



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2022

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

January is here and a very happy New Year to all! We hope your holidays were great and you were able to be with those you love or at least visit via mail or phone. Ed and I had a great holiday with our family. The story I love most is "Find the Pickle." There is nothing quite as funny as my grown kids climbing under the tree to find the pickle. Every year there are two pickle ornaments I hide, one in each of the two trees we have. It is a lot of fun. I hope you have found something that you do to make the holidays fun for your family and friends.

The Finnish Center is again trying to get through this new COVID variant. We tried to have The Finnish Pikkujoulu and the Friday buffets in order to open a little more, but along comes omicron with numbers rising again. Cancellations had to happen. We are very sorry. The buffets will come back when times are a little safer. We continue to recommend mask wearing inside The Finnish Center.

The gift shop is open on Mondays but if you wish to shop on any given day it is always advisable to call to see if someone is there. Thank you for your patience.

Enjoy the month with the snow and the nip in the air. It is a good time to enjoy soup or chili to warm you up. Spring will come and flowers will bloom. I like to think what kind of flowers to put out in the spring and enjoy the thoughts of spring. It makes for a happy and cheerful day when we remain positive. Have a good January!

Mary O'Brien

A SISU MIND-SET

Sisu is an ancient Finnish construct relating to mental toughness.

It's the ability to endure significant stress, while taking action against seemingly impossible odds.

Sisu gives rise to what I call an action mind-set; a courageous attitude which contributes to how we approach challenges. Sisu is a way of life to actively transform the challenges that come our way into opportunities.

-Sisu expert Emilia Lahti

GIFT SHOP

Things are pretty slow at The gift shop this time of the year and with the pandemic making another surge we are only there on Monday. 11 am - 3 pm. If you are not vaccinated and want something, give us a call and we will bring it out to you. Or you are always welcome to order online.

Valentine's Day will soon be here. Do you want a gift for that special person? If so stop in or give us a call. We have many things that make great gifts.

We are having an Iittala Sale! Items are now on sale at a 15% discount through the end of February. Please stop in to see the lovely pieces. New Moomin is in stock with cups, bowls, plates. Remember 15% of all Iittala through the end of February.

Enjoy the cool, winter weather and if you want a break, stop in the gift shop. Happy January!!

Mary O'Brien

ANNUAL MEETINGS
February 20, 2022 via ZOOM

FCA SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORPORATION 1 pm
FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION 3 pm

If you want to participate in these meetings, contact Finnish Center at 248-478-6939 or via email at: finnishcenter@gmail.com by Friday February 18, 2022 with your name and email address

Biography of Sherrill Tedford - Board of Trustees

Growing up my favorite vacations were when our family would travel to the Calumet area of Michigan to visit my mother's Finnish side of the family (I am only one quarter Finnish) and listening to their stories. Finland has always held a fascination for me I believe in part because of its uniqueness so, in 2010 when we were invited to a family reunion in Oulu, Finland we signed up right away. It was a memorable adventure with my mom, a cousin and my husband Jerry Collins.

In 2015 I joined the FCA and most of my involvement has been through volunteering that has allowed me to get to know many of our membership. I started volunteering in the Gift Shop, helping with special events and last February assumed responsibility for the Membership Committee and three years ago I was elected to service on the FCA Board of Trustees.

For my career I spent 42 years with an area healthcare system as a Radiographer, Educator, Sonographer then moving onto a Director position within the field of Radiology.

It would be an honor to serve once again as a Trustee for the FCA Board.

Biography of Marilyn Clark - Board of Trustees

I am Marilyn Clark, interested in running for the Finnish Center Association Board. I am already serving on the FCA Senior Housing Corporation Board.

Both sets of my grandparents emigrated from Finland in the early 20th century to work in the Michigan Copper Mines. Both sets of grandparents purchased farms in Chassell. My dad inherited the farm from his family, married my mother, whose farm was next door, and raised six children on dairy cows and hard work. When I ran the MTEC SmartZone in Houghton starting in 2012, I was asked who I was, I answered, "My Dad's name was Urho and my Mom's name was Helmi and I graduated from Chassell High School" and there was a general sigh of relief, I was not some outsider trying to tell them what to do.

The main export from the Copper Country was the young people, and we were no different. I got 2 degrees from Michigan Tech and joined Cummins Engine Company which brought us to Jamestown, New York, Columbus, Indiana and finally to Darlington in the UK. When I left Cummins I went back to the Copper Country to join a software startup, when that failed, I taught at Finlandia University and finally was recruited to run the Houghton Michigan version of Ann Arbor SPARK which helps university startups create thriving businesses. I served on the Finlandia Board of Trustees. Today I spend my time coaching women business professionals .and devoting my time to boards.

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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

Biography of Jerry Collins - Board of Trustees

I was born in Huntington, West Virginia and spent most of my time with my grandmother traveling the “hills” on her Sears and Roebuck route to mining communities. After graduation I joined the Navy to 'see the world' but not to any port since I worked on an ammunition ship. Following my service I landed in New York City where I worked for Ford Motor Company in Mahwah, New Jersey. I was then able to transfer to the Detroit area and due to a lay-off, found work with the Norfolk and Southern Railway Company as a conductor where I was employed for 25 years. Following my retirement I was then employed by Comerica Bank for 10 years at their mail distribution center in Livonia.

My wife, Sherrill Tedford and I met 45 years ago and have enjoyed much of our vacation time traveling our country. Sherrill had many relatives in the Keweenaw Peninsula so we made numerous trips with her mother to this part of the state. One of those trips included a reunion with family from Finland which led to an eventful trip there in 2010. I thoroughly enjoyed that trip and would love to return.

I joined the FCA in 2016 and have volunteered by bartending during the Friday Night Buffets, some cleaning (Sherrill's idea) and helping with membership mailings. I have served as an Alternate Board Member for the past year and would be honored to serve as a Trustee for the FCA Board.

Biography of Kathryn Hill - Senior Housing

I have been a member of Finnish Center Association since 1984. For the last two years after my retirement from a management position, I've been serving on FCA's Board of Trustees. I have enjoyed this challenge. My parents Toivo & Maria Hill were lifetime members. My mother not only was a Trustee for FCA and Senior Housing, but in later years she was a resident at Freedom Square. At that time Freedom Square was part of our Senior Housing.

I would like to follow in my mother's footsteps and if elected now serve on our Senior Housing Board.

Biography of Christine Manninen - Senior Housing

I am pleased to offer my service as a member of the Senior Housing Board of Directors. I have been serving on the Senior Housing Board since spring 2018 and am very interested in continuing in this role.

I have a long Finnish heritage, being born and raised in the western Upper Peninsula. Both of my grandfathers emigrated from Finland. My grandparents built and operated a log cabin resort on Otter Lake beginning in the 1930s. My parents went on to run the resort for more than 50 years and I spent my childhood there. I have since inherited the property and have opened the cabins for summer rentals.

I have considerable board experience, having served on the boards of directors for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV), MLCV Education Fund (secretary), Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association (president), and the National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing (secretary).

I have worked over 25 years on Great Lakes environmental policy issues primarily in the areas of communications management; leveraging web and mobile technologies to integrate, analyze and interpret data; and event planning and facilitation. I am currently an independent contractor for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). My education: Michigan State University, MA Journalism (3.7 GPA) Michigan Technological University, BS Biological/Environmental Sciences.

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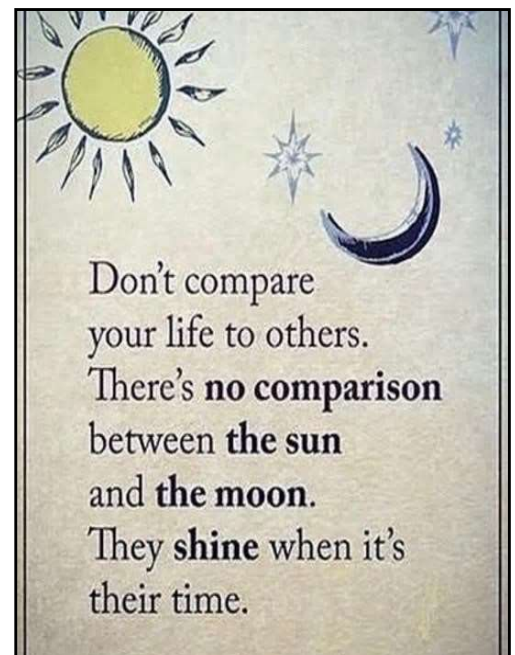
Biography of Erik Salonen - Senior Housing

My Finnish roots go back to my birth; I was born and raised in Lahti, Finland. When I was 18, my biggest claim to fame was military guard at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki. In 1967 I emigrated to Canada where I still reside.

I have been involved in construction since I lived in Finland, and my first construction business, Riverside Aluminum was located in Windsor Ontario. Two brothers later joined the company, and the name changed to Riverside Aluminum and Building Ltd. Our projects transitioned from exterior siding and trim to include exterior commercial cladding, and residential and commercial buildings. In 1996 we were selected as the commercial panel contractor for Caesar's Windsor.

The company changed direction shortly after that project when we opened a manufacturing facility under the name Riverside Group, and pursued projects across North America. As President of the corporation, I have always been hands-on, and from 2007 to 2013 I was Project Director for commercial panel installations in Connecticut (Foxwoods Casino), Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (US International Border Crossing); Madison, Wisconsin (Chazen Art Museum) and Toronto, Ontario.

Riverside Group is a leader in the industry, introducing pressure equalized wall systems to North America. Today, with several younger partners, we design and manufacture high performance systems, turning raw materials into architectural masterpieces. Some of our projects / clients include: Broad Art Museum, Zaha Hadid Architects; World Trade Center, Santiago Calatrava Architects; Akron Art Museum, Coop Himmelb(l)au; TTC York University Station, Foster and Partners; Oberlin College - Phyllis Litoff Building, Westlake Reed Leskosky.



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Cortland Book** (12/18/21) a donation was made by Luise & Norbert Leppanen.

In memory of FCA life member **Denise Book** (11/23/21) donations have been made by Alice Dubpernell and Luise & Norbert Leppanen.

In memory of FCA life member **Helen Ruth Seppälä** (11/16/21) donations have been made by Cynthia & Robert Zimmerman, Chris, Keith & Christina Anderson.

In memory of FCA life member **Melvin "Ernie" Orchard** (10//22/21) a donation has been made by Peggy Roberts.

In memory of FCA life member **Helen Lampi** (5/4/09) a donation has been made by Debra & Richard Lampi.

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. Memorial donations can now be made online on our revised FCA website;

finnishcenter.org.

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

Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for money, it's not for fame.
It's not for any personal gain.
It's just for love of fellowman.
It's just to send a helping hand.
It's just to give a tith of self.
That's something you can't buy with wealth.
It's not medals won with pride.
It's for that feeling deep inside.
It's that reward down in your heart.
It's that feeling that you've been a part.
Of helping others far and near,
that makes you be a Volunteer!

Author Unknown

A CHRISTMAS STORY

by David Sharpe

Lula Mae sat down on the other side of the large circular couch. She was thin. Very thin. Her hair stuck out on the sides of the small battered hat perched on the top of her head.

It was the week before Christmas and I was sitting inside the Jefferson entrance of the Renaissance Center in Detroit. I was resting a few minutes before joining a friend for lunch at Tom's Oyster Bar across the street.

She began talking to me. "Detroit is a great city," she said. "I knew Albert Kahn. He designed some of these buildings." She went on about her love of Detroit and the jobs she had had many years ago: i.c. elevator operator at Hudson's Department Store, making hamburgers at a local eatery, and other jobs available to a black woman without credentials.

She spoke about Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills and wondered why their schools were better. We discussed religion. She asked about Catholics and what she referred to as their "superstitions." I suggested that superstitions were not exclusively Catholic.

She commented on how nice it was to talk to someone who was a thinking person. I said that I too was enjoying our conversation.

When we got to a discussion of ancient Rome, the Holy Roman Empire and orthodoxy I began a song. Istanbul was Constantinople....She suddenly asked me a favor. Could we go to lunch together? I declined, telling her about my lunch appointment. She told me she only had a dollar and had not eaten. I gave her five dollars and she thanked me profusely.

Before she left she asked me if I would sing Frank Sinatra's song, "It Was a Very Good Year." I began with the few words I remembered and then hummed the rest of the tune. Her eyes began to well up as I continued to the end. "Well, that was very nice," she said. "Now I must go." She moved off and went out the door to Jefferson Avenue saying, "I have to go to Starbuck's."

Well, that had been the sweetest touch I had ever experienced. She was truly a professional. She touched me in the heart as well as the wallet. Just another story in the big city.

FINLAND HOCKEY

Prior to their final game of the 2021 Karjala Cup, Finland unveiled their hockey jerseys for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China. Former Finnish national team members Kimmo Timonen and Annina Rajahuhta were on hand to help with the reveal.

The "home" jersey has dark blue as its base color with a lighter shade of blue as a stripe across the middle of the uniform and sleeves, along with white lettering. The "away" jersey is white and also has a stripe across the middle and on the sleeves, with blue lettering.

Finland's women's team will be the first to wear the new jerseys when they take on the United States on February 3rd. They'll be in a group that consists of Canada, the Russian Olympic Committee, Switzerland and the United States.

The men's team will play their first game on February 10th against Slovakia, followed by Latvia on February 11th, and then they'll wrap up the group stage against their archrival, Sweden, on February 13th against their archrival, Sweden.

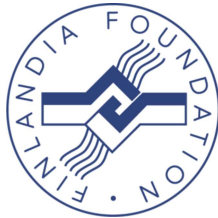


FINLAND WAS NAMED THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

The website *Good News from Finland* reports that for the fourth year in a row, Finland was in 2021 again named the happiest country in the world by the World Happiness Report. The report assessed over 150 countries on factors such as perceived freedom, honesty, welfare, good health and generosity. A high level of trust among citizens was identified as one of Finland's key strengths.

Overall, the rankings remained very similar to 2020 despite the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Surprisingly there was not, on average, a decline in well-being when measured by people's own evaluation of their lives," said John Helliwell, one of the report's editors. "One possible explanation is that people see COVID-19 as a common, outside threat affecting everybody and that this has generated a greater sense of solidarity and fellow-feeling."

Beside Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland and the Netherlands made up the top five in the report.



**Finlandia
Foundation
National**

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

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

Ole & Lena

Lena: "Der is trouble vit da car, sveetheart. It has vater in da carburetor."

Ole: "Vater in da carburetor? Dat is ridiculous."

Lena: "Ole, I tell you da car has vater in the carburetor."

Ole: "You don't even know vat a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Ver is da car?"

Lena: "In da lake."



Instead of "I can't"
or "I won't," how about "How can I?"



We have photos of the Finlandia Male Chorus from 1973, 1976, and circa 1992, but the singers are not identified individually on the photos. It is our intention to eventually display them in the Finnish Center and to honor these former members by sharing their names for posterity.

The singer pictured above appears in all three photos and by his location in the group we think that he is a first tenor. I have a clue as to his identity, but would like some confirmation. We would be most appreciative if you, your relatives, or older members will send me an email or a phone message with his identity. Paul Rajala, phone (248-921-0831) Prajala@comcast.net

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



35200 W. Eight Mile Road
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!



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