



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

August 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 01 Rental
- 06 Rental
- 12 Wednesday Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 21 Rental
- 23 Rental

September

- 07 Monday Closed
- 09 Rental
- 09 Wednesday Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 13 Sunday Brunch 12noon - 1:30 pm
- 16 Rental
- 19 Rental
- 20 Sunday Sibelius Festival 2 pm
- 23 Rental
- 25 Pasty Prep 10 am - 1 pm
- 25 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 26 Pasty Bake Begins at 6:30 am
- 27 Sunday Open House 1 – 4 pm
- 30 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

**RESERVATIONS ARE
SUGGESTED FOR
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
(Returns in September)
- 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
(Returns in September)
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

Greetings from Finland!

I am writing this chairman's report while vacationing in Finland. Currently we are in Tampere which is my hometown.

Finnish Summer 2015, at least for the month of June and first part of July, has been exceptionally cold, wet and chilly. Although, after driving from Helsinki to Pieksamaki, then to Turku and finally to Tampere, I have to admit that Finnish Summer is as beautiful as it is green and there are flowers everywhere in the cities with well kept parks all over.

Currently Finland is undergoing an economic slowdown, exports are down, unemployment is up, budget deficit is growing and everybody is arguing about the Greece bailout plan. Finland changed the government few months ago and everybody expected that there would be a change in the policy towards the Greek exit from the Euro zone. This last week a new loan agreement was reached without too much opposition from the new Finnish government. If Greece will fail, the total Finnish exposure will be around 3-5 billion Euros or about 10% of the annual budget.

While we were in Paimio, near Salo, Microsoft announced that they are closing the last of the large Nokia plants there making another 2,800 Finns unemployed. The City of Salo will be facing pretty much the same fate as Detroit experienced few years ago.

In spite of all the economic pressures, the life in Finland is comfortable. The standard of living is high and Finland pretty much have no homeless people. Finland also is clean, air is clean, the lakes and rivers are clean and cities and countryside are clean. It is also getting a bit cheaper for the Americans as the Euro is approaching our dollar. Few years ago it was 1.6 dollars to one Euro.

Finnish culture is flourishing as well, cultural happenings are taking place everywhere, theatre, music and art events are going on everywhere you go, especially in the countryside. You could spend the whole summer here and always find some event to go to. It is a vacationer's paradise. And nothing beats going to a summerhouse by the lake, have a sauna and swim and enjoy the light summer nights.

Mia Lamminen, Chairman



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www.fcaseniorhousing.org

SEE A MAJOR EXHIBIT ON THE VIKINGS VIA THIS SPECIAL TOUR



A major exhibit on the Vikings will be the destination of a modern-day group of Vikings who will travel by deluxe motor coach to Chicago on Saturday, August 29.

The trip will leave from the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills at 8 am and return late the same day. It will include round-trip bus transportation on a Bianco Travel & Tours Inc. full-size motor coach and admission to the special exhibit at Chicago's Field Museum. Lunch will be available for purchase at the museum. Cost of the trip, including snacks on the bus, will be \$79.

"We Call Them Vikings" is the name of the international touring exhibition at the iconic Field Museum. The subject is the world of the Vikings and our image of their world – an image that has changed thanks to the archaeological discoveries of recent years. The legend of Vikings as brutal warriors is widespread, but few people know about their society and culture. "We Call Them Vikings" shows that the tales of violence are only a small part of the Viking world.

The exhibition is one of two that were created by the Swedish History Museum in association with MuseumsPartner and studio-exhibit in Austria to tour museums in Europe and around the world. Chicago is the only scheduled stop in the U.S.

You can see this very special exhibit by participating in the August 29th field trip, organized by the Sons of Norway's Nordkap Lodge in Farmington Hills. Sign up now, while spaces are still available, by contacting Nordkap President Louise Giles at (248) 398-5976 or by e-mail at louiseagiles@gmail.com.

To see a video about the exhibit, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcw4nfg8Hbg>



MEMORIALS

In memory of **Bertha Rutiola (4/25/15)** a donation has been made by Karen Strobridge.

In memory of FCA life member **Evelyn Keskinen (2/28/15)** a donation has been made by Alfred Burke.

The FCA would also like to extend condolences to the friends and families of:

FCA life member **Shirley Huhto (12/20/14)** and FCA life member **Marie Saviniemi Scheel (2/21/15)**



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.

GIFT SHOP



Members can enjoy a 10% discount on in-stock items during the month of August. Please be sure to show your membership card to receive the discount.

Excludes layaway and special orders.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee will be making pasties the week of August 10. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Contact Lila Ball at (248) 682-6792 for information or to volunteer.

The Wednesday Monthly Luncheon will begin again on September 30. The luncheons are held the last Wednesday of each month at 12 noon.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, December 20, 2015 is the second annual Candlelight Service. Details to follow closer to the date.

Enjoy the rest of summer!
Lila and Terry Ball



SAVE THE DATE

FLEA MARKET
OCTOBER 9 & 10
10 AM TO 3 PM



GOING PLACES

Mystery Trip, Thursday, August 13, \$78. Lots of surprises and fun stops! And, of course, lunch is included. Depart at 8 am and return about 7:15 pm.

Stratford featuring "The Sound of Music", Wednesday, September 9, \$140. Performance at Festival Theater in Stratford, Ontario. A buffet lunch will be at the Queens' Inn. Depart at 7:15 am and return about 8:45 pm. **Don't forget proper ID to cross the border.**

Tri-County Adventure, Tuesday, September 22, \$68. The trip includes Pebble Brook Farms in Oakland County, White Horse Inn (includes lunch) in Lapeer County, and Flint Institute of Art in Genesee County. Final stop at Flint Farmers' Market. Depart at 9 am and return about 4:30 pm.



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. Trip flyers will be available at the FCA.

FCA BAKERS

In May, we had these great helpers baking for the FCA: Char Lytikainen, Betty Taipalus, Hannah Carlson, Millie Harju, Irene Lamanen, Lorraine Hannah, and Ilene Yanke. Special thanks to Lorraine who calls all of the workers each month and Ilene who purchases the baking supplies.

We thank all of you who purchase pulla/nisu. We'll plan to resume baking in September.

kiitos,
Ilene



SIBELIUS CONCERT

During this year of celebrating the life and music of Sibelius, we have several events planned. Mark your calendars for these performances. You won't want to miss them.

On Sunday, September 20, 2:00 pm, there will be a free all-Sibelius concert, including some of his lovely pieces composed for voice, piano, and cello.

The focus on Sibelius continues on Friday, October 2 with a free concert featuring Katri Ervamaa on the cello and Marja Kaisa on piano.

More details about both concerts will appear in the next newsletter.

Cultural Committee



Above:
Marja Kaiso,
Pianist

Left:
Katri Ervamaa,
Cellist



FROM THE LIBRARY



We have recently been weeding our vertical files as we have been replacing the old file folders with hanging ones. (For those of you not familiar with the vertical files: they are files holding materials such as pamphlets, clippings, programs and even photographs that librarians consider worth storing for future reference.) During such a task one runs across much interesting material. One item we ran across is an article Neal Shine wrote for the *Detroit Free Press* in the 1980's. In it he tells of interviewing one Gordon Hill who raced Paavo Nurmi in 1925.

At the time of the interview Hill was 84. He had graduated from Detroit City College (later Wayne University) in 1926. He claimed "We had only 1,500 students then, but we could beat the pants off any team Wayne University can put out today, even with their 40,000 students." It was not a prestigious college, Hill admitted. "It's the place you went when you couldn't afford to go anyplace else." But Hill insisted Detroit City College sports teams were always among the best in the region, despite the size of the college. But Paavo Nurmi didn't know that when he showed up in Detroit to race.

Paavo Nurmi, nicknamed the "Flying Finn", was a Finnish middle- and long-distance runner who dominated distance running in the early 20th century. He captured nine gold medals in three Olympic Games (1920, 1924, 1928) as well as three silvers. He came to race in Detroit at the State Fair Coliseum on a trip sponsored by the Amateur Athletic Union. No doubt Detroit was chosen because of its large Finnish population. Hill explains: "There were an awful lot of Finns living in Detroit then. Some of the mines up North had closed, and they had come down to work in the auto plants. It's the reason Nurmi came here in the first place, because of the Finnish population. There was really no other reason for him to compete here."

Hill, captain of the City College track team, was chosen to compete with Nurmi in a mile run, which troubled him because although he had been a miler, he was now running the half-mile. But his coach assured him that since much of his career had been spent running the mile, he could do it. "Just do your best", his coach said, "and no one will complain."

An enormous crowd filled the Coliseum to see this Olympian who had won four gold medals at the 1924 games and held six world records in different distance events.

When Nurmi saw the track at the Coliseum, he was furious. He would not, he said, race on cinders. He agreed to run after the local committee said his refusal would bankrupt them, but he insisted it must be a 1,000-yard race, not a mile.

Hill and his teammates ran several practice laps around the track, but this further infuriated Nurmi when he saw the churned-up cinders. He insisted the track be reconditioned before he would run on it. So the track was dampened and rolled flat. Nurmi immediately took the lead as they took off. Neal Shine quotes Hill who recalled: "Nurmi was weakening on the bad footing...but at the final 220 foot mark he still had a 60-foot lead, and I took off after him full tilt. I was pulling up to him fast and would have caught him if the race had gone another 10 yards. But he heard me coming up behind him and ... beat me to the finish. The greatest sound I ever heard in my life was the huge crowd screaming its lungs out when they thought the local boy was going to catch Nurmi."

Although he came within seconds of defeating Paavo Nurmi, Hill knew who was the better runner. After the race he told reporters: "If Nurmi had had a good solid track to run on, he could have carried a skunk in his arms the whole race, and we would never even have smelled it."

No one has forgotten the "Flying Finn" although he was born over 100 years ago (1897). His medals are on display at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki and a statue memorializes

Continued on page 7

Library (continued from page 6)

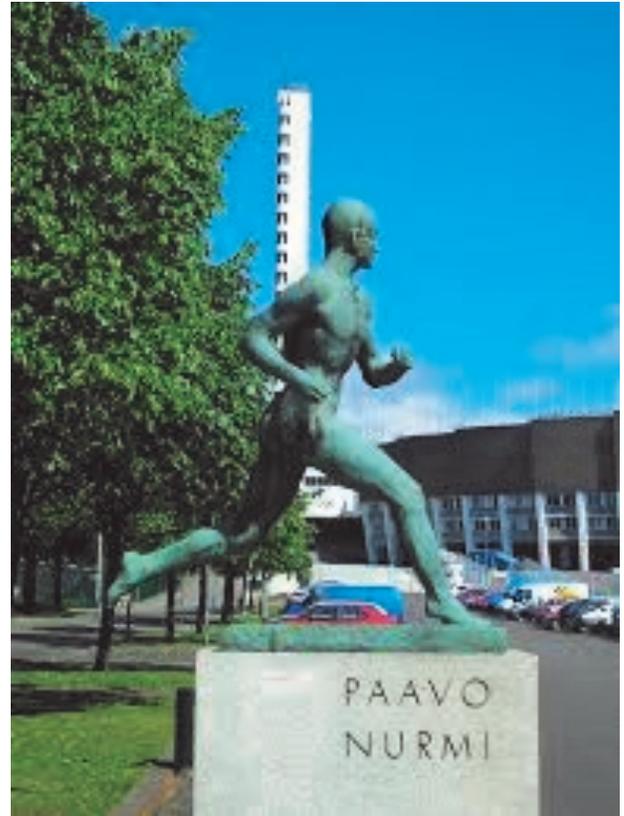
him in front of the stadium. But Gordon Hill seems to have disappeared. Neal shine writes that Hill retired from Detroit Receiving Hospital after working there for 40 years as an investigator. At the time of the interview he was living with his wife in Roanoke, VA. We have not found a trace of him in any Finnish Center records.

Going back to the vertical files: they are open for your browsing. The files are located in the northwest corner of the library in the filing cabinets. Nothing may be checked out but may be perused in the library. If you yourself run across something that you feel worth saving in our files, we will consider adding it to our files if you wish to donate it.

Lillian Lehto, FCA Librarian



Gordon Hill, in his days at Detroit City College, left, and today, above. Hill ran against Olympic gold medalist Paavo Nurmi at the State Fair Coliseum in 1925.



Paul Nurmi "Flying Finn" statue.

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AUGUST IN THE GARDENS

August and our typical drought time after the extremely wet spring which means we often use all the water in our barrels in the vegetable gardens. We've captured and moved one groundhog this year which has helped to increase the bounty in our gardens (along with an additional amount of fencing against the rabbit that managed to get in with the second smaller groundhog). It's another banner year for raspberries and we are picking and freezing them as quick as we can. All-you-can-eat raspberries are a bonus for those working in the gardens or renting a vegetable plot.

This year the garden club, thanks to Bob McAlpine, has also revived our holiday luncheons. We celebrated both Memorial Day and Independence Day and hope to do Labor Day in September.

We've also been taking a little time to walk the property and enjoy the beauty while we are working. Sometimes we forget to literally stop and smell the roses and look at all the different trees, shrubs, and flowers that are blooming during the different seasons. Each day there seems to be something different blooming, another bird singing, or a colorful butterfly on one of the many flowers. We have several different host plants that the butterflies lay their eggs on and we find many different caterpillars on our property. In addition, we always seem to have praying mantis and dragonflies in residence.

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



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 for more information to help you plan the perfect event.

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.

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



Neil J. Lehto

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Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

JUNHANNUS CELEBRATION

On Mon., June 8, David Sharpe, Bruce Mikko, Ilene Yanke and Wayne Walli worked to attach eight ribbons and three simple wreaths to the Maypole in preparation for Juhannus on June 12. All week we watched the rainy weather, but all cleared up for this outdoor party. Frank Gottberg got the bonfire permit and set up the kokko. Carl Aebersold and the Ketola family set up chairs and tables on lawn outside of the Lounge. Mike Grant's family grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and added the fixings with potato salad and chips. Hilikka Ketola provided a delicious lemonade punch while Ilene Yanke provided strawberry shortcake. Yvonne Lockwood of Cultural Committee set up the plans and brought a very good mixed lettuce salad. The Ketolas led some outdoor games popular in Finland.

We also appreciated Steve Niemi and Roger Hewlett's music all through the party, and even out at the kokko where we sang Finnish songs. We were happy to see Ruth Kaarlela and her niece to attend for the entire evening. We even had a special surprise, a young couple from Finland come as they read about the event on the internet. They are here ice skating in Canton where the Olympic skaters train, in hopes of being a part of the Olympic skating team!

Many thanks to all, especially any that I may have forgotten to mention! It was wonderful to see again so many members participating at the center.

Ilene Yanke





FINLAND TODAY



First, I hope everybody is having a great summer, I know I'm having one. As of this writing, I just came back home from a vacation in Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

Second, the 2015 Tango King is Aki Samuli. The final round of the competition had some "heavy weights" of Finnish singing such as Juha Hautaluoma, Kalle Jussila, Rami Rafael, and Markku Ketola. No, I wasn't singing, I can't sing, but it's a singer with the same name as me. Samuli is from Nastola. Earlier in the week, Susanna Heikki, won the title of Tango Queen for 2015.

President Niinisto's approval rating is at an all-time high. The Finnish President's approval rating is something that U.S. presidents only dream of, at 86%. The poll conducted by Finland's largest newspaper, the Helsingin Sanomat, showed that Niinisto got support from all sectors of the Finnish population. The only sizable dissatisfaction to Niinisto is from the Left Alliance, where 14% of the people give him a failing grade. Says Kimmo Gronlund, professor of political science at Abo Akademi University, "Niinisto hasn't irritated anyone but has thrived in the field of foreign and security policy. There are no signs of any tension between him and Minister for Foreign Affairs Timo Soini. Maybe his support for NATO membership explains his lower approval rating among left-wing voters."

Finns watch plenty of films and TV shows online. The report published by the European Commission shows that Netflix alone had an estimated 370,000 subscribers in Finland last year. The number of subscribers is forecast to increase to 856,000 by 2020. A survey conducted by the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (Ficora), found that 61% of Finns use domestic streaming services, such as YLE, Areena, Katsomo, and Ruutu. The services are particular popular among 18-24 year old Finns, with nearly 80% of the age group reporting that they use the services. YouTube and other similar services are used by nearly 80% of the 25-34 year old Finns, and by nearly 70% of the 18-24 year olds.

Mikko Rantanen, a forward from Nousiainen, Finland, was selected in the first round by Colorado Avalanche in the recent NHL Draft. Rantanen was the 10th overall pick.

And finally, after returning from the Apple store, Heikki's son Matti exclaims,
"Yeah, a new iPod",
Heikki's daughter Katriina yells, "a new iPhone",
Heikki's wife Hilma says, "a new iPad",
and the dad Heikki sighs, "iPaid".

Markku Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com



NORDIC FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP

GOAL: To have fun while preserving our Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish culture through folk dancing.

FOR: Everyone who would like to have fun learning basic steps and simple dances from the Nordic countries along with more complex dances for the experienced folk dancer.

AGES: 6 – 100

WHEN: Sunday, October 11, 2015

WHERE: Finnish Center Association
35200 West 8 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan



TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please e-mail Glendene Thornbloom at gathorn4@gmail.com or call Hilikka Ketola at (517) 548-4461.

Sponsored by the FCA Cultural Committee

ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS AUGUST 5TH
EDITOR CONTACT INFO:	PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN:	NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL:	nrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,000 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.

Rates for a camera-ready, black & white ad, per three month period:

3 month rate1" ad - \$30.00. 1.5" ad - \$45.00 2" ad - \$60.00

Pay for full year1" ad - \$100.00. 1.5" ad - \$150.00 2" ad - \$200.00

Photos: B&W photo ads incur a one-time charge of \$25.00 payable at first insertion.

READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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- Annual membership, single, one vote \$50.00
- Annual membership, senior* or youth*, one vote \$25.00
- *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age
- Annual membership, couple, two votes \$100.00
- Annual membership, family, one vote \$75.00
- Life membership, one vote \$500.00
- Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)

Amount enclosed _____
Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108
Recommended by: _____

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