



Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

DECEMBER 2021

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Well here we are at the holiday season. There will be joy and laughter in the air. The year has been a little dreary with COVID-19 and masks and all, but we need to keep our heads held high and remember better days are coming! We have much to be happy about at the Finnish Center. The year has had many nice events. We began planning and had to put a few things on hold because of the pandemic.

Juhannus was a bit of a challenge. Wow, we can be outside and have a nice event. Then the rain came down and it kept coming and coming. The grill wasn't going to be very good in the rain so we moved inside. In spite of the rain people came and danced around the flagpole with Kristen as the teacher and FinnFolk playing music for us. And the choir sharing their voices in harmony. A delightful evening!

Then in August the flea market/craft sale took place outside with the gardens as the background. The day was beautiful and people were having fun. Another perfect day in the pandemic world that was turned into a great time at the Finnish Center

Fall came and the Scandinavian Market and Independence Day brought a lot more people to the Finnish Center. Two more nice events.

Now we are into the holiday season. The grounds are decorated by the garden club and it does look beautiful. My deepest wish for all of you is a healthy and happy holiday. Enjoy your family and friends and we will come back in January for the buffets. Be sure to come out with your friends for a nice time again as we start once again filling the Finnish Center.

Hauskaa Joulua Ja onnellista uutta vuotta

Mary O'Brien, chairman



## *Holiday Greetings*

*Ed O'Brien*

*Kathryn Hill*

*Mary O'Brien*

*Paul & Nancy Rajala*

*Louise Hartung & Jim Fostey*

*Finnish American Singers of Michigan*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Friday, January 14  
Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm

Friday, January 28  
Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm

Sunday, February 20  
Senior Housing Meeting and elections 1 pm  
FCA Annual Meeting and elections 3 pm

**FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2022**

Election at the Annual meeting on February 20, 2022 at 3 pm.

The FCA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill three positions on the FCA Board of Trustees. Members running as candidates need to submit short biographies (250 words or less) by January 22, 2022 to the Finnish Center Association, attention Nominating Committee Chair. Biographies may also be submitted via email to [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please contact [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com) or (248) 478-6939.

Please consider serving the FCA as a leader in one of these positions.

35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI  
48335-5108  
Tel: (248) 478-6939  
Fax: (248) 478-5671  
[finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com)  
[www.finnishcenter.org](http://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](mailto:tapiola@ameritech.net)

**FCA SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORPORATION****NOTICE**

We are seeking candidates for three Board of Trustee positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 20, 2022 at 1 pm.

If you are interested in participating as a member of the Board, forward a short resume (max 250 words) including your birthplace, your formal education and professional background as well as explanation of how you would contribute to the Board.

To be received no later than January 22, 2022 at:  
FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, Attn: Secretary  
35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

**GIFT SHOP**

The gift shop has many nice things for your gift giving. Please stop in and help support the Finnish Center. We have beautiful glassware by Iittala and wonderful books for your reading pleasure. There is Fazer candy, Trenary Toast and Rye Crisp. Please stop in!

If you are looking to buy Iittala items for the holidays and beyond we need your orders soon! Iittala has raised our minimum annual order dollar amount. Your purchased now will help us meet this threshold so that we can continue to provide beautiful Iittala products in 2022.

Thank you for stopping in and helping to keep the gift shop in business.

Have a wonderful Christmas  
and a Happy New year.

Mary O'Brien



## MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Denise Book (11/23/21)** a donation has been made by Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Helena Hendrickson (11/7/21)** a donation has been made by Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Kirsti Niemi (10/23/21)** a donation has been made by Louise Hartung & Jim Fostey.

In memory of FCA life member **Karen Barker (9/28/21)** donations have been made by Randolph Barker and Heather, Thomas, Reino and Lilah Pietrykowski.

In memory of FCA life member **Lillian Lehto (8/1/21)** a donation has been made by Louis Hartung & Jim Fostey.

In memory of FCA life member **Paavo Nurmi (7/26/21)** a donation has been made by Louis Hartung & Jim Fostey.

In memory of FCA life member **Pearl Wanttaja (5/19/21)** a donation has been made by Louis Hartung & Jim Fostey.

In memory of FCA life member **Charlotte Lytikainen (3/16/21)** a donation has been made by Louise Hartung & Jim Fostey.

In memory of FCA life member **Helen Pertunen (11/29/20)** a donation has been made by Nancy & Edward Kangas.

In memory of FCA life member **Betty Holmbo (3/22/20)** a donation has been made by Velda and Steven Roffi.

In memory of FCA life member **Leonard Holmbo (1/20/19)** a donation has been made by Velda and Steven Roffi.

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 CENTER ASSOCIATION

### Hours of Operation

Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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



## 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



**FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS of MICHIGAN**  
HOLIDAY CONCERT - NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Top row left to right: David Sharpe, John Hookana, Paul Rajala, Katy Koskela, William Gramzow, IV, Director, and Rita Rogers, Accompanist  
Front row left to right: Vickie Kimler, Helena Hatten, Dee Abersold, Nancy Jacobs and Karen Gasinski



**SOCIAL NEWS**

We had cake day on December 6 and it was a great time. These social events are important to the Finnish Center. This one was also a cultural event as we were celebrating Finnish Independence Day.

The buffets are coming back! We will be gathering on the 14th and 28th in January 5-8 PM. The cost will be \$13 per person. We are hoping that FinnFolk will bring music to our ears.



### FINLAND'S 104 INDEPENDENCE DAY

On December 4, 2021, the FCA celebrated Finland's Independence Day with guest speakers, music, dinner and camaraderie. Finnfolk played Finnish folk music during the opening hour. Tim Nurvala, a Finlandia Foundation National trustee spoke about the organization, events, a shared mission with the FCA, and possibilities for future cooperation. Risto Miikkulainen, a professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Texas, Austin, spoke about the incredible advancements in AI and the promising benefits to individuals, industry, and the planet.



Katri Ervamaa on cello, accompanied by Liz Ames on piano, performed pieces by Finnish composers Toivo Kuula and Armas Jarnefelt. Katri and Liz concluded their stellar performance with a deeply emotional "Finlandia".

Dinner featuring "Karjalan Paisti" was enjoyed by all after which FinnFolk provided the finale to the evening with beloved folk tunes. It was a meaningful and fitting evening of celebration. And, gratitude goes out to those volunteers who assisted with this event.

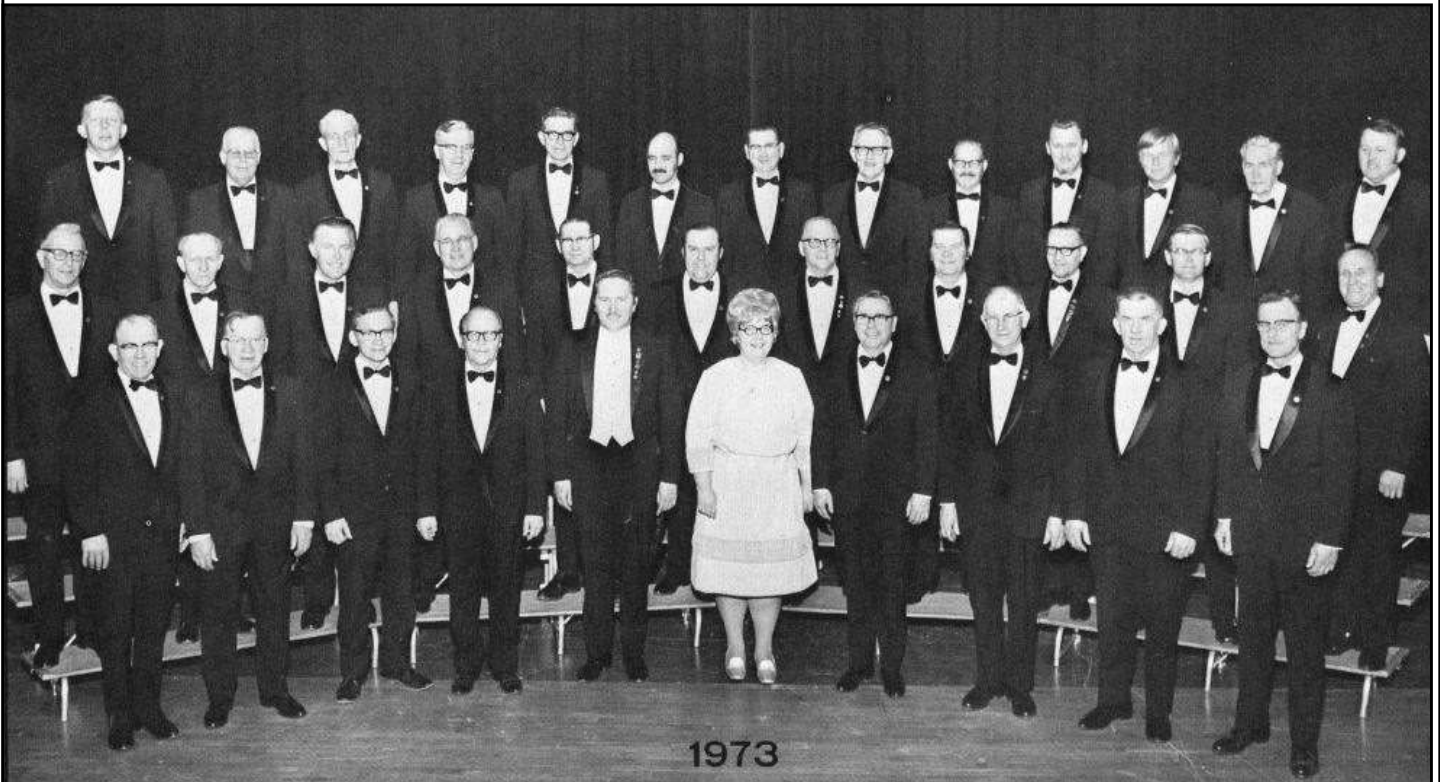


FinnFolk



### CAN YOU PROVIDE NAMES FOR THESE FACES?

In the October, 2021, issue of the FCA News we challenged readers to help identify the members of the Finlandia Male Chorus in this 1973 photo.



We have done our best to identify all the FMC chorus members in the photo above. Please note that there are 36 members listed in the group, and two names were added. Only 34 are pictured, of which 8 are unidentified. Four members did not appear in the photo. If you have any questions or want to note an omission or correction, please contact editor Paul Rajala at [prajala@comcast.net](mailto:prajala@comcast.net)

**Back row:** Eugene Paasinen, Lincoln Hirvela, Norman Koponen, unidentified, Evert Makinen, unidentified, unidentified, Frederick Putkela, unidentified, Ralph Mannisto, Ray Nicol, Edward Saarinen (added), unidentified

**Middle Row:** unidentified, Emil Seppala, Sanfrid Dixon, Arne Lehto, unidentified, unidentified, John Makinen, Howard Nippa, Albert Lehtikoinen, Phil Sevo, Lasse Forsman

**Front Row:** Ward Walkley, Tom Jouppi, Paul Schmidt, Charles Karvonen, Eero Keranen, Carol Jouppi, Wayne Langley, Al Jouppi, Clarence Piekola (added), Carl Thiry

**Those unidentified or missing from photo:** Calvin Saari, Ed Danielson, Jeff Dorffi, Vernon Leinonen, Olaf Saarinen, Sillvenberg Pietila, Art Weischat, Denis Degen, Alfred Wiitla, Herbert Piilo, Edwin Niemi, Frank Lasanen

## TAPIOLA VILLAGE RENOVATION UPDATE

The scope of work accomplished – in the midst of a pandemic, combined with material and labor shortages, is remarkable. Interiors, including the removal and replacement of floor coverings, appliances, some windows, light fixtures, and bathtubs for walk-in showers, have been completed in ninety of ninety two apartments. The exterior renovation which includes new siding, trim, gutters, downspouts, porch lights and landscaping – is ongoing and will be completed, weather permitting, during the spring. Work on the community room, office, lobby and common areas of the main building is very nearly underway and will complete the renovation. Plans include new lighting, flooring, windows, doors, furnishings and a new layout – hope is for this work to be completed, also, not later than the spring.

Sarah Wiideman  
FCA Senior Housing



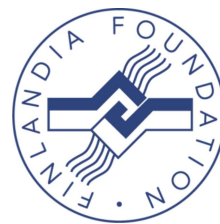
### OUR NEW FCA WEBSITE HAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

Please visit the new and updated website, address for the website is the same as before: [finnishcenter.org](http://finnishcenter.org)

The website committee took much of the content from the old site and added additional items of interest to members and guests alike, along with updating the site to a more modern look. There are now sections to renew your membership or give a memorial donation directly online without needing to send a check to the Finnish Center. There are also places to inquire about rentals, shop online at the gift shop and individual pages for all the different activities and events that go on at the FCA. Please do visit the site and let us know your feedback.

Thank you to everyone who helped us with articles, pictures, and reviewing the new site. We couldn't have gotten it done without you. If you are interested in helping with the website committee, we still do need assistance in keeping the website up-to-date. Please contact the FCA for more details. Thank you.

Ed O'Brien



**Finlandia  
Foundation  
National**

Finlandia Foundation National has shared with the FCA the below links for those interested in applying for a FFN scholarship or grant. See the links for additional information.

For FFN scholarships (application deadline  
February 1, 2022):

<https://finlandiafoundation.org/programs/scholarships/>

For FFN grants (application deadline January 17, 2022):  
<https://finlandiafoundation.org/programs/ffngrants-2022/>

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