



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

February 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 28 Rental
- 28 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

February

- 06 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 08 Sunday Brunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm
- 08 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon – 2 pm
- 11 Rental
- 13 Friday FCA Bakers 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
- 14 Saturday Valentine Dinner Dance 4 pm
- 15 Sunday FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corp
Annual Meeting 1 pm
- 15 Sunday FCA Annual Meeting 3 pm
- 18 Rental
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 22 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon – 2 pm
- 22 Sunday Open House 1 – 4 pm
- 22 Rental
- 25 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 25 Rental
- 27 Friday FACD Pasty Prep
- 27 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 28 Saturday FACD Pasty Bake

March

- 01 Sunday Sibelius/Kalevela Day Buffet 12 noon
\$10 Buffet and program, \$5 program only
- 06 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 08 Sunday Brunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm
- 08 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon – 2 pm
- 11 Rental
- 13 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 15 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 22 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon – 2 pm



**RESERVATIONS ARE
SUGGESTED FOR
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

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
- Sunday Brunch
2nd Sunday of the month
12-1:30 pm
- 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

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The Annual Meeting is held February 15, 2015. Ballots are mailed to all members for the three Board of Trustee positions. The Chairpersons of each of the Standing Committees shall be elected by the members in attendance at the annual meeting. It is important that you attend the meeting. This election is important to continue the progress we have made with the current board to sustain the Finnish Center.

Long term success of the Finnish Center relies on the involvement of the younger generations. There are numerous first generation Finnish families with children in the Metropolitan Detroit area. There have never been any scheduled or non-scheduled meetings where the young Finnish mothers and their children could get together. One of the young mothers suggested to me that maybe they could arrange meeting at the FCA. I told her that she could arrange young Finnish mothers and their children to meet at any time and use our Finland Room as long as it does not interfere with our other activities. This would be a perfect way to familiarize younger generations with our Finnish Center. I am happy to report that one meeting has already taken place and the interest is there!

Our long past-due business and operations plan is finally getting under way. Anu Pantsar, who has an MBA from Finland, and currently enrolled online at Harvard, has indicated that she is willing to join the development group. Business plan development is Anu's specialty - both in her education and professional life. With Anu's participation, our FCA business development group will receive world-class business consulting at no cost!

I would like to propose making some changes to our by-laws and send an Amendment for our by-laws during the February elections. This Amendment will deal with clarifications for our absentee voting rules. Some changes in the dissolution paragraph will ensure that no future attempt to take over our property is possible. Another issue is dealing with conflict of interest with competing organizations and their officers and trustees.

And finally, if you are in the area please consider volunteering at the Finnish Center. There are many different ways to make a huge difference! If your schedule is too busy or you are not in the area-please consider a donation! The Finnish Center is currently the largest chapter of Finlandia Foundation in the United States! To keep it viable and a place for Finns to gather and continue to promote and foster the Finnish Culture and heritage is truly a great accomplishment that was begun almost 50 years ago!

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement!

Mia Lamminen, Chairman

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Farmington Hills, MI
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Fax: (248) 478-5671
finnishcenter@gmail.com
www.finnishcenter.org

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

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

CANDIDATES FOR FCA SENIOR HOUSING CORP. TRUSTEE ELECTION

February 15, 2015

PAUL HENDRICKSON

Birthplace: Tapiola, Michigan. Education: Doelle, K-12, Michigan Tech. B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, LaSalle University, Diploma in Business Management, Continuing education for Michigan Real Estate Brokerage. Involvements: Completed, as a field engineer, responsibility and adequacy of all documentation required for maintenance and operation of Jupiter missile program assigned to U.S. Air Force in Italy. Established, as project engineer, a Saturn missile manufacturing facility in New Orleans. Programmed, as test and reliability engineer, a number of propulsion missile systems in California. Provided complete start-to-finish services to an owner of a trucking and warehouse business over a period of five years enlarging it from 13,800 square feet to over 64,000 s.f. in Romulus and then provided consulting services in its operation over twenty years and then as a broker sold it. Developed a 27,200 s.f. shopping center in Taylor. Provided development services on a 100 unit condo project in Brownstone township. Elected V.P. of FCA and assumed responsibility for managing and monitoring the development of the building expansion. Brokered the sale of a parcel of land in Livonia that was donated to FCA Housing Corporation. Sold house in Detroit which was donated to the FCA Housing Corporation after meeting code compliance regulations. Undertook all tasks necessary to develop a total of 204 elderly housing units at Tapiola I, II and Freedom Square. Provided services such as market studies, soil borings, environmental compliance with builder and contractors, and engage in a multitude of tasks necessary to complete the projects. Continued to review FCA Housing Corp. annual budgets, conducted site inspections, and provided approval of major expenses. Developed other elderly housing projects in Carrolton Township. Future plans for FCA Housing Corporation: Propose finance for project improvements. Complete redemption of debenture bonds.

MIA LAMMINEN

I am a native of Tampere, Finland, moved to the USA in 1972 with my husband after graduating from the business school in Turku, Finland. Starting in 1973 up till my retirement in 2010 I have been involved in business. I started as an accountant and from 1990 I was the CEO of InterClean Equipment, Inc., an Ann Arbor based manufacturing company with 52 employees. Finland and the Finnish culture have always been very close to my heart. I speak Finnish at home, both with my husband, children and grandchildren. I have been a member of the Finnish Center since 1976 and became an active volunteer in 2010. Currently I am the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Financial Chair of the FCA. I am also the Treasurer of the FCA Senior Housing Corporation. I would be honored to continue serving another term at the FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation. I fully support the current plans under way into making improvements for the Tapiola I and II housing units and infrastructure.

Mary O'Brien

I grew up in Kaleva, Michigan. I am a second generation Finn as my mother was borne in Finland. My mother is from Oulu, Finland. A few years ago I was lucky enough to travel to Finland to visit relatives, which was the trip of my life. After graduating from High School I got married and raised three children. My husband and I moved to Standish in 1967 where ran a dime store. We were also active in the community – I was involved in both Church and community. Due to the changes in our business in 1996 we decided to move to Farmington Hills where we managed Freedom Square Apartments. I was on-site manager available 24/7 with a pager. I responded to all emergency calls and called 911 when necessary. I contacted the family and secured the apartment in those cases. I also acted as a social director arranging activities and cooking for the seniors. The apartment rentals and related paperwork as well as reporting to MSHDA were also my responsibilities. I answered the Senior Housing phone and took care of rent collections and payrolls. I always did my best arranging Freedom Square to be a pleasant and beautiful place for our senior to live. I planted flowers and other plants and did us much decorating, as our budgets would allow. Most of the time our rental occupancy was close to 100%. I personally enjoyed living and working in Freedom Square. The care and love I was able to provide for our seniors became an important part of my life. I would be honored to continue serving our seniors by being a Trustee of the Board.

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDENS

The Garden Club members have been in the woodshop cleaning the equipment, replacing worn out saw blades, drill bits and sandpaper bands, removing rust and adding a protective anti-rust coating to the surface of the equipment. Replacement of a battery on the golf cart was necessary as a short melted the post and we wished to minimize the potential for a fire.

We had some Christmas decorations donated and we have stored those for the winter along with new lights and greenery purchased after the holidays.

We have repaired and repainted three benches so far this winter and still have more to repair. We received some donated shiplap which is 100 year old tongue and groove board which we can utilize with modification for some projects. If anyone has an old home floor repair project, contact either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe and perhaps we can work out a trade for something else we may need.

We are working on certifying the gardens as a Monarch Waystation and you should see signs with that indication later in the spring. Michigan is the number one state for certified Monarch Waystations just slightly ahead of Texas. The milkweed is the only plant these beautiful butterflies lay their eggs on, which is why we have several varieties on the property along with so many types of native plants that provide nectar for the Monarchs. Our rain garden and wetland areas especially have a high concentration of both milkweed and natives and multiple types of butterflies. Some butterflies overwinter as chrysalis and caterpillars which is why those areas are not cut down in the fall so that we don't disrupt their grown cycle.

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

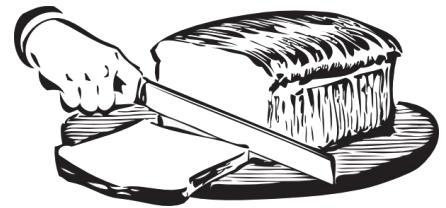
Gayle Gullen
Finlandia Garden Club President

FCA BAKERS

Due to the cold temperatures and illness, we had only 5 bakers on January 8th, all of whom worked for 6 hours. Returning baker was Millie Harju and new baker was Hazel Munro. We turned out the usual batch of beautiful, tasty pulla/nisu. Other bakers were Char Lytikainen, Dee Abersold, and Ilene Yanke.

The next baking date is Friday, February 13. We hope to see you then.

Ilene Yanke



SIBELIUS AND KALEVALA Sunday, March 1

Buffet Brunch
12 - 1 pm

Sibelius Presentation by Steve Niemi
1:30 pm

\$10 for Brunch Buffet & Program
\$5 Program Only



E & G Heating

Heating and Cooling
Service and Installation
Mostly Residential

(734) 812-6318 - Greg Makila

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 **Pauline Fritz** (7/23/2001) a donation has been made by Jeff & Germaine Fritz.



A TRIBUTE TO SIBELIUS Saturday, February 28 at 4 pm

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra will be performing "A Tribute to Sibelius" featuring Ioana Galu, Violinist.

Clarencevill High School Auditorium
20155 Middlebelt Rd.
Livonia, MI

Adults \$20
Students \$10

Sponsored by Livonia Town Hall

UPCOMING FINNISH FILMS

More Finnish films will be coming soon. Watch for announcements and descriptions for films such as: *Thomas* - a movie about compassion, forgiveness and atonement in the autumn of his life, *Black Ice* - is a psychological Ménage à trois, where two women compete for the same man; *Jade Warrior* - inspired by the Finnish epic The Kalevala; *Ella and Friends* - after a rumor goes that their school is about to be closed and all the students will be shifted to huge schools of the city, panic spreads among the students; *Twisted Roots* - drama about traditions and legacy of the Kuura family.

I hope these very brief descriptions entice you to want to come and see these films. Watch for details in upcoming issues.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Hope all of you are staying warm! Winter has definitely arrived. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our First Annual Candlelight Service a wonderful success! The guests were very happy to be able to express and receive acknowledgement of their loved ones. I appreciate all the support from everyone!

The Monthly Luncheons are back for the new year. We will serve lunch on Wednesday January 28th. Be sure to sign up or call the office at (248) 478-6939 to make your reservations. We will be serving ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Please come out to support the Finnish Center and enjoy an afternoon with friends. Starting with the February 25 luncheon, the cost will be \$10 due to the increase in food costs.

On Valentine's Day we will have a dinner dance. Dinner will be starting at 4 pm. The cost is \$5 at the door for the dance. There will be a donation basket for the dinner. FinnFolk will be providing music. Come out and enjoy this special Saturday get-together on Valentine's Day!

Lila and Terry Ball



GOING PLACES

Soaring Eagle – Monday, February 16, 2015, \$38. Featuring the Kingston Trio. Combo with Nardineers. Leave at 8 am and return about 9:30 pm.

Purple Rose Theatre – Sunday, March 1, 2015, \$92. Lunch at the Common Grill. The play will be Steel Magnolias. Combo with Nardineers. Leave at 10 am and return about 5:45 pm.

Meadowbrook Theatre – Sunday, April 26, 2015, \$82. The performance will be Meshuggah Nuns. Lunch at Kings Court Castle. Combo with Nardineers. Leave at 10:15 am and return about 5:15 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



FACEBOOK

Visit us on “Finnish Center and Hall” Facebook page and “like” us to get the latest updates!



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



MISSING COAT MYSTERY

Millie Harju’s coat was taken by mistake at the November Open House. A black polyester coat with grey collar and zippers was left in the lounge, while her coat, which is black polyester with a beige collar, went missing. Please contact Millie at (248) 645-2764 if you have the missing coat. Thank you.



Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

nlehto@sbcglobal.net

4051 Wakefield Road
Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

VALENTINE QUOTES

"Love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own."

Robert Heinlein



"Love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning." -Author Unknown



"Loving is not just looking at each other, it's looking in the same direction."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE MEMORIALS

Adolf Aittama

Lovern Aittama

Norma Aittama

Rudolph Aittama

Audrey & Henry Ball

Lila & Terry Ball

Baby Boy Ball

Lila & Terry Ball
Cindy & Mick Filpansick

Shirley Belttari

Gene Belttari

Pastor Jonathan Bomgren

Mary Bomgren

Elizabeth Bomgren

Mary Bomgren

Edsel Carlson

Hannah Carlson

Michael Cusack

Sandra Cusack

Peta (Pekula) Elias

Elizabeth Groome

Harold Fosness

Connie Fosness

Laura Friman

Mia Lamminen

Gusti & Sophie Haarala

Matt Haarala

Alfred Hakala

Viona Hakala

Willard Harju

Mildred Harju

Walter & Clara Mai Hart

Linda & Walter Hart

Jean (Liimatta) Haslip

Lila & Terry Ball
Linda & Walter Hart

Melvin Hemminger

Lila & Terry Ball
Linda & Walter Hart
Collette Hemminger

Minda Luoma Henline

Connie Fosness

Toivo Hill

Kathryn Hill
Maria Hill

Peter Houle

Anne & Fred Liimatta
Betty Schmehl

Pierre Houle

Anne & Fred Liimatta
Betty Schmehl

Edward & Lempi Johnson

Matt Haarala

Ruth Johnson

Ellie Tauriainen

Vilma & Juha Juntunen

Jonene Eliasson & Roger
Hewlett

Arthur Kannisto

Sylvia Kannisto

Eino & Iris Kuitunen

Mary Bomgren

Erkki & Emma Kukkasniemi

Mia & Olli Lamminen

Hannu Kukkasniemi

Mia Lamminen

Veron Lacy

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Stewart

Hilkka & Reino Lamminen

Mia & Olli Lamminen

Hedvig & Jaakko Lamstedt

Jonene Eliasson & Roger
Hewlett

Josefina & Juho Lehtimaki

Jonene Eliasson & Roger
Hewlett

Rob Lemon

Mary Bromgren

Ered & Elaine Liimatta

Cindy & Mick Filpansick
Linda & Walter Hart

Mamie Liimatta

Cindy & Mick Filpansick
Marlene Houle
Anne & Fred Liimatta

Uncle Ainard Liimatta

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Sister Jean Liimatta

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Fred & Elaine Liimatta

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Mamie, Ainard & Ronald Liimatta

Betty Schmehl
Linda & Walter Hart

Frank & Sylva Loukinen

Kathryn Hill

Ivar & Ida Luoma

Connie Fosness

John & Cecilia Mance

David Sharpe

Eleanor & Wilfred Manley

Elaine Lada
Alice Manely

Hilary Michalak

Mary Bromgren

Barbara Lee Sterling Micham

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Grace Nayback

Ruben Nayback

Calvin Hill

Kathryn Hill

Uncle Bill Peterson

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Uncle John Peterson

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Grandma Peterson

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Parents of Wilbur & Dolores Rajala

Dolores & Wilbur Rajala

(continued on page 10)



FROM THE LIBRARY



This year we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Jean Sibelius' birth. Johan Julius Christian Sibelius was born on December 8, 1865 in Hämeenlinna when Finland was a Grand Duchy of Russia. His father, Christian Gustaf Sibelius, a medical doctor, was City Medical Officer and physician to the Hämeenlinna Sniper Battalion. His mother was Maria Charlotte Sibelius, nee Borg. He had two siblings, Linda and Christian.

Janne, as he was called by the family, was named after his father's brother, who had been the captain of a merchant ship. It was this uncle who was responsible for Janne's eventually adopting the name "Jean". In the fashion of the times, his uncle had had calling cards using the French form of his name. Janne found them in the estate of his uncle and decided to use them and thus became known as Jean Sibelius.

Dr. Sibelius died in 1868 of typhoid fever. The family was left with huge debts and eventually had to move in with Maria Sibelius' mother. The Sibelius family was a Swedish-speaking Finnish family so they decided to send Jean to a Finnish language school to learn Finnish. After he graduated from high school in 1885, he enrolled at the Imperial Alexander University (later the University of Helsinki) to study law. But he was more interested in music than in law; from the age of four he had tried to pick out chords and melodies on the piano. He quit his law studies in order to study music. From 1885 to 1889 he studied in the Helsinki Music Institute (now the Sibelius Academy); later he studied in Berlin and in Vienna. It was his dream to become a violinist but he abandoned this when he realized he had begun his violin studies too late.

On June 10, 1892, Sibelius married Aino Järnefelt, the younger sister of three famous brothers, Arvid Järnefelt the writer, Eero Järnefelt the painter and Armas Järnefelt the conductor. Their home, Ainola, named after his wife, was completed at Lake Tuusula in Järvenpää in 1903. It is a grand log villa built on a heavy stone base and clad with weatherboard. They had six daughters: Eva, Ruth, Kirsti (who died very young from typhoid), Katarina, Margareta and Heidi. Their first years at Ainola were rough due to financial worries and Jean's drinking and partying lifestyle. Aino sought to supplement the needs of the family budget by maintaining a vegetable garden and raising chickens. Jean's income at that time consisted of giving music lessons and small concerts, scarcely enough to support the family. In 1896 he was awarded a government stipend for ten years. This was later changed to a pension for life. In 1927 his financial situation improved when the copyright law in Finland was changed. He began to receive income from internationally copyrighted works. That and concert tours changed his fortune: he died a rich man.

Sibelius established a strong national tradition for musical creativity in Finland, which flourishes to this day. He grew up at a time when Finland was striving for independence from Russia. His music played an important role in the formation of Finnish national identity. After the initial performance of *Finlandia* its performance was forbidden by the Russians, who considered it too patriotic. Sibelius composed seven symphonies; there may have been an eighth one, but it is believed he destroyed it, not being satisfied with it. In 2011 a fragment was discovered at Ainola of what appeared to be an early draft of this missing symphony.

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FCA LIBRARY (continued from page 8)

Sibelius loved nature, and the Finnish landscape often served as material for his music. He loved the swans and geese which flew overhead. He once said of his *Sixth Symphony* "It always reminds me of the scent of the first snow." In addition to his symphonies and *Finlandia*, he wrote the *Karelia suite*, *Valse triste*, the *Violin concerto in D minor*, *Kullervo* and *The Swan of Tuonela*. He also wrote pieces inspired by the *Kalevala*, over 100 songs for voice and piano, incidental music for 13 plays, the opera *The Maiden in the Tower* (which remains unpublished), chamber music, piano music, Masonic ritual music and 21 separate publications of choral music. He produced no large scale works for the last thirty years of his life.

Sibelius died at Ainola on September 20, 1957 at the age of 91. Aino died on June 8, 1969. Their joint tomb in the garden at Ainola is a six-foot square low bronze slab designed by their architect son-in-law, Aulis Blomstedt. In 1972, Sibelius' surviving daughters sold the house and contents to the Finnish state; it opened as a museum in 1974. Almost nothing has changed (though Sibelius's original manuscripts have been removed to the national archives); the place which once held Sibelius and his music still holds them both. Ainola is open to the public from the beginning of May to the end of September.

Lillian Lehto, FCA librarian



Candlelight Memorials
(continued from page 7)

John Ranta

Nina Ranta

Minna & Matti Ruuskanen

Marlene & Timo Ruuskanen

Bob Salo

Marjorie Salo

Anne (Hakala) Schilling

Viona Hakala

William Schmehl

Betty Schmehl

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Clarence & Ruth (Hyry) Sharpe

David Sharpe

Edvin & Maini Simonsson

Marlene Ruuskanen

Marianne Simonsson

Marlene Ruuskanen

Pete & Hilda Sormunen

Linda & Walter Liimatta

Anne & Fred Liimatta

Lenore Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Stewart

Elie & Robert Usitalo

Karen Usitalo-Strobridge



Guests gather to remember loved ones at the
December Candlelight Service

KARAOKE



Far Right:
Gene
Belttari
Left: Henrikki
Pantsar
Karaoke Night
Organizer



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTO GALLERY



FINLAND TODAY

First, "On the 6th of December each year, we Finns have the privilege of celebrating our country's independence. This also gives us the opportunity to pause and consider what Independence and Finland mean to us. The 6th of December is also dedicated to those who defended and cherished our independence. The priceless results of their work can be seen in the everyday lives of each and every one of us. We Finns have settled in all parts of the world. The windows and front doors of expatriates Finns open out onto thousands different scenes and realities. And not every place is as tranquil as our homeland. Today, we still need men and women who cherish the uniqueness of our country and people. This is something that we can all do together. Each one of us can do their part to ensure that we are a force for good in our surroundings." - Sauli Niinisto, President of Finland. It was part of his Finland's Independence Day message to the Finnish expatriates around the world.

And second, "Citizens, the past year has left us with many good memories, but also memories that may not grow sweeter with time. We are occupied with three major issues: security, economy, and the environment."

"We have seen that Europe is not the haven of peace that we imagined it to be. The Ukrainian conflict and Russia's actions in it proved otherwise. We have also learned that the economy will not fix itself if we just sit back and wait for the next upturn. And we were chilled to learn that global warming will have a particularly great impact here, in Finland." - Sauli Niinisto, President of Finland, part of his New Year's day speech to the nation on 1 January 2015.

Finland is heating up twice as fast as any other country in the world. No, I don't mean Saunas, I mean the actual temperature of the country. In a study made by the University of Eastern Finland and the Finnish Meteorological Institute, since 1850, the average temperature in Finland has risen 3.6 F, compared to the global average of 1.35F. This trend helps to explain why lakes in Finland have freezing over later and later each year, and, in the spring thawing sooner--as well as why the trees have begun budding earlier and earlier. And to top it off, last year was the second warmest on record. According to the Finnish Meteorological Institute, only 1938 was warmer, by 0.27 F. The highest temperature during 2014 was 91°F in Pori on August 4th. The low temperature during 2014 was a "bone chilling" -41°F in Utsjoki, in Lapland. In the short term, this climate change could have a positive effect on Finland's economy. Agriculture is one section of the Finnish economy that would probably have a positive result along with the forestry industry. But on the other hand, the warmer climate will also bring additional storms and flooding. And, no, I don't think that just because Finland is warming up, that it will have an effect on how many Saunas there are in Finland. Currently in a country of little over 5 million, there are about 2 million Saunas, which is about one per household.

Scientists at Michigan State University and the University of Helsinki have found a MERTK gene responsible for a progressive form of retinal atrophy in dogs. This discovery opens the door to the development of therapies for diseases that cause blindness both in dogs and in humans. The research findings were published in the December 2014 issue of PLOS One.

Have you heard of "Yoko"? When I first saw the word "Yoko", I thought the article was about Yoko Ono. It wasn't until I read the article that I found out that Yoko is a Finnish cross-country ski equipment manufacture located in Helsinki. It's not a brand new company, it's been around since 1976, when it was founded by Juha Tirinen and Kaija Gustafsson. The company started as water cross ski company. The company is now headed by Jani Gustafsson (son of Kaija) and Markus Gronholm (2X World Rally Car Champion). Under their guidance, Yoko now has a complete Nordic line starting from the snow up with skis, boots, clothing, poles, gloves, and hats. About 90% of Yoko's equipment is made locally "in house". The skis are
(continued on page 13)

FINLAND TODAY (continued from page 12)

Made at the Kitee ski factory, and they are guaranteed to provide grip for a minimum of 2000 kilometers. Yoko provides skis for all skiers, from racing, competition, sport, to touring.

And finally, Hilma and Hilkka, who live near Mass City, were having morning coffee, when Hilma says to Hilkka: You know Hilkka that your husband Matti is the stingiest guy that I have ever known.

Hilkka: You are right Hilma, but he did get me bottle of cologne for Christmas.

Hilma: He did? What kind is it?

Hilkka: I don't know, but every time I pass by the swamp down by the road, a skunk jumps up and hollers, "Yoo Hoo".

Thanks Norm Halme, Rolla, North Dakota

Markku Ketola marketola@yahoo.com

RENT THE FCA

If you, or someone you know, has a need for a hall to rent for special events such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, baby or bridal showers, memorial services, please consider the Finnish Center.

Contact the FCA office at (248) 478-6939 for more details.



THANKS FOR THE PASTIES

At the January 17 bake more than 1200 pasties were made. A big thank you to the volunteers that contributed to the event. On Friday, John Saarinen led the peelers and dicers as they tackled more than 400 pounds of potatoes and other veggies: Dee and Fred Aebersold, Carolyn Gambotto, Karen and Jon Call, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Irene Laminen, Candice Jonas, Char Lytikainen, and Larry Gersky.

On Saturday, the baking and packaging crews consisted of Norb and Luise Leppanen, Nancy Jacobs, Karen Gasinski, Neil Manley, Katy and David Koskela, Neil Lehto, Lila and Terry Ball, Gene Belttari and friend Angie, Jean Shea, Mark Rikkonen, Larry Gersky, Helena Hatten, Elaine Weider, Char Lytikainen, Kevin Heltunen, Nancy McClenahan, Vickie Kimler, and Nancy Rajala.

The dedication and effort of these workers made a daunting task into a successful fund raiser. My deepest thanks to all.

Paul Rajala



FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS PROFILE

If you regularly read this FASM column, you have heard this writer allude to difficulties in figuring out the Finnish text in our songs. This month I would like to introduce a singer that is able to take confusion to the next level! She is the new Secretary of the Finnish Singers, Elaine Weider. A Finn from Dearborn with parents from Houghton/Hancock, her meeting notes are indecipherable to the average reader, but not because they are written in Finnish. After 35 years as an executive secretary, she writes them in a modified form of shorthand!

Elaine worked in that capacity for several companies and finished her work career as the secretary to the Postmaster of Detroit. As a divorced mom with three children (one daughter, two sons), she is proud of the fact that she was able to fully support her family during difficult times, keeping “hearth and home” together.

After spending much of her time indoors at work, it’s not surprising that she developed gardening as a hobby, becoming a Master Gardener. This interviewer learned that maintaining that certification requires hours of community gardening service. Elaine shared that service time became difficult for her to acquire during a period of illness, so technically she is a *lapsed* Master! She also wishes she had traveled more, particularly to Alaska, but is thankful she did visit the gorgeous Grand Canyon since knee problems challenge travel now.

Satisfaction these days comes from singing tenor with the FASM chorus and the choir of the church she attends, as sacred music is a particular delight! An avid reader of detective and crime novels, this frigid weather is perfect for another favorite pastime.....reading quietly with her cat snuggled on her lap.

When asked what advice she would give to the younger generations, she suggested, “Quit spending so much time texting and playing electronically.” She feels that younger people know less about current affairs and “nothing about American history.” Her assertion that everyone needs a basic education to be an informed person and to learn to enjoy learning for the sake of learning resonated with this librarian!

I hope this brief introduction of Elaine, who also is a new FCA member, facilitates a friendly conversation with her at events there. Come say “Hi” and sing with us at a Monday evening, 7 pm practice for FASM for example. We’d love to see you!

Submitted by Scribe and VP, Katy Koskela





MYSTERY PHOTO

Do you know any of these people? They were members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Lahser about 1958-60. There are probably former Finnish Center members and/or their children here. Submitted by Janie Eskuri whose mother was Maureen Eskuri Clancy.

ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 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.

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