



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2023

CO-CHAIRS' CORNER

Happy New Year!

As Finns, we all love the concept of SISU – that wonderful Finnish term which loosely translates to fortitude, tenacity, and perseverance when faced with a challenge. It is such a way of life in the Finnish culture, to press on regardless and never give up. Those of us with Finnish ancestry have no doubt seen it in family members over the years, and we relish references to it in books, films and conversations. Finns can sometimes go it alone a little too much, but we are a strong people, secure in knowing that we have what it takes to get anything accomplished if we dig deep.

These are challenging times for FCA, which has suffered financially in recent years due to declining membership numbers, and cancelled events and fewer volunteers during the Covid pandemic. Other nonprofits and cultural organizations are feeling the same pinch. As many of our fathers would say: times are tough.

Like with any establishment, change for FCA is inevitable. Seasons pass. We lose people we love along the way. We change, and we change again. Friends and acquaintances continue to join and exit our parade. The years roll on.

The board has recently formed a Fundraising Committee, and we have begun exploring strategies to increase membership, and bring in new revenue streams for FCA in 2023 to sustain and grow our operations. Our goal is to make FCA even stronger for generations to come and continue to offer a place to learn about and appreciate our Finnish heritage and traditions.

Now is the time we need to practice our very best sisu. Please join us in the effort, whether it be participating on the committee, recruiting a new member, inviting friends or family to join you at FCA events, or making a tax-deductible contribution to help the cause. It all matters.

With gratitude,

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

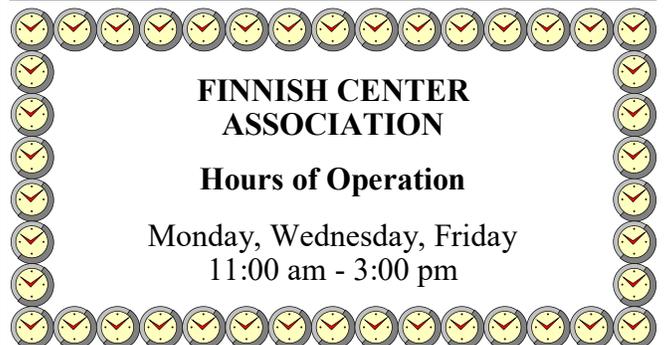
Monday, January 2	Office Closed
Friday, January 6	Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Wed., January 11	Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Friday, January 13	Pasty Prep 9:30 am
Saturday, January 14	Pasty Bake Pick-up 8:30 am-noon
Friday, January 20	Buffet 4:30-7:30 Lounge
Friday, January 20	Rental Set Up 6-8 pm
Saturday, January 21	Rental
Sunday, January 22	Rental

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 19	Annual Meetings Senior Housing 1 pm FCA 3 pm
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SISU

- Pronounced “see-su”
- A Finnish concept that dates back to the 1500’s
- A unique type of fortitude, of resilience, of not giving up in the face of a challenge, big or small, that anyone can develop



**FINNISH CENTER
ASSOCIATION**

Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2023

Election at the Annual meeting on February 19, 2023 at 3 pm.

The FCA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill three positions on the FCA Board of Trustees. Members running as candidates need to submit short biographies (250 words or less) by January 7, 2023 to the Finnish Center Association via email to finnishcenter@gmail.com, attention Nominating Committee Chair.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Hill at (248) 478-6939.

Please consider serving the FCA as a leader in one of these positions.

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

Co-Chairs
Christine Manninen
Roger Wanttaja
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

Financial Review

Mary Kaye Aukee
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

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

FCA SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE

We are seeking candidates for three Board of Trustee positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 19, 2023 at 1 pm.

If you are interested in participating as a member of the Board, forward a short resume (max 250 words) including your birthplace, your formal education and professional background as well as explanation of how you would contribute to the Board.

To be received no later than January 20, 2023 at:
FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, Attn: Secretary
35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

ANNUAL MEETINGS

February 19, 2023 in person at FCA or via ZOOM

FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation 1 pm
Finnish Center Association 3 pm

We need a quorum (25 members) for both meetings
So please try to attend if possible.



LOOM DONATION

The FCA has been offered a loom. It was made by the father of a former member, Kathy Haapinen, who lives near Kenosha, Wisconsin. The measurements of the loom are 65" across and 54" from top to bottom. It is now disassembled.

We are looking for a volunteer to pick up the loom. Is there a FCA member or a friend of the Center who would drive to get the loom? The Center's weavers fund will pay for gas and compensation for time.

Please email the FCA at finnishcenter@gmail.com if you have any questions or for more information.

KIITOS



Thank you to all involved who made the Scandinavian Market a success. Special thanks to all our exhibitors: Finn Weavers, Nordkap Lodge, Swedish Passport, Swedish Club, Swedish Club Women's Organization, Scandia House, Accents by Agatha, Fritzcraft, Lavender Fleece, Vintage by Annikki & Barb, Forgotten Crafts, Rosemaling by Birgitte and Fireigloo.



Thank you also to FCA volunteers Paul & Nancy Rajala, Kathryn Hill, Christine Manninen, Nancy Hanson, Jim Aho, Robert Adkins and Peggy Hanninen who provided great food and coffee for the visitors. Thank you also goes to all the tireless volunteers who made it all happen, Irene Lamanen and Marilyn Clark at the entrance, Jim Lee setting up tables and Roger Wanttaja working behind the scenes to make sure things worked right. Without our volunteers we could not have done it. The FCA bakers did a great job in filling the bake sale table with pulla/nisu. Jukka Pietilä and Katy Koskela took care of the bake sale. Thank you Paul Rajala and his crew who provided pasties and Helvi Koivunen who had baked pulla. Thank you also to Mary O'Brien and Janet Suomi who had stocked up the gift shop with great gift items, food and candy and sold by her tireless volunteers Malla Sandberg, Linda Poirier, Helena Hatten, Ilona Takakura and Ed O'Brien. Finally a special thank you to FinnFolk for providing music for the occasion.



KIITOS! Mia Lamminen

SOCIAL NEWS

What a wonderful season we have had at the Finnish Center.

The Novi Community Concert Band performed on December 16 and lifted the spirits of those who attended. Thank you to the band and to all the volunteers that helped to make this a special night.



The Finnish Christmas dinner was well attended and provided a night where people could gather and enjoy the holiday season. A special thank you to Ilona Takahura and Mia Lamminen for making the food that everyone enjoyed. FinnFolk provided a nice variety of music. Thank you to Louise Hartung for the delicious cake and to Janet Suomi, Kathryn Hill, Irene Lamanen, Paul Rajala and Ed O'Brien for publicity, set up and clean up. It takes a village!

Future plans include an evening of live music with dinner at a date and time to be determined.

Mary O'Brien
Social Chairman

SUNSHINE LADY



Sending get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards, 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

THANK YOU

As we look to the new year, Mary O'Brien and I would like to thank all of our customers and volunteers who supported the gift shop this year. We will do our best to continue to supply the Finnish items that you know and love. It has been a pleasure to be of service to you all.

We wish you a very Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Janet Suomi
Gift Shop Chairman

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Esther Taurianen (12/1/22)** donations have been made by Virginia Miruzzi, Lorraine Wygonik, Stephanie Washio, Kelly, Roger & Kevin Taurianen, Louise Weglarz, Robert Sieloff and Joan Taurianen.

In memory of FCA life member **Mamie Liimatta (8/12/97)** a donation has been made by Betty Schmehl.

In memory of **Wilho Liimatta (8/12/97)** a donation has been made by Betty Schmehl.

In memory of **Ainard Liimatta (11/9/76)** a donation has been made by Betty Schmehl.

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoi-jakat Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, 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. Memorial donations can now be made online on our revised FCA website; 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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The FCA will be awarding scholarships for individuals pursuing study or training beyond secondary education. Applicants should provide a connection to the FCA, Finland, or interest in the Finnish culture/language. Applications for the 2023 scholarships are available on the FCA website.



FCA BAKERS LEARN HELVI KOIVUNEN'S PULLA RECIPE

Monet Kiitokset (Many thanks) to Helvi Koivunen from the FCA Bakers! Bakers Sandy Gersky and Louise Hartung visited Helvi in her home kitchen to watch her bake pulla. Sandy and Louise took notes about ingredient quantities, order that ingredients were added to the dough, how to keep ingredients warm during the preparation process, etc. They were amazed to see her use four strands to make her braided loaf instead of the usual three. After the delicious pulla came out of the oven, they had a pleasant visit with Helvi, who showed them pictures of her grandparents, parents, herself, and siblings in Finland, as well as other photos dating back to 1952 of husband Erkki and their children over the years.

Several days later, five of the FCA Bakers (Dee Aebersold, Tom Buchanan, Sandy Gersky, Louise Hartung, and Chris Martin) gathered in the Finnish Center kitchen, with the goal of adapting Helvi's 6-loaf recipe to the bakers' 36 or 48 loaf process. We actually were able to produce about 50 loaves, both cardamom-only and cardamom with brown sugar and cinnamon.

The next time you're at the Finnish Center, stop by the Gift Shop and buy some loaves to enjoy with your coffee or tea!

Louise Hartung, for the FCA Bakers



Left to right: Chris Martin, Dee Aebersold, Sandy Gersky and Tom Buchanan.
Louise Hartung not in photo.

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN HIT THE HIGH NOTES

If you didn't get to the FASM Christmas concert on November 27, you'll want to catch their spring concert (probably in May, but date to be decided). Imagine 11 voices, one piano, and one Director (whose voice occasionally joined the choir) sounding like twice as many performers! The excellent acoustics, great sound management, and enthusiasm of the musicians, combined to create an outstanding performance.

The venue, the Emmanuel Lutheran Church where the choir rehearses and performs, was decorated for Christmas, which provided a lovely background for the music.

The singers have fully enjoyed working with new Director, Mr. Alex Cave. They are excited that Rita Rogers continues accompanying them at rehearsals and concerts.

Music performed was a mix of pieces in Finnish and English, beginning with the national anthems of Finland and the US, and ending with the heartfelt "Kotimaani omni suomi" and Sibelius' "Finlandia." Sentiments expressed through these pieces were joyful, serious, tender, and even humorous. "We Three Kings (a Pandemic Parody)" had singers and director putting on and taking off face masks, with the audience laughing in appreciation of making fun of the past several years that we have all endured.

Two Finnish Center musicians were represented in the selection of pieces: former FASM Director Hank Naasko, who arranged the groups version of "Star Spangled Banner," and multitalented vocal and instrumental musician Eero Keranen, who had arranged "Kotimaani omni suomi" well before his passing. This was a fitting tribute to the musical talent that is a Finnish Center tradition.

After the concert, musicians, friends, and families had a chance to gather for coffee, tea, punch, and cookies, while visiting and discussing the excellent concert that they had just enjoyed.

Concert Review by Louise Hartung



BEET-HERRING SALAD (Rosolli or Punajuurisalaatti) from The Finnish Cookbook April 1979 by Beatrice A. Ojakangas

This salad has two Finnish names. Rosolli is the version that usually has the herring and punajuurisalaatti is the one without the herring.

2 medium potatoes, cooked, peeled and diced
2 tart apples, peeled and diced
2 carrots, peeled, cooked and diced
1 small onion, minced
2 medium dill pickles, diced
3/4 cup diced pickled or salted herring, or minced sardines or anchovies (optional)
1/8 teaspoon white pepper
2 cups cooked beets, peeled and diced
1 recipe Whipped Cream Dressing or Sour Cream Dressing

Combine the potatoes, apples, carrots, onion, pickles, herring, and pepper. Just before serving, carefully add the beets. (If beets are added too long before serving, the salad will be a deep pink, whereas it should be tinted only mildly pink). Turn into a salad bowl lined with crisp lettuce and serve chilled with either Whipped Cream Dressing or Sour Cream Dressing. Serves 8-10.

WHIPPED CREAM DRESSING

This is one of the choices for the Beet-Herring Salad. It is fluffy, and lightly pink in color.

1 cup heavy cream, whipped Dash of salt
2 tablespoons lemon juice Dash of sugar

Combine the whipped cream with the lemon juice, beet juice, salt and sugar. Blend thoroughly. Turn into a small serving bowl or mound on top of beet salad. Makes 2 cups.

SOUR CREAM DRESSING FOR SALAD

1 cup sour cream
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons beet juice
1/4 teaspoon salt

Mix all ingredients together. Serve in a bowl or arrange on top of salad. Makes 1 cup.

This salad was served at the Finnish Christmas dinner and enjoyed by all.

Kaustinen Folk Music Festival

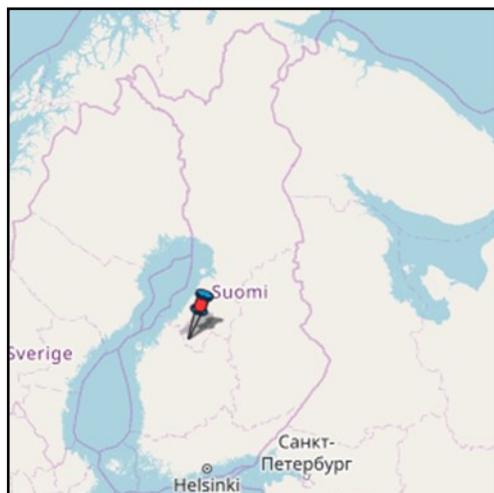
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Thursday during festival week.

Many readers have attended FinnFests in various cities in Michigan and throughout the United States and Canada. They are bustling with music, dancing, crafts, speakers, and exhibits. Imagine 40,000 to 50,000 people attending a week long FinnFest? Kaustinen hosts its own "FinnFest" every year involving much planning, volunteers, and coordination. Lodging itself must be a huge challenge in the area! If you are thinking of a Scandinavian vacation and folk music is a passion of yours, perhaps a trip to the Kaustinen Music Festival is in your future!

Resources: *Finnish Folk Music* by Paavo Helistö,
Kaustinen Folk Music Festival by Aaro Suomela,
Freecountrymaps.com,
Kaustinen Folk Music Festival Website,
<https://kaustinen.net/en/>

Submitted by Katy Koskela



Kaustinen on Map of Finland

JANUARY FCA PASTIES

We have planned a pasty event for mid-January. On Friday the 13th (sounds ominous) the crew will be busy peeling and dicing rutabaga, carrots, onions, and lots of potatoes. Then on Saturday the 14th the pasties will be assembled, packaged, and sold.

PRE-ORDERING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! If you would like to be placed on the list to order pasties via email, please send your e-address and phone number to fcapasties@gmail.com. There will also be a signup sheet in the lobby of the FCA or you can call the office at (248) 478-6939.

The cost is \$8.00 per pasty and **they must be picked up on January 14th between 8:30 am and noon.** There is limited freezer space to store your order, so if you want it to be held for a later date, we require the order be pre-paid.

We are always in need of workers to help with the various pasty-making tasks, so if you would like to volunteer, please contact me through the FCA office or at fcapasties@gmail.com. One of the benefits of helping, in addition to the social interaction with other fine volunteers and the fund raising effort to the FCA, is that you receive a complimentary pasty. A win-win-win effort.

Paul Rajala, pasty coordinator

FINNISH NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Compared to Finnish Christmas, which is traditionally spent quietly among family and friends, the celebration of the New Year in Finland is a more boisterous event.

An essential part of the Finnish New Year's Eve festivities are the numerous fireworks displayed throughout the country, being the highlight of the evening. Most of these are consumer fireworks, fired by private citizens. Professional fireworks displays are sometimes conducted by many towns, organizations, clubs or companies.



When having an informal New Year's party at home, usually a smörgåsbord, the Nordic buffet table, is set for the guests, consisting of simple hot or cold dishes, snacks and desserts with coffee and tea.

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

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.
Convenient and affordable in highly desirable Farmington Hills, MI
Contact us at:
Tapiola Village (248) 471-3802
www.fcaseniorhousing.org



THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

33603 Grand River,
Farmington, MI
(248) 474-4131

Paul N. Potti, Director