



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

August 2021

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

August brings summer to its final days. The warmth of summer is hard to give up but the seasons in Michigan are always beautiful and each brings a new experience. As we look forward to fall, we look to the beautiful colors of the flowers in the gardens that we are fortunate to have in our midst.

On September 18 from 10 am to 2 pm we will have an outside gift shop sale. There are new items to show off and for you to purchase. Please join us for the day for some new surprises.

As fall gives way to winter, our calendar is filling up with fun events for you to enjoy. The Scandinavian Market provides all the good food, fine music, and lovely treasures to make for a great experience. Then come all of our festivities that help us end the year.

Perhaps we can produce some new cultural events. Let start the fall right by stopping in the Finnish Center gift shop. After the Labor Day holiday we are planning on being open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am - 4 pm.

Please stop in and if you could volunteer some hours we would love to have your help.

Enjoy this lovely month of August.

GIFT SHOP

The gift shop has moved and is set up and waiting for you to see the new items. We are back in our old location next to the lounge. New Iittala items have arrived and are looking gorgeous. New candy items should be here soon. We are open Monday and Friday from noon to 4 pm for your convenience.

The pandemic has caused some suppliers to go out of business making it harder to procure items for your shopping needs. However, I will continue to get the best items that are available. We are happy to accommodate your online orders providing we have things in stock. We appreciate your patience.

Join us for an outdoor gift shop and bake sale on **Saturday, September 18** from 10 am to 2 pm.

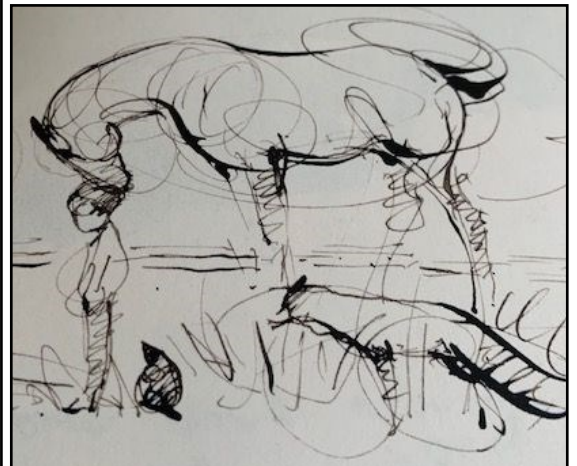
We are currently looking for volunteers to help in the gift shop. Contact the Finnish Center if you have some time to donate.

Mary O'Brien

QUOTE FROM

The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse
by Charles Mackesy

“Always remember that you're important, and you are loved and you bring to this world things that no one else can.”



FINLANDIA MALE CHORUS

The Finlandia Male Chorus was a vibrant and well-respected choir from 1923 - 1997 that was based out of the FCA. In 1970 a group of 36 singers, under the direction of **Eero Keränen** and with accompanist **Carol Jouppi**, toured Finland, performing concerts in various locations.

This is a listing of those singers that went on the tour, as found in a book from the estate of Carol Jouppi.

First Tenor

Jim Coffman
Lasse Forsman
Albert Lehikoinen
Ralph Männistö
Clarence Piekkola
Olaf Saarinen
Phillip Sevo
Carl Thiry

Second Tenor

Alfred Jouppi
Charles Karvonen
Wayne Langley
John Mäkinen
Howard Nippa
Fredrick Putkela
Herbert Saukko
Arthur Weishat

First Bass

Arthur Ecola
Esko Jokimäki
Frank Lasanen
Arne Lehto
Jack Marttila
Evert Mäkinen
Jake Räisänen
Edward Saarinen
Paul Schmid
Armas Suni

Second Bass

Lincoln Hirvela
Thomas Jouppi
John Karppinen
Arne Kesti
Norman Koponen
Urho Kuusisto
Ray Pelto
John Piippo
Jacob Saari

In the coming months FCA Chairperson Mary O'Brien, with the help of others, will highlight some of the history of the group. If you have memories, documents, or artifacts from the Finlandia Male Chorus, and want to share them for this effort, please contact the FCA.

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS



The Finnish American Singers of Michigan will begin rehearsals for the fall season on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00 pm. We welcome all singers in all voices to join us. Although some of the music has Finnish lyrics, speaking Finnish is not a requirement, because we will help you learn the pronunciation.

If you have any questions about the group or the rehearsals, you can contact chorus president Katy Koskela at katykoskela@hotmail.com.

35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI
48335-5108
Tel: (248) 478-6939
Fax: (248) 478-5671
finnishcenter@gmail.com
www.finnishcenter.org

Officers

Mary O'Brien, Chairman
Cynthia Haffey, Vice Chairman
Christina Lovgren, Treasurer
Linda Poirier, Secretary & Asst. Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Sherrill Tedford,
Austin Strobridge

2 Year

Kathryn Hill, Mary O'Brien,
James Lee

3 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,
Roger Wanttaja

Alternates

#1 Ed O'Brien
#2 Jerry Collins

Financial Review

Paul Rajala
Annikki Kurvi
Olli Lamminen

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Ilona Takakura

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Sherrill Tedford

Publicity & Publications

Ed O'Brien

Social

Mary O'Brien

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Olli Lamminen, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802
tapiola@ameritech.net

Lillian K. Lehto

January 24, 1926 - August 1, 2021

Lillian Katherine Lehto of Birmingham passed away at age 95 on August 1, 2021. She was born on June 24, 1926 in Trimountain, Michigan, the oldest child of Michael and Hilda (Kiviranta) Heikkila of Nisula. She grew up in Nisula and learned Finnish as her first language. She graduated from Baraga High School in 1943.

She continued her education at the Lutheran Bible Institute, Suomi College (now Finlandia University), and St Olaf College. Later she received Bachelor's and Master's degrees, the latter in Linguistics, from Oakland University. She also studied Library Science at the University of Michigan.

She met Paul N Lehto of Hancock while at Suomi and they were married in 1953. They raised six sons, Ken, Bruce (Barbara), Dave, Rick (Julie), Tim and Steve. Lillian taught in Winona, Alston, Baptist Park School (Taylor) and finally served as the Librarian of the Oakland Christian School (Auburn Hills) until her retirement. Her interests included church work, teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and women's Bible classes. She was an accomplished dressmaker, an avid reader and loved solving Sudoku puzzles.

She was a long-time member of the Finnish Center Association of Farmington Hills where she served for many years as its Librarian.

Lillian also loved to write. For several years she published a small magazine called the Fennophile ("by and for those who love Finland"). Her largest writing project was the publication of A Rascal's Craft, a collection of forty-seven folk poems composed by her grandfather Eelu Kiviranta that she translated from Finnish.

In 1976 she won a Mediterranean Bible Lands tour that then inspired the couple to travel widely not only in the USA and Canada but also in Mexico, Peru and several European countries that included Finland. Lillian also conducted seven Fennophile tour groups to Finland that she both planned and which she handled as the tour operator.

She is survived by her husband Paul, their six sons, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Also surviving are Lillian's sister Alice Kinnunen (Eldon) of Burnsville, Minnesota and numerous cousins in Finland, Sweden and the USA. She was predeceased by her parents, three brothers, and numerous cousins.

MEMORIALS

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, Soitoniekat/FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Finnish Center. The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335. You may also direct your donation toward the Elders' Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing.

Please include full name, address, dates of death and birth of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgment card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who is passed away, please contact the FCA.

[Editors note: The FCA staff has worked diligently to assure that the information for the following memorials is correct as provided by the persons donating. We ask that if you discover any errors or omissions please contact the Finnish Center so that corrections can be made. Thank you for understanding.]

(continued on page 4)

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Ralph Perttunen** (12/25/1995) donations have been made by Bruce Perttunen, Karen McCutcheon, Cindy Poma and Lori Rowe.

In memory of **Einer Salmonson** (8/3/1996) a donation has been made by Gerald & Hazel Munro.

In memory of charter member Mamie Liimatta (**8/12/97**), Ainard and Ronald Liimatta a donation has been made by Betty Schmehl.

In memory of FCA life member **Toivo Hill** (1/18/1998) a donation has been made by Mark Hill & Sue Dentinger.

In memory of **Alfred & Signe Wantin** (6/25/2000) a donation has been made by Rev. Elmer Liimatta.

In memory of FCA life member **Ralph Mannisto** (8/8/2006) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member **Anna Salmonson** (12/18/2009) a donation has been made by Gerald & Hazel Munro.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Mannisto** (8/5/2017) a donation has been made by Margaret Laurila.

In memory of FCA life member **K. Maria Hill** (6/26/2019) donations have been made by Margaret Laurila and Mark Hill & Sue Dentinger.

In memory of FCA life member **Joyce Patterson** (7/7/2019) a donation has been made by Robert Patterson.

In memory of **Roger Poirier** (9/24/2019) a donation has been made by Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Kirsti Niemi** (10/23/2019) a donation has been made by Jonene Eliasson.

In memory of FCA life member **Rita Moilanen** (11/14/2019) a donation has been made by Gerald & Hazel Munro.

In memory of FCA life member **Paul Adams** (1/4/2020) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member **Clarabeth Dixon** (1/9/2020) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA member **Irma Leppala** (1/27/2020) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member **Francis V. Martin** (2/2/2020) donations have been made by Robin & Larry Mosher, Dale & Sherry Feigley, Helen McCabe, Deb McCabe, Connie Terova, Brenda Banwell, Jim & Patricia McCabe, Rich & Diana Galbraith, Steve & Gail Estrada, Eleanor Proctor, Deloris Fredrickson, Terry Kirkpatrick, Tina Budziak, John Keskinen, Don & Liisa Danner, Ayce Ark Oertel, Robert & Julie Makima and James & Lori Lawrence.

In memory of FCA life member **Wendell Hamrick** (2/18/2020) A donation has been made by Janet Koponen-Hsu.

In memory of FCA life member **Jack Kentala** (3/1/2020) donations have been made by Delores Garner, Linda Bailey, Timothy Stedman, Beverly & Donald Seidel, Elaine Kentala and Joyce Johnson.

In memory of FCA life member **Sylvia Kannisto** (4/6/2020) donations have been made by Renee Romps and Lois Makee.

In memory of **Elsie Saari** (4/12/2020) a donation has been made by Arne & Mary Ann Hanninen.

In memory of FCA life member **Ralph Mattila** (7/13/2020) donations have been made by Linda & Leon Ravvin, Vernon & Susan LeBlanc, Neil Manley, Kathryn Hill, Lois Makee, Karen & Bill Stobridge, Sharon Sharp, Barbara Christoff, Carol Lile, John Lassi, Sharon & Kenneth Panula and Daniel & Lisa Whitehead.

In memory of FCA life member **Hannah Carlson** (9/6/2020) donations have been made by David & Emily Whitten and Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA life member **Dr. Thomas Przybylski** (9/20/2020) a donation has been made by Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Helen Perttunen** (11/29/2020) donations have been made by Eleanor Martin, Bruce Perttunen, Karen McCutcheon, Cindy Poma, Lori Rowe and Fern Malila.

In memory of FCA life member **Arne Hanninen** (12/20/2020) donations have been made by Anita Gavin, Carol Bonczkiewicz, Joyce Frankowski, Eleanor Martin, David Schultz, Lucia Bednarek, Liisa & Don Hanninen-Danner, Arvo & Sharon Parkila, Donna Howell, Ron & Barb Piuowar, and Gary & Gail Burke.

(continued on page 5)

Memorials (continued from page 4)

In memory of FCA life member **Larry Mosher** (2/18/2021) a donation has been made by Robin Alanen-Mosher.

In memory of FCA life member **Robb Imonen** (3/3/2021) a donation has been made by Elodie Imonen.

In memory of FCA life member **Charlotte Lytikainen** (3/16/2021) donations have been made by Barbara DeLorme, Paul & Janet Kruska, Jon & Karen Call, Joane & Kevin McNabb, Timothy Strauss, Charles & Marilyn Kramer, Luise & Norbert Leppanen, Jonene Eliasson, Rachel & Travis Hatt, Mary Stapleton, Glenn & Carol Rexer, Nancy O'Rourke & David Brevier, David & Jeanette Sharpe, Neil Manley, Kathryn Hill, Lynn Lypen and Margaret Laurila.

In memory of FCA life member **Carol Suokas** (4/21/2021) donations have been made by Mark Suokas and Melvin Suokas.

In memory of FCA life member **Pearl Wanttaja** (5/19/2021) donations have been made by Margaret Laurila, Luise & Norbert Leppanen, Neil Manley, Mary Lee, Charles & Elaine Lada, Kathryn Hill, Mary O'Brien, Ed O'Brien, Sven & Margareta Anden' and Lois Makee.

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

FCA life member **Connie Crissman** (2/23/2020)
FCA life member **Helen (Betty) Holmbo**
3/22/2020)

FCA life member **Carol Jouppi** (4/7/2021)
FCA life member **Lucille A. Niemi** (7/4/2020)
FCA life member **Edward Saarinen**
(11/20/2020)

FCA life member **Elaine Weiland** (12/7/2020)
FCA life member **Allan Marvin Pennanen**
(1/2/2021)

FCA life member **Eva May Lassila** (1/17/2021)

FCA life member **Irene A. Nassko** (1/27/2021)

FCA life member **Greydon Hyde** (5/6/2021)

FCA life member **Carol Juntunen** (5/13/2021)

FCA life member **Paavo Nurmi** (7/26/2021)

FCA life member **Lillian K. Lehto** (8/1/2021)

Paavo K. Nurmi

September 8, 1936 - July 26, 2021



Paavo was born September 8, 1936, in Enso, Finland. He was the youngest son of Veikko and Emma (Palm) Nurmi.

At a young age, Paavo was evacuated from their home during the Winter and Continuation Wars in Finland. He spent his early years living in several areas of Finland. He immigrated with his family to Michigan in 1955 and was married to Nancy Mayry on March 12, 1960.

He was a tool and die maker by trade but had numerous other talents. During his working years, he always had time to be in the Upper Peninsula at his cabin on St Martin's Bay and retired there in 1999.

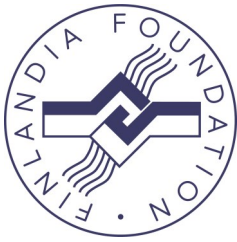
Paavo loved his Finnish heritage and much of his life revolved around it. He was an avid woodcarver having recently received the Michigan Heritage Award for his carving of traditional Rukinlapa (spinning wheel distaff). Paavo was an excellent dancer and spent many years doing Finnish Folk dancing with the "Hoijakat Folk Dancers".

He was a member of St James Lutheran Church and a life member of the Finnish Center Association and the Rudyard Historical Society.

Paavo was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Kaarlo Nurmi. He is survived by his wife Nancy, daughter Kristine (Charles) Bullock, sons Jeffrey (Rachel Mercer) and Kevin (Linnea) Nurmi and grandchildren Charles (Mary) Bullock, Amanda (Marvin) Vanover, Joshua (Nicole) Bullock, Esa, Timo and Paavo Nurmi (his namesake). He is also survived by 11 great grandchildren, Ethan, Jonathan, Jeremiah, Chloe, Isabella, Ella, Ruby, Jaxson, Sophie, Angelica and Dominique, brothers-in-law Henry Aukee and Willard (Sheila) Mayry, many nieces and nephews and countless others who knew and loved him.



LET'S GET FINN SYNC!



The trustees of Finlandia Foundation National will conduct their fall board meeting at the Finnish Center on Friday, October 15, followed on Saturday, October 16, by a dinner and program celebrating the Detroit area Finnish-American community.

The FFN Award of Excellence will be presented to *The Finnish American Reporter* on its 35th anniversary, and James Kurtti, who recently retired from the Finnish American Heritage Center, will be recognized for his many contributions to Finnish America.

There will be music by FinnFolk and a silent auction during the cocktail hour (6 pm, cash bar). Following the dinner, The Bowery Trio will premiere *The Cosmopolite Project*, contemporary works by Finnish composers commissioned with assistance of a grant from FFN.

Tickets for the October 16 evening are \$35, and reservations must be made by October 1 online at FinlandiaFoundation.org/Finn-Sync (No tickets will be sold at the door). Dressy casual attire is suggested. Please direct questions to office@finlandiafoundation.org.

Let's Get *Finn Sync!*

Finlandia Foundation National
invites you to an evening of celebration and appreciation of our Finnish community
Saturday, October 16 at the Finnish Center

6 pm Hors d'oeuvres and Music by FinnFolk
Silent Auction of Fun Finn Stuff

7 pm Buffet Dinner
Presentation of the FFN Award of Excellence
to *The Finnish American Reporter* on its 35th anniversary
and
Recognition of James Kurtti
on his retirement from the Finnish American Heritage Center

Premiere of *The Cosmopolite Project*, contemporary works by Finnish composers
commissioned and performed by The Bowery Trio, 2021 FFN grant recipients

\$35 per person
Cash bar

Please respond by October 1
(No ticket sales at the door)
Dressy casual attire suggested

Find more information and RSVP at
[We're Finn Sync!](http://We'reFinnSync!)
<https://finlandiafoundation.org/finn-sync/>

Finnish Center 35200 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, Michigan
Questions? office@finlandiafoundation.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Finnish Center has been designated a Monarch Butterfly Way Station? This means that Finlandia Gardens has many plants on which Monarch butterflies lay eggs, which become caterpillars, then turn into chrysalises, from which they emerge as Monarch butterflies. Did you know that Laura Fultz, the manager of FCA Senior Housing collects Monarch eggs from milkweed plants, feeds them when they hatch into caterpillars, and eventually releases them into our gardens when they emerge? An interesting hobby, wouldn't you say?

Did you know that two of our new Master Gardener volunteers have Finnish connections and one is a Life Member of the FCA?

Did you know that the FCA and FCA Senior Housing are located on over seventeen acres of prime Farmington Hills property and that when the FCA building was constructed in 1974 the community was called Farmington Township and the area beyond Haggerty Road was largely farms and apple orchards?

Did you know that the FCA property was once a landscape supply center, and that there was a garage in the front of the property that served as an office for the business?

And finally, did you know that each of you reading this should write down all that you can remember about your early days, your life experiences, and then keep them to enjoy as you grow older? You are a repository of valuable history, your history, that will be interesting to read later either by you or others who know or have known you.

Submitted by David Sharpe
Garden Club Coordinator



FLEA MARKET/CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, August 14, 2021



It was a beautiful day to browse, shop, connect with friends and grab a hot dog or burger provided by Michael's Touch Of Class Catering



FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108

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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!



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