



# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

June/July 2015

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE

- 01 Monday Book Club Meeting 1pm
- 05 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 05 Friday Novi Band 7pm
- 06 Rental
- 06 Rental
- 10 Rental
- 10 Wednesday Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 12 Friday Midsummer 5pm
- 13 Rental
- 15 Monday Scholarship Meeting 1:30pm
- 16 Rental
- 17 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 19 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 19 Rental
- 23 Rental
- 24 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12noon
- 24 Rental
- 25 Rental
- 27 Rental
- 28 Sunday Open House 1 - 4pm with  
Travelogue pictures from Finland at 2pm
- 28 Rental
- 29 Monday Book Club Meeting 1pm with  
Garden Club presentation

### JULY

- 03 Office Closed
- 12 Rental
- 20 Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7pm
- 25 Rental
- 26 Sunday Open House 1 -4pm

**No Friday Night Buffets in July & August**  
**No Wednesday Monthly Luncheon in July & August**  
**No Board Meeting in July**  
**No Finnish Conversation Meeting in July**



**RESERVATIONS ARE  
SUGGESTED FOR  
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

### Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers  
(Returns in September)
- 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  
(Returns in September)  
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 Vappu Party (celebration of spring) was a wonderful welcome for the summer season. A lot of children and adults gathered with good food, fun and games, highlighted by a magician that kept everybody very entertained.

Even though our own activities are tapering off for the summer after our midsummer party on Friday June 12, we are very busy with a lot of rentals in June.

Suomi koulu will have its last class of the semester at the end of May. Our teacher Lexie has just graduated with a Master's degree from the University of Michigan and is moving back to Seattle. As mentioned before, we are looking for a teacher for the Fall. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let us know. Even if we cannot find a teacher, the parents will continue the classes in a more informal fashion.

Sibelius concerts are coming up in the fall. Mark your calendars for November 7 for the Ann Arbor Symphony Concert and December 3 at Ker-rytown Concert House in Ann Arbor with a performance by our own Katri Ervamaa and Marja Kaisla (Finlandia Foundation 2014 performer of the year). Please continue to check the upcoming newsletter calendars for our fall events.

As far as 2015 is concerned, we are financially on solid ground. But we all need to work together to ensure that FCA will be here for the next 40 years. We are a voluntary organization and need to have everybody work together for the common good.

I wish you a very wonderful summer and hope to see you at the Finnish Center. As always if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. (cell: [\(734\) 834-6085](tel:7348346085)).

Mia Lamminen  
Chairman

Vappu Party attendees from left to right: Mia Lamminen, Lotta & Pasi Kaipainen and Henriikki Panstar.



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Farmington Hills, MI  
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### Officers

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

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Roger Wanttaja

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Margaret Laurila

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#2 Carol Tudball  
#3 Katie Waissi

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Sarah Wiideman

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

## NOVI COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**  
**7 pm**

**BUFFET DINNER 5-8 PM**  
**WITH CONCERT \$10**

**CONCERT ONLY**  
**\$5**



## FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan have begun enjoying their summer break after practicing weekly Monday evenings from September through our concert on May 17. Individually we enjoy various activities during this time: camping, gardening, quilting, traveling, visiting with friends and family both close and far away, and sometimes just sitting on our patios or porches enjoying an iced tea, lemonade or an “adult beverage!” It is a time for us to stretch out both our work and play times during the longer days and evenings. The gardeners tend their grounds battling drought, bugs, weeds, ultimately deciding how to enjoy the fruits of their labors. Grand-parents often have the opportunity to connect more easily with vacationing out-of-school grandchildren. Nature beckons to those that immerse themselves in pursuits outside: camping, walking, biking, swimming, or the aforementioned sitting!

Music is not forgotten by FASM as members attend concerts at DTE Music Theatre in Clarkston, Comerica Park, Meadowbrook, or the free outdoor concerts provided by many local communities. Long trips traveling by automobile provide uninterrupted time for CD listening of both favorite music and unfamiliar tunes of all types: classical, show tunes, oldies, jazz, country, opera, and contemporary rock.

One of our members, Vickie Kimler, has set up a Finnish-American Singers of Michigan [Facebook page](#) recently and I hope members of FASM will stay connected while sharing their summer activities with each other and FB friends here. Check us out and “Like” us to see what we are up to! Please consider joining us when our practices resume in September. Our first practice is usually the week after Labor Day, which will be September 14. We would love to have you sing with us.

Submitted by Scribe and VP, Katy Koskela



## MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Evelyn Keskinen** (2/28/15) donations have been made by Dee & Fred Aebersold, Rudolph A. & Victoria M. Perttunen and Alyce Oertel.

In memory of FCA life member **Harry Sandberg** (12/25/14) a donation has been made by Anna Lisa Sandberg.

In memory of FCA life member **Henry Tiilikka** (1/31/15) a donation has been made by Dorothy Bays.

In memory of FCA life member **Shirley Burke** (10/28/14) a donation has been made by Rudolph A. & Victoria M. Perttunen.

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

FCA life member **Mildred Makinen** (4/22/15)



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

## JUHANNUS FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Come and celebrate Midsummer at the Center on June 12, beginning at 5 pm. There will be food, music, a maypole, and games, with a bonfire after dark. Something for children and adults alike. We hope to see you there.



## OPEN HOUSE Sunday June 28 1 - 4pm

The June monthly Open House, hosted by Pearl Wanttaja, will have a travelogue presentation by Mary O'Brien and her son Ed about their trip to Finland. They'll be showing pictures and telling us about their vacation experience in Finland this May.

The monthly Open House is held on the last Sunday of each month from 1-4pm all year except for the month of December.

It is a potluck and everyone is welcome! Come enjoy this month's get together along with this special travelogue presentation in June!



## GOING PLACES

**Ethnic Dine Around** - Tuesday, May 12, \$67. Appetizers will be at Moro's in Allen Park (Italian). The main course will be at De Luca's in Westland (Italian). Dessert at El Nibble Nook in Livonia (Mexican). Depart at 10:15 am and return about 3:15 pm. See more information below.

**Jewels of Detroit** - Tuesday, June 16, \$63. The trip includes a narrated tour of Historic Fort Wayne and Belle Isle, including a tour of the Aquarium. Lunch is at Maccabees in Midtown and later dessert at Ben & Jerry's. Depart at 9 am and return about 4:30 pm. See more information below.

**Huron Lady II** - Wednesday, July 22, \$72. The trip includes a narrated tour of the St. Clair River. Lunch will be at The River Front Restaurant right on the Riverfront. Later we stop at Sweet Tooth of Marine City, which features nostalgic candy of the early 1900's to the 1970's. Depart at 9:45 am and return about 6 pm. See more information below.

All of these trips are combined with the Nardineers on 11 Mile Rd. Have questions? You may call Betty at (248) 553-7618 or Pearl at (248) 541-0054.



### Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

[nlehto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nlehto@sbcglobal.net)

4051 Wakefield Road  
Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

## FCA BAKERS

On April 23, we were happy to have 7 bakers making pulla/nisu for the Flea Market and Bake Sale. They were Hannah Carlson, Barb Whitty, Char Lytikainen, Betty Taipalus, Lorraine Hannah, Tobie Line, and Ilene Yanke. While the others shaped the pulla loaves, Ilene made 24 Christmas tarts to fill a special request from a member.

If all sells well, we'll plan a last baking session for May.

kiitos to the bakers and customers,  
Ilene



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## FROM THE LIBRARY



Next to Christmas, Juhannus, or Midsummer Day, is the biggest holiday in Finland. The word “Juhannus” is derived from St. John the Baptist, whose name falls on June 24 in the Finnish “Name Day” calendar. Originally the holiday was celebrated on June 24, but since 1955 the holiday has always been on a Saturday, between June 20 and June 26. This year Juhannus will be celebrated on June 20. The bulk of the Juhannus celebration is on the eve of the actual day. This is the time of the Summer Solstice when the day is longest in the Northern Hemisphere. Since Finland is so far up north, nights are short or non-existent. Birds wake up and start singing before most people have even gone to sleep. After barely seeing the sun all winter, it’s not surprising that Finns celebrate the sun not setting. Midsummer is also Finnish Flag Day. The flags are raised at 6:00 on Midsummer Eve, flown all night, and lowered at 9:00 on Midsummer evening. Many workplaces are closed and shops must close their doors at noon.

So what do Finns do to celebrate Juhannus? Most of them pack up their cars and head for their summer cottages (*mökki*) which they decorate with young birch trees and flowers. Activities include bonfires, cookouts (with new potatoes and grilled sausages), a sauna, and spending time together. Unfortunately, heavy drinking is also associated with Finnish midsummer and every year there are drownings, for most cottages are on the water and at some point someone gets the bright idea to go rowing, or they wrongly assess their strength when they decide to swim to a nearby shore or island. Every year the media report the number of people drowned over the Juhannus weekend. Thankfully the numbers have been decreasing over the last decade.

For those in Helsinki who can’t escape to a summer cottage, Seurasaari, the outdoor island museum, is the place to go to celebrate. There is a full program of traditional Finnish midsummer activities, including folk dancing, singing, handicrafts markets, and lastly, the lighting of the huge bonfire, or *kokko*, one of those traditionally lighted all over Finland, at around 10:00 p.m. Great care is taken in preparing the huge pyre; if someone donates two or three old wooden rowboats to the cause, all the better.

Juhannus is the most popular weekend on which to get married in Finland. Every year one lucky couple is awarded the privilege of being married in the 17th century Karuna church on Seurasaari; they then dance their bridal waltz on the outdoor dance floor. The bride’s bouquet will probably be daisies and bachelor buttons, displaying Finland’s colors of blue and white. Before they drive off on their honeymoon they are taken by a large rowboat to the ten-meter high *kokko* which they get to light.



Left: Seurasaari  
bridal couple in  
1996

Right: Seurasaari  
*kokko* awaiting a  
light



(continued on page 7)

Library (continued from page 6)

There are cruises available in the archipelago where one can view the many bonfires that have been lit in various places on the shore or islands. The boat will probably be decorated with birch branches. Many restaurants will be open for food and dance music until the early hours of the morning. Many music festivals of all sizes are also organized on the Midsummer weekend.

The history of Midsummer celebrations dates back to pagan times. In East Finland it was called “the celebration of Ukko”. Ukko was the Finnish god of thunder, the most important of the Finnish gods, for he created rain, the essential ingredient for a good harvest. The kokko tradition belongs to this far-distant past.

According to an old belief, the short night of Midsummer tempted witches, fairies and elves to tease people or to show them their future. Many magic rituals were connected with the day, the majority having to do with love, marriage and fertility. Young ladies hoped to find out something about a future spouse. This could involve placing seven different species of wild flowers under one’s pillow so that one’s future spouse would appear in a dream, or one could sleep with one’s left sock inside out for the same purpose. If one looked into a mirror at midnight, one might catch a glimpse of one’s future husband!

If you are fortunate enough to be in Finland on Juhannus, do not neglect viewing and/or participating in the festivities!

Lillian Lehto, FCA librarian

P.S. We now have Steve Lehto’s latest book, *American Murder Houses*, in the library and ready to be checked out. It’s in 364.1.

## JUNE IN THE GARDENS

June is always a great time to tour the gardens to see what’s blooming. In the West Gardens you will notice that we are removing several gardens due to lack of maintenance assistance. The desirable plants have been removed as well as the edger’s and we are returning these areas to grass. At one time the FCA Garden Club consisted of over 20 members while today we have less than five active members.

May is also the start of the outdoor vegetable gardening season and we still have vegetable plots for rent. The larger plots are \$30 and the smaller 4x4 beds are \$25. As always those who rent vegetable gardens get to enjoy raspberries in the summer and fall. Contracts are in the woodshop. Please see either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe. Checks are made out to the FCA.

We often share excess plant materials with Tollgate Farms for their June plant sale and recently we have shared with Neighbors Building Brightmoor, a community development organization which is seeking to rejuvenate that Detroit neighborhood near Telegraph and Fenkel.

Our annual seedlings should be coming out of the greenhouse shortly and into the pots around the building, supplemented by a few purchases as needed. Certain plants such as sun impatiens aren’t available by seed so we must purchase these plants.

If you see cars near the woodshop on Monday morning, please drop by and join us in our projects, to chat, or have a cup of coffee.

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

Gayle Gullen  
Finlandia Garden Club President



## GIFT SHOP NEWS

Marimekko - Napkins, Paper Plates and Paper Cups in various colors - Finlayson Towels made in Finland - Baby Items: Onesies, bibs and infant cups

The Gift Shop has discounted items available. Perhaps there is something you have been waiting for and now it is on sale. Come on in and see!

As always, the Finnish Center Gift Shop has the best price in town for Trenary Toast.



## SAVE THE DATE POKER AT VISION LANES JUNE 25 - 28



Contact  
Gene Belttari  
(734) 416-8644  
to volunteer

## WANTED

Assistant volunteer treasurer is needed one day a week from 10 am - 4 pm. It can be Monday, Wednesday or Friday, However Monday is the preferred day as there is work to complete from the weekend activities.

Contact the FCA office if you would like to volunteer.

## FOR RENT

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, and more, please consider the Finnish Center.

Contact the FCA office at (248) 478-6939 for more information to help you plan the perfect event.

## SUNSHINE LADY

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

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

Thank you, Eunice Potti Gould



## FCA SPRING FLEA MARKET REPORT

On April 24th and 25th, the hall was crowded with tables and vendors. There were many request for information for the fall flea market. For that event Enid Pennala won a free 6-foot table in the raffle.

Thank you volunteers, vendors and shoppers. Without the many volunteers it would not be possible to have such a successful event. From setting up tables, dismantling tables, baking, selling, working in the kitchen and so on. Volunteers were Denise & Cortland Book, Lila & Terry Ball, Amy Lowell, Mary O'Brien, Lil Heikkinen, Ed Gilbert, Millie Harju, Luise Leppanen, Nancy Rajala, Bruce Mikko, Olli & Mia Lamminen, David Sharpe, Wayne Walli, Lois Makee, Helvi Koivunen, Karen Call, Carol Tudball, Donna Fauteck, The FCA bakers, Ilene Yanke, Lorraine, Hannah Carlson, Betty Whitty, Betty Taipalus, Tobie Line, Charlotte Lytikainen, Sandy Cusack, Elaine Laitila, Carl Aebersold, Kirkland Morris, Fran Fadie, Marge Sorrenson and Ruth Larson.

My apologies if I have omitted someone. Thank you all again. Margaret Laurila, Chairperson



## RAG RUGS - *Räsymatot*

We're weaving rag rugs at the center!

With a grant from the Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, Sandy Scheel, master rag rug weaver and daughter of the late Laina Lampi, is teaching the steps of making a rag rug, from warping the loom to weaving the rug. Her enthusiastic apprentices include FCA members Hilikka Ketola, Mia Lamminen, and Carl Aebersold. The sessions are held at the center once a month from April through August. Between sessions, the apprentices hone their skills by applying what they have learned on their respective looms.

These apprenticeships are competitive and awarded to the best applicants of traditional arts. The program was initiated at Michigan State University Museum in 1986 and over the years apprenticeships have been awarded to musicians, musical instrument makers, cooks, quilters, knitters, lace makers, beekeepers, cedar fan carvers, boat makers, basket weavers, and more. A significant number of these awards have been to Michigan Finnish American master artists. Late FCA members Ralph Mannisto, master accordionist, and Bea Raisanen, master rag rug weaver, were both awarded Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeships. The intent of the program is to support traditional arts and to honor traditional master artists in the state, who, like Sandy Scheel, teach others their skills, thus assuring that the tradition will be reinforced and sustained.

If you have questions about the apprenticeship program, or want to apply to the program, please contact Yvonne Lockwood (517) 522-4197; [poppana123@gmail.com](mailto:poppana123@gmail.com)).



## VAPPU PARTY FUN



## FINLAND TODAY

First, starting in the autumn of 2016, the instruction of English will begin one year earlier than it does previously in the Finnish school system. Students will begin studying English in second grade rather than third. Instruction will begin with just one hour per week. Rector Tero Gronmark says that he has faith that today's 8-year-olds are up to the challenge. "The Children have plenty of experience with the English language due to their exposure to the digital culture. An introductory course of this kind will probably focus on singing, playing and hands-on activities. I believe it will enrich our teaching greatly." The language instruction reform is part of a sweeping National Core Curriculum reform in basic education that will be implemented in Finland's schools beginning in August 2016.

Finland is set to introduce a course of study in computer programming, or coding, to its comprehensive school core curriculum beginning in 2016. The Ministry of Education has had to rely on private sector expertise to help prepare its teaching program, as many of Finland's current teachers are not yet adequately equipped to teach coding. Dozens of coding courses targeting mainly 10- to 12-year-old children are arranged this year throughout Finland, hosted by several IT companies and tech industry organizations. Finland's Ministry of Education is following this year's instruction carefully. Coding will become a part of the primary school curriculum at the start of next year, 2016, but teachers' ability to teach computer programming still varies. The Ministry has thus entered into cooperation with many private IT companies, a move it considers to be natural and even mandatory. Says 12-year-old Alekski Laine: "I've wanted to make my own games for a long time and I'm learning how to do it here. The teacher is very good."

People in the Nordic Countries, including Finland, are among the most fluent in the world when it comes to speaking English as a foreign language, according to a major education company. The Education First (EF) ranks the Finns fourth behind the Danes, the Dutch, and Swedes. They are followed by Norway, Poland, Austria, and Estonia on the company's "High Proficiency" class. Malaysia, in 12th place, was the highest ranking non-European country. EF, established 50 years ago in Sweden, is now based in Switzerland.

One hundred planes from 10 countries will fly over northern parts of Finland, Sweden, and Norway during the 12-day Arctic Challenge Exercise. The exercise dubbed Cross Border Training North, will begin on May 25th and end on June 5th. Taking part in the exercise will be 16 Finnish Hornets, 16 Swedish Jas Gripen, Norway with 10 F-16s, alongside German Eurofighter Typhoons, French Mirage 2000s, Swiss Hornets, U.S. F-16s, and NATO AWACS jets, transportation jets and tankers, and DA-20 Jet Falcons.

The Save The Children Foundation's 16th annual State of the World's Mothers report is out. The best countries in the world for Mothers are again the Nordic countries. This year Norway is in the top spot with Finland in second place, Iceland is third, with Denmark and Sweden in fourth and fifth place. The report ranked 179 countries using data on the mother's and children's health, their educational attainment, economic well-being, and female political participation. The report said that, "Every day, 17,000 children die before reaching their fifth birthday. Lifesaving health care may be only a stone's throw away, but the poorest mothers and children often can't get the care they need." According to the report, U.S. ranked 33rd, while Somalia was in last place.

And finally, newlyweds, Katriina and Matti, were visiting Matti's aunt and uncle Hilma and Heikki on their 50th wedding anniversary. Being impressed with the fact that their marriage had lasted that long, Katriina asked Heikki the secret to their long marriage.

Heikki: "Early in our marriage, Hilma and I made an agreement that every week we would go out for a nice dinner, with a little candle light, and a little wine. Hilma would go out on Tuesday and I would go out on Thursday."

Markku Ketola  
marketola@yahoo.com



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## ADVERTISING RATES

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<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.

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Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
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