



Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

December 2017

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

- 01 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 02 Saturday Independence Day Celebration 5 pm
- 03 Sunday Lecture by Sharon Rahkonen Franklin 2 pm
- 05 Rental
- 06 Wednesday Coffee & Cake to celebrate Finnish Independence
- 07 Rental
- 08 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 08 Friday Novi Band Concert 7 pm
- 09 Rental
- 10 Sunday Finnish American Singers of Michigan Concert 4 pm
- 12 Tuesday Little Christmas Concert 7 pm
- 13 Rental
- 13 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 16 Saturday Pikkujoulu with Finnish Christmas Dinner 5 pm
- 17 Sunday Candlelight Memorial Service w/  
dinner 2 – 4 pm
- 22 Friday Closed for Christmas holiday
- 25 Monday Closed for Christmas
- 29 Friday Closed



**Reservations are recommended  
for all events.**



### January

- 01 Monday Closed for New Year's
- 04 Rental
- 05 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 06 Rental
- 10 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 19 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 28 Sunday Open House 1 - 4 pm
- 31 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

### Weekly Events

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

### Monthly Events

- Finnish Conversation  
1st Friday of the month 10 am
- Book Club  
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon  
Last Wednesday of the month  
12 noon
- Open House  
Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Our eventful December starts with Finland's Independence Celebration that will be held December 2. A wonderful program is in store for you followed by a Finnish dinner.

The independence of Finland is now 100 years old. This makes Finland one of the youngest independent nations within the European Union. Finnish independence was not easily acquired – it required a heavy toll in pursuing the Civil War. Finnish Independence has been even costlier to maintain. Finland had to fight three wars – Winter War, Continuation War and Lappish War – to maintain its independence. The wars were none of which it wanted nor initiated.

Continued Finnish Independence after the wars was a miracle. Finland had lost two wars to its neighbor that was 52 times bigger, that most Finns hated and that was in control of Finnish policies after the war. After the war, Finnish leaders became trusted friends of its historical enemy. Paasikivi – Kekkonen – Presidents following the wars – diplomacy converted its biggest enemy to its biggest and most profitable trading partner. Finland and its well-being today is the result of its Presidents diplomatic skills – the world of today could learn from this.

Our recent Scandinavian Market was highly successful – both in attendance and in revenue. It was nice to get together with other Nordic neighbors and meet friends while enjoying local foods of Finland and Norway.

Over several years Gene Belttari has been in charge of organizing Charity Poker events, an important fundraiser for us. I would like to thank him for his management of those events. This year we broke all past records in revenue.

Make sure you mark your calendars for other important events happening this month, including Friday night suppers, the Novi Band Concert, Finnish American Singers concert, a Little Christmas concert, Pikkujoulu with a Finnish Christmas dinner and finally our Candlelight memorial Service. Check our calendar for days and times of these important events.

Finally, I want to thank all our tireless volunteers for another successful year. It takes a lot of effort to keep the Center in operation, it takes a lot of “sisu” which we Finns are famous for.

Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas Holiday and look forward to seeing you at the Finnish Center in 2018.

Mia Lamminen  
Chairman

*Hyvää Joulua*

35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI  
48335-5208

Tel: (248) 478-6939  
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

Olli Lamminen, Henrikki Pantsar,  
Marlene Russkanen

#### 2 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Roger Wanttaja,  
Robert Waissi

#### 3 Year

Mia Lamminen, James Lee,  
Mary O'Brien

### Alternates

#1 Carol Tudball  
#2 Terry Ball  
#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

Mary O'Brien

### SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Cynthia Haffey, Chairman

#### *Tapiola Village*

Laura Fultz, Manager  
(248) 471-3802

**Tapiola@ameritech.net**

#### *Freedom Square*

Theresa Show, Manager  
(248) 442-7250



FCA member Edward Hyypio with his great grandson Ollie on the front page of the Finnish American Reporter.



### HOLIDAY GATHERINGS AWAIT

Little Christmas Concert  
Tuesday, December 12  
7 pm

and

Pikkujoulu  
Finnish Christmas Dinner  
Saturday, December 16  
5 pm



### FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

December 1  
December 8 with Novi Band Concert  
January 5  
January 19  
5-8 pm  
FinnFolk plays during dinner!



### KIITOS

Thank you to all involved who made the Scandinavian Market a success. Special thanks to all our exhibitors: Finn Weavers, Nordkap Lodge/Sons of Norway, Fritzcraft, The Swedish Club, Swedish Club Women's Organization, Jenny Lind Club of Michigan, Scandia House, Danish Brotherhood, Accents by Agatha, Richard Willard, Finnish Family Bath Products, The Lavender Fleece, Evil Queen, Salka Armstrong and Matti Pihlgren, Susan Fogarasi and Sarina Siljander. Thank you to Nordkap Lodge/Sons of Norway and Lila Ball with FCA volunteers who again provided great food for the visitors. Thank you also goes to all the tireless volunteers at the admissions, gift shop sales, bake sale, kitchen and food service. who made it all happen and not to forget the volunteers setting up the hall. Without our volunteers we could not have done it. Our bakers did a great job in filling the table for the bake sale. Thank you Nancy Rajala for coordinating the bake sale and Paul Rajala and his crew who provided pasties which sold out in no time. Thank you also to Mary O'Brien who had stocked up the gift store with great gift items, food and candy. Finally a special thanks to Finnfolk for providing music for the occasion.

The date for next year's Market is November 10, 2018.  
Mark your Calendars!

KIITOS!  
Mia Lamminen

(see photos on page 10)



## FROM THE LIBRARY



Any Finnish child will tell you that Santa Claus (*joulupukki*) comes from Finland, specifically from a far northern fell called *Korvatunturi*. Because no one is allowed to visit this secret place, Finland has established two Christmas-themed locations, Santa Claus Village and SantaPark near Rovaniemi, where people may visit, and sometimes even see Santa himself.

Santa Claus Village was the first of these to appear, almost by accident. Rovaniemi was almost completely destroyed in the Lapland War, following the Winter and Continuation Wars. In 1950 Eleanor Roosevelt came to Rovaniemi to see the rebuilding process. She also wanted to see the Arctic Circle. The Rovaniemi officials rushed to build a cabin eight kilometers north of the city, at the Arctic Circle. This building, which still stands, was the first building of Santa Claus Village. Since then, many buildings containing shops and restaurants have been added so that it is indeed, a little village. There is a husky park, where you can get husky rides, and a reindeer enclosure where you can go for reindeer rides when there is snow. You can learn about Christmas traditions at the Christmas exhibition. Santa is often on the premises and you can get your picture taken with him. The village is open year round.

There is a real post office in Santa Claus Village, where a large variety of Christmas-related items, Christmas cards and CDs are sold. All mail sent from this post office is postmarked with a special Santa Claus postmark. Visitors can specify that their mail be sent at the next Christmas, regardless of when they actually visit the post office. Santa receives hundreds of thousands of letters every year. So far he has received letters from 199 countries. He can be reached by writing: Santa Claus, Santa's Main Post Office, 96930 Napapiiri, Finland.

The Arctic Circle cuts right through Santa Claus Village. A white line denoting the Arctic Circle is painted across the park. Visitors officially enter the Arctic Circle area when they cross the line. This is a very popular photo spot for visitors.

Another Christmas theme park, SantaPark, was opened in November 1998 on national highway 4, about 9 km northeast of Rovaniemi. This is all in one structure, a huge man-made cavern inside bedrock where visitors descend via a large portal. Jolly and cheerful elves will guide you through a fun filled day. You can meet the beautiful Ice Princess in her Icy Kingdom in the Ice Gallery as well as drive the Fairytale Train as many times as you want, then decorate gingerbread cookies in Mrs. Gingerbread's Bakery. Santa also has a post office here and he himself also sometimes appears in his office. If you would like to learn to become an elf, you can do that in the Elf School. You can get lunch and mouth-watering delicacies at SantaPark Cafe', while elves of SantaPark present their magical show on the main stage. One should not miss the Toy Factory Shopping Area.

SantaPark is open during the summer season (closed on Sundays), and during the winter in November, December and January, and other times by request. Admission is charged except for children under three. The ticket is valid for two days.

If you want more information about either of these attractions, that is available from the Rovaniemi Tourist Bureau.

Lillian Lehto  
lklehto@comcast.net

(see photos on page 5)



Library (continued from page 4)



Santa Claus Village



SantaPark



The Artic Circle

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

from

- John Saetta
- Neil Manley
- Debra Rajala
- Dolores Rajala
- Roger Wanttaja
- Randy Wanttaja
- Pearl & Ray Wanttaja
- Mia & Olli Lamminen
- Luise & Norbert Leppanen
- Marlene & Timo Ruuskanen

**GIFT SHOP**

It has been a busy couple of months in the gift shop. We were very successful at the Scandinavian Market. With all the eager shoppers we ran out of merchandise and had to order more for Finnish 100 celebration. I would like to thank everyone who helped. You are what made the day a great event. And to all the shoppers thank you for coming to support your Finnish Center.

We have many new items in the shop, so please come and check them out and if you are still wanting an item for a keepsake for Finland's 100th Anniversary we have some different things to choose from. And keep us in mind for your gift giving.

We at the gift shop, Amy, Sherrill, Gailyn Mc Mahon, and Mary, want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mary O'Brien



## MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Ellen Clisch** (10/13/17) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of **Dan Laurila** (5/4/17) a donation has been made by Margaret Laurila.

In memory of FCA life member **Laina Lampi** (3/20/11) a donation has been made by Yvonne Lockwood.

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, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Center.

The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Donations received by the 5th of each month will be published in the next month's newsletter.

You may also direct your donation toward the Elders' Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

Please include full name (with middle initial), address, dates of death and birth of the deceased; also the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.



## 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



## INDEPENDENCE DAY LECTURE

Sunday, December 3

2:00 pm

Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen is one of the Finlandia Foundation National's centenary lecturers for 2017-2018. As her Independence Day presentation, she will discuss the history of Finnish independence and factors that enabled a small, less developed corner of the Russian empire to declare and retain that freedom.

She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where she specialized in Finnish history. Subsequently she spent 2 years in Finland as a Fulbright scholar studying minority identity, women's suffrage, and Finnish education. Currently, she is associate professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by the  
Cultural Committee



Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen



### NOVI COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Friday, December 8  
Dinner 5-8 pm  
Concert 7 pm

Concert Only \$5  
Dinner & Concert \$12



Menu:  
Baked Cod  
Meatloaf  
Finnish Dish TBD  
Mashed Potato and Gravy  
Green Beans  
Salad and Rolls  
Tomato Pasta Soup

### BAKING NEWS

The bakers met twice to bake for the Scandinavian Market, October 28 and November 2. They made pulla/nisu and Christmas tarts. Bakers included (from left to right) Betty Taipalus, Charlotte Lytikainen, Ilene Yanke, Lorraine Hannah, Barb Whitty, Elsie Felix, Tobie Line and Hannah Carlson.

Kittos, Ilene Yanke



### SOCIAL NEWS

Our Harvest Dinner was a huge success. It was exciting to serve 34 diners. Thank you for all the support this year. It has been a lot of fun for me and I hope we have had a few nice events for you!

We are going to do a little extra celebration for Finland's 100th Anniversary of their Independence. This is such a special occasion. I heard in Finland they are having cake and coffee to celebrate on the day before so I thought why can't we do a little something extra. On December 6 at 2 pm. We will be celebrating in the lounge with cake and coffee. Please join us. We are so lucky to have this Finnish community in Michigan where we can celebrate with Finland.

We can be very proud of this wonderful country.

Mary O'Brien



### CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 17  
2-4 pm

The 4th annual Candlelight Service is your opportunity to remember loved ones. Simply make a donation to the FCA and you will receive an angel to place on a tree in remembrance of a loved one or special friend! Dinner served around 3:30 pm.

### TOIVO & EINO GO HUNTING

One day, Toivo and Eino were hunting in the woods. Toivo instructed Eino that if he got lost, to fire 3 shots into the air. Eino agreed and they went on their way. After a few hours, Eino had gotten lost. He aims his weapon into the air, fires 3 shots and prays, "Please God, let Toivo see my arrows."

# The Finnish American Singers of Michigan

present

## HOPE IN A MANGER

Special Guests: the PCEP String Quartet  
Finnish Carols & Traditional Favorites

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**  
**4 p.m.**

**Adults: \$10   Youth 5-12: \$5   Under 5: Free**  
**Admission includes light luncheon**

### **Finnish Center Association**

35200 W 8 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
Between Newburg & Farmington Rds  
248-478-6939





## PEACE - JOY- HOPE

What makes a song a *folk* song? The Finnish American Singers of Michigan frequently include concert songs titled “Folk Song or attributed as a folk song rather than to a particular composer.” Webster’s online dictionary defines a folk song as: “A song originating among the people of a country or area, passed by oral tradition from one singer or generation to the next, often existing in several versions, and marked generally by simple, modal melody and stanzaic, narrative verse.”

UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations declared *Silent Night*, written in the 1800s, an intangible cultural heritage in 2011. The melody is recognizable all over the world and has been sung in almost every language throughout generations. It is a simple melody with a message like a folk song: In the still of night, all is quiet as a Baby peacefully sleeps, watched by His parents. Suddenly, accompanied by a bright light and loud rejoicing (much like bells pealing I’d think) shepherds are told of the Savior’s birth. Jesus is then referred to as “loves pure light” with “radiant beams” from His face bringing a “dawn of redeeming grace.” *Joulouhymni* or *Rauhaa, vain rauhaa* (Ahti Sonninen), a Finnish Christmas hymn many of the singers didn’t know, was compared to *Silent Night*, familiar to all of us, at our practice one evening. *Joulouhymni* also has a quiet, lullaby type melody and I wondered about other possible similarities.

The music’s composer, Sonninen, born in Finland in 1914 studied predominantly in that country, but traveled to Moscow, Paris, North America and Italy for additional study. He worked as an elementary teacher, at the Sibelius academy (20 years) and was the director of the South Helsinki Music School from 1965, all the while directing choirs, choruses, and composing. He composed for theater, operas, ballets, film, orchestra, voice, and wrote for journals as well as a textbook on harmony. However, related more to this song is the fact that it is not surprising many of his compositions are based on folk tunes since he collected 3,000 tunes from Karelia!

The lyrics for *Joulouhymni* were written as a poem in the late 1940s by a Finnish elementary school teacher, Auni Ester Perälä using the nickname Une Haarnoja. Showing the poems to the composer who was visiting the Perälä family, Sonninen particularly liked the poem Christmas Song and asked for it to be phrased to match his music, resulting in the song’s publication in 1952.

*Joulouhymni* echoes the sentiments of *Silent Night*: Peacefully the Child rests rocked in the cradle by His mother, with bells ringing and angel songs echoing peace for the Child. The second verse points to the cross in the distance, but asserts that Easter morning takes away pain replaced by the joy of the resurrection.

I counted the number of times several themes shared by both of these songs reoccurred in the lyrics of the fourteen other songs FASM is singing in our Christmas concert December 10<sup>th</sup>. Specifically mentioned were peace (6 times), bells (5 times) singing (6 times), light - even as a title like Light of the World (6 times), manger/cradle (5 times), and joy after the dark or redeeming grace (5 times). I think it was perfectly natural for Sonninen to be drawn to lyrics expressing peace, joy, and hope wrapped up in a Baby, paring them with the music of a lullaby, writing his own Finnish version of that silent night. These themes perfectly express our wishes for you and yours – indeed for all people – this Christmas: Peace – Joy – Hope.

**Please join us for our Christmas concert Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm as we share that message in song!**

You are also invited to the Little Christmas music celebration two days after our concert, Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm at the FCA where FASM will sing just a smidgen from our concert, along with other choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists followed by coffee and holiday treats.

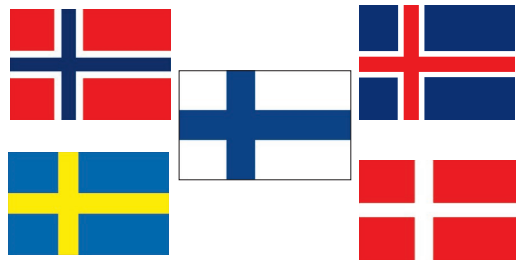
Submitted by Katy Koskela, Scribe

Credits: Webster’s Online Dictionary, Wikipedia, Songs and Hymns of Zion



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**FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2018**

Election at the Annual meeting on February 18, 2018 at 3 pm.

The FCA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill three positions on the FCA Board of Trustees. Members running as candidates need to submit short biographies (250 words or less) by January 18, 2018 to the Finnish Center Association, attention Fran Fadie, Nominating Committee Chair. Biographies may also be submitted via email to [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Fran Fadie at [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com) or at (248) 478-6939.

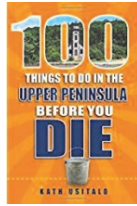
Please consider serving the FCA as a leader in one of these positions.

**FCA SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORPORATION NOTICE**

We are seeking candidates for three Board of Trustee positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 18, 2018 at 1 pm. If you are interested in participating as a member of the Board, forward a short resume (max 250 words) including your birthplace, your formal education and professional background as well as explanation of how you would contribute to the Board. To be received no later than January 18, 2018 at:

FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation  
 Attn: Secretary  
 35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48335

**100 Things to Do In the Upper Peninsula Before You Die**



A new book by FCA member Kath Usitalo, who now lives in the U.P.

Get your copy at the FCA gift shop. Also available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

**ADVERTISING RATES**

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

***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:

3 month rate ..... 1" ad - \$30.00.    1.5" ad - \$45.00        2" ad - \$60.00

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

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

**READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE**



**FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION**



35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5208

Prsrt STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Farmington, MI  
Permit NO 250

Current Resident or

**FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR \_\_\_\_ RENEWAL**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Are you of Finnish descent? \_\_\_\_\_

- Annual membership, single, one vote ..... \$50.00
- Annual membership, senior\* or youth\*, one vote ..... \$25.00
- \*Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age
- Annual membership, couple, two votes ..... \$100.00
- Annual membership, family, one vote ..... \$75.00
- Life membership, one vote ..... \$500.00
- Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,  
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108  
Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME**

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