



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

JUNE/JULY 2023

FCA is kicking off a new capital campaign this month focused on restoring and enhancing our building, which is now 50 years old!

The goal of the three-year campaign is \$300,000, which will allow for some major refurbishments including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. Our building has served us well but has been showing signs of age and deterioration. Additionally, the board's Fundraising Subcommittee has applied for several grants to provide further support for these restoration efforts.

In coming months, you'll be hearing more about the capital campaign. We need everyone's support. However large or small your donation, every penny counts and will bring us closer to our goal.

Back in the 1960s a group of Finns had a dream, which they brought to fruition through the building of our beautiful cultural center and hall. We are proud to still be carrying on that dream today and preserving Finnish culture for the generations to follow.

We all have the ability to be a leader, even if it's just shining a light of optimism so others can follow it.

With gratitude,

Roger Wanttaja *Christina J. Manninen*



RESTAURANT KICK-BACK PROGRAM NEW ROOF FOR THE FCA AT PANERA BREAD

Come join us for a meal - come independently or in a group to help support the Finnish Center Roof Project. Just mention to the cashier that you are dining in or carrying out a meal to support the FCA. Online orders will not be included.

PART I

Where: Panera Bread
7100 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield
(north of 14 Mile Rd.)
When: Saturday, June 3
4:00 - 8:00 pm
Payout: 20% of receipts



PART II

Where: Chipotle
18885 Traditions Dr.
Northville
When: Saturday, July 8
4:00 - 8:00 pm
Payout: 33% of receipts



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

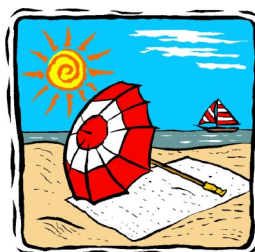
JUNE

Friday, June 2	Friday Fish Dinner 4:30-7:00 pm Novi Concert Band Perform 7:00-8:30 pm
Saturday, June 3	Panera Bread Kickback Event 4:00-8:00 pm
Sunday, June 11	Rental
Wednesday, June 14	Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Friday, June 16	Friday Fish Dinner 4:30-7:30 pm
Saturday, June 17	Rental
Thursday, June 22	Rental
Friday, June 23	Rental
Saturday, June 24	Rental
Saturday, June 24	Juhannus 6:00 pm

JULY

Monday, July 3	Office Closed
Tuesday, July 4	Office Closed
Saturday, July 8	Chipotle Kickback Event 4:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, July 22	Rental

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**



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

Officers

Co-Chairs
Christine Manninen
Roger Wanttaja
Vice Chair, Kathryn Hill
Treasurer, Christina Lovgren
Asst. Treasurer, Mia Lamminen
Secretary,
Sherrill Tedford

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier,
Roger Wanttaja

2 Year

Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,
Christine Manninen

3 Year

Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien,
Janet Suomi

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#2 Marilyn Clark
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Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

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Gift Shop

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Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

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Publicity & Publications

Ed O'Brien

Social

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Olli Lamminen, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager

(248) 471-3802

tapiola@ameritech.net

NOVI CONCERT BAND

Friday, June 2

Dinner 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



The Novi Concert Band has given dozens of performances over the years at the FCA. This photo is from their most recent in December, 2022. Note the Finnish Flag on the right behind the band. Director Scott Cramer is on the far right of the second row. Learn more at [Novi Concert Band | Facebook](#)

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member
Reverend Elmer Liimatta 3/31/23
donations have been made by Martean & Michael
Mikkola and Marlene Houle.

In memory of FCA life member
Ruth Liimatta 3/18/23 donations have been made
by Martean & Michael Mikkola and Marlene Houle.

In memory of FCA life member
Esther Taurianen 12/1/22 a donation has been
made by Phyllis & William Romanski.

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

FCA member **Loyal Alaniva 3/11/23**
FCA member **Florence Alaniva 4/6/23**
Edwin Kotajarvi 4/30/23

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. 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. Me-
morial 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 acknowledg-
ment 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.



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 noti-
fied 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

FINLANDIA GARDENS

We made it! June is here and summer is just around
the corner. The gardens are blooming and the birds are
singing. What can be more marvelous than a day in
June? Mornings in Finlandia Gardens are special
when only birds, bunnies, and a lonely gardener are
about. Dew sits on the grass and the sun is rising in the
east. Many never see this lovely scene as their circadi-
an rhythm, determined by genetic makeup, makes ear-
ly rising unlikely. On the other hand late risers can ex-
perience the evening beauty of our gardens when a
different set of opportunities are present. Have you
heard the sound of robins in the evening as they estab-
lish their territory. These special sounds at this time
are due to the reduction of urban noise as evening
falls.

If you spend time in our gardens and note everything
you experience around you, you will be amazed at
what is happening. So much can be observed in the
gardens when you sit quietly and watch and listen.
Enjoying nature requires patience and the rewards can
be surprising.

If you haven't invited friends to share some time in
our gardens, this is the month to do it. Sit at the per-
gola across the bridge, or under the gazebo near the
small copse of trees south of the driveway. Of course,
our patio near the lounge, is also a fine location for
relaxation. You can also find a book in one of our
three Little Free Libraries and enjoy your time ab-
sorbed in reading. Whatever your interests in nature,
you can find satisfaction in Finlandia Gardens.

For additional information check out,
finlandiagardens.org or call (248) 977-1337.

David Sharpe
Garden Coordinator

THE CONVALESCENT



A print of the painting, *The Convalescent*, is a new addition to walls of the front office of the Finnish Center. The painter, Helene Schjerfbeck, was born in Helsinki in 1862 at a time when Finland was an autonomous Grand-Duchy of the Russian Empire. She showed talent at an early age, and by the time she was eleven she was enrolled at the Finnish Art Society Drawing School. After graduation at age 15 she continued her education at a private academy which utilized the University of Helsinki drawing studio. There at the Becker private academy, Becker himself taught her French oil painting techniques.

At the age of 17, Schjerfbeck won third prize in a competition organized by the Finnish Art Society, and her work was displayed in its annual exhibition. Later that year she set off to Paris after receiving a travel grant from the Imperial Russian Senate.

After some time studying in various studios in France, Schjerfbeck returned to Finland, moving around and studying with various artists. She made money by continuing to put her paintings in the Art Society's exhibitions, and she also did illustrations for books. Receiving a sum from the Finnish Art Society she traveled to Cornwall in Britain. It was there that she painted *The Convalescent*, which won the bronze medal at the 1889 Paris World Fair. The painting was later bought by the Finnish Art Society. In 2006 it was voted second in a public vote for Finland's "National Painting" and is currently housed in Ateneum art gallery of the Finnish National Gallery (Suomen Kansallisgalleria).

July 10, Schjerfbeck's birthday, is Finland's national day for the painted arts.

The FCA thanks member Annikki Kurvi who generously made this donation depicting an image of hope, of fragility but resilience.



Helene Schjerfbeck
1862-1946



FCA members Gerald and Hazel Munro celebrate with family at the FCA Mother's Day Brunch on May 14th.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT VISITS FINLAND

Finland president Sauli Niinistö greeted Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Finnish Presidential Palace in Helsinki on May 3 on the occasion of the Nordic prime ministers meeting. Zelensky was welcomed with an official reception ceremony. The news of this surprise visit was kept under the blanket until the very last minute.

After discussions, Zelensky explained that one of the reasons for his visit was the powerful summit of the Nordic states (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland) that he felt was important to be a part of to stress the continuing need for military support to Ukraine. President Niinistö affirmed that support would be continued perhaps involving Finland's aging Hornet aircraft which are to be gradually replaced with F-35 jets from the U.S., although delivery had not been complete. Zelensky noted that the Finnish courageous war history was an inspiration for the Ukrainians.

SONG, MUSIC, WEAVING JOINED IN FASM'S CONCERT

The title chosen by the Finnish-American Singers of Michigan for their spring concert was "Kuvakudos," the Finnish word for "tapestry." Not only were voices raised in song, but three musical instruments accompanied the singers, who performed next to beautiful Finnish Center ryijy and raanu tapestries hanging on the wall. Thus, the complete event was a tapestry.

"Emma," arranged by Eero Keranen, was performed by Hope McGookey, FASM accompanist, on her mountain dulcimer instead of the piano. She accompanied the choir on the piano for the other songs.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church flutist Megan Waters accompanied the choir on her flute, performing "Flying Free." The flute and mountain dulcimer music added another beautiful layer to the songs.

As is usual for Director Alex Cave, the choice of songs was a mix of Finnish and English, humorous, thoughtful, and joyful. He brought out the best in this small choir, whose eleven voices filled the space with beautiful sounds.

The program handout included two useful sections in addition to the titles of the songs. The first was an English translation of the five songs the choir performed in Finnish, and the other was an extensive description of both types of FCA tapestries, the ryijy and the raanu.

The FASM will begin practicing in September for their Christmas concert, so stay tuned for the date!



Review by Louise Hartung

NEW FCA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In June, the Finnish Center Association will be starting a new capital campaign to raise \$300,000 to restore and enhance our aging building. The campaign will commence in June 2023 and conclude in June 2026.

Donations to this campaign will finance major refurbishments to our beautiful cultural center including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. Additionally, the board's Fundraising Subcommittee has applied for several grants to provide further support for these restoration efforts.

In coming months, you'll be hearing more details about the capital campaign. A column in each newsletter will provide updates on progress. Please help us to reach our goals and invest in the future of FCA.



FCA BAKERS WORK TO CREATE LARGE-QUANTITY PULLA RECIPE

Six of the nine FCA bakers gathered in the kitchen on April 27 producing pulla (also called nisu or biscuit). But we had begun as a newly-formed group of volunteers last September, 2022, organized by me, Louise Hartung. I volunteered to take on this task because the former lead baker was no longer available to take charge of baking. I thought I could organize a group, and knew I didn't have the experience of large-quantity baking.

We didn't start out with a recipe for large-quantity baking. At the beginning, I studied recipes by since-passed FCA member Grace Nayback and well-known baker Bea Ojakangas. These made 3 to 6 loaves. Based on those recipes, we have focused on developing a dough recipe that can make 36 to 48 loaves. It doesn't necessarily work to simply multiply the quantity of ingredients six or eight times.

Important information about pulla baking was gained from several sources. Baker Sandy Gersky and I visited FCA member Helvi Koivunen to observe her bake pulla and learn from her. Baker Yvonne Lockwood gave me many baking tips throughout the process. I also contacted the King Arthur Baking company's phone-in baker for more ideas. Baker Tom Buchanan is a retired professional baker, and his knowledge about baking in general has been key to our progress.

As a group, we now think we are approaching a recipe that could be replicated by others, and results in a product that we can be proud of.

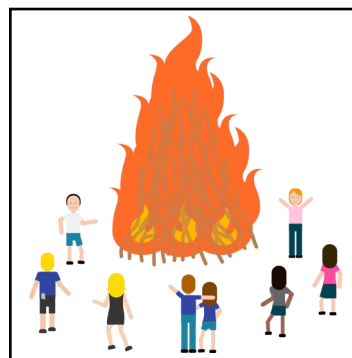
I have been asked, "Why do you do this? It's so much work and there's a steep learning curve." There are several reasons. The most important reason is that baking pulla continues our Finnish heritage, and I feel honored to be able to help in that important task. Our pulla is sold in the Gift Shop as a fundraiser for the Finnish Center. Even though we might not have a huge profit after the expenses of ingredients and costs of using the kitchen are deducted, every project that helps with the Finnish Center's income is important. Also, on the personal level, working together has created new friendships among the group while doing positive and enjoyable volunteer work for the FCA. And, our whole team has persevered with this project in spite of the recipe difficulties because everyone has Sisu!

So, KIITOKSIA PALJON to the Finnish Bakers!

HAUSKAA JUHANNUSTA!

The Finnish Center will celebrate Juhannus on Saturday, June 24, so put the date on your calendar and invite friends and family to come with you.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, catered by Mike and Susie Grant and their crew, of Michael's Touch of Class. Entrees will include choices for both vegetarians and carnivores. Picnic hot dogs and hamburgers, a vegetarian option, and sides of chips, salad and veggies are all on the menu. Cost is \$14. Desserts will be available for \$3. Dinner will be served in the Lounge, allowing easy access to the tables on the patio. The bar will be open, serving beer, wine, and soft drinks for purchase.



The traditional Juhannus bonfire will be lighted at 8:00 pm. Chairs will be set up in our new bonfire location where we gathered last year for the first time, across from the patio in one of the sections of our beautiful Finlandia Gardens.

In addition to dinner and the bonfire, the Gift Shop will be open, FinnFolk will play for listening, singing, and dancing, and the Finlandia Gardens are waiting for you to enjoy as you wander the grounds.

As usual, please call the Finnish Center (248) 478-6939) or at finnishcenter@gmail.com to RSVP for dinner so we will know how many diners to prepare for. The office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and you may also leave a voice mail at other times.

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

WEAVING - FINNISH STYLE

Most people that get an unexpected "freebie" are thrilled! It might also be referred to as a "two-fer" or sometimes as a "bogo" (buy one/get one). Attendees at the spring concert on May 7th of the Finnish American Singers of Michigan got a "two-fer", not only enjoying a wonderful concert, but being able to see some of the beautiful woven hangings borrowed from the FCA's collection and hung at Emmanuel Lutheran Church where the concert was held.



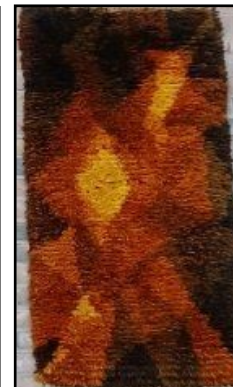
Although the weaving had not been displayed for several years at the center, interest in textiles prompted investigation into those stored at the Finnish Center. This interest and an affinity for research, has led to a deeper appreciation of their history as well as the history behind the various types of Finnish wall hangings in general. The often fluffy, rug-like hanging is a *ryijy* (rolled r, pronounced roo'-you). They are a long-tufted tapestry or knotted-pile carpet (like) hanging. They look like latch hook rugs, but the construction process is different, woven rather than hooked with more fibers creating a denser, heavier product. The name *ryijy* originated with the Scandinavian word *rya* meaning "thick cloth." Originally woven for the very wealthy by traveling weavers as early as the 9th century, they became more common in the late 1800s as a folk art. Weavers were more educated, patterns and motifs were shared over regional boundaries, and colors became more vivid as artificial dyes were developed. Designs were often geometric, floral, or showed figures of humans or animals. The Tree of Life was a favorite subject.



Made similar to a knotted woolen Persian carpet, the *ryiyu* knots are farther apart as well as larger with longer fibers that may be sheared when finished to a shorter length, giving a smoother appearance. Originally the rugs were used as bed covers with the fluffy side toward the sleeper, thus trapping their body heat in days of no central heat and *cold* winters. Frequently the *ryijy* were woven by women to commemorate a special occasion with requested motifs and colors. For a wedding, the happy couple stood on it while reciting their vows, and then proudly displayed the *ryijy* on a wall in their new home.

Although *ryijy* are not quite as popular as during their design and decor heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, they still are designed and displayed in public and private spaces, with many vintage weavings available for re-sale. Pictured are just a few of the *ryijy* in the FCA collection. The next newsletter will provide information about the second type of weaving Finland is known for, the *raanu*. Taking their color cues from nature and traditionally also woven from wool, *raanu* range from subtle earth tones to the brilliant colors found in gardens, sunsets, and landscapes. Stay tuned for the next installment and more information about the FCA hangings as they are sorted, cataloged, and inventoried.

Submitted by Katy Koskela, FCA Librarian Pro Tem.



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!



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