Finnish Center Association

FCA News



FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

December 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 03 Thursday Sibelius Concert with Katri Ervamaa & Marja Kaisla 12 noon
- 04 Friday Night Buffet 5 pm 8 pm
- 04 Friday Novi Band Concert 7 pm 8 pm
- 05 Saturday Independence Day Party 6 pm
- 06 Sunday Independence Day Program 2 pm with Film "Fire & Ice" Viewing & Discussion
- 08 Tuesday-Local Choirs "Little Christmas" Concert 7 pm
- 09 Rental
- 12 Rental
- 12 Pikkujoulu/Christmas Dinner 5 pm
- 13 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon- 2 pm
- 13 Sunday FASM Concert 3 pm
- 16 Rental
- 18 Friday Night Buffet 5 pm 8 pm
- 20 Sunday Candlelight Memorial Service 2 pm
- 23 Rental
- 26 Rental









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 Second Sunday of the month 12-1:30 pm Book Club Last Monday of the month 1 pm

Last Wednesday of the month Noon Open House

Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Greetings,

I cannot believe that the year is almost over! It seems like only yesterday that we were preparing for Christmas. The year has been very busy with both our own events as well as rentals. The building has gotten a lot of necessary repairs done, and the volunteers have worked harder than ever to keep things going!

December is very busy with our regular Buffets as well as the Brownbag Sibelius Concert, Independence Day events, Novi Band Concert, FASM Concert, Little Christmas Celebration, Pikkujoulu/Christmas Dinner and finally the Candlelight Service. I hope to see many of you there!

A heartfelt thank you to all who have participated in the work at hand! We could not operate without our dedicated volunteers giving so many hours of their time in keeping our doors open. We had planned a volunteer dinner in November, but due to member requests, we decided to postpone it until spring in order to be able to have good participation.

Today we are financially in good shape; the last two years we have been solidly profitable and the outlook is positive. This success has not come easily, it is a result of all our volunteers' joint efforts.

I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and looking forward to another busy year of 2016, the 50th anniversary year of our organization!

Mia Lamminen Chairman



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 20 at 2 pm Dinner to follow (donations appreciated)



We will be having our 2nd Annual Candlelight Service in remembrance of our loved ones during this holiday season. An angel will be placed on a Christmas tree in their name. Please also send a picture of your loved one for our memory board and label the name.

We will be accepting donations for the angels as a fundraiser for the Finnish Center. Please send donations or drop them off at the Finnish Center in care of Candlelight Service, attention Marlene Ruuskanen. Checks should be made payable to the FCA with candlelight service in the memo.

Last year was a very heartwarming and special gathering. It is a wonderful way to remember our loved ones during the holiday season!







35200 W. Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108 Tel: (248) 478-6939 Fax: (248) 478-5671 finnishcenter@gmail.com www.finnishcenter.org

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FROM THE LIBRARY



A Finnish Christmas tradition which is largely unknown in the U.S. is the "Tiernapojat" or "Star Boys" musical pageant. It is well-known in Ostrobothnia, especially in Oulu and environs. Performances consist of a musical presentation by four young people, usually boys, dressed to represent King Herod, a King of the Moors, a Knight, and a Star Twirler, known in Finnish as *Mänkki*. Traditionally Herod wears a red cape, the King of the Moors is in blackface, and the Knight wears a soldier's outfit. The Star Boy is recognized by his star representing the star of Bethlehem. In the Häme area, Boxing Day Boys (*Tapaninpojat* in Finnish) is the preferred term, whereas in the East and North, *Säärnä* Boys and *Tierna* Boys respectively, are most common. The Finnish words *säärnä* and *tierna* are variations of Swedish *stjärnä*, meaning star*.

The play actually goes back to medieval times, when pupils of the cathedral schools in Protestant nations conducted these processions to raise funds to replace the church support that had disappeared. In some countries they were known as "Epiphany singers" and walked from house to house with a star on a rod, wearing crowns and dressed in clothes to resemble the Three Wise Men. The Star Boys pageant as it is known today in Oulu is an offshoot of this old European tradition. It came by way of Germany to Sweden and thence to Finland. The first account of a Star Boys performance in Ostrobothnia is from 1873. The first Finnish Star Boy known by name was author Johan Ludvig Runeberg who, at the age of six, participated in a Star Boys' procession in his home town of Jacobstad (Pietarsaari). He recalled vividly how he had gone around his hometown with a Christmas star and collected a goodly amount of pocket money.

The Star Boys are still popular in the Oulu region where the people are proud of the tradition. Competitions are held annually for parts in the play. Parts go to boys whose voices have not yet changed. They perform in school Christmas celebrations or you might see the performances in a restaurant or cafe' setting, where there is a chance of getting a good monetary reward. They may go door to door as well. Getting paid for the performance is still an important part of the Star Boys tradition. We saw them in Kuusamo on Christmas Eve 1993 in a hotel setting.

The story has changed considerably during the course of the years and the sequence of events is no longer very logical. Currently the scenes depict a battle for power between the two kings, Herod and the King of the Moors, the search for the three Wise Men, and the murder by Herod of the innocent children in Bethlehem. The Star twirler tells of the joyous message of a baby born in Bethlehem. The Knight describes his bravery in many wars. At the end of the play the singers thank the audience and ask for a contribution. The players sing Christmas carols for as long as it takes the Knight to pass through the audience and collect what they hope is a handsome fee.

* "Star" in Finnish is actually *tähti*, but the term *tierna* was adopted from the Swedish and modified to fit the Finnish tongue.

Have a blessed Christmas, one and all!

Lillian Lehto, librarian



SCENES OF CHRISTMAS

Quick. Describe your vision as you are asked to "picture Christmas." I imagine there will be similarities: greenery, presents, snowy views, twinkling lights, candlelight church services, or carolers. Differences may be influenced by our ages, ethnicities, & family traditions. Knowing that music is a great "memory prodder," FASM hopes to evoke memories of "Scenes of Christmas" during our Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 13th, (3 pm) We hope you'll join us!

Singing *Five Christmas Songs* (Viisi joululaulua) pays homage to composer, Jean Sibelius, and musically may guide our memories of this special time. *The sky grows dark* presents a vignette of sunset creeping over a dark wall of trees shielding a small, snowy cabin from frigid winter wind. Stars twinkle above and soon candlelight will gleam through the windows. *Someone's knocking at the snowy door* urges generosity this season to welcome in the stranger (Father Christmas) on the door-step who, in this case, is bearing a Christmas tree and gifts, begging to come in. "*Christmas now is coming* focuses on the coming Christ child and paints the picture many remember of children dancing and singing, dressed up in their Christmas finery or costumes." Bless the little angels Dancing round the tree, In its light and spangles Raising jubilee!"

Sibelius often used the Finnish landscape as inspiration for his music, responding very strongly to the moods of nature and seasonal changes, per biographer Erik Tawaststjerna. "The darkest weeks of the year from my birthday [December 8] until Christmas, when the sun is at its lowest, are always a difficult time for me," he confided to his secretary, Santeri Levas. Although not an active church goer, Sibelius always attended church on Christmas morning. Perhaps the traditions of the holiday, including church, improved his mood during this dark time of the year. "Immediately after Christmas is over, things improve and life is fun once more." (Wikipedia) Christmastime saw the normally silent Sibelius house echoing with music and game playing and the patter of children running around from the daughters' growing families, friends, and other relatives. With electricity but no running water (Sibelius' wishes) preparing the ever-present feasts for guests must have been a challenge for the women!

The children knew the holiday festivities had begun when their father started to play *The snow is high [High are the snowdrifts] (On hanget korkeat, nietokset)*. "The children were taken to the dark nursery. They were called to the drawing-room when the Christmas tree was all lit up," writes his granddaughter Laura Enckell in her recollections of her childhood. "It really had to dazzle you with its brightness. He played 'High are the snowdrifts,' and he played so loud, with the pedal down, as if he were playing the organ. It was as if he would have liked to have had an orchestra there as well." (Libermann) In 1943, this song with its lyrics from a poem by Zacharias Topelius, was added to the hymn book of the Finnish Evangelical- Lutheran church. They enjoyed the sight of their mother, Aino, sitting at the piano and playing "Give me no grand & golden thing" (En etsi valtaa loistoa). "This was all very jolly. It wasn't pious or gloomy at all." (Libermann) "Come, bless us, high, low, great or small: God keep us one and all!"





View from the piano: Aino and Jean played the piano (foreground) while the family sang Christmas carols. Photo: Pekka Sakki http://finland.fi/christmas/christmas-with-the-sibelius-family/

GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop has many new and favorite items available right now! There are over 30 different Finnish candies, Finnish cookbooks, Iittala, sauna items, 2016 Finland calendars, magnets, books, CD's, DVD's etc. Fire & Ice DVD about the Winter War between Finland & Russia and Nordic War DVD. Also fleece jackets, caps, t-shirts, baby items and more, all with different Finnish designs and sayings. And more!

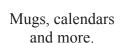
A great way to help support the Finnish Center during the holiday season and all year while enjoying your favorite Finnish items!

The gift shop is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am -4 pm. It is also open during the Friday buffets, Sunday Open House, and most Finnish Center functions. If you need more info or want something shipped out of the area call the center at (248) 478-6939 and ask for Margaret. She is available at the Finnish Center on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Iittala items

Assorted candy and food.



PIKKUJOULU/CHRISTMAS DINNER

Saturday, December 12 at 5 pm



NOVI COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

Friday, December 4, 2015

Buffet Dinner and Concert \$10 5pm-8pm

Concert Only \$5 7pm-8pm



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Verne Niemi** (8/4/15) a donation has been made by Nina Ranta.

In memory of **LaVerne Belttari Shuman** (10/4/15) of Hale, MI, formerly of Elo, MI, donations have been made by Pat & Claude Smith and Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of **Bertha Heikkinen Forslund** (10/5/15) of Marquette, MI, formerly of Elo, MI, a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Ralph Heltunen** (10/5/15) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Maki Jurva** (10/6/15) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja

In memory of FCA life member **Katri Pietila** (10/30/15) donations have been made by Helvi Koivunen, Pearl & Ray Wanttaja, Mia & Olli Lamminen, Marlene & Timo Ruuskanen and Helvi Koivunen.

In memory of FCA life member **Martha Huhtala Shields** (11/3/15) donations have been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja and Gary Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Joyce Juntunen** (11/18/13) a donation has been made by her husband Harold Juntunen.

In memory of FCA life member **Albert (Al) Lehi-koinen** (6/28/15) donations have been made by Maria Hill, Kathryn Hill and Ruben Nayback.

In memory of FCA life member **Leila Malmstrom** (7/24/15) donations have been made by Nina Ranta, Ruben Nayback, Connie Fosness and Betty & Leonard Holmbo.

In memory of FCA life members **Rudy Aittama** (8/19/15) and **Norma Aittama** (5/2/13) donations have been made by Nina Ranta, Connie Fosness, and Betty & Leonard Holmbo.

In memory of **Rudy Aittama** (8/19/15) donations have been made by Ruben Nayback and Mille Harju.

In memory of FCA life member **Elizabeth Modin** (8/22/15) donations have been made by Kathryn

Hill, Maria Hill and Ruben Nayback.

In memory of **Marjorie Haarala** (8/31/15) donations have been made by Nina Ranta, Maria Hill and Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Charles "Chuck" Blackwell** (9/19/15) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Erma E. Ahola** (9/22/15) a donation has been made by Irma Leppala.

The FCA would also like to extend condolences to the families and friends of:

FCA life member Verne Niemi (8/4/15)

FCA life member Ruth Maki Jurva (10/6/15)

FCA life member Louis Pyykkonen (10/17/15)

FCA life member Katri Pietila (10/30/15)

FCA life member Martha Shields (11/3/15)

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

Also include all names of donors. If the deceased is a non-member of the FCA please include city and state of residence.

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.

Finnish Center Association cordially invites you to celebrate Finnish Independence Day

Saturday, December 5, 2015 At 6pm

Music & Dance Finnish style dinner Cash bar

Tickets \$40.00 per person, Children \$5.00 (\$35.00 when purchased by November 15)

To make reservations call the FCA office (248)478-6939, by November 29

A portion of the funds raised by tickets will go to FCA building capital improvements

Guest Speaker ~ Ms. Taina Elg

The lecturer of the Year for 2015 is the multi-talented performer, a ballerina from Finland who found acclaim in Hollywood and Broadway.

As lecturer of the year Ms. Elg, who won a Golden Globe for her role in the 1957 film Les Girls starring Gene Kelly, tells her story in the form of an intimate interview conducted by Heli Sirvio, a Finnish actress now working in New York City.

Bring your family and friends!
Tervetuloa ~ Welcome



Happy 99th Birthday! Fritz Putkela December 24, 2015



21400 Archwood Circle, Room 215 Farmington Hills, MI 48336-4182

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 at 6 PM GUEST SPEAKERS



Taina Elg 2015 Lecturer of the Year

Heli Sirvio Actress



SUOMI KOULU

The Suomi koulu children had fun making crafts for their Halloween party while a couple of future Suomi koulu students watched with their parents.



11/10

SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR PHOTOS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Pirjo Ericksson at FCA Gift Shop

Members of FinnFolk

FCA Bake Sale Booth





Yvonne Lockwood and Sandy Scheel Finnish Weavers Booth



Elaine Lada & Alice Manley at FCA Craft Booth

GOING PLACES

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, January 10, \$103, featuring **Classic Broadway**. Includes lunch in Greek Town. Depart at 12 noon and return about 6:15 pm.

Mardi Gras at Caesars, Tuesday, February 9, \$20. A \$15 voucher is include. Depart at 9:45 am and return about 5:30 pm. Please remember to bring a valid passport or ID to cross the border.

The Odd Couple at The Purple Rose, Wednesday, February 24, \$82. Lunch at the Common Grill and time for shopping. Depart at 11:00 am and return about 6:30 pm.

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. Trip flyers will be available at the FCA.





Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the Fall Flea Market a success. We would also like to thank all the vendors who had a table, the shoppers who stopped by and the bakers.

Margaret Laurila Denise Book



"LITTLE CHRISTMAS" CONCERT

Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm No charge for admission.



Back by popular demand, local choirs will again perform their Christmas concert.

GET WELL, THINKING OF YOU

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

Please notify me if you think someone might need warm and thoughtful wishes from the friends at the FCA. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you, Eunice Potti Gould



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3530 Wakefield Road Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

FINLAND TODAY

First, the London-based international think-tank Legatum Institute has announced it's 2015 Prosperity Index in which it has ranked Finland in ninth place out of 142 countries worldwide. Last year Finland had been ranked in eighth place. The factors that make up the Prosperity index include: economy, entrepreneurship/opportunity, governance, education, health, safety/security, social capital, and personal freedom. Some of the countries ahead of Finland were; Norway 1st, Switzerland 2nd, Denmark 3rd, Sweden 5th, Canada 6th, and below Finland were; U.S. 11th, Iceland 12th, Germany 14th, U.K. 15th, China 53rd, and India 99th. Among the least prosperous countries were; Central African Republic 142nd, Afghanistan 141st, Haiti 140th, Chad 139th, and Burundi 138th.

In September, a tiny Finnish startup company quietly declared war on Microsoft, Google and Apple. The makers of a mobile device called Solu (which means "cell" in Finnish), say they want to change how people use and think about computing. The unit is a small square-shaped touch screen computer. The company's main selling point, or perhaps its riskiest bet, is that the use of the device depends on a paid monthly subscription. In addition to the price of the unit, for \$20 a month, subscribers will get access to all the available apps that Solu provides as well as unlimited, automatic cloud storage of all their Solu data. If a device is lost or broken, it's O.K., because everything is saved. The device will be manufactured in Finland. "It will be the first mobile device to be mass produced in Finland since Nokia's N9 smartphone four years ago," so says Kristoffer Lawson, Solu's CEO and the founder of the company. Solu runs on a Linux-based operating system called Solu OS. The platform will also allow users to install Android apps, for what Lawson describes as "legacy applications" such as Microsoft Word or Skype.

Once a year, the Finnish Tax Administration releases data as to how much Finns made the previous year. This year it was November 3rd. That is the day that Finns indulge themselves by peeking at how much neighbors, friends, relatives, celebrities, and public figures earn. Finland's top income earner for 2014 was Lasse Louhento, who is the lead game designer for Supercell, maker of the hit game, Clash of the Clans. He earned about \$7 million, of which he paid 52% in taxes. The country's top capital earning men were Hannu Hukkanen and Tomi Kuntze, each earned about \$29 million. Their company, Ledil, founded in 2002, is Finland's most successful manufacturer and designer of LED lights. In entertainment, the leading money-maker was Finnish pop star, Kaija Koo, who earned about \$290,000, which is "pocket change" for some of the American pop stars. The largest corporate tax payer was OP Group, which paid about \$340 million in taxes for 2014. Of the top earners for 2014, 15% were women and 85% were men. But the days of looking at other people's earnings may be numbered, as the European Union is drafting a directive that would limit this sort of tax data publication.

And finally, it's the second week of January, and Toivo and Leena are at the airport in Phoenix waiting for their flight back home. They are dressed in heavy boots, parka, scarf, mittens, all set to head home to the U.P. winter.

An old couple standing near by, dressed in shorts, are intrigued by their manner of dress.

The wife says to her husband, "I wonder where they are from?"

The husband tells his wife, "Well why don't you go over and ask them?"

So she does just that, she walks over to the Yooper couple and says to them,

"Excuse me, but we couldn't help but notice the way you are dressed and we won dered where you are from?"

Toivo replies, " 'tween Ishpeming 'n' Negaunee inda Yoo Pee."

The wife walks back to her husband and he asks her, "So where are they from?" She answers him, "Don't know, they didn't speak English." Thanks, John Aukee

Markku Ketola marketola@yahoo.com

DECEMBER IN THE GARDENS

Several of our members were taking late November vacations which made for a very busy start to December getting ready for the holidays. It takes quite a bit of time to check and restring lights on all the holiday displays and we received several new additions last year that you will see out in the landscape (once we find enough electrical cords and switches to accommodate them all).

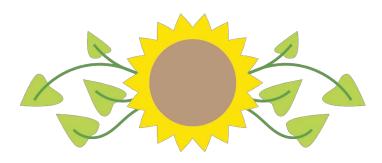
David Sharpe hosted the Garden Club members and their spouses, or guests, on December 7th at Rocky's in Northville for our Holiday Luncheon. A great time was had by all. We discussed ideas for next year with emphasis on how to recruit new members.

We are in need of painters this winter both to repaint many of our benches and those with artistic talent to take on a mural on a large section of fence. We would like to paint sunflowers and vines on this fence piece. If you are so inclined, we have the paint and 'canvas' and could use your expertise!

The Garden Club wishes a Blessed Holiday season to everyone and a Happy New Year.

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

Gayle Gullen Finlandia Garden Club President



ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE: DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 5TH

EDITOR CONTACT INFO: PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL: njrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,000 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue.

Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.

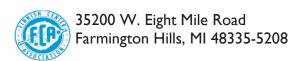
Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.

Rates for a camera-ready, black & white ad, per three month period:

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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Address
City State Zip code
SignatureAre you of Finnish descent?
 □ Annual membership, single, one vote

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



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One and two bedroom rentals Convenient, safe and affordable in highly desirable Farmington Hills, MI Contact us at: Tapiola Village (248) 471-3802 Freedom Square (248) 442-7250 www.fcaseniorhousing.org



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33603 Grand River, Farmington, MI (248) 474-4131 Paul N. Potti, Director