



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBER OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

February 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 01 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 02 Rental
- 06 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 09 Rental
- 10 Sunday Sweden Travelogue 2 pm
- 13 Wednesday Volunteer Lunch 12 noon
- 13 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 15 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 15 Friday St. Urho Celebration during buffet
- 27 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon with
Finland Travelogue 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

- Let's Talk
First Wednesday 11 am
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month
12 noon

SAVE THE DATES!

FinnFest USA in Metro Detroit
Sept 20 - 22, 2019

Watch for upcoming details on unique tours,
seminars, and workshops that will also be
scheduled for Thurs, Sept 19 & Mon, Sept 23!

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As mentioned last month FinnFest is coming to Detroit in 2019. The date is September 19-22, 2019. FCA had a meeting with FinnFest USA board members few days ago and were told about the plans in more detail. 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. Please either call FCA office or email finnishcenter@gmail.com if you can contribute to this important cultural event. Finnish Center will be a venue for several events still under planning stages. Also the organizers are welcoming any ideas for events you might want to see at the FinnFest.

The Board and Committee elections are just around the corner, mark your calendars for the Annual meeting February 17, 2019. FCA Senior Housing meeting is at 1 pm and FCA at 3 pm. We need a quorum (25 members) for both meetings so please try to come if at all possible.

Friday Night Suppers, Monthly luncheons, Book Club meetings, movies and other regular events are in full swing. I hope to see you at these events. Check the calendar for dates and times.

I sound like a broken record, but we really need volunteers to keep our doors open, please consider helping out. If we cannot find enough volunteers our only other option is to hire people in order to keep our doors open.

Donations are always welcome.

Mia Lamminen
Chairman



Lapland

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Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
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KALEVA DAY CELEBRATION

Knights & Ladies of Kaleva Brunch & Program

Sunday, February 24

Brunch 12 noon

Program 1:30 pm

Guest Performers: Eliisa Seigle and Don Reinholm

Program: Frank Eld -

Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year 2018-19



Frank was at the Finnish Center in September and is back for the Knights & Ladies of the Kaleva Day Celebration! Come enjoy his informative and entertaining lecture again - or for the first time! All are welcome!

Everyone loves a log cabin! For most, it has become the symbol of the frontier. But how many know where it came from or how it's built?

For Finns, it's much more. The log cabin is the icon of our Heritage. It was the mainstay dwelling of the Finns who ventured to the New Sweden Colony in 1638-55 and again during the North American "great migration" in 1890-1920.

During that migration into the US and Canada, many nationalities, including the Finnish, built log cabins. However, unlike the hastily stacked log shelters by others, the Finns built log houses, saunas and other structures which were carefully crafted in the Finnish vernacular style. Using techniques learned over centuries in the snow cold Nordic regions, these craftsmen practiced what is now a "lost art."

Utilizing power point and an actual demonstration, Frank Eld describes Finnish log style construction, its history and uniqueness. Frank has traveled extensively, researching and documenting original Finnish log construction in the US, Canada and Finland. He founded a museum in Roseberry, Idaho which includes 8 Finnish log structures preserved among its 25 buildings. Frank has written one book, Finnish Log Construction - The Art, and is researching a second on the subject. A retired educator and businessman, Frank devotes his time researching, writing, consulting and preservation. "My mission to educate others on our unique Finnish Heritage of log building and encouraging its preservation."

SOCIAL NEWS

FEBRUARY

Join us for our first "Let's Talk" on Wednesday, February 6, at 11 am! We will have coffee and share friendly stories and reminisce about growing up in the Finnish culture.

On February 13th at 1 pm is the Valentine's Day Party with bingo. Prizes for winners with sandwiches for lunch.

The Iceland travelogue, originally scheduled for Saturday, February 16, has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a future date.

The regular monthly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 27, at noon with salmon soup featured.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 6, is the second "Let's Talk" coffee klatch at 11 am.

Sunday, March 10 will feature Austin Strowbridge presenting a travelogue on Sweden.

A special luncheon for Finnish Center volunteers will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at noon. Please sign up to let us know who if you are coming. A ham luncheon is planned.

The March monthly luncheon will be Wednesday, March 27, at noon again featuring Austin Strowbridge with a travelogue on Finland.



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. Heartwarming, casual conversation to share and experience. Join us to see what it's about!



FROM THE LIBRARY



The funeral celebration of Elias Lönnrot was a unique experience, according to August Ahlqvist, a contemporary who was present.

Ahlqvist wrote: “The occasion was an event such as had never before been seen in Finland. Besides the large gathering of local people and members of this and other parishes who were present, the group included delegates and representatives from just about every town and locality in Finland. They had brought about a hundred laurel and floral wreaths; three of them were of silver, namely those from the citizens of Kuopio, members of the University of Savo, and from the Finns in St. Petersburg. There were representatives of the Governor-General, the Senate, the University, the Turku Bishop’s Council, the Finnish Army, the University Student Body, the Finnish Literature Society, the Finnish Scientific Association, as well as representatives from various other organizations. This illustrious group together with the beautiful landscape enhanced by the warm spring sunshine and the unpretentious peal of the small bell in the steeple of this humble church left a great impression on those present. Even Nature seemed to be aware of the fact that a great man was being laid to rest, a man who at birth was among the poorest of Finland’s children!”

Elias Lönnrot was born on April 9, 1802, in Sammatti village in the south of Finland. He was the eighth child of Frederik Juhana Lönnrot, a tailor, and his wife Ulrika. It was observed early in his life that he was a gifted child. He learned to read at age five, and became a real bookworm, pursuing his passion perched in a nearby tree. An anecdote relates that a neighbor woman would awaken her children by saying “Get up already! Elias Lönnrot is already sitting in his tree, reading.”

Elias was sent to school at age twelve, although his parents could barely afford it. His beginning days in school were difficult, similar to those of us second- and third-generation American Finns who knew no English upon entering school. Elias came from a Finnish-speaking family whereas all schooling was conducted in Swedish. However, he persevered and two years later continued his studies at the Cathedral School in Turku. He finally received a medical degree in 1832. In addition to medicine, he had studied Latin, Greek, history and literature. He became acquainted with Runeberg, Snellman, and others whose primary aim was to promote the status of the Finnish language. He also became acquainted with newly published folk poetry that had come from Eastern Finland, particularly Archangel Karelia on the Russian side of the border from areas in which the older song tradition still lived on.

In 1827 Turku, the capital of Finland, burned to the ground. No university instruction was available during the academic year of 1827-1828, and Lönnrot spent the entire winter as a tutor in Vesilahti. The idea of a trip to collect folk poetry began to take root in his mind. He decided to spend the summer of 1828 on a folk poetry collecting trip to Savo and Karelia. He said he wanted to “see more of his own country, learn to know its language and different dialects, but most of all to gather the products of its remarkably beautiful folk poetry.”

Lönnrot acquired a position as district doctor of Kajaani in Eastern Finland, which was his home base for 20 years. In 1831 the Finnish Literature Society was founded and Lönnrot, being one of the founding members, received financial support from the society for his folk tale collecting trips. He went on extended leaves from his doctor’s office for trips to the countryside of Finland and nearby portions of Russian Karelia. He travelled by walking, rowing, skiing and using vehicular transport only occasionally and it has been established that he covered a distance equal to that of from Helsinki to the South Pole! These trips led to a series of books: *Kantele*, (1829-1831), *Kanteletar*, (1840), *Kalevala* (the “old” *Kalevala*), (1835-1836), *Sananlaskuja* (proverbs) (1842) and an expanded version second edition *Kalevala*, 1849 (the “new *Kalevala*). He also com-

(continued on page 5)

From The Library (continued from page 4)

compiled a Finnish-Swedish dictionary, a book on botany and important medical books. He was a talented musician and wrote many hymns. He did not marry until age 47; his wife, Maria Piponius, was 20 years his junior. They had five children, four girls and one boy, the oldest, who died as an infant. They also raised several orphaned children.

The first edition of the *Kalevala*, containing thirty-two poems or *runes*, did not create much interest. It took twelve years before the first 500 copies were sold. But he continued to collect new material and later integrated this into the second version, *The Kalevala*. This time sales were surprisingly brisk: 300 copies of an initial printing of 1250 were sold in the first three months. This new *Kalevala*, containing fifty poems, is the standard text of the *Kalevala* read and translated to this day.

The *Kalevala* has had a profound influence not only on Finland and its culture but worldwide. It has been translated into 61 languages. Six translations have appeared in English, those of John Martin Crawford (1888), William Forsell Kirby (1907), Keith Bosley (1989), Frances Peabody Magoun (1963), Eino Friberg (1988) and Aili Kolehmainen-Johnson (1950). Kolehmainen-Johnson and Magoun translated into prose, the others into verse. The Kolehmainen-Johnson version is an abridged version, especially suitable for young people. We have most of these in our library.

Kalevala's influence on the Finnish language, cultural life, literature, art and music has been far-reaching and is still felt today. It gave the Finnish language dignity; It established Finnish as a literary language, and helped to make Finnish the language of the country. The *Kalevala* has inspired numerous Finnish composers. Twelve of Sibelius' best-known works are based on or influenced by the *Kalevala*, and dozens of others have followed the same path. The artists who used *Kalevala* themes are too numerous to mention, but Akseli Gallen-Kallela's work is beyond compare. It can be seen, among other places, on the ceiling of the National Museum in Helsinki.

J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* is said to have been influenced by the *Kalevala*. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow conceived of his *Song of Hiawatha* after reading the *Kalevala* in German, and used *Kalevala* meter for his work.

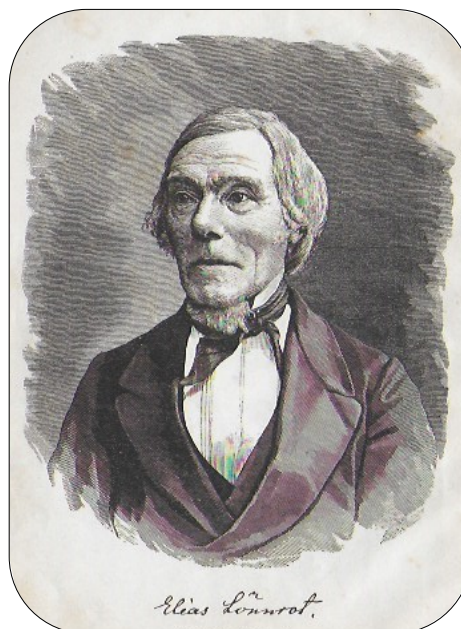
Lönnrot died in Sammatti on 19 March 1884. He was buried at Sammatti on 3 April. The 28th day of February is celebrated in Finland as Kalevala Day, for it was on this day in 1835 that Lönnrot signed the foreword of the *Old Kalevala*.

Lillian Lehto

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Above: Elias Lönnrot's birthplace
Right: Elias Lönnrot



“WITHOUT CHOIRS WE WOULD NOT HAVE THE SOCIETY WE HAVE TODAY.”

This bold quote is the title of an article published June 6, 2018, in the Finnish Music Quarterly by Tove Djupsjöbacka. The statement is from esteemed Finnish choral conductor, Pasi Hyökki, who is the director of Ylioppilaskunnan Laulajat, or YL (a 135 year-old male chorus), the children's choir Tapiola Choir, the Talla Vocal Ensemble, and the EMO Ensemble originally made up of students from the Espoo Music Institute. He also is in charge of a large vocal choral festival, VocalEspoo, which is held in Espoo, Finland, every two years in June. The festival, next to be held in 2020, is an opportunity for participants to take courses, compete, and give concerts. There were 161 entries for composition alone in 2018! Admittedly, Pasi Hyökki speaks from a biased viewpoint, but he does make an interesting and valid observation when he added, **“Everyone who has ever sung in a choir has a completely different appreciation for culture.”**

It was fascinating, while pursuing information about choral singing, to discover very early choirs (Europe - Middle Ages) sang in unison (plainchant) with different parts the exclusive reserve of soloists. Improvements of musical notation providing pitch and time values enabled more precise choral performances of even two-part polyphony (music of several voice parts). As Britannica Online states: music sung by a choir with two or more voices assigned to each part is referred to as *choral music*. Much music currently performed by choirs was originally written for soloists, which would make the singing of a madrigal (a part-song for several voices, especially one of the Renaissance period) by a larger group, similar to an orchestra performing the music originally written for a quartet. One thousand years ago, although there were traveling troupes of musicians that played at fairs and for the nobility, most music resided in the church. Nils Schweckendiek, the director of the Helsinki Chamber Choir, points out that in this era of different music ensembles and symphony orchestras, we forget “the first professional musicians in modern history were choral singers employed by the Church to perform highly challenging works by Ars Nova and Renaissance composers from the fourteenth century onwards.” We do find a wealth of choral music that comes from the rich tradition of religious music. Most choral groups today are not comprised of professional singers however. Schweckendiek agrees that it is sometimes easier to get a more natural blended sound from a group of amateurs, but states, “A group of highly-trained solo voices working together can produce different but equally exciting and very innovative sounds, including the use of non-standard vocal techniques.” Although Hyökki certainly encourages and supports amateurs in choral groups, he has been dismayed to hear vocal teachers warning their professional students away from singing in a group since he feels their expertise benefits a group as well.

Regardless of differences between choirs (size, mixed or all one sex, age, etc), Wikipedia lists some similarities: choirs or choruses are usually led by a conductor or choirmaster and most often choirs consist of four sections singing in four-part harmony. However, there is no limit to the number of possible parts as long as there is a singer available to sing the part. Other than four, the most common number of parts are three, five, six, and eight with varied number of voices singing each part. One piece, *Stabat Mater* by Penderecki, is for three choirs of sixteen voices each (singing individual parts) – a total of 48 parts! Choirs may be small, as the Finnish American Singers of Michigan has generally been (with from 12 – 35 members) or huge, as evidenced by large massed choirs sometimes gathered in recognition of a special event. The small choir shown in the following photo, The Finnish Singing Society, sang in Gilbert, Minnesota, in the early 20th century and was led by this writer's grandfather-in-law, Johannes Koskela, who wanted to continue the vocal traditions from his native country. The large massed choir is pictured on the steps of the Helsinki Cathedral in the Senate Square as they rehearsed on the eve of the church music festival Sana soi Stadissa.

Pasi Hyökki's assertion that the prestigious YL was originally established as a vehicle for promoting the Finnish language and culture aligns with the stated goals of FASM: To preserve, maintain and promote our Finnish American heritage and culture through choral music and concerts.

Without Choirs (continued from page 6)

Please consider joining our chorus, whether you are an amateur or professional singer! We practice Monday evenings at the FCA from 7- 9 pm with time for coffee after practice. We are beginning to practice for our spring concert, which will be held May 5th, the first Sunday of that month. Put it on your calendars and join us! We would love to see you.

Sources: Choir - Britannica Online; <https://fmq.fi/articles/without-choirs-we-would-not-have-the-society-we-have-today>; Midamerica-music.com/blog/history-choral-music; *Music: the Universal Language*, ed McConathy; <http://www.schweckendiek.org/content/status-professional-choral-singing-finland> Wikipedia.



Left: Finnish Singing Society, Johannes Koskela, director (1st row, center) with wife - Hilda Koskela (2nd row, second from right). Circa 1912, Gilbert, MN. Above: Helsinki, Finland – May 19, 2017

GIFT SHOP



Open Monday,
Wednesday, Friday
10 am - 4 pm
And during special events.

February Special
Wiener Nougat candy \$10.



Come see what is available!
There is a fine selection of Iittala,
Fazer chocolates, Panda,
pulla/nisu, a variety of herring and more.
One of our knowledgeable volunteers will
be happy to assist you.

PRESERVING WINTER WAR EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES

November, 1939 - March, 1940

We are seeking the children of Winter War soldiers and Lottas. We are also looking for people who were children during the Winter War, as well as their now-adult children. In order to preserve the experiences, memories, music, and precious artifacts of that era in Finland, we are creating a video of interviews with these people. We'll begin videoing at the Finnish Center in February. After the video is completed, a copy will be given to the families, it will be shown at the Finnish Center, and it will be archived in major facilities that preserve such videos and artifacts.

If you are one of these people, or know anyone who is, or would like more information about this important historical project, please contact Louise Hartung (248) 650-2976 or call the Finnish Center. We need to remember and archive this critical period in Finnish history.

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **James Weiland** (1/7/19) a donation has been made by Pearl Wanttaja and Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member **Rudolph Perttunen** (11/13/18) donations have been made by Frances Pierce and Francis & Eleanor Martin.

In memory of FCA life member **Joann (Laitinen) Hall** (11/10/18) a donation has been made by David Hall.

In memory of FCA life member **Connie Fosness** (11/5/18) a donation has been made by Louise Hartung.

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

Gerald Riutta (11/14/18)

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.



FINNFEST RETURNS TO METRO DETROIT

FinnFest USA is pleased to announce that the 2019 festival will be held September 20-22 in the greater Detroit metropolitan area.

Lectures, concerts, and the tori will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at Haggerty and Eight Mile Road September 20-22. On Saturday and Sunday special family and child-centric activities are planned. On Thursday, Sunday, and Monday, Finnish American workshops and seminars will be scheduled. Field trips are planned to nearby cultural sites, a variety of unique food opportunities will be offered, and Finland-based musical groups will be present throughout the event.

The Finnish Center Association and the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association are partnering with FinnFest USA and a number of activities are also planned at both locations. Other support and networking is being provided by Finlandia Foundation Michigan.

The hotel has a block of rooms reserved for FinnFest attendees and the hotel has free parking. Room reservations and FinnFest reservations can be made on the FinnFest website.

For more information go to <http://finnfest.us>. Also visit our Facebook page @FinnFestUSA.

FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET

February 15

5-8 pm

Be sure to join us.

It will be **pasty night** again!





VOLUNTEERING AT FINNFEST USA

Would you like to sign up? Working on the festival creates an opportunity to meet new people. It creates an environment in which to see and experience the greater Detroit region in new and different ways. For more information go to <http://finnfest.us> and our Facebook page @FinnFestUSA.

What kinds of volunteer tasks are available?

- A. Join one of the planning committees to do the decision making and execution of one of the festival tasks (e.g., programming, marketing, tori planning and administrating, program book, financing, logistics, housing and venue decisions.)
- B. Work just before the festival (e.g., assembling registration packets, making and installing signage, assisting with set-up of the festival site, running errands.)
- C. Work on the information, registration and ticket sales table.
- D. Manage the FinnFest USA booth, including sales of raffle tickets.
- E. Work on tasks during the festival (e.g., greeting, supervising spaces, passing out programs, taking tickets, managing the parking, assisting the shuttles.)
- F. Work on take-down tasks following the festival.

What time commitment is required of volunteers?

The overall festival volunteer opportunities will vary according to the task, some with considerable responsibility and others with little responsibility.

Compensation:

Volunteers can work before, during and after the festival. As a thank you, all will earn all or some portion of their festival registration fees. Options will relate to the volunteer task itself.

Watch for more details in future issues of this newsletter.

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDENS

The Garden Club members have been taking some time off this winter with out-of-town vacations in January and part of February. However, we had some new recruits in January to help us take down the holiday decorations.

Winter birds such as the dark eyed Juncos, American tree sparrows, and "winter sparrows" are back taking up residence near the bird feeders. The Northern harriers, rough-legged hawks, and red-tailed hawks are equally busy with all the increased feeder business. Take time to look up in the trees to see these predators just hanging out looking for their next meal!

Our first workday of the new year is February 11th. We will be tool cleaning and tentative planning day. If the mild weather continues we hope to finish the fall cleanup well before spring so that we can start in doing major renovations of the gardens in the spring. We hope to try working many of the gardens removing grass and aggressive plants and replanting with friendlier shrubs/perennials that attract pollinators.

More regular meetings will start come late March as we get closer to the time spring bulbs start arriving. If you have any questions, comments, or donations, you can contact me at (734) 546-5190 or via email at gaylegullen@hotmail.com.

Gayle Gullen, Finlandia Garden Club President

CALLING ALL BAKERS

Come join the men and women who bake the pulla/nisu at the FCA. Thursday, February 14, at 9:30 am is the next baking session. No experience necessary to create this Finnish favorite bread.

Want more incentive? Bakers also get free samples!





FINLAND TODAY



First, Finland's publicly-financed health care system: The Global Burden of Disease study, financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and published in the medical journal “The Lancet”. The Study examined the health care of 188 countries around the world and found Finland, Switzerland and Iceland are the top three countries to have the best Health Care systems. Some of the topics like disease statistics, mortality rates, risk factors and health issues are in the surveyed countries. The high level of quality, efficiency and fairness of care was found in the three countries. The researchers also examined health care quality versus their cost to patients, and Finland performed very well in that regard, too. The most expensive health care was in the United States. In Finland the annual cost-per-patient is around 2,800 euros, while in the United States' privately-financed health care system that figure is nearly 6,900 euros per patient.

Team Finland wins gold at ice hockey “World Junior Championship” in Vancouver. The World Junior Championship for under-20-year-old men's hockey, the winning goal was from the 17-year-old **Kaapo Kakko**, with less than one and one-half minutes left on the clock. The young Lions beat the second-place US team 3 -2 in an exciting final match. The goalie **Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen** made 26 saves for Finland in the final match.

What about this as a “New Year’s Resolution”- “New fitness extreme –Ice Swimming”? Young fitness enthusiasts are joining the ranks of winter swimmers in Finland, the scope is that cold, ice water does wonders for sore muscles. An estimate of 150,000 active winter swimmers will dip into the 'extreme' element – the icy sea – for FUN! The younger generation is getting hooked on the extreme sport of ice swimming.

Finland parliamentary elections will be held on April 14, 2019. Wikipedia definition: “The 200 members of the [Eduskunta](#) are elected using [proportional representation](#) in 13 multi-member constituencies, with seats allocated according to the [d'Hondt method](#). The number of elected representatives is proportional to the population in the district six months prior to the elections. [Åland](#) has single member electoral district and its own party system” So this seems amazing to me that Finland can have up to a total of **19 registered political parties** that can be elected to the parliament but currently there are only 8 parties in parliament. The eight political parties that were voted into the Finnish Parliament in 2015: *The Centre Party, National Coalition Party, Social Democratic Party, Finns Party, the Greens, Left Alliance, Swedish People's Party, and Christian Democrats*. Currently parties are working together to try to get a seat or two. So this seems very interesting that four political parties without a current seat in the Finnish Parliament have decided to form an electoral union, in the hopes of winning at least one MP post. *Finland's Feminist Party, Pirate Party, Animal Justice Party and Liberal Party* have decided to come together to create a joint electoral union in Helsinki ahead of the parliamentary elections. These parties have to work together to get elected. Also there is something new for spring elections to look for - *a possibility to vote by post* will be introduced in the parliamentary elections of spring 2019. This means that eligible voters who reside abroad permanently and eligible voters who reside in Finland but are abroad at the time of the elections may vote by post. Elections website of the Ministry of Justice www.vaalit.fi Customer service by email kirjeaanestys@vaalit.fi

(continued on page 11)

Finland Today (continued from page 10)

And Finally,

Three siblings ages 91, 92, and 93 live together. Hilma is in the sauna, and cries out for help, as she cannot remember if she was going to take a sauna or just add wood to the stove. In the woodshed Tauno was splitting wood so he said that he would help Hilma in her distress. So Tauno fill his arms with wood and start to walk to the house (or was it to the Sauna?) and calls for help. Sister Senja was in the kitchen and she hears all what was going on, and she raps her knuckles on the table and says: "Knock on wood (knock, knock) - I hope I never get that confused - I will be there to help you both as soon as I go see if Heikki is at the front door for sauna night"



Paras aika istuttaa puu oli
kaksikymmentä vuotta sitten.
Toiseksi paras aika on nyt.

The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

**You know you're Finnish
when...**

**cpäjärjestelmällistytämättömyydellänsäköhän
makes perfect sense**

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE:

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 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!

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One and two bedroom rentals
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Paul N. Potti, Director