



Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

MAY 2022

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY

Friday, May 27 Office Closed  
Monday, May 30 Office Closed

### JUNE

Friday, June 3 Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm  
Sunday, June 5 Rental - Lounge  
Friday, June 10 Buffet 4:30-7 pm  
Novi Band 7-8:30 pm  
Saturday, June 11 Rental  
Friday, June 17 Pasty Prep 9:30 am-noon  
Friday, June 17 Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm  
Saturday, June 18 Pasty Event 6:30-noon  
Sunday, June 19 Strawberry Social 2 pm  
Saturday, June 25 Juhannus 6-10 pm

### JULY

Friday, July 1 Office Closed  
Monday, July 4 Office Closed  
Saturday, July 9 Rental  
Sunday, July 10 Rental  
Saturday, July 16 Rental  
Sunday, July 17 Rental

## FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

### Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
(248) 478-6939



## CO-CHAIRS' CORNER

Hello FCA members,

We hope everyone took some time to celebrate Vappu earlier this month as spring has finally sprung, though in Michigan it has been slow to arrive this year.

Now that it's here, FCA will be hosting more Friday night dinners, the annual Juhannus celebration on June 25, and other fun events. Please check [finnishcenter.org](http://finnishcenter.org) for the latest information. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

Volunteers are the heart of these events and so much more at FCA. We could not be all that we are without our volunteers who do everything from work in the office, to assist with setup and teardown for dinners and events, maintain our website and social media, collect tickets, cut the grass, do various repairs around the building, produce this newsletter, and so much more.

Everyone has unique skills and makes contributions in the best way they can. We are stronger together.

Please take a minute to thank our volunteers next time you visit FCA and if you'd like to volunteer yourself, please drop an email to [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com) or drop by or call. We would love to hear from you.

With gratitude,

*Roger Wanttaja*

*Christine J. Manninen*

Roger Wanttaja and Christine Manninen  
Co-chairs, Board of Trustees

## FINLANDIA GARDEN NEWS

During my many years doing gardening at the Finnish Center there have been members and friends who have helped keep our gardens presentable. In the early years we often had ten gardeners who would meet on Monday mornings. Many of these dear friends have passed on. Later we were able to gain status as a site for Master Gardeners to do their required yearly hours at our center. Today we have a few dedicated gardeners who carry on our traditions. For these volunteers we are truly grateful. I have put together a few poems that were written as I observed the progression of spring in the Finnish Center landscape. I hope they will resonate with you. David Sharpe

### SPRING SOUNDS

Listen to the sounds of Spring  
The cardinal proclaims his  
territorial ambitions,  
While rodents nestle in the leaves.  
The pesky drone of springtime  
clean-up  
Combines with soft breezes  
To add a familiar touch of the  
vernal symphony.



### PATHWAY TO OBLIVION

A mother with her ducklings  
Plodded steadily on,  
Along a freeway wall,  
Her ducklings in a row.  
Heading on an unending path,  
With no escape for her trusting brood.  
She might decide to fly away,  
Leaving them, along the way.  
No water, under a relentless sun,  
And thirty miles to go.  
I will not forget that moment  
Burned into my memory.  
Driving along a pathway to  
oblivion.

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Farmington Hills, MI  
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www.finnishcenter.org

### Officers

Co-Chairs  
Christine Manninen  
Roger Wattaja  
Vice Chair, Kathryn Hill  
Treasurer, Christina Lovgren  
Secretary & Asst. Treasurer,  
Linda Poirier

### Board of Trustees

**1 Year**  
Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien,  
James Lee  
**2 Year**  
Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,  
Roger Wanttaja  
**3 Year**  
Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,  
Christine Manninen

### Alternates

#1 Paul Rajala  
#2 Mia Lamminen

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Gene Belttari  
Paul Potti

### Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds  
Roger Wanttaja  
Cultural  
Yvonne Lockwood  
Education  
Ilona Takakura  
Finance  
Mia Lamminen  
Gift Shop  
Janet Suomi  
Mailing  
Alice Manley  
Membership  
Sherrill Tedford  
Publicity & Publications  
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Social  
Mary O'Brien

### SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Olli Lamminen, Chairman

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

### SUNSHINE LADY



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

This little-known function has been around for many years, and can only be accomplished when I am notified that someone needs a card. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you,  
Eunice Potti Gould

### RECEPTIONISTS WANTED

The FCA is needing volunteers to help in the front office answering the phone and a few related tasks. This will entail a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

It's a pleasant job with people coming and going ... some walk-ins with rental questions, others with memorial checks for members who have passed on and still others just want to say "Hello" and meet and greet others. Friendly folks! Some may want to make a purchase from our gift shop. Not difficult yet semi-social camaraderie with a receptionist smile.

Please contact  
Paul Rajala  
prajala@comcast.net



## HAUSKAA JUHANNUSTA!

Come to the Finnish Center on Saturday, June 25, to celebrate Juhannus. Bring family and friends. We are thankful for being able to gather again after two years of COVID-19 have eliminated most activities at the Finnish Center. Masks are not required, but feel comfortable wearing one if you choose.

Dinner will begin at 6:00, and will include a vegetarian selection. The price is \$13 per person. The kokko will be lighted at 8:00. We now have a new fire ring on the south side of the Finnish Center for the bonfire, near the patio.

There is plenty to enjoy at the Finnish Center this evening: the Gift Shop will be open; FinnFolk will provide music; Finlandia Gardens are waiting for you to wander through; and the pasty bakers will sell newly-baked frozen pasties for you to take home.

As usual, please call the Finnish Center office, at (248) 478-6939, to sign up for dinner so we will know how much food to provide. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You can leave a voice mail message outside of office hours, or e-mail the Finnish Center at [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com).

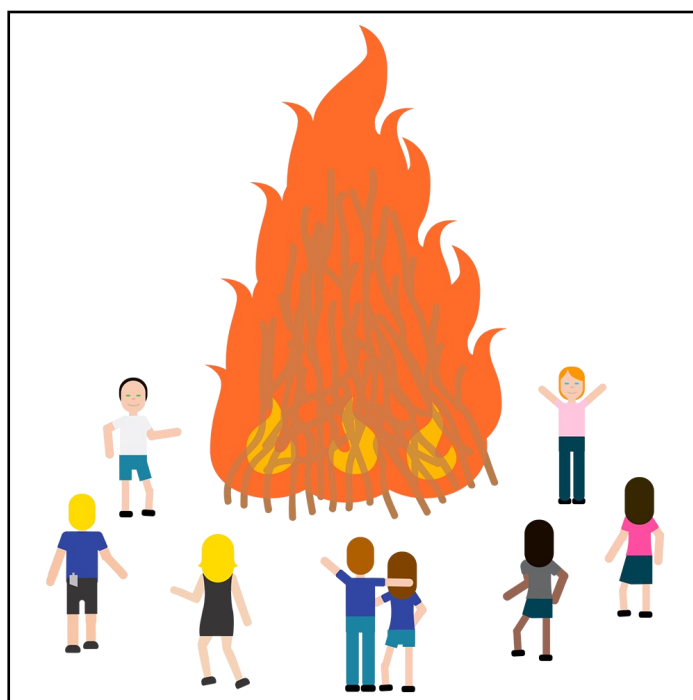
## JUHANNUS CELEBRATION IN FINLAND

The summer solstice was called *Ukon juhla* ("Ukko's celebration") after the Finnish god Ukko. After the celebrations were Christianized, the holiday became known as *juhannus* after John the Baptist (*Johannes Kastaja*).

In the Finnish midsummer celebration, bonfires (*kokko*) are very common and are burned at lakesides and by the sea. Often branches from birch trees (*koivu*) are placed on both side of the front door to welcome visitors.

An important feature of the midsummer in Finland is the white night and the midnight sun. Because of Finland's location around the Arctic Circle the nights near the midsummer day are short (with twilight even at midnight) or non-existent. This gives a great contrast to the darkness of the winter.

Many Finns leave the cities for Midsummer and spend time in the countryside. Nowadays many spend at least a few days there, and some Finns take their whole vacation at a summer cottage. Traditions include bonfires, cookouts, sauna and spending time together with friends or family. Heavy drinking is also associated with the Finnish midsummer.





Memorial Day  
May 30

### MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Lillian Lehto** (8/1/21) a donation has been made by Ruth Ojala.

In memory of FCA life member **Pearl Wanttaja** (5/19/21) a donation has been made by Ruth Ojala.

In memory of FCA life member **Charlotte Lytikainen** (3/16/21) a donation has been made by Ruth Ojala.

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, Soittoniekat/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. Memorial donations can now be made online on our revised FCA website;

[finnishcenter.org](http://finnishcenter.org).

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.

### FROM IRONWOOD TO DETROIT

In the January 2022, issue of the FCA News we showed a photo of a member of the Finlandia Male Chorus who had appeared in many FMC photos over the course of several decades. In none of those photos was he identified by name. In response to our question of the singer's identity, we received many responses. I was informed that his name was Vernon Leinonen.

I received a phone call from his daughter, who put her mother Mary on the line. Mary and Vern had moved to Florida and Vern unfortunately passed away after a few years. Mary and I had a wonderful conversation about Vern, and I learned that he had been a fine singer and soloist in his church choir and with the chorus. She told me that he was born and grew up in North Ironwood, Michigan. Well, it so happens that my late father, Gustav Rajala, was born and grew up in North Ironwood. It appears that they lived on farms that were only a few miles apart, so certainly they knew each other well, especially since Vern was but two years younger than my dad. Vern had gone into the army and served in Europe in World War II. Dad went to the South Pacific and fought in the New Guinea campaign. After the war they both married and raised families in the Detroit area.

Talking to Mary was such a joy and it brought back many thoughts of my dad and all the vacations we took to Ironwood when I was growing up. And I think of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of children from the farms across the UP, like my mom and dad, that came down to SE Michigan and built the Finnish Center. It has given me a renewed commitment to see that we honor their memory here.

Submitted by  
Paul Rajala



Vernon Leinonen

## AN FCA GIFT SHOP FAVORITE



Popular with customers in the FCA gift shop is a crunchy cinnamon-sugar toast, from the small cross-roads town Trenary in the UP just off US 41 between Marquette and Escanaba.

**Trenary Toast** is a kind of twice-baked bread - dry, cinnamon-coated rusk (korppu)

that Finnish immigrants brought to this mining region in the early 20th century. The bread has been coated in a cinnamon sugar mixture for both taste and preservation. Cinnamon's natural properties are what give it the year-long shelf life.

One Finnish family opened a toast-centric bakery in 1928, which eventually became the Trenary Home Bakery, where they churn out nearly 1000 bags of toast per day. They sell paper bags of the iconic brown slices, among photos and memorabilia devoted to local history. Much like the Cornish pasty, the hard toast was easy to carry along for long days working underground in the mines and became a staple in many homes across the area.

The toast has a distinctively loud and satisfying crunch. Most Yoopers say that the best way to enjoy the toast is by dunking it in coffee or crumbling it inside a bowl of milk. There are also "crunchers," who eat the toast on its own, and "spreaders," who coat it in butter or jam. But a quick dip in coffee makes it much easier to eat. It also makes a good combo with yogurt for breakfast. The flavor is what really stands out. It has a concentrated cinnamon punch, but not overly sweet.

## GIFT SHOP NEWS

We are so fortunate to have a lovely gift shop stocked with many different flavors of candy and beautiful Iittala. The shop is working very hard at getting different items for your shopping convenience. I have just received an order from Finnsite in the UP with a few more interesting items. This is a great place to pick up that gift you have been wanting to give your special someone.

Finnish candy is some of the best candy around. We carry Fazer chocolate which comes in milk chocolate, hazelnut, and dark chocolate.

Gift shop hours are Friday from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm and during special events like Juhannus. Stop in and see me. I will help you with your shopping needs.

**Special until the end of June:  
Iittala honey colored dishes, 25% off.**



Select items also available online, please visit <https://finnishcenter.org/gift-shop> for details.

Janet Suomi

## PASTY-MAKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FCA pasties will be available for purchase price of \$7 at the Juhannus Celebration on June 25. They will also be sold at the Outdoor Flea Market scheduled for late July. If you would like to volunteer to help make the pasties on June 17 and 18, contact Paul Rajala, [prajala@comcast.net](mailto:prajala@comcast.net) or by phone (248) 921-0831.

## NOVI COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

**Friday, June 10**

Buffet 4:30 - 7:00 pm  
Concert 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Concert and buffet \$14 for adults  
\$5 for children under 12  
Concert Only - \$5



FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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

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**

One and two bedroom rentals.  
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Contact us at:  
Tapiola Village (248) 471-3802  
[www.fcaseniorhousing.org](http://www.fcaseniorhousing.org)



**THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME**  
33603 Grand River,  
Farmington, MI  
(248) 474-4131  
Paul N. Potti, Director