



# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

January 2008

## FCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 school year will be available beginning **December 1, 2007**. Interested students should call the FCA at (248) 478-6939 to request an application.

The deadline for receipt of the completed application by the FCA Scholarship Committee is **March 15, 2008** and may be sent to: Finnish Cultural Ctr., 35200 East Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48355. Note that the deadline is much earlier next year. It is very important that applicants provide all the information requested by **March 15, 2008**.

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## OVER ON FINN DRIVE

I am not much of a consumer shopper. I let my wife Donna do most of that. I, like many of you, grew up in what became known as the depression generation of the 30's, a label which may not have much meaning these days. I happen to believe I was really lucky to grow up on a farm in upstate New York. Plus, I had exposure to all the Finnish traditions that went on in those days. Unrelated Finn families would get together for parties, weddings and the events of the season. There were very few families who had any relatives in the area so these parties were an opportunity to converse in the Finnish language and even do some dancing. That was where I first learned to dance the laatikko at a young age. Many of the items for the dinner table were grown right there on the farm and then these items would show up as fried pork chops, sausage, or roasted chicken. As kids, we had to get used to this.

We learned some sound principles about saving money for a rainy day back then. A good lesson that I still hear every so often is to have "short arms and very deep pockets". As kids we learned this at the local fair deciding where to spend those few precious coins because once they were gone, that was it.

Now, the main thing I buy in the grocery store is Macintosh apples. Four years ago they were \$1.59 or so for a three pound bag. Today they are at least \$2.99 per three pound bag and higher. Well, you might ask, "What has the price of apples got to do with the Finnish Center?"

Our costs at the Finnish Center have gone up. This is more than just getting gray and getting older and being able to remember when...it's a fact. The higher cost of energy is making its mark felt everywhere. Heating, lighting, paper products, postage and transportation costs will all continue to rise and we have to watch our spending.

As members of the Finnish Center, we are so fortunate to have a Center that is free and clear of any debts. It was a fulfilled dream to reach this status. Now the challenge is to maintain this unique building and stay within our budget. Can we offer a mix of educational items for today's living, with other Scandinavian groups for the sharing of heritage and culture? Everyone has come from a different direction and has had a different life experience. We need to invite other Scandinavian groups to become members and participate in its future. Our challenge is to offer interesting events that meets the needs of folks who live within 20 mile radius of the center. Easy to arrive and easy to come back to, too!

See you over on Finn Drive,

Frank Gottberg, Chairman

# CALENDAR

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### **Crafts**

Mondays 10 to 2 pm

### **Finnish American Singers**

Mondays 7 to 9 pm

### **Library**

Open Mondays 9 to 2 pm

### **NikkarinTalo**

Mondays 9 am

### **Study Group**

Mondays 1 to 3 pm

## BI-WEEKLY EVENT

### **Blood Pressure Readings**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

11 am to 2 pm

NOTE DAY CHANGE

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### **Gift Shop**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 12:30 pm

### **Finnish Conversation Group**

2nd Thursday 11:00 am

### **Stamp Club**

Last Sunday of Month 2-4 pm

### **Weavers**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 9-12

### **Camera Club**

2nd Wednesday of month 12-2m

## **JANUARY**

4 Cultural Meeting 7-9

13 Brunch 11:30-1:30

Krun Meeting 1-3

13 Art of Akseli Gallen Kallela

Finland's Most Famous Painter

2pm by Steve Niemi

18 SPAGHETTI DINNER 5-8

FUND RAISER

Cultural Meeting 7-9

23 Pulla/Nisu Bake

27 Open House 1-4pm

1,5,9,15,16,20,23,25 Rentals

## **FEBRUARY**

10 Brunch 11:30am-1:00pm

17 Annual Meetings:

Senior Housing 1;30

FCA 2:30

24 Open House 1-4pm

27 Pulla/Nisu Bake

10,13,15,16,27 Rentals

## **MARCH**

26 Pulla/Nisu Bake

9,12,14,15,26,30 Rentals

## **GIFT SHOP**

The FCA Gift Shop's 15% blue dot sale is still going on. Stop by and find a good bargain!

## **FCA ELECTIONS**

The following candidates have been announced for the three FCA Board of Trustees positions: Norbert Leppanen, Gerald Malstrom, Ilene Yanke, George Koskimaki, and Cortland book. We still seek three candidates as board alternates. Current chairs have agreed to continue in 2008.

Contact David Sharpe at (248)477-5709 for further details.

FCA Address  
35200 W. Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI  
48335-5108  
Tel: 248-478-6939  
Fax: 248-478-5671  
fcacenter@sbcglobal.net  
www.finnishcenter.org  
Lois Makee, Manager

### **OFFICERS**

Frank Gottberg, Chairman  
Gene Belttari, Vice Chairman  
David Sharpe, Corresponding Sec.  
Cortland Book, Recording Sec.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1 Year

Gene Belttari, Kristen Kreiner  
Lari Korpela

2 Year

Frank Gottberg, Rigmor Cuolahan,  
Fritz Putkela

3 Year

Maria Hill, Glenn Kujansuu, David Sharpe

### **ALTERNATES**

Jim Kettunen,  
Margaret Laurila

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Hilkka Ketola, Neil Manley, Jr.,

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

#### Building & Grounds

Frank Gottberg, Ray Wanttaja

#### Cultural

Ruth Mannisto

#### Education

Ruth Kaarlela

#### Finance

Bob Erickson, Delores Aebersold

#### Gift Shop

Brenda Sinclair

#### Mailing

Lari Korpela

#### Membership

Shirley Brooks

#### Publicity & Publications

Nancy Sannar

#### Social

Ilene Yanke

#### Sunshine Lady

Margaret Laurila

### **SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION**

Paul C. Hendrickson, Chairman

#### *Tapiola Village*

Laura Fultz, Manager

248-471-3802

#### *Freedom Square*

Mary O'Brien, Manager

248-442-7250

[www.fcaseniorhousing.org](http://www.fcaseniorhousing.org)

## CULTURAL

The weavers will meet on the second Saturday of the month from 9 am until noon. We're making a crazy quilt out of men's ties to raffle off in May.

The Stamp Club meets the last Sunday of the month from 2-4 pm.

Plans for the Krunnuhaat are shaping up nicely. We'll be having a dance workshop on May 17, 2008 from 9 am to 3 pm to hone our dancing skills. Meetings are scheduled for 1-3 pm on January 13 and 27, February 17, March 2 and 30, April 13 and 27, May 18 (this date not confirmed), June 22 and 27, July 27, August 24, September 7, 14, 21 and on the 26th, a dress rehearsal and, finally, the performance on September 27 at 4:00 pm.

We are still in need of people to get involved. Watch the Newsletter for updates and come to meetings if you are interested in participating in some way.

Culturally,  
Ruth Mannisto

## WOMEN'S CLUB

We are happy to announce that we made approximately \$470 on our Finnish Breakfast and the sales of baked goods at the Scandinavian Bazaar. These funds have been given to the drapery fund.

Because of the need to keep our FCA building open only on the weekdays of Monday, Wednesday and Friday to save heat, etc., we have consented to bake on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. This schedule change will affect some of our women. If you've taken the sanitation class and would like to come in and bake, we'd like to see you between 10 am-2 pm on Wednesday, January 23rd to help.

Those of you who want to pre-order Pulla/Nisu, please call the FCA. Otherwise, the fresh Pulla/Nisu is usually ready by 1:30 pm for pick up.

Thanks,  
Ilene Yanke

## SOCIALLY SPEAKING

The 14th Annual Scandinavian Holiday was very pleasant for those present, and included the Norwegian and Swedish Consuls and their wives.

Ray Benson and Carl Aebersold decorated the hall beautifully for Christmas. Soittoniekat played the traditional Scandinavian melodies, plus Christmas carols. Kate Kujala was an exceptional soprano, leaving our members wanting to have her back to perform. She will soon try out at the Detroit Opera House, as she aspires to sing opera. Armitage presented excellent Scandinavian foods with Rigmor Cuolahan and Ilene Yanke as the bakers of the Christmas cookies. Glenn Kujansuu put Ilene's Iceland photos on a disc and guided Roger Hewlett and Joe Kylman in projecting them on the large screen. Iceland's outstanding scenery was enjoyed by all.

On January 13, 2008, we look forward to Steven Niemi's presentation of the art of Akseli Gallen-Kallela.

Kiitos,

## FINLAND TODAY

First, the PISA, Program for International Student Assessment, has again placed Finnish students on top. The PISA survey scored the Finnish 15 year old students the best of 57 developed countries in the knowledge of natural science, and in the application of knowledge in solving everyday problems. Following Finland were Hong Kong and Canada. In 2004, Finnish students were judged the best in science, mathematics and literacy. The results of this year's survey on math and literacy will be given later, so I will report on them next time.

The Finnish company, Neste Oil, has announced the plan to build a bio-diesel plant in Singapore. The plant, expected to be completed in 2010, will be the largest of its type in the world. The plant will have a capacity of 800,00 tons of fuel a year, and will use palm oil as its main raw material. The plant will use similar technology at its second generation plant in Porvoo, Finland.

By the way, Neste will open its second plant in Porvoo in 2009. Neste Oil, based in Espoo, near Helsinki, had net sales worth \$18.8 billion in 2006, and has 4,700 employees.

Nokia has opened its sixth research center in China. This center, in conjunction with Siemens, is located in Hangzhou, in eastern China's Zhejiang province. It is Nokia's second largest research center, following only the one in Finland.

A master piece of Finnish art was recently sold at an auction for \$932,000, the third highest price ever for a Finish painting. It was Eero Jarnefelt's *Pyykkiranta*. The 1889 painting depicts washerwomen on a shore. The painting was bought by Anders Wiklof, a businessman and an art collector from Aland (Ahvenanmaa). Eero Jarnefelt was the brother-in-law of Jean Sibelius.

The year ending British Rally was also the end of 39 year old Marcus Gronholm's 150 race career. Gronholm came second in the race, and also second in this year's Rally Championship, 4 points behind Sebastien Loeb. The British Rally was won by another Finn, Mikko Hirvonen. Gronholm ended his career with 30 wins and two World Rally Championships.

Finnish radio system, YLE, has a huge archive of about 3,000 audio clips and over 4,000 video clips from the

last 100 years. They include history, news, culture, sports, music, etc. The site is in Finnish, so if you understand Finnish, its an amazing site to surf through at [www.yle.fi/elavaarkisto](http://www.yle.fi/elavaarkisto).

Also, according to YLE, interest in learning the Finnish language is also on the rise. Currently, Finnish is being taught in at least 110 universities in 30 countries. Finnish language classes are also available on the internet, where there seems to be a large interest from Japan and China.

Japanese television network NHK, did a nine hour direct broadcast from Santa Claus' Office on Christmas Eve. Tens of millions of people watched the broadcast. The Japanese have for years been fascinated about the Finnish Santa Claus. The Santa Claus Office is located near Rovaniemi in Finland's Lapland.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation has selected the 4 wheel golf cart sized off the road vehicle as its annual "most useless" product award. The objection is that the vehicles have small particle emissions that are 50 times greater than the average car, and also that its wheels leave tracks that are damaging to the environment.

November 30th was celebrated as "Buy Nothing Day" by various groups in Finland. The object of the campaign was to challenge the culture of continuous consumption, and this year's focus was on misleading advertising. The intention of Buy Nothing Day is to encourage people to desist from shopping and to live without spending money, if only for one day.

And finally, Toivo was driving a big 18 wheel truck when he decided to stop at a small out-of-town restaurant. He ordered coffee, apple pie and a hamburger. Just as the order was delivered, three tough looking bikers walked in. One of the bikers walked over and took Toivo's coffee, another biker took Toivo's apple pie, and the third one took his hamburger. Toivo didn't say anything, he just walked out the door. One of the bikers turns to the waitress and says, "He isn't much of a man, didn't even say anything." The waitress looking out the window answers, "He isn't much of driver either, he just drove his 18 wheeler over three motorcycles."

Markku Ketola  
[marketola@yahoo.com](mailto:marketola@yahoo.com)

## HAPPINESS

Happy 90th birthday to a special lady, Helen Lampi from Betty & Leonard, Pearl & Ray

Belated 90th birthday greetings to Eleanor Manley, a great trouper from Betty & Leonard, Pearl & Ray

## FINNISH FACTS



Finland's Civil War began in January 1918 and ended on May 15th when the "White" army under General Mannerheim defeated the last of the "Reds" in Karelia.

### Armitage Catering

Located at the FCA, we cater any event, big or small:

Weddings/Showers  
Anniversaries  
Memorial Services  
Business Events  
Graduation Parties

Off site catering is also available  
248-921-7561

### *New Years Greetings*

*Roy & Ruth Jurva*

*Rigmor Cuolahan*

## REMINDER

In case you missed it earlier this year, the 2007 Directory is still available. A donation is greatly appreciated to offset the cost of printing these useful tools for keeping in touch.

## UPCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

What is a Finn? What does it mean when you tell someone you are Finnish?

**Finnish Fundamentals** is intended to be an ongoing series of talks about Finnish heritage and tradition offered to any Finn who wants to know more about themselves, or to anyone who is curious about Finnish cultural identity.

The first of the series will be on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 2 pm featuring:

### **The Art of Akseli Gallen-Kallela, Finland's Most Famous Painter**

When Finland was becoming an independent country in the early 1900's, Akseli Gallen-Kallela was able to define and celebrate Finnish national character.

The presenter will be Steven Niemi, educator at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

# MEMORIAL FUND

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 Folk 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: Pearl Wanttaja, 28235 Townley, Madison Heights, MI 48071. Do not send cash through the mail. Deadline is the first day of every month.**

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; also 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 me at 248-541-0054.

Thank you, Pearl Wanttaja, Chair

NOTE: All memorial donations must be at my home, not at the Finnish Center, by the 1st of the month.

Since the last newsletter and up to December 3, donations to the Memorial Fund are as follows:

In memory of Judy Wimperi Cote (8-5-07) of Southfield, a donation has been made by Will & Dolores Rajala.

In memory of Toivo "Toiks" Nerg (10-23-07) of Chassell, a donation has been made by his sister Mildred Nerg Verhines.

In memory of FCA life member Edna Kangas Hansen (10-31-07) donations have been made by her sister-in-law Milda & Ralph Manila.

In memory of Wilho Ronald Liimatta (11-4-07) of West Bloomfield, a donation has been made by Edith Raski. Ronny was the brother of member Elmer Liimatta.

In memory of FCA life member Katri Laine (11-14-07) donations have been made by Dorothy & Alan Olsen and the FCA.

In memory of FCA life member Walter "Ed" Keskitalo (11-15-07) donations have been made by Neil Manley Jr., Pearl & Ray Wanttaja, Randy Wanttaja, John Saetta, Roger Wanttaja and the FCA.

In memory of FCA member William "Bill" Maynes (11-25-07) donations have been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja and the FCA.

In memory of Meredith Hahka (6-20-07) of Madison Heights, a

donation has been made by Will & Dolores Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member Walter Mattila (5-29-07) a donation has been made by Ralph & Milda Mattila.

In memory of FCA life member Wesley Timonen (9-9-07) a donation has been made by Will & Dolores Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member Erkki Koivunen (4-10-07) a donation has been made by Sakari & Shirley Jutila.

In memory of FCA life member Delores Hella Moyle (1-24-06) a donation has been made by her cousin Ray & Pearl Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member Warren Tossava (9-18-07) a donation has been made by Will & Dolores Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member Martha Kauranen Tuorin (6-25-06) a donation has been made by her sister Dorothy & Alan Olsen.

In memory of FCA life member Vivian Rowe (10-16-07) a donation has been made by Will & Dolores Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member Reino "Ray" Laine (1-17-00) a donation has been made by Dorothy & Alan Olsen.

In memory of FCA life member Jane O'Brien (1-2-07) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

The FCA has made donations in memory of life member Lillian Lehtonen and member Charles Ahonen (11-29-07).

## GOING PLACES

### TRIP NOTES

Please be sure to get your deposits in! We need 30 to 36 deposits at least 30 days prior to the trip or we lose the bus. 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.

**FOR BORDER CROSSING:** You must have two pieces of valid ID—EITHER a passport (current or expired) OR a certified birth certificate (not a photocopy) OR a Certificate of Citizenship. AND YOU MUST ALSO have a valid driver's license or government ID card with photo.

**Mystery Trip** - One day, Thursday, Jan 24, \$66. We did the final destination of this trip a few years ago and everyone really seemed to enjoy it. What other surprises are included? Don't ask me for clues because even I don't know!! Be at the FCA by 8:15 am for 8:30 am departure. Return about 5 pm.

**Point Edward Casino, Sarnia** - One day, Thursday, February 14, 2008. More info later.

**"Big Italian Wedding"** - One day, Thursday, March 13, 2008. Lunch included at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall. More info later.

**"Moonlight and Magnolias"** - One day, Wednesday, April 2, 2008. Show will be at Meadowbrook with lunch at O'Malley's. More info later.

**Four Winds Casino** - Two days, April 28 & 29, \$125. Includes incentive package of \$35 and Bk. This is a brand new casino and hotel in New Buffalo.

Trips still in planning stage:

**"Cabaret"** at Stratford  
Ren Cen tour and Diamond Jack Cruise  
**"Church Basement Ladies"** at Turkeyville

## SENIOR HOUSING

FCA Senior Housing Continues to Serve

Have you looked at FCA Senior Housing lately? As part of our original purpose, Senior Housing has provided safe, affordable housing for our senior members as well as the community at large. Each year, Senior Housing contributes to the welfare of the Finnish Center. In addition to renting our facility, the FCA has received ads, pledges, contributions and support for various projects including the new bridge across the swale to the Wedding Gardens.

Please remember Senior Housing when you select organizations to which you make tax deductible contributions.

## PUBLICITY

Recently, I was asked to take the responsibility of publicity until the next election. After reading the job description, I find that there are three parts to the job: get publicity out for the activities of the center; find ways to get money raising activities booked at the center and get advertisers.

In order to promote the Center, we need many active people to work positively for it. Each person should be a walking advertisement and do his or her share to make the Center a bustling and desirable place to be. What new ideas do you have and how can you help? Send a written message to the Finnish Center or to my home address.

I'll be waiting to hear from YOU.

Nancy Sannar

# FROM THE FCA LIBRARY

VASTUUNKANTAJA (a history of the military life of Aito Keravuori) by Matti Lukkari. In 1944 when the Continuation War ended, Alto Keravuori and several other high-ranking officers in the Finnish Army were concerned that Russia would occupy Finland, and they would have no weapons with which to defend themselves. They conceived of a plan to secretly gather and conceal a large amount of weapons in various parts of Finland. In 1945 one of the persons in their group attempted to blackmail Keravuori, demanding money in exchange for keeping his mouth shut. Keravuori refused, and the authorities were notified, resulting in the immediate attempt to arrest all those who were involved. Keravuori and 33 others escaped to Sweden. However, Sweden refused to give them asylum for very long, and they were forced to seek asylum elsewhere. Some managed to escape on their own, but one of the men, Alpo Kullervo Marttinen, managed to arrange for a group of 19 to escape to the United States. This group eventually became known as "Marttinen's Men" (Marttisen Miehet), about whom a book by that title has been published in Finland. Since the men in the group had not been able to get U.S. visas, they booked passage to Venezuela, which was willing to give them visas. Instead, the men disembarked in Norfolk, Virginia, with permission to stay 60 days, but that is as far as they got.

The United States Army at this time was beginning a program of training soldiers for winter fighting. U.S. Military authorities knew of the exploits of the Finnish soldiers who fought in the Winter War in extreme snow and cold, and were eager to use the expertise of Marttinen's Men. Since they had only Venezuelan visas, they had to acquire U.S. visas by arriving in the U.S. legally. This was done by transporting them to Montreal to the U.S. Embassy. On the same day they returned with visas and were sworn into the U.S. Army.

Marttinen managed to intercede for his men whenever needed, and they were soon promoted to the rank of commissioned officers, a rare occurrence, indeed! They served as winter-fighting instructors in many parts of the U.S., including Alaska; some also served in Japan and Germany.

Keravuori, the subject of this book, who had served for 17 years in the Finnish Army, then served for 20 years in the U.S. Army, much of that time as a Green Beret, and retired as a colonel. At his retirement exercises the Army band played "Porilaisten Marssi" in honor of this Finnish/American hero! He and his wife retired to Maine, where he passed away in 1998.

VUOSI VALPON VIERAANA (A Year as the Guest of Valpo) by Eino E. Lassila. Lassila, one of the participants in the weapons-concealing incident, was not as lucky as the original 34 escapees to Sweden. He was caught and imprisoned in the Valpo Prison in Helsinki, where, by the way, Risto Ryti, President of Finland, and other high officials were also incarcerated for supposed "war crimes".

After a year, Lassila also managed to escape to Sweden, where he was threatened with extradition back to Finland. But his luck held out, and he eventually managed to get to the United States, where he also became one of Marttinen's Men.

If this subject interests you, even if reading Finnish is a struggle, I think you'd find one or both of these worth your trouble. Each of them is in the biography section, in alphabetical order by the subject of the book. If we are in the library, we'll help you locate them.

Lillian Lehto, Librarian

P.S. We now have a notebook containing copies of all the "From the FCA Library" articles beginning with September 2005, including an index. You're welcome to come in and use it.

*(Cont. from page 10)*

Houses were built and a rooming house for laborers was established. There were schools, a temperance hall and a cemetery.

Three major crises in close succession caused the employment and population to diminish: in 1896, a severe forest fire; in 1897, Eliasson's barn burned with a loss of 21 horses; and in 1900 his saw mill burned. Eliasson declared bankruptcy in 1901. Population figures: 1897 to 1900-250, 1901 to 1906-150 and 1960's-60.

We thank all presenters, participants and attendees; as well as those who contributed to the coffee table. Thanks to Pearl Wanttaga and Lillian Heikkinen for serving.

Ruth Kaarlela, FAHS

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

In November, Finnish Center members and friends enjoyed a combination Senior Luncheon and Veteran's Day celebration. Our emcee, Ilene Yanke, noted that of the 17 veterans in attendance, most served in World War II, while two served in Korea, one in Vietnam and one in the Gulf War. We'd like to thank this impressive group of veterans for attending the luncheon and for sharing their individual experiences with us.

The busy afternoon also included a Veteran's Day film brought in by George Koskimaki that was enjoyed by all.

Gerald Malstom who served from 1960 - 1962, led us in prayer. Karen Call got the group in a jovial mood playing patriotic songs on the piano and leading a sing-along.

November birthdays included Dennis Mattila, Milda Mattila and Eleanor Manley.

First-timers to the luncheon were Phyllis Hamrick, a Desert Storm veteran, Faith Keene and Marcella Skindell.

Lucky prize winners included our pianist, Karen Call and her sister, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Ray Marvel, Elmer Hanninen, Celia Kotila, Faith Keene and Irene Karna.

Pearl Wanttaja led us in a moment of silence for Vivian Rowe, Beth Kilponen, Edna Kangas Hansen and Lillian Wiitanen. We concluded the luncheon with the singing of *God Bless America*.

## MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

January 26—An evening of music: *Passport to Scandinavia* concert by the Livonia Symphony (*Symphony No. 2* by Sibelius is one of the numbers) begins at 7:30 at the Louis Schmidt Auditorium. We'll have a light supper at the Finnish Center before the concert and then carpool to Clarenceville High School on Middlebelt Road.

Call Nancy Sannar at 734 425-6531 by January 10 to confirm.

## MANY VETERANS ATTENDED THE SENIOR LUNCHEON



*Left to right:* BACK - Ralph Mattila, Gerald Malstrom, Dennis Mattila & Fritz Putkela, FRONT - Bill Lehtinen, Bill Seaman, Jim Weiland, Rudy Aittama & Bruce Yanke



*Left to right:* BACK - Fritz Putkela, Ray Wanttaja, Tappy Kuivinen & Fred Aebersold, FRONT - Norm McCue, George Kane, Elmer Hanninen, Wendel Hamrick & Art Jouppi

## PLEASE NOTE

On March 14, 2008, the Finlandia Foundation National will have a Board Meeting at Cranbrook Institute. During this time the Lecturers of the Year, Susan Saarinen, and Mark Coir will give a presentation on "Shaping of the Future" An International Exhibit of Eliel and Eero Saarinen.

This exhibit will be leaving Cranbrook Institute for other cities after this meeting.

An evening of music is also planned at Cranbrook for March 15th with "Se Menne" group and includes dancing.

Please mark your calendar for both events.

## ROSTER CHANGES

### NEW MEMBERS

Peterson, Robert M.  
1414 Fountainview  
Brighton, Michigan 48114-9102  
(734) 732-8198

Rajala, Paul & Nancy  
768 Kingsley Dr.  
Wixom, Michigan 48393  
(248) 926-0532  
[prajala@comcast.net](mailto:prajala@comcast.net)

Sanberg, Malla  
5547 Gallery Park Dr  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103  
(734) 988-0036  
[Amsandberg53@hotmail.com](mailto:Amsandberg53@hotmail.com)

### ZIP CODE CORRECTION

Sherwin, Louise Ann  
48034

### PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION

Ollila, Margaret  
(313) 835-3258

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Long, Shirley Jean  
581 South Barnstable  
Nixa, Missouri 65714-7159  
(417) 724-8014  
(effective 12/11/07)

Henry, Eleanor M.  
965 Hager - Apt 236  
Petosky, Michigan 49770  
(231) 439 9943

Rousseaux, Gordon  
17678 Fox  
Redford Twp., Michigan 48240

### NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB

Receiving your newsletter online will save paper and money. Please see page 11 and tell us if you want to stop the mailed version of the newsletter. It is available on our website ([www.finnishcenter.org](http://www.finnishcenter.org)).

Note, the web version of the newsletter is an Adobe Acrobat format file and requires the free reader program available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). If we do not hear from you, we will mail the newsletter to your home address.

## OSKAR

The Olson family brought a framed photograph of the Alex and Hilda Olson farm (1914-1957) on which potatoes and dairy products had been produced. There were 11 children in the Olson family.

Shirley Erickson brought a striking framed 1910 painting of the red Oskar school house.

Paul Miller provided (among other things) a picture of the Koller family home which had served as the post office-and copies of forms relating to the establishment of the post office.

From Kevin Ruohonen, Barb Koski, Susan Riutta and many other Oskar residents, there was much historic material in print and in photographs-as well as snapshots by Edith Raski of Oskar, June 2007.

The above-mentioned items contributed to a lively and interesting program on Oskar (located in Stanton Township, along the Houghton Canal in

the Upper Peninsula) on Sunday afternoon November 18.

Three men: Jaakko Ojanpera, Oskar Eliasson and Sakari Hendrikson, seeking a site for a logging business, sailed into Schlatz Creek, off Portage Lake in May of 1875, where they established a settlement called Ojanpera and started a logging business. Others came, as well. Wanting a local post office, Oskar Eliasson approached the Houghton postmaster. Neither one knew how to spell "Ojanpera", and when the postmaster asked Eliasson his name and heard the name Oskar, he established that name to the post office address (1882). Eliasson was the first post master of Oskar.

Eliasson emerged as a landowner and business man in lumber and charcoal. Nels Burkman, his blacksmith, also established a lumbering and charcoal business. Other businesses included a tannery and a cheese factory. The height of the lumbering business was between 1890-1895.

*(Cont. on page 8)*

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 LAYOUT AND DESIGN: GLENN OR KAMELA  
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## *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 1,500 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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You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

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