



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

December 2016

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 02 Friday Novi Community Band 7 - 8 pm (see page 11)
- 02 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm (see page 9)
- 02 Rental
- 03 Saturday 50th Anniversary Jubilee & Finnish Independence Day 5:30 pm (see page 6 & 7)
- 04 Sunday FASM Concert 3 pm (see page 9)
- 10 Rentals
- 11 Sunday Candlelight Service 2 - 4 pm (see page 2)
- 11 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon - 2 pm
- 13 Tuesday Little Christmas Concert 7 pm (see page 11)
- 14 Rental
- 14 Wednesday Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 16 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm (see page 9)
- 17 Saturday Finnish Christmas Dinner & Pikkujoulu 5 pm (see page 11)
- 21 Rental
- 23 Friday CLOSED
- 30 Friday CLOSED
- 30 Rental



No Sunday Brunch Buffet, Monthly Luncheon or Open House in December

JANUARY

- 06 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 08 Sunday Brunch Buffet 11:30 - 1:30 pm
- 08 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12 noon - 2 pm
- 11 Rental
- 11 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 22 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12noon - 2pm
- 25 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 29 Sunday Open House 1 - 4pm



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
11:30-1 pm
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month
12 noon
- Open House
Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

A trip to Washington DC, for a Finlandia Foundation Chapter meeting, was well attended with thirty-two member associations from all over the United States in attendance. The purpose was to get acquainted with other chapters, share ideas, learn from each other in planning for the future and to strengthen together our organizations.

We learned many new ideas during the meeting, especially in the fund raising category. The Washington DC chapter Bazaar impressed us a lot. They have been holding an annual fundraiser, selling mostly baked goods, which has been very profitable and highly successful for over 60 years!

The Finnish Center has been buzzing with activity during the month of November and December will be no exception. The culmination of our 50th anniversary celebration in the beginning of December is a fitting tribute to our founding members who made our Center a possibility. A Finnish Christmas dinner is also planned for December 17. Mark these events in your calendars!

Our Scandinavian Bazaar was followed by the Swedish Christmas Fair in November. Plans are under way to have more interaction with the other Nordic countries in the form of joint activities. We look forward to hearing positive responses to our plans.

I wish all of you Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you at the Finnish Center in 2017!

Mia Lamminen
Chairman

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Officers

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

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Lila Ball, Mia Lamminen,
Margaret Laurila

2 Year

Olli Lamminen, Henrikki Pantsar,
Marlene Ruuskanen

3 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Robert Waissi,
Roger Wanttaja

Alternates

#1 Carol Tudball
#2 Lois Makee
#3 Wayne Walli

Financial Review

Fran Fadie, Eunice Gould,
Sarah Wiideman

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Katri Ervamaa

Finance

Olli Lamminen

Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Anu Pantsar

Publicity & Publications

Fran Fadie

Social

Lila Ball

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Paul C. Hendrickson, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802

Tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

www.fcaseniorhousing.org

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 11, 2 pm
Dinner 3 pm



The 3rd annual Candlelight Service is your opportunity to remember loved ones. Simply make a donation to the FCA and you will receive an angel to place on a tree in remembrance of a loved one or special friend.

Please come and enjoy cherished memories and fellowship. Fred Liimatta will be the guest speaker.

Contact the FCA to make your reservation.

Lila Ball





FROM THE LIBRARY



Next year Finland will celebrate 100 years of independence, after having existed as a Grand Duchy of Russia since 1809. It gained full independence from Russia during the latter stages of World War I. Worn out from three years of fighting, Russia was in a state of internal strife and mayhem, and in the wake of the October Revolution, the Finnish parliament saw an opportunity to proclaim the country independent on December 6, 1917.

There was no formal authority in place as yet in Finland to keep order and soon the country was in a state of civil war, one faction (the Reds) wanting a Communist style of government, against the Whites, who wanted no part of Communism. The first group received weapons from Soviet Russia and would have been victorious had it not been for a group of about 2,000 Finns who had gone secretly to Germany for military training several years earlier in anticipation of this kind of crisis.

In the beginning of the twentieth century Finland had experienced a wave of Russification, arousing powerful anti-Russian sentiments. This resulted in the founding meeting of the Finnish Independence Movement, held in secret on the evening of November 20, 1914, in the cashier's office of the Ostrobothnian student fraternity in Helsinki. Many small activist groups which had been meeting privately but separately realized they had a common cause and met as a group. It was unanimously decided that Finland must separate from Russia. This could only be achieved through force, which would require a national army, which Finland did not have. This eventually led to the birth of the Jaeger (*Jääkäri*) movement.

The leadership of the Independence Movement initially consisted of young nationalists who for the most part had already earned their academic degrees. Attempts to organize training in Finland, Sweden or Denmark proved fruitless and the only remaining option was to turn to Germany, Russia's enemy. Activists organized a clandestine nationwide recruitment; eventually approximately 2,000 volunteers crossed the border to Sweden, and from there to Germany. The recruitment was particularly successful in the province of Ostrobothnia, home to 40 percent of the volunteers. The volunteers came from all levels of society; approximately half of them came from the rural population and the working class.

Initially Germany's military leadership and foreign ministry approved the request for providing military training for 200 Finns. They were known as *Pfanzfindrs* (pathfinder scouts) and later as musketeers. In August 1915 Kaiser Wilhelm II signed an order to make the group a Jaeger Battalion of up to 2,000 men; recruiters worked secretly in Finland to get volunteers. Those who volunteered had to do so in secret and follow a dangerous route to Germany through Sweden. All professions and age groups between 15 and 49 were represented; the average age was less than 24. The majority of these men made good soldiers and there was plenty of officer material.

In late August 1915 the legal position of the volunteer unit changed; they officially became soldiers in the German army. However, they were not required to take an oath of loyalty. Instead they had to consent to support the German Reich to the best of their ability. Under Russian and Finnish law they were classified as traitors. The training was hard, comprehensive and efficient. The best men also received officer training. The Jäegers produced their own manual, *Suomalainen sotilaskäsikirja* (Finnish Military Handbook).

By the time the Jaegers returned to Finland, the War for Independence had become the civil war. In February 1918 they paraded in front of their new commander, General Carl Gustav Mannerheim, in the main square in Vaasa. The outcome of the war was decided at the Battle of Tampere, from which the Whites emerged victorious on April 6, 1918. The participation of the Jaegers in the war proved to be extremely decisive. A victory parade was held in Helsinki on May 16, 1918, with General C. G. Mannerheim riding at the head of the parade.

(continued on page 4)

Library (continued from page 3)

The Jaegers had pledged one year of service but many remained in the Finnish army. The War College was founded in 1924 under the leadership of the Jaegers. They served in the training of reserve officers, whose superior training was evident in the Winter and Continuation Wars. Jaegers were instrumental in developing the Defence Forces. At the start of 1939, 40 of 58 colonels as well as 14 generals were Jaegers. Many also served in the Navy and Air Force.

At the start of the Winter War, 1282 Jaegers were alive. 730 participated in the war, 494 on the front lines. Their average age by now was 50. Many of them participated in the Continuation and Lapland Wars as well.

The Jaeger Association (*Jääkäriliitto*) was established in Helsinki in 1921. It was disbanded in 1988 when only five Jaegers remained. The last Jaeger, General Väinö Valve, died at the age of 99 on March 11, 1995. He was given a state funeral with full military honors. He was buried alongside his Jaeger brothers at the Military Cemetery in Helsinki.

While the Jaegers were still abroad, words for a Jaeger March were written by Jaeger Heikki Nurmio and smuggled into Finland to Sibelius who composed the music. Sibelius composed the Jaeger March (*Jääkärimarssi*) at his home in Ainola in 1917. A single copy of the composition was smuggled out of Finland over the gulf of Bothnia where it was performed for the first time in the Jaeger Battalion headquarters in Germany.

JAEGER MARCH

Deep is our blow, our wrath invincible, we have no mercy, no homeland.
Our fortune is at the point of our swords, our hearts may never give in.
Our war cry rings out, enchanting, to a land that is breaking loose of its chains.
Our defiance may not tire until the people of Finland are free.

When bowed were the heads of the people, the land, we Jaegers still believed.
In our hearts was a dark night, a thousand pains, but one thought proud, holy:
We shall rise as the revenge of Kullervo.
It is sweet to face the fates of war.
A new tale of Finland is to be born, it grows, it rushes, it triumphs.

Häme, Karelia, shores and lands of Viena, one and great is Finland's reign.
Its cause cannot be driven by force from beneath the northern sky.
Its lion flag is carried aloft by the strong arms of the Jaegers,
over the thunder of gory fields towards the shore of rising Finland.

Article written by Lillian Lehto,
based on information from
THE LEGACY OF THE FINNISH JAEGERS:
THE FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE,
which we have in our library.

Flag of Finnish Jaeger Regiment
(Finland's War of Independence)



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Rosemary Hartung** (10/25/16) donations have been made by Maria Hill and Lois Makee.

In memory of **Charles Drury** (7/30/16) and **Margaret Drury** (10/10/16) donations have been made by Donald Manninen and Mr. & Mrs. Ron Shollack.

In memory of FCA member **Audrey Heikkila** (9/7/16) a donation has been made by Ruth Niemi.

In memory of FCA life member **Toini Kesti** (8/28/16) donations have been made by Ray & Pearl Wanttaja, Lois Makee, Charlotte Lytikainen, Fritz Putkela, Rudolph & Victoria Perttunen and Norbert & Luise Leppanen.

In memory of FCA life member **Elvi Saviniemi** (8/19/16) donations have been made by Ray & Pearl Wanttaja, Laura Hirvela, Lois Makee, John Malmstrom and Delores Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member **Rosemary Hella** (6/8/16) a donation has been made by Victor & Janet Koponen-Hsu.

In memory of FCA life member **Wilbert Rajala** (6/28/16) donations have been made by Bill & Karen Strobbridge, Dennis Usitalo, Laura Hirvela, Gordie & Marylou Usitalo, Rudolph & Victoria Perttunen, Kevin & Catherine Heltunen and Delores Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member **John (Al) Johnson** (6/29/16) a donation has been made by Laura Hirvela.

In memory of FCA life member **Rafael Saviniemi** (5/30/16) a donation has been made by Laura Hirvela.

In memory of FCA life member **Hildegard C. Wiljanen** (4/11/16) a donation has been made by Michael & Susan Wiljanen.

In memory of FCA life member **Elvira Kortesoja** (3/7/16) a donation has been made by Laura Hirvela.

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

FCA member **Leslie Heikkila** (11/3/16)

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, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, Happiness Fund, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers, if undesignated the funds will be directed 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.**

Also include all names of donors. If the deceased is a non-member of the FCA please include city and state of residence.

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, and 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.

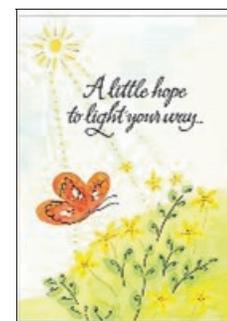


GET WELL, THINKING OF YOU

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

Please notify me if you think someone might need warm and thoughtful wishes from the friends at the FCA. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you,
Eunice Potti Gould



The background of the page features a large, stylized Finnish flag. The flag is white with a blue cross, and a red shield with a yellow lion is positioned at the center of the cross. The flag is set against a light blue background with a subtle pattern of water ripples.

50th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE &
FINNISH INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY
SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2016
At 5:30 pm

at the Finnish Cultural Center

Guest speaker:
Consul General of Finland Manu Virtamo

Tickets \$ 25.00 per person
Children (4-16) \$10.00

Dinner includes Finnish favorite foods
Cash Bar open

Program includes music by Ruusamari Teppo, Piano
and Katri Ervamaa, Cello

To make reservation, please call the FCA office
248-478-6939
by November 26, 2016

Bring your family and friends
TERVETULOA/WELCOME

50th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE & INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEAKER & PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Manu Virtamo assumed his duties as the new Consul General of Finland in New York on September 1. Mr. Virtamo and his wife, Liisa, moved to New York from another hectic city, Tokyo, where Mr. Virtamo served as the Ambassador of Finland to Japan for the past three years.

Mr. Virtamo has a long career with the Finnish Foreign Service. He has been posted in Stockholm, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Tokyo and now New York. In Helsinki he has served, among others, as Special Assistant to two different Trade Ministers and four Under Secretaries for Trade. For the last five years before his assignment to Tokyo he served as Coordinator for Export Promotion and Investments at the Ministry's Department for External Economic Relations. In that position he was part of the group that developed the Team Finland concept which basically means putting all Finnish agencies together for promoting Finnish business and country image abroad.



Manu Virtamo and his wife, Liisa



Ruusamari Teppo began her piano studies at the age of four in her native country, Finland. After completing her studies at the prestigious Sibelius High School, she studied piano in Paris for 3 years. Following that she was awarded a scholarship by the Finnish government to study piano at the Prague conservatory and the Franz Liszt academy of music in Budapest. She was awarded a two-year artistic certificate program from both places. After that Ruusamari moved to the United States to study with world renowned pianist and pedagogue Vladimir Viardo. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at the University of North Texas.

Recently Ruusamari has been touring with Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen in the United States and in Finland. This year there have been thirty concerts all around the US organized and sponsored by the Finlandia Foundation. The concerts are part of the Sibelius Jubilee 150 year anniversary concert series.

Finnish-born cellist Katri Ervamaa, DMA, is a versatile performer, who specializes in chamber music, new music and creative improvisation. She has performed and given master classes throughout North America, Europe and Taiwan. Her festival appearances include the Orlando, Kuhmo, Bowdoin, Lycka and Norrtajle Chamber Music Festivals (with the Finnish Owla String Quartet) as well as the Denison University Tutti New Music Festival, Poison City Music Festival, Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival and Finnfest, among others.

In addition to her lively performance career, Katri is on faculty at the University of Michigan's Residential College, where she is the head of the music program and teaches chamber music. She has also been on the cello faculty at the Eastern Michigan and Bowling Green State Universities. Katri is a mother of three and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan with her family. Katri plays on a 1868 HC Silvestre cello, and you can find them online at www.katrimusic.com.





KIITOS

Thank you to all involved who made the Scandinavian Bazaar a success. Special thanks to all our exhibitors: Finn Weavers, Nordkap Lodge/Sons of Norway, Ollie Koski, The Swedish Club, Swedish Club Women's Organization, Scandia House, Swedish Passport Co., Accents by Agatha, Finnish Family Bath Products, The Lavender Fleece, John Saarinen and Matti Philgren.

Thank you to Nordkap Lodge/Sons of Norway and Lila Ball with FCA volunteers who provided great food for the visitors. Thank you also goes to all the tireless volunteers who made it all happen. Without our volunteers we could not have done it.

Our volunteer bakers did a great job in filling our table for the bake sale. Thank you Nancy Rajala for coordinating the bake sale and Paul Rajala and his crew who provided pasties which sold out in no time. Thank you also to Mary O'Brien who had stocked up the gift store with great gift items, food and candy. And thank you to Ilene Yanke and the FCA bakers for the pulla/nisu and tarts. Finally a special thank to FinnFolk for providing music for the occasion.

The date for next year's Bazaar is November 11, 2017. Mark your Calendars!

KIITOS!

Mia Lamminen

HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Pearl & Ray Wanttaja
 Mia & Olli Lamminen
 Luise & Norbert Leppanen
 Marlene & Timo Ruuskanen
 Debra Rajala
 Dolores Rajala
 Paul N. Potti
 Eunice Potti Gould & Family
 Sunshine Lady
 Charlotte Lytikainen
 Dagmar & Gerald Malstrom

FRITZ PUTKELA TURNS 100 DECEMBER 24th



Cards can be sent to Fritz at:
 21400 Archwood Circle, Room 215
 Farmington Hills, MI 48336-4182



FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET MENUS

December 2

Meatloaf
Baked Cod
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Vegetable
Salad & Rolls
Mushroom Barley Soup



Members of FinnFolk will be playing during dinner!

December 16

Baked Ham
Baked Cod
Au Gratin Potatoes
Vegetable
Salad & Rolls
Tomato Soup

*The Finnish-American
Singers of Michigan
Present
This is Christmas!*



Featuring:

Finnish Carols and Traditional Favorites

Date: Sunday December 4, 2016

Time: 3:00pm

Price: Adults (over 12 yrs old) - \$10

Youth (5 - 12 yrs old) - \$5

Under 5 yrs old - free

(Price includes the luncheon afterward)

Place: Finnish Cultural Center

35200 West Eight Mile Road

(between Farmington and Newburgh Roads)



Nordkap Lodge Lunch Ladies

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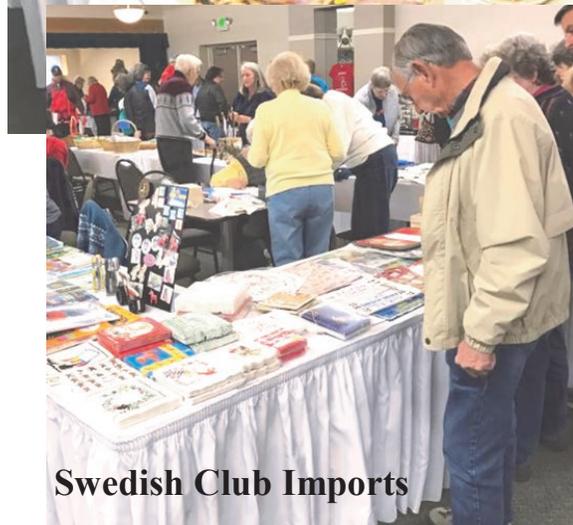
Nordkap Lodge



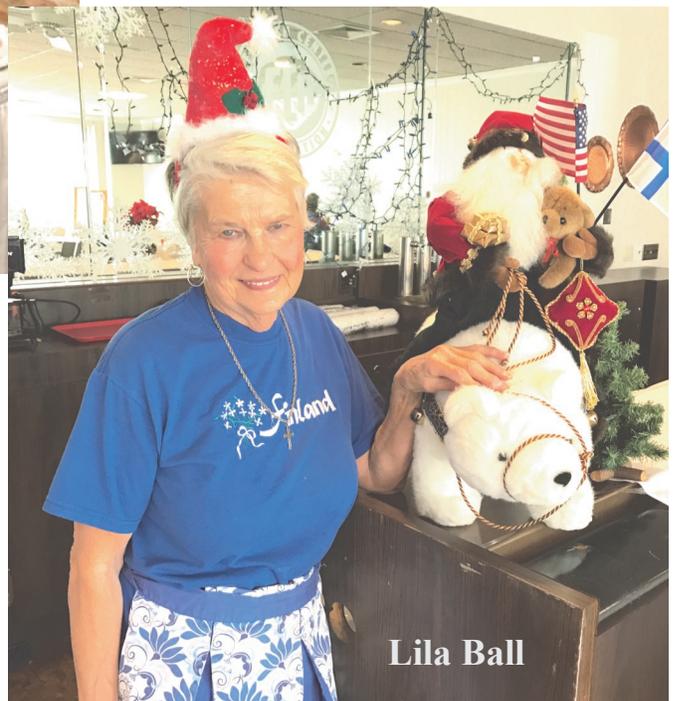
FCA Bake Sale



FinnFolk



Swedish Club Imports



Lila Ball

HOW IT BEGAN

Many years ago, a group of Finnish friends met socially at our homes, and our conversation always ended with the wish for a "home" where Finns could meet for functions. It was decided to see how the general Finnish population felt about this. Names were gathered from church directories, club memberships, and the telephone directories. The suburbs each had their own directories back then. THIS WAS A MONUMENTAL TASK!

It turned out to be a 24/7 job! This involved several people, including Dee Aebersold, who gave many hours. The rest fell upon my family, my mother and children. Six thousand envelopes were addressed by hand. Later the names were transferred to a machine where envelopes could be printed. Enclosed in each envelope was an invitation to attend a meeting at the Polish Century Club on February 27, 1966. When they were stamped, the envelopes had to be sorted by zip codes, as the postal service would not accept bulk mail unless sorted. My children, Cathy, Joanne, Paul, John and even little Marja were a major help performing this task. (I was still taking care of my young family while attempting this adventure.)

Attendance at our first meeting was astounding. People came from every direction, pledging and offering their help. The Finnish Center would become a reality! Monthly meetings at the Danish Club would follow, with Noah Potti, as its first chairman. Incidentally, the address of every Finnish name was pin-pointed by a push pin on a very large map located at our funeral home, where all of the activity took place. It was exciting to watch the clusters of pins accumulate in areas. This was used to choose possible locations for our building.

We had a dream, and because of volunteers like you, we have the FINNISH CENTER. Let us continue to keep our Finnish heritage strong!

Eunice Potti Gould



PIKKUJOULU

Finnish Christmas dinner Saturday, December 17, at 5 pm at the Finnish Center. Traditional Finnish 'joulupöytä' with Ham, potato, carrot and rutabaga casserole as well as Rosolli (mixed vegetables) etc. And, of course, Christmas tarts and pulla!

Joulupukki is coming for a visit as well! Parents, please bring a present to be put on Santa's sack.



"LITTLE CHRISTMAS" CONCERT

Tuesday, December 13
7:00 pm
Admission Free



NOVI COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND PERFORMS AT THE FCA

Friday, December 2
Buffet Dinner and Concert \$12
5 - 8 pm
Concert Only \$5
Concert 7 - 8 pm

I REMEMBER WHEN.....

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Finnish Center Association. I thank each and every person who has volunteered and is volunteering to keep our organization ongoing. You have shown SISU!

When I was young, my parents, Eunice and Noah Potti, were part of a movement to develop a cultural, general meeting site and a retirement complex for Finnish Americans in the Detroit area. They were aware of the need for a central gathering place to meet and share our Finnishness. The group was called the Finnish Center Association.

The group had meetings with important people regarding their goals. Thoughts of the men and women involved evoke fond memories. Meeting President Kekkonen was exciting to me as a child. Something he said has stayed with me all of these years. When talking about how we were all Finnish, he used an analogy of how we all put our pants on the same way. We are all Finns; whether we were born here or we were born in Finland. It doesn't matter if we have different political views or religious beliefs, the FCA was and is for all Finns.

My parents and the other founding members worked hard to make the FCA a reality. My brothers and sisters helped out with the mailings, which had to be out in a month and a half, (to children it was very hard work!). The adults had dinner parties, concerts with the Finlandia Male Chorus and the Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra, bake sales, and paper drives to name a few. What I have described is only a minuscule amount of all of the work that went into the founding of the Finnish Center Association.

Today, the volunteers are enabling the Center to continue the dream of long ago, of keeping our culture alive. The Finnish Center has a gift shop, where they sell Finnish designer and other Finnish goods. The library has Finnish and English books, all good reading. Finnish language classes, weaving classes, folk dancing, drama, woodworking and choir practice have been held here. The Center has many cultural programs going on throughout the year.

Tapiola Village is the senior retirement community envisioned by early founders. The older Finns could walk from their apartments to the Finnish Center. They could be close to one another for coffee and conversations. My mother lives in an apartment at Tapiola, and would you believe, it is the same one my father lived in many years earlier!

We need to encourage our children, the younger people, to become involved with the FCA. Children and grandchildren of our members should be asked what kind of activities that would be interesting to them. We need to come out of the box that we think in. We need to brainstorm and think like the children of this age think. Let us compromise with them and continue to build and keep the Finnish culture alive.

Thank you again for participating in our programs and volunteering! We've come a long way. Let us continue showing others our SISU!

Joanne Potti Ouellette

SISU (noun)

Extraordinary determination, courage and resoluteness in the face of extreme adversity. An action mindset which enables individuals to see beyond their present limitations and into what might be. Taking action against the odds and reaching beyond observed capacities. An integral element of Finnish culture, and also a universal capacity for which potential exists within all individuals.



THE MUSIC OF THE SEASON!

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan have been busy rehearsing for our December 4th concert. It will be a busy weekend at the Finnish Center with the big Independence Day celebration the day before. Our group has been asked to sing the two national anthems, both American and Finnish at that celebration, and look forward to providing a warm kick-off to the evening! However, we hope attending that celebration will not keep anyone away from hearing our concert the next afternoon, Sunday at 3 pm. Please join us for music and a generous “coffee table” afterward. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.

The theme of this year’s concert is “This is Christmas!” What do you think of when anticipating the holiday season? Our director, Henry Naasko truly believes *It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!* Consider the titles of music we are singing that tell us what we might *see* outside: *The Snow is High; Bright, Bright the Holly Berries; Away in a Manger.* How about the *sounds* of the season? Think *Silent Night, Do You Hear What I Hear, Bell Carol of the Kings, and Jolun Kellot Soi* (which mimics the sound of bells over the countryside). The version of Silent Night we are singing has a counter melody with the lyrics: “Lord make us worthy to receive thy blessing. Bring us peace and bring us joy. Make us one on this shining night.” This leads us to anticipate the *feelings* inside of our homes and hearts. We can’t forget that we so often hear, “Christmas is for children!” *Joulupuu on Rakennettu (The Christmas Tree)* tells of a decorated and lighted Christmas tree, complete with hanging bags of candy surrounded by singing, dancing children. But *Adoramus Te* reminds us that the season is really about the coming of Christ who although he is thought of as a tender baby now, came to suffer for us at the cross.

The singers of FASM would like to truly *Wish You a Merry Christmas*, a wonderful, joyous, music filled Christmas!

Submitted by Scribe, Katy Koskela



GIFT SHOP

The Bazaar was a huge success. Thank you all of you that helped, in any way. It was a lot of work, but each of you helped to lessen the load and create a friendly atmosphere. We want the rest of the year to be as successful.

We will be open for all events in December. So please come and do some Christmas Shopping with us. I want to stress again this is your gift shop and it benefits The Finnish Center. The December Special will be surprises. If you see holly in front of an item it is 10% off.



Be sure to check out our new birds. They are crystal birds and come in 2 shades of blue and red.



Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their patience and compliments after the remodeling. I really enjoy bringing new things to you and am happy to help you in any way I can.

Everyone in the gift shop wishes you a very Merry Christmas!

Hyvaa Joulua, Mary O’Brien



The FCA would like to reinstate blood pressure testing. Please let me know if this would be something you would be interested in.

Lila Ball



FINLAND TODAY

The World Economic Forum (WEF), has announced its annual Gender Gap Report. In the report, Finland was ranked second in the world, right behind Iceland. The WEF surveyed 144 countries in the areas of health, education, economy and politics, with Finland coming first in education, and health.

And finally, because of the elections, I have a couple of related items:

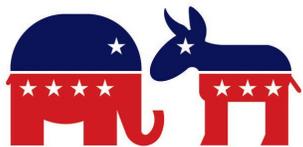
Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it may be better to change the locks. Doug Larson

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession in the world. But I have come to realize, it bears a close resemblance to the first. Ronald Reagan

I offer my opponents a bargain; if they will stop telling lies about me, I will stop telling the truth about them. Adlai Stevenson

Thanks Leena Floyd

Markku Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com



DECEMBER IN THE GARDENS

Several members of the Garden Club take November vacations but get back in time to start decorating for Christmas. This always takes several Mondays to restring broken lights and stake and haul all the figures out into place. This comes after the ceramic angels have been brought in along with most of the benches to keep them from winter damage.

Any extra time we have is spent cleaning out bird houses and performing final cleanup of the gardens including adding mulch to protect roots of sensitive plants over the winter. Fortunately we've had sufficient rain this fall so we haven't had to deep water the trees as this rain has helped them somewhat recover from the summer drought. The unusually warm fall, however, has caused many perennials and shrubs to re-bloom and even some spring bulbs to start sprouting. This is very unfortunate as growth late puts these plants at risk of freezing and dying when the cold temperatures hit and they may not recover next spring. Mother Nature can sure be fickle.

We will be meeting every Monday in December to set up holiday decorations and several Mondays in January to remove the holiday decorations.

If you have any questions, comments, or donations, you can contact me at (734) 546-5190 or gaylegullen@hotmail.com. Extra Christmas lights (LED's please) are always appreciated.

Gayle Gullen, Garden Club President

THE PASTY MAKING CREW

On November 4th and 5th we made pasties, a lot of them! Many were destined for sale at the Scandinavian Bazaar. The crew worked extremely hard and workers put in extra hours.

Thank you to John Saarinen, who led the Friday peelers: Dee and Fred Aebersold, Sandy Reidenbaugh, Betty Nick, Karen and Jon Call, Larry Gersky, David Sharpe, Fred Page, Gerald Lustila, Lynn and Victor Vecsernyes, Marilyn and Gene Kramer, and Rick McClenahan.

On Saturday, the volunteers were Donna Fletcher, Lila and Terry Ball, Aggie McManus, Gene Belttari, Barbara DeLorme, Carol Gambotto, Karen Gasinski, Nancy Jacobs, Vickie Kimler, Luise and Norbert Leppanen, Charlotte Lytikainen, Nancy McClenahan, Jan Mills, Sharon Pommerville, Nancy Rajala, Mark Rikkonen, Courtney Standifer, Jean Shea, Elaine Weider, and Ilene Yanke.

These workers gave generously of their time and talents. They had other things to do, but chose to support the mission of the Finnish Center. Thank you to all,.

Paul Rajala, Pasty Coordinator



FCA GARDENS RECEIVE BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

On October 28, the Finnish Center was awarded a beautification Certificate for Renovation and Environmental Concerns by the Beautification Commission of the City of Farmington Hills. Gayle Gullen, FCA garden club president and David Sharpe, FCA landscape coordinator, are pictured with Mayor, Ken Massey, at the beautification awards ceremony.

Left to right: David Sharpe, Mayor Ken Massey and Gayle Gullen.



FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2017

Election at the Annual meeting on February 19, 2017 at 3 pm.

The FCA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill three positions on the FCA Board of Trustees. Members running as candidates need to submit short biographies (250 words or less) by January 18, 2017 to the Finnish Center Association, attention Cynthia Haffey, Nominating Committee Chair. Biographies may also be submitted via email to haffey@butzel.com

If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Haffey at haffey@butzel.com or (313) 983-7434. Please consider serving the FCA as a leader in one of these positions.

ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 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, and unknown numbers online.

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 rate 1" ad - \$30.00. 1.5" ad - \$45.00 2" ad - \$60.00

Pay for full year 1" 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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- *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)

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Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,
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Visit us on “Finnish Center and Hall” Facebook page and “like” us to get the latest updates!



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