



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

January 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 01-03 Finnish Center Closed during regular business hours
- 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
- 25 Rental
- 26 Rental
- 26 Sunday Nordic Heritage Folk Dance Practice 2 - 5pm
- 31 Rental
- 31 Friday Pasty Prep 10 am



February

- 01 Rental
- 01 Saturday Pasty Bake and Sale 8 am - 12 pm
- 07 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 08 Rental
- 12 Wednesday Valentine's Day Party 12 noon
- 16 Sunday Brunch 11 am - 1 pm
- 16 Sunday Sr. Housing Annual Meeting 1 pm
- 16 Sunday FCA Annual Meeting 3 pm
- 21-22 Rental
- 23 Sunday Kaleva Day 11 am - 4 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

Well the year has come to an end. It has been a productive year for the Finnish Center with such interesting events. I have learned a lot and have really enjoyed meeting new people and getting more involved in the life of the Finnish Center.

FinnFest USA was wonderful and brought many people in to our center. Many more came for the Scandinavian Market. What a fun day! Independence celebrations were informative and interesting. It would have been nice to have more people for Cake Day with the Gala from Finland but those who came certainly enjoyed it. What a nice event! Then our Independence Dinner was a huge success. David Sharpe had a nice talk about the Finnish Center. This was followed by music by the Finnish American Singers of Michigan (FASM) and Finnfolk. The beautiful night ended with Finlandia played by Don Reinholm. A superb job! On Sunday we concluded with a very nice program by the Cultural Committee. The talk on the Finns and the auto industry was very interesting.

The choir provided lovely music for all to enjoy in December. We are so lucky to have such good musical groups with the talent of Finnfolk and the FASM. I have really enjoyed their music.

To conclude this letter I would like to wish you a very happy and healthy new year. May it be a peaceful new year with happiness to fill your lives.

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

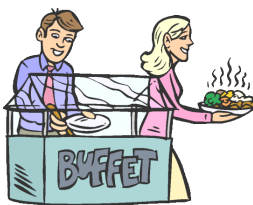
Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802
tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

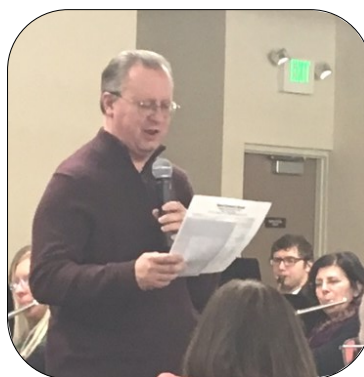
Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET AND SUNDAY BRUNCH SCHEDULE

January 3 - Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
January 19 - Sunday Brunch 11 am - 2 pm
February 7 - Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
February 16 - Sunday Brunch 11 am - 1 pm



NOVI CONCERT BAND



Left to right: Scott Cramer (director), Sing-a-long leader and David Sharpe who celebrated his birthday that evening.

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN CONCERT

December 1, 2019



Left: William Gramzow, IV director
Above: Christopher Cleland, guest performer



Back Row: Christopher Cleland (guest performer), Tom Hill, David Sharpe, Paul Rajala, John Hookana, William Gramzow, IV (director), Tony Madej (synthesizer).

Middle Row: Stacy Mason (violin guest performer), Esther Szafranski (flute guest performer) Nancy Jacobs, Vickie Kimler, Katy Koskela, Elaine Weider

Bottom Row: Rita Rogers (accompanist), Dee Aebersold, Ilene Yanke, Mary Stapleton, Karen Gasinski, Charlotte Lytikainen



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

KALEVA DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 23

11 am – 4 pm

Brunch & Program

Details in the February newsletter



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JANUARY IN THE GARDENS

January and a fresh start to a new year. January 6th we take down the holiday decorations and store them for another year. Whether we meet other Mondays is dependent upon the weather. If we can get out, David will send out e-mails as there are always items we haven't gotten to in the fall. I will be out of town for several weeks in January and possibly some weeks in February.

We had several new volunteers this year and David attended a new volunteer workshop for Master Gardener trainees in December. Hopefully come spring we will see a few more new faces around the gardens.

Work continues this winter on a new mineral display that will grace the garden area this spring. A Plexiglas front was donated and the minerals were obtained at the last flea market by David. It should be an interesting educational addition.

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

GIFT SHOP

The year was very positive for The Gift Shop. I would like to thank all my volunteers for their hours of work. A special thank you for all your help goes to Amy, Sherrill and Cindi. You made a big difference!! Volunteers are what it is about...without you we wouldn't have ended the year in such a positive place.

January Special
20% off all sauna products



I wish you health and happiness in the New Year.

Mary O'Brien

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



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 via email at finnishcenter@gmail.com or (248) 478-6939.

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

COMMEMORATION OF FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE

The end of November marked the 80th anniversary of the Winter War and acknowledging this event and to commemorate Finland's independence, the Cultural Committee invited Louise Hartung to tell us about her exciting project about the memories of this war and others before and after. Preserving and sharing these memories for future generations is an important goal that Louise hopes her project will encourage others to follow her example. Louise will speak again on this topic at a later date and show a video, the result of her many months of interviewing.

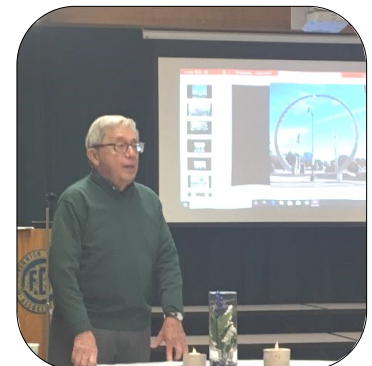
This year we also focused on another historical era that impacted Finnish American lives. Much has been written about Finnish American miners and lumber workers in the Upper Peninsula, northern Wisconsin, and northern Minnesota, but little on Finnish Americans who settled in southeast Michigan and worked in various industries. Our guest speaker was David Elsila who gave a worker's history beginning in the U. P, and ending in the Detroit area, including the development of unions, Finns in the auto industry, and FinnTown and Finn Hall therein.

A coffee table laden with lots of Finnish goodies, including delicious piirakka and Finnish gingersnaps by Hilikka Ketola, and cakes by Louise Hartung and Yvonne Lockwood and, of course, lots of coffee.

Hope to see you next year!

Yvonne Lockwood

David Elsila



CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

December 15, 2019



Hyvää uutta vuotta! Happy New Year!

If you are reading this before January 1st, think back to celebrating the arrival of 2019. If the Big Day (or Big Evening) for 2020 has yet to arrive, how do you plan to usher in the New Year? This writer has moved from glitzy dancing parties with friends accompanied by a significant amount of liquid “cheer,” to sedate parties with other young couples, to boisterous gatherings with our children and friends’ families. Playing games, setting off bottle rockets and igniting sparklers at midnight were the culmination of a fun evening, frequently spent watching our children struggle to stay awake until midnight! More recently, New Year’s Eve at this Livonia writer’s home has been a quiet affair, sometimes spent with other empty nesters, chatting, having a drink or two, watching the antics of seemingly millions of waiting merrymakers on TV as everyone waits for the New York Times Square ball to drop signifying the official beginning of the new year. Staying awake ourselves has been the more recent challenge!

How might you expect to celebrate this turning point holiday if you were visiting Helsinki, Finland? Many of the same events take place. People gather with family and friends, celebrating informally with food, drink, games, and indoor/outdoor fun. Others meet more formally at restaurants, hotels, and clubs for balls, gala dinners, and concerts. Since New Year’s Eve is the only evening when fireworks are legal in Finland without a specific request, almost every gathering, private or not, includes fireworks! Occasionally towns will sponsor public displays held earlier than midnight for family viewing, and although fireworks are prohibited in Senate Square (Helsinki), be careful of tipsy revelers in the crowds there shooting off fireworks as the Helsinki Cathedral bells chime out at midnight. The more relaxed attitude follows a traditional short (and sometimes boring) ceremony of speeches and the singing of national songs. You might want to gather at Kansalaistori Square, near the Contemporary Art Museum this year for more upbeat musical entertainment, dancing, speeches, and definitely planned fireworks!

The greatest divergence in activities this happy Eve, is the Finnish tradition of fortunes telling or predicting the future via various “magical” tasks and tricks, some of which have remained as fun parlor games practiced at New Year’s parties. People would melt a small tin horseshoe, then quickly pour that into a bucket of cold water. Many households even had a specific, small frying pan used for melting the tin! The lump then created in the water was examined for shape, shadow, and consistency to predict various future events. Different shapes had different meanings promising good or bad health, good fortune, happiness or sorrow, etc. If it broke into pieces, this was considered a sign of “bad luck!” However, a new substance will need to be used for this activity since as of March 2018, tin was banned in Finland because it contains lead. Beeswax has been substituted in many cases because it melts at a lower temperature than other wax, and is a natural substance to handle.

Another popular game to achieve predictions is to place various small objects under cups or upside-down plates. Each item has a specific meaning such as health, pain, wealth, love, or even death! When children play, the negative and sad things are removed, which would be the preference for this writer to play also! Although the items’ meanings are derived from the old, agrarian society and may be outdated in the modern world, the game can be brought more up to date by assigning your own meaning to the objects. Pictures of the objects may be drawn on pieces of paper, scrambled and placed face down on a table to be lifted one at a time (like Tarot cards) to see what the future holds.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ★ Ashes or black soil/mold = death | ★ Piece of red yarn or a red button = happiness or wealth |
| ★ Baby doll = children | ★ Piece of white yarn = happiness, sickness or death |
| ★ Coin = wealth | ★ Key = gaining a house/apartment of your own |
| ★ Four-leaf clover = good luck | ★ Piece of black yarn or a black button = sorrow or death |
| ★ Horseshoe = good luck | ★ Piece of blue yarn = gaining a loyal friend |
| | ★ Piece of bread = secure income, carefree living |

(continued on page 13)

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The annual Independence Day celebration was held on December 7, 2019. The dinner was salmon, pork tenderloin, Yukon gold potatoes and asparagus prepared by our caterer, Michael Grant. A table of wonderful desserts and appetizers were prepared for your enjoyment to complete the night.

This years celebration featured local talent. David Sharpe along with Mary O'Brien gave interesting speeches. Then came Finnfolk and the Finnish American Singers of Michigan. They both did a great job. Louise Hartung gave us a history of the songs which brought the songs to life. The night concluded with Don Reinholm playing *Finlandia* tone poem on his accordion followed by the FASM performing the Finlandia hymn.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this a special night.

Mary O'Brien



Don Reinholm performed the tone poem *Finlandia* on the accordion



FinnFolk gather for dinner.



Guests enjoy dinner



Louise Hartung of FinnFolk

Independence Day Celebration (continued from page 6)



Mike Fadie, Yvonne Lockwood, Hillka & Mark Ketola and Margaret Laurila enjoy the festivities.



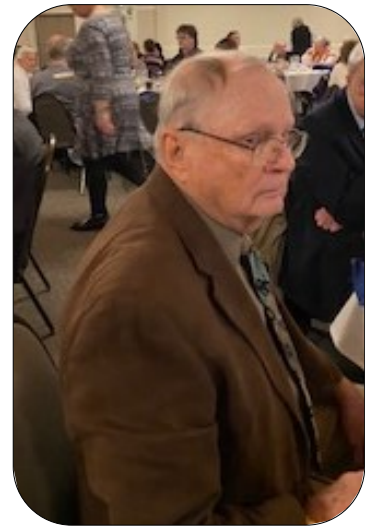
Mike Kurvi, bartender



Mary O'Brien, FCA Chairman and guest speaker



Don Reinholm



David Sharpe, featured speaker



Roope Pantsar, flag bearer

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Kristi Niemi** (10/23/19) donations have been made by Lois Makee and Louise Hartung & Jim Fostey.

In memory of FCA life member **Earl H. Hansen** (9/19/19) a donation has been made by Joan Hansen.

In memory of FCA life member **Joyce Juntunen** (11/18/13) a donation has been made by Harold Juntunen.

In memory of **Ken Juntunen** (6/30/00) a donation has been made by Harold Juntunen.

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

FCA life member Paul James Adams (10/4/19).

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.



LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Finnish American Singers of MI
December 10



SOCIAL NEWS

I would like to thank all of you for attending all the special events that we planned. We did a lot of fun things this year and plan more for next year. The more people who come out for the events the better. Everyone is invited to join in on the fun. If there is anything of interest you want to do, please let me know.



A Valentine Day Party is planned for noon on February 12. There will be a special drawing. The cost will be \$10.00. Hope you can come!

Happy New Year to all. Have a great year.

Mary O'Brien

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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





FINLAND TODAY



Knowledge and discussions were the themes for 2019 annual Independence Day Gala. “Finland’s strength has always been the ability to work together, making room for different opinions and using knowledge in diverse ways,” President Niinistö was quoted as saying in a statement at the Independence Day Gala. Also the President said: “Everyone can help create a considerate discussion culture, promote confidence in scientific knowledge and expertise and, most importantly, respect truth. This builds trust”, the president added. Yle news.

The Prime Minister Antti Rinne has stepped down after 6 months as prime minister. The country is in disbelief on what happened and why did Rinne have to step down? Statements from parties have stated that they have lost their confidence in his leadership. It seems like the Center Party has taken Rinne down with no confidence in his leadership. Rinne has given his resignation to the President. The new Prime Minister, Ms. Sanna Marin, is the youngest ever prime minister at the age of 34, she became the youngest head of government in the world. Not only is she the youngest but she is also leading a coalition headed by a large number of women, who also are as young as she is. Her first meeting was on Tuesday December 10, 2019. Ms. Marin has been a rising star in the Social Democratic Party since 2015 and it has been said that she is well liked. She spoke to the reporters; “We have promised change. Now we need action. I believe that trust will return through action.” Ms. Marin’s agenda is climate change, equality and social welfare. Ms. Marin wrote in the Post, “That’s what we’re working on. I want to build a society where every child can become anything and every person can live and grow in dignity”.

November 30, 1939, was the start of Winter War at 5:30 am. There was no warning or declaration of war from Russia. In the small town of Lieksa in North Karelia a column of Red Army soldiers was crossing the border. Twenty minutes later Soviet Union’s 21 divisions attacked Finland and shortly thereafter the bombing started in Helsinki. Finland was short of men as well as supplies. Soviets outnumbered soldiers as well as equipment. It is sad that Moscow’s state-run museum tweeted last week that the Winter War was started by Finland, but the truth is that Soviet Union had staged an incident known as the Shelling of Mainila, a well-orchestrated event, claiming that Finnish artillery fired at the Soviet Station, this was not true. Marshal C. G. Mannerheim knew that his Mannerheim Line will not hold forever and with his brilliant strategies helped Finland finally get to a peace agreement after a 105 day war, but with heavy losses.

China had the winning bid to host the Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2022. January 2020 is the month that Finland and China will have an official launch of the China-Finland year of Winter Sports, a first of its kind sports partnership in China. China’s goal is to build 650 ice-skating rinks and 800 ski resorts by 2022. So how will Finland help? Chinese athletes and coaches will get training in Finland and some Finnish coaches will go to China to coach. The Winter sports industry in China is booming and Finnish businesses will be able to develop and export their knowledge. China is moving to make winter sports into a way of life with emphasis on sustainability (Finland is all about sustainability). China is co-operating with Finland’s expertise through coaching, educating trainers and sharing information and knowhow. The Winter Paralympics sports are also getting the co-operation as well. China participated for the first time in 2002 in the Winter Paralympics, Finland on the other hand, has participated in every Winter Paralympics Games to date.

(continued on page 11)

Finland Today (continued from page 10)

And Finally, in closing, here are some one-liner jokes.

Politicians and diapers, both should be changed regularly, and for the same reason.

He does not have a beer-belly, he has developed a liquid grain storage facility.

Some days you are the dog, some days you are the hydrant.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the New Year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

Onnellista Uutta Vuotta! – Happy New Year!

Markku and Hilikka Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com

Happy New Year (continued from page 7)

- ✦ **Piece of yellow yarn** = disappointment
- ✦ **Pin** = sickness or pain
- ✦ **Ring** = engagement or marriage
- ✦ **Sugar cube** = easy living, "sweet success"
- ✦ **White button** = happiness
- ✦ **Empty cup** = "nothing special"

May 2020 hold all good things for you and yours! I wish for you the blue and white: sugar cubes, blue yarn, and white buttons that is!

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan hope all singers consider joining us Mondays beginning January 6th, 7 pm in the lounge for our practices. I predict you will enjoy the experience!

Submitted by Katy Koskela, Scribe.

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE: DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 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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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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Paul N. Potti, Director