



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2022

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Welcome Spring, or maybe not, kind of depends on the day. There are buds on the trees and the flowers are peeking through the ground so I do think it is on it's way. This has been another rough winter with the loss of friends and family but the Finnish Center keeps trying different things to reopen.

The board was unable to select a chairman so for now I will be serving as your chairman . I cannot be at the Finnish Center as much as I have been so if anyone can sit in the office on a Wednesday or Friday, please let me know. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me at the Finnish Center or (248) 895-3231.

We have been having fish fries for Lent and it has been nice to see everyone. It has really been nice with FinnFolk providing music. We will not have a dinner on Good Friday! Mike serves fried fish, baked fish and one other entree to choose from plus the soup/salad bar is all you can eat. A cash bar is also available.

Vappu will be celebrated on May 7 at 5:00 pm. We are hoping for a good turnout with thoughts of a very special night. Please join us and if you can help in any way, please let me know. We also plan to celebrate Juhannus in June. Hopefully, these events will bring us back together.



For our COVID policy masks are optional. We still need to be careful because the pandemic is not over so let's just try to be safe! Let's try to bring the joy back into the Finnish Center. It is here and the more people who add to it the better off we are.

Think Spring and baseball!

Mary O'Brien

2022 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The majority of the elections again took place over Zoom during FCA's annual meeting on February 20, 2022. Please see the results of the election on page 2 of this newsletter.

We want to thank our Board of Trustees, Alternates, Committee Chairpersons and Financial Review Committee for all stepping up to serve the FCA

Sincerely,
The Nominating Committee

Look back
and be grateful,
look ahead and be
hopeful, look around
and be helpful.



JANET SUOMI FCA'S NEW GIFT SHOP CHAIRPERSON

[Editors note: We asked our new gift shop chairman, Janet Suomi, to provide some background as to her Finnish connections and love of Finnish goods]



I was looking for a volunteer opportunity, and I saw that the Finnish Center was looking for volunteers. I had attended the Scandinavian Festival with my husband and I enjoyed shopping for everything Finnish. After 44 years of marriage to a Finn, I had learned a lot. When Mary O'Brien said she was looking for someone to help in the gift shop, I knew that I was familiar with most of the merchandise and loved it.

My husband grew up in Ishpeming of Finnish parents, and he also had both sets of grandparents nearby. He was a gifted learner, and he was awarded a scholarship at MIT for his freshman year. He finished up his degree in Chemistry from the University of Michigan. He went on to almost complete a PhD in Biochemistry, and taught biochemistry to med students at University of Michigan Med School. He later completed law school with excellence and was admitted to the bar and patent law bar.

I grew up in Howell and also graduated from the University of Michigan in Education, teaching second grade and remedial reading for 30 years in Saline and Pinckney. I just moved back to Brighton last August after my husband passed away in 2019. We were spending our winters and springs in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and our summers and falls in Paradise, Michigan. We had a cottage in Paradise for 35 years. We often went to Marquette and shopped at Touch of Finland.

My husband had two daughters who are also Finnish (their mother is Finnish and grew up in Hancock) and they live in Colorado. One of them belongs to the Finlandia Foundation of Colorado. His younger sister lives in Kailua-Kona, HI. I have a sister and brother-in law who live in Howell and a nephew and family who live in Farwell.

I have enjoyed meeting a lot of you, and really enjoy working with Mary!

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Tapiola Village

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

FCA FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPER - APRIL 1, 2022

There is one more supper planned for April 8th from 4:30 to 7:30, none on Good Friday.



FinnFolk provided wonderful music and the meals from Michael's Touch of Class were delicious.

Photos courtesy of David Sharpe



SUNSHINE LADY

Sending get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards and words-of-encouragement cards to 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



CALLING ALL BAKERS

The FCA bakers will once again be making Nisu at the Center. We have had one preliminary session and are planning to get together again on May 6. Volunteers are needed. No experience required.

Contact Paul Rajala via email at prajala@comcast.net or by phone at (248) 926-0532.



RAJATON CONCERT IN USA

The Finnish pop artist group known as Rajaton will be making a rare appearance in North America. They will perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra on November 4-6 at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. The program is titled "Music of ABBA". Rajaton, which translates into English as *boundless*, has performed in their own unique style for more than twenty years. You can find many of their videos on YouTube. One of my favorites is Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody". When they performed at the Grand FinnFest in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in 2010, they closed the acapella program with their version of Sibelius' *Finlandia* Hymn. Those of us in the Finnish American Singers that attended were truly moved.

Submitted by Paul Rajala

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VAPPY PARTY - MAY 7
JUHANNUS - JUNE

SPRING IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER

Well, the Finnish Center is in the process of reopening after our long, sad, sojourn away from our cultural fix. Fortunately, the gardens were kept open during the Covid period. We had many visitors during this time with families walking, riding bicycles, having meetings, using our Little Free Libraries, or just sitting in a peaceful setting. Our Master Gardeners from MSU were not able to join us so we did what we had to do with the assistance that came by to help. This year we can look forward to many new attractions in Finlandia Gardens. We are creating a new area near the wood shop with attractions for children as well as adults. We will have free plants for visitors and we will try to assist those needing some repair or assistance. We hope FCA members will decide to use our gardens for meetings, lunching, and enjoying the beautiful environment we have for gathering.

Now as to some garden needs. We need volunteers to assist in dividing plants, sweeping areas of the driveway, arranging pots in the sitting areas, making notes on what you see, identifying plants, painting furniture, relaxing, petting Milo (our predator cat), trimming flowers, removing invasives, walking, conversing with others, reading, taking pictures, and creating something new for us to enjoy. The wood shop is available for guided use. Also, we appreciate the donations that come our way both monetary and the other useful items that appear. Feel free to call or visit us in the mornings or at your convenience.



FINNISH RESEARCHERS ATTACK MRSA BACTERIA

According to the site *Good News From Finland*, Researchers at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, the leading research and technology company in the Nordic countries, have found that antioxidant compounds found in cloudberry seeds have strong antimicrobial activity against MRSA, a bacterium resistant to several types of antibiotics, which causes various difficult-to-treat infections in settings such as hospitals and other healthcare facilities. The finding was made as part of a project conducted in collaboration with HUS Helsinki University Hospital, the University of Turku, and Hospital Universitario Principe de Asturias in Spain.

Teemu Kinnari, chief physician at Helsinki University Hospital, said the compounds were found to significantly inhibit the growth of the bacterium in test-tube conditions and accelerated the recovery of a wound in a mouse model, and have the potential to be used not only to treat wound infections, but also as a skin treatment that protects against an infection before surgery.



GIFT SHOP NEWS

HURRY!
IITTALA PRODUCTS ARE
20% OFF
THROUGH APRIL 13



PASTY MAKING RETURNS



Nancy Jacobs and Karen Gasinski weigh and roll out the dough.



Luise Leppanen, Katy Koskela, Martha Welsh and Paul Rajala crimp dough around the meat to make the pasty.

Neil Manly (in the background) is the meat and vegetable mixer.



The finished product! Rows and rows of beautiful UP recipe pasties.

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108

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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!



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