



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

December 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2019

- 01 Sunday Finnish American Singers of MI Concert 4 pm
- 04 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 06 Friday Finnish Cake Day 2 pm
- 07 Saturday Finnish Independence Day Dinner 5 pm
- 08 Sunday Cultural Committee Independence Day Program 2 pm
- 10 Tuesday "Little Christmas" 7 pm
- 11 Rental
- 11 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 13 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 13 Friday Novi Concert Band 7 pm (during dinner)
- 14 Rental
- 15 Sunday Candlelight Memorial Service & Dinner 2 pm
- 21 Saturday Pikkujoulu Christmas Party 5 pm
- 23-Jan 03 Closed for Christmas & New Year Holiday



January 2020

- 03 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 08 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 08 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11 Rental
- 12 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 19 Sunday Brunch 11 am - 2 pm
- 19 Rental
- 25 Rental
- 26 Rental
- 26 Sunday Nordic Heritage Folk Dance Practice 2 – 5 pm

Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Monday 7 pm
- Library
Open Monday 10 am-2 pm
- Finlandia Garden Club & Wood Shop
Mondays 9 am

Monthly Events

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

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Winter is here and many don't like winter but that first snow is just magical. Michigan abounds with beauty and maybe that is one reason the Finns came here to settle. Michigan is a lot like Finland with its lakes and forests.

The Scandinavian Market is over and what a fun event to participate in with friends and family. It was a huge success and we have many people to thank. Mia Lamminen did a wonderful job of organizing and it was all that we hoped it would be. We have so many vendors and volunteers to thank but I want to also highlight our advertisement crew. Fran Fadie did a very good job of getting in newsletter and email. I know she puts in a lot of hours to get this done. Thank you. I would also like to thank Ed O'Brien for doing our Facebook page. Thank you Nancy and Paul Rajala for the newsletter work and Alice Manley and her team for getting it mailed out.

The next big event is the Finnish American Singers of Michigan concert on December 1 at 4 pm. They work so hard, let's give them our support. Independence Day dinner promises to be a very nice event. We have tried to keep the price down so perhaps more could attend. The price will be \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors with a special price for children. This is a very special and important time for us. Please try to attend. Call the Finnish Center for reservations (248) 478-6939 or you can call me at (248) 895-3231. Hope to see you there.

Another great event that is free is Independence Day celebration on Sunday, December 8, sponsored by the Cultural Committee. This will be a time to remember. We hope you can join us.

Other events to finish the month

December 10 - Little Christmas 7 pm

December 13 - Buffet with a concert by

Novi Concert Band. Dinner begins at 5 pm.

December 15 - Candlelight Memorial Service at 2 pm

December 18 - Christmas party at noon

December 21 - Pikkujoulu 5 pm



I want to offer an apology to Larry and Sandy Gersky for not thanking you for help at FinnFest USA. I am so sorry. Sandy and Larry not only helped there but they also help with the poker fundraiser. Poker is very time consuming and everyone who helps is appreciated. If anyone else is ever left out I am sorry and please let me know.

A very happy Christmas to all and a prosperous New Year.

Hyvää joulua ja onnellista uutta vuotta

Mary O'Brien
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

Mary O'Brien, Chairman
Linda Poirier, Vice Chairman
Ilona Takakura, Treasurer
Linda Poirier, Secretary & Asst. Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Mia Lamminen, James Lee,
Mary O'Brien

2 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,
Ilona Takakura

3 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Sherrill Tedford,
Austin Strobridge

Alternates

#1 Mike Fadie
#2 Carol Tudball
#3 Ilene Yanke

Financial Review

Maria Lena Kuhn
Christine Manninen
Roger Wanttaja

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

Olli Lamminen, Chairman

Tapiola Village

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

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

DECEMBER IN THE GARDENS

The holiday lights were checked in early November so we could have them out in early December for all the festivities which take place at the Finnish Center in the month of December. The GFI by the front sign is out again so we are running a long extension cord to the box near Tapiola Village.

We presented David's project highlighting the environmental history of Finlandia Gardens at a meeting of Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training in early December. We received quite a few volunteers this year from our efforts in this endeavor last year and hopefully will get more next year.

We will be meeting the first Monday in January to remove the decorations if anyone is available to assist. Meetings for the rest of the winter are to be determined based on vacations, winter weather, and David's surgical recovery.

If you have any questions, comments, or donations, you can contact me at (734) 546-5190 or via email at gaylegullen@hotmail.com.

Extra Christmas lights (LED's please) are always appreciated.

Gayle Gullen



CELEBRATION OF FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



Saturday, December 7, 2019
5:00 pm

Tickets which include dinner:
\$30 Per Person
\$25 (60 & over)
\$10 (12 & under)

FASM and FinnFolk will perform. David Sharpe guest speaker. Please make reservations by the close of business hours (4 pm) at the center on Monday, December 2.

You can sign up by calling the Finnish Center at (248) 478-6939, stopping by the center, or email your reservation to finnishcenter@gmail.com.

GIFT SHOP

Thank you for a wonderful year at the Gift shop. We ordered, we marked, we displayed, and you bought. When I ordered for FinnFest I thought I was done ordering for the year but then you bought more. So I ordered for Scandinavian Market. Thank you for supporting your gift shop.

The Scandinavian market was a huge success. We had wonderful volunteers to help. I appreciate all of you for your time. I couldn't have done it without you. I have a good friend who isn't a member but gave up 3 days to help. Thank you.

A new volunteer has come on board. I would like to introduce Cindy Shahly. She will be working when available. Thanks, Cindy, for joining us.

We have many more occasions to shop yet this year so please stop in and find those special items you've looking for. Lots of books, food products and Iittala.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you! Mary, Sherrill, Amy and Cindy.

Hyvää Joulua,
Mary O'Brien



SUNSHINE LADY

Sending get-well cards, anniversary, congratulations, thinking-of-you cards and words-of-encouragement cards to FCA members

This little known function has been around for many years, and can only be accomplished when I am notified that someone needs a card. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you,
Eunice Potti Gould

NOVI CONCERT BAND

Friday, December 13
Concert Only \$5
Dinner 5-8 pm
Dinner and Concert \$12
Concert 7 pm



FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2020

Election at the Annual meeting on February 16, 2020 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 17, 2020 to the Finnish Center Association, attention Annikki Kurvi, Nominating Committee Chair. Biographies may also be submitted via email to finnishcenter@gmail.com.

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

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

FCA SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE

We are seeking candidates for three Board of Trustee positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 16, 2020 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 17, 2020 at:

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

CAR TROUBLE

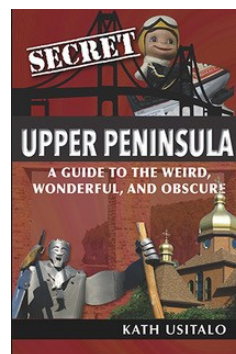
Lena: "Der is trouble vit da car, sveetheart. It has vater in da carburetor."

Ole: "Vater in da carburetor? Dat is ridiculous."

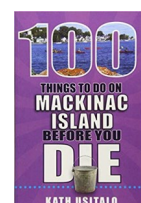
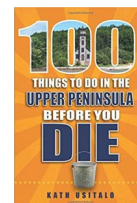
Lena: "Ole, I tell you da car has vater in the carburetor."

Ole: "You don't even know vat a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Ver is da car?"

Lena: "In da lake."



FCA member Kath Usitalo has a new book: Secret U.P. is a natural companion to her "100 Things" books. Check the FCA gift shop or learn more at GreatLakesGazette.com





KIITOS

Thank you to all involved who made the Scandinavian Market a success. Record number of visitors came for this wonderful get together. Special thanks to all our exhibitors: Finn Weavers, Nordkap Lodge/Sons of Norway, Fritzcraft, The Swedish Club, Swedish Club Women's Organization, Jenny Lind Club of Michigan, Scandia House, Danish Brotherhood, Accents by Agatha, Finnish Family Bath Products, The Lavender Fleece, Susan Fogarasi and Laestadian Lutheran Church. Thank you to Nordkap Lodge/Sons of Norway and FCA volunteers who again provided great food for the visitors. Thank you also goes to all the tireless volunteers at the admissions, gift shop sales, bake sale, kitchen and food service who made it all happen and not to forget the volunteers setting up the hall. Without our volunteers we could not have done it. Our bakers did a great job in filling our table for the bake sale. Thank you to Nancy Rajala for making sure we had coffee and cake and Paul Rajala and his crew who provided pasties. Thank you also to Mary O'Brien who had stocked up the gift store with great gift items, food and candy. Finally a special thank you to FinnFolk for providing music for the occasion.

The date for next year's Market is November 14, 2020. Mark your Calendars!!

KIITOS!

Mia Lamminen



Scandinavian Market



Scandinavian Market



Christmas Greetings

Ed and Evelyn Hyypio

Chuck and Elaine Lada

Neil Manley

Debbie Rajala

Delores Rajala



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member K. Maria Hill (6/26/19) a donation has been made by Mirja & Thomas Przybylski.

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

FCA life member Kirsti Maria Niemi (10/23/19)
 FCA member Theodore (Ted) Mannikka (10/1/19)
 FCA life member Earl H. Hansen (9/16/19)
 FCA life member Arthur Sippola (8/6/19)
 FCA life member Bertha Anderson (7/27/19)
 FCA life member Raili Diels (5/27/19)
 FCA member Ernest Johnson (10/13/16)
 FCA life member Carol Stapula (4/11/16)
 FCA life member Robert Stapula (6/25/14)
 FCA life member Peg Sippola (2000)

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.



6TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 15
 2 - 3 pm Program
 3 - 4 pm Dinner

You're invited to the 6th Annual Candlelight Service to remember those who have passed on. Dinner will follow the program, including angel tree presentations.

To have your loved one remembered, please send their name with your donation to Finnish Center Association, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Please make a reservation by Wednesday, December 11, to help us with the dinner count.



FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sunday, December 8
 2 pm

The Cultural Committee will be commemorating Finland's Independence Day on December 8 at the center. Our program includes a talk by David Elsila on the immigrant generation Finns and their second and third generation children who entered the labor force in the Detroit area. David Elsila is the son of Sylvia and Edward Elsila who were lifetime members of the center which they helped found. David's career was as editor of Solidarity, the newsletter of the United Auto Workers. He also planned and led the labor tour for FinnFest this summer. Louise Hartung will also briefly discuss her recent project on the Finnish American memories of Finland's wars.

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PIKKUJOULU - LITTLE CHRISTMAS - FIRST ADVENT

Pikkujoulu, Little Christmas, begins in conjunction with the religious season of Advent, the period that anticipates the birth of the infant Jesus and includes the four Sundays before Christmas. Sometimes Pikkujoulu is referred to as First Advent. One source suggested First Advent was based on a Swedish tradition called Lilla Jul (Little Christmas) that focuses on the name day of Tuomas, December 21st, the first day when homemade beer is allowed. Evolving into St. Lucy's Day, it resembles the Finnish Pikkujoulu. However, another source maintained that the First Advent traditions occurring all that first weekend are more family related, revolving around activities and gatherings that pull together the family and always include special food. Plum jam mince pies (joulu torttu), a warm, fruit spiced and often spiked drink (glögi), cardamom bread (pulla), rice pudding, and jam tarts might be among the goodies served. Musical performances and events such as concerts and sing-alongs take place in churches, social halls, and concert venues encouraging pre-Christmas community. Traditionally the hymn *Hosianna* by Vogler (1749-1814) is sung, much as it is at the FCA Little Christmas celebration.

Although roots of the Finnish pre-Christmas parties go back to the Advent celebrations of the 1800's, the current less religious bent of Pikkujoulu owes its metamorphoses to student groups in the 1920s and 1930s desiring a way to alleviate the long, dark cold winters! After the Second World War, the general population eager for any occasion to celebrate, embraced Pikkuloulu until today the parties have become prevalent at every business, company, organization, and club. The simplest might be cookies, sandwiches, and non-spiked punch at a short two-hour party. The most extravagant might take place on a cruise to Sweden and include cabins, meals, drinks, and sight-seeing!

Food is always provided however, often a full meal. Entertainment may include holiday speeches, humorous sketches, mock awards, a band, Christmas karaoke, or a sing-along of holiday music. Often a significant amount of alcohol is imbibed – leading to the advice that what happens at Pikkujoulu stays at Pikkujoulu!! Hospitality related businesses in Finland enjoy the boost during this season: restaurants, hotels, resorts, clubs, taxis, limos, as well as hair salons and fashion sources.

Many American Finnish communities enjoy a Pikkujoulu celebration. Some are primarily musical events, others include dinner, parties for children, and often an appearance by Joulupukki (Finnish Santa Claus). **The Finnish American Singers of Michigan are sponsoring a free Little Christmas evening at the FCA on Dec. 10, 2019, 7 pm** featuring choirs, small group singers, instrumental music, piano performances, and other musical treats. Get in the Christmas spirit with religious and secular favorites both while listening and singing together. Learn something new about Finnish Christmas traditions while playing a game before ending the evening with sweet treats, coffee and punch. Bring your family, bring your friends. Join us as we take an evening for music, fun, and community!

Submitted by Scribe, Katy Koskela



NORDIC HERITAGE FOLK DANCE PRACTICE

GOAL: To have fun while preserving our Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish culture through folk dancing.

FOR: Everyone who would like to have fun learning basic steps and simple dances from the Nordic countries along with more complex dances for the experienced folk dancer.

AGES: 6 – 100

WHEN: Sunday, January 26, 2020

WHERE: Finnish Center Association
35200 West 8 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please e-mail Glendene Thornbloom at gathorn4@gmail.com or call Hilikka Ketola at (517) 548-4461.



Sponsored by the FCA Cultural Committee



SOCIAL NEWS

The month of November was great with the luncheon and Scandinavian Market for people to get together and socialize. December will be a time for all to get together to renew old friendships and make new ones. We will fill the hall with music beginning with Finnish American Singers concert on Sunday, December 1. And, I hear it will be especially good this year.

Wednesday, December 4

“Let’s Talk”. What a great experience for those who have attended. Join us at 11 am

Friday, December 6

Begin Independence Day celebrations with cake and coffee at 2 pm.

Saturday, December 7

The traditional dinner with program commemorating The Independence of Finland is planned to begin at 5 pm. Please, please sign up by December 2.

Sunday, December 8

The Cultural Committee will sponsor an Independence Day program beginning at 2 pm.

Wednesday, December 18

A Christmas Party is planned for all to enjoy. The party begins at noon.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Hyvää Joulua ja onnellista uutta Vuotta

Mary O’Brien



Pamela Green brought visitors from Shanghai, China to the FCA recently

PASTY MAKERS

We wish to acknowledge these volunteers that gave of their time to make pasties on November 1 and 2:

Dee Aebersold, Marge Barrett, Michael Barrett, Patty Barrett, Eleanor Bradlin, Karen Call, Jon Call, Sean Call, Karen Gasinski, Larry Gersky, Sandy Gersky, Frank Gottberg, Tom Hill, John Hookana, Nancy Jacobs, Vickie Kimler, Katy Koskela, Gene Kramer, Mare Kramer, Margaret Laurila, Norbert W Leppanen, Char Lytikainen, Neil Manley, Nancy McClenahan, Jan Mills, Nancy Rajala, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Mark Rikkonen, John Saarinen, Elaine Weider, John Welsh, Martha Welsh, Brian Winkler, Ilene Yanke.

Thank you to you all,

Paul Rajala, FCA pasty coordinator





FINLAND TODAY



“Happy Hour” - I caught you thinking that it is about bar hours, but not so fast, in Helsinki the “Happy Hour” is at the S-Market store (grocery store). S-Market is a store in the working class neighborhood, where you can find steeply discounted food items. Food that is nearly unsellable goes on sale, up to 60% off the normal cost at 9 pm each night. This has been a two-year campaign to reduce food waste and to draw in regular customers to get a good deal on food items. A great savings for a working class family and some cost recovery for the grocery store.



The United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization has estimated that 1/3 of all food produced for human consumptions is lost to waste in the world each year. The estimate is 1.3 billion tons of food a year, at a cost of \$680 billion. The waste is also adding to the greenhouse gasses. The secondary problem is the billions of acres of land fill and transportation to the land fill of the wasted food, managing the land fill, a huge cost of all of us. What can we all do to help? Educating the public and learning to use leftovers so that they become tasty and learning to purchase the amount you will be able to eat before it spoils is the key. As cost of food increases there will be a greater need to conserve.



The next fact is interesting. Some hospitals in Finland are using past-due ingredients donated by grocery stores and bakeries (food still useable next day but not allowed to sold in the grocery store after expiration date). So the chefs do not know what they will be making the next morning for breakfast, lunch or dinner in their kitchens. The nonprofit called: “From Waste to Taste” de-

livers food items to the hospitals at a minimum cost. The food is not going into landfills and the hospitals are saving a great deal of money making them more economical to operate, the chefs are making safe meals that are tasty at a fraction of the cost. A win for the hospitals and a win for the new business and a win for the consumer.



“Nuntii Latini” - News in Latin, was a Finnish news service broadcaster in Latin for the last 30 years. The program has sadly been cancelled. It started in September of 1989. The broadcast was from Yle Radio, a 5-minute broadcast on the world news and human interest stories, all stories in Latin. The program was founded by Tuomo Pekkanen, Professor of Latin. The main announcer was Laura Nissinen and producer Ari Merilainen. There had been a campaign by the listeners to save the broadcast and they had success for a few years, but were not successful to keep it going for the future. The last broadcast was aired on June 14, 2019. Yle is grateful for the efforts of the professors and their team in producing such a great program for 30 years, no small task, and it had been a unique cultural contribution to the world. The many listeners were very sorry to hear it being cancelled.

(continued on page 11)

Finland Today (continued from page 10)

And finally,
 Matti called his cousin Pekka from Texas: "Hei, Pekka, come to UP for some ice fishing, the lake in January will be frozen and the ice fishing is fun." Pekka had a friend Onni who loved fishing, but the two friends had never been Ice fishing. They packed their woolens and warm hats and coats and flew into Marquette. Matti was there with his pickup for the ice fishing adventure. He supplied all the fishing gear for the ice fishing. As it turned out the fish adventure did not go so well. Matti had to work and so he sent Pekka and Onni fishing alone to the frozen lake. The two men told Matti that they know all about fishing, no instructions needed. After returning home from the cold north country, the two frozen friends with no trout, but a fish tale about a boat stuck in the frozen lake and two frozen men that had to be fished out. The fish stories became legends, one story started like this. Pekka: "My crazy cousin, Matti, knows nothing about fishing. We spent 3 hours chopping the ice to get the boat into the water, we fell into the water and before we were finished, it got frozen and so did we. We will never go fishing on a frozen lake with a boat again!"



ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 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



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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: _____

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