

Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 03 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 05 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 05 Friday Flea Market 10 am 4 pm
- 06 Saturday Flea Market 10 am 3 pm
- 07 Sunday Iceland Travelogue 2 pm by Lynda Mitgutsch & Ed O'Brien
- 10 Rental
- 10 FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 13 Rental
- 14 Sunday Finnish Film 2 pm
- 16 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 19 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 24 Rental
- 24 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon Celebrating Easter at the luncheon
- 27 Saturday Vappu Party 5 pm

May

- 01 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 03 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 04 Saturday Volunteer Lunch 2 pm
- 05 Sunday FASM concert 4 pm
- 08 Rental
- 15 Wednesday Mother's Day Celebration Lunch 12 noon
- 16 Rental
- 17 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 19 Sunday Scholarship Reception 2 pm
- 22 Rental
- 27 Monday Closed for Memorial Day
- 30 Rental
- 31 Rental





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!

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

- L'uneneo L'ast
 - Last Wednesday of the month 12 noon

Reservations are recommended for all events.

April 2019

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FCA NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Although puddles are ice covered, still, in the mornings, there are bits of green in the gardens and hope in the air - of spring! We are busy planning activities at the Center. There is the second "Let's Talk" scheduled for April 3, the Flea Market on April 5 & 6, an Iceland Travelogue on April 7. Friday night buffets are ongoing. Mary O'Brien, our dedicated gift shop manager, is busy stocking up the gift shop with items for Easter and Vappu. And, our famous Vappu party is just around the corner - on April 27, 2019. This traditional Finnish celebration of spring is one of the most fun celebrations in Finland - it sends the doldrums of winter behind us and raises spirits of hope and new life for everyone young and old, students and workers. These are among the many wonder-filled ways to participate at the Center this month.

FinnFest USA is moving forward with their agenda and have confirmed venue spaces, tours, performances and lectures - rooms have been blocked along with venue space at the Novi Sheraton hotel and planning for FCA's involvement at "FinnFest USA coming to Detroit - September 19 - 22, 2019" - is ongoing. Updates will be provided on the FCA website and in this newsletter. Additionally, reservation information for FinnFest - 2019, with details of the calendar and location of events are posted at <u>https://finnfest.us</u>.

This is only the second ever FinnFest in the Detroit area and we're filled with hope and excitement - to bring Finns out of the regional 'woodwork' - to renew interest in their culture and the Finnish Center and to know how the Finnish Center might enrich their lives in months and years to come. We're eager to share our mission with new members and new members can infuse the center with new energies. We are so eager to present the Center in the best possible light and as always, but especially now, there is much to attend to at the Center before September and this means volunteers are sought after, welcome, and so appreciated.

And, lastly, we are more than happy to report the first construction crew will begin renovation with removal and replacement of the roof and siding of building 11 at Tapiola II - soon as the weather permits. This is only the beginning of phase I of a grander plan to renovate Tapiola Village - it's been a long time coming and there's much yet to do. Progress updates will be posted.

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

Mia Lamminen Chairman

P.S. A lot of 'goods' have accumulated in all corners of the FCA building - and need clearing. If you have any possessions stored at the center please retrieve them before April 7, 2019. Any items left will be disposed of at our discretion.

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SOCIAL NEWS

April will begin with Let's Talk. Last month we heard many good stories. Most of us have heard or lived through interesting Finnish Times. We want you to tell us your stories. What a fun way to all hear about our Finnish Heritage. Join us on April 3 and May 1 at 11 am.

APRIL EVENTS:

April 5/6 is the annual flea market which promises to be a fun time for all.

April 7 Lynda Mitgutsch and Ed O'Brien will be here for an Iceland Travelogue. Come see this magi cal land of glaciers, mountains, geysers, and sheep. More sheep live in Iceland than people. Join us at 2 pm.

April 24 will be the monthly luncheon with an Easter theme. We will serve at noon.

April 27 is Vappu which is a fun night for the beginning of spring. Such a fun night, I do hope you will come.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY:

May 4 is the volunteer luncheon. This is a time of honoring all of our volunteers. We appreciate all of you and want a time to say thank you to such special people. Please, please call the Finnish Center to let us know you are coming.

May 15 at noon will be a Mother's Day celebration to honor all mothers and daughters too. We will serve a light lunch and if the men want to come you are welcome too. Let's have a fun day. Please join us!

Mary O'Brien

FROM THE LIBRARY



Lady Unafraid by J. Raleigh Nelson



This is a true story of a 17 year old student from Ann Arbor who had accepted the challenge of spending a year as a teacher at the Ojibway Indian reservation in L'Anse, on Lake Superior. The year was 1862. She was being sponsored by the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions. She had already applied for mission work in India but was encouraged to stay closer to home and the one year session sounded easier to her.

However, there is a story before the story of what we are considering. Her family of seven (5 children) lived in England. Rebekah was only six years old when her father decided to accept an offer from the Boston and Pittsburg Copper Company to the position of Captain of the Cliff Mine. He was recognized in Cornwall as a great mining engineer

.The family boarded a small sailing vessel for the six weeks it took to reach Quebec. The Asiatic cholera was of epidemic proportions from Quebec to Toronto. As they were preparing to leave the boat they were stopped by the quarantine. Her father found her sick mother in the stateroom and by the time she was diagnosed, the 4 year old boy and baby sister had become ill too and all three died by morning. Only Rebekah and two of her brothers were left to cope with the grief of her dad. After a while her older brother Charley succumbed to tuberculosis.

Father decided he could not take them to a strange place and depend on strangers so the children were sent back home. Father was committed to six years on his job and he didn't see his children for all that time. In the meantime he had remarried. The family was together but it was not a happy winter.

When Rebekah returned several years later a visiting Reverend from Ann Arbor realized the stressful situation and invited Rebekah to live with them and share his daughter's room. That summer Rebekah prepared to take the long stormy trip to Ann Arbor. Again she suffered more loss when her dad died of a heart attack. Now there were only her one brother and herself. He was by that time in the Union Army in Virginia but they wrote to each other for a time.

When Rebekah was offered the one year missionary term up north she immediately planned to accept it even though she had another year of high school left. All her friends and the Pastor's family agreed – she should have a year's experience with a real challenge which would ease her through her grief and terrible loss. It would also test her aptitude for the difficult career path ahead.

The first part of her journey was to get to Houghton where she was to meet her transportation to L'anse, which turned out to be Indians with canoes. They appeared not to speak English. They kept her warm with fur and blankets and showed with gestures what she should do. They were quiet and intent on their important assignments. There were many turbulent periods when they were tossed about. The guides questioned her by pantomime if she was afraid. She said she will not be afraid because she knew God would take care of her. He always has and always will. After reminding them of her certainty, they relaxed and began to call her *Lady Unafraid*. The book is authored by Rebekah's son who as a child listened to his mom's memories in her frequent story-telling sessions. She was Cornish born and bred with a special flair for drama. As he grew older he asked her the details of everything she remembered and was able to make his writings accurate.

(continued on page 5)

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Library (continued from page 4)

One memento which he has is a daguerreotype taken before she left Ann Arbor for her mission. He describes her as slender and rather fragile. She wore a billowing hoop skirt and crinolines. She had brown eyes and auburn hair falling to her waist.

Teaching came naturally to Rebekah. She had to contend with a wide range of ages all in one room. Some of the students were taller than she. They were anxious to learn and their attitude was more than respect. One little girl, Mayme, had some physical impairment and was eager to keep up with the others. She was reassured by learning the prayer we all learned "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep". When Mayme got to "if I should die before I wake", she wanted to be reassured that if she died she would wake with a perfect body just like everyone else! Rebekah instinctively set her mind at ease. Rebekah showed talents she didn't know she had and was grateful and happy and knew she was doing what she was meant to do.

One day when she was at a loss as to what would initiate interest she brought out a gift – a little book of *Hiawatha* a friend had given her to read "By the shores of Gitchi Gumi by the shining big sea water!" Many of the children already knew about "the prophet".

Light of the Morning (the chief's son) wanted to identify with the words of Hiawatha who lived and toiled and suffered that the tribes of men might prosper that he might advance his people. Light of the Morning was shot when he caught a person stealing his traps. It caused enough rioting to start a war but the chief just wanted everyone to get together and work for peace. The shooter was forced to make amends and to face what his carelessness had done. Rebekah was part of a ritual to make her a member of the tribe. Father Baraga translated *Silent Night* for the Indians to sing at the school Christmas celebration. She was given two sled dogs. One of them was a Husky with Wolf mix. He was called *Coland*. He formed a special bond with Rebekah, it was thought because his former owner had also been white.

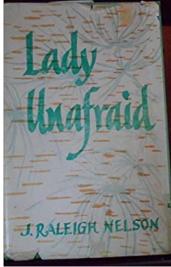
It is clear to any readers of this adventure, Rebekah treasured her challenge. She wrote in her letters and in the way she learned about the Indians, it was important. The Indians in turn worshipped her as they had not seen a white lady with auburn hair. She must have looked like an angel. They knew she was not coming back and gave her a quiet and respectful goodbye.

Father Baraga impressed her; she believed all people should feel that everyone worships one God, like the Indians who believed in a Great Spirit. Father Baraga came to visit the family she lived with and the Marches whom she spent weekends with. She got to know him as a bishop that same year. Everyone was his friend. (As you know, Bishop Baraga is on a long journey to sainthood! One more miracle to identify!) Optional but its's a nice thought.

We have this book in the library.

The story fits in with our U.P. history.

Ruth Ojala, Library Volunteer



SING THAT TUNE.....

Samuel Francis Smith was born in Boston in 1808. As a distinguished student, he advanced to Harvard University where he won writing awards, graduating in 1829. Studying for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary culminated in his ordination as a Baptist minister, followed marriage in 1834 and family of six children. Not only did Smith hold positions in the Northeast as a minister, he also acted as a professor of modern languages at a nearby college, did translations for Encyclopedia Americana, and for years edited the Christian Review as well as the publications of the Baptist Missionary Union. At seventy-three he spent two years visiting the chief missionary stations in Europe and four years later continued those visits in Asia over the next two years. He had the reputation of being able to read in fifteen languages and began studying Russian at the age of eighty-seven!

A prolific author, Dr. Smith wrote more than 100 hymns, poetry, and at least four historical writings and translations of foreign books. However, it was at Andover while perusing a German songbook, Smith found one melody he loved that sounded familiar, and noting the lyrics contained patriotic sentiments, impulsively decided to write his own lyrics in English. Taking only thirty minutes Smith wrote his own American patriotic hymn to the melody, with verses essentially the same as they are today. The tune, or one very similar, had been popular in several European countries including Finland, Scotland, France, and Germany for centuries, but it was its association as the tune for Britain's God Save the King that concerned some Americans. After receiving a copy from the author, the song was so admired by his friend, composer Lowell Mason, that Mason decided to publish the poem and arranged for the first public singing of it on July 4, 1931 or 1932 (sources differ) by a group of 500 young people at the Park Avenue Congregational Church near Boston Common as part of an Independence Day celebration. It is a song we all have sung and recognize more readily by the first verse that begins "My country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty...!"

Until 1931 when an act of Congress officially designated The Star-Spangled Banner as our national anthem, Americans could choose the song they preferred as the official national hymn or anthem. Popular choices also included Hail Columbia, Yankee Doodle, and America the Beautiful, as well as America (My Country 'Tis of Thee). Even though the latter was not chosen as the official anthem, it is often considered our "informal" anthem because "...it well expresses the loyalty, love and devotion" which citizens feel for this country. Samuel F. Smith, in his humble way, stated, "I pray that the spirit of the simple verses may be the spirit of our people evermore." And the spirit of people can be expressed through their music!

The verses he wrote, when voiced in musical form, recognize specifically three times and especially in verse three, the power and strength of song to express our sentiments.

"Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song;

Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break,

The sound prolong."

Our May 5th concert theme comes from the title of one of the songs we are singing, *Let the Music Fill Your Soul*. Music is powerful and impressions in *America*, published in 1832, are echoed by *Songs in the Night* by Victor C. Johnson also published in the 1800s, adapted from texts by English poet William Blake and American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. "Such songs have pow'r to quiet the restless pulse of care, and come like a benediction that follows after prayer. As melodies of beauty fall from the azure sky, all the earth is hushed by this midnight lullaby."

Patriotism, brotherhood, awe in and of nature, joy, perseverance in the face of problems, rest, and peace are just a few of the feelings music may elicit, touching each of us. "Sometimes when I chance to catch the sunrise rising o'er the Eastern range, Something inside me winds up singing; Something inside me is changed.

(Continued on page 7)

APRIL IN THE GARDENS

April and Spring and the gardeners have returned to the gardens! Some birds are starting to nest already including sparrows and red-winged black birds. The dark-eyed juncos have returned north and the robins are more numerous. Tulips are up this month along with hyacinth while buds are forming on many trees.



We have several new gardeners that have joined us this year and we are very excited. The first official group work day of April is tax day April 15th as I'm out of town for my Mom's 92nd birthday the first two Mondays. We will then be cutting back hydrangea, spirea, clematis and the remainder of the perennials we didn't remove in the fall. Later in April we work on trees, roses, butterfly bushes and Russian sage to name a few. Cleanup of the vegetable gardens in preparation for their rentals starts in late April (more information to follow in May).

David Sharpe will still have work days earlier in April to work on woodshop projects or perennial cleanup as weather permits. Contact David at (248) 977-1337 for particular workdays.

If you see cars near the woodshop on Monday morning, please drop by and join us in our projects, to chat, or have a cup of coffee.

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

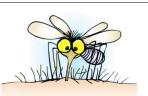
Gayle Gullen Finlandia Garden Club President **Sing that tune** (continued from page 6)

And deep inside it seems there's more to life than we might know And it stirs the music in my soul." (*Sing On!* Lane Johnson, 2018)

Current songwriters may use language that is more familiar to us, but the moods and sentiments are the same and bind us together in common spirit. "May ev'ry people make this their creed: to join together in word and in deed! Let us all sing and make a joyful sound. Let us all sing, glorious praise abound." (*Let Us All Sing*, K. Christopher, 1997)

Please join us Sunday, May 5TH, 4 pm, for our Spring concert, *Let Music Fill Your Soul*.

Submitted by Scribe, Katy Koskela



FLEA MARKET Friday, April 5 10 am - 4 pm Saturday, April 6 10 am - 3 pm

Treasures await at every table. Glassware, jewelry, antiques, toys, dolls, furniture, bric-a-brac, vintage clothing and more. Don't forget to stop by the ever popular bake sale. A light lunch will also be available.

We hope to see you there.



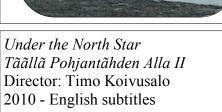
Happy Birthday to Charlotte Lytikainen who turned 95 on March 21, 2019

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MEMORIALS In memory of FCA member Betty Wallace (2/11/19) a donation has been made by Charlotte Lytikainen. In memory of FCA life member Leonard Holmbo (1/20/19) donations have been made by Charlotte		Please include full name (with middle initial), ad- dress, 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 mem-	
 (1/20/19) donations have been made by Charlotte Lytikainen and Lois Makee. In memory of FCA member Nancy (Kivisaari) Sannar (1/18/19) a donation has been made by Charlotte Lytikainen. In memory of FCA life member Rudolph (Rudy) Perttunen (11/13/18) donations have been made by Sharon & Arvo Parkila, Gail & Gary Burke, Jeannette & Bryan Burke and Will & Kris Will. 		ber who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.	
	FCA life member Blanche Ilona	GIFT SHOP	
Kathryn Hill.	6/18) a donation has been made by d also like to extend condolences to friends of:	The gift shop has been getting some new items to bring excitement to The Finnish Center. New books are arriving almost weekly. You will want to check them out. The book called SISU is a big hit.	
Margaret Kantola (3/3/19) Gerald Stefaniak (2/24/19)		We are expecting some new items from Iittala includ- ing Moomin mugs. We are well stocked with candy so come and get your Easter treats.	
Association an <u>West Eight Mile</u> Donations rece	our check out to the Finnish Center d send donations to: <u>FCA, 35200</u> <u>e Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335</u> . vived by the 5th of each month will the next month's newsletter.	Mary O'Brien	
it toward a spe FCA General H Folk Dancers,	a memorial donation, you may direct crific fund. The funds available are: Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Musicians and Finnish American		
Singers.			RELAYS CIRCUIT BREAKERS
	he deceased may direct undesignated d a specific fund (up to one year after	TRANSFORMERS ELECTRIC HOISTS	
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		15046 MARSHA ST. LIVONIA, MI 48154	Emil ELL: 734-740-4784

ICELAND TRAVELOGUE Sunday, April 7 at 2:00 pm

Come to Iceland through the magic of photography. Enjoy the magic land of the Yule Lads of Christmas. We will travel the golden circle to see the geyser geo thermal area, the mossy mountains, birds and horses. Then we will see the glaciers. Lynda Mitgutsch and Ed O'Brien will be here for another wonderful travelogue in our Nordic Country series.

Here are a few teaser photos. Please join us for the full travelogue.



April 14, 2019 at 2 pm

This film is based on the popular trilogy *Under the North Star* by Vainõ Linnã. It follows the life of a Finnish rural family from the aftermath of the civil war to WWII.

I have not seen this film, but I can say that the trilogy on which it is based is one of the best of Finnish literature translated into English. Like Linnã's *The Unknown Soldier*, *Under the North Star* is a page turner.









APRIL 2019



FINLAND TODAY

Finn Facts if you are traveling to Finland for the first time!



First, you need a valid national passport (check with the Finnish Embassy if you have any questions). You do not need vaccinations. You can shop tax free in Finland (16% savings). Credit Cards accepted: American Express, Diner's Club, Master Card and Visa in larger stores. The legal age for drinking 18. Finland is a very safe place, but in case of an Emergency, you can Dial 112, free of charge. Finland's waiters and waitresses are actually paid a living wage, no need to tip much, at the most 5 to 10 Euros. Be modest in your conversations, most Finns do not want to hear bragging, do not show up at your relative's doorstep without an invite, you will not be welcome.

So if you are greeting your relatives for the first time, *a handshake is in order rather than a bear hug* or heaven forbid a kiss on the cheek, we just do not do that! You may be able to hug after a visit but even that is questionable. If you feel like a hug is coming up you may have your host step back a few steps and a quick hand move for a hardy handshake and a simple "Hyvasti" (Good Bye). Just remember Finns have a reputation for quietness, stoic somewhat alarmingly quiet. Just give them space and time to warm up to you. "Hey, how are you!" opening phrase in US, but not in Finland. How about "It is nice to meet you, second

time "nice to see you!" or just plain <u>"Moiii!" is appropriate.</u>

Avoid asking personal question. Never ask about salary or how many cow or pigs they own. That is a private matter in Finland and you do not need to know that. Make sure you do not say anything negative about their hockey teams, just go with the flow.

You should always *eat all the food on your plate*. Leaving food uneaten is not respectful and it is wasteful, food is very expensive and it is not wasted. You do not need to eat potato peels or fat, but only take what you think you will eat and no more.

At a *family home, always remove your shoes*. Most people will bring second pair of shoes or slippers.

Cans and bottles are always returned to the store and recycled – Finns are real big in recycling.

Sauna is not a luxury, but rather a necessary daily experience. It's the reason you will see a sauna in almost every home or for sure every cottage. Just a warning you will end up in the family sauna with members with no clothes on, so just remember *everyone will be naked*. So if you are invited to a Finnish sauna, it is *best NOT to refuse*. An invitation signifies their acceptance of you - it's an honor. So if you want to decline, you better have a good reason for it! Just saying: "I can't because of my hair", just will not do.

Two simple Sauna rules: always sit on a small towel when in the sauna. You should wash yourself before and after the sauna.

I just love this one: 'Everyman's right", 'jokamiehen oikeus'. This allows everyone to roam freely in nature, eat and pick berries or mushrooms anywhere in Finland's forests. You can even pitch a tent or sleep in your car or boat as long as you are responsible, respectful and leave no damage, litter or do any disturbance to the landowner and their space or his/her property. So you can stop your car and look around at any time without permission from landowners, but not too close to someone's house, and no, you should not go and pick someone's apples.

Renting a car, just make sure you **drive within the speed limits** or you may be leaving a pile of your hard earn money to pay for a hefty fine. The fine is calculated according to your income. It might be an expensive trip.

(continued on page 11)

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Finland Today (continued from page 10)

Did you ever think why our Finnish roots were so practical, well there is a saying: "Only ugly people need to dress up" or, in Finnish: "vain rumat ne vaatteilla koreilee", make sense to me. It goes back to the days we did not have much so we always had two sets of clothing – work cloths and Sunday best, and always clean. I must say Finns have camp clothing, the third set of clothing - I do too. No wonder – it is part of our culture that came over with our immigrating parents or grandparents with very little – but what is my excuse? Cheap? Frugal? So my point is you do not need to bring a suitcase of clothing. Clothing will not impress your relatives. But, bring practical clothing, just like you would be going to the UP, always have something *warm* to slip into, *practical and simple* is the best, not saying it cannot be fashionable.

Have fun, enjoy the beautiful Finnish summer - Midnight Sun/Juhannus, the clean air, the "Tori"- the market place. The taste of Finland: strawberries, new potatoes, the same day caught fresh fish, the rye bread, the Korvapusti, Pulla and the list goes on. Enjoy the unforgettable saunas and lakes, the families that you get to meet for the first time or new friends.

And finally, Matti was on his way to the pet shop in Marquette and was not very happy. Hilma works at the pet shop and can hopefully help him. "Moiii, Matti, can I help!": asked Hilma. Matti growls: "Joo, Joo!" Matti pulls out a list and hands it to Hilma. Hilma reads out loud: "15 cockroaches, 35 termites, a small box of wasps, and two pregnant mice." Hilma: "I did not know you have a pet snake!" " Ei, Ei", said Matti:". "I am moving from Toivo's old camp and Toivo told me I must leave the *place exactly as it was* when I moved there. I am having a hard time catching that many cockroaches, I only have 3 termites, I am short 20 and no wasps, I am having hard time counting them and the hardest thing is to find two pregnant mice and to have to pay for all this when they were all free when I moved in, VOI, VOI!!!!"

Markku Ketola Marketola@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE: EDITOR CONTACT INFO: LAYOUT AND DESIGN: **E-MAIL:**

DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 5TH PAUL RAJALA NANCY RAJALA 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.

READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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FCA NEWS

APRIL 2019

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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