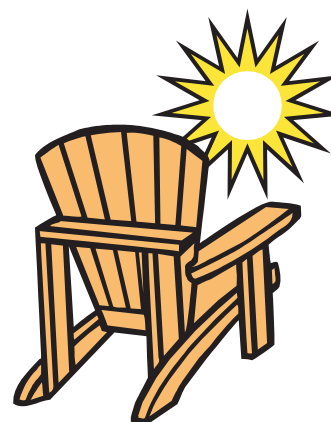
- 25 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm
- 28 Wednesday Luncheon Noon
Rental
- 31 Rental

JUNE

- 1 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12:30-2:30 pm
Rental
- 6 Friday Novi Band Concert 7 pm
Friday Buffet 5-8 pm
- 11 Wednesday Board Meeting 3 pm
Rentals (2)
- 14 Rental
- 15 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 20 Friday Buffet 5-8 pm
- 22 Rental
- 25 Wednesday Luncheon Noon
- 28 Rental
- 29 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm

JULY

- 9 Joint Board Meeting 3 pm
- 14 Raahe Youth Choir 7 pm
- 18 Friday Buffet 5-8 pm
- 27 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm
Rental
- 30 Wednesday Luncheon Noon



Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Mondays 7-9 pm
- Library
Open Monday 10 am-2 pm
- Nikkarin Talo
Mondays 9 am
- Finlandia Garden Club
Mondays 9 am

Monthly Events

- Finnish Conversation
2nd Friday of the month 10 am
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
Luncheon
- Last Wednesday of the month Noon
Open House
- Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

**RESERVATIONS ARE
REQUIRED ON
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

PASTY WORKERS



A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make more than 1000 pasties on April 26:

Peelers on Friday the 25th: John Saarinen, Jerald Lustila, Jon Call, Karen Call, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Jeanne Corombos, David Sharpe, Bruce Mikko, Gene Kramer, Elaine Weider, Dale Holdampf, Karen Gasinski.

Saturday's crew: Norb Leppanen, Luise Leppanen, Katy Koskela, David Koskela, Karen Gasinski, Jean Shea, Ed Dahl, Beth Rikkonen, Mark Rikkonen, Chuck Wendt, Ilene Yanke, Neil Lehto, Cheri Lehto, Gene Belttari, Larry Gersky, Dagmar Malstrom, Gerald Malstrom, Nancy Rajala, Kevin Heltunen, Nancy Jacobs, and Frank Gottberg and Jeanne Corombos.

The efforts of this great group of workers helped to provide needed support to the FCA's mission.

Paul Rajala

JUNE IN THE GARDENS

All of our summer birds are back and we are wondering if we will again have to duck when we cross the bridge as we think the red-winged black-birds are again nesting in the swale near the bridge. The swifts are busy eating every mosquito in sight so no one has to utilize any bug repellent. YEA. Kildeer are often seen running in the parking lot early in the morning, and the hummingbirds, chickadees, and goldfinch are all flitting around.

The Garden Club members have been busy distributing wood chips among the various gardens from the two piles that were left in the front and rear of the property last fall. Tomato and other plants are showing signs that this may be a good year in the vegetable gardens again this year. It's not too late if you still want to rent a garden plot for the year. Just stop by on Monday morning and fill out a rental form or call and see if we still have any space available. There are some tomato plants that produce just 60-65 days after planting.

Although we occasionally have new garden associates join us, yearly our number are decreasing. Because of this, we are considering either consolidating or eliminating some of the current gardens and converting them back into lawn. You may see some of this happen in the west gardens. If you have any questions or comments, items to donate, or monetary contributions, please contact me at (734) 546-5190 or gaylegullen@hotmail.com

Gayle Gullen
Finlandia Garden Club President

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

Officers

Mia Lamminen, Chairman
Roger Wanttaja, Vice Chairman
Robert Waissi, Secretary
Marlene Ruuskanen, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Carl Abersold, Olli Lamminen,
Marlene Ruuskanen

2 Year

Lois Makee, Robert Waissi,
Roger Wanttaja

3 Year

Lila Ball, Mia Lamminen,
Margaret Laurila

Alternates

#1 Katie Waissi
#2 Terry Ball
#3 Carol Tudball

Financial Review

Melissa Biddix, Maria Hill,
Erik Lindquist

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds

Carl Aebersold

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Heidi Mellanen-Swiecki

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Margaret Laurila

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Eija Lyytinen-Tatseos

Publicity & Publications

Fran Fadie

Social

Lila Ball

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Paul C. Hendrickson, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
248 471-3802

Tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Jennifer Bridges, Manager
248 442-7250

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Sometimes a small note containing a nice thought can carry one a long way in today's world. After our Vappu Party, successful in our minds, I received an email from our beloved musicians. It did not say a lot – but it expressed a lot – and it made a day brighter for all volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success. It appeared to be note from one's heart. When a Finn expresses his/her thought in this manner – one can take it to the heart.

“Dear Mia,

Congratulations on a great event. Speaking on behalf of all of FinnFolk who played last Saturday, April 26 at the Vappu party - we enjoyed playing for you and we thank you for the free entrance and dinner. We look forward to future events.

You and the staff of others did a wonderful job of organizing and decorating. We learned a lot about what Vappu is and how popular it is in Finland. We were gratified to see a lot of youngsters and children there. It was how the Finn Center used to be.

We would like to invite you and the staff to build on that and look for more Finns and non-Finns out there who might enjoy these events and hopefully lead to increased membership for the FCA. If our group of musicians can help build on that we would be happy to participate.”

I read a hundred times the part in the note telling – “*It was how the Finn Center used to be*”. We all should read it several times.

Throughout the years the FCA has accumulated a lot of stuff. It looks like we never stopped for a moment to think if we really need all of it. We are planning a clean-the-house weekend and plan to get rid of everything we really don't need and thoroughly clean our FCA building.

We are a volunteer organization. If you can help, please let us/me know. Any and all help is welcome.

If you need or know of somebody who needs to rent a facility, please keep us in mind. The income keeping our doors open mostly comes from our rentals.

We are always interested in having feedback from the members on activities that they would like to see at the Finnish Center. We want to hear from you. Please call the FCA office (248) 478-6939 or me directly on my cell (734) 834-6085. I would like to hear from you.

Mia Lamminen, Chairman

RAFFLE DRAWING

Thank you to everyone that bought and sold tickets to help pay our property taxes. The extra donations by many are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to our winners: \$500 to Laurie Nayback, \$250 to Harry Lemke and \$150 to Fran Fadie.

Hilkka Ketola and Lois Makee



RAAHE YOUTH CHOIR

Raahe Youth Choir comes from Raahe, which is a small town with 25,000 inhabitants on the western coast of Finland.

The choir has had quite a few concert tours abroad since 1979, mainly in Europe. The choir has visited Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Great Britain, Hungary (three times) and Austria. In 1996 the choir visited New Zealand, in 2002 Mexico and Arizona and in 2007 Australia. There the choir had concerts in Newcastle, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

Pauli Ylitalo is a music teacher. He retired from his music teacher's occupation in 2010, but he has continued working with the youth choir. He founded the choir in 1976 and has been conducting it ever since. At the moment the choir has about 25 singers aged from 12 to 19. They all are girls, and even the youngest ones speak at least some English.

Ritva Ylitalo is an English teacher and is the translator and assistant to the Director.



Please mark Monday, July 14, 7:00 p.m., on your calendar for a special presentation by the Raahe Youth Choir from Raahe, Finland. This is a free concert.

The Finnish American Singers have graciously offered these youth lodging for the night. Before the concert, the Cultural Committee is planning supper for the choir at the center, and your help with the meal and coffee table would be most welcome. Donations, also, would be appreciated.

The choir will be in Michigan to participate in the *Children of the World in Harmony*, an international youth choir and dance festival in Petoskey. They will be joined by almost 1000 other youth representing twenty-five other countries and states for a series of concerts. This week of music and dance is sponsored by Voices Without Borders, Inc. For almost 30 years this organization has been dedicated to promoting choral music and performing arts for youth.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Lockwood (517) 522-4197



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.

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, address, date of death of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed. **Also include all names of donors.** If the deceased is a non member of the FCA please include city and state of residence.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.

In memory of FCA member **Eugene "Gene" Branstrom** (5/1/14) donations have been made by Gene Belttari, Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Raymond "Ray" Benson** (3/7/14) a donation has been made by Charlotte Lytikainen.

In memory of FCA life member **Robert Lahti** (2/26/14) donations have been made by Shirley Randall, the Koski Family, Nancy & George Dansby and Katherine & Steven Koski.

In memory of FCA life member **Seija Mannila Usitalo** (1/4/14) donations have been made by her niece Kath & Tom Kozak and Lillian & Paul Lehto.

In memory of member **Shirley Asquini Belttari** (4/3/14) donations have been made by Charlotte Lytikainen, Millie Harju, Neil Manly, Luise & Norbert Leppanen, Maria Hill, Marlene Ruuskanen, Dolores & Will Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member **Rigmor Cuolahan** (2/7/14) a donation has been made by Ellen Clisch.

In memory of FCA life member **Anita Tuomala Pirslin** (2/19/14) a donation has been made by Dolores & Will Rajala.

The FCA also wishes to extend condolences to the family and friends of:

FCA life member **Col. Warren Wells** (10/19/10)

FCA life member **Walker Kangas** (4/18/14)

FCA member **Eugene Branstrom** (5/1/14)

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, Marge Salo



Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

nlehto@sbcglobal.net

4051 Wakefield Road
Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

FRITZ PUTKELA CELEBRATED



A fifty-year member of the Finnish Center, Fritz Putkela was feted on April 25. Family and friends who gathered were reminded of the many contributions Fritz has made through the years.

Fritz was a cook, volunteer, vocalist, and a sustainer of the center through many years of membership. He performed “Copper Country Cowboy” at many venues and was a celebrated story teller of his early days as a Michigan Finn. His occupation as a tool and die maker served him well as he worked in the extensive woodshop he established. Fritz served as a member of the Board of Trustees and was able to keep a balanced approach to any issue discussed. He entertained members with his stories and often brought along a delicious panukakku, which he had made.

The afternoon celebration included a coffee table of appetizers and desserts, including a cake honoring him and his love of the Detroit Tigers. Although nearing 100 years, Fritz honored the attendees by singing three songs, accompanied by the artistry of FinnFolk which delighted the audience. Fritz has moved from the FCA Senoir Housing to a new home with his daughter in Virginia.

Fritz will be missed by all of us as he had an indelible impact on the Finnish Center.

GOING PLACES

Cornwell’s Turkeyville, Wednesday, July 9, \$71. “Suds” is a Rocking 60’s Soap Opera, a story about a young woman and her guardian angels and some of the 60’s greatest pop hits. And, of course, lunch is at the wonderful all-you-can-eat turkey buffet. Combo with Nardineers. Depart at 10 am and return about 6 pm.

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



MEMBER DIRECTORY

A new membership directory is being planned. If your address, phone number or email address has changed or if you do not want your name listed in the directory, please notify Eija Lyytinen-Tatseos, our membership chair at the FCA at your earliest convenience.



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FROM THE FCA LIBRARY



Last month we learned about laws regarding Finnish given names. Finnish surnames also have an interesting history.

Finland has three predominant surname customs: the West Finnish, the East Finnish, and the Swedish custom.

Until the 20th century, Finland was predominantly an agrarian society. In western Finland each farm carried a name which was often based on the name of the owner, such as Heikkila, after the farmer named Heikki, or the name could be derived from a physical feature of the farm (e.g. Mäkelä, from *mäki* (hill)). A large percentage of these names ended in *-la*, a suffix usually meaning “place of”. The common name Hautala comes from the place of a *hauta* (not a grave, but a tar pit, which were common in tar-making days). Everyone living on the farm, including tenants, crofters, servants, etc. was known by that surname. Because the latter three groups often moved from farm to farm, surnames also changed often, for after each move they took the name of the farm on which they resided. Children of such families can have different surnames in the church records, each child’s name based on the farm where he was born. (This can drive a genealogist crazy!)

The East Finnish surname custom was different and dates back to the 13th century. Since they used a slash-and-burn agricultural style, it was necessary for the family to move several times during their lifetime. This required each family to have a surname, which became hereditary. The name was usually formed from the name of the family patriarch, or from a physical feature of their place of habitation, plus an *-nen* suffix (e.g. Heikkinen, Järvinen, Jokinen (*järvi* = lake, *joki* = river)).

A large percentage of Finnish surnames end in *-la* or *-nen*. It used to be that one could identify a person with such a suffix as to his geographic origin. However, when the Soviet Union conquered most of Karelia, refugees settled throughout the country spreading their family names with them and this is no longer true. However, the *-nen* suffix is a sure way to recognize a Finnish surname. In fact, among the most

common surnames in Finland (as of March 2012) are Korhonen, Virtanen, Mäkinen, Nieminen, Hämäläinen, Heikkinen, Koskinen and Järvinen .

Another surname custom was introduced in Finland by the ruling Swedes, who preferred Swedish or German surnames. Any Finnish-speaking person who wanted a position of some status in society was better off discarding his Finnish name and adopting a Swedish or German name, or in the case of the clergy, a Latin or Greek name (e.g. Wigelius, Nikander, etc). When a man was drafted into the army he was assigned a Swedish surname (usually monosyllabic) regardless of whether he wanted it or not. Some examples are Rask (quick, fast), Stål (steel), Stjerna (star). When he left the army he could retain the name or not, as he wished. Some retained the name, often giving it a Finnish pronunciation (e.g. Raski).

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw a Fennicization movement. This extended to surnames. In 1906, on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Johan Snellman, a great advocate of Fennicization, about 70,000 Finns changed their names from the Swedish to a Finnish form. The new name could be a translation (Alexis Stenvall became Aleksis Kivi; *sten* and *kivi* both = rock.), a partial translation (Sunnerborg became Sunnerpori), or a new name altogether (Armas Einar Leopold Löbomm became Eino Leino). This was repeated in 1935-36 when more than 200,000 changed their names to a Finnish form.

As Finland became more and more industrialized, people moved from the countryside to the cities. Those who had not previously had a surname found it necessary to adopt one. New surnames were invented, often taken from nature. Some examples are Vainio (field), Salo (backwoods), Laine (wave). Sometimes they added an *-la* or *-nen* suffix, resulting in names like Salonen, Koskinen or Koskela (*koski* = rapids), Nieminen or Niemelä (*niemi* = peninsula). A person might change his name several times during his career. (More problems for the genealogist!)

(continued on page 8)

Library (continued from page 7)

Finally in 1921 Finland passed a law which made surnames mandatory. My cousin explained it to me thus: "We were told to pick a name and stick with it!" Subsequently, of the three brothers, one chose his father's surname, one chose his mother's maiden name, and one chose the name of their street as his last name!

Finland has laws pertaining to change of surname. All persons have a right to change a surname once without a specific reason. If subsequent changes are desired, one must have a legitimate reason for doing so. In any case the name must be approved by the state's Advisory Committee of Names. Invented names that don't sound Finnish or Swedish are not accepted.

All of this gives us something to ponder when considering Finnish surnames, and to wish genealogists "Good Luck!"

Lillian Lehto, FCA Librarian

P.S. Is there anyone among you who has training in library science? If so, I would like to have you contact me so that I can introduce you to our library. When I am no longer able to handle the library, we need someone who can step in so that we have a smooth transition.

FCA BAKERS

On April 24 the bakers gathered, producing eight batches of nisu/pulla. The workers were Betty Taipalus, Lorraine Hannah, Tobie Lane and Ilene Yanke. As you can tell we could use more helping hands.

While the dough rises we have a bite of lunch and socialize. Later we sample some of the cinnamon rolls we made.

Much of the nisu/pulla was sold on the April 26 at the pasty bake and sale. Thank you to all of you who made purchases.

Please contact Ilene Yanke if you are interested in helping with the next nisu/pulla bake at (248) 887-3538.

SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

Save the date!
September 27, 2014

If you have items to donate, please bring them to the Finnish Center. We can also make a pick-up if needed. For further information contact Lila Ball at (248) 682-6792.



GIFT SHOP JUNE SPECIALS

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FinnFest 2014
Minneapolis, Minnesota
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www.finnfestusa2014.org
www.finnfestusa.org

VAPPU PARTY

The traditional vappu party was held at the Finnish Center on April 26, 2014. This “Celebration of Spring” is one of the biggest “party days” in Finland (and Europe). Vappu or Mayday originally was the celebration of working class people and later became the day of students. In today’s Finland Vappu is formally dedicated to be the Day of Finnish Labor. It is also a vacation day.

Especially in Finland it is not unusual that the weather does not cooperate. This year was no exception but it did not prevent the Spring spirit and celebration one bit. Finnfolk performed from the beginning and boosted the spirits for all while the crowd was enjoying the Finnish Food. Everyone was commenting on their music. The Magician came and entertained all children, some 15 of them, and the adults seemed to enjoy it all the same.

Later in the evening a Karaoke with disco lights was chaired by Henrikki Pantsar. Fun was had by young and old and in the process we discovered some new musical talents among us. The party lasted till the morning hours and participants were heard saying ... we’ll be back next year!!!



Top: FinnFolk perform at festivities
 Far Left: Adult Karaoke Star
 Middle: Baffling Bill the Magician
 Far Right: Child Karaoke Star



FINLAND TODAY



Once again Finland is the best country in which to be a mother, according to Save the Children's 15th annual ranking. The United States hovers at 31. The Mothers' Index, Save the Children's report, ranks the well-being of mothers and children in 178 countries based on health, nutrition, education and economic and political status.

Is Kaapo Kahkonen the next top prospect from Finland to join the NHL Draft in 2014? We will need to keep our eyes on this young goaltender.

Do you have too much stuff? Well Petri Luukkainen, a Helsinki-based documentary maker put everything he owned in a storage unit and can only remove ONE item a day for a year. The film is an experimental documentary call "My Stuff". The 29 year old, naked in his empty Helsinki flat, starts his first day. What would you get for your first item? In his case, Kaapo needed his long coat to keep him warm. On your 2nd day, what would you get? For further information, visit website www.day-for-night.org

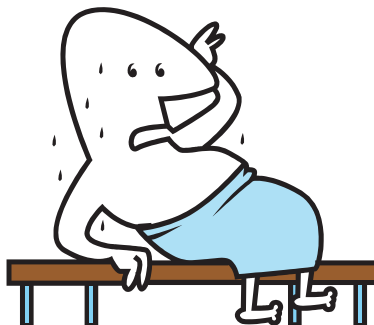
Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (Stuk) is cooperating with Saudi Arabia to set up a radiation and nuclear safety authority to help shape a civilian nuclear energy program in Saudi Arabia. Kacare, the Saudi Arabia counterpart, was established in 2010 and is being developed as a base for nuclear and renewable energy programs.

A Finnish company called Nexstim, an accomplished Medical technology company, was the award winner of the Red Herring's Top 100 Europe. Nexstim has pioneered the technology for brain diagnostics with the first and only FDA-cleared and CE-marked navigation TMS device for pre-surgical mapping, the Navigated Brain Stimulation (NBS) System. This advanced technology has led NBS to be recognized as the emerging standard for pre-operative direct functional mapping. Nexstim's technology has also been proven to enable treatment of brain injury and disease. See www.nexstim.com.

And finally - High Tech in the SAUNA:

Matti, Heikki and Toivo were sitting naked and testing the Ketola's new log sauna and suddenly Matti's arm is making strange noises. "What was that?" asked Toivo. "That's my pager. I had a microchip installed under my skin," said Matti. Quietly the men sat there pondering, and then they hear a phone ring. "Where is that coming from?" asked Toivo. "That's my phone," said Heikki, and he lifted his thumb to his ear. A few minutes after his phone call, he explains that he also had a microchip installed on his thumb. After some time, Toivo just got up and left the sauna. A few minutes' later Toivo returns with a long piece of toilet paper stuck to his rear. Matti and Heikki raise their eyebrows. What is Toivo now up to? Toivo explains: "I'm getting a fax."

Markku Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com



**NOVI COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND
PERFORMS AT THE FINNISH CENTER
FRIDAY, JUNE 6 - 7 PM
BUFFET DINNER 5-8 PM \$10
CONCERT ONLY \$5**



ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 5TH
EDITOR CONTACT INFO:	PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN:	NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL:	nrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,000 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, black & white ad, per three month period:

3 month rate1" ad - \$30.00.	1.5" ad - \$45.00	2" ad - \$60.00
Pay for full year1" ad - \$100.00.	1.5" ad - \$150.00	2" ad - \$200.00

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FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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Applicant _____

Applicant/Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip code _____

Signature _____ Are you of Finnish descent? _____

- Annual membership, single, one vote \$50.00
- Annual membership, senior* or youth*, one vote \$25.00
- *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age
- Annual membership, couple, two votes \$100.00
- Annual membership, family, one vote \$75.00
- Life membership, one vote \$500.00
- Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)

Amount enclosed _____
Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108
Recommended by: _____

GK Photos

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