



Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

June/July 2021

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Oh, how exciting, we are open for business! During the summer we will be open Monday and Friday, 12 pm to 4 pm.

The Juhannus event was just wonderful in spite of the rainy weather. People came and listened and danced to music provided by FinnFolk. This is what the Finnish Center is about. People getting together to enjoy Finnish culture. People with stories from the pandemic but moving on to a happier time. Stories that encouraged us to be the strong people we are.

We will start the summer months with the Book Sale in July. The Flea Market/Craft Show in August will be a fun event for the Finnish Center and a great time to clear out some items you no longer need as well as a time to socialize.

At summer's end we will begin the fall schedule of Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be many events for you to attend. We are planning a fall kickoff event in September. There will be movies and the Scandinavian Marketplace in November, and in December the annual Independence Day and Cake Day celebrations to commemorate Finland's Independence. The holidays follow with Christmas events and concerts. We also hope to schedule some cultural events and some classes of special interest.

So let's all put our thinking caps on and share ideas. We have been through a rough year and a half but this year will be filled with joy. Finns are resilient and we are back! Enjoy the summer!

Mary O'Brien  
Chairman

### FLEA MARKET & CRAFT SHOW

August 14, 2021  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Vendors Wanted!  
This event will be held outside.

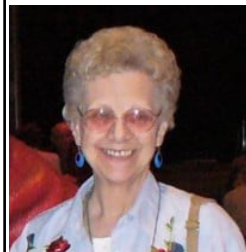
Cost is \$15 per table if you bring your own.  
Cost is \$25 per table if provided by the FCA.

Deadline to register and pay fee is July 24, 2021.

Sign up by calling (248) 895-3231 or  
(248) 478-6939.

### PEARL WANTTAJA

April 24, 1931 - May 19, 2021



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Pearl Wanttaja of Madison Heights, Michigan, who passed away on May 19, 2021, at the age of 90, leaving to mourn family and friends.

She was loved and cherished by many people including: her parents, John Anderson and Senia Anderson; her husband Raymond Wanttaja; her children, Alan Wanttaja, Marsha Mohammed (Richie), Gary Wanttaja, Roger Wanttaja and Randy Wanttaja (John Saetta); her grandson Jonathan; and her siblings, Milton Anderson and Patricia Smith.

## FINLANDIA MALE CHORUS

We are looking for people who were connected with the Finlandia Male Chorus. We are hoping to do a historical event about this wonderful chorus. If you have pictures or stories we would love to see them. This was a great group that brought music and enjoyment to everyone. They even made a trip or two to Finland. Send any information to the Finnish Center or call Mary O'Brien at (248) 895-3231 or (248) 478-6939.

## THOUGHTS ON SUMMER IN THE FINLANDIA GARDENS



We have called Finlandia Gardens, community gardens, because we want others to visit and enjoy our landscape. We are seeing increasing numbers of visitors using our gardens as a place to stroll, sit, read, observe, meet, and assist in making our center all it can be. More and more of our members are lending a hand in giving ideas, donating materials, painting, removing wildflowers that have wandered into the wrong location, and contributing for plant purchases. This makes the job of a Landscape Coordinator exciting and a joyful experience.

We have added some new features including a garden bed, a self-guided walking tour, a gazebo, a large glider, and attractions of interest for children. For two years we have a resident black chipmunk living in our gardens which is quite unusual. There are many rabbits and deer that visit and eat some of our desirable plants. But our six acres have so many plants to choose from that we seldom miss what they consume.

The following members and friends have helped to keep our gardens beautiful on a regular basis: Bruce Mikko, Tom Evans, Susan Trescott, Julie, David, and Shel Levine, Barbara DeLorme, Mike Nagy, Bob McAlpine, Donald Autio, Sheila Battle, Daniel Coleman, and Mark Rikonen. Additionally, a regular group of people have kept our Little Free Libraries functioning.

If you want an opportunity to be outside in a safe environment, get all the vitamin D you need, exercise within your limit, and help create a beautiful environment, then come and see us in the gardens in the morning or by appointment. We would love to see you. Your donations are appreciated.

David Sharpe FCA Landscape Coordinator  
(248) 977-1337  
dcs37mgsc@earthlink.net  
finlandiagardens.org



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  
Cynthia Haffey, Vice Chairman  
Christina Lovgren, Treasurer  
Linda Poirier, Secretary & Asst. Treasurer

### Board of Trustees

#### 1 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Sherrill Tedford,  
Austin Strobridge

#### 2 Year

Kathryn Hill, Mary O'Brien,  
James Lee

#### 3 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,  
Roger Wanttaja

### Alternates

#1 Ed O'Brien  
#2 Jerry Collins

### Financial Review

Paul Rajala  
Annikki Kurvi  
Olli Lamminen

### Committee Chairpersons

#### Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

#### Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

#### Education

Iлона Takakura

#### Finance

Mia Lamminen

#### Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

#### Mailing

Alice Manley

#### Membership

Sherrill Tedford

#### Publicity & Publications

Ed O'Brien

#### 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



## BOOK SALE (New and used)

Friday, July 14  
12 noon - 2 pm



### JUHANNUS CELEBRATION June 26, 2021



Top to bottom right:  
Maypole Dance  
Opening remarks from Mary  
O'Brien

Top to bottom left:  
Finnish American Singers of Michigan  
FinnFolk perform  
Guests enjoying the program

## GIFT SHOP

The gift shop has been doing very well through these hard times, considering the center was closed. The Juhannus event was a huge success and many stopped by the gift shop. Thank you to all.

At this time we are temporarily moving the gift shop from the Finlandia Room back to the location we have used for many years. It is our hope that you will continue to shop for the outstanding Finnish items in this location.

July 6-20 we are featuring a 20% off Iittala sale. It is a great time to get a gift or purchase items you have wanted for a long time. Remember we are open Monday and Friday months from noon - 4 pm. Items can also be purchased online at [finnishcenter.square.site](http://finnishcenter.square.site).

Thank you to all who have helped keep the gift shop moving forward.



## CULTURAL COMMITTEE

The cultural committee sponsors activities based in Finnish tradition and heritage that expand and enrich our knowledge of Finnish America and Finland.

The committee, for example, has sponsored films from Finland, lectures on the history and culture of Finland and Finnish America, folk dances of the Nordic countries, and workshops on genealogy, Finnish foods, rag rug weaving, and other traditions. With a grant from Finlandia Foundation National, the committee was able to plan and implement a folk arts day featuring demonstrations and displays at the Center. We also nominated Paavo Nurmi for a Michigan Heritage Award for his astoundingly beautiful chip carving, and he did receive the award.

The committee has embarked on a vast project to clean and properly store the Finnish national clothing at the Center. The goal is to preserve this treasure for future generations. It is a large and precious collection that has been neglected over the years. When the project is completed, the items will be available for loan for appropriate events with a deposit.

Now with the pandemic behind us, we hope, the committee is looking forward to a reception honoring Paavo Nurmi, and to a rag rug weaving workshop taught by Sandy Scheel. Stay tuned for these dates to be announced soon, as will dates for workshops on Nordic dance and food, films about Finland, lectures about Finland and Finnish America, and music performances.

The cultural committee welcomes your suggestions about future programs. Please contact the Finnish Center with your comments and ideas.

Yvonne Hiipakka Lockwood

## CHARLOTTE LYTIKAINEN

March 21/1924 - March 16, 2021



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Charlotte Lytikainen (Farmington Hills, Michigan), who passed away on March 16, 2021, at the age of 96, leaving to mourn family and friends.

She was predeceased by: her parents, Eric Eklund and Hilda Eklund; her brothers, Paul, Harry and Allen Eklund (Skip); her husbands, Marvin Strauss and Paul Lytikainen; and her son Mark Strauss.

She is survived by: her children, Timothy Strauss (Debbie) of Troy, Todd Strauss (Laurie) of Central Lake, Curtis Strauss of Lithuania, Janet Kruska (Paul) of Shepherd, Paul Lytikainen (Cheri) of Grand Rapids and Rob Lytikainen (Jeannie) of Colorado; 11 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.



*The Boy,  
the Mole,  
the Fox  
and the  
Horse*

“Sometimes all you hear about is the hate, but there is more love in this world than you could possibly imagine”.

**FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER**

35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Mi 48335  
248-895-3231 Mary OBrien, FCA Chairman

Table(s) Request for Outside Flea Market & Craft Show  
Saturday, August 14, 2021 (10am - 4pm)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of items you sell \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (Bring your own table - approx. 8 ft)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 (table supplied by us - 8ft)

Reply by July 24, 2021 to reserve your space  
Mark Flea Market & Craft Show on outside of envelope

I release the Finnish Center Association (FCA)  
from any responsibility, personal liability, loss or  
damage of any kind in connection to this market and  
show. I agree to abide by all rules set forth by the FCA.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108

Prsrt STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Farmington, MI  
Permit NO 250

Current Resident or

**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!



**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](http://www.fcaseniorhousing.org)



**THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME**  
33603 Grand River,  
Farmington, MI  
(248) 474-4131  
Paul N. Potti, Director