



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBER OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

January 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 01 Closed
- 04 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 09 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 18 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 20 Sunday Lapland Travelogue 2 pm
- 24 Rental
- 25 Rental
- 26 Rental
- 27 Rental
- 30 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

FEBRUARY

- 01 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 01 Pasty Prep 10 am
- 02 Pasty Sale 8 am - 12:30 pm
- 06 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 09 Rental
- 13 Wednesday Valentines Party 1 pm
- 16 Saturday Iceland Travelogue 2 pm
- 15 Rental
- 16 Rental
- 17 Sunday FCA Sr. Housing Annual Meeting 1 pm
- 17 Sunday FCA Annual Meeting 3 pm
- 20 Rental
- 22 Rental
- 23 Rental
- 24 Rental
- 24 Sunday Kaleva Day Celebration
Knights & Ladies of Kaleva Brunch 12 noon
Program 1:30 pm
- 27 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

- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month
12 noon

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

What a wonderful finish for year 2018 at the Finnish Center. There were programs and celebrations for all to enjoy during a very busy month of December. There was music, dancing, movies, speeches, Finnish crafts and food, and finally the candlelight ceremony. It was a fitting conclusion to another successful year at the Center.

In other exciting news – we're thrilled to report FinnFest is coming to Detroit in 2019. The date is September 20-22, 2019. Plans for the event are under way and the location where it will held has been confirmed. A block of rooms and event space have been reserved at the Novi Sheraton. The Finnish Center and Finn Camp are also event locations. Meetings will be held in early January for more planning with the FinnFest USA people. They are looking for volunteers and will also hire people for various tasks. FinnFest is a very challenging event and I hope that our participation will make it a huge success.

Special thanks are due and go out to every tireless volunteer who, throughout the year, for each and every small and large task and event, have made possible the success of FCA for the year 2018. Kiitos miljoonasti!

With great hope for an even more vibrant center, a renewed focus on our mission, I wish all of you a very healthy and Happy New Year and hope to see you at the Finnish Center this coming year.

Mia Lamminen
Chairman



There's something taking place at The Finnish Center this coming year of 2019. We're introducing a new monthly coffee and conversation social gathering at The Finnish Center beginning on Wednesday, February 6 at 11:00 am led by Annikki Kurvi and Irene Lamanen.

The coffee and conversation is a time for sharing friendly stories, reminiscences, talk of growing up in The Finnish Culture. It will be a friendly gathering over a cup of coffee similar to the 'ole kitchen table conversation of former year. A real "coffee klatch".

The group is called Let's Talk and we know how to do that! Heart-warming, casual conversation to share and experience. Mark your calendar...Join us to see what it's about!

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
Ilona Takakura, Interim 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

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

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Nancy Lee
Maria Lena Kuhn
Gene Belttari

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Building & Grounds

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Cultural

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Katri Ervamaa

Finance

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Membership

Fran Fadie

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Fran Fadie

Social

Mary O'Brien

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Tapiola Village

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

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

FINNISH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - DECEMBER 8, 2018

On December 8, 2018 the Finnish Cultural center was lifted up in an evening of solemn traditions and festive performances of music with special guests, and members, in commemoration of Finland's 101st anniversary of independence.

The evening began with a presentation of flags - the Finnish American Singers followed with American and Finnish anthems.



Emma Koponen, a Sibelius Academy and the Kuopio Conservatory of Music graduate, who is currently a Master of Music student (piano) at U of M, performed Sibelius' *Finlandia*.

The keynote address given by **Katharina Bäckman** illuminated the present state - and projected economies - of Finland. Ms. Bäckman is currently the Cultural Counselor at the Embassy of Finland in Washington D.C. In addition to her current post in Washington, D.C., she has held various diplomatic posts including Responsible Officer at the Council of European Affairs, Advisor to the Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, and Senior Assistant, Trade Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.



Kasper Sarikoski, trombonist and composer, a Sibelius School alumnus from Helsinki, Finland, is currently studying for the Artist Diploma in Jazz Studies at the Juilliard School in New York. Sarikoski has led his own group Nuance, with which he has toured Finland. Additionally, he has performed with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis in New York. Mr. Sarikoski performed moving selections from the Finnish Song Book. Accompanying Mr. Sarikoski, was **Brian DiBlassio** - a U of M instructor, jazz/classical pianist and composer/arranger.

The keynote address and performances were followed with a dinner of Finnish specialties which was expertly prepared and served by Mike Grant and his staff.

FinnFolk polished off the evening with selections, including an encore piece with Kasper Sarikoski, from the Finnish Song Book.

It was a fitting celebration.



Right: Mia Lamminen, FCA Chairman

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS CONCERT - DECEMBER 8, 2018



Rita Rogers, accompanist, William Gramzow, IV new director and Hank Naasko, former director



PIKKUJOULU CELEBRATION - DECEMBER 11, 2018



It was so nice to see a record crowd in attendance at the event. Both young and old were enjoying St. Lucia and Santa Claus as well as a wonderful Christmas dinner.





FROM THE LIBRARY



If it were not for Johan Vilhelm Snellman, we speakers of Finnish might be speaking Swedish instead of Finnish. Snellman believed that language gave a nation identity. He belonged to the group whose motto was “We are not Swedes; Russians we will never be; let’s be Finns.” But many did not agree with him.

The Swedes had ruled Finland for several hundred years until 1809 and they brought their language with them. The official language of administration and higher education was Swedish and remained so under Russian rule. There was an almost total lack of literature in Finnish, and teaching at both secondary and university levels was in Swedish. Finnish was considered by the upper classes to be “a language of peasants”. In order to get a job or be involved in higher education one had to learn Swedish. A large majority of Finns spoke Finnish, but they were in the lower classes. Snellman felt that Finland needed to increase use of their native language to create a national identity and avoid being integrated into Russia. He stressed the importance of literature in promoting a sense of national identity. Until the nineteenth century very little was published in Finnish except religious books.



The Snellman statue
in Helsinki

J.V. Snellman was born in Sweden in 1806, but when Sweden was no longer a part of Finland, his parents moved to Kokkola in Finland. He finished grammar school there. Later he became a lecturer at the University of Helsinki, where he befriended Cygnaeus, Lönnrot and Runeberg, who were among the brightest of their generation. His lectures quickly became popular as he advocated Finnish culture and use of the Finnish language. This did not please the czar. He was dismissed and exiled himself to Sweden and Germany from 1839 to 1842. Upon his return he was still not allowed to teach at the University, so he took up a position as headmaster of a school in Kuopio. He published a paper *Saima* in Swedish, which advocated the duty of the educated classes to take up the language of the then 85%majority of Finns, and develop Finnish into a language of the civilized world, useful for academic works, fine arts, state craft, and nation building. His paper was shut down by the government.

The movement he and his friends advocated did take hold, but resulted in what became known in the mid-1800’s as the *kielisota*, language war or language strife. Feelings were so bitter that the Fennomans would walk on one side of the street in downtown Helsinki, while the Svecomans would walk on the other side. Slowly the Fennomans gained ground. The first purely Finnish-speaking grammar school appeared in 1858.

After the death of Czar Nicholas I in 1855 Snellman was allowed to continue his work at the university as a professor and seven years later he joined the Senate of Finland, becoming the minister of Finance. In 1863 Alexander II ruled that Finnish had an official language status comparable to that of Swedish; it could thereafter be used in an official capacity in legal and state matters.

Snellman is regarded by many Finns as one of the fathers of their nation. His birthday, May 12, has been marked as a national flag day since 1952. On May 12, 1906, Snellman’s 100th birthday, over 25,000 Finns changed their surnames from Swedish to Finnish in his honor.

Snellman died in 1881. Emil Wikström was commissioned to design a memorial for him. Funds were provided by a public collection. The work was unveiled in 1923 in front of the Bank of Finland. Eliel Saarinen designed the statue’s pedestal and surroundings.

Lillian Lehto

llehto@comcast.net or (248) 642-1437

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Connie Fosness (11/16/18)** donations have been made by Lois Makee, Maria Hill, Kathryn Hill, Christi Fifield, Marlene & David Carron, Elsie Felix, Neil Manley, Pearl Wanttaja and John (Bob) Malmstrom.

In memory of FCA life member **Rudolph Perttunen (11/13/18)** donations have been made by Frances & John Oakland, Georgeanna & Ernie Kramar, Kathy Kramar, Lois Makee, Elaine & Charles Lada, Ann Prine, Elizabeth Farhat, Neil Manley, Elaine & James Weiland and Edna & Rudolph Uresto.

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

FCA life member **Taimi Saaranen (10/16/18)**

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.



JANUARY IN THE GARDENS

January is always a time to reflect on what we accomplished during the year while we plan for next year. This year was a busy year with the Eagle Scouts completing a renovation of the West Gardens by removing the stone and replacing the weed cloth to inhibit weed growth. A Memorial Garden was added in memory of our FCA members, their family, friends, and is located in the Willow Garden area.

We have started labeling many of the trees, shrubs, and perennial plants with labels which include the botanical name, common name, and if they are a host plant for a particular butterfly. More labels will be added this winter and coming year. An additional butterfly garden was added this year along the West side of the building.



Several presentations were given this year. One presentation was to the Hill and Dale Garden Club, one to the MSU Master Garden college which resulted in a visit from the Michigan State and Wayne County coordinators at the Gardens, and the last at a Master Gardener Volunteer recruitment night. (Hopefully we will gain some new garden volunteers next year?)

We will be taking down the holiday decorations on the first Monday in January and then meeting again in February to work on the floral labels. Feel free to drop by and join us in the woodshop.

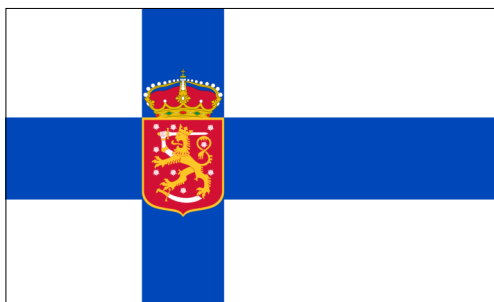
If you have any questions, donations, comments, or suggestions on what we should or shouldn't do this coming year, you can contact me at (734) 546-5190, or gaylegullen@hotmail.com or put your comments in the garden club box in the office.

Gayle Gullen
Finlandia Garden Club President

FINLAND: INDEPENDENCE & IDENTITY DECEMBER 9, 2018



Above: FinnFolk
Left: Nordic Heritage Dance Group
Below: Nordic Dance
Bottom: Elaine Lada, Ed & Janet Kotagarvi and Eunice Gould.
Eunice is one of the founding members of the FCA.



NOVI COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT DECEMBER 14, 2018

The tradition of the Novi Concert Band playing at the Friday Night Buffet in December goes back about 10 years or so, but the history of the band playing at the Finnish Center actually began back in 1984!

The band played after the membership meeting in January of 1984. The FCA members enjoyed that so much that the band came back to perform for the "Spring Fest" the Finnish Center put on each end of May and beginning of June for many years. After the Spring Fest was no longer held, the band continued to play after the Friday Night dinner in June.

Pearl Wanttaja was instrumental in following up and inviting the band the first week of June most of the years since, up until the last year or so when Mia Lamminen, the chairman, has contacted the band to come play. Pearl provided the memories and history of this wonderful tradition.

The band began to play a holiday concert in December, as well as the traditional June concert, after a band member commented it would be nice to play at the Finnish Center during the holidays. That comment spurred Pearl to follow up and invite the band to perform in December as well.

In a tribute to Finland, the band plays the Finnish National Anthem at the beginning of each concert and has it down perfect! I am unsure how many, if any, band members are of Finnish descent - but they know the Finnish National Anthem!

Scott Cramer, the director, is the music teacher at John Glenn High School in Westland.



Josh Oberhaus & girlfriend Jess.



Left to right: Maryan Haffner, Pearl Wanttaja, Donna Stevens and Dagmar Malstrom.



Josh Oberhaus & family who came from Ohio for the concert.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



A special THANK YOU to the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva for their support with a generous donation to our Scholarship fund. This is greatly appreciated.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that 2019 brings good health and much happiness to you all.

The gift shop had a good year and I thank all of you for stopping in and shopping. Sherrill, Amy and I want to accommodate you and your needs, so please give us a call or stop in if you want something you don't see on the shelf.



Special for January
All Sauna products 20% off.

Hyvää Uutta Vuotta
Mary O'Brien

SOCIAL NEWS

We have had a wonderful year with cookouts, concerts, luncheons, an ice cream social, Finnish movies and travelogues. Such a fun place to enjoy special events. Hopefully we will have more to come.

The ideas just keep coming and I invite your thoughts.

January events :

Sunday, January 20, a travelogue on Lapland. Olli Lamminen will be here with special pictures. Please join us!



Wednesday, January 30, is the monthly luncheon at 12 noon. Our lunch will be chili and some surprises.

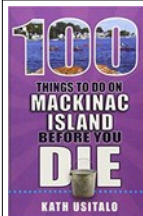
Wednesday, February 6 is the beginning of Let's Talk. A real "coffee klatch" at 11 am.



Mary O'Brien

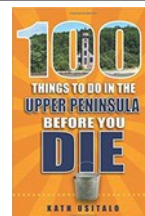
KALEVA DAY

You are invited to join us on Sunday, February 24, 2019 for brunch from noon to 1 pm, followed by a short program from the Kaleva.



100 Things to Do
In Mackinac Island
Before you Die

100 Things to Do
In the Upper Peninsula
Before you Die



Books 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
Learn more about the book at GreatLakesGazette.com



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



If you, your parent, guardian or grandparent are an up-to-date paid member of the Finnish Center since March 1, 2016, you are invited to apply for one of our scholarships.

Applications are available in the Finnish Center office or on our website at www.finnishcenter.org.

COME AND JOIN THE CHOIR



Rehearsals for the Finnish American Singers of Michigan will resume Monday, January 14th at 7:00 pm in the FCA lounge. New singers are welcome.

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE DECEMBER 16, 2018

It was a special afternoon at the Finnish Center on Dec 16th when friends and families gathered to remember their loved ones with a Candlelight Memorial and dinner. Mickey Filpansick welcomed everyone and gave the opening prayer before many spoke on the life of their mother, father, or other loved ones they were honoring and the impact they had. Benjamin Ball read a Memorial Tribute, "My First Christmas in Heaven."

Pastor Elmer Liimatta sent a message on "Memories as a gift from God that death cannot destroy and are our companions in our journey. We want to remember those events or persons that were a part of our life and in remembering we draw insight, strength and courage to face the daily battles of life."

Family and friends remembered were Baby Boy Ball, Henry & Audrey Ball, Marilyn Bodrie, Edsel Carlson, Joan Case, Walter & Clara Mai Hart, Walter D. Hart, Jean Haslip, Melvin Hemminger, Ruth Hendrickson, Sarah C. Hill, Peter Houle, Pierre Houle, Melinda Jenkinson, Selma Makinen Jenkinson, Ainard, Mamie & Wilho Liimatta, Fred & Elaine Liimatta, Gerald Malstrom, Dale Niemi, Wilbert Rajala, Jay Rupp, Marlene Ruuskanen, William Schmehl, and Peter Sorensen. The names of FCA members who have died in the past year are posted near the FCA gift shop.

Those attending received an angel ornament in memory of their loved one. If you made a Candlelight Memorial donation and were not able to attend, please contact Lila Ball for your special angel ornament.

A special "Thank You" to everyone who attended and made donations to the Finnish Center Association, and to Terry & Lila Ball and Mickey & Cynthia Filpansick who provided the delicious dinner enjoyed by all.





FINLAND TODAY



First, Esa-Pekka Salonen has been hired for five years as the music director of the San Francisco Symphony starting in 2020-21 season. In the agreement he will compose music for the San Francisco Symphony. Salonen is a 60-year-old Finn who is a Composer, Music Director, Conductor. For the past 17 years he has been the music Director for the London Philharmonic Orchestra . From 1985 to 1994 Esa-Pekka Salonen was the principal Conductor for the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Statistics Finland says that 90% of Finns use the internet, and 75% use the cellphones to get on the internet. The use of Internet with mobile phones has become ever more common for banking, shopping, socializing, following media, and searching for information. Seventy-six percent use the internet many time during the day. Laptops are the second largest internet user at 65% and the tablet is third at 41%.

“5G” - What is it? Definition: “5G networks will accelerate data up to 100 times faster than today's technology. This will require advanced connectivity for broader bandwidth and high-clarity communications. Increased data speeds in the future will enable an interactive ecosystem for a smarter, productive, and connected world.” Nokia’s 5G development is helping to create the future of telecommunications and is hard at work changing the world as we know it. Nokia signed a deal with Brazil to meet their broadband demand. Nokia and Oi have signed a long-term technology partnership. Oi will be able to meet increasing demand for fiber connectivity in the home and expand mobile broadband coverage, and an introduction of 5G – “5G the future”. Nokia signed a frame deal with China Mobile (\$2.3 M), the deal includes deliveries of 4G radio and fixed access equipment, IP routing and optical transport equipment and services.

Helsinki Airport is now the first in the world to turn to 5G. The network is based on Nokia’s technology utilizing the 28 GHz frequency band – the higher frequency band allocated for 5G. The 5G network-based robot project was launched by Telia Telecommunication Company at the Helsinki Airport. The project is to explore the use of 5G in airport operations and bringing new technology to the customers. The Autonomous robots will carry out many services, such as real time videos, monitoring the terminal and providing security, but it can also guide passengers in the terminal.

And finally, Heikki the farmer was talking with the sheriff, Mattila, about putting up a sign so that people would slow down when they drove near the farm. The sheriff tried various signs including: “Slowdown”, “Pedestrian Crossing”, “Children at Play”, but nothing worked. Heikki finally asked Mattila if he can put up his own sign and Mattila agreed. A few days past and Mattila thought to stop by to see if the new signs had helped. To his amazement the traffic was slowing down almost to a stop.

The new Sign read:

“Be aware of the NUDIST COLONY, SAUNA is HOT”



Steve, Lila and Terry Ball gather greens in Gladwin for FCA centerpiece. Look closely, Lila is hiding in the trees.

FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2019

Election at the Annual meeting on February 17, 2019 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, 2019 to the

Finnish Center Association, attention Linda Poirier, Nominating Committee Chair.

Biographies may also be submitted via email to finnishcenter@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Poirier at finnishcenter@gmail.com or (248) 478-6939

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 17, 2019 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, 2019 at:
FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation,
Attn: Secretary
35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE: DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 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 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



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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!



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Paul N. Potti, Director