



Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

September 2021

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Autumn is in the air with warm breezes and cool nights. The summer was very strange with all the rain and humidity but we made it with two very nice events that brought laughter and friendship back into our lives. This made for a very good summer in spite of negative forces trying to pull us down.

Fall will bring some pretty special events. November features the Scandinavian Market. This is always a great fall event. There will be special vendors and new merchandise in the Gift Shop for your holiday shopping. Be sure to join us for this. Also, the choir will put on their concert the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I can't wait for that. Music always gives us a lift.

We are planning a craft day on November 6 and 7 to get us in the Christmas spirit. Vickie Kimler will teach us some very special techniques. See page four for more information.

December brings Independence Day and cake day to celebrate the Independence of Finland. We will also be celebrating a Finnish Christmas. The food is always magnificent!

Remember we are open 3 days a week with health and safety restrictions. We hope we can carry on events with caution. Thank you for patience and understanding.

I think we are in for some great functions so we will "make merry" at our Finnish Center!

In closing, I want to thank everyone this past year for your financial support, your patience, and for all those smiles and good words along the way. We are not out of this pandemic yet but we are moving along and we must keep our spirits up. Some of you have been through a lot of adversities and we can get through this too. Keep your chin up as we are moving to new and better days.

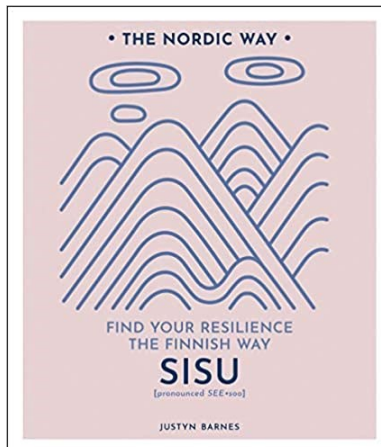
Mary O'Brien  
Chairmen

### FCA Hours of Operation

Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Plan on stopping by? Please call beforehand. Thank you.  
(248) 478-6939



Quote from  
*Find Your Resilience The Finnish Way*  
by Justyn Barnes

Sisu makes each of us more self-sufficient, but its power increases exponentially when people collaborate to work for the common good.

## UPDATED COVID GUIDELINES DUE TO NEW VARIANTS

The Finnish Center Association is always striving to protect people entering their premises for health and safety. Our membership population is primarily elderly, and many are immunocompromised. It is for this reason we have spent many months closed in order to accomplish the goal of keeping our members safe from COVID-19.

Due to the new variants, the Finnish Center Board of Trustees has had to make a few temporary changes. **We have cancelled Finlandia Foundation National event on Saturday, October 16, 2021.** With the virus being so contagious we felt a big group would not be a good idea at this time.

In addition, we are now requiring anyone who enters the building to wear a mask covering both nose and mouth and to social distance. We will also be requiring proof of vaccination and/or a negative COVID test within the last 7 days.

Thank you for your patience during this very difficult time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly.

Mary O'Brien  
FCA Chairperson

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Farmington Hills, MI  
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### 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

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Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,  
Roger Wanttaja

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Annikki Kurvi  
Olli Lamminen

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Mary O'Brien

### SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Olli Lamminen, Chairman

#### *Tapiola Village*

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

## FINNISH HUMOR

How can you tell if a Finnish guy likes you?  
He'll be looking at your shoes, not his.



A large group of Russians were on the border in 1939 and moving down a small hill. They hear a voice say, "One Finnish soldier is better than ten Russians". The furious commander orders his ten best men and sends them over the hill. There is gunfire and the silence. The another voice, "One Finnish soldier is better than one hundred Russians". The commander sends one hundred more Russians and again gunfire followed by silence. Then again a voice is heard, "One Finnish soldier is better than one thousand Russians". The commander then sends one thousand fighters and more gunfire and again silence. Eventually one wounded Russian fighter crawls back and his dying words to the commander are, "Don't send any more men....it is a trap. There are two of them".

Jokijokes.com

## MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Arlene Moilanen** (8/17/21) a donation has been made by Neil Manley.

In memory of FCA life member **Lillian Lehto** (8/1/21) a donation has been made by Joane McNabb.

In memory of FCA life member **Paavo Nurmi** (7/26/21) donations have been made by Anita & Keith Johnson, Maria J. Burnet, Ed & Janet Dippel, Eliisa Mannisto Seigle, Doris Veldhuis, Carol Bocskay & John Blakeslee, Luise & Norbert Leppanen, Lois Makee, Robin Mosher and Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Pearl Wanttaja** (5/19/21) a donation has been made by Ross McGeehin.

In memory of FCA life member **Charlotte Lytikainen** (3/16/21) a donation has been made by the Finnish American Singers of Michigan.

The Finnish Center would also like to express condolences to the family and friends of:

FCA life member **Maj Benson** (4/24/21).

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, Soittoniekat/FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Finnish Center. The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335. You may also direct your donation toward the Elders' Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing.

Please include full name, address, dates of death and birth of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgment card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who is passed away, please contact the FCA.

## FINNISH COVID RESEARCH

The site Good News from Finland reports that while much of the world has been concerned with vaccine injections in the fight against COVID-19 virus, two Finnish companies are centering in the development of nasal sprays. Rokote Laboratories' product is a vaccine that triggers an immune response, producing antibodies that protect mucous membranes from this airborne disease. The approach may appeal to those who are needle averse, and it is hoped to help prevent those who have received the vaccine from transmitting the virus.

Another company, Turku-based Therapeutica Borealis, is developing a nasal spray that weakens the ability of the virus to enter the body and replicate itself, thus decreasing the risk of seriously falling ill. One of the inventors, Kalervo Väänänen, said "Completing the development of the drug within a quick schedule is possible, because the molecules being used are known in terms of safety, and the development can be directed at phase-II tests on efficacy and efficiency in relation to different doses and dosing mechanisms."

## SCENES OF AUTUMN

by David Sharpe

Blue jays sound their warnings  
As a hawk glides through the trees.  
Leaves display their visual cues  
As they twirl and dance to earth.  
Seeded fluff floats in the air  
As a cool wind sifts through swaying grass.  
Then autumn sun begins to fade,  
And evening falls in purpled hues.  
We sink into an autumn night  
Where frost replaces dew.



## AUTUMN AFTERNOON

by David Sharpe



Rain has fallen and leaves  
glisten with sunlit jewels.  
A gentle wind reminds the trees  
to send down their gifts to earth.

And we,  
Observers of this scene,  
marvel,  
As the beauty of this ancient mystery  
continues.

## CARROT SOUP

Recipe from Fine Finnish Foods Cookbook



2 cups cooked carrots, mashed  
2 Tbs butter or margarine  
2 Tbs flour  
2 quarts milk  
1 tsp. salt  
Sugar to taste

Melt butter in large saucepan. Add flour and stir until blended. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly. Simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add carrots, salt and sugar. Serve hot. Makes 6 to 8 servings

## CRAFTING AT THE CENTER

A special event is coming to The Finnish Center. Would you like to make a small artistic gift for the holidays or maybe a little something special for yourself?

We have the perfect idea:

Vickie Kimler is coming to the Finnish Center to show you how to make beautiful letters, **November 6 and 7, 2021 9 am - 12 noon.**

Cost for the event is \$5.00 which covers your supplies. All health and safety policies will be observed. Refunds will be given should we have to cancel if health conditions require the closing of the FCA.

Here are a few samples of what you could do:



## FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan has started fall rehearsals on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We welcome all singers in all voices to join us. Although some of the music has Finnish lyrics, speaking Finnish is not a requirement, because we will help you learn the pronunciation.

For details contact chorus president Katy Koskela at [kakoskela@hotmail.com](mailto:kakoskela@hotmail.com).

Please note that the email address for Katy has been corrected. We apologize for last month's error.



## GET UP, DON'T GIVE UP

Quote from *Find Your Resilience The Finnish Way*  
by Justyn Barnes

Finland has produced some of the greatest endurance athletes of all time, and four-time Olympic gold medalist Lasse Virén is right up there. Virén had a bigger heart than the average man (literally) and pushed his limits with more than 750 training sessions per year, many during the cruel Finnish winter. But it is the 1972 Olympic 10,000-meter final that he had to delve deepest into his *sisu* power reserves. After suffering a fall halfway through the race, he fought back and not only won the race, but set a new world-record time. So when life trips you up, make like Lasse: get up, remain concentrated on your goal, and give it all you've got to get there.

[Editors note: FCA member Markku Ketola provided the following history of the Finlandia Male Chorus, from its beginning in 1921 as the Finnish Male Chorus, and an account of its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1993. Included in the celebration was a performance by a newly-formed mixed choir, the Finnish American Singers of Michigan, which is still active and performing at the FCA.]

## FINLANDIA MALE CHORUS 70 YEARS

There are two things that the Finns love: the sauna, and a song. Ever since the days that Väinämöinen used the kantele and his singing in the Finnish epic, *Kalevala*, the Finnish man has used singing, especially choral singing, to soothe his soul.

It seems that in Finland, if an organization of any type is formed, sooner or later that organization will also form a choir or a chorus. Finland may have more choirs and choruses per capita than any other country.

It is with this heritage and with the song of Väinämöinen in their hearts, that the Finnish Male Chorus was organized in the Detroit area in 1921 with John Karhu as director.

In 1923, the chorus was reorganized and the Kansallisseura Mieskuoro was formed with Arthur White as director. Then, starting in 1933, the chorus was affiliated with the Knights of Kaleva, and the chorus' name was the Kalevan Ritarit Male Chorus. It was during this time, 1934, that the chorus was the only male chorus from Michigan at the Chicago World's Fair.

The name, Finlandia Male Chorus, first appeared in 1939, with the chorus making many appearances to benefit the emergency relief programs which were helping Finland during the Winter War.

The chorus was inactive during the war years from 1941 to 1947. The Finlandia Male Chorus was revived in 1948 under the direction of Carl Mustonen, and has provided singing inspiration for us since then.

Many of us were on hand to help Finlandia Male Chorus celebrate its milestone on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1993, at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Helping to make this a memorable occasion was the Sibelius Male Chorus from Chicago, with its director Warren Polston. Aaro Illi provided some fine accompaniment on the accordion on a couple of the Sibelius numbers. The men from Chicago were wonderful.

Adding to the festivities were the Finnish-American Singers of Michigan, Lisa Potti, director, and Carol Jouppi the accompanist. Being a

relatively new group, they have been a tremendous addition to the Finnish American community here in the Detroit area.

Claes Lofgren, an exchange student from Sweden, was one of the highlights of the evening singing solos with his dynamic baritone voice.

The host of the evening, the Finlandia Male Chorus, had two impressive sets that showed that the director, Henry Naasko, has put the men through some tough practices; the results were great. Clarice Seilo provided her usual excellent accompaniment on the piano.

Former directors of the Finlandia Male Chorus Eero Keranen, and Evert Makinen, each conducted one number, and the men responded with energy and vigor. Raimond Tralla showed his great baritone voice with a solo with the chorus.

Another highlight was the rousing rendition of Jean Sibelius' "Finlandia" by the combined Finlandia and Sibelius Male Choruses. In between the two verses of "Finlandia", Ralph Mannisto played the tune on a "saw". I believe it must be a "first" for a concert of this type.

After the concert a delicious roast beef dinner was served by the Finnish Center's master chef Jeff and his staff. An afterglow took place following the dinner with the men from the choruses getting together in small and large groups to sing some familiar songs while coffee and pulla were served.

It was the 70-year history of the Finlandia Male Chorus we came to honor, these tradition bearers that have kept alive the rich heritage of Väinämöinen, and the songs of the Finnish people. Outside, the April evening was cold, but inside the Finnish Center, there was a warm glow of song and kinship.

Markku Ketola,  
May, 1993

## “THE MORE THINGS CHANGE THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME”

People have been affected by many changes the past year and a half. The Finnish American Singers certainly have experienced them as well! Although illness, weddings, death, isolation, and celebrations have touched the choir, until June’s Juhannus celebration we had not been able to sing together and share in person. With pleasure, I am glad to announce that the choir has begun fall practices for a Christmas concert on November 28<sup>th</sup>! Put it on your calendars and please contact choir president, Katy Koskela, [kakoskela@hotmail.com](mailto:kakoskela@hotmail.com), if you would like to join us or have questions.

Many of you may be aware that the choir has maintained one tradition throughout the pandemic: the selling of beautiful greens from Sherwood Forest Farms in Washington state. This year we again are making the greens available, but are adding an option to make purchasing easier for YOU! Greens will be available for purchase online through the FCA gift shop website in October, payable by credit card.

Click on <https://finnishcenter.square.site/s/shop>

Ordering from the **Local Delivery** option finds greens delivered to the Center. Local residents could then pick up their greens there on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. If the greens recipient lives within a 10 mile radius of the Center it will be possible this year to have their fragrant greens delivered by a smiling choir member for a \$5 cash-on-delivery donation! If you prefer to pay with cash or check, please contact a choir member or Katy Koskela, choir president. We will be happy to take your order as we have in the past.

With a **Direct Delivery** order, items are sent directly to the recipient from Sherwood Forest Farms. This is an outstanding option to share a little bit of the “North” and holiday joy with recipients living out of personal delivery range while supporting FASM at the same time. Greens can be sent to any state in the lower forty-eight, with the cost including mailing charges. Click on <https://finnishcenter.square.site/s/shop>

As our major fundraiser this year, we want it to be a success and are eager for more people to experience the wonderful products from Sherwood Forest! If you are in the area, check out the sample wreath hanging outside at the Finnish Center in October.

### LOCAL DELIVERY ITEMS



Western Cedar Garland

10 Ft. - \$25



Noble Fir Door Swag

\$25



28" Mixed Evergreen Wreath

\$30



22" Mixed Evergreen Wreath

\$25



Reindeer & Sleigh Set

\$20

**Local Delivery** items will be delivered to the FCA, 35200 Eight Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. If you live within a 10 mile radius of the Center, a choir member could personally deliver your purchase(s) for a \$5 cash donation, payable upon delivery, OR you are encouraged to pick up your purchase(s) at the Center on Sunday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

(continued on page 7)

**The more things change...** (continued from page 6)

**DIRECT DELIVERY**

**Direct Delivery** items will be sent to the recipient directly from Sherwood Forest Farms in Washington state within the first two weeks following Thanksgiving. Wreaths and door swag include a bow as shown and the door swag also includes white tipped pinecones, wired and ready to attach. Reindeer and sleigh are boxed. Items will include a greeting from the purchaser.



**22" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath**

\$43



**Western Cedar Gift Garlands**

2 - 10 Ft \$50



**Holiday Gift Door Swag**

\$43



**28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath**

\$48



**Reindeer & Sleigh Gift Set**

\$30



**Evergreen Gift Set**

\$85



**Gift Centerpiece**

\$38



**Cone Gift Basket**

\$35

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



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