



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

November 2020

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



What a beautiful fall we are having! The gardens have never been quite so beautiful. Again, I want to say thank you to David Sharpe and fellow gardeners. Come on by and take a walk around to see for yourself just how lovely the gardens are.

I am happy to report the second outdoor gift shop sale was a considerable success. The weather cooperated and gave us a beautiful day and the gardens added to the atmosphere. People seemed to enjoy seeing each other again and socializing. The day was topped off by a visit from FinnFolk. It made for a perfect day! Thank you to all who attended and all those who helped put it together.

The coronavirus has created a challenge for all of us. Things have changed by the day and therefore, the Board has decided to cancel the Scandinavian Marketplace for this year. With the numbers and the restrictions put on by the state of Michigan we felt it was the only thing to do.

I am so sorry that 2020 has turned into such a hard year for so many. It has been so hard, but things will get better. We are approaching the holiday season, and this is the season of hope. Let us go forward with an attitude that we shall be back together with hope and courage.

Wash your hands, wear your mask and social distance. Stay safe!

Mary O'Brien, Chairman

FCA UPDATES

The general meeting scheduled for November 8 has been cancelled. We hope to reschedule at a later date providing we get some better news on the coronavirus pandemic.

Due to COVID 19 the closures for all holiday events for December will be decided at the Board meeting in November. Please watch for announcements.



MOSAIC DEDICATION IN KALEVA

The small town of Kaleva has been in the news recently regarding a lovely new addition. A beautiful mosaic has been displayed in the Centennial Park at Walta and Nile Mile roads in Kaleva, Michigan. This is one of three mosaics depicting the Finnish epic poem *The Kalevala* to be presented to the community. These mosaics are made of transparent and opaque glass and are made to withstand the weather. They are being presented by the artist, Trisha Boucha, who has recently moved to the community.

The original mosaics were created by Harry Armstrong during the depression. These works of art hung in the school gym for years and are now located in the Bottle House Museum.



Artist Trisha Boucha at dedication in Centennial Park,
Kaleva, Michigan

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PAAVO NURMI HONORED

The Cultural Committee is pleased to announce that Paavo Nurmi, a lifetime member of the Finnish Center, has been honored with a Michigan Heritage Award for his exceptional artistry and skill at chip carving Finnish distaffs.

The Michigan Heritage Awards honor individuals who continue their family and community folk traditions with excellence. The program was established in 1985 to recognize exceptional tradition bearers and supporters of traditional culture whose contributions to Michigan's heritage had not been previously acknowledged.

Paavo began carving distaffs for spinning wheels in the 1970s. Over the years he has carved many for family and friends. Paavo has displayed his works of art at many Finnish American events, including a folk art fair at the Finnish Center and at FinnFest. He also made one commemorating Finland's 100th anniversary.

When we can once again gather at the center, we will do so to honor Paavo in person. Watch the newsletter for the announcement.



GIFT SHOP UPDATE

The gift shop will be open a few dates in November and December for your shopping convenience. The in-person hours are as follows:

Thursday, November 19, 11 am - 3 pm
 Saturday, November 28, 11 am - 3 pm
 Thursday, December 3, 11 am - 3 pm
 Sunday, December 13, 11 am - 3 pm

If those dates and times don't fit into your schedule then be sure to check out the online gift shop. This is a very easy way to shop. Select item(s), place your order and pay with credit card. Once we receive the order we will package it up for you. Schedule a time for pick up at the FCA. Give it try if you are unable to come in during the scheduled times listed above.

Here is the online gift shop site:
finnishcenter.square.site/



CULTURAL COMMITTEE

The Cultural Committee has been busy in the last few months despite the COVID virus. The committee nominated Paavo Nurmi for a Michigan Heritage Award in recognition of his superb skill at Finnish traditional chip carving and distaff making. The official ceremony was conducted over zoom in September; however a celebratory gathering will be planned at the Center as soon as we can get together.

The Cultural Committee has embarked on a vast project cleaning and properly storing the Finnish national dresses stored at the Center. Our goal is to preserve them for future generations. This large and precious collection has been neglected and even sometime abused over the years. When the project is completed, the items will be available for loan for appropriate events with a deposit.

Before lock down, the committee sponsored workshops on genealogy and folk dances of the Nordic countries. Louise Hartung shared the results of her oral history project on the war experiences of local Finns.

Now that the Center has its new projection system, we will get back to a schedule of Finnish films. Keep an eye on the newsletter for the dates. Weaving will be offered on the FCA loom, and we also look forward to more music programs; food, weaving and wood carving workshops; and lectures.

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR _____ RENEWAL

Date _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

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: _____

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



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