Finnish Center Association



FCA News

March 2020

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

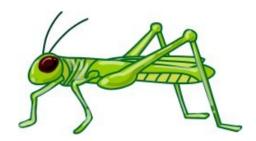
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 04 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
 (This month a Finnish movie about the life of Sibelius will be shown)
- 06 Friday Night Buffet 5 8 pm (Buffet every Friday during Lent)
- 07 Saturday 2 pm Jim Kurtti of Finlandia University Heritage Center will present a biographical documentary film he produced called "Sirkka: Past and Present"
- 08 Sunday 2 pm Film "Raja 1918"
- 11 Wednesday Luncheon 12 noon
- 11 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 13 Friday Night Buffet 5 8 pm
- 14-15 Rentals
- 18-21 Rentals
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5 8 pm St. Urho Celebration during buffet
- 22 Sunday Brunch 11 am 2 pm
- 22 Sunday Folk Dancers 2 pm
- 25 Rental
- 27 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 29 Sunday 2 pm Dr. Paul Lehto will be giving a Finnish genealogy presentation entitled "Adventures in Discovery"

April

- 01 Wednesday "Let's Talk"
- 03 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 05 Sunday Travelogue 2 pm South America
- 08 Wednesday Luncheon 12 noon
- 08 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 10 Friday Night Buffet 5 8 pm
- 17 & 18 Rentals
- 17 Friday Pasty Prep 10 am
- 18 Saturday Pasty Bake & Sale 8 am 12;30 pm
- 19 Sunday Brunch 11 am 2 pm
- 19 Sunday 2 pm Cultural Committee sponsors a video of Finnish Center families and their memories of Finland's Winter War and Continuation War
- 22 Rental
- 23 Thursday Flea Market Set-up 12 noon 5 pm
- 24 Friday Flea Market 10 am 4 pm
- 25 Saturday Flea Market 10 am 3 pm



Weekly Events

Monday 7 pm Library Open Monday 10 am-2 pm

Finnish American Singers

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

Spring is just about here. I hear David Sharpe has seen daffodils popping through the ground. Now that gives me hope and joy! Think spring! Think flowers and think sunshine! It is coming!

The annual meeting is behind us and I am very happy to report it was a great meeting. I wish to thank all who serve on the board and committees in any capacity. You do a great service for us and all the effort, large or small, is appreciated.

I would like to thank Mia Lamminen for her years of service on the board. We appreciate what you have done and given to the Finnish Center. The chairman's job is a huge task that takes hours to make the Center run smoothly. I am sure past chairmen can all agree with that. Mia was dedicated to that job and I thank her for giving of herself and her time. She had to recruit people and teach them how to do things. Thank you for teaching me what you could and I hope you will continue to answer questions when you can. Enjoy your time with Olli and your wonderful family.

I would like to thank all volunteers at this time. We have had past chairmen who have kept this place going, and office workers who gave so many hours, and singers and pasty bakers. There are garden workers and people who set up events and many, many more. Thank you all.

The New Year promises to be a good one. We are planning on hiring a manager which will be an asset to the Finnish Center. We will have flea markets and travelogues and conversation groups. There will be more cultural events with movies, concerts, rug making and even a Finnish genealogy class. There will be opportunities for all. We want this year to be a year when we celebrate the joy of the Finnish community. It is our hope that we can talk to each other more and show that we are a warm, friendly group. I'm not saying we haven't always been this, but we can always improve.

Thank you for making this the great place that it is today.

I would like to add a reminder to all the members that if you move, please provide us with your new address, phone number and/or email address. Thank you!

Mary O'Brien

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush" ~ Doug Larson



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Officers

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

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier, Ilona Takakura

2 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Sherrill Tedford, Austin Strobridge

3 Year

Kathryn Hill, Mary O'Brien, James Lee

Alternates

#1 Roger Wanttaja #2 Ed O'Brien #3 John Hookana

Financial Review

Paul Rajala Annikki Kurvi Roger Wanttaja

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Ilona Takakura

<u>Finance</u>

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Publicity & Publications

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

"FINLAND'S MID 20th CENTURY WARS: Immigrant Families Remember"

The Cultural Committee invites you to stay after brunch on Sunday, April 19, to watch our video about six Finnish Center families who experienced the Winter and Continuation Wars. Some of the interviewees will be with us, ready to answer any questions you might have about their families' experiences. Annikki Kurvi was born during the evacuation from Karelia; Paavo Nurmi was three years old at the time; and Maria Hill was a teenager when the Winter War began. Al Lehikoinen was a youth-soldier during the Winter War and an officer during the Continuation War. Mia Lamminen's mother was a Lotta, and her father was a soldier; and Mark Rikkonen's father served in the army.

The program will begin at approximately 2 pm, desserts and coffee will be served, and FinnFolk will perform three significant pieces from the war era. There is no charge for the program, but donations to the Cultural Committee are appreciated.

LET THE DANCING BEGIN!

Folk dancing at the FCA is springing anew with Folk dance lessons scheduled for the upcoming months! Folk dancing is an important element of our Finnish culture and in general of all Scandinavian countries. Participating in upcoming lessons not only provides you with a means to support our heritage, but also is an opportunity to meet others in our community and partake in an activity that has health benefits for all. In fact, and this is great news for the baby boomers out there, research cited in the New England Journal of Medicine identified that dancing can ward off the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease!

If this tickles any thoughts of giving it a try, go for it! The lessons are open to all skill levels. Glendene Thornbloom will be leading instructions of familiar and new dance steps and routines including the Schottische, Finnish Polka, Waltz, and for the daring, Hambo! It's easier than you might think while at the same time challenging enough to provide the cited benefits.

Have some fun and learn something new by joining the gang (bring friends and/or family) for our Folk dance practices!

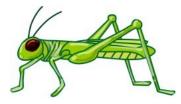
> March 22, 2020 2 pm May 3, 2020 2 pm

Don Keski-Hynnila Email: dtllky1@yahoo.com



ST. URHO PARTY

Friday, March 20 5-8 pm



St. Urho is making his appearance again at the Finnish Center on Friday, March 20. We hope you will join us to celebrate his victory over the grasshoppers in Finland!

St. Urho is, of course, a fictional figure created in northern Minnesota in the 1950's and commemorating him is intended to celebrate our Finnishness. It is meant to be a humorous time, a time when everyone can act foolishly and have fun.

Wear your purple and green! There will be the usual St. Urho's hullu (craziness). FinnFolk will provide the music for the parade and for dancing later in the evening.

The dinner buffet begins at 5 pm with the program beginning around 6:30 pm when we have some readings, crown the 2020 St. Urho, and parade around following the newly crowned king. Frank Gottberg will provide viili for guests to taste. We end with a toast to banish the grasshoppers and by singing amusing songs about St. Urho. Grasshopper cake is also be served as a special treat.

Hosted by Ilene Yanke and Frank Gottberg

FINNISH FILM

Saturday, March 7 at 2 pm

Sirkka Tuomi Holm was born just days before women earned the right to vote in the United States, a point her father considered vitally important and reminded her of it frequently. Her activism hasn't stopped since.

Holm, who turned 99 last summer, is a walking, talking, living history book. From her grandfather fighting for the Reds during the Finnish Civil War, to her immigrant parents' involvement in labor strikes, to being trailed by the FBI and being the first woman on the East Coast to be subpoenaed to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, Sirkka has led a fascinating life — as she'll reveal in her own words during the showing of the biographical documentary film "Sirkka: Past and Present" on Saturday, March 7 at 2 p.m. at the Finnish Center. Producer Jim Kurtti will be present to introduce the film and will receive questions afterward.

A veteran of the Women's Army Corps, of the Finnish-American stage and press, and of numerous progressive and liberal causes, Sirkka's vivid recollections will captivate viewers as she whisks them back through the decades, sharing stories of her countless life experiences, including her testimony on live television during the HUAC hearings, her stories from the picket lines during labor strikes, her many performances on the stages of Finnish-American halls, and her decades of service as a feature columnist in the monthly newspaper "The Finnish American Reporter." Her monthly tales, appearing under the headline "Past and Present," have appeared in that publication without fail since the paper's launch in 1986.

Sirkka's newspaper column is the basis for the title of the documentary, which was produced by the Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan, in conjunction with filmmaker Kristin Ojaniemi of Bruce Crossing, Michigan. DVD copies of the film are available for \$20 per disc, with all proceeds supporting programming at the Finnish American Heritage Center — a place dear to Sirkka's heart.

The FAHC is the repository for many significant Finnish-American archival collections, including Sirkka's personal papers and effects. To learn more about how you can donate materials to the Heritage Center, or how you can financially support projects like "Sirkka: Past and Present," call the Heritage Center at (906) 487-7347, or email joanna.chopp@finlandia.edu.



Sirkka Tuomi Holm WACS 1942-1945



Producer James Kurtti, Sirkka Holm and Filmmaker Kristin Ojaniemi

The Future of FCA Senior Citizens' Housing Corporation:

Finnish Cultural Center and FCA Senior Citizens' Housing Corporation (Housing Corporation) are concomitant associations. Both are 501c3 charitable corporations and both share the same members. All members of FCA are also sole members of FCA Senior Citizens' Housing. Otherwise they are two legally separate entities with their own Board of Directors.

The Housing Corporation is the sole owner of FCA Tapiola Apartments LLC and 1% General Partner in Freedom Square Apartments. After at least 4 years planning, negotiating and oversight, FCA Tapiola Apartments LLC is presently undergoing a long overdue major exterior and interior renovation with \$3.3 million budget. The Board has secured financing from a commercial bank for such.

The Finnish Center Association membership peaked around 1987 reaching nearly 2,500 members. Since then the membership has been in linear decline. This trend does not show any change in the foreseeable future. It has become increasingly difficult to find volunteers for Housing Corporation and its operations and even more challenging, especially since the former chairman's, Paul Hendrickson's, passing, to find capable trustees for the Housing Corporation Board - those who are willing to spend required time and skill in managing the ongoing and complex Housing Corporations' operations.

The Housing Corporation Board of Trustees has opened a discussion 'what should happen to the assets of FCA Senior Citizens' Housing' in the long run. According to the Bylaws 'The Corporation shall be organized and operated exclusively for the charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954'.

The Board of Trustees is inviting proposals for the best operational future of the Housing Corporation. These proposals should take into consideration the continued wellbeing of the tenants while being attentive to the original mission of service to our Finnish community and heritage.

Such detailed proposals may include any supporting letters, opinions or documentation and should be addressed to:



Olli Lamminen Chairman – FCA Senior Citizens' Housing Corporation 35200 West Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48335



Or emailed to Ollilamminen@gmail.com

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN

When this writer was thinking about a subject for this month's newsletter, the topic of Finnish marches seemed to be appropriate one for this month of March! However, it turned out to be a topic with more "notes" than anticipated. For this writer to do it justice, stay tuned for April's newsletter!

However now, please mark your calendars for the first **Sunday of May, the 3rd, at 4:30 pm** to join us for our spring concert. Our theme, To Honor You, will pay homage to those that have served or currently serve in the military and to the reasons their sacrifices are appreciated.

Submitted by scribe, Katy Koskela





SUNSHINE LADY

Sending get-well cards, anniversary, congratulations, thinking-of-you cards and words-ofencouragement 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

POKER NIGHTS

The poker fund raiser schedule for April is:



Thursday, April 09 - 10 am to 6 pm Friday, April 10 - 10 am to 6 pm Saturday, April 11 - 6:30 pm to 2 am Sunday, April 12 - 6:30 pm to 2 am

If you can volunteer for one or more of these days or nights please contact the FCA. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Ilona Takakura

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

Below is a schedule for 2020 FCA Board meetings.

January 15 Joint Meeting February 16 Annual Meeting

March 11 Meeting

April 8 Joint Meeting

May 13 Meeting
June 10 Meeting

August 12 Joint Meeting

September 9 Meeting
October 14 Meeting
November 11 Meeting
December 9 Joint Meeting



All are welcome to attend.

MARCH IN THE GARDENS

March is the transition month and if the groundhog is correct spring should be here by the end of the month. We can't complain too much about the winter compared to last year with the crazy polar vortex in 2019 but each winter seems to bring its own issues. Redwing black birds, killdeer, and grackles should have returned to the area by March. Maple syrup making is in full swing in March too.

We had a decent turnout in February for tool cleaning. Our March workday is on my favorite tools, tips, and tricks along with making plans for this upcoming year. Regular every Monday workdays start in April.

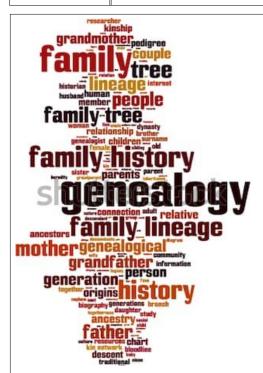
If anyone has any extra time to spare, please drop by on Monday mornings starting around 8:30 am or give David Sharpe a call at (248) 977-1337 for other days and times. We have jobs for all abilities and can accommodate those who wish to work in the woodshop on projects that are less garden intensive.

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

Gayle Gullen Finlandia Garden Club President



Nisu bakers left to right: Kris Bachmann, Tobie Line, Ilene Yanke, Susan Marlow, Elsie Felix



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.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Things in the gift shop are still a bit slow but maybe with the sunshine people will want to get out and see the new things coming into the shop. I have begun ordering items for spring. A Viking order should arrive soon with Turkish Peber, Tutti Fruitti and Salmaikki. Stop in and pick up some of these goodies. Helvi continues to bring us Pulla and the Finnish bakers will soon make us a supply of Nisu.

Iittala has come out with a few new items as well. They will be arriving soon. There is always excitement in the air when new Iittala items come into the gift shop.

MARCH SALE All sea blue Iittala will be discounted 15%



Let's make spring a happy time for the Gift Shop. We would love to see you. Come in, browse, chat a bit and shop.

"Springtime is the land awaking. The March winds are the morning yawn."

Mary O'Brien

SOCIAL NEWS

Spring will be here with the flowers and the gardens to fill The Finnish Center with excitement!

March 4 - Let's Talk Annikki will be presenting a Finnish movie about the life of Sibelius. Join us at 11 am



March 7 - Jim Kuurti will present a biographical documentary "Sirkka: Past and Present" about women getting the right to vote. 2 pm.



March 8 - Join us for a movie titled Raja 1918. This movie deals with the Finnish struggle with Russia one year after independence was declared. A discussion will follow with Mark Rikkonen. 2 pm.

March 11 - Enjoy a wonderful lunch with Chef Michael. It promises to be a fun day. We begin at noon.



March 29 - Be sure to attend a wonderful presentation on Finnish Geneology by Dr. Paul Lehto at 2 pm.

April 1 - No Foolin' about this, it is April Fool's Day. Please come to Let's Talk for a lively discussion at 11 am.



April 5 - Ed O'Brien will be here with a travelogue on South America. We will tour the city in Columbia and go to the mountains of Peru and finish in Ecuador. Join us at 2 pm.

April 8 - The monthly luncheon with an Easter theme. Please sign up for this special event at noon. There will be a visit from the Easter bunny!

April 24/25 - See you at the Flea Market. A quote from Laura Ingalls Wilder: "Some old fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat!

Mary O'Brien





Mike Nagy and David Sharpe in the wood shop.

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Francis V. Martin** (2/2/20) donations have been made by Barbara Kemppainen, Ann Overfield, Mary Ann & Arne Hanninen, Linnea Bailey, Peggy Hanninen, Randee Yuchasz, Carol & Tim Taylor, Joyce & Gerald Matevia, Tricia Edwards, Barb & Joe Jaschuk, ATC Group, Dian Slavens & Family, Gail & Gary Burke, Helen Perttunen and Sharon & Arvo Parkila.

In memory of FCA member **Irma Leppala** (1/27/20) donations have been made by Lois Makee, Mr. & Mrs. Will Strobridge, Diane & Bill Yagerlener, Elaine & Charles Lada, Donald Manninen, Kim & Ron Shollack and Dennis Usitalo.

In memory of FCA life member **Clarabeth Dixon** (1/9/20) donations have been made by Harold Juntunen and Annette Kovala.

In memory of Gloria E. Myers (12/30/19) a donation has been made by Susan Kiligian.

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

FCA life member **Joan Hansen** (1/19/20)

FCA life member **Harold Brown** (1/18/20)

FAC life member **Rita Moilanen** (11/14/19)

FCA life member **Theodore James** (9/23/19)

FCA life member **Joyce (Niemi) Patterson** (7/6/19)

FCA life member **Beatrice Waarala** (6/10/19)



Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: <u>FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335</u>. 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 <u>must</u> 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.



FINLAND TODAY



Finland's AAVI Technologies has donated and is currently shipping Finnish Air purifiers to Wuhan hospitals. 100 air purifiers will be shipped to 5 hospitals that are treating patients for the coronavirus in Wuhan. Finland has confirmed the first Coronavirus case in Lapland, a Chinese tourist was diagnosed positive in January 29.

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland has developed an AR tool for astronauts. This tool reduces the risk of human error and is a training and operations system. The tool can also be used for in-flight training. The augmented reality (AR) tool can be used in the maintenance of other sectors such as mines, paper mills and nuclear power plants.

"Alpha" a Finnish fashion brand has focused on natural materials and high quality and their company has grown in the last few years. The Alpacas wool (material) that they use is warm without making you sweat and is very durable, very soft. The Alpacas wool comes from Peru and the knitwear is manufactured in Lithuania. The company design is to never go out of fashion and the material will last for a very long time if taken care properly. The market is mostly in Finland and Sweden but the company hopes to expand across Europe and possibly to US.

Luin Living is a Finnish company that has expanded in to US markets. The products can be seen in Saks Fifth Ave. department stores in Washington DC. Also they were able to launch pop-up shops in Japan. See website for their products very interesting – lot of Sauna & home spa products.

https://www.luinliving.com/product-category/home-decor-and-fragrances-collections/

A New Space Economy in Finland had designed a "microsatellite". The affordable microsatellites can help ships to navigate in harsh environments autonomously, provide data of crop fields and logging areas, and <u>support research in the current climate change in REAL TIME</u>. These microsatellites are smaller than a shoebox. This new space economy is creating critical cutting edge research and real data that we need as our climate changes. Today's businesses and research are working together collecting information for the good of the people of this world. Finland is creating/building a "global hub" where every nation can connect to, an international co-operating of networks. The next 5 years will be crucial for this to take place and what a better place than Finland to head this project for the good of Finland but also the world.

Finally: On the top step of the Toivola Co-Op Store, Heikki sat with a very large Saint Bernard, the towns police dog stretched out at his feet. A customer started up the steps and paused and inquired "Your dog bite?" "Nope," said Heikki. The fella started up, and Musti growled and went for the customer. With no damage done, the fella said: "Thought you said that your dog doesn't bite!" Heikki: "He doesn't" came the reply, "but that ain't my dog."

Markku Ketola Hilkka Ketola





Top: Lois Makee and Dee Aebersold presented Eunice Potti Gould with a Ladies of Kaleva 25 year award on February 23. Bottom: Eunice with her son Paul Potti at the awards ceremony.



Happy 89th Birthday to Lois Makee

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE: **DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 5TH**

EDITOR CONTACT INFO: PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL: 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.

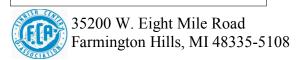
Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.

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:

READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL	
DatePhone:em	ail:
Applicant_	
Applicant/Spouse	
Address	
CityState	_ Zip code
SignatureAre you	of Finnish descent?
 □ Annual membership, single, one vote □ Annual membership, senior* or youth*, or *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years 	ne vote \$25.00
☐ Annual membership, couple, two votes	
☐ Annual membership, family, one vote	\$75.00
☐ Life membership, one vote	
☐ Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)	
Amount enclosed	
Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,	
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108	
Recommended by:	

Visit us on "Finnish Center and Hall" Facebook page and "like" us to get the latest updates!



FCA Senior Living

One and two bedroom rentals Convenient, safe and affordable in highly desirable Farmington Hills, MI Contact us at:

Tapiola Village (248) 471-3802 Freedom Square (248) 442-7250 www.fcaseniorhousing.org



THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

33603 Grand River, Farmington, MI (248) 474-4131 Paul N. Potti, Director