



Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

February 2020

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- 01 Pasty Bake & Sale 8 am - 12 noon
- 05 Wednesday Let's Talk - 11 am
- 07 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 08 Rental
- 12 Wednesday Valentine Day Party 12 noon
- 16 Sunday Brunch 11am - 1 pm
- 16 FCA Sr. Housing Meeting 1 pm
- 16 FCA Board Meeting 3 pm
- 21 Friday Pie Day 2 pm
- 21 -22 Rentals
- 23 Sunday Kaleva Day 11 am - 4 pm
- 28 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm (Lent)



### March

- 04 Wednesday Let's Talk 11 am
- 06 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 11 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 13 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 14 Rental
- 15 Rental
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 20 Friday St. Urho Celebration during buffet
- 22 Sunday Buffet 11 am - 2 pm
- 22 Sunday Folk Dancing 2 - 5 pm
- 27 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 29 Sunday Genealogy Presentation 2 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.**

## CHAIRMANS CORNER

2020 promises to be a good year at The Finnish Center. There will be a lot of new things happening. We hope to have more cultural and social events.

The Finnish center is in need of volunteers. Can you give an hour or two once in awhile? It is a great way to learn about the culture. There is a need for bartenders and someone to make coffee at events. Or maybe you can answer the phone or chaperone an event. Can you help set up tables, fold napkins or help mark candy in the gift shop? All of these areas could use a volunteer. Thank you for what you do.



Please remember the Annual Meeting is February 16. I hope to see you there.

Mary O'Brien  
Chairman

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Finnish Center (501C3 Non Profit Organization) is looking to hire a part-time Operations Manager. The duties include day-to-day management of the Organization ensuring efficient and effective operations and coordinating all issues affecting the Organization and its various Committees. The Operations Manager will report to and work under the Chairperson of the Board and Board of Trustees. The position requires strong administrative and organizational skills, demonstrate ability to multi-task and meet deadlines with good communication skills. Must be a team player who also demonstrates effective interpersonal relationships. The candidate's skills should include MS Office programs and an understanding of basic accounting and financial principles. The position is for a person capable of working independently. Other responsibilities include the management and financial health of the organization. Experience and understanding various regulations and requirements affecting non-profit and/or small business organizations is preferred. Approximately 30 hours a week, salary negotiable.

Please send your resume to The Board of Directors at Finnish Center Association, 35200 West 8 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

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

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Mia Lamminen, James Lee,  
Mary O'Brien

#### 2 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,  
Ilona Takakura

#### 3 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Sherrill Tedford,  
Austin Strobridge

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#2 Carol Tudball  
#3 Ilene Yanke

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Christine Manninen  
Roger Wanttaja

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Roger Wanttaja

#### Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

#### Education

Katri Ervamaa

#### Finance

Olli Lamminen

#### Gift Shop

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#### Mailing

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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

**CANDLELIGHT  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
DECEMBER 15, 2019**

Over 30 friends and family members attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Memorial Service and Dinner at the FCA to remember their dear ones who have passed away. Terry Ball welcomed everyone with the opening prayer along with remarks on compassion and reaching out to others going through challenging times. Attendees were invited to share experiences and mentioned how that loved one influenced them and some even going back to childhood.

Bob McAlpine fondly remembered fellow Tapiola Village residents Anne Breejen, Dolores Ehlers, Barbara Macaluso, Shirley McKenna, Evelyn Meeks, Jay Rupp, Patricia Shaw, Connie and Richard. Dolores and Debbie Rajala, attending the Memorial for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, were there to honor Wilbert Rajala, husband and father, who passed away in 2016. Joy Klemmer spoke about her brother, Richard Carloy, who worked at Ford Motor Company and her father-in-law, Daniel Klemmer, who was a professional pianist.

Others remembered were Paul Adams, Marge Arsen, Henry, Audrey & Corky Ball, Baby Boy Ball, Cheryl Marie Hanka, Elmer Hanninen, Walter & Clara Mai Hart, Walter D. Hart, Jean Haslip, Melvin Hemminger, Maria Hill, Sarah C. Hill, Sulo & Martha Korpi, Ainard, Marnie & Wilho Limatta, Fred & Elaine Limatta, Amelia Rajala, Iris Anneli Rikkonen, Gladys Saari, William Schmehl, Peter Sorensen and Juhani Tilly.

A list of FCA members, who have died in 2019, was available on each table and also posted on the FCA bulletin board by the FCA gift shop. For any additions, please call (989) 426-6348.

Lila Ball, who has organized the Memorial and prepared delicious dinners for the past six years, thanked everyone for attending and for their donations to the Finnish Center. Guests were invited to take glass angel ornaments in memory of their loved one.

Special thanks also to Mary O'Brien, FCA chairperson, and Cynthia Korpi Shahly for having the gift shop open for those special purchases of homemade Pulla, Korpu, UP jam, Iittala glassware and more.

**KALEVA DAY**

February 23  
Brunch from 12 noon to 1 pm  
Program at 1:15pm

You will see how food was a great part of the *Kalevala* and how so many of the events were surrounded by the natural elements: the forest and lakes and climate that drove their events – Aino runos and forging of the Sampo, the wedding feast, the making of the Kantele, Kulervo runos and the Marja runo.

Some of these foods will be available for tasting at the end of our program.



**GIFT SHOP**

The Gift Shop is still working on inventory and closing out 2019. We will then be able to order more merchandise for our shelves. So there is much to do, but there is still an assortment of candy, dishes and toast for your enjoyment. There is a large selection of books to fill the long hours of winter. So stop in and see us and pick up that special thing you didn't have time to purchase before Christmas. We have a lot to offer and all smiles are free.

Enjoy winter.  
Mary O'Brien

*Landscapes of the Heart and Mind: Family Farms and Farm Buildings*

By Hemalata C. Dandekar, Ph.D.

Let this journey begin. Let yourself become a time traveler.

Many of us who were born and bred in Michigan know that the landscape has changed. The small dairy farms have either become just the home where the bread winner has an outside job. The neighborliness and mutual problem sharing, meeting places (your own kitchen) for celebrating successes has been replaced by huge operations and machines. Hemalata Dandekar, a native of India, has researched and documented the changes with appreciation of her welcome and acceptance by us.

Our travels begin in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Hemalata, a graduate of the University of Michigan, saw many similarities in the farming country outside of Bombay. Her first stop was the Raab farm. The family had homesteaded it in 1885. They welcomed the architect and her mission. As the plans unfolded and photos of the barns were taken, the project became important and necessary. Families became encouraged by the attention their changes were receiving.

After crossing the bridge and circling the eastern U.P., they found the farms even more deserted or only partly in use. Mines were closed and forests had become thinned out.

There was one farm museum which had been saved and was being cared for. It was in the deep woods of Baraga County. She first encountered the resident caretaker Paul Juntunen who was splitting cedar for replacement shingles. He offered her a hand and lesson. "First you cord (score) them, then you make quarters, then you take out the centers. You get where you can control it. When you get to the thick part and can control it at an angle, just by how you cut it. You got to bend it where the thick part is. It is working toward the thin. You bend it more until thin. If you get a decent piece of wood it comes by itself. That is the pleasure of working with wood".

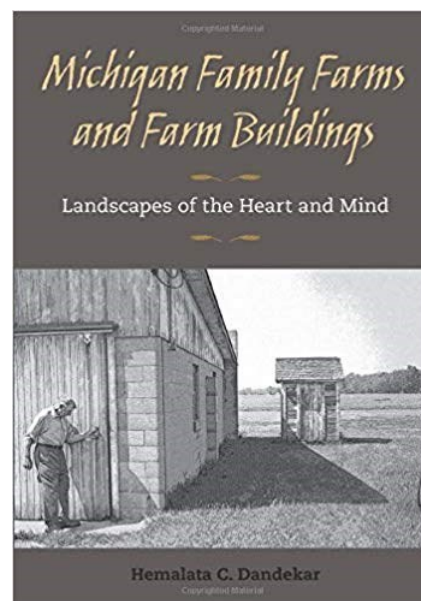
So that's the thick and thin of it! As it is said "You had to be there!".

Paul was well satisfied he had done well with the lesson. If someone questioned him he would reply "Would you know how to teach an architect"?

This is not the end of the story. Hemalata made a repeat visit 16 years later with each of the families to complete her record of coping with the changing landscape. Read the introduction and you will understand the part played by Frank Lloyd Wright in Hemalata's choice of career.

You will need to read the book to find out how each of the families were faring 16 years later and how much more SISU it took to travel and secure an education. You will be able to identify with much of this and will know your state much better.

Ruth Ojala  
Library Aid



## 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, March 22, 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](mailto:gathorn4@gmail.com) or call Hilkka Ketola at (517) 548-4461.

*Sponsored by the FCA Cultural Committee*



## 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

## SOCIAL NEWS

The new year has begun quietly after the rush of the holidays. Now we can get back to the regularly scheduled events.



**February 12** a Valentine’s party is scheduled with a light lunch and a few fun games for Valentines Day. It promises to be a nice day.



**February 21** we plan to celebrate Washington’s Birthday. There will be cherry pie

Watch the next newsletter for events in March and stay warm and stay healthy in the new year.

Mary O’Brien

## FEBRUARY IN THE GARDENS

So far this has been an unusual winter. Sparrows were seen in early January thinking about nesting as if spring had already begun before winter had truly started! The hawks don’t care what the weather is like as they are much more active in the winter months or at least we see them more frequently around the feeders.



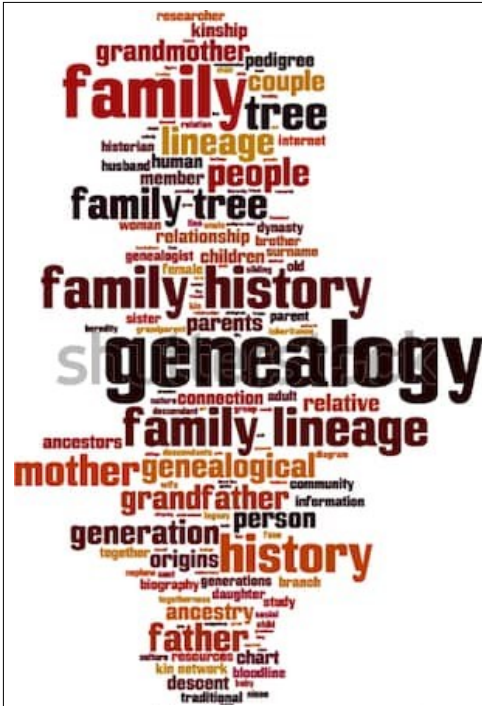
Our first February workday is February 3<sup>rd</sup> and is our tool cleaning and tentative planning day for the new year. If the mild weather continues we plan to finish the final fall/perennial cleanup by March.

We hope with a few new gardeners we will be able to aggressively renovate some of the gardens that have become overgrown. We also plan to add plants around the entrance sign and in the rock garden to make that area more attractive as we have neglected that area in recent years.



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

Gayle Gullen  
Finlandia Garden Club President



## FINNISH GENEALOGY

Sunday, March 29, 2020

2 pm

Dr. Paul N. Lehto will talk about Finnish genealogy in a presentation entitled *Adventures in Discovery*. It should be of interest to all who want to learn more about their roots in Finland. Problems with ancestral names, place names, events and dates that are likely to be encountered by those digging up their own roots will be discussed along with language problems for people who know little or no Finnish.



Flea Market  
Craft Show  
Bake Sale  
Pasties

Friday, April 24  
10 am - 4 pm

Saturday, April 25  
10 am - 3 pm

### **Who is *tickling the ivories* for the Finnish American Singers of Michigan?**

The FASM choir has recently undergone a shift in direction, from longtime director Hank Naasko (now singing tenor) to that of our previous accompanist, William Gramzow, IV. Sharing their stories in this newsletter (Hank, Aug. 2018; Bill Sept/Oct, 2018) has helped readers understand their dedication and enthusiasm toward our choir as well as their dedication to music produced and performed well. Now as director, Bill both directs and accompanies until 3-4 weeks prior to our concert. At that point, with the choir needing more precise direction, an accompanist joins us. The choir has been fortunate to enlist someone well known and loved by many members of the choir and highly respected professionally by Bill. This month readers are introduced to Rita Rogers, beloved accompanist.

Rita's story begins, as many of yours do, in Calumet, MI where her parents met. Moving to Detroit, Rita was the fourth child born in a family of five (three girls and two boys) with fourteen years between the oldest and youngest. She remembers Sunday family dinners where her grandfather would come for dinner, and after dinner would engage the grandchildren in hot cribbage games! Her grandfather's Cornish background resulted in a slightly different pasty being served by her family, but did admit that it was still her favorite dinner. Attending Detroit Public Schools, and matriculating in music at Wayne State University Rita emphasized the great teachers and welcome disciplined atmosphere that permeated her education. She and her siblings were very involved in sports and outdoor activities: playing in the parks, tennis, baseball, swimming, as well as dancing to live bands at the local community center. Although an overall outstanding student, she related that favorite subjects were English, biology, and the French taken for only a couple of years. A moment's thought, led to the conclusion Latin was her least favorite subject! Although she sang in her church and grade school choirs, in high school her musical participation was usually from behind a piano. Accompanying her high school orchestra led to playing advanced music with a chamber music group in college. Her piano lessons, begun when she was five years old, guided Rita to her first paying job as a church accompanist at sixteen. This consistent music involvement gradually affirmed her decision to focus on this career path. She never really considered anything else.

Remembering her early afternoon wedding and reception as a simple but beautiful occasion, celebrated with family and good friends, she and her husband soon welcomed a daughter then four sons to their family. Proud of all of her children's accomplishments in gymnastics, tennis, and baseball as well as religious milestones, all attended parochial schools in Detroit and Redford, graduating from Mercy High School and Detroit Catholic Central. While raising her family, her musical skills enabled her to work part-time teaching private piano lessons and subbing as a church organist. She returned to Marygrove College during this time to take advanced classes in sacred music and organ, eventually working for 25 years at Bethlehem Lutheran Church as organist and music director. When the church dissolved in 2014, Rita felt it was time for her to "retire." Now, she is a substitute church organist and thankfully our performance accompanist.

Rita said she was brought up in a loving, faith-filled home with parents that exemplified how to be kind, honest, and hard working. She and her siblings were expected to be responsible and taught to be thankful for the extras they received. Specifically for her that included years of piano lessons! When asked how *she* would like to be known and remembered, these same traits topped the list: kind, faithful, thankful, and honest. Being a good wife and mother and a trustful friend were added. Former choir members from Bethlehem Lutheran now in FASM would assure readers that these are the first descriptors that would be used when describing Rita. Those that have met her more recently would add that she is "so nice" and an extremely talented pianist and accompanist. We are thankful she has joined us in that capacity and hope our relationship continues for a very long time. Join us at our spring concert, Sunday, May 3rd at the FCA and say hello to our newest collaborator: Rita Rogers, accompanist extraordinaire!

Submitted by Scribe, K. Koskela



## MEMORIALS

In memory of **Pauline Fritz** (7/23/2001) a donation has been made by Jeff & Germaine Fritz.

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

FCA life member **Paul F. Adams** (1/4/20)

FCA life member **Clarabeth Dixon** (1/9/20)

Correction: FCA life member **Kirsti Niemi** (10/23/19) a donation has been made by FinnFolk.

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.

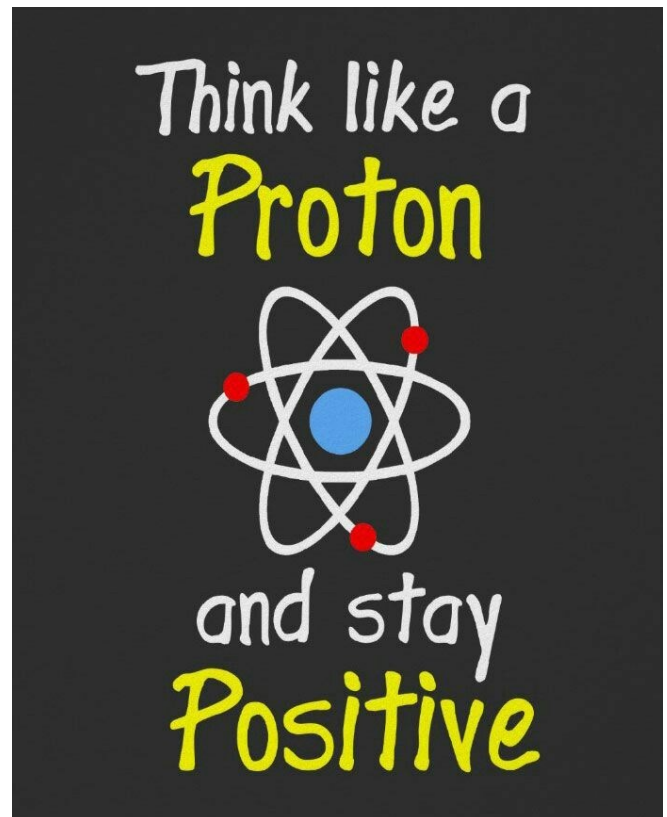
When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

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.



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## FINLAND TODAY



Climate changes in Finland has accounted for the fact that it was a degree warmer than the warmest on record, according to Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI). The average temperature in the country was 0.9°C higher. December has been warmer and rainier than usual. Lapland has received more than the normal rain.

Do you know what is under the city of Detroit, if you said a salt mine you are correct. The city of Helsinki sits on a hard granite bedrock suited for underground construction and has the only underground master plan in the world to reuse the civil defence shelter space. The 10 million square metres of space has been changed into a usable network of underground tunnels and spaces. Most of the area is used for public use such as art museum, a church, a swimming hall, for shops, a rail network, car parks, utilities and water treatment plants. The process started in 1980s and continues today. Also there is a 40-metre deep reservoir located beneath the city centre. The Solid rock tunnels and facilities have been constructed with a dual purpose, one to be able to shelter 750,000 people in an emergency for up-to 14 days, and still use it for other purposes. The underground network can protect the public from a nuclear accident as well as other threats.

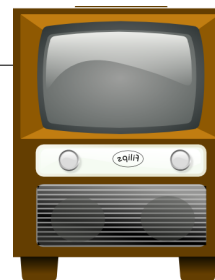
Prime Minister, Sanna Marin (SDP), in her New Year's message stated that Finland must have the courage to invest in people and knowledge, and to make sure no citizen or region is left behind in the development of the society. Her speech talked about the Finnish government's aim to achieve economic sustainability, invest in education, research and infrastructure within a climate-sustainable way.

Did you know that Eleanor Roosevelt, had visited Rovaniemi in 1950? She had wanted to see the arctic circle. The Santa Claus village in Rovaniemi was built around a cabin in two weeks for a grand reception for Mrs. Roosevelt. Today the Village is the visited by more than 100,000 people in a year.

The "Lux 2020 Art Festival" has started. The kick off will have many of Helsinki's most iconic landmarks transformed by illuminating art. It is a 4-day festival from January 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> and was produced by Sun Effects OY as an Event for Helsinki. The light art official route starts from Senate Square to Kaisniemi Park to Tokoinranta a route that is longer than a kilometre in length. A new satellite installation will be installed in Eastern Helsinki. The art is a collaboration between international artists and Finnish artists and presents a diverse range of light art. The event is open to the public daily from 5pm. to 10 pm. See the website on "Lux 2020 Light Festival in Helsinki".

And finally:

Pappa Matti was sitting at his usual place, his old "throne", watching his news. Granddaughter Pia said: "Pappa why are you watching that old set. It must be 50 years old!" Pappa Matti: "It still works like a charm. Why should we get a new one? Pia: "The Smart TV with HDR and with Alexa compatibility and it is high-definition and it could change your life." Pappa Matti: "Who is Alexa and I do not want to change my life, and for another thing, our eyes are low-definition at this age."



Markku and Hilikka Ketola

**FINGERPORI**



**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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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Paul N. Potti, Director