



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

October 2021

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

October is here with leaves fluttering and falling to the ground in an array of colors. What a beautiful time of the year for a walk or to sit in our beautiful gardens with the fall flowers. We should all be grateful we have such a beautiful place to spend some leisure time for our enjoyment.

Our latest COVID policy will be ready shortly and we will post for all to read. It was put together with much care in hopes we would be a little safer. The Board of Trustees have put a lot of thought into this policy and I believe they have done a good job. Be sure to read in this newsletter.

Our day with Finlandia Foundation National was very productive. They gave us some new ideas to try to bring more people into the Finnish Center and for those who were involved in any way it brought back some enthusiasm that we sometimes lose.

I will be cutting my hours a bit at the Finnish Center as my time has been consumed with everything involved in running this wonderful place. I will still be around and am always available by phone. Just have to do a few things I have been putting off for myself and my family. We do need someone to answer the phone on Wednesdays from 11-3 and to take some sales at the Gift Shop. If you are able to do this, please give me a call at (248) 895-3231 or (248) 478-6939. Even an hour helps. Thank you.

Remember to come and enjoy the Scandinavian Market on November 13, 2021. Lots of good foods to enjoy and many special crafts to buy. Please stop in at the Gift Shop to see what is new! Everyone will be happy to see you. Our safety restrictions will be observed!

Remember we have been through a lot these last 2 years and I am sure it is going to get better. Let's all work together to make this an even better place. Everyone is valuable at the Finnish Center and everyone is important. Let our comments be positive ones. This place has an amazing history so let's all do our best to work together. I have found, in the time I have been here, that we have some really great people. All of us have one major thing in common: we are Finns and that is pretty Special!!

Mary O'Brien, Chairman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 6 - Craft Day Part I 9am – noon
Sunday, November 7 - Craft Day Part II 9 am - noon
Friday, November 12 - Scandinavian Market Set Up 9 am
Saturday, November 13 - Scandinavian Market 10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, November 28 - FASM Concert at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 4 - Independence Day
Monday, December 6 - Independence Day Cake & Coffee - noon
Wednesday, December 8 - Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Sunday, December 12 - General Meeting 1 pm
Saturday, December 18 - Pikkijoulu 5 pm

FCA GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Sunday, December 12
1:00 pm





**SCANDINAVIAN MARKET
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021**

10 am – 4 pm

at

Finnish Center Association

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

(248) 478-6939 or (734) 834-6085

Public Welcome

\$2 donation at the door

Masks and other covid safety protocols to be followed. (See insert)

Featuring:

Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Icelandic and Finnish Imports and Crafts,
Baked Goods, Pasties, Food, Hand Woven Rugs, Decorative Arts,
Lavender Soaps and Lotions, Pottery, Crafts and more.....

You can also enjoy good Scandinavian food and listen to music by Finnfolk.

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

Ilona 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



Lois Makee (far left) presents FCA history to the Finlandia Foundation Board of Directors at a meeting in October.

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Karen Barker** (9/28/21) donations have been made by Colette Burceer & Davis Hwang, Kyle & Melissa Burcar and Karen & Joseph Burcar.

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

In memory of FCA life member **Charlotte Lytikainen** (3/16/21) a donation has been made by the Hadd Family.

We wish to send our condolences to the family of former member of the FCA **Kevin Heltunen** who passed away on 8/1/21. Kevin was a frequent visitor of the Center who would stop by to chat and always had a story to tell. His mother Catherine passed away 7/21/20.

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.



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:



SALLA TO HOST THE 2032 OLYMPICS?

The Finnish municipality of Salla, the combined size of Washtenaw, Wayne, and Oakland counties, with a population just slightly greater than our local Village of Franklin, is north of the Arctic Circle near the Russian border. The town, until recently, was noted as the coldest town in Finland.

Noting the rising temperatures across the globe, the mayor of Salla, Erkki Parkkinen, launched a bid in January, 2021, to host the 2032 Olympics: "So, there was this crazy idea to host the *Summer Games* in one of the coldest towns on the planet."

The real intent of the bid is to raise awareness of climate change and highlight the threat posed to Salla and its subarctic ecosystem, which dependent on low temperatures for most of the year. Said mayor Parkkinen, "Our intention here is clear: we want to keep Salla as it is and our winters cold and full of snow."



FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Usher in the holidays with music both familiar and new at the Finnish American Singers of Michigan Christmas concert.

Singing **Sunday, November 28th at 4 pm**, please join us at a venue new to us, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, MI. Fully accessible for all, we hope you will stay for cookies and punch after the concert. Also, in keeping with the location change, we are not charging admission, but will have a basket to accept any donations.

November 28th is the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and the first Sunday in Advent. Come and celebrate with us and your family!



Finnish Center Association (FCA) Commitment to Members, Guests, Volunteers and Renters of our Facilities:

We ask all who enter the FCA premises, regardless of vaccination status, to do their part to allow for a healthy and safe return to in-person events.

Our policies are updated and effective as of **10/15/21** with recommendations from the State of Michigan, CDC as well as models in current use within the State for public organizations and Oakland County Health Offices. Event attendees, members, guests, staff, volunteers and other persons entering the FCA building will not be admitted or may be asked to leave the building and grounds if they are noncompliant with FCA current policy.

Health and Safety Requirements

- Masks covering both one's nose and mouth ... **and**
- Proof of COVID fully vaccinated (meaning the event date is at least 2 weeks after your final vaccine dose) **or** ...
- Negative PCR test within 72 hours.

What do I need to present at Screening?

Original vaccine card ... **or**... Photo of vaccine card ... **or** ... Record of PCR test taken within 72 hours of the entry to an event. Face Mask covering nose and mouth.

Children under 12 must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test (saliva or nasal swab) taken within 72 hours of the event. And must be accompanied by an adult who also meets the health and safety protocol.

Masks that cover the nose and mouth are required for all indoor events, regardless of vaccine status. A face shield may be worn *in addition* to a mask, but not instead of one.

Masks must be worn for the duration of the indoor event. Those arriving without appropriate face coverings will be provided with a disposable face mask.

Neck gaiters, bandanas, and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not permitted. Masks must be worn *indoors* when not eating or drinking beverages. When eating and drinking are no longer taking place, masks are to be returned to cover both nose and mouth. Those who may refuse to keep their masks on will be asked to leave the venue without a refund.

Seating

Based on the latest CDC guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals, we are utilizing seating/capacity up to our *full* numbers, renters included. All who have been screened to enter for an event will not have physically distanced seating requirements within the venue. Other individuals may be sitting directly next to, in front of, or behind you. If this makes you uncomfortable, you may ask an FCA representative to be moved to another available seat in the building, if available.

Arrive Together

The FCA asks that if there are multiple people in your party, that your entire party enter together for an event. If possible, please give each member of your party his/her own screening materials and or ticket/invitation or other identifying participation. (Staff and volunteers not included.)

If you feel ill, please stay home!

Our commitment to you is to do everything we can to create a comfortable, enjoyable, healthy and safe environment in which to interact in-person with others. However, those who do not comply with FCA policy will not be admitted or asked to leave the event as there are no exceptions to our current policies.

We welcome your safe & healthy experience at the Finnish Center Association.

Thank you,
Kiitos,

Finnish Center Association (FCA) Board

Organization Representative Signature / Date

FCA Representative Signature / Date

Revised, 10/15/ 2021

FAREWELL TO LILLIAN LEHTO



Many days have already passed, then weeks and months, when we wake up every morning to hear how many people have died. Many members of the FCA have been ill and rallied and recovered to stay with the continued course of the pandemic. Days and days of remembering that we have SISU and more fortitude as the days seem to pass too fast and at other times too slowly.

I'm remembering my move to Tapiola Village, adjacent to the FCA, meeting many new people. Lillian Lehto called me to see if I would like to join her on Mondays to care for the library. I was more than eager to respond to such a friendly invitation. We immediately began to bring forth our family life and what was going on here at the FCA.

Lillian opened many doors for me, the most available was Don Autio, and the book club on the last Monday of the month with great presentations of Finnish history, and our following of immigrant parents or grandparents.

Lillian and I came from completely different backgrounds, but our lives came together in many places because we raised our children during the same time period (50's to 70's). Lillian had such an extensive education, I couldn't conceive of anyone raising six boys and doing the grade school teaching, and Sunday school, linguistics, library science and developing seamstress status. I quickly began asking questions on a variety of subjects and many times lost concentration when I realized how limited my education was compared to Lillian's and many other retired teachers who are a large part of our membership.

The best example of family experience in Lillian's life was her grandpa Eelu's poetry. She had very little time to spend with him, as he died when she was little, finding his writings and needing to know how much of his life was spent printing and distributing his newsletters. He wrote about the sinking of the Titanic and the 1913 strike of the mines in the copper country.

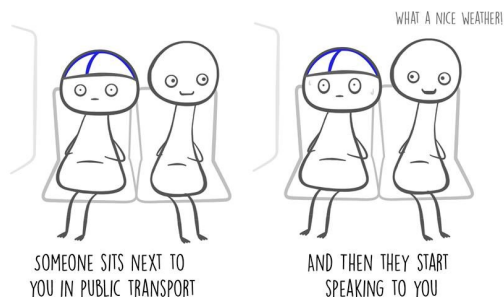
We can't even imagine the strong incentive it was for Lillian to research her roots back to Finland when grandpa Eelu was a mere child and began writing his own messages and delivering them on his bicycle.

The loss of someone like Lillian who was in our midst and kept herself so up on the current news, etc. will hopefully spur us to more social activities and cooperation. We will miss her and so many others. Paul and Lillian are role models for the rest of us. Age makes no difference if we can bring ourselves together for the good of those who have a long future ahead.

Lillian will always be a "now" person. When you think of her read *Rascal's Craft* and watch *60 Minutes*. She would wish it so.

Ruth M. Ojala
Library Volunteer

FINNISH NIGHTMARES



FCA Hours of Operation

Monday
Wednesday
Friday

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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



FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN GREENS SALE

Not much time left in October to order for November delivery!!

<https://sherwoodfundraiser.com/FinnishAmericanSingersMichigan>



There are options!! You can:

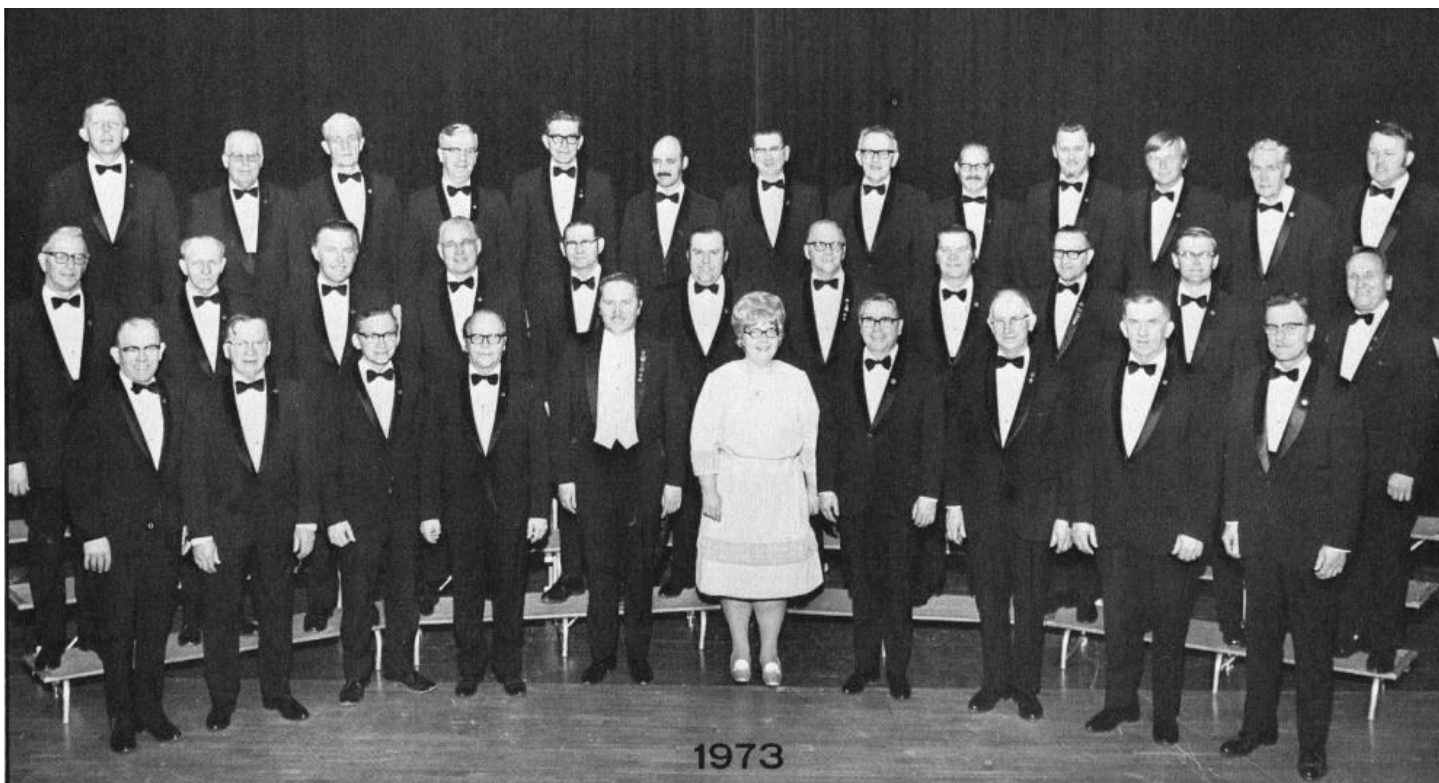
- Order easily online and pay with a credit card
- Contact a choir member
- Contact choir president, Katy Koskela: kakoskela@hotmail.com or (734) 674-0434
- Stop by the FCA where there is an order form in the office and a sample wreath hanging outside.

Both **Local Delivery** and **Direct Delivery** orders are possible. In the latter option, 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.

CAN YOU PROVIDE NAMES FOR THESE FACES?

Are you able to identify any of the members in this 1973 Finlandia Male Chorus photo? We would like to display the photo with the names, and many of you should recognize them as friends, fathers, or grandfathers. Simply match the names in the two left columns with the faces in the photo and write the number in the appropriate space. We have identified four easy ones: #20 Evert Makinen, #32 Eugene Paasinen, #35 Eero Keranen, and #36 Carol Jouppi. (Find the list is on page 7).

Either phone the FCA or email your matches to finnishcenter@gmail.com and we'll continue with the results in a subsequent issue.



Can you provide names for these faces? (continued from page 6)

		<i>Top row</i>		<i>Middle row</i>		<i>Front row</i>	
		<i>L - R</i>		<i>L - R</i>		<i>L - R</i>	
1.	Calvin Saari	19.	Al Weitschat	1	#32	1	1
2.	Ed Danielsen	20.	Evert Makinen	2		2	2
3.	Jeff Dorffi	21.	Dennis Degen	3		3	3
4.	Lasse Forsman	22.	Norman Koponen	4		4	4
5.	Albert Lehtikoinen	23.	Frank Lasanen	5	#20	5	5 #35
6.	Vernon Leinonen	24.	Arne Lehto	6		6	6 #36
7.	Ralph Mannisto	25.	Edwin Niemi	7		7	7
8.	Ray Nickol	26.	Paul Schmidt	8		8	8
9.	Olaf Saarinen	27.	Alfred Wiitla	9		9	9
10.	Phil Sevo	28.	Emil Seppala	10		10	10
11.	Carl Thiry	29.	Sanfrid Dixon	11		11	
12.	Wayne Langley	30.	Lincoln Hirvela	12			
13.	Al Jouppi	31.	Tom Jouppi	13			
14.	Charles Karvonen	32.	Eugene Paasinen				
15.	John Makinen	33.	Herbert Piilo				
16.	Howard Nippa	34.	Ward Walkley				
17.	Sillvenberg Pietila	35.	Eero Keranen				
18.	Frederick Putkela	36.	Carol Jouppi				



MEANWHILE IN FINLAND



GIFT SHOP NEWS

The Gift Shop will once again be participating in The Scandinavian Market with some different items available for you to see and buy. So please do stop in. If any of you can help on November 13, 2021 for the market, please call me at (248) 895-3231. We could use your help and thank you in advance to any of you that can pitch in for even a short time.

If you are looking for a special item from Iittala, please let me know. So if you are interested in wine glasses, a vase, candle holders or other things for that special person for the holidays or for yourself this is the time to order. Anyone who gives me an order by Thanksgiving will receive a 10% discount.

Mary O'Brien
Gift Shop Chairman

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



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