



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

June/July 2018

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 01 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 01 Friday Novi Community Band 7 pm
- 03 Sunday Finnish Movie 2 pm
- 08 Rental
- 09 Rental
- 13 Wednesday Strawberry Social 2 -4 pm
- 15 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
Customer Appreciation - Free
(Last Friday Buffet until September)
- 16 Rental
- 20 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 22 Rental
- 23 Rental
- 24 Sunday Open House 1 - 4 pm
- 29 Rental
- 30 Rental

July

- 01 Rental
- 02 Monday Closed
- 04 Wednesday Closed
- 07 Rental
- 11 Wednesday - No FCA Board Meeting in July
- 14 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 19 Rental
- 20 Rental
- 21 Rental
- 25 Wednesday Summer Cookout 12 noon
- 27 Rental
- 28 Rental
- 29 Sunday - No Open House in July



Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Monday 7 pm (resumes 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
- 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

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Although, the natural aging of our beloved and elderly members is expected, we're saddened and aggrieved with each departure and offer heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of each. And, now, with an especially heavy heart I'm writing to report the unexpected and untimely passing of Marlene Ruuskanen on May 3, 2018. Marlene was our longtime treasurer, board member, devoted volunteer and faithful friend. A memorial service was held for Marlene at the FCA on Monday, May 21.

On a happier note the Vappu Party, our celebration of spring, was a wonderful welcome for the beginning of summer season. A lot of children and adults gathered for a lively evening of Karjalan Paisti, Gravlax, Karjalan Piirakat, pulla, music and games. It was a good turn out and great fun. It's especially wonderful to engage the children – as they are our future and the future of the FCA..

On Saturday, May 11, Pasi Lautala and his musicians performed "101 Years of Finnish Music" in an interesting cavalcade from each decade of Finland's Independence. I am sure the music brought fond memories especially for the Finnish born audience.

Scholarship reception was also held honoring six recipients with scholarships this year. All recipients are descendants of our members. We want to continue granting scholarships in the future. Donations to the scholarship fund are needed and greatly appreciated.

Semi-Annual Novi Community Band concert is June 1, 2018 with Friday Night buffet will end the activities for the spring season before the summer holidays. In addition we will have one more Friday night buffet on June 15.

With departures of so many dear friends and members we're reminded of the fragility of life and the importance of kind words, deeds and expressions of love - peace be with us all.

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. My cell number is: (734) 834-6085.

Mia Lamminen
Chairman

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

Officers

Mia Lamminen, Chairman
Roger Wanttaja, Vice Chairman
Linda Poirier, Secretary
Marlene Ruuskanen, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Roger Wanttaja,
Robert Waissi

2 Year

Mia Lamminen, James Lee,
Mary O'Brien

3 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,
Ilona Takakura

Alternates

#1 Paul Rajala
#2 Carol Tudball
#3 Mike Fadie

Financial Review

Nancy Lee
Maria Lena Kuhn
Gene Belttari

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Katri Ervamaa

Finance

Olli Lamminen

Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Fran Fadie

Publicity & Publications

Fran Fadie

Social

Mary O'Brien

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Cynthia Haffey, Chairman

Tapiola Village

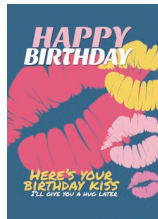
Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802
tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250
freedom.square@yahoo.com

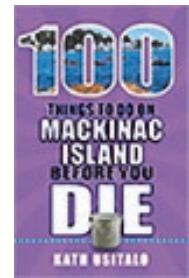
HAPPINESS FUND

Did you know you can also request a happiness greeting? New baby, special anniversary, significant achievement and more.



FCA member Kath Usitalo has a new book!

100 THINGS TO DO ON MACKINAC ISLAND BEFORE YOU DIE



follows her popular book
100 THINGS TO DO IN THE
UPPER PENINSULA
Find them at the FCA Gift Shop
and learn more at GreatLakesGazette.com



FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

June 1- Novi Community Band
June 15 - Customer Appreciation
5-8 pm

FinnFolk plays during dinner!



Friday Night Buffet
June 1, 2018
5pm - 8pm

Novi Community Band Concert
7pm during dinner
Free with dinner purchase
Concert only \$5

The menu:

Salisbury Steak w/mushroom sauce
Baked & Fried Cod
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable
Salad & Rolls
Pasta Salad

Coffee, tea and water are included.
Cash bar available.

All for \$12 per adult and \$5 per child (12 and under).



Our Finlandia Gardens has a new addition! A brown bear!

The bear was rescued from a recycling facility in Livonia and our talented gardeners restored him. He can now once again enjoy nature and gardens around him.

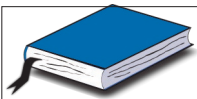
We invite you to email, call, mail us a short note or drop

off your suggestion for a name for the brown bear in our gardens!

He loves to have visitors stop and have pictures taken with him as well! If you take a picture and send it to us via email or regular mail we will post it on our bulletin board.

While you are there you might want to also stroll through the gardens or visit our new "Little Free Library" which is located in the gardens. It has books that can be borrowed and returned.

We want to welcome this new addition to our Finnish Center family--the brown bear! Please help us name him!



FROM THE LIBRARY



WHERE TIME STANDS STILL:

An epitaph for a farm - Carl Peterson (1989) Gazette

“A busy farm is like a tiny village nestled in a landscape, drawn from the scenes in a storybook. It’s residents fewer, but as sufficient as an industrious community”.

You have found your way to the trail into the woods. You have come to the clearing where the cluster of weathered log buildings can be seen to the south and east. They are arranged in court yard order.

Miina and Herman Hanka and their four children settled here. This to them as to so many of our forebearers was the end of a long journey, chosen in their new country which was a place of opportunity.

Our hope was to make this a protected land that had already survived the progress going on around them. They cared for and appreciated the turf given to them. They made it comfortable and ever thereafter were satisfied with what they had.

Most people see it as an attraction for Baraga County. A place to experience how our grandparents and great grandparents lived. To man it is amazing to see and to be allowed to walk where Miina walked and touch and feel her household wares.

We were as surprised as anyone else to find there was nothing of the labor saving devices we had been using for many years. Power had never been brought in. Jalmer, the youngest of the family, had lived there all his life, had drawn water from the well and sawed wood to keep his house warm. The sauna was his source for bathing and curing the meat he was able to trap or hunt, and fish of course. His gardening had been reduced to just a potato patch. He stored potatoes and apples in the root cellar.

No One had any idea of how we would begin this enormous task. Christine Jacobson showed up driving her son’s pickup truck. She covered the chicken coop with sheets of corrugated metal, (the only building where the roof had caved in). Then she announced with determination, “Now I am started”! We found ways of following her example and were on our way to becoming restorers.

One afternoon after visitors had left and it was “quitting time”, a family group showed up, announcing it’s not 4 o’clock yet in Wisconsin. It was Bill Koski who sat down to tell us what he had planned to contribute to this effort. He was a master of his craft of building log cabins. A work shop would attract community, many who were skilled wood workers. From then on, interest in the farm began growing and our neighbors and relatives began rallying about our work shops. He showed by example and everyone was offered “hands on” experience.

Our cheering section began presenting the project with vintage treasures. The farm house began to look lived in.

Empty houses in the city were merely empty and often dilapidated. They draw brief glances of passersby and a preference to have them gone. From Carl Peterson, Epitaph for a Farm.

Ruth Ojala

(more photos on page 5)

Bill Koski teaching corner notching





Bill Koski showing how to right the corners of replacement logs



Helmer Peterson teaching Bill Koski. Mr. Peterson is a lifetime resident of Tapiola. He taught students at "The Tech" in Houghton.



Left: Bill Koski with students and observers. Milton Salo (with hands in his pockets)



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Mildred Harju** (5/9/18) donations have been made by Luise & Norbert Leppanen and Pearl Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Marlene Ruuskanen** (5/3/18) a donations have been made by Pearl Wanttaja, Mary O'Brien, Luise & Norbert Leppanen, Lois Makee, Lillian & Paul Lehto, Ilona Takakura, Mia & Olli Lamminen, Irene Lamanen, Maria Hill and Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Raymond Wanttaja** (3/23/18) donations have been made by Hannah Carlson, Eleanor & Francis Martin, Alice Toss, Sandra & David Scheel, Lillian & Paul Lehto, Mary-Ann & Arne Hanninen and Peggy Puuri.

In memory of **Jason Weider** (2/28/18), son of FCA member Elaine Weider, a donation has been made by the Finnish American Singers of Michigan.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Kaarlela** (1/8/18) a donation has been made by Ron Shollack.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Niemi** (10/14/17) a donation has been made by Lillian & Paul Lehto.

In memory of **Laina Lampi** (3/20/11) a donation has been made by Sandra & David Scheel.

In memory of **Lillian Takala Salisbury** (7/18/95) a donation has been made by Amy Lowell.

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.

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.

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

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



"Every chance is an opportunity."

~ Matti Nykänen

Olympic Gold 1984 and 1988
Finnish Ski Jumper



The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki

June 3, 2018

2:00 pm

We are so fortunate to be able to see this newly released Finnish film. Everyone loves it! Kenneth Turan, film critic of the Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio, also loved it. His review is so engaging that I give you a portion of it:

"(This) is a lovely piece of work, a sweet, warmly observed tale overlaid with just the right amount of Scandinavian melancholy, a combination that perfectly suits its quietly engaging protagonist.

Set in 1962 and inspired by a crucial moment in the life of a real-life Finnish boxer, "Olli Mäki" works wonders with a story that only sounds straight-ahead. Coming out of nowhere, this debut feature of Juho Kuosmanen won the *Un Certain Regard* prize at Cannes last year with its cinéma vérité-style storytelling and off-center sensibility.

In love with film, the culture of Finland, even love itself, "Olli Mäki" benefits from some gorgeous black-and-white cinematography from director of photography Jani-Petteri Passi. Shot on 16mm Tri-X stock that existed in such small amounts that Kodak had to specially produce more, "Olli Mäki" has a crisp yet evocative look filled with so many memorable images that it makes you wish black-an-white was more alive and well as a visual choice.

The heart of a project like this has to be natural acting from its key players, and "Olli Mäki" is so effective in this regard the you soon forget you are not watching real people going about their lives."

"Most effective of all is the way director Kuosmane has created a film that is alive to the pleasures and difficulties of life in a way that constantly surprises us."



SOCIAL NEWS

Summer has arrived! I love the flowers in The Finlandia Gardens. A huge thanks for making the Finnish Center brighter.

Our big June event will be the Strawberry Social on June 13. We will be having strawberry shortcake. Please come and invite a friend. Donations will be accepted.



A summer cookout is scheduled for July 25. Please come and join us for a hot dog or hamburger along with potato salad, fruit and dessert. Donations are happily accepted.



Mary O'Brien

GIFT SHOP NEWS

We have a new coffee that is very tasty. Also we have Siljan crisp bread. Lots of good Finnish candy.



Summer is the time for weddings and graduations. The gift shop is stocked and waiting for your arrival. There is Iittala, candy, books and more for your choosing.

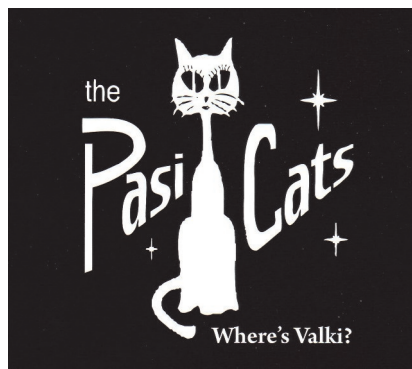
Stop in Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Mary O'Brien

VAPPU PARTY



**PASI CATS PERFORMED
101 YEARS
OF FINNISH MUSIC IN MAY**



APRIL PASTY VOLUNTEERS

Our pasty-making events require many volunteers and we want to recognize those that donated their time in April:

Dee Aebersold, Jon Call, Karen Call, Shaun Call, Suzanne Everett, Carole Goebel, John Goebel, Frank Gottberg, Nancy Jacobs, Paul Kingstrom, Neil Koivu, Eleanor Koivu, Steve Kompisie, Katy Koskela, Riga Kreuger, Margaret Laurila, Luise Leppanen, Norb Leppanen, Neil Manley, Nancy McClenahan, Rick McClenahan, Hank Naasko, Debbie Pluff, Nancy Rajala, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Mark Rikkonen, John Saarinen, David Sharpe, Chris Shelters, Jean Shea, Mary Stapleton, Brian Winkler, John Welsh, Martha Welsh, and Ilene Yanke.

Thank you all!

Paul Rajala





FINLAND TODAY



First, Finland has the cleanest air in the world, according to the latest data published by the World Health Organization (WHO). Next on list are Estonia, Sweden, Canada and Norway. The U.S. was number eight on the list. The worst countries on the list were Uganda, Mongolia, Qatar, India and Cameroon. The list gathered by WHO consists of measurement of data of fine particles in over 2,500 localities in over 100 countries. Finland, with the cleanest air in the world, had an average particulate index of 6 micro g/cubic-m, while Uganda with the dirtiest air had a particulate index of 110 micro g/cubic m.

Researchers at the University of Eastern Finland have found that people who take a sauna 4-7 times a week have a 61% lower risk of stroke than those who do so once a week or less. Sauna starts having a preventive effect when it's done at least 2-3 times a week, when the risk of stroke drops 14% compared to the weekly sauna user. The study included some 1,600 53-73 year old men and women, following them over 15 years. They were divided into 3 groups, those who took a sauna once a week, those who did so 2-3 times a week, and those who did so 4-7 times a week. The observations made during the study applied to both men and women, with the connection between regular sauna usage and lower risk of stroke holding even when controlled for gender, diabetes, body mass index, socio-economic status, alcohol usage, exercise levels, and blood lipids.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC), has described it as the "world's most endangered seal". The Saimaa Seal is only found in Lake Saimaa, Finland's largest lake, in eastern part of Finland. During this year's seal pup count, the seal census takers found 78 pups, about the same number as last year, which is good. The population dropped below 200 in the early 1980's before recovering to 240 by the year 2000 and to 320 in 2015. That includes about 95 mature females. The FANC now estimates the population to be 370-380.

Finland's 40th national park, Hossa National Park, opened last June 17th, 2017. The new park covers 11,000 hectares in the northeast of Finland near the municipalities of Suomussalmi, Kuusamo, and Taivalkoski. Finland's Ministry of Parks described the park as, "a realm of primeval twilight forests with decaying trees lying on the ground and abundant growth of various species of lichen, providing it with a very special nature conservation value." It is also home to the amazing Julma-Olkky canyon lake, the largest in Finland. There you can also see ancient rock paintings created by the region's Stone Age settlers, painted in blood and red ochre.

And finally, Heikki, the smoothest-talking Finn in the Michigan National Guard and a natural born salesman, got called up to active duty.

Heikki's first assignment was in a military induction center. Because he was a good talker, they assigned him the duty of advising new recruits about government benefits, especially the GI life insurance, to which they were entitled. The officer in charge soon noticed that Heikki was getting a 99% sign-up rate for the more expensive supplemental form of GI insurance. This was remarkable, because it cost these low-income recruits \$30 per month for the higher coverage, compared to what the government was already providing free of charge.

(continued on page 11)

Finland Today (continued from page 10)

The officer decided he'd sit in the back of the room at the next briefing and observe Heikki's sales pitch.

Heikki stood up before the latest bunch of inductees and said, "If you have the normal GI insurance and you are sent to Afghanistan and get yourself killed, the government pays your beneficiary \$20,000. If you take out the supplementary insurance, which costs only \$30 a month, then government has to pay your beneficiary \$200,000! Now, Heikki concluded, which bunch do you think they gonna send to Afghanistan first?"

Thanks John Aukee

Markku Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com



Congratulations to Ruth Ojala who celebrated her 90th birthday on May 14, 2018.

IT MAKES SENSE

A teacher explaining to her 4th grade class how heat makes objects expand and cold makes them contract. She asked one of her pupils to come up with an example for the rest of the class. Young Tommy piped up, "In summertime, the days are long, but in winter, they are short."

Submitted by Pearl Wanttaja

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 5TH
EDITOR CONTACT INFO:	PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN:	NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL:	nrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 500 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 48335-5108

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



THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

33603 Grand River,
Farmington, MI
(248) 474-4131



Paul N. Potti, Director