



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2009

THE FCA NEEDS YOUR HELP IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Opening and Closing
- Cleaning
- Inventory
- General Office
- Bartending
- Hall/Lounge Set up
- Proofreading
- Sound
- Plumbers
- Electrical

HELP - HELP - HELP

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DR. CARL RAHKONEN LEADS INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS

Finland celebrated the 91st anniversary of its independence on December 6, and we celebrated with two events at the Finnish Center. The Finnish American Historical Society (FAHS) and Soittoniekat combined their energies for a weekend of activities led by Carl Rahkonen, Ph.D, professor and music librarian at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Braving a Michigan winter storm, Dr. Rahkonen drove to Farmington Hills to participate in Soittoniekat's jam session on Saturday, December 6, and to make a presentation about the importance of the kantele to Finnish nationhood the following day.

Snow, slippery roads, and strong winds reduced the number of listeners, dancers, and tune-requestors at the jam session, but those who attended enjoyed hearing a variety of instruments, types of music, and songs. Dr. Rahkonen jammed with his fiddle and string bass, and introduced the other musicians to one of the pieces that he had composed, Kalle's Dream Waltz. The musicians played Finnish, country, bluegrass, 1940's big band, and popular pieces, with frequent requests from the listeners. The folk dancers and waltzers also appreciated having live music. Everyone helped themselves to a generous coffee table selection of treats provided by Soittoniekat.

On Sunday the weather cooperated, and the main hall was filled with FCA members and friends who came out to celebrate. Accompanied by Soittoniekat, the audience started the program by singing Maamme and The Star-Spangled Banner. FAHS Vice-president Gerald Malstrom gave the invocation. Greetings from Finland were brought by our local Finnish Honorary Consul, the FCA's own Paul Potti. Paul highlighted that the Nobel Peace Prize had recently been awarded to Finland's former President, Martti Ahtisaari. FAHS member and US veteran George Koskimaki introduced veterans of Finland's Winter War and members of Finland's Lotta Svard. George also honored American veterans, reminding the audience of the importance of the date, December 7. Maria Hill, member of the FAHS Board of Directors, introduced the Finnish, and one Danish, high school exchange students, who in turn introduced their American host families. FAHS President, Dr. Ruth Kaarlela gave a short history of the organization, which was founded in 1947 by Dr. George W. Sippola; and Louise Hartung, Chair of Soittoniekat, invited musicians and listeners to participate in jam sessions that the group holds. Soittoniekat accordionist-extraordinaire Don Reinholm performed a classical version of Finlandia, which brought the audience to its feet for a standing ovation. As Don said, "That piece is raw emotion!" and his playing forcefully demonstrated the feelings about Finland that composer Jean Sibelius expressed in his music.

We were fortunate to have such a talented, versatile presenter lead our celebration. Dr. Rahkonen is both a musician, playing violin/fiddle, viola, string bass, and kantele; and an ethnomusicologist, specializing in studies of the kantele. He is on the Board of Directors of FinnFest USA; and is responsible for the music program at this summer's FinnFest cruise to Alaska, by inviting musicians from the US and Finland and presenting lectures on music himself.

(cont'd on page 6)

CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

Finnish American Singers

Mondays 7 to 9pm

Library

Open Mondays 9 to 2pm

NikkarinTalo

Mondays 9am

BI-WEEKLY EVENT

Blood Pressure Readings

2nd and 4th Monday

11 am to 2pm

MONTHLY EVENTS

Gift Shop—Meeting

2nd Monday 1:00 pm

Stamp Club

Last Sunday of month 2-4pm

Weavers

2nd Saturday of the month 10-2 pm

Camera Club

2nd Wednesday of month 12-2 pm

Card and Game Party

1st Wednesday 11-4 pm

Finnish Conversation

2nd Friday of the month 10am

FEBRUARY

- 4 Board Mtg 6:30
- 8 Brunch
- 13 Fish Fry 5-7
- 15 Annual Meetings
Sr. Housing 1pm
FCA 2:30pm
- 22 Open House 1-4

Rentals: 8,11,14,18,20,21

MARCH

- 4 Joint Board Mtg
- 9 Brunch
- 13 Fish Fry
- 22 Open House

Rentals: 1,8,11,14,18,25

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE!

Young people who would like to apply for a scholarship from the Finnish Center Association may now do so either by downloading the application from our website, or by picking up an application in the FCA office.

The requirements for applying, and the criteria for awarding scholarships are included on the first page of the application.

Remember: The deadline for applying for the 2009-2010 school year is March 15, 2009.

ELECTION NOTICE

The nominating committee is asking your help in finding candidates to fill three positions on the Board of Trustees, three positions as alternates, and standing committee chairpersons. Contact George Koskimaki, Dagmar Malstrom, Pearl Wanttaja, Charlotte Lytikainen, or Paul Rajala if you're interested in serving, or would like to nominate another member.

Paul Rajala

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Lois Makee, Manager

OFFICERS

Frank Gottberg, Chairman
Cortland Book, Vice Chairman
Norbert Leppanen, Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1 Year

Frank Gottberg, Rigmor Cuolahan,
Fritz Putkela

2 Year

Maria Hill, Glenn Kujansuu,
Paul Rajala

3 Year

Cortland Book, Norbert Leppanen,
George Koskimaki

ALTERNATES

Gerald Malstrom, Norman McCue

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Neil Manley, Jr., Dagmar Malstrom

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Christine Johnson

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Cultural

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Education

Ruth Kaarlela

Finance

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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

tapiola@maeritech.net

www.fcaseniorhousing.org

OVER ON FINN DRIVE

As many of us do, we take the turn off of Eight Mile Road and slowly inch our way up toward the Finnish Center. It is kinda nice to relax and get off the busy highways and to see our heritage center again. All of us Scandinavians seem to like and share so many of the same activities that we should find the "FINDS". The FINDS means Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish. There would be so many stories about each country. As far as individual heritage goes, we all came from different directions and on different paths and so now we are here in Southeastern Michigan, known as Michiganians.

I have a little red book here. I thought I would share a few details about it with you. It is a small pocket size Finnish/English Dictionary that has experienced plenty of use and the "flipping of its pages".

What is interesting about this little red book is that the front cover is missing. The front part of this book is where the Finnish words will lead you into the words of the English translation. Amazingly the back cover is still in place. As I flip it over and I use the back cover it goes from English into the Finnish words. This little red book was my Mother's book that she brought with her from Finland in the early 1920's. She used this book to learn and match the English words that she needed for each occasion. My Mother always said that her English was not so good but I know she was good with numbers. She was a good cook and she also managed to keep track of time and how late it was too.

(grin)

Well here I am eighty years later, using the same Dictionary, upside down, from the back cover, and looking up words in English to find the proper Finnish words. Well, Mom, I am making good use of your Finnish book and I am sure you would like that.

I find this pocket dictionary was made up in 1913 and was printed in Hancock, Michigan. Only half of the page is still there to read.

It says in part, AATU P- , Second Edition, Hancock, Mich. Suom.-Lut.Kustannusluiikeen Kirjapainos 1913. This book came from Finland as it has a signature from her Aunt on the inside cover. Hilja at the age of 23, she left Finland in 1922 by herself via steam ship lines to England, then on to Quebec, Canada. She worked in Toronto and later moved on to New York City with this little red book in hand. After forty years in USA, she did visit Finland to see her two living sisters.

Looking in this dictionary there are so many words, and items that are missing. All of the new contraptions, and gadgets that have come out in the last hundred years and that were unheard of ninety years ago.

Like so many things that are a part of our heritage, be it the arts, language, music, or crafts they are a part of who we are. We should participate and make a choice to become a part of the Finnish experience. Our Finnish Cultural Center offers that opportunity.

Frank Gottberg

FCA SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW

On May 18, five very deserving students were presented with FCA scholarships at the annual reception for scholars and their families. The \$700 scholarships were made possible by donations from FCA members, and were greatly appreciated by the students. One student will be interviewed in each monthly article, describing and reflecting on their respective college or university experiences. You will be meeting Megan Hella, Erin Keranen, Cale Mannesto, Katie Lee Meusing, and Elizabeth Muzzin.

In order to make the application process easier for students, the application is now available on-line as well as in the office. Visit the FCA website www.finnishcenter.org to see a link on the homepage for downloading the application. Again this year, completed applications are due in the FCA office by March 15.

Our first interview is with Erin Keranen, daughter of FCA members Ted and Linneya Keranen. A junior at Central Michigan University, in Mt. Pleasant, she will be graduating in December, 2010. Erin is studying this semester in Finland, at the University of Jyväskylä. A second interview will be done when she completes the Finland experience and returns to Michigan.

Q: What is your major, and what are your career plans? A: My major is Therapeutic Recreation and my minors are Gerontology and Management. I would like to open my own Adult Day Care program.

Q: What have been some of your favorite classes, and why were they significant to you? A: I have taken a range of classes. My favorites were African-American Religion, Introduction to Gerontology, Abnormal Psychology, and Therapeutic Recreation. African-American Religion was a general education credit and the other three were required classes for my major and minors.

Q: What activities do you participate in, either in the university or the community? A: I am president of the Gerontology Club at CMU. I host bi-weekly meetings, plan fundraising opportunities, and plan activities for members of the club to do with seniors in senior living facilities.

Q: What work do you do, including paid and volunteer? A: I work as a Care Manager at Sunrise Senior Living, and I tutor students in Abnormal Psychology at CMU. I have done a lot of volunteer work with activities at the Adult Day Program in Mt. Pleasant and the Laurels of Mt. Pleasant.

Q: Do you have a mentor who helps/has helped you? A: My advisor for my major and my advisor for my minor have both helped me with classes and getting involved with opportunities that will prepare me for my future.

Q: Would you describe one highlight of your university experience?

(cont'd on page 4)

FINLAND TODAY

First, let's start, again, about how the global financial crisis has also hit Finland. According to Finland's financial ministry, Finland's economy will contract in 2009, for the first time since 1993.

The gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2008 has also been down graded to 1.7%, down from the 2.8% growth predicted in August.

But even with the down grade of growth, Finland's GDP still beats the European Union average for the 10th year in row.

Right before Christmas, the Federation of Finnish Commerce had predicted a 3% increase in Christmas sales, but as it turned out, sales were flat.

Even though the majority of Finnish consumers had more disposable income this year, they held on to their money because of the constant negative economic news.

The Finnish Parliament has passed a regulation banning all non-self extinguishing cigarettes by April 2010.

The so-called "fire-safe" cigarettes extinguish themselves if not puffed on for a few seconds.

Finland will be the first European country to make the transition to self-extinguishing cigarettes.

In a study done in Finland and published in the February 2009 issue of the American Journal of Public Health, it was found that teen age girls that smoke 10 or more cigarettes daily were 232% more likely to become overweight as adults as compared with their nonsmoking twins. The study was with 2,278 men twins and 2,018 women twins. The teen age smoking didn't seem to effect the weight of men.

At the beginning of 2009, 67 town names disappeared from Finnish maps. The towns were combined with other towns or cities. For example, the towns of Alaharma, Yliharna and Kortesarvi are now part of Kauhava.

Check out President Tarja Halonen's web site at: www.tpk.fi.

If you can't read Finnish, click on the "In English" on the top of the page.

Another web site that may interest you is that of the Finnish Police. You can check their site at: www.poliisi.fi Again click on the top of the page for English. Currently there are 7,591 police in Finland, with 15% of them being women.

Anssi Koivuranta increased his overall lead in the World

Cup points standing in the Nordic Combined skiing with his first place finish at Schonach, Germany. Koivuranta has 643 points. Bill Demong of the U.S. moved into second place with 447 points with a second place finish at Schonach. Magnus Moan of Norway is in third with 420 points.

The Finnish women are continuing to do well in cross country skiing this year. Virpi Kuitunen won the Tour de Ski 9 km pursuit in Val Di Femme, Italy. Coming in second was another Finn, Aino Kaisa Saarinen. A day before, Kuitunen also won the 10 km classic race.

A couple of Finnish adventurers, Kari Suomela and Pasi Ikonen skied 780 miles in 40 days to reach the South Pole. They reached the pole on Christmas Eve after skiing the last 60 miles in 36 hours. According to the adventurers, the biggest challenge with the trip was the lack of sleep, soft snow, and high wind.

And finally, over breakfast, Hilma says to Heikki, "I'll bet you don't know what day this is."

"Of course I do", says Heikki, as if offended, and leaves for work.

At 10:00 am a dozen red roses arrived at the house. At 1:00 pm a box of expensive chocolates was delivered. The designer dress arrived at the house at 3:00 pm.

When Heikki arrived home from work, Hilma ran to him and threw her arms around him and says, "Thank you dear, this is the most wonderful Groundhog Day of my life."

Markku Ketola, marketola@yahoo.com

A: One highlight of my university experience was a weekend that I spent at Indian Trails Camp as a requirement for a class. This is a camp for kids and adults with developmental disabilities; I really enjoyed working with and getting to know the campers.

Q: How has the FCA scholarship helped you meet your educational goals? A: I will be using my FCA scholarship to help pay for my semester at Jyvaskyla. I chose Jyvaskyla because I liked the size of the school and the programs and extra activities it offered (like organized trips around Europe and Lapland). The school also has a large number of Gerontology classes, but I'm also taking some business classes because I also have a Management minor. I will also be coaching and playing on a lacrosse team. My classes will all be in English as I do not speak Finnish but the school does offer a free Finnish language course for international students that I will be taking.

Q: What advice would you give to high school students about how to prepare for the university experience and for their career? A: I would advise high school students to make the best of opportunities that can help them in their future. Also, to try to make as many connections with people in their field as possible because that can lead to a career one day.

Louise Hartung, for the FCA Scholarship Committee

ARTWORK ON LOAN AT THE FCA

Stop by the Manager's office and see the painting "A Finnish Girl" on loan from the family of John Potti. John is available for portraits or custom paintings. Please call the FCA if interested in commissioning this talented artist.

FINN FACTS



Pori, on Finland's west coast, is home the Pori Jazz Festival a major international event held every July since 1966. World-class musicians perform over 100 concerts at numerous venues.

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

This could be a space for your ad.

Call the Finnish Center to advertise in the newsletter.

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS

A Happy and Healthy New Year to All!

Our Finnish American Singers Concert which was held on December 21st was well attended by more than 100 persons.

Our Bake Sale of Pulla/Nisu and Prune Tarts was a big success. Many Thanks to everyone who helped and supported us.

On January 4th many Singers enjoyed singing Christmas Carols at our beautiful new Pergola.

The FASM Singers will now begin practicing for their Annual Spring Concert. Please plan to attend this Event.

Enjoy the Winter Season.

Gerald Malstrom, Co- Publicity

KALEVALA DAY

On Sunday, March 1st at 2pm, Lillian Lehto will give a slide presentation on the Kalevala. This is a celebration of Finland's national epic. There will be a coffee table after the presentation. Read more about this important day in the article on page 8.

THANK YOU

When a lady got stuck on Sunday, December 21st, David Sharpe and Eric Paus Lanninen (a Finn from Hancock with a snow plow) came to her rescue.

Thank you Gentlemen!

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: the FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Deadline is the last 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 the FCA at (248) 478-6939.**

NOTE: Effective immediately, all memorial donations MUST BE MAILED TO THE FINNISH CENTER by the last day of the month.

In memory of Allie Lindstrom (9 /8 /2008) donations were made by Frederick W. Lindstrom, Helen M. Gilbert, and Norma Kolehmainen.

In memory of Arthur Niemi (12/6 /2007) donation was made by Ruth Niemi.

In memory of Clinton Miner (12/24/1999) donation was made by Eva Miner.

In memory of Edna Hansen (10/31/2007) donation was made by Ruth Niemi, and Lois Makee

In memory of Eveline Mikko (10/31/2008) donations were made by Charmaine Elias, Gordon & Diane Gillis, and Sharon Mikko.

In memory of Walter W. Line (9 /5 /2008) donation was made by Lillian M. Line.

(cont'd from page 1)

Dr. Rahkonen's presentation was entitled The Role of the Kantele in the Development of the Finnish Nation, and he illustrated it with a slide show and as well as by performing Kalevala runes on the 5-string kantele. He invited the audience to participate in singing runes: he taught the melody and provided the English-translation words. He said that he had based much of his

presentation on William A. Wilson's book, Folklore and Nationalism In Modern Finland, which posits that the Kalevala is the abode of the Finnish national spirit and that there would have been no independence without it. The Kalevala is not folklore, but literature, and it became the unifying force for developing the Finnish nation. In his Ph.D dissertation, Dr. Rahkonen described the kantele as having three manifestations: as a musical instrument; as a significant motif of Finnish folklore; and as a symbol of Finnish identity, evoking feelings of pride and solidarity. Throughout his presentation, Dr. Rahkonen connected the kantele with the Kalevala as he described the rise of nationalism and the movement toward a Finnish nation, as depicted through the Finnish language, Finnish literature, Finnish art, and Finnish music. The audience was very enthusiastic about Dr. Rahkonen's presentation, and asked him numerous questions. You may visit Dr. Rahkonen's website to learn more about the kantele and about his publications and musical activities: www.people.iup.edu/rahkonen

After the program, Soittoniekat provided lively music while the audience visited and enjoyed delicious coffee table offerings prepared by FAHS members.

Louise Hartung, for FAHS and Soittoniekat



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.

Point Edward Casino, Sarnia - 1 day, Thursday, January 29, \$22. Slot play of \$20 included. Be at FCA 9:45 am for 10 am departure. Return about 7 pm. Don't forget proper I.D.

"Impersonators" at Soaring Eagle - 1 day, Wednesday, February 11, \$36. Includes ticket to show and time in the casino. Also included are \$20 in coin and a \$5 food voucher. For departure time check flyer.

"Escanaba in Love" at the Croswell Opera House - 1 day, Sunday, March 1, \$76. This is the latest "Yooper" comedy by Jeff Daniels. This one takes place during World War II. Lunch will be at the Hathaway House. Be at FCA 10:45 am for an 11 am departure. Return about 6:45 pm.

The Caribbean Cruise still has not materialized so it is probably too late for this spring.

WANTED

One or more able bodied persons to help with the FCA monthly newsletter. Must be Computer knowledgeable and able to work with Microsoft Word, MS Publisher, MS Outlook, and a verity of other computer programs. Should be able to proof and edit newsletter copy.

Please call the FCA at 248-478-6939 and leave your name and phone number.

(cont'd from page 10)

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(cqtn for spelling of last name)

Parkila, Sharon
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NOTICE:

Thanks for all the past and future Memorial Fund Donations. The memory of loved ones and friends is well served by providing monetary gifts to the Finnish Center.

Memorial Fund donations must now be sent to or delivered to the Finnish Center due to computer book keeping and auditing practices.

FROM THE FCA LIBRARY

February 28 is Kalevala Day in Finland. This marks the day when Elias Lönnrot signed the foreword on his first edition of Finland's national epic, the Kalevala, in 1835. The day has been an unofficial day of celebration for almost 150 years. In 1978 Kalevala Day was granted official recognition as a "flag day". The flag is flown all over the country and they even put a picture of the flag on donuts! Finland is the only country in the world to officially honor its national epic with a holiday. Each year, hundreds of events are organized across the nation to pay tribute to the Kalevala.

A great event was arranged to mark the centenary of Lönnrot's birth in 1902, in connection with which the sculpture of Lönnrot by Emil Wickstrom was unveiled in the center of Helsinki. The 75th and 80th anniversaries of the Kalevala were celebrated impressively in 1910 and 1915. The poet Eino Leino wrote on Kalevala Day in 1910:

"The Kalevala and its celebration are only a symbol of the right of the Finnish people to defend their own existence as a nation and as a civilized people. A nation which has created the Kalevala has not been born into the world without reason."

When the centenary of the Kalevala was celebrated in the Helsinki Fair Center in 1935, Field-Marshal Mannerheim was observed sitting in the front row.

Kalevala Day is also a Day of Finnish Culture because the Kalevala has had such a widespread influence on Finnish culture from music to the fine arts. The most famous Finnish artist inspired by the Kalevala was Akseli Gallen-Kallela, who painted many pictures illustrating various scenes and events from the epic. Twelve of Jean Sibelius' best known works are based upon and influenced by the Kalevala. In fact, it inspired the national awakening that ultimately led to Finland's independence in 1917. The Kalevala has had an influence outside of Finland, as well, having been translated to date into 51 languages, among them Swahili, Arabic, Yiddish and Chinese. It was reportedly a source of inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien in his LORD OF THE RINGS novels, and also influenced our own Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who read a German translation and used the meter and the idea of a folk hero for his THE SONG OF HIAWATHA (which has been translated into Finnish, by the way.) To celebrate all of this, on Kalevala day many societies organize concerts, lectures, etc. as well as parades. In schools children will have special projects to do with Finnish culture. On this day the Kalevala Society, founded by researchers of the "national sciences", GallenKallela and other artists early in the 20th century, lays a wreath at Lönnrot's statue in Helsinki and holds its annual general meeting. On the previous evening the Finnish Cultural Fund holds its annual ceremony

of distributing grants and has its annual party in Finlandia Hall.

An American cultural historian, William A. Wilson, has this to say in his work FOLKLORE AND NATIONALISM IN MODERN FINLAND:

"Noble and sturdy like Finland's ancient wilderness pines, the poems of the Kalevala have through the centuries endured bad weather, endured cold winds. Hunger often exhausted Finland's children; war swallowed Finland's heroes; but the Finnish people did not die, did not disappear."

If you want to pursue some reading of or about the Kalevala, our library can be of some help. If you don't want to tackle the Finnish version, there is an alternative. The Kalevala has been translated into English by Edward Taylor Fletcher (1869), John Martin Crawford (1888), William Forsell Kirby (1907), Francis Peabody Magoun, Jr. (1963), Eino Friberg (1989), and Keith Bosley (1998). Aili Kolehmainen Johnson has done a prose translation (1950) which is very readable. Of these versions we have the Kirby translation and the Eino Friberg one, as well as the Kolehmainen prose translation. THE SAMPO by James Baldwin is a story in prose of Dame Louhi in the North and the experiences of the Kalevala heroes, especially their involvement with the Sampo. WANTON LOVERBOY, which is cantos 11-15, is the story of Lemminkäinen, translated by Keith Bosley. WAINAMÖINEN, ETERNAL SAGE by Martti Haavio is a commentary on the main character of the Kalevala. All of these are under Dewey number 398.2.

In the juvenile section we have LAND OF HEROES, A RETELLING OF THE KALEVALA. There we also have the delightful KOIRIEN KALEVALA (THE CANINE KALEVALA), written and illustrated by the famous Finnish children's author, Mauri Kunnas.

Akseli Gallen-Kallela's biography is profusely illustrated with his artwork, much of which pertains to the Kalevala. We have two copies of the book in the biography section.

A very interesting book about the Kalevala is EPIC OF THE NORTH by John I. Kolehmainen. He writes about the cultural impact of the Kalevala on the Finnish nation in music, drama, the fine arts, poetry and prose, and other fields. It is fascinating reading which will enhance the knowledge of anyone with the least little bit of interest in this beloved national epic. This is on the shelf in the Kalevala section.

Why not curl up with a book about the Kalevala during these cold wintery days?

Lillian Lehto, Librarian

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club hopes that the start of February brings as much joy to the gardens as the beginning of January. January 4th found both the Finnish American singers and the Garden Club joining their collective voices under the pergola singing Christmas carols in a dedication sing fest.

The Garden Club asked during the January board meeting that a place be made available to display the numerous awards that were won during 2008 by the Finlandia Gardens. These awards were displayed both prior to the board meeting and at the New Member dinner on January 4th. A display board depicting before and after photographs of the various topography surrounding the Finnish Center was also displayed and was shown during the last award ceremony which was the Rouge River Watershed Award Ceremony in December.

February finds garden club members trying to plant spring bulbs we couldn't get into the ground in the fall hoping they will still flower this spring. Many members are working on projects such as building birdhouses and decorating wine bottles. Since our bills from last year will exhaust our memorial funds and the craft supplies have exhausted our petty cash fund, we hope any proceeds obtained at the spring craft show will help us raise enough funds to purchase some annuals and wood chips to at least start our early spring renovations. The next meeting is Monday, February 9 at 10 am in the Wood shop. Please join us if you are able and willing to help us in these endeavors.

The negotiations we entered into late in 2008 with Senior Housing unfortunately reached an impasse which means that we will not be considered part of a non-profit organization. Cement to finish the sides of the pergola, polymeric fixative sand, and one etched brick are still required to finish the pergola. Maintenance items for the garden that are required are things such as wood chips, weed killer, top soil, and annuals for pots to name a few items. Since we anticipate that we will not be given a budget from the FCA for the garden again this year any monetary donations are appreciated. In addition, if anyone wishes to dedicate a garden to a loved one for \$75.00, the majority of those monies [after the cost of the plaque and stake is deducted] goes to pay for these maintenance-type materials that the gardens requires.

Call 734-546-5190 for more information about the FCA Garden Club or any of the above items or e-mail me at gaylegullen@hotmail.com.

Gayle Gullen, Garden Club Chairperson

GIFT SHOP

Come and see our new gift and food items: an assortment of Fazer candies, cards, books, runners, sweatshirts and much more. Unique Iittala Ornaments are only \$10.00 each. Finnish and Trenary toast, jams and Maltex are staples.

The Gift Shop also sells craft items, kanteles, song books and collector stamps.

The volunteers are here Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Stop in and keep us busy with your shopping.

Get your St. Urho cards, books and tee shirts. Gift certificates are always available.

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ROSTER CHANGES

NEW MEMBER

Nancy Leppala Evans
31815 Main St.
Livonia, Mi 48150
(734) 525-8150
Nkleppala@aol.com

ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Anderson, Gretta
Sunrise Assisted Living of West
Bloomfield
7005 Pontiac Trail - Room 225
W. Bloomfield, MI 48326
NOTE - All mail send to daughter
Susan Squires 3975 Fieldview Ave.
W. Bloomfield, Mi. 48324

Corombos, Esther E.
2625 Techny = #327
Northbrook, IL 60062

Hines, Larry & Hazel
7860 Thomas Road
Unionville, Mi. 48767

Kananen, Nelma
32001 Cherry Hill Road - Apt 1010
Westland, Mi 48186
Nelma22@aol.com

Kolehmainen, Jack & Betty Ann
17607 Osma Plat Road
Houghton, Mi 49931
Koleosmaplat@aol.com

McBurney, Mildred
c/o Medilodge of Port Huron
5635 Lakeshore Road
Ft. Gratiot, Mi 48059

Miller, Karen Leppanen
(248) 495-6089
Kelpie@aol.com

Rode, Lydia S.
7600 Golden Valley Road - #414
Golden Valley, MN. 55427-4559

Salonen, Viola
24140 Beach Grove Road
Antioch, IL 60002

Tervo, Waino & June
3775 Vicksburg Way
Howell, Mi 48843=9210

ADD E=MAILS

Aho, David
allndave@aol.com

Amundsen, Louis R.
l.amundsen@sbcglobal.net

Belmas, Dale & Kathy
dbelmas@charter.net

Book, Cortland & Denise
crbrph4@yahoo.com

Brown, Harold M. & Hilda
hbbrown@prodigg.net

Cusak, Sandra
sndycusack@yahoo.com

Dolkey, Bill
billdolkey@officeexpressnow.com

Halttunen, Andres & Annette
ahalttunen@yahoo.com

Harvala, A. Kenneth & Irene
ireneharve@yahoo.com

Hyde, Greydon & Christine
H.G.H.@att.net

Juntunen, Ethel
loiswright65@yahoo.com

Kemppainen, Barbara Johnson
bjkemp1014@aol.com

(cont'd on page 7)

Maynes Insurance

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DEADLINE: AD DEADLINE IS **JANUARY 5 FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE**
 EDITOR CONTACT INFO: LOIS MAKEE
 LAYOUT AND DESIGN: GLENN OR KAMELA
 E-MAIL: fcacenter@sbcglobal.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 1,500 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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Note: There is now a subscription fee of \$30/year to continue receiving the FCA newsletter by mail. See page 10 for more information on ordering 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/news. **The newsletter will not be emailed to you directly.** Use the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program available from www.adobe.com.

SOCIALLY SPEAKING

Preceding the New Member Welcome Potluck, a good group of Finnish American Singers and Garden Club members, plus some other FCA members, initiated the beautiful new pergola by singing Christmas carols underneath it for 1/2 hour. Nancy Jacobs provided the song words and beginning pitches. We had a fine time!

The possibility of freezing rain may have prevented some from attending the dinner and program, but those who were there enjoyed the good food and company. Only two new members from the 15 invitations sent were present. Quite a few FCA members spoke briefly of their many interesting years at the FCA. Fritz Putkela and the others had interesting stories to tell. Dave Sharpe told of the Garden Club's work to create the excellent gardens over the past 5 years. I told of the Finnish-American Singers many past fine FinnFests, concerts, and special events.

Special thanks to Char Lytikainen, Edith Raski, and Nancy Rajala for being so helpful in assisting with the day!

With my upcoming hip replacement, I cannot hold a February event. Looking ahead, we will try to celebrate St. Urho's Day along with the Friday night meal in March. Soittoniekat members, we always enjoy your coming to play, and hope that you will come. Look for these plans next month and plan to attend. We have fun.

Kiitos,

Ilene Maki Yanke, Social

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

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