



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

May 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 01 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 03 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 04 Saturday Volunteer Lunch 2 pm
- 04 Rental
- 05 Sunday FASM concert 4 pm
- 08 Rental
- 12 Sunday Mother's Day Brunch 10:30 am - 1:30 pm
- 12 Sunday Finnish Film 2 pm
- 16 Rental
- 17 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 18 Rental
- 19 Sunday Scholarship Reception 2 pm
- 19 Sunday Lunch with Jim Kurtti 4 pm
Jim Kurtti of Finlandia University Presentation
on Finnish American Heritage Center
- 22 Rental
- 27 Monday Closed for Memorial Day
- 30 Rental
- 31 Rental

JUNE

- 01 Rental
- 02 Rental
- 05 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 07 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm
- 07 Friday Novi Community Band 7 pm
- 08 Rental
- 14 Friday Strawberry Social 1 pm
- 19 Wednesday Cookout 12 noon
- 21 Rental
- 22 Rental
- 30 Rental

SAVE THE DATES!

FinnFest USA in
Metro Detroit
Sept 20 - 22, 2019



Watch for upcoming details
on unique tours, semi-
inars, and workshops
that will also be scheduled

Weekly Events

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

Monthly Events

- Let's Talk
First Wednesday 11 am
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month
12 noon

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Greetings!

Your new chairman has arrived with enthusiasm and ideas. I am Mary O'Brien which doesn't sound very Finnish but I can assure you that I am a Finn and very proud of it. And my last name is actually Makinen, I think that is very Finnish. My parents were both Finnish as were my grandparents. My mother was born in Oulu. One of my uncles, Evert Makinen, was very active with the music at The Finnish Center. He was also a music director for a period of time. He was my inspiration to be part of the center. About 4 years ago I took over the management of the gift shop. This was a big job but I knew a bit about retail as my husband and I ran a store for about 29 years. The gift shop has consumed a big part of my life, just ask my son! But I must say I love it and the people I meet.

Secondly, there are things I would like to see here. I am a very peppy person with lots of energy and I see a lot of different ages here which I think is great. We need to embrace each age group and welcome new people. There are so many great people here and I have been welcomed so warmly. My goal is to bring in new members as well as welcoming and appreciating our long time members. Everyone is important at the Finnish Center. I value your input.

I would like to bring back some old programs like the drama club and start some new ones. Maybe we could help the scholarship fund so our youth can have a better start in life. And we need more volunteers.

Lastly, FinnFest 2019 is coming. What a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and teach non-Finns about our culture. Let them see that Finn's are kind, friendly people. We will need volunteers for this event. If you can help, please let me know. You can call me on my cell at (248) 895-3231 or email us at finnishcenter@gmail.com.

And remember, I like suggestions, so just give me a call.

Mary O'Brien
Chairman



Mary O'Brien

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Linda Poirier, Vice Chairman
Ilona Takakura, Treasurer
Linda Poirier, Secretary & Asst. Treasurer

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tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 12

The Mother's Day Brunch will be before the Finnish Film on Mother's Day. We hope people will come for one and stay for the other! The brunch will be 10:30 am - 1:30 pm and the film at 2 pm.

Menu:

Chicken Divan
Sliced Top Round
Asparagus
Green Bean Casserole
Ham/cheese quiche
Bacon
Redskin Potatoes
Sausage
Omelet Station
Pastries
Chocolate fountain with fruit
Coffee/ Tea
Non-alcoholic champagne



Reservations appreciated.
Call (248) 478-6939
or sign up in the office

Adults - \$18
6-12 years old - \$9
5 years old and under - free



SOCIAL NEWS

The social calendar is buzzing at The Finnish Center.

Wednesday, May 1 at 11:00 am is Let's Talk. It is a great time to hear about Finnish culture.

Saturday, May 4 is the volunteers luncheon at 2:00 pm. We are so grateful to have our volunteers and would like to show our appreciation.

Sunday, May 19 please come to the Scholarship reception at 2:00 pm. After the reception at 4:00 pm there will be a lunch with Jim Kurtti joining us from Finlandia University for a talk on the Finnish American Heritage Center. Please join us.

Wednesday, June 5 Let's Talk will take place at 11:00 am for another enjoyable event.

Friday, June 14 is our annual Strawberry Social with strawberry shortcake at 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, June 19 is our cookout at noon. Join us on the patio!

Remember to sign up for these events.
Volunteers needed for Finn Fest 2019
Call the office or call me. (248) 895-3231

Mary O'Brien

FINNISH FILM

Sunday, May 12 at 2:00 pm

Ikitie

The Eternal Road

Directed by Antti-Jussi Annila—2017

Free admission; donations appreciated

The film begins in the 1930s when a union activist returns to Finland from the U.S. in the midst of the Great Depression. One night a couple of Finnish nationalists abduct him, accusing him of being a communist and taking him to the Soviet border where they planned to shoot him but he escapes. The story is about his life in the Soviet Union and his fight to return to Finland and his family. The film is based on the novel by Antti Tuuri reflecting historic events and the life of one Finn.





FROM THE LIBRARY



Minna Canth was Finland's first notable woman author. She is so highly respected in Finland that streets are named after her, she is represented in many sculptures and statues, has been on a commemorative coin, was featured on a stamp and now has her own Finnish flag day (March 19) — Minna Canth Day, the Day of Equality. During her lifetime she published stories, articles and plays that depicted the oppressive conditions governing the lives of women and working class people.

Minna Canth was born Ulrikka Wilhelmina Johnson on March 19, 1844 in Tampere to Gustaf Wilhelm Johnson and his wife Loviisa. Her father was employed at James Finlayson's textile factory as a worker and later as a foreman. When Minna was 8-years old her father was given charge of Finlayson's textile shop in Kuopio and the entire family moved there.

Canth received an exceptionally fine education for a working-class female of her time. In Tampere she had attended a school which Finlayson's factory provided for the workers' children. In Kuopio she attended various girls' schools and because of her father's success as a shopkeeper, she was even admitted into a school intended for upper class children. Minna was considered an exceptionally bright student; her parents considered sending her to school in Turku but that became unnecessary when the Teacher Seminary opened in Jyväskylä (Now the University of Jyväskylä). It was the first school in Finland to offer higher education for girls. Minna became one of its first students when she enrolled there in 1863, intending to become a teacher. Her studies were cut short when in 1865 she married her natural sciences teacher, Johan Ferdinand Canth. Between 1866 and 1880 she gave birth to seven children.

Johan Canth served as editor of two newspapers and asked Minna to write for the papers as well. She wrote what she described as "thundering" articles against alcohol, forgetting that the editor of the paper also owned a distillery. In her autobiography she relates concerning the outcome: "The editor became very angry, saying I had 'burned his bread'. At the year's end my husband was no longer editor of the paper and I had to return to my sewing machine." Two years later a new, large newspaper was established; her husband became editor and Minna continued to contribute her writings.

The Finnish National Theater visited Jyväskylä in 1876, 1877, and 1878 and Minna Canth greatly enjoyed the theatrical performances. She thought she should have become an actress but knew it was too late for that. A playwright friend suggested that she try writing plays. Her first play *The Burglary* was well received and she saw it performed during its tour to Kuopio in 1882.

While Minna was writing *The Burglary* her husband died (1879). She was now a widow with seven children (one born after her husband died). She decided to continue her literary career while also managing the draper's shop in Kuopio which she had taken over from her father. She published plays, stories and short stories and was also a journalist who wrote for different newspapers, magazines and yearbooks, often under the pen name Wilja. She also translated many pieces of foreign literature into Finnish.

The director of the Finnish National Theater Dr. Kaarlo Bergbom and his wife Emilia encouraged Minna to continue to write about the ordinary people. *The Burglary* was followed by *The House of Roinila*, both humorous plays. Her later plays were more serious, concerned with women's rights and social issues, especially lives of the poor and unfortunate.

Her first serious play was *The Wife of a Worker* in which she portrays the dependent position of women, the irresponsibility of men, and the indifference of society to these facts. It was a sensation and produced much violent discussion both pro and con. In 1882 an act giving legal protection to the earnings of married women had been proposed in Parliament, but the proposal was killed; its failure greatly angered Minna Canth and oth-

(continued on page 5)

Library (continued from page 4)

er leaders in the feminist movement. The play shows the wife at her husband's mercy, even if he is an idler and a drunkard. After marrying, he drinks all of his wife's savings, reminding her that he has a right to do so as the law gives the husband the right to all of his wife's property.

The Family of a Clergyman was first performed in 1891 and was an immediate success. The story is about the family of a conservative clergyman whose children do not share his ideas and whose daughter runs away to become an actress. Things look bad but news arrives that the daughter has had great success on the stage and the family members fall weeping into each others' arms in joy and reconciliation.

Minna was always an outgoing personality. In Kuopio she became an intellectual and literary leader. Her home became a literary salon where intellectual thinkers of the 1880's gathered. Among them were writers and artists including Juhani Aho, Elizabeth Järnefelt, Arvid and Eero Järnefelt, Jean Sibelius, Akseli Gallen-Kallela, and the Halonen family of artists, among others.

Minna Canth's works have been translated into several languages including German, Japanese and Swedish. Only two of her plays have been translated into English, *The Burglary* and *The House of Roinila*, both translated by Richard Impola. We have both of these in one volume in our library.

Lillian Lehto



Above: Minna Canth at seventeen
Right: Minna Canth as an author

MAY IN THE GARDENS

May and the official start planting annuals in the gardens along with new perennials as the soil has finally dried out enough to work easily. The last 'official' frost date is typically Memorial Day, however, many of us push that date with our annuals and vegetables but you have to be cautious if the overnight temperatures drop below freezing. Make sure to slowly acclimate those plants to the outdoor temperatures before planting them in the ground.



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 beds are \$25. Contracts are in the woodshop. Please see either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe. Checks are made out to the FCA.

We are considering removing the greenhouse this year as the plastic has seen better days and we haven't had any Scouts show interest in redoing the structure. It should be reoriented for better airflow as well as have a good winter water source to make it more functional. If anyone knows any groups who might wish to take on this project please have them contact David Sharpe or Gayle Gullen.

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

COME FEEL THE MUSIC

Last month, this writer wrote about feelings evoked by music. Three more of FASM's May 5th concert songs express heartfelt emotion: toward other people, a location or event, and toward sometimes seemingly unattainable goals.

It would be a safe bet that most readers here can hum the tune to *I'd like to teach the world to sing*. Originally written as a Coca-Cola commercial, the melody was based on an original tune by two British songwriters, Cook and Greenaway. Advertising executive, Bill Backer, noticed stranded airline travelers the morning after a forced layover laughing and sharing Cokes, despite their rather temper-filled evening. He jotted on a napkin, "I'd like to buy the world a Coke" and shared the sentiment with the songwriters who parlayed it into the 1971 award-winning commercial featuring a multicultural group of young people singing, holding Coke bottles labeled in different languages, filmed on an Italian hilltop. The music accompanying the ad was so well liked that the song was rewritten without any brand name references, expanded to three verses, and recorded in both 1971 and 1972, first by a group of studio musicians (calling themselves The Hillside Singers to identify with the ad) and later by the same group (The New Seekers) that actually sang the advertising jingle. As evidence of its popularity, 96,000 copies of the latter recording sold in one day, becoming a gold record in the United States and selling over a million copies in the UK. People responded to the heartfelt lyrics desiring cooperation throughout the world. "[I'd like to see the world for once all standing hand in hand, and hear them echo through the hills for peace through-out the land.](#)" Per Wikipedia, the Coca-Cola Company in the same spirit of good will, waived royalties to the song and instead donated \$80,000 to UNICEF.

Pride in our state, both for its natural wonders as well as the contributions made by its residents for a cause, prompted the writing of *Michigan, My Michigan*. The lyrics were written by Winifred Lee Brent Lyster of Detroit in 1862, to the tune of *O Tannenbaum*. Her husband, Henry, was a Union doctor serving during the whole of the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, rising to be the Medical Inspector and Acting Medical Director of the Third Corps (Union). Writing the song after the Battle of Fredericksburg (1862), Lyster began the song by expressing affection for the state and its bounty. "Home of my heart, I sing of thee! Thy lake-bound shores I long to see, from Saginaw's tall whispering pines to Lake Superior's farthest mines....Michigan, my Michigan." Her next nine verses praised the war support Michigan citizens had provided, "Thou gav'st thy sons without a sigh" and the bravery and steadfastness of the Michigan soldiers, "They bore thy banner proud and high, ready to fight but never fly....The soldier, weary from the fight, sleeps sound, nor fears the rebels' might, for 'Michigan's on guard tonight!' " She memorialized various battles, locations, and people of the Civil War by name in these verses: Yorktown, Richmond, Williamsburg, Shiloh, Antietam, General Grant, Fredericksburg, and the Rappahannock River. That river, flowing across much of northeastern Virginia, formed a natural and formidable obstacle for North to South movement with few convenient fords and fewer bridges, functioning as an effective boundary between the Northern and the Southern troops. Not only was it the site of the Battle of Fredericksburg, but historical markers on both sides of the river commemorate the exodus of about 10,000 enslaved African Americans who gained freedom behind the Union lines after that battle, crossing the river North into freedom.

In 1886, new lyrics containing six verses were written by Maj. James Long (Grand Rapids), reflecting the aftermath of the war, "I've traveled all thy confines o'er, from lake to lake and shore to shore, I've seen thy maimed, thy halt, thy blind, I've seen the ones bereft of mind, Michigan, my Michigan" But he looks to a brighter, more prosperous future also. "The axe resounds 'mid woodland trees, the sails of commerce court thy breeze, and templed cities rise in sight, and happy eyes catch heaven's light Michigan, my Michigan."

Douglas Malloch wrote the current lyrics, four verses that extol the natural wonders of the state for a 1902 convention of the Michigan State Federation of Woman's Clubs in Muskegon, MI. A new tune was also com-

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Come Feel The Music (continued from page 6)

posed by W. Otto Miessner of Detroit, together expressing the devotion to a state and its people metamorphized during peacetime.

“A song to thee fair state of mine, but greater song than this is thine, the whisper of the forest tree, the thunder of the inland sea, unite in one grand symphony of Michigan, my Michigan.” “What melody each river makes, as to thy lakes the rivers tend, thine exiled children to thee send devotion that shall never end.”

Soulfully expressing a heartfelt desire for freedom and a safe home in a peaceful place, *Deep River*, an African-American spiritual was first mentioned in print in 1876, fourteen years after 10,000 people fled to freedom across a deep river in Virginia. The words “Deep River, my home is over Jordan” and “I want to cross over into Campground” would have meant something profound to that group, much as they did to others looking for a better place to call home. By 1917 this song had become popular in recitals and has been recorded the decades. “Oh, don’t you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land, where all is peace?” “I’d like to see the world for once all standing hand in hand, and hear them echo through the hills for peace through-out the land.”

Please join us Sunday, May 5th, 4 pm for our concert and feel the music!

Submitted by Scribe, K. Koskela



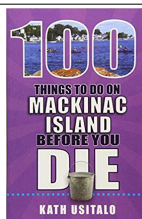
GIFT SHOP

Gift shop has had a good first part of the year. I am confident we will continue that way. We have many new things in the gift shop. Iittala dishes are in stock with beautiful colors for spring. Perfect to enhance your décor.

We are trying a new option for you. If you need a special gift and want it sent directly to your special person, we can order it direct from Iittala and have it shipped from their warehouse at a little extra charge. Delivery takes approximately one week.

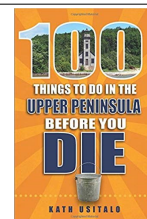
Please stop in sometime! We are open M-W-F 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and when the Friday Night Buffet is on we are open till 8:00 pm.

Mary O'Brien



**100 Things to Do
In Mackinac Island
Before you Die**

**100 Things to Do
In the Upper Peninsula
Before you Die**



Books 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
Learn more about the book at GreatLakesGazette.com



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA member **John Piipo** (3/23/19) donations have been made by Pearl Wanttaja and Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Leonard Holmbo** (1/20/19) a donation has been made by Velda Roffi.

In memory of FCA member **Nancy Sannar** (1/18/19) a donation has been made by Louise Hartung.

In memory of FCA life member **Rudolph Perttunen** (11/13/18) a donation has been made by Helen Perttunen.

In memory of FCA life member **Connie Fosness** (11/6/18) a donation has been made by Velda Roffi.

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

FCA life member **Gladys Saari** (3/23/19)
 FCA life member **Phyllis Kempainen** (3/13/19)
 FCA life member **Rita Marie Kugler** ((3/10/19)
 FCA life member **Margaret Gambotto** (2/13/19)
 FCA life member **Mary Ellen Hill** (1/2/19)
 FCA life member **Kenneth Kaiponen** (10/16/18)
 FCA life member **Walter Michelson** (1/1/16)
 FCA life member **Maria Reini** (7/12/12)

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Donations received by the 5th of each month will be published in the next month's newsletter.

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, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

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

Please include full name (with middle initial), address, dates of death and birth of the deceased; also the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

**NOVI COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT
AND DINNER**

Full details in the June issue



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*The Finnish-American
Singers of Michigan
Present*

*“Let the Music
Fill Your Soul”*

Featuring:

*Finnish Favorites and The music of
Irving Berlin, Mary Lightfoot,
Neil Diamond and others*

Date: Sunday May 5, 2019

Time: 4:00pm

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)

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335

248-478-6939

FINNFEST USA 2019 HOPES YOU'LL COME EARLY

The website for FinnFest is up and running, with information added weekly. As you plan your trip to the Detroit Metro-region in September, consider coming a day early to take advantage of the Thursday, September 19, options. Here is a brief description of each.

By Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen

GENEALOGY 1.5: IS MY FAMILY TREE HISTORY REALLY FINNISH?

What can I learn about my family tree if I look at it from the perspective of Finland? This year's Genealogy workshop brings four specialists from Finland to share new research into the history of ordinary Finnish families and migration. They will present social and economic history that will go a long way to explain the "how and the why" of your Finnish family tree. In addition, the new e-service finding aid, *Omat Juuret* (my own roots) will be introduced. The day will end with an opportunity to hear these researchers talk about current Finnish perspectives on Finnish DNA testing and their results. This seminar should be of interest to both beginning and advanced students of genealogy.

Presenters will include: Prof. Antti Häkkinen, University of Helsinki; Dr. Tuomas Martikainen, Migration Institute, Executive Director; Dr. Miika Tenhunen, Researcher, Migration Institute; TBD, Genealogical Society of Finland.

LABOR HISTORY 1.5: THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY AND THE FINNS

Detroit is known as the center of the US automobile industry. Less known is the fact that the Detroit metro region forms the second largest Finnish American population in the US, largely because of the automobile industry. People speak of the Finnish immigrants working in the mines and the woods, on the docks and in the quarries, in the steel wire and the textile factories. Little or nothing is said about the automobile industry and the Finntown that rivaled few others in size, complexity, and national influence. This seminar will begin to correct that neglect. The morning will introduce Detroit's labor history story and consider the Finnish experience within it. The afternoon will feature a bus tour of Detroit's factory locations and labor protest sites, a drive through Finntown, and two stops to study artworks created in response to labor narratives: the Diego Rivera labor history murals at the Detroit Institute of Art and "Transcending," Detroit's tribute to labor history.

Presenters will include: Prof. John Beck, Human Resources and labor relations, Michigan State University, Dave Elsila, Editor, retired, *Solidarity*, the UAW monthly, Kae Halonen, Seattle-born, raised in a Finnish American progressive family, Detroit-area teacher & automobile workers' wife. Others TBD



FINNISH AMERICAN ART HISTORY: What & Where?

Cranbrook and America's Monumental Art will be explored in the context of Finnish America. Detroit, the home of the renowned Cranbrook Art Museum, formed a link between Finland and the USA beginning in the mid-1920's. In preparation for FinnFest USA 2019's exclusive September 22nd Sunday afternoon at Cranbrook, this seminar will explore what it meant to have Eliel and Loja Saarinen, together with their children, become part of the Cranbrook Academy of Art. This seminar will also explore the topic of "monumental" art and the concept of how seemingly non-Finnish artwork can be considered as Finnish American. The afternoon tour into Detroit will provide opportunities to pursue this topic in the context of two significant expressions of art in Detroit: "Transcending" the monument to workers in downtown Detroit & the Diego Rivera murals at the Detroit Institute of Art. Max Stevenson, Director of Exhibitions and Programming, Norway House, Minneapolis, is chairing this seminar. Speakers TBD

FINNFEST USA 2019

TULKAA OPPIMAAN! **Finnish Language Camp for Adults**

If you're 18 years or older and want to learn, re-learn, or improve your Finnish, as well as have fun participating in Finnish cultural activities at Detroit's beautiful Finn Camp, join us for a day-long experience. Finn Camp, a local Finnish American institution on the shores of Loon Lake, has been hosting Finnish-related events since 1925. For FinnFest USA 2019, they are providing space, food and plenty of coffee for a day of immersion with the Finnish language. Our experienced instructor will de-mystify Finnish's uniqueness as well as help you improve your pronunciation, expand your vocabulary, and learn new conversational skills. A great way to broaden your knowledge of Finnish culture! *Tulkaa oppimaan!* (Come and learn!)

HYVÄ RUOKA HALU: **FINNISH FOODS & PRESENTATION CLASS**

Finnish food that looks as good as it tastes. *Hyvä ruoka halu.* Enjoy your meal. Learn Finnish food preparation techniques from renowned chef Soile Anderson. Known for her passion, creativeness and attention to detail, Soile founded Deco Catering (serving President Obama and the Dalai Lama), the Taste of Scandinavia Bakeries and the Finnish Bistro restaurant. Her career included creating a Scandinavian Mid-Summer party for the *Martha Stewart Living* magazine and talking about Smorgasbord with Alton Brown on the Food Network. In this class, Soile will teach how to make Finnish rye bread and *piirakka* (Karelian pies) and illustrate the art of food presentation as she makes open-faced sandwiches. Hands-on experience with the cooking techniques and tastings of the final products will make this a "not-to-be-missed" experience. Eleanor Ostman, former food editor for the St. Paul Pioneer Dispatch, and co-author, with Soile, of *Celebrations to Remember*, will interview and assist.

All attendees receive a copy of *Celebrations to Remember* (a \$20 value). The class will be taught on Thursday morning 9:00-11:30 am and repeated 2:00-3:30 pm. Each class is limited to 20 persons.



CRANBROOK WELCOMES FINNFEST USA 2019

Detroit, the home of the renowned Cranbrook Art Museum, formed a link between Finland and the USA beginning in the mid-1920's. This year, during FinnFest USA 2019, the Cranbrook Art Museum is opening their doors on Sunday, September 22nd for an exclusive FinnFest USA afternoon at Cranbrook.

The Center will cancel its regular public Sunday tours of Saarinen House and open the house exclusively to Finn Fest USA participants, using an "Open House" format. Rather than small guided tours at set times, this format will allow people to arrive at the house at any time from 1 to 5pm where they would be welcomed by Center staff who will offer impromptu tours and answer questions as visitors explore the house.

The Center also will have the Archives Reading Room (which is located within the Art Museum's Collections Wing) open and staffed with Finnish archival material on display. The Art Museum will open its galleries and offer Vault tours (again, within the Collections Wing) focusing on Finnish-American artists. They will show the Eero Saarinen PBS film in deSalle Auditorium, two or three times that afternoon.

This special opportunity will be open to FinnFest USA registrants only. A fee, a donation to the Art Museum and Center Collections & Archives, will be charged for this special opportunity.





FINLAND TODAY



First, Finland has an exceptional Animation, VFX & Games Industry. The animation industry in Finland is vibrant and active with many smaller production companies and independent filmmakers. A new digital animation technologies productions target, television, cinema, games and mobile phones. Half of the work force works in studios and the rest work in small animation companies or they freelance. Independent filmmaker and game production companies and animation companies are collaborating within and also with international co-productions.

The “Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture” has established “Finnanimation”, a non-profit association formed by Finnish animation producers in 2005. Finnanimation works to promote cultural animation productions, that are exported globally. In the last 10 years the animation producers, have played a key role in spreading the awareness of Finnish animation globally to places like and including “Mifa, Asia TV Forum (Singapore), Rio Content Market, Kidscreen and Sichuan TV Festival”. It is projected that the value of the Finnish gaming industry will produce revenue up to \$322 million by 2020. Mobile and hand-held games are the fastest growing segment of the markets, followed by Console games that the animation companies are targeting.

“Our Climate Our Future” was the slogan of the 10K marchers last Saturday. The Marchers were protesting the inaction of the current government and hoping the future new government that will be elected on April 14, 2019 will be more proactive. They walked from the Center of Helsinki to the Senate Square to the Parliament House. The protesters are asking for drastic political measures and structural reforms to ensure that the global mean temperature does not rise by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius and make sure that the consumers do not end up bearing the brunt of the burden of the cost of climate change. The demands are as following: halting sale of petro-fueled cars by 2027, defunding power plants that burn fossil fuels, encourage plant-oriented production of consumptions and tax on meat products. The March was organized by the Korvaamaton Campaign back by Greenpeace, Bird Life, WWF, Finland and Finnish Association for Nature Conservation. All the Finnish political leaders backed the ratification of the “Paris Agreement”. The protesters believe that the sooner the changes are made and new reforms are made to stop the Greenhouse effects on climate the cheaper it will be to curb the global warming.

Spring of 2019 has had record high temperatures reaching to 14.1 degrees Celsius (57.4 Fahrenheit) which as produces dry conditions causing grass fires, forest fires in Uusimaa, Parainen, Turku and Kaarina which are all in the Southwest of Finland. The high temperatures also have made the ice and snow melt quickly and in turn caused water level to rise and caused major flooding in the Ostrobothnia region in western Finland.

Finland’s “Lionesses”: beat Russia 4 to 0 on Saturday (4/7/19) at the first Women’s Ice Hockey World Championships. The 2019 Championships is taking place in Espoo, Finland, with the final games for be held on April 13, 2019.

Should we in Michigan have a ski holiday like in Finland? Perhaps this holiday would boost the wellbeing of all people? “Hiihtoloma” (ski vacation), this school holiday started back in 1920’s. So it is no wonder that Finns are doing well in snowboarding, ice hockey, cross country skiing and free-style skiing. One of the most popular dreams is for every Finnish parent to have a child that will become the next ice hockey superstar.

(continued on page 13)

Finland Today (continued from page 12)

And Finally: Heikki was going to the market to get Hilma a mother's day gift. Heikki knew that Vieno makes jewelry so he thought that would be a good place to find the perfect neckless. At the market Heikki points to the turquoise neckless and said: "How much is that, Vieno"? Vieno pulls the neckless out and tell him that it is \$100. "Oho, that is too much! says Heikki "What about the next one"? :says Heikki. Vieno looks at it and it is \$55. "Voi, voi that is too much"! "What about that one"? "Vieno tells him that it is \$20. Heikki: "I would like to *see something very cheap*"! "Wait one minuet"! Vieno goes to the back of the market and comes back with a mirror, and said: "Dear Heikki, do you see what I see" and hands him the mirror.



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