



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

June/July 2017

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 02 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 02 Friday Novi Community Band 7 pm
- 11 Sunday Finnish Film "Man Without a Past" 2 pm
- 14 Rental
- 14 Wednesday Strawberry Social 2 pm
- 14 Wednesday Joint FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 16 Friday Night Buffet 5 – 8 pm
- 17 Saturday Midsummer Celebration at Finn Camp
- 17 Rental
- 18 Rental
- 23 Friday FASM Performance in Kaleva, MI 7 pm
- 24 Rental
- 25 Rental
- 25 No Open House (due to Rental)
- 28 Rental



July

- 01 Rental
- 15 Rental
- 22 Rental
- 26 Wednesday Cookout 12 noon
- 30 No Open House (summer break)

August

- 12 Saturday Craft Show 10 am – 4 pm



**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Rehearsals resume 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
- 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

The Vappu Party (celebration of spring) was a wonderful welcome for the summer season. A lot of children and adults gathered with good food, fun and games, and was enjoyed by children and adults alike. (see photos on page 9)

The beautiful spring weather brought many people to the Mother's Day lunch at the Center. The garden is looking really beautiful and green thanks to the rains we have had. A lot of work goes into keeping the garden in great shape, consider volunteering.

We have been in communication with representatives of other Nordic countries in hopes of collaborating events together besides the Scandinavian Bazaar in November. So far the only thing that has materialized is that we have been invited to Finn Camp on June 17, 2017 for a midsummer celebration. They have the perfect surroundings for such an event with the lake, sauna and the grounds. There will be a lot of fun activities planned including, a horseshoe tournament, boot toss competition, cornhole, Mõlkky and other outdoor games to play as well as dancing, food and raffle prizes. The kitchen is open from 3 to 9 pm and kokko (bonfire) will be lit at 10 pm. Look for more information to come.

Finland 100 events are being worked on as well. The photo exhibition is being finalized and the date is being confirmed soon. Mark your calendars for our Independence Day gala as well that takes place December 2, 2017.

We all need to work together to ensure that FCA will be here for years to come. We are a volunteer organization and need to have everybody work together for the common good. Today the workload faced by our volunteers is somewhat of a concern. Many of us are doing full 40 hour workweeks or even more.

Charlotte Lytikainen is moving to an assisted living home and will no longer be able to assist us in managing the office on a regular basis as she has done for a long time. Charlotte is a wonderful person to be around and we wish her many happy years in her new home. She will continue visiting FCA for events and celebrations.

I wish you a very wonderful summer and hope to see you at the Finnish Center.

As always if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (734) 834-6085).

Mia Lamminen
Chairman



Charlotte & Mia

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Officers

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

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Olli Lamminen, Henrikki Pantsar,
Marlene Russkanen

2 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Roger Wanttaja,
Robert Waissi

3 Year

Mia Lamminen, James Lee,
Mary O'Brien

Alternates

#1 Carol Tudball
#2 Terry Ball
#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

Mary O'Brien

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Cynthia Haffey, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802

Tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

FINNISH FILM

Sunday, June 11, 2:00 pm

Man Without a Past (2002)

Mies vailla mennessiyttä

Director: Aki Kaurismäki

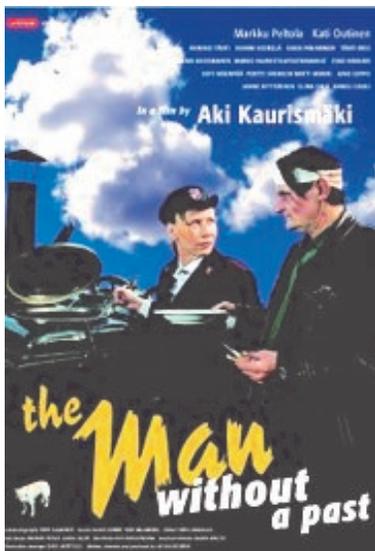
Finnish with English subtitles

Our next series of films will be those of director Aki Kaurismäki. Along with Klaus Härö, Aki Kaurismäki is another of the directors credited with broadening the styles and genres in Finnish cinema.

The film that first brought attention to Aki Kaurismäki in the U.S is *Leningrad Cowboy*. Rather than viewing this film, we will start with one from his Finland trilogy, *Man Without a Past* (2002), for which he was awarded the Grand Prix in Cannes and which has received the highest accolades possible from world famous film critics. It also is the most widely distributed Finnish film of the last decade.

The film follows a man who arrives in Helsinki and gets beaten up so severely he develops amnesia. Unable to remember his name or anything from his past life and unable to get a job or an apartment, he starts living on the outskirts of the city and slowly starts putting his life together.

This is a comedy-drama rated PG-13 (brutality, no sex, profanity limited). Aki Kaurismäki is an interesting man, admired by some but not by all. The films we view will be preceded by short introductions, to better understand the films and the director. Afterwards, there will be time for discussion.

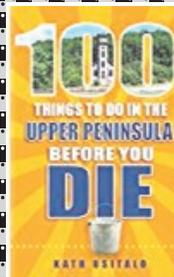


GET WELL, THINKING OF YOU

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



100 Things to Do In the Upper Peninsula Before You Die

A new book by FCA member Kath Usitalo, who now lives in the U.P. Get your copy at the FCA gift shop. Also available at Amazon.com Finnish Center Gift Shop.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Nancy and Paul Rajala

Nancy and Paul have been responsible for producing and editing the FCA Newsletter since 2011. This is not an easy task as there are so many people they have to contact and follow up with because of all the different articles.

They also contribute in other ways such as making pasties for the FASM singers and the Finnish Center, making and selling baked goods at the flea market and bazaar to name a few.

They are a vital part of helping the Finnish Center in these very big tasks!

Thank you to Nancy and Paul!





FROM THE LIBRARY



It has been said that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. Such is the case with the story of Rosa Lemberg, a woman from Africa whose final resting place is among Finns in Covington, Michigan, a small town in the Upper Peninsula. It's a long story which begins in either Finland or Africa, depending upon how you look at it.

The African country now known as Namibia was under British rule from 1814 until 1884, when it became a German protectorate. In the 1870's a new vice-governor, Baron Charles Wiljam Clay, arrived from England. There he met Feroza Sabina Hazara, a 17- or 18-year-old whose mother was Arabian and whose father was a Bantu native negro. He was soon madly in love with her. On August 31, 1875, Feroza gave birth to a girl whom they named Rosa Emilia. When the baby was two months old her father placed her in the care of an English family for three years. Then he took her to Ovambaland to a Finnish mission. The mother only saw her once after that, but Rosa did not recognize her.

The Finnish Missionary Society was established in 1859. In 1880 a young couple named Ida and August Weikkolin joined the Ovambaland Finnish Mission. The mission station had a store, a church, a school for boys and one for girls. Rosa now lived with the Weikkolins. Her father came to visit her occasionally. When she was eight years old her father gave permission for the Weikkolins to take her to Finland; he wanted her to be taught to become an African missionary teacher. He came to see her off when the ship left.

In Finland Rosa was paraded as a curiosity, required to perform at numerous church gatherings. She did have a beautiful singing voice and was very bright. Her foster father arranged for her to attend public elementary school and live with her foster father's parents. She received excellent grades in all but Finnish, which she found rather difficult. She also learned Swedish and found it easier than Finnish. During her stay there she was confirmed. Later she moved to Helsinki, where she was very unhappy. She suffered much racial discrimination; crowds followed her, calling her all kinds of ugly names.

Rosa completed her undergraduate schooling and entered a teacher-training school; in 1898 she earned her teacher's certificate. She accepted a position as a teacher near Kuopio; here she also experienced such discrimination that she hardly ever left the school premises. At the end of the year she considered returning to Africa but changed her mind and taught in Tampere for three years. There she met a Russian doctor who proposed to her and a wedding was planned. Shortly before the wedding he committed suicide brought on by self-experimentation as a guinea pig to test various therapeutic drugs. Rosa decided to leave for America, where she had heard people were accustomed to persons of many different skin colors.

When Rosa landed in New York she discovered the Finnish community there and became active in Finnish theater groups, where she met Lauri Lemberg; after four months of courtship they were married. Lauri had difficulty finding work in New York and took a job as drama director in the Palace Hall in Ironwood, Michigan. Rosa joined him later. They had a daughter Irja Litres in December 1908.

The marriage was not going well. Lauri's salary was not enough to make ends meet; Rosa worked at running a boarding house, acting to great ovations and sometimes living on charity. Lauri moved in and out of her life and in 1910, after their second child, Kalervo Rexford (always known as Orvo), was born, they decided to separate.

Talented Rosa often worked as a drama and/or music teacher in Seattle, Butte, Montana, and in Chicago and was a successful director and actor in numerous plays in Finn Halls. She made trips with theater groups to places including Detroit, Cleveland, and Superior, Wisconsin and found no objection to her dark skin. She sang solos, and sang in and directed choirs. When she fell on hard times she also worked as a

(continued on page 5)

LIBRARY (continued from page 4)

domestic to provide for her and her children’s needs. She had been involved in Socialist activities since her days in New York and her children, Irja and Orvo, two very talented people like their mother, continued to be active in the Finn hall entertainment world.

In 1956, when Rosa was in rather poor health, a longtime friend traveled with her from Chicago (some sources say her children accompanied them) to the Tarvainen Finnish Rest Home in Covington. In the early nineteen fifties such establishments were rather scarce, hence the choice of this out-of-the-way facility. Rosa was 81 years old at the time. There she was a novelty, a black woman who spoke excellent Finnish! Dr. Armas Holmio of Suomi College learned of her on his preaching trips to Watton and Covington and often visited her.

Rosa went to her eternal rest in 1959 at the age of 84 and was buried among Finns in the Covington cemetery. It is thought that she was the first dark-skinned person to acquire Finnish citizenship. It is not known whether she acquired American citizenship.

If you wish to read more about Rosa, you will find *The Rosa Lemberg Story* by Eva Erickson in our library in the biography section.

Lillian Lehto



GIFT SHOP NEWS

JUNE SALE

10% off jewelry, mugs and candy



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Fred Aebersold** (4/1/17) donations have been made by Viona Hakala, Sandra & David Scheel, Paul Lampi, Jackie Scheel Weinman, Mary-Ann & Ame Hanninen, Louis Hartung and Ellen Clisch.

In memory of FCA life member **Mildred Rousseau** (3/24/17) a donation has been made by Ellen Clisch.

In memory of FCA life member **George "Fritz" Putkela** (3/20/17) donations have been made by Louis Hartung, Jonene Eliasson & Roger Hewlett and Ellen Clisch.

In memory of **Wayne Jackola** (2/3/17) a donation has been made by Margaret Rowland.

In memory of FCA life member **Helen R. Niemi** (1/27/17) a donation has been made by Gale & Jim Halbert.

In memory of FCA member **Melvin Halttunen** (1/26/17) A donation has been made by Sandra & David Scheel.

The FCA would also like to extend condolences to the following:

FCA life member Walfred Haanpaa (4/5/17)
 FCA member Esther Santti Cobb (4/23/17)

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.**



NOVI COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

Friday, June 2

7:00 pm

Buffet Dinner & Concert 5-8 PM \$10C

Concert Only \$5



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Wednesday, June 14
 2 pm

Come and enjoy the fruits of nature.



FIRST ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, August 12

10 am - 4 pm

Vendors needed!

Please contact Mary O'Brien for more information.



COOKOUT

Wednesday
 July 26
 Noon

JUHANNUS

Three day celebration featuring live music, Finnish food, Tori market, music camp, plays, dances, traveling sauna, & events

June 23–25, 2017



ASKEL—HANKA FINNISH HOMESTEAD MUSEUM HANCOCK—FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
TOIVOLA—AGATE BEACH BRUCE CROSSING—SETTLERS' CO-OP

INFO: Call the Finnish American Heritage Center at 906.487.7549
or visit www.finlandia.edu/FAHC



FINNISH-AMERICAN SINGERS TO PERFORM AT KALEVA

A contingent from our chorus will travel to Kaleva, Michigan, to participate in their Juhannus celebration. We will perform at Bethany Lutheran Church on Friday, June 23, at 7:00 p.m.

The program consists of many songs from our spring concert, plus Säkkijäven polkka, Nyt on Juhannus, and Bye Bye Blues.

We will then enjoy a summer break before beginning Monday night rehearsals in mid-September.

If you would like to join our group, or get further information, contact one of the officers - president Katy Koskela, vice-president Helena Hatten, secretary Elaine Weider, treasurer Paul Rajala, or librarian Charlotte Lytikainen.

JUHANNUS 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, June 23

- Visit Hanka Homestead
- Music, re-enactments, and plenty of tasty treats
- Log building expert Frank Eld of Boise, Idaho
- Famed Finnish fiddler Arto Jävelä
- Finnish American brass band Ameriikan Poijat
- Pasi Cats
- Travelling Sauna

Saturday, June 24

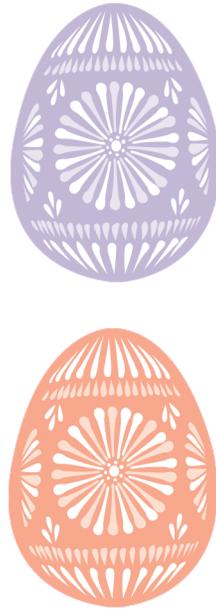
- Finnish American Heritage Center on the Finlandia Campus
- Ceremony featuring Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi
- Indoor Tori
- Outside Tori on Quincy Green
- Finnish-American brass band Ameriikan Poijat
- Kivajat Dancers
- Genealogist Greg Isola presentations
- Famed Finnish fiddler Arto Jävelä
- Finnish-American artist Tammy Santti-Kero
- Log building expert Frank Eld
- Juhannus kokko (bonfire)
- Music by Ameriikan Poijat and FinnFolk

Sunday, June 25

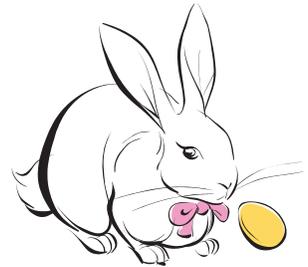
- Events continue at the Finnish-American Village of Bruce Crossing
- Travelling Sauna
- Documentary film about the Settlers' Co-op by Bruce Crossing native Kristin Ojaniemi
- Dancing wraps up the festival with tunes from FinnFolk.

For detailed information about Juhannus 2017, visit www.finlandia.edu/juhannus, or find the festival on Facebook.





**SUOMI
KOULU
EASTER
PARTY**





**VAPPU PARTY
PHOTOS**





FINNISH FRIDAYS AT CRANBROOK

May 5, May 19, June 9 and June 23

From 6 - 8:30 pm

Advance tickets \$12, \$15 at the Door

In celebration of Finland's centennial of independence, Cranbrook Art Museum, the Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research, and Saarinen House have teamed up to offer "Finnish Fridays" – four nights of special evening programming held on May 5, May 19, June 9 and June 23.

Check in at the Art Museum front desk, then gather on the Peristyle for Finnish games and an art-making activity. A cash bar will be available. Tour *Finland 100: The Cranbrook Connection*, which recognizes Finland's centennial of independence and examines the profound influence this country has had on the development of the arts in America.

Explore "Saarinen Home: Living and Working with Cranbrook's First Family of Design," the first major reinterpretation of Saarinen House since the house museum opened in 1994. Curators will be on hand at the Cranbrook Art Museum and in Saarinen House to tell the "behind-the-scenes" story of the Saarinens at Cranbrook. The Archives Reading Room (located in the Art Museum's lower level) will also be open, tables filled with Saarinen-related treasures and archivists ready to answer your pressing questions. Meanwhile, Saarinen home movies will be screened in Saarinen House, accompanied by Finnish music and popular tunes of the 1930s and 1940s performed live on the custom-designed 1930s piano. Enjoy Loja Saarinen's famous Pineapple Upside Down Cake in the Saarinen House courtyard!

All tickets will be held under your name at the Cranbrook Art Museum front desk. Your ticket grants you admission to any one of the Finnish Fridays. Tickets are transferable but are non-refundable.

Presented by The Center for Collections and Research and Cranbrook Art Museum.

SENIOR HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT

Contract negotiations for Phase II have been completed and field work has begun. While architect Carl Hueter's on-site research of the units, common areas, building exteriors and landscaping at Tapiola I & II will continue next week, the Senior Housing finance committee's research into lenders - commercial, federal and state - is ongoing. The variables for financing the renovation of Tapiola I & II are many and complex and a decision will be made in keeping with the original mission to maintain affordable housing for seniors.

It is hoped and expected, design work will continue through summer - this will culminate into documentation and invitations to contractors for bidding in August. If all goes well, construction will begin in August or September and the renovation should be complete in late summer of 2018.

All FCA members are welcome to attend board meetings and/or to request up to date information.

Sarah Wiideman
Renovation Committee Chair

JUNE IN THE GARDENS

June is busting out all over! That’s not just the lyrics of a song but a great way to describe the gardens in June. Everywhere you look something else is in bloom. Spirea, iris, daylilies, weigela, hydrangea and peony and just a few of the many plants in bloom in June.

The ground has finally warmed up so our vegetable plants are growing well. It’s not too late to put in a few tomato, pepper, or cucumber plants if you are so inclined and we may still have a vegetable plot for rent. The larger plots are \$25 and the smaller 4x4 beds are \$20. As always those who rent vegetable gardens get to enjoy raspberries in the summer and fall. Raspberries start ripening in June. Contracts are in the woodshop. Please see either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe. Checks are made out to the FCA.

The new 11 perennial shrubs are in along the walkway and the zinnias should be ready from Graye’s Greenhouse by early June.

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



ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 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

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5208

Prsrt STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Farmington, MI
Permit NO 250

Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR ____ RENEWAL

Date _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Applicant _____

Applicant/Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip code _____

Signature _____ Are you of Finnish descent? _____

- 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: _____

Visit us on “Finnish Center and Hall” Facebook page and “like” us to get the latest updates!



FCA Senior Living

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www.fcaseniorhousing.org



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Farmington, MI
(248) 474-4131



Paul N. Potti, Director