CHAIRMAN’S CORNER

As the year 2012 comes to a close, the FCA looks forward to 2013. I am thankful that the challenges of 2012 have come to a close, and I have a belief that 2013 will be a more promising year.

I hope that all members will take time to consider the candidates seeking election to the FCA Board of Trustees. All members will be receiving a ballot along with information on the candidates.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed their time and efforts during this past year. The list is too long to enumerate here, and the possibility of inadvertently omitting someone is too great. It is sufficient to say that without the dedication of the volunteers, the FCA could not exist.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Cortland R. Book, Chairman

FCA ANNUAL MEETING

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on February 17, 2013 at 3 pm. Members can cast their votes either in person, by absentee ballot or by proxy. Ballots will be mailed to all members in good standing.

Absentee ballots should be returned to the FCA no later than February 15, 2013 to be counted.

Nominating Committee
APRIL PASTIES

The next pasty bake is Saturday, April 6. Make your reservations by signing up on the sheet in the FCA lobby, by calling the Finnish Center, or email at fca-pasties@comcast.net. All orders must be picked up on Saturday between 11 am and 4 pm. Sign up early so you don’t miss out.

Save 10% on orders of 10 or more pasties by ordering through the email.

~REWARD~

Five holiday lighted deer were stolen from the Finnish Center between January 1 and January 4, 2013. This is the first time items have been taken from our Finlandia Gardens.

A reward of $100 is being offered for information leading to the apprehension of the person(s) responsible for this theft.

Please contact David Sharpe, FCA Garden Club President at (248) 477-5709
Thank you for your assistance.

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Greg Makila

FCA NEWS
PAGE 2
**GARDEN CLUB**

What do they say about winter, that it is only a prelude to spring. As of this writing, it seems that spring may not have left Finlandia Gardens. But of course, that can change overnight. Garden activities slow down in winter but the woodshop is warm and we have many activities during the winter.

The garden club meets less often but we find building projects to begin and then complete. That cedar board will become a birdhouse and those metal pipes a wind chime. All that donated hardware will be sorted and stored and the seeds that we gathered in the fall will be readied for planting in spring. Mid morning we will have some coffee and sweets, and share some camaraderie during the winter stillness. Gardening has many faces and winter is a unique time for reflection and planning.

We are grateful for our garden friends and for those who help us continue our journey to improve the Finnish Center and Finlandia Gardens. We hope you are finding winter a time for rest and reflection. It is a great time to remember our loved ones who have left us and to give thanks for the imprint they have left on our lives.

As you think about your good fortune living in this world of wonder please remember the Finnish Center so we can continue this ethnic journey a bit longer. Your contributions will sustain us.

David Sharpe

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**CHARACTERS OF THE KALEVALA**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**2:00 pm**

The Cultural Committee and the Kaleva Lodge are joining together to present a program with characters of the “Kalevala”. You will have an opportunity to talk to the characters. You might meet Lemminkäinen’s mother, Louhi, Kylikki, Väinämöinen or Aino.

Donation is $10 for adults, children and students free. Proceeds to the FCA.

The *Kalevala* is a 19th-century work of epic poetry compiled by Elias Lönnrot from Finnish and Karelian oral folklore and mythology.

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**VALENTINE DAY PARTY**

Saturday, February 16

Buffet Dinner

4-6 pm

$20 per person

$35 Couple

Reservations by February 11

Entertainment by Leonard Dow begins at 6 pm
MEMORIALS

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/FinFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the 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 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Donations received by the 5th of each month will be published in the next month’s newsletter.

You may also direct your donation toward the Elders’ Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

Please include full name (with middle initial), address, dates of death and birth of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.


In memory of FCA life member Esther Sibilsky (11/20/12) a donation was made by Carole & Ted Walker.

In memory of FCA member Pauline Fritz (7/23/01) a donation was made by Germaine & Jeff Fritz.

The FCA also wishes to extend condolences to the family and friends of:

FCA life member Bernard Koppelo (12/25/12)
FCA member Paulet Kangas (12/20/12)
John F. Piippo (12/10/12) Son of John Piippo

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRYS

5-8 pm
February 15
February 22
March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

FINNISH PROVERBS

Rehellisyys maan perii.
Honesty will inherit the earth.

Sitä niittää mitä kylvää.
You reap what you sow.
GOING PLACES

“Hooray for Hollywood” at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday, March 16, $98. This is a wonderful nostalgic journey through the most popular musicals of the last 50 years. Film clips of your favorite movies will be shown, then a cast of singers and dancers will perform the greatest songs and dances from the greatest movies. Lunch will be at Mac and Ray’s in Harrison Township. We depart from Nardin Park Methodist Church on 11 Mile Rd. at 10:15 am and return about 5:15 pm.

If you leave your car at the FCA while on a trip, please park at the north end of the property. If you park near the main or lounge entrances you are using spaces needed for other functions.

Pearl Wanttaja (248) 541-0054

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Finland’s 95th Independence Day Celebration was held on December 8, 2012 at the Finnish Center. The program started with a flag ceremony and live piano performances of the Finnish and American national anthems played by Tiina Aarnio and Lydia Qui. Henri Laukkanen and Alex Kaipainen were flag bearers. Mr. Paul Potti, Honorary Consul of Southeastern Michigan gave the welcoming speech and introduced the guest speaker Dr. Gary Waissi, Honorary Consul of Arizona and New Mexico (and former honorary consul of Michigan). In his speech Dr. Waissi gave a very interesting look into the Finland’s road to independence with a slide show presentation that kept even the youngest guests in audience very attentive. Dr. Waissi’s talk concluded with a beautiful Cello performance of Finlandia by Katri Ervamaa. A traditional Finnish dinner followed Dr. Waissi’s talk. Katri Ervamaa, along with accompanist Lydia Qui concluded the formal program playing Malincolia and other Finnish Songs for piano and cello.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciations to Dr. Gary Waissi and Katri Ervamaa for their contribution to the program. We would also like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers who ensured a great evening of celebration through their donations of food for the dinner, as well as their hard work.

Thanks to the in-kind donations of our membership and participants that reduced the expenses to minimum, the evening produced over $2,500.00 dollars to Finnish Center’s General Fund.
Since February is the month when Finland celebrates Kalevala Day it seems appropriate to devote a few lines to the Finnish national epic. Elias Lönnrot signed the Foreward of his first edition of the Kalevala on February 28, 1835, hence the date of the celebration. Our library has an excellent book on the profound impact the Kalevala has had on Finland.

I’m speaking of Epic of the North: the Story of Finland’s National Epic by John I. Kolehmainen, who admits to being “hopelessly romantic and old-fashioned” with an undisguised enthusiasm for the Kalevala. According to one whom he quotes, “Much of Finland’s recent history derives directly or indirectly from the epic’s appearance. Not only was it significant in the realms of political history, but it powerfully affected nearly all fields of art, gave birth to new branches of learning, enriched the Finnish language, laid the foundations of Finnish literature, and finally, inscribed for the first time the name of Finland on the world map.”

During the hundreds of years that Sweden dominated Finland the prominent language was Swedish. Many Finnish families abandoned their Finnish names in favor of Swedish ones, for they felt that to rise above the peasant class this was necessary. Swedish was used in business, government and schools. It was even suggested that if the Finnish language were to be preserved, it should be relegated to several districts along the borders of Lapland. Of course there were scholars who maintained an interest in Finnish; the publication of the Kalevala produced an interest in it’s language and Finnish folk poetry in general. The Kalevala contributed to Finnish vocabulary, which had not developed much since Mikael Agricola’s days except in the areas where the folk songs were sung. Those who had attempted to study Finnish admitted that it was “like struggling with Greek or Arabic”. In the 1840’s the study of Finnish was first introduced into the very few existing secondary schools. Around 1858 the use of the Kalevala for language instruction became widespread. One biographer proclaimed Lönnrot “the second founder of the Finnish language.”

In 1870 Aleksis Kivi published Seitsemän veljestä (Seven Brothers), the first novel to be published in Finnish. Kivi also used Kalevala characters in his writings. In 1864 he published the drama Kullervo, which was not produced, however, until 1895 due to his use of the still-maligned Finnish language. He also wrote a play about Aino, which was lost. Later Juhana Erkko also wrote a play about Aino as well as a trilogy of Kalevalan plays: Aino, Kullervo, and Pohjolan Häät (Pohjola’s Wedding). Later Eino Leino used Kalevala themes in his poetry, as did Juhani Aho in his writings. It was said of Leino that “so profoundly did he identify himself with the national epic that he has sometimes been called the ‘last of the great Kalevalan bards’.”

The Kalevala proved a gold mine of inspiration for artists, the most famous being Akseli Gallen-Kallela who not only painted the Kalevala frescoes for the Finnish Pavilion for the World’s Fair in Paris in 1900, but produced numerous Kalevala paintings such as Defense of the Sampo, Joukahainen’s Revenge, Lemminkäinen’s Mother, Kullervo Goes to War, to name a few. The World’s Fair scenes have been reproduced on the ceiling of the National museum in Helsinki. One of the earliest artists to depict Kalevala scenes was Robert Wilhelm Ekman. One of his drawings from 1886 shows Väinämöinen playing his kantele. Others who painted Kalevala scenes are Pekka Halonen, Arne Karimo, Joseph Alanen and Sigrd Keinänen, to name a few. Kalevala designs have also been reproduced on Iittala’s Arabia commemorative plates. This series ran from 1976 to 1999 and the plates are highly sought-after collectibles.

Naturally, musicians also were inspired by Kalevala themes. The most famous, of course, is Jean Sibelius. Twelve of his best-known works are based upon and influenced by the Kalevala, including his Kullervo Symphony, and the Four Legends, dealing with the doings of the lover-boy Lemminkäinen. But already in 1860 a Kalevala-based musical was written for the dedication of
LIBRARY Continued from page 6

Merikanto Erkki Melartin and numerous others composed based on Kalevala themes a list much too long to reproduce here. The Kullervo story has been one of their most popular themes.

The Kalevala also inspired sculptors, among them Carl E. Sjöstrand (Kullervo and others), Walter Runeberg (Ilmarinen raises his Forged Moon), Johannes Takanen (Aino and others), and Alpo Sailio (scores of prominent kantele players and Kalevala singers, including Larin Parakse, renowned singer of Kalevala verse).

This brief piece in no way covers the influence of the Kalevala on Finnish culture, on the Finnish soul itself. We could go on and on, but that would create a problem for the editor! Do avail yourself of Kolehmainen’s fascinating book. We have two copies in the library.

Happy New Year, and happy reading! Lillian Lehto, Librarian

FCA Senior Housing Annual Meeting

FCA members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting of the FCA Senior Housing Corporation. All FCA members are members of FCASHC. Annual business includes election of trustees to the board of trustees as well as a report of the business of the corporation in 2012. The meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17, at 1 pm at the Finnish Center prior to the FCA annual meeting at 3 pm.

All Finnish Center members are urged to attend.

SUNSHINE LADY

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

GIFT SHOP

FEBRUARY SALE
MEMBERS ONLY!

Show your current membership card and receive up to 45% discount on:

Discontinued Iittala Wall hangings
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(squeaky cheese)

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Hours of Operation
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JEAN SIBELIUS LIVES

Jean Sibelius came to life again at the Finnish Center in December. Glenda Goss, Finlandia Foundation Speaker of the Year, presented a multi-media program of the life and music of this great Finnish composer. Examples of his music and pictures of his life were reminders of the contributions he made to the world. Soiteniekat performed music of the era of Sibelius and the awakening of Finland. The afternoon program was concluded with a stirring rendition of Finlandia on the accordion by Don Reinholm. A dessert table of Finnish and American delicacies completed a perfect afternoon. The large crowd of members and friends attending, enjoyed friendships and renewed acquaintances at this holiday event at the Finnish Center.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Happy Healthy New Year to you all. Hoping you had a wonderful season with your families and created memories. We had family from out of state and enjoyed some good happy moments. We missed seeing many of you last month and hope you come to our monthly luncheon on January 30th. Please call the Finnish Center before Monday, January 28 for your reservation.

New Years Eve we shared a beautiful dinner. At 5 pm we toasted the New Year as it was midnight in Finland. Lois Makee organized our dinner that about 30 attended, and everyone enjoyed this time together. Then we could get home before other parties started.

Friday night dinners continue to be held on the first and third Friday's of the month. For Lent we will be serving fish every Friday. These dinners help support the Finnish Center, so bring your friends.

Lila and Terry Ball
Valentine’s Day highlights relationships: both old and new ones, friends and family. Consider joining the Singers this month as we practice on Monday evenings at 7 pm. to make some new friends, or, share information about us with others when you notice their voices and their enjoyment of singing. As previously explained, the interviews of FASM singers each month in 2013 will be based around a series of questions I have divided into 12 sections. Each month’s questions will be provided, though not *all* used each month in the interview. Sibling relationships are February’s focus.

The bass being introduced this month may be familiar to you. He is distinctive in appearance as well as in the tasks at the FCA that he shoulders. A tall, silvered-haired “giant”, two of the most visible jobs he has pair him with his wife Nancy: coordination of the pasty bakes and production of this newsletter. Paul Rajala, take a bow!

Paul told me he grew up in Clawson along with 1 brother (5 yrs. younger) and 1 sister (3 yrs. older). Although as the middle kid Paul remembers doing more with his sister whom he describes as “casual,” than his “independent and entrepreneurial” brother, his clearest memories revolve around holidays, special occasions, and afternoon “visiting” with his 54 first cousins! Summers meant camping and picnics at Kalevala Park, Cass Lake and various homes and yards. What a happy, boisterous group that must have been!

Getting such a large group together today is often not the logistical problem it was when he was growing up, Paul mused, since many families have larger homes. He expressed his amazement when he thinks about the get-togethers in that small, 3 bedroom/1 bath home! “How did we manage so well?” was his question. The play area in the basement later became teen space with the addition of a pool table, which he said “saved” them. Actually, it probably was a lifesaver for his parents too since most parents will agree a little distance from your children is a good thing. Paul’s two sons would doubtless agree with that!

It was no surprise for me to hear Paul modestly state that he was a good student and active in sports, particularly football and baseball. He went to Capital University in Ohio and majored in math, which he then taught for 2 years. Deciding he might do better financially in the construction business, he returned to school at Lawrence Tech and earned a BS in Construction Engineering, which led to his current job as a Construction Project Manager.

In the late ‘70’s and early ‘80’s Paul sang at the Finnish Center with the Finlandia Male Chorus and has been anchoring the basses with the FASM for about 6 years. Discovering his Finnish-ness more as he ages, with an inclination toward stoicism and silence, Paul credits his wife Nancy with keeping him lively and involved. With a smile, we thank her!

Submitted by Katy Koskela, FASM Scribe

Paul Rajala
First, an international team led by a Finnish researcher, Mikko Tuomi, has discovered five new planets orbiting the star, Tau Ceti. One of the planets is located in the "habitable zone", or in other words, a suitable distance from the star to theoretically enable it to support life. Tau Ceti and its planets are located 12 light years away from our solar system, a relatively short distance in astronomical terms. The star, Tau Ceti, is visible to the naked eye in the Finnish nighttime sky. The find was reported in the Finnish astronomy journal, Tahdet Ja Avaruus.

The European Commission has recognized Helsinki for "Best Energy Practices". Helsinki was recognized for exceptionally efficient tri-generation of electricity, district heating and district cooling. In their report the Commission cited Finland's global leadership in the co-generation of electricity and heating. Helsinki has Europe's largest district heating network, and the world's largest heat pump plant. Helsinki is equipped with 1,200 kilometers of underground district heating pipelines, with 93% of the city's heating connected to the system.

Neste Oil of Finland has joined the ITAKA (Initiative Towards Sustainable Kerosene For Aviation) project. The 36-month ITAKA project will develop renewable aviation fuel for the European airlines. Neste's role in the project is to produce the fuel. Neste will produce 4,000 tons of the renewable aviation fuel, which will be made mainly from Spanish camelina oil, and possibly also from used cooking oil. The resulting renewable fuel will be blended 50/50 with conventional aviation fuel and distributed to the European airlines. The project is aimed at producing 2 million tons of fuel for airline use by 2020. Finns are also behind a unique bio-coal project. Finnish coal fired power plant operators will implement the world's first industrial scale project to see if renewable bio-coal is suitable as a fuel. Bio-coal looks like charcoal used in barbeques. The use of renewable bio-coal would reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere.

As of this writing, the lockout is continuing in the NHL. But, Teemu Selanne, the future NHL Hall of Famer of the Anaheim Ducks, has not let that hold him down. He is opening a restaurant in Orange County, California's Laguna Beach, along the Pacific Coast Highway. The restaurant, which will open on April 1st, will be called, Teemu's Tavern and Grill.

February 28th is Kalevala Day. It is the 178th anniversary of the first publication of the Kalevala. It also is Finnish Cultural Day. Both will be celebrated at the Finnish Center on Sunday March 3 at 2 pm, by the Aurum Maja and the Aurattaren Tupa, the Knights and Ladies of Kalevala. To learn more about the Kalevala and about Finnish culture in general, attend the program as put on by the Detroit area Knights and Ladies of Kalevala.

And finally, Hilma reflecting a little on the Christmas gifts, such as the long underwear and bathroom slippers she received from Heikki again this year: "Do you remember the beautiful Christmas presents you used to give me before we got married?"
"Sure I do, dear", says Heikki with a grin, "But, did you ever see a fisherman give bait to a fish after he caught it?"

Markku Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com
ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE: DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 5TH
EDITOR CONTACT INFO: PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL: njrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of the Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,000 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue.

Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.
Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.
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READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Note: There is a subscription fee of $30/year to continue receiving the FCA newsletter by mail. See form below to order your subscription.

OR, enjoy reading the current issue, as well as past issues, of the FCA News free of charge online at our website: www.finnishcenter.org Use the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program available from www.adobe.com.

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FCA Membership Form

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