# Finnish Center Association



# FCA News

March 2017

#### FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **MARCH**

- 02 Rental
- 02 Thursday Finnish Language Class 7 pm
- 03 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm (every Friday night during Lent)
- 05 Sunday Dance Workshop 2-4 pm
- 08 Rental
- 08 FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 09 Rental
- 09 Thursday Finnish Language Class 7 pm
- 10 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 16 Rental
- 16 Thursday Finnish Language Class 7 pm
- 17 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 18 Rental
- 19 Sunday (New!) Finnish Breakfast 11:30 am 1:30 pm
- 19 Finnish Film 2 pm
- 22 Rental
- 23 Thursday Finnish Language Class 7 pm
- 24 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 26 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm
- 29 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 31 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm

#### APRIL

- 01 Rental
- 07 Friday Pasty Prep 10 am
- 07 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 08 Saturday Pasty Bake/Sale 8 am 12 noon
- 12 Rental
- 12 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 14 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 20 Thursday Flea Market Set Up
- 21 Friday Flea Market 10 am 4 pm
- 22 Saturday Flea Market 10 am 3pm
- 26 Rental
- 26 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 29 Saturday Vappu Party 5 pm
- 30 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm
- 30 Rental



# Reservations are recommended for all events.

#### **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

11:30-1 pm

Book Club

Last Monday of the month 1 pm

Luncheon

Last Wednesday of the month

12 noon

Open House

Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

#### **CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

The annual meeting was held Sunday February 19, 2017. Jim Lee and Mary O'Brien were elected as new board members and the undersigned was reelected. Mary O'Brien is also in charge of the Gift Shop and her enthusiasm about everything Finnish is going to be a great asset to the Center. Jim, a high school teacher, has been helping a lot in the event planning and set-ups this past year knows a lot about the processes at the Center and is very interested in his Finnish heritage. He is actively studying Finnish language offered at the Finnish Center. We welcome both of them to the Board.

The Cultural Committee has been busy planning events. Mark your calendars for the Dance Workshop on Sunday March 5, from 2 pm - 4:30 pm. Also in the plans are "piirakka" workshop, date and time to be determined. We are also starting the Friday Night buffets beginning March 3 and will continue weekly through lent. Also exciting is our revival of the Finnish Breakfast/Brunch starting on March 19 at 11:30 am. We hope to be able to continue them on a regular basis in the future. Mark your calendars for these events.

The 501c3 application is moving along with members' approval of the Articles and by-law change with 275 approvals and 8 non approvals. We will keep you posted on the developments.

Keep an eye on Finland 100 anniversary events as well. As mentioned last month, a lot of cultural events are being planned. Once the dates have been confirmed we will let you know.

As we all know, our Senior Housing is, to a great degree, the results of one man's perseverance and tireless efforts. It is not an understatement to call Paul Hendrickson the father and originator of the Senior Housing Corporation. It creates a void in our operations and in our hearts when Paul announced his retirement from the Chairmanship and from the Board of Senior Housing in the last Board of Trustee meeting. FCA members – we all are also the members of Senior Housing – will be always grateful and indebted to Paul Hendrickson for his 40-year span of selfless contribution for the FCA members and for our cause. Paul resigned for health reasons. Paul has agreed to remain as a consultant for Senior Housing. Thank you, Paul. Cynthia Haffey was selected as the new Chairman of the Senior Housing Board.

As always, if you have ideas or comments about our activities, please contact us. We would love to hear from you. Email: <a href="mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com">finnishcenter@gmail.com</a> or call at (248) 478-6939.

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

Lila Ball, Mia Lamminen, Margaret Laurila

#### 2 Year

Olli Lamminen, Henrikki Pantsar, Marlene Ruuskanen

#### 3 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Robert Waissi, Roger Wanttaja

#### **Alternates**

#1 Carol Tudball #2 Lois Makee #3 Wayne Walli

#### **Financial Review**

Fran Fadie, Eunice Gould, Sarah Wiideman

# **Committee Chairpersons**

**Building & Grounds** 

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Katri Ervamaa

Finance

Olli Lamminen

Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Anu Pantsar

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 Theresa Show, Manager (248) 442-7250

www.fcaseniorhousing.org



#### FROM THE LIBRARY



Long before Henry Ford conceived of the idea of Greenfield Village, a professor in Finland by the name of Axel Heikil founded an open-air museum on Seurasaari, an island on the outskirts of Helsinki. The idea of an open-air museum was quite new in 1909; the Skansen Museum in Sweden preceded the Heikel concept and no doubt provided a model. The idea was to bring to the island typical buildings from all over Finland in order to display folk architecture and show how people lived in earlier times.

The first buildings, the Niemelä tenant farmhouse and buildings, were moved to the island in 1909 from Konginkangas. This farmstead dates to 1721 and was occupied by the same family for six generations. The original owner was Lasse Turpeinen. The main room of the house was chimneyless, a "smoke room" (savupirtti). Whenever the fire was lit, smoke gathered n the upper part of the room and gradually escaped through an opening in the ceiling.

The sauna was the oldest room on the farm and provided temporary shelter for the family before the other buildings were built. Other buildings included storehouses, a dairy, barns, and a boat house.

Ivars farmstead, from Närpiö in southern Ostrobothnia, was built as a parsonage, and is an example of a genteel home of the mid-1700s. It was remodeled in 1819 for the visit of Czar Alexander I, for the building had been converted to an inn by this time. The entire upper story was renovated for the czar and his retinue. Next to the main building is a cottage which was the home of the retired grandparents.

The Kahiluoto manor, from the parish of Taivassalo, has fine examples of Dutch-tile fireplaces (kaakeliuuni) and other elegant furniture typical of wealthy homes in the mid-eighteenth century.

The Antti farmstead with its enclosed farmyard, is the scene of many folk dance presentations and plays. Inquire at the Helsinki City Tourist Office so you can schedule your visit to coincide with a presentation there.

In 1939 the museum acquired a Karelian farmhouse from Suojärvi in Border Karelia (presently in Russia). This building provided shelter for both people and animals. This was typical of the large Karelian farmhouses which were often three stories, with animals, a root cellar and storerooms on the first floor, while people lived upstairs. The inhabitants were Greek Orthodox; reminders of their faith still remain.

Eight complete farmsteads are included in the island's almost 100-plus buildings.

The Seurasaari collection also includes several charming barns and granaries collected from throughout Finland. They are of typical log construction, many with an outside loft, which was used as sleeping quarters in the summer.

A fascinating building is the country shop from the village of Savitaipale in southern Savo. Stocked with goods of another era, it dates to 1871.

Lapland is also represented in the island's collection by a barn and turf-roof cottage as well as a "tree store-house", a little house built atop a tall stump. Meat and fish are stored in it, keeping it safe from wild animals.

The Karuna church, dating from 1686 and the oldest building in the museum, has an interesting history. A young officer, Arvid Horn, fell in love with his cousin, who was too closely related to be allowed to marry him. However, determined Arvid kidnapped a clergyman and held him hostage until he performed the cere-

(continued on page 4)

## **Library** (continued from page 3)

mony. Since the legality of the marriage was considered questionable, the couple was not allowed to sit in the front pew of the church, nor receive communion. In time Horn built a church of his own, and sat where he pleased. The church was moved to Seurasaari in 1912, where it is a favorite site for weddings; church services are held there in the summer. Buried in the churchyard are Axel Heikel and his wife.

In 1913 the museum acquired the cottage of Aleksis Kivi, author of The Seven Brothers (Seitsemän veljestä). This cottage is a replica of the original, which burned when it was being reconstructed. Kivi spent the summer of 1863 in the original while he completed two plays, "Kullervo" and "The Village Shoemakers".

Finland's many lakes and rivers have provided transportation routes for centuries. Seurasaari has two examples of church boats used to "bus" folks to churches which were often quite some distance away. The larger one is from Virrat, is 21.4 meters long, has 14 pairs of oars, and carried up to 100 people. It was built in 1897.

Also located on the grounds is a festival grounds (juhlakenttä), which is the site of frequent concerts and celebrations, the most important being that held on Midsummer Day (Juhannus).

You can get refreshments at the restaurant, or at a cafe near Antti farmstead.

The museum covers about one-third of the 40 acre island. Along with the National Museum, Seurasaari comes under the supervision of the National Board of Antiquities and Historical Monuments. Professor Heikel's dream has evolved from humble beginnings to a national treasure and a prime tourist attraction.

To get to Seurasaari, take bus #24 from the Erottaja bus stop in front of the Swedish theater on Manner-heimintie. The three-mile ride takes about fifteen minutes. Cruises from the harbor also go to Seurasaari; inquire at the city tourist office for schedules. The island's buildings are open daily from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, on Wednesdays until 7:00. However, you may wander the islands paths at any hour.

#### Lillian Lehto





Above: The Karuna Church

Left: A couple just married at the Karuna

church on Juhannus 1996

#### **MEMORIALS**

FCA life member **Erick Kyro** (1/25/17) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

The FCA would also lie to extend condolences to the family and friends of the following:

FCA life member **Erwin Savala** (1/29/17) FCA life member **Helen Leskela Niemi** (1/27/17) FCA member **Melvin Halttunen** (1/16/17)

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, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, Happiness Fund, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If undesignated the funds will be directed 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, and 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.



# 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



#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

March 29 is the next monthly luncheon at 12 noon.



Menu: Lasagna Salad Dessert

Come to the Finnish Center to brighten the winter with good food and friendly fellowship!

Lila and Terry Ball

#### **GIFT SHOP**

I am getting ready for spring in the gift shop. Restocking from the fall inventory is taking place, so stop in and see what is new.

NEW candies are in!

NEW littala arriving soon.

Mugs are 10% off in March.



#### **FINNISH FILM**

March 19 2pm

The New Man (2007) Den nya människan Director: Klaus Härö

Sweden 1951. A new society is developing, a society where there is no room for the socially and mentally weak. Gertrud is a 17 year old girl from a very poor family. Against her will, she is committed to a work home for young women. Gertrud learns that the only way out is by agreeing to a voluntary sterilization. Gertrud falls in love with the janitor, Axel and soon finds herself pregnant. She dreams about a normal family life with Axel and the child, and doesn't realize that when performing the operation the doctor will most certainly take the child away. She changes her mind about the operation but she no longer has a choice. Now there is only one way out: She pretends to be mentally deranged and is transferred to a mental hospital. A child grows in her womb. Gertrud has fooled the system, but the price she pays is her own future.



### **SPRING PASTY TIME**



We are baking pasties again. On April 8th you can get fresh pasties from the FCA ovens. To order, just send an email to fca-pasties@comcast.net. Provide your name, phone number, and the number of pasties you would like. The cost is \$6, but you can save 50¢ per pasty by ordering 10 or more via email. All pasties <u>must</u> be picked on Saturday, April 8, between 8:30 am and noon.

We need volunteers to help with the peeling and dicing of the vegetables on Friday, April 7. Be at the FCA around 10 am. On the morning of Saturday the 8th there is an opportunity for you to be a part of the baking, assembling, packaging, and cleanup crews. Email me at prajala@comcast.net and I will be happy to find a task to fit your talents, although most tasks do not require special skills. Your reward for volunteering is a complimentary pasty and the satisfaction of providing support to the mission of the Finnish Center.

A big thank you to these dedicated volunteers from the February pasty event: Dee and Fred Aebersold, Gene Belttari, Gordon Bergstrom, Karen and Jon Call, Barbara DeLorme, Carol Gambotto, Karen Gasinski, Larry Gersky, Frank Gottberg, William Gramzow, Helena Hatten, Nancy Jacobs, Vickie Kimler, David and Katy Koskela, Gene Kramer, Luise and Norm Leppanen, Charlotte Lytikainen, Neil Manley, Nancy McClenahan, Aggie McManus, Hank Naasko, Fred Page, Nancy Rajala, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Mark Rikkonen, John Saarinen, David Sharpe, Victor Vecsernyes, Wayne Walli, Elaine Weider, and Ilene Yanke.

Paul Rajala, FCA pasty coordinator

#### **CHOIR PROFILE - KAREN CALL**

News from FASM continues this March with an introduction of another choir member, Karen Call, soprano. Although a member of this group only five years, Karen's recent retirement as church choir director tells a story of a love affair with choral music and a willingness to share that passion both as a leader and as a singer. Thirty three years directing at four area Lutheran churches began when Pastor and Mrs. Tuori retired from Bethlehem Lutheran. The latter, as choir director, simply told Karen, "You can do this," and she has, enjoying directing both her sister Sandy and husband Jon in her church choirs! One highlight of her church experiences was renewing the observance of Pikku Juolu at Christmas. Outgrowing the facilities at Christ the King/Celebration Lutheran Church led to a move to the FCA for Little Christmas, where for three years it's been a wonderful holiday event.

Karen, born in Houghton, Michigan, is a Finnish "Yooper." She is the granddaughter of copper miners and a niece of a Houghton County sheriff. Traveling with husband Jon has led to experiences in Finland (Helsinki), Germany (Passion Play), Netherlands, Rome, Greece, England and Scotland. The latter two locations provided spirited inspiration for "Call Castle."

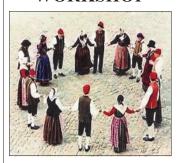
Oh, you've never heard of Call Castle? If you had been a student or parent of a student in the Title 1 Compensatory Education program in Taylor where Karen was a teacher for twenty-two years, this would ring a bell. The local newspaper took pictures and wrote about her program geared toward improving students' reading and math skills by preparing for a Medieval celebration, the culmination of which their parents would be invited to view. Employing costuming, games, and structures typical of the times accented by the opportunity to be creative musically proved to be a hit that was successful for many years! Personally this writer feels the twelve years Karen spent prior to this experience as a third grade teacher provided a fertile proving grounds for Call Castle.

Karen brings her wonderful musicality to the Finnish Singers as well as a talent for decorating, planning, and love for her Finnish heritage. So glad she has not retired from this group!

This author wants to remind you to reserve Sunday afternoon, May 7<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our spring FASM concert at the FCA. The choir is hard at work preparing a wonderful concert and is looking forward to performing for you. See you there!

Submitted by Scribe, Katy Koskela

# DANCE WORKSHOP



There will be a Nordic work-shop on, Sunday, March 5, 2:30 pm at the Finnish Center. Dances will be taught by Glendene Thornbloom. Come with your dance shoes and be ready to have a great time.

# SPRING FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE

Friday, April 21 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday, April 22 10 am - 3 pm



#### MARCH IN THE GARDENS

This strange winter weather has made it difficult for us to figure out exactly what we should be doing and when we should be doing it this spring. We have trimmed a few oak tree branches as after March it's too late to do that until next November.

We have opted to have our annuals grown by Graye's greenhouse this year as they will give us very reasonable rates. Trying to keep seedlings watered daily, at the correct temperature, all the containers sterilized before starting and fertilizing at the correct time is difficult when we don't have water available near the greenhouse in the spring. I utilize Graye's for my business and they grow annuals for the Henry Ford. Also they are accommodating on planting the exact type of plants you want and I feel that supporting small businesses is always good.

Do not forget that we have many colors of edgers available and soon it will be time to think about preparing vegetable gardens for early spring crops!

In March we start back with our every Monday morning meetings as there are always things to do inside even if the weather doesn't cooperate. Workdays start at 9 and coffee and sweets are at 10:30 so stop by and join us in our planning discussions.

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

Gayle Gullen Finlandia Garden Club President



# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH ROGER WANTTAJA

Let me take a moment to tell you about this awesome man. He roams around our Finnish Center all times of the week, and may even occasionally sprawl out on the couch in the lobby in the early morning having worked late into the night. The guy has more tools than a local Home Depot!

You'll find him sometimes with only his legs hanging out from under a sink. From the roof top to the floors of our Finnish Center Roger Wanttaja has kept our Finnish Center operating in good order. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and more. Roger does it all.



# KARJALAN PIIRAKKA WORSHOP

Looking ahead - there will be an opportunity to learn how to make Finnish piirakka. A pie typically filled with rice. Learn from a piirakka expert.

Time and date to be determined.



Join us for

# VAPPU PARTY CELEBRATION OF SPRING

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017 5 PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER 35200 West Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND CHIL-DREN ADMISSION \$15.00 STUDENTS and SENIORS \$5.00 CHILDREN FREE



POTLUCK
A-M: APPETIZER OR SALAD
N-Z: BRING DESERT
MAIN COURSE PROVIDED
CASH BAR
Bring the whole family
Bring a friend

If you are not a member of FCA yet, now is a good time to join, applications available at the Center If you have questions you can call (248) 478-6939 or email: finnishcenter@gmail.com





# FINLAND TODAY



First, according to the nation-wide newspaper, Iltalehti, in 2010 there were 60,000 babies born in Finland, while last year, just over 52,000 were born. Last year more people died in Finland than were born. According to one calculation, if the trend continues at the current pace, the last baby will be born in Finland in 2067. What needs to be done to make more babies? Iltalehti asked a panel of experts for their advice, and published a list of five points.

- 1. Improve the economy. Better employment prospects and more export income could boost birthrates.
- 2. Flexible working hours. More flexibility in working hours and improved gender equality might lead to more babies.
- 3. More financial support for students. Tight finances mean that students take longer to finish degrees and put off starting a family.
- 4. Better distribution of educational institutions. Women tend to study in larger cities and men in smaller towns. One opinion cited is that if colleges and universities were better distributed among large and small cities, there would be a better chance of men and women finding partners.
- 5. Immigration. More immigration could ease both the problem of an aging population and low birth rates. However, immigrants would have to be provided better employment prospects.

The European Space Agency (ESA) has nominated Finland as a possible location for a proposed Arctic space accelerator, which is a community of private sector and research players who would jointly develop and make use of Arctic expertise and satellite know-how. According to Tuija Ypya, an advisor with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, "we are in negotiations and we hope that we will be able to begin operations at the beginning of 2017. For start-up companies it means an opportunity to get ESA data, software, and innovations for their use and to create business activity," says Ypya. The ministry official pointed out that Sodankyla in northern Finland already possesses solid expertise as it is the home of a satellite data center. Ypya added that ESA is especially interested in Finland's Arctic know-how. "I believe that revenues for these kinds of businesses could be significant in the future as well," Ypya remarked. At the European level, ESA commands a budget of roughly \$4 billion.

And finally, the minister was preaching hell, fire and brimstone, when he shouted, "If any man among us thinks he is perfect, let him stand up."

Heikki, sitting in the front row, stood up.

"And you think you're perfect?"

"No sir, not me," answered Heikki, " I'm standing up for my wife's first husband, Matti."

Markku Ketola marketola@yahoo.com



#### **BAKERS**

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, six bakers, Elsie Felix, Lorraine Hannah, Betty Taipalus, Tobie Line, Christine Martin, and Ilene Yanke came in to make pulla.

At the end of the Annual Meeting, Ilene was able to sell many loaves. Pulla will be available at Kalevala Day celebration and will also be available through the gift shop.

Kiitos, Ilene Yanke





Ahkeruus kovan onnen voittaa."

Literal translation: "Diligence vanquishes hard luck."

Notes: Keep at it and you will succeed.

English equivalent: "You can't keep a good man down."

# **ADVERTISING RATES**

DEADLINE: DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 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, and unknown numbers online.

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

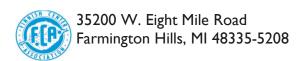
Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.

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

2 10000 Pujwoto was most work work of the pujwoto we may more the

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#### FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	OR RENEWAL
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CityState	Zip code
SignatureAre you of Finnish descent?	
□ Annual membership, single, one vote □ Annual membership, senior* or youth *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 ye □ Annual membership, couple, two vote □ Annual membership, family, one vote □ Life membership, one vote □ Life membership, senior, one vote (see Amount enclosed	*, one vote

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



#### **FCA Senior Living**

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

Freedom Square (248) 442-7250 www.fcaseniorhousing.org



# THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

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