



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

May 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 24 Friday Flea Market & Bake Sale 9am - 3pm
- 25 Saturday Flea Market & Bake Sale 9am - 3pm
- 25 Rental
- 26 Sunday Open House 1 - 4pm
- 26 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon - 2pm
- 26 Sunday Adult Finnish Language Class 2 - 3pm
- 29 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

MAY

- 01 Friday Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 02 Saturday Vappu Party 5pm - Midnight
- 03 Sunday Adult Finnish Language Class 2 - 3pm
- 09 Rental
- 10 Sunday Mother's Day Potluck 1 - 4pm
- 10 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon - 2pm
- 10 Sunday Adult Finnish Language Class 2 - 3pm
- 10 Sunday Rental
- 13 Rental
- 13 Wednesday Joint Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 15 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 16 Rental
- 17 Sunday Scholarship Reception 1pm
- 17 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon - 2pm
- 17 Sunday Adult Finnish Language Class 2pm
- 17 Sunday FASM Concert 4pm
- 20 Rental
- 23 Saturday Eurovision Viewing Party 3pm
- 27 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 27 Rental
- 30 Rental
- 31 Sunday Open House 1 - 4pm

JUNE

- 05 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 05 Friday Novi Band 7pm
- 06 Rental



**RESERVATIONS ARE
SUGGESTED FOR
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Mondays 7 pm
- Library
Open Monday 10 am-2 pm
- Nikkarin Talo
Mondays 9 am
- Finlandia Garden Club
Mondays 9 am

Monthly Events

- Finnish Conversation
1st Friday of the month 10 am
- Sunday Brunch
2nd Sunday of the month
12-1:30 pm
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month Noon
- Open House
Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Regards from Finland and the Finnish Lapland. We just completed our annual weeklong cross-country ski trip to Pallas, Lapland. Pallas National Park with its astoundingly beautiful surroundings must be one of the great natural wonders in all of Europe. What makes it even greater is that it has no snowmobiles, no ATVs and only a few people. It is a truly peaceful and quiet wilderness park.

We stayed the rest of the trip in Southern Finland – in Tampere, Turku and Helsinki. After being in Lapland for 7 days without TVs and newspapers, southern Finland with its on-going national elections for the new Parliament suddenly brought us back to the real world with world news, political debates and traffic jams.

Our 2015 FCA Directory has arrived! Members who live in the area can stop by to pick one up during office hours. Those who are out of the area can call the Finnish Center at (248) 478-6939 Monday through Friday from 10 am – 4 pm, email us at finnishcenter@gmail.com or simply write the center for mailing requests. A lot of people have already picked up a copy and we have mailed several copies to the members who have requested them. Please consider a donation of \$5-\$20 to help with the directory printing costs and mailing.

Activities are being planned for the remainder of the year and we will need volunteers to help with the forthcoming activities. Flea market was just done, Vappu party is just around the corner and Mother's Day potluck, Finnish films, Bazaar, Independence Day celebration, FASM concerts, Pikkujoulu, and Candlelight service will keep us busy.

Our Suomi koulu teacher is leaving and we are searching for a new teacher both for the adults as well as for the children. Alexandra has done a tremendous job getting the school started again and we need to keep the momentum going.

Finlandia Foundation awarded us a grant to support the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra concert featuring Sibelius on November 7, 2015. Mark your calendar for this great occasion.

Now that the warmer weather is upon us we hope to see you at the Finnish Center.

Mia Lamminen
Chairman



Mia skiing in Lapland

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Officers

Mia Lamminen, Chairman
Roger Wanttaja, Vice Chairman
Robert Waissi, Secretary
Marlene Ruuskanen, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Lois Makee, Robert Waissi,
Roger Wanttaja

2 Year

Lila Ball, Mia Lamminen,
Margaret Laurila

3 Year

Olli Lamminen, Henriikki Panstar,
Marlene Ruuskanen

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#2 Carol Tudball
#3 Katie Waissi

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Sarah Wiideman

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Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Katri Ervamaa

Finance

Melissa Hill-Biddix

Gift Shop

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Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Anu Panstar

Publicity & Publications

Fran Fadie

Social

Lila Ball

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Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
248 471-3802

Tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Jennifer Bridges, Manager
248 442-7250

www.fcaseniorhousing.org

Eurovision Song Contest

Saturday, May 23
3:00 pm

Join us to watch this years contest
live from Vienna, Austria

Please bring a snack to share
Admission free



GIFT SHOP NEWS

NOW AVAILABLE:

A variety of Finnish foods such as Avec French Mints, Marianne (regular & with toffee), marmalade jellies, lots of chocolates, regular and salt licorice, jelly beans and Fazer Rye Bread.

NEW BOOKS:

Beginning Finnish with 2 audio CD's
Finnish Touches (facts & recipes)
Cornets & Pickaxes (Finnish Brass on the Iron Range) by Paul Niemisto
Finn by Waino W. Korpela

Come in to check out discounted items.

As always, Finnish Center member receive 5% off total purchase of \$25 on regular priced items.

MAY IN THE GARDENS

It's May and the gardeners are hard at work keeping up with the typical garden duties and attempting to eliminate and consolidate two of the West Gardens. This is quite a task with the limited number of gardeners this year. In fact we have a need for painters if any members are so inclined. We need benches and pots painted which could be done while seated if you are unable to help us in the gardens and wish to enhance the beauty of the outdoors.

May is also the start of the outdoor vegetable gardening season and we will again have vegetable plots for rent. The larger plots are \$30 and the smaller 4x4 and raised enabled beds are \$25. Contracts are in the woodshop. Please see either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe. Checks are made out to the FCA.

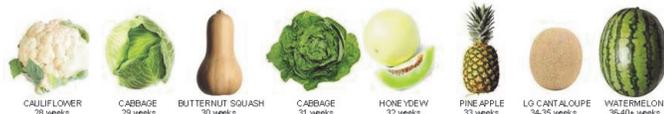
Discussions are also underway regarding revamping of the rose garden under the lounge windows to perhaps add white roses to represent the 'Order of the White Rose' to the existing red roses as well as Lily of the Valley here in a more prominent position.

Spring is a wonderful time to stop and inspect the gardens to see what's newly blooming. Several benches have been rehabbed and placed out in the gardens and are ready for you to just sit back and enjoy the view. Our plants enjoy having visitors and we don't mind answering questions if we happen to be out when you are visiting.

If you see cars near the woodshop on Monday morning, please drop by and join us in our projects, to chat, or have a cup of coffee.

If you have any questions or comments, or items to donate, please contact me at (734) 546-5190 or gaylegullen@hotmail.com

Gayle Gullen
Finlandia Garden Club President



MEMORIALS

In memory of **Faye Dantes Boomer** (3/13/15) if L'Anse and Herman donations have been made by her sister Ann Makila, Greg Makila, Gail Murphy, Bonnie Wernick and Greg Makila.

In memory of FCA life member **Ellen Tahtinen** (3/4/15) a donation has been made by Paul Rudy Tahtinen and Family.

In memory of FCA life member **Charlotte Hornick Opie** (3/4/15) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Evelyn Keskinen** (2/28/15) donations have been made by Francis & Eleanor Martin, James & Elaine Weiland, Lawrence & Sara Estrada, Eileen Alanen, Decky Lousaert, Arne & MaryAnn Hanninen, Robert & Tammy Weisinger, Carl & Phyllis Weisinger, Bruce & Helene Perttunen and Richard & Diane Nummi.

In memory of **Faye Mustonen** of Westland a donation has been made by Eva Miner.

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, Happiness Fund, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Center.

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

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

Please include full name, address, date of death of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed. **Also include all names of donors.** If the deceased is a non-member of the FCA please include city and state of residence.

FINNS AND GOALTENDING

It is playoff time again in the National Hockey League and over the years, I have been aware of what seems to be an inordinate number of Finnish-born goaltenders in the league. So I did a little research to see if my perception was indeed reality. Here is what I found:

On most hockey teams, roughly 60% of the players are forwards, 30% are defensemen, and 10% are goalies. But of active Finns on current NHL rosters, 54% are forwards, 20% are defense, and 25% tend the goal. Why are Finnish players more likely to play goalie?

As to the birthplaces of active NHL players, for forwards Finns rank 7th (Canada, US and Czech Republic are the top 3); for defense, Finns rank 8th (with Canada, US and Sweden taking the top spots); and for goalies, Finns are 3rd after Canada and the US. Again, why so many Finns at the position?

A possible explanation is that in Finland, many former great goalies stayed in the sport as coaches after their playing careers ended. NHL legendary forward Teemu Selanne speculates that "the biggest reason we have so many good goalies is the old goalies stayed in the game, and they give what they have to the younger guys."

On a more elemental level, goaltending is Finland's mirror, reflecting the strong, quiet and fiercely proud character of its people. Finland's positioning in the far north of Europe fosters a quietude that is helpful in molding men capable of succeeding in goal. Austrian Brend Brückler played in the Finnish Elite League, and he thinks that "The Finns are ice-cold as far as their emotions go. My first year in Espoo, I thought it was crazy because everyone kept to themselves. No one talked to anyone. The men, especially, are crazy quiet, focused, determined, strong-minded people. I think one part of the reason for why they are the way they are is for a good five, six months, there is no sun. In the summer, you can see how they thaw."

Whatever the reason, I plan to be watching this playoff season as Niklas Bäckström, Pekka Rinne, Karri Rämö, Joni Ortio, and Antti Raanta try to lead their teams to the Stanley Cup.

Submitted by Paul Rajala

GOING PLACES

Meadowbrook Theatre – Sunday, April 26, 2015, \$82. The performance will be Meshuggah Nuns. Lunch at Kings Court Castle. Depart at 10:15 am and return about 5:15 pm. See more information below.

Ethnic Dine Around - Tuesday, May 12, \$67. Appetizers will be at Moro's in Allen Park (Italian). The main course will be at De Luca's in Westland (Italian). Dessert at El Nibble Nook in Livonia (Mexican). Depart at 10:15 am and return about 3:15 pm. See more information below.

Jewels of Detroit - Tuesday, June 16, \$63. The trip includes a narrated tour of Historic Fort Wayne and Belle Isle, including a tour of the Aquarium. Lunch is at Macabee's in Midtown and later dessert at Ben & Jerry's. Depart at 9 am and return about 4:30 pm. See more information below.

Huron Lady II - Wednesday, July 22, \$72. The trip includes a narrated tour of the St. Clair River. Lunch will be at The River Front Restaurant right on the Riverfront. Later we stop at Sweet Tooth of Marine City, which features nostalgic candy of the early 1900's to the 1970's. Depart at 9:45 am and return about 6 pm. See more information below.

All of these trips are combined with the Nardineers on 11 Mile Rd. Have questions? You may call Betty at (248) 553-7618 or Pearl at (248) 541-0054.



Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

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4051 Wakefield Road
Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)



Vappu Party ~ Celebration of Spring!

Saturday, May 2
5pm to Midnight

Magic Show for Children
Family Karaoke
Balloons for Everyone!

Potluck Dinner
Main Course Provided
A-M: Bring an Appetizer or Salad
N-Z: Bring Dessert
Cash Bar

Admission \$25.00
Seniors and Students \$15.00
Children Free



Happy May Day ~ Iloista Vappua ~ Glada Vappen

The Initial Shoppe, Inc.

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Elaine J. Laitila
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FROM THE LIBRARY

One Finnish corporation which has become well-known internationally is Fazer (pronounced Faht-ser). Abroad it is best-known for its confectionary line, especially its chocolate products.

The company was founded in Helsinki by Karl Fazer in 1891. Karl Fazer's roots were in Switzerland from whence his father Eduard Fazer, a furrier, moved to Finland in 1844. Karl was born in Helsinki in 1866, the youngest of Eduard's sons. The elder Fazer didn't like the idea of his son becoming a confectioner, but Karl decided to pursue this career in spite of his father's objections. In 1884 he traveled to Russia to train under Russian master confectioners. Then he spent a few years receiving extra training in Berlin and Paris. In 1891 he returned to Helsinki and established a French-Russian style cafe, which was an immediate success.

In 1894 Fazer started making chocolates and chocolate bars in the cafe, but quickly outgrew that space and had to rent two buildings in another part of Helsinki. This was the beginning of industrial confectionary making in Finland. The company continually needed to expand; by 1918 the factory covered the entire block where the original two buildings stood.

By far the most well-known Fazer product is the chocolate bar in the blue wrapper, known as Fazer Blue. Even though Karl's signature is prominently displayed on the wrapper, it is actually his son Sven who created this chocolate. Sven knew an Englishman whose son-in-law was suffering from an eye disease. Sven introduced one of his relatives, an eye doctor, to the Englishman. The doctor cured the son-in-law's eye disease and wouldn't take any payment for it. As a sign of gratitude the Englishman gave Sven a special milk chocolate recipe he had received from a Swiss master confectioner.

That recipe was the foundation for Fazer Blue; it remains unchanged since 1922. Fazer Blue is made with the best ingredients: fresh Finnish milk and the finest cocoa beans. In fact, Fazer Blue is the only milk chocolate produced in the Nordic countries that is still made from real milk instead of milk powder.

In the 21st century Fazer Blue is one of the best-known brands in Finland. The hue of Fazer blue has a special significance. In Finland the color blue evokes feelings of peace, quiet and national pride. Finns are proud of their independence and nature, both of which are symbolized by the color blue (note the color of the Finnish flag, for instance.) The color blue was an important symbol for Karl Fazer. The color on the Fazer Blue wrapper is no ordinary blue. Fazer was the first company in Finland to patent a color; the trademark blue was patented in April 30, 2001. Only Fazer is allowed to sell products with that specific shade of blue. Current advertising for Fazer consists of a blue background with the words *Ajattele suklaata* ("Think of chocolate") - nothing else - but to a Finn the message is clear instantaneously. This is meant not so much to "advertise" as just to remind the viewer of the product. Fazer Blue has become a real Finnish icon.

Fazer does produce other confectionary besides chocolate and in Finland it has catering and bakery businesses, as well as restaurants (where you can get chocolate favored tea.) Today Fazer employs over ten thousand people in Finland, as well as Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Baltic countries, the United Kingdom and Russia.

You need not go far to sample Fazer sweets for yourself. Our gift shop sells Fazer chocolate (both milk and dark) as well as other Fazer confections. Stop in and familiarize yourself with some if you have not done so already.

Lillian
Lehto,
Librarian



THE POWER OF MUSIC

Alba Sanfeliu, the director of the Music, Arts, and Peace program at the School for a Culture of Peace in Barcelona, described the role of music as “an eloquent language that allows us to express what is happening around us in many senses, and to reflect the times and the situation in which we live.” It also elicits and communicates emotions, reminding us of a person, event, or feeling? It might be the lyrics that speak to us, conveying the author’s message, or it might be the melody or instrumentation.

Sanfeliu’s assertion is that music can be a means of intergenerational communication, rethinking our histories and futures while also acting as a means of intercultural communication and education, uniting people and breaking down barriers while creating bonds as music is played together creating a sense of belonging. The power of music in protest of war, environmental problems, human rights, and justice has been used to initiate and support voices for change and a better world, specifically and broadly.

An example of this power is celebrated when *Finlandia* is sung, as FASM does at the end of our concerts. During the commemoration of Jean Sibelius’ 150th birthday this year, the dramatic symphonic poem, written in 1899 during a time of severe Russian oppression as a cry for Finnish solidarity, will be echoed many times. Performances of the piece while Finland was still a Grand Duchy under Russia necessitated covert titles, such as *Impromptu*, *Happy Feelings at the Awakening of Finnish Spring*, and *A Scandinavian Choral March*. Words written in 1949 by V.A. Koskenniemi to accompany the stirring melody, echo Sibelius’ plea to his countrymen to stand strong and proud: “*Finland, arise, for to the world thou criest that thou hast thrown off thy slavery, beneath oppression's yoke thou never liest. Thy morning's come, O Finland of ours!*”

FASM is preparing for our spring concert and included are several stirring pieces that pull the listener to identify with the feelings they portray: faith (*Kyrie/Schubert*), disappointment (*Emma/Finnish*), love (*Embraceable You & The Man I Love/Gershwin*), optimism (*If I Ruled the World/Ornadel & Bricusse*), hope (*Inscription of Hope/Stroope*) and resolution (*Let There be Peace on Earth/Miller & Jackson*).

We hope you will join us at our concert May 17 and let this “eloquent language” speak to you! As always, we welcome visitors and new members to our practices, held Monday evenings from 7-9 pm at the FCA.

FASM Scribe and Vice-President, Katy Koskela

See links below for additional information.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pQMw8UQYZw&feature=youtu.be> Clicking “More” provides a translation of the German words shown, to Finnish, Swedish, and English.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lCnguTtsSQ> Polytech Male Choir and the Helsinki Philharmonic with scenes from Finland

“Finlandia by Jean Sibelius.” Arts & Culture: This is Finland. Finland Promotion Board. 2015. Web Mar, 2015. <http://finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=160075&contentlan=2&culture=en-US> Sanfeliu, Alba. “Music and Peace.” [From a conference, Historical and Emerging Approaches to Applied Ethnomusicology (Ljubljana, Slovenia 9-13 July 2008.) School for a Culture of Peace. Web. Mar, 2015. http://escolapau.uab.cat/img/programas/musica/music_and_peace.pdf

Wikipedia: Finlandia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finlandia>



FCA BAKERS

We were happy to have nine bakers on March 19. In the photo, are Dale Holdampf, grandson of Dee Aebersold, Tobie Line, Elaine Weiland, Lorraine Hannah, Millie Harju, Hannah Carlson, Ilene Yanke, and Dee. Barb Whitty helped in the morning but does not appear in the photo.

It's most helpful to have the men help with the heavy lifting of the mixing bowl and to wash trays. They also enjoy the baking. Watch for the upcoming May baking date. Join us if you can. No experience necessary.

Kiitos, Ilene Yanke



SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

A reception will be held on Sunday, May 17, at 1:00 pm to celebrate the awarding of this years FCA scholarships.

Five recipients will be honored and receive scholarships for the next school year. Members of their families will be attending. Any FCA members who are interested in the scholarship program or in this years recipients are welcome to attend.



WANTED

Assistant volunteer treasurer is needed one day a week from 10 am - 4 pm. It can be Monday, Wednesday or Friday, However Monday is the preferred day as there is work to complete from the weekend activities.

Contact the FCA office if you would like to volunteer.

FOR RENT

If you, or someone you know, has a need for a hall to rent for special events such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, baby or bridal showers, memorial services, and more, please consider the Finnish Center.

Contact the FCA office at (248) 478-6939.

SAVE THE DATE POKER AT VISION LANES JUNE 25 - 28



SUNSHINE LADY

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

This little-known function has been around for many years, and can only be accomplished when I am notified that someone needs a card. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you, Eunice Potti Gould



RAG RUGS - *Räsymatot*

We're weaving rag rugs at the center!

With a grant from the Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, Sandy Scheel, master rag rug weaver and daughter of the late Laina Lampi, is teaching the steps of making a rag rug, from warping the loom to weaving the rug. Her enthusiastic apprentices include FCA members Hilikka Ketola, Mia Lamminen, and Carl Aebersold. The sessions are held at the center once a month from April through August. Between sessions, the apprentices hone their skills by applying what they have learned on their respective looms.

These apprenticeships are competitive and awarded to the best applicants of traditional arts. The program was initiated at Michigan State University Museum in 1986 and over the years apprenticeships have been awarded to musicians, musical instrument makers, cooks, quilters, knitters, lace makers, beekeepers, cedar fan carvers, boat makers, basket weavers, and more. A significant number of these awards have been to Michigan Finnish American master artists. Late FCA members Ralph Mannisto, master accordionist, and Bea Raisanen, master rag rug weaver, were both awarded Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeships. The intent of the program is to support traditional arts and to honor traditional master artists in the state, who, like Sandy Scheel, teach others their skills, thus assuring that the tradition will be reinforced and sustained.

If you have questions about the apprenticeship program, or want to apply to the program, please contact Yvonne Lockwood (517) 522-4197; poppana123@gmail.com).

SIBELIUS WAS INSPIRED BY FINNISH NATURE

Jean Sibelius was born in Hämeenlinna in Grand Duchy of Finland in the Russian Empire. He was the son of Swedish-speaking doctor **Christian Gustaf Sibelius** and **Maria Charlotta Sibelius née Borg**. Although known by the typical Finnish and Swedish name "Janne" to his family, during his student years he began using the French form of his name, 'Jean'.

On June 10, 1892, Jean Sibelius married **Aino Järnefelt** (1871–1969). Their home, which was called Ainola, was completed at Lake Tuusula, Järvenpää, in 1903. They had six daughters: **Eva, Ruth, Kirsti, Katarina, Margareta** and **Heidi**. The Finnish Ministry of Education and the Sibelius Society of Finland opened Ainola as a museum in 1974. Sibelius also spent long periods abroad in Vienna, Berlin and Italy.

Sibelius loved nature. The Finnish landscape often served as a material for his music. On September 20, 1957, at the age of ninety-one, Sibelius died at his home from a brain haemorrhage and was buried in the garden.



ST. URHO'S DAY

There was a large group at the St. Urho's dinner and party. Mike Grant, our chef, said that 127 dinners were served! FinnFolk musicians came and made the evening very alive, playing music to lead the parade for the new St. Urho, Norb Leppanen, Jr. After his crowning, Norb went around greeting attendees. During his round of greeting he even speared a paper grasshopper on one of the tables.

Eight former dancers of the FCA came and were on the dance floor, so nice to see. Helena Hatten read "Ode to St. Urho" with a good Finnish dialect. The games and toast to St. Urho went well.

Many thanks to Frank Gottberg who brought Villi that he made. This was said to have made Urho strong. St. Urho's day celebration is about having fun, as accordion player Roger Hewlett stated. Thank you also to Carl Aebersold for his assistance.

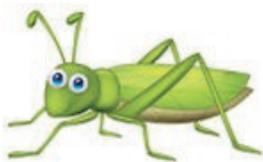


Ilene Yanke and Yvonne Lockwood



Above: St. Urho Crown with the signatures and years of previous kings.

Right: 2015 King Norb Leppanen, Jr.





Amy Moilanen Anderson, King Norb Leppanen, Jr. and Wendy Blachford



St. Urho guests enjoy the festivities



Amy Moilanen Anderson and Courtney Blachford enjoy some party foods.

**NOVI COMMUNITY
CONCERT BAND**

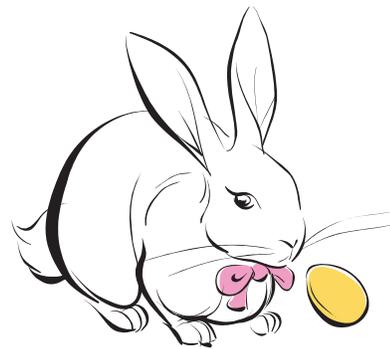
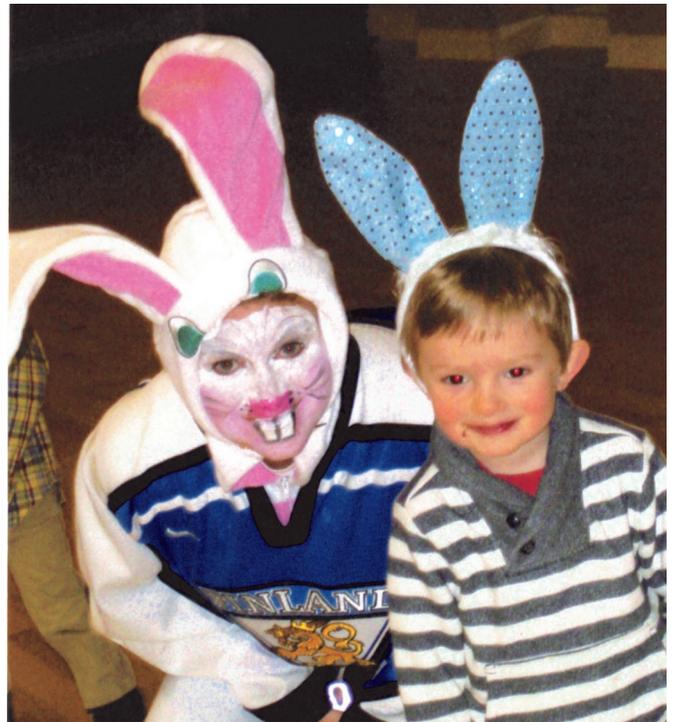
**FRIDAY, JUNE 5
7 pm**

**BUFFET DINNER 5-8 PM
\$10**

**CONCERT ONLY
\$5**



BUNNY BRUNCH FUN



FINLAND TODAY

First, the city of Hameenlinna is the first municipality in Finland to try out a new online public health care system. The new service opened up to the general public at the end of March. The service features a new way to make doctor's appointments. It also provides health care professionals and patient's ways to share and analyze health data. The site also helps patients to self-evaluate themselves, or possibly encourage the patient to make an appointment sooner, rather than later. Once an appointment is made, the doctor already has the information about symptoms and conditions that they will be dealing with once the patient walks through the door. The organizers of the health care system say that the online service is not only intended for the sick, but they hope that those in good health will also use the site to see if there is something that they could be doing better. The organizers say that the current version of the service is only the beginning; a broader range of services will be rolled out in the future. Because the public health care system contains sensitive medical information, the service is protected with the same security systems that online banks use.

This question has been asked and debated many times, and even voted upon, and the answer has always been "No". The question is: "Do you think Finland should seek to become a member of NATO?" Well the question was asked of the Finnish Army Reservists. Their answer, 53% said yes, 30% said no, and 17% declined to give an answer. The general public? According to the latest survey published by the Helsingin Sanomat in early March: 57% said no and 27% said yes, and the rest didn't want to answer.

The German family company, Meyer, is investing tens of millions of euro into the Turku Shipyard. Meanwhile the Turku shipyard is currently finishing the construction of a 300 foot cruiser, which is going by the name of "Mein Schiff 4". The shipyard is also building two sister ships which will be called "Mein Schiff 5" and Mein Schiff 6". The Meyer company is hoping that Turku's vast expertise in vessels running on liquefied natural gas will attract new ship orders.

Finnish conductors, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Pentti Vanska, and composer Magnus Lindberg have been nominated for this year's Grammy Awards. Salonen's recording of Witold Lutoslawski's First Symphony with the Los Angeles Philharmonic is competing for the Grammy in the "Best Orchestra Performance" category. Vanska is also competing in the same category with his recording of Sibelius' symphonies one and four, with the Minnesota Orchestra. Salonen has also been nominated for the "Best Contemporary Classical composition" Grammy for his violin concerto, which was recorded with the Finnish Radio Orchestra. Meanwhile, Magnus Lindberg is also competing for the same Grammy Award with his piano concerto. Also both, Lindberg and Salonen, have been nominated for the Grammy in the "Best Classical Instrumental Solo" category.

And finally, Heikki goes out-of town to a good friend's funeral. He decided to rent a car with a chauffeur, while he gets to sit in the back. On the way to the funeral, Heikki wants to ask the driver a question, so he taps him on the shoulder. The startled chauffeur almost drives the car off the road, weaving all over place.

Heikki apologized for startling the driver.

Driver: "That's o.k., it's just that I usually drive the hearse."

Markku ketola
marketola@yahoo.com



AFTER 53 YEARS, 'SOUMI KUTSUU' COMES TO AN END



Reporter Renee Prusi of the Mining Journal
Printed March 27, 2015
Negaunee, Michigan

Carl Pellonpaa was surrounded by family during the final taping of the show that has been part of the Upper Peninsula culture for more than half a century.

While he was missing his wife, Doris, who is in the hospital after surgery, Pellonpaa was thrilled to have his three children by his side during the session, along with, of course, some of his WLUC-TV6 family.

After 53 years on the air, "Suomi Kutsuu (Finland Calling)" will have its last broadcast Sunday. Pellonpaa, 84, said the final program will include a mix of longtime favorites and new segments, including scenes from the last "Finland Calling" dance.

"There were seven people from Ironwood who were the first ones there," Pellonpaa said before the taping. "There were 334 people there. Can you believe it?"

The program has a loyal, devoted fan base in the Finnish-American community but also in thousands who have come to know about Finland through Pellonpaa's program.

"Our mom would take us to Sunday school when the program was done live on Sundays," said Wendy Pellonpaa Holton of Mequon, Wisconsin, Carl's oldest daughter. "When it started, I was 8, Carl Jr. was 7 and Diane was 3. So we all grew up with it.

Carl Jr., who lives in Negaunee, said the Pellonpaa children were helpers at the "Finland Calling" dances in their youth, which took place on Saturday nights back in the early days.

"We would do all the leg work, set up the chairs, serve coffee," he said with a smile. "We'd be up until midnight then be off to church Sunday morning."

Carl and Doris have four grandchildren, all girls.

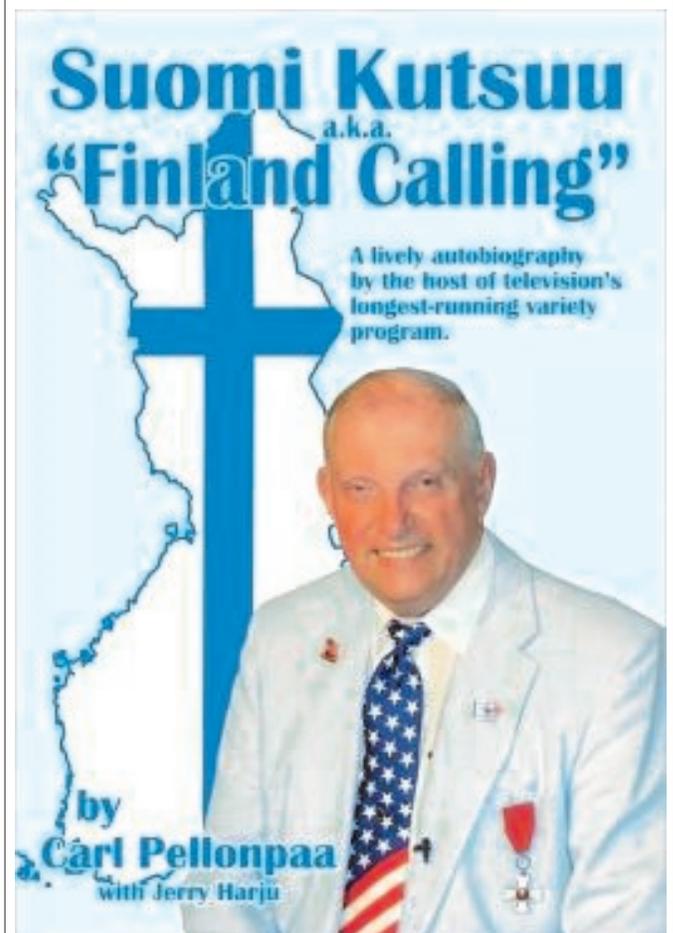
"Our parents are phenomenal, wonderful, giving parents and grandparents," Holton said.

The three Pellonpaa children are guests on the final episode, each delivering heartfelt messages to their father, with Carl Jr. also reading a poem his mother wrote about the show.

During the taping, Pellonpaa brought several of his TV6 colleagues on to the set to talk about the show and to offer his thanks for the years of support "Suomi Kutsuu" received.

Carl Pellonpaa, as it should be, had the last words of the final taping and they were, appropriately enough, his signature phrase, "Hei, Hei."

But before that, he said, "It's been a journey of love," a journey he has been shared with several generations of grateful viewers.



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