



# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

October 2014

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 24 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 24 Rental
- 27 Saturday Silent Auction 11-4 pm
- 28 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm

### OCTOBER

- 3 Friday Night Buffet 5-8pm
- 8 Rental
- 8 Wednesday Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 10 Nisu Baking 9:30 am
- 11 Saturday Flea Market 9am -3 pm
- 12 Sunday Brunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm
- 15 Rental
- 16-20 Rental
- 17 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 20 Monday Scholarship Meeting 1:30 pm
- 22 Rental
- 26 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm
- 26 Sunday Film - BODY FAT INDEX OF LOVE (2012) 3 pm (Rakkauden rasvaprosessi)
- 29 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

### NOVEMBER

- 7 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 9 Sunday Brunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm
- 12 Rental
- 12 Wednesday Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 15 Saturday Scandinavian Bazaar 10am-4pm
- 19 Rental
- 21 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 26 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon



#### Weekly Events

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

#### Monthly Events

- Finnish Conversation  
1st 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  
SUGGESTED FOR  
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

We are working hard getting the Finnish Center Building in good condition before our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration September 21, 2014. The most recent improvement has been the parking lot repair and seal coating. New stripes have been painted, and handicap spaces have been widened. The doors have been inspected and will be repaired soon. Other minor repairs are also in the plans. All of the above is possible with the generous donations that we have received from our valued members. It is heartwarming to see all of these improvements in the building that took a lot of hard work from our founding members to build.

The year 2015 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jean Sibelius, beloved Finnish composer on both sides of the Atlantic. Finlandia Foundation National has established a Sibelius 150 Jubilee Committee Chaired by Marja Kaisla to promote and facilitate cultural and musical events around the country with the help of the local Chapters, Finnish Center Association being one of them. Plans are underway to contact orchestras and musical groups in the area. If you know of any groups interested in participating in a Sibelius Jubilee program let us know by calling us at (248) 478-6939.

We have a lot of other activities coming up this fall. Silent Auction in September, Fall flea market in October, Scandinavian Bazaar in November and the Finnish Independence Day Celebration in December. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please let us know. We need volunteers.

As I have mentioned before throughout the years the FCA has accumulated a lot of stuff. We are still planning a clean-the-house weekend but will wait until after the flea market. If you can help, please let us/me know. Any and all help is welcome!

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 office (248) 478-6939 or me directly at my cell (734) 834-6085. I would like to hear from you.

Mia Lamminen  
Chairman

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### Officers

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

### Board of Trustees

#### 1 Year

Carl Aebersold, 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

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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



## GIFT SHOP

Stop in to see the  
October  
specials.





## FROM THE FCA LIBRARY



Finnish design has been world famous for decades. From time to time in the next few months we will write about various firms that produce Finnish design. Probably the most famous is Iittala, which we covered in the June 2012 newsletter. For this month's topic we've chosen Marimekko, which is especially appropriate because this is the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Marimekko's most famous design, *Unikko* (poppy). The firm's name is derived from *mekko* (a Finnish word for dress) and a rearranging of the letters of the first name of one of the founders.

Marimekko, based in Helsinki, was founded in 1951 by Viljo and Armi Ratia. It is particularly noted for brightly colored printed fabrics and simple styles, used both in women's garments and home furnishings. They produce fabric as well as ready-made items which include not only clothing items but kitchen and table-top products, bed linens and bathroom textiles, handbags, umbrellas, and even shoes.

The Marimekko firm is unique in that its original director and part owner was a designer who had been trained in industrial art, and a woman, at that. In 1972, when Marimekko was awarded the Finnish State Enterprise Award, much was made of the fact that this was the first time a firm with a woman director had won.

Marimekko's designs are created by big-name designers. Armi was the creative vision behind the company. Her directive to the young designers they hired was that patterns and colors must be bold, but that she did not want any floral patterns. Most of Marimekko designers have been women, but they have had at least four male designers.

Although people liked the new patterns the firm created, they did not sell because no one was exactly sure how to use them. Armi hired a clothing designer, Riitta Immonen, to create simple clothes out of the fabrics. The collection was an enormous success. A fashion show held in May 1951 at a Helsinki restaurant was an enormous hit. It is said the fashions were practically bought off the models' backs. The first Marimekko retail store opened in Helsinki the following year.

The Marimekko fabric was sold at stores by the yard (on bolts branded with the designer's name, year, and "Finland"). Ratia continued to hire designers to create clothing lines. This evolved into a stark departure from the more structured dresses of the 1950s. The dresses were free-form and comfortable, in a way that ushered in the spirited, easy-going fashions of the '60s. In 1957 Ratia was invited to sell her clothes at an Italian Department store; this gave Marimekko an international audience.

In December 1960, Jacqueline Kennedy was featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* wearing a red sleeveless Marimekko dress she had purchased at the popular Design Research (D/R) store in Boston. She reportedly had bought six more. That was all that was needed for the company to become a success in the U.S. Retail stores opened here and in several other cities around the world. Marimekko fashions soon became known the world over.

One of Armi's directives had been that she did not want any flower designs. She felt that natural flowers were so beautiful that they should not be used as motifs. However, in 1964 her chief designer, Maija Isola, defied her boss and created *Unikko*, with large poppies scattered all over. It ended up becoming a signature pattern for the company, eventually known throughout Finland, and one of the most well-known patterns in the world. *Unikko* was first available in red, pink, and black, but quickly expanded to a variety of other colors, and can be found in everything from sheets to shower curtains. Incidentally, in 2011, Marimekko flew a hot-air balloon decorated with an enormous version of *Unikko* over Helsinki, showing that the pattern remains popular nearly a half century later. Marimekko put Finland on the map with an indelible bright red blossom.

Armi Ratia died in 1979 and for a decade the company was on shaky ground, facing bankruptcy. In 1991, Kirsti Pakkanen, a former advertising executive, bought the company and is credited with reinvigorating the brand and for its current success.

(continued on page 5)

## OCTOBER IN THE GARDENS

Fall in the gardens already. Please take a stroll and see the bounty of beautiful blooming flowers and shrubs. The following are a few in bloom: sweet autumn clematis, yellow goldenrod, purple (and one pink variety in the rain garden) New England aster, pink coneflower, several variety of hydrangea, various purple and white common asters (all asters are butterfly host plants), butterfly bush, black-eyed susan, spider plant, cleome, sunflowers, and canna to name a few. There is beauty in every season in our gardens so stop by, take a stroll, or ask one of us to give you a tour.

We are planning on having a table at the flea market. We will have a large variety of CDs and DVDs among other items such as bird houses. We are hoping to have the opportunity to make some winter nesting boxes for the flea market, however, if they aren't ready by then we will have them available before winter. Just stop by the woodshop on any Monday morning and check with one of us. The Farmers Almanac indicates this is going to be a worse winter than last year. Our feathered friends may need the protection from the elements and this will help them out.

If you have any questions, comments, or donations, you can contact me at (734) 546-5190 or [gaylegullen@hotmail.com](mailto:gaylegullen@hotmail.com).

Gayle Gullen  
Finlandia Garden  
Club President



## Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

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Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

## FINNISH FILM SERIES

We are pleased to announce the first in a series of Finnish films to be shown at the Finnish Center over the next year. On October 26 at 3 p.m. we will be showing *Body Index of Love* (*Rakkauden rasvaprosentti*), a comedy in Finnish with English subtitles.

### BODY FAT INDEX OF LOVE (2012)

(*Rakkauden rasvaprosentti*)

98 minutes, comedy

Director: Mikko Kuparinen

Starring: Mikko Nousiainen, Mirja Oksanen,  
Jarkko Niemi

Stigu and Ella have a sexual relationship. Stigu, who is secretly in love with Ella, settles for what he can get, because Ella wants nothing more. They find themselves on the same work project about sustainable relationships. Ella doesn't believe in this concept and Stigu knows nothing about it. As they get further into the project, they find themselves in the Finnish countryside in a place where men and women have come to show their worth, i. e., the wife-carrying contest in the Savonian heartland. Stigu goes too far to win over Ella.



Mark your calendar for the second film in our film series: November 30 at 3 p.m. Just in time for the Christmas season, we will show *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*. You definitely do not want to miss this film. Check the November newsletter for more details.

## 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, Happiness Fund, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Center.

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 Senior 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.

In memory of FCA life member **Melba Boike** (7/7/14) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member **Earl Lanyon** (8/5/14) donations have been made by Kay Simo, Lois Makee and Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of **Rudolph "Rudy" Keranen** (8/13/14) of Elo, Michigan a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Helen Tahtinen Wayrynen** (8/18/14) a donation has been made by her brother Paul & Ellen Tahtinen and their children.

In memory of FCA life member **Robert "Bob" Lahti** (2/26/14) a donation has been made by Rudy & Vicki Perttunen.

In memory of FCA life member **Wilbert "Will" Suokas** (6/27/14) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

The FCA wishes to extend condolences to the families of:

FCA life member **Wilbert Suokas** (6/27/14)

FCA life member **Melba Boike** (7/7/14)

FCA life member **Earl Lanyon** (8/5/14)

FCA life member **Helen Wayrynen** (8/19/14)

FCA life member **Carlos Lindstrom** (8/22/14)



Library (continued from page 4)

Marimekko is now run by its first male president and CEO, Mika Ihamuotila, who took over in 2008. They continue to produce new patterns and have expanded into more decorative goods including tableware and wallpaper. Today Marimekko is a leading textile company, producing fabrics and readymade items for stores all over the world.

For further reading you may want to peruse MARIMEKKO: FABRICS, FASHION, ARCHITECTURE, by Marianne Aav, editor, in our library. It covers all you would ever want to know about this fascinating company.

Lillian Lehto, FCA Librarian



## GOING PLACES

**Deutsche Detroit** - Thursday, October 9, \$54. You will experience a bit of German heritage beginning with a driving tour of Palmer Park, including the 62 room, 40,000 square foot home built by the Fisher brothers for Bishop Gallagher. A traditional German lunch and sing-a-long will be at the Dakota Inn Rathskeller, Detroit's only authentic German bar. After lunch you will have free time to shop at Eastern Market. Lastly you will have a guided tour of St. Joseph's Church, designed and built in 1870 by German-born architect Francis Himpler. It is reputed to have the largest swinging bell in the entire United States. You must select your meal choice ahead of time. Flyers (with coupon) available at the FCA or call Evelyn (248) 357-0186. Combo with Nardineers. Depart at 9:15 am and return about 4:30 pm.

**Viva Italiano** - Tuesday, November 18, \$62. You will begin with a narrated tour of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic Church in Royal Oak. It features elaborate interior and exterior sculptural work by Italian-born sculptor Corrado Parducci. Lunch will be at Loccino Italian grill where you will have five Italian menu options. Your next stop will be at Fieldstone Winery in downtown Rochester where you will sample some of their award-winning wine. Last stop will be shopping time at the amazing shopper's paradise Nino Salvaggio International Market in Troy. You must make your meal choice ahead of time for this trip also. Flyers (with coupon) available at the FCA or call Evelyn (248) 357-0186. Combo with Nardineers. Depart at 9:30 am and return about 4:00 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 directory is in the works. If you wish to receive one please let the FCA know. There will be a small fee for each requested directory.

Contact the FCA if your address or phone number has changed or if you wish not to be included in the directory.

We are also looking for some advertisers. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in advertising in the upcoming directory, contact Eija at the FCA.

## E & G Heating

Heating and Cooling  
Service and Installation  
Mostly Residential

(734) 812-6318 - Greg Makila

## 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



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Applications for 2015 scholarships will be available in November on the website or in the Finnish Center office.

## CONNIE FOSNESS – MEMORIES OF 1974

Connie Fosness, former chairperson 1981-1985, wrote the following in 2004 for the 30th anniversary of the Finnish Center Building Dedication. She said that she was so overcome with emotion she was not able to read them herself at the celebration. Here are her written memories, as told in 2004, of the early days of the Finnish Center construction and dedication. Enjoy!

It's hard to believe that 30 years have gone by so quickly. There are so many stories to tell, but I want to remind us of the complete dedication by our members to get our Center ready for Opening Day, as they did most of the inside work.

The first big job was smoothing the mortar from the cement blocks by rubbing each seam with another piece of block. Sometimes it was so dusty, you could hardly see across the big hall, and there was little Elsie Foucet with her short broom and dust pan trying to stay ahead of the dirt.

In the meantime, a crisis was looming--no natural gas for our stoves. A discussion was being held to convert the stoves to "bottle gas" when one of the men working in the hall said, "I play handball with the big shots from Consumer Power, let me see what I can do." The next we knew, we had the gas we needed. That giant of a man was Ed Jarvenpaa, who at that time was not even a member, just another Finn who wanted to help.

In the meantime, the work was being coordinated by our manager, Shirley Kemppainen and Pearl Wanttaja and the architect Eino Kainlauri. Pearl not only did that but she kept the soup pot simmering in the kitchen for the workers.

You would also receive a call from Millie Rousseau to make three loaves of bread into sandwiches and bring them to the Center--usually tuna, egg salad and pickle and bologna.

Much of the work was done by our members who came to help after they left their regular jobs. One of these was Ted Puuri, whose family did not see much of him, as he'd leave the tank plant, come to the Center and eventually drive home to Utica.

The next big job was painting the interior. We would work in pairs, the taller ones doing the upper part and the shorter ones doing the bottom half. Hannah Carlson, being a shortie, was one of the ones who did the bottom.

The last big job was the tiling of the bathrooms and the main hall. When the last tile was laid in the big hall, someone put a record on the record player and we all danced a waltz on the new floor.

In the meantime, Eva and George Koskimaki were organizing the library, and Aira and Urho Kuusisto were stocking the Gift Shop.

I know it's hard to visualize now, but what is now the accounting room, and the coat room was the original kitchen, and what is now the hallway to the Lounge was the original gift shop, with the large window facing the lobby, and also through the library to get into the office, which is now the gift shop.

In preparation for the opening of our Cultural Center, the Women's Auxiliary had been ordering flatware place settings with Betty Crocker coupons. Sylva Loukinen had arranged to have our blue Arabia pottery shipped from Finland. Many of our members contributed \$11.00 a place

(Continued on page 8)

Connie Fosness Memories (continued from page 7)

setting to offset the cost of the dishes, while others paid for a chair, and a group of eight would go together to pay for a table.

Just before the opening, we realized we needed the stages, and after calling several rental places, our men decided they would make them—we had many fine carpenters at that time. Three stages were made and are still in use today.

The Center opened on Saturday, September 21st—a bright and sunny fall day and hundreds of people came— many of them to become members later.

A banquet was held that evening and a week of plans were made:

**Sunday and Monday**-Open House

**Tuesday** Evening-Finnish Night

**Wednesday** was the first Senior Luncheon

**Thursday** was to be a special night with Jingo Viitala Vachon, but she became ill and could not come, so it was an impromptu evening.

**Friday** night was youth night.

**Saturday** evening was our gala dinner dance, and that's how we opened our own beautiful Cultural Center.

I'm so happy I was part of it, and that I'm here to celebrate this anniversary, as so many who were there are no longer with us.

Connie Fosness

Connie Fosness in Finnish Costume



**SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014**  
**10 AM – 4 PM**

at

Finnish Center Association, 35200 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
 (248) 478-6939 or (734) 834-6085  
 \$1 Donation at the door

COME ENJOY THE  
 SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SMELLS & TASTES FROM  
 DENMARK, SWEDEN, FINLAND, NORWAY & ICELAND



## FIREFLIES, PHOTOGRAPHS AND WIDE EYED WONDER

Last spring members of FASM enthusiastically agreed to host overnight a Finnish girls' choir traveling to Petoskey, Michigan to participate in a world youth music festival. Needing housing, they were willing to offer a free concert in exchange! Housing for twenty-five girls and their five adult chaperones was tentatively planned and we marked the July 14<sup>th</sup> date on our calendars.

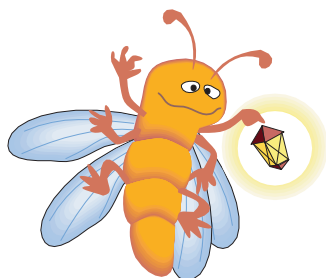
Members of the FCA planned a wonderful dinner to serve the group when they arrived late in the afternoon July 14th. Despite FASM's planning, during the first two weeks of July health problems affected the FASM hosts which meant we needed to come up with substitute housing for 11 people. As a relatively new participant in FASM (3 years) and not acquainted with many FCA members, in order to help I "hit up" my family and friends to help also by briefly lending their homes to girls and/or chaperones. Later all hosts agreed that this had been a wonderful experience with poignant, funny, quirky, and beautiful moments!

Several hosts showed their guests around their home communities. Ilene Yanke said her girls were extremely polite and not chatty, a trait she remembered from a visit to Finland. Her pulla was a big hit for breakfast! As they passed the GM proving grounds, they admired her car (a Chevy Malibu) but said none of them had drivers' licenses since owning a car at home was so expensive. They all rode scooters! My small PT Cruiser got smiles as a "big" car, my husband's mini-van with power sliding doors elicited an "Ahh" and a friend's SUV was viewed as total decadence! Dee Aebersold housed four girls and needed two cars to take both the girls and the one huge suitcase each had home after their lovely concert. She marked the occasion of their visit by having them sign her guest book. The pictures taken of neighborhood streets, houses, our mailboxes (I guess they are quite different), the breakfasts they were served, and even the unfamiliar ice cream shop Blizzards ordered probably necessitated explanations when they returned to Finland. I was amazed when my guests asked what the flickering lights were on our way home after the concert. They don't have fire-flies and loved ours!

Another FASM host, Chuck Wendt, housed their accompanist, Timo, a well-traveled, very talented young man. The constant traveling as a concert pianist had not appealed to him, so he had gotten a law degree and worked in Helsinki. He accompanied the choir when they traveled, and practiced with them only occasionally in Raahe. With excellent English, Timo and Chuck conversed until midnight. Chuck observed that Timo had not used the washcloth ("little towel" he called it) and recalled not being offered washcloths during a recent trip to Europe. "Maybe that habit is more widespread than I thought, Chuck said.

All of the hosts said their Finnish guests were unfailingly polite, and cheerful, surprising their American "friends" with gifts at breakfast the next morning. We were touched to hear one of our guests say, as she walked to our car, "I can't believe I'm in America. It's like a dream!" It was wonderful seeing our cities through their eyes and I'm sure they found curious, amazing sights in Petoskey, Niagara Falls, and New York before they returned to Raahe. Thank you for sharing your enjoyment with us. Kiitos!

Katy Koskela



## EINO KAINLAURI'S DAUGHTER VISITS THE FCA

On Friday, August 29, the Finnish Center welcomed a very special guest. Her name is Mary Ann Kainlauri Shao and she was visiting Michigan for the holiday weekend. She is the daughter of Eino Kainlauri, the architect of the Finnish Center featured in our August newsletter. She lives in Iowa where her family moved shortly after the opening of the Finnish Center.

Mary Ann had been studying in Finland when the Finnish Center was built and dedicated in 1974. With the family moving to Iowa, along with busy lives and distance, she had never been to the center before.

Mary Ann wrote of her visit that coming to the Finnish Center was like visiting family. The common heritage of Finland, and ways in which we all relate, were apparent all around her. For example, the gift shop t-shirts that say "Got Sisü?" and the Finnish tapestries on the wall. The pictures of the Finnish American Singers of Michigan were especially of interest to her since she has a musical back ground. With the books about Finland and the different artifacts on the walls, the library provided a wonderful place to start the visit.

The gardens were in full bloom and were a nice complement to the building that her father designed so many years ago. She enjoyed her tour of the gardens and the Finnish Center building itself.

She was kind enough later to reminisce and write a short memoir, along with some pictures, of some of her family and personal experiences in connection to Finland. She was able to capture some of the highlights of some very exciting experiences. The memoir will be in the library for anyone interested in reading it.

Some of her memories included her studies in Finland, touring with a group called the "All Michigan Youth Symphony", visiting her Finnish family in Lahti, Finland and her great grandfather's farm. She had only seen photos of them. In 1961 she was seven years old. She and her mother dressed in Finnish national costumes and took part in a reception to greet then Finnish President Kekkonen on his arrival to Detroit Metro Airport. Her memoir is delightful and fascinating, so be sure to visit the library to read it and see the pictures!

If you are not in the area but would like to have a copy of her memoir scanned and sent to you, please email [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com) with your request!



Eino Kainlauri with the FCA  
cornerstone  
September 1974.



Mary Ann Kainlauri Shao at the  
cornerstone August 29, 2014.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Finnish Center Association celebrated the 40-year anniversary of its building dedication on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2014. Chairman Mia Lamminen welcomed Honorary Consul of Finland Paul Potti, Mayor of Farmington Hills Barry Brickner, and over 100 FCA members in attendance.

In her opening speech Chairman Lamminen thanked those FCA members whose hard work and sacrifice provided our association the building, which has so successfully provided a bridge to link our two cultures – Finnish and American.

She also reminded the members that it is the duty and the responsibility of the present and the future generations to preserve our building and to keep it under the ownership of the Finnish Center Association. Those FCA members who made sacrifices to build this building would accept nothing less from the future generations.

Consul Paul Potti was a guest speaker. Mr. Barry Brickner, the Mayor of Farmington Hills brought his greetings on behalf of the City of Farmington Hills.

The audience in attendance gave a big round of applause to Fritz Putkela, one of the charter members, who at the age of 97 made the trip from Virginia to attend the ceremonies. Other members who shared their stories were: Dee Aebersold, Eunice Potti Gould, Hilkka Ketola, George Koskimaki, Norbert Leppanen, Lois Makee, Steve Niemi, Don Reinholm, Elissa (Mannisto) Seigle, David Sharpe and Pearl Wanttaja.

Below: Don Reinholm, Steve Niemi, Roger Hewlett, Jonene Eliasson, Ilene Yanke, Norbert Leppanen and Ron Karvonen.



Above: Guests enjoy the afternoon with friends



Johanna Ulenius and family



Left:  
Fritz  
Putkela



Above: Paul Potti, Honorary Consul of Finland.

Right: Cake Table



Right: Emma Kaipainen refills the coffee.

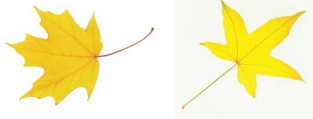


FCA Chairman, Mia Lamminen, Mayor of Farmington Hills, Barry Brickner, Councilman of Farmington Hills, Richard Lerner and his daughter,

## AUTUMN IN FINLAND

Autumn, which marks the transition from summer to winter, the daily mean temperature remains below 10°C (50°F). Autumn begins around the last week of August in northern Finland and about one month later in southwestern Finland. The growing season ends in autumn when the mean daily temperature drops below 5°C (41°F). This occurs around the last week of September in northern Finland and in late October or early November in southwestern Finland.

Thus the average length of the growing season is 180 days in the southwestern archipelago, 140 to 175 days elsewhere in southern and central Finland and 100 to 140 days in Lapland. The first snow falls in northern Finland in September and elsewhere in October.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

A great program is planned. Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year, Olli Hirvonen will be performing along with others guests.



Olli Hirvonen Jazz Gutarist

More information coming in November.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The summer is gone and the monthly luncheons are back! They are the last Wednesday of the month and started in September. For the October 29 luncheon be sure to sign up by Monday, October 27 to receive a discount. Call the office at (248) 478-6939 to reserve or use the sign up sheet in the lobby. The luncheon is \$10 at the door or \$9 if you make a reservation.

On December 21 we will be having a Candlelight service in remembrance of our loved ones who have passed away. As a fundraiser for the Finnish Center we will take donations in memory of your loved one. A little angel with the name of your loved one will be given and be placed on a Christmas tree that day. This should be a lovely service that will touch all our hearts. More details of this service will be coming next month.



## FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, October 11  
9 am - 3 pm  
Tables available.  
Volunteers needed



Contact the FCA at  
(248) 478-6939

## RENT THE FCA

If you, or someone you know, has a need for a hall to rent for special events such as birthdays, weddings, baby or bridal showers, memorial services, holiday parties or any special occasion, please consider the Finnish Center. Contact the FCA office at (248) 478-6939 for more details.



## FINLAND TODAY



First, Finland is increasingly dependent on imports for its electricity supply, but the main source of the imports has changed. As recently as a couple of years ago, most of the electricity imports were from Russia, but what was happening Ukraine got members of the Parliament and electrical utilities thinking. Today only about 2.5 % of Finland's electricity needs are imported from Russia, while Sweden's share is about 25%. Finland does export some of its electricity to Estonia. Finland's electricity retailers would be interested in increasing the electricity imports from Sweden, but the lack of transmission capacity between the two countries is the hold-up. One reason for the need to import the electricity is the massive delays in the construction of the third unit of Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant, and the fact that the 4th unit has not even been started.

It was 99 acres in 2013 and it's going to be about 123 acres in 2020. What am I talking about? I'm talking about the average size of the Finnish farm. This is small compared to the average farm in U.S., which is over 440 acres. While the total amount of land under cultivation will remain unchanged in Finland, the number of farms will be reduced by 20% from 2013 to 2020. By the year 2020, there will be about 44,000 farms in Finland, which is about one half the number that was in 2000. Falling profitability and an aging farming population are to blame for the dwindling number of farms. Younger people are thinking twice about joining the family farm because of insecurity in the agricultural sector.

The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2014-15 is out and in the report Finland is in 4th place, down one spot from last year, but it is still the number one of all the EU members. The top five in order on the list were: Switzerland, Singapore, the United States, Finland, and Germany. The Global Competitiveness Report assesses the competitiveness of 144 world economies based on 12 "pillars" such as institutions, infrastructure, health and education, labor market efficiency, technology readiness, innovation, and business sophistication. Finland ranked No. 1 in health and education, training and innovation.

We have some more accolades for the Finnish school system, this time from the Gems Educational Solutions, an international education consultancy. According to Gems, the Finnish educational system has been the "most effective in the OECD (Organization of the Economically Developed Countries) for the past 15 years". The study ranked 30 OECD countries from best to worst, based on teacher related expenses and the pupil's learning results. PISA test results were used as an indicator. The data was used to calculate which education system had the highest education payback relative to expenditure. Also doing well in the study were South Korea, Japan, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Greece, Spain, Portugal, and Italy were at the bottom. In Finland, there is a deep respect for teachers and their accomplishments. In Finland, only one in ten applicants to teaching programs is admitted. Teachers in Finland spend 600 hours a year teaching, rest of their time is spent in professional development, meeting with colleagues, students and families. Here in the U.S. teachers spent 1,100 hours a year in the classroom, leaving little time for collaboration, feedback, or professional development.

The Finnish mobile game developer and entertainment company, Rovio Entertainment, has launched Angry Birds Stella, the latest game in the Angry Bird series. The new game has a female protagonist named Stella, who along with her friends, protect their home of Golden Island from Gale, the bad Princess and the usual green piggies. You can experience Angry Birds Stella in a range of consumer products including games, animation, books and comics. Angry Birds Stella is free to play. You can download it on the Android, iOS, Amazon Fire, Blackberry 10 OS, and Nook platforms.

And finally, three Boy Scouts, Matti, Heikki and Eino, told their Scoutmaster, Toivo, that they had done their good deed for the day.

"What did you boys do?, Toivo asked little Matti.

"We helped an old Lady cross the street", said Matti.

Toivo was mystified, "It took all three of you to do that?"

"Yep", said Matti, "She didn't want to go."

Markku Ketola  
marketola@yahoo.com

### PULLA BAKERS

September 12 seven bakers made pulla and cinnamon rolls for the upcoming Sunday Brunch. Due to the rising cost of butter and eggs the pulla will now cost \$5.50.

The next baking date is October 10 to bake for the Flea Market on October 11. If you are interested in joining the group we begin at 9:30 am. No experience necessary. Lunch is provided along with a sample of freshly baked cinnamon rolls.

For more information please contact Ilene Yanke at (248) 887-3538.



Charlotte Lytikainen, Betty Taipalus, Barbara Whitty, Ilene Yanke, Lorraine Hannah, Dee Aebersold and Hannah Carlson.

## ADVERTISING RATES

<b>DEADLINE:</b>	<b>DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 5TH</b>
<b>EDITOR CONTACT INFO:</b>	PAUL RAJALA
<b>LAYOUT AND DESIGN:</b>	NANCY RAJALA
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<a href="mailto:nrajala@comcast.net">nrajala@comcast.net</a>

### *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 rate .....1" ad - \$30.00.    1.5" ad - \$45.00        2" ad - \$60.00

Pay for full year .....1" ad - \$100.00.    1.5" ad - \$150.00        2" ad - \$200.00

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

**READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

**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  
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