



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

AUGUST 2023

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CO-CHAIR CORNER

FinnFest 2023, happening July 26-30 in Duluth, Minnesota, is a time to celebrate all things Finnish. And really there is so much to celebrate! Art, music, food, sauna, and informative programs on health and wellness, traditions and culture, architecture and design, nature and sustainability, and so much more. What a joy to congregate with fellow Finns and share the wonderful foods and traditions of Finland. And not surprisingly, many attendees' surnames have a lot of double consonants in them!

We hope many of you are attending FinnFest this year and, even if you can't be there in person, that you take some time to celebrate your own Finnish traditions. At FCA you'll find pasty and pulla making and sales, Scandinavian markets, music, library, gift shop and many social opportunities. All the major Finnish holidays are celebrated including Vappu, Juhannus, and Finnish Independence Day.

It's time to get your "finn" on! Volunteer at FCA and support our mission to preserve culture and impart its traditions and wisdom to the next generation.

August is the Sunday of summer, they say. As we head into August (Elokuu in Finnish), let us soak up the warmth as the seasons move on.

With gratitude,

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



FINNISH CENTER PICNIC



Let's enjoy the summer by getting together for a picnic outside FCA.

August 19, 2023 at 2pm

Menu: Hot Dog, Brats and Hamburgers, Potato Salad,
Watermelon, Potato Chips
Desserts, pulla, nisu!

Cost: \$10.00 per person to cover food

Any money that is extra will go in the roof fund, and donations will be gladly accepted.

Everyone welcome! Let's have a nice turnout to celebrate summer at the Finnish Center!

Be sure to sign up by calling FCA (248) 478-6939 or email finnishcenter@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Wednesday, August 9	Joint Board Meeting 7 pm
Saturday, August 19	FCA Picnic 2 pm
Friday, August 25	Rental
Saturday, August 26	Rental
Sunday, August 27	Rental

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 1	Office Closed
Monday, September 4	Office Closed
Thursday, September 7	FCA Bakers 10 am-5 pm
Friday, September 8	Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Sunday, September 10	Folk Dance Practice 2-5 pm
Wednesday, September 13	Board Meeting 7 pm
Thursday, September 14	Rental
Friday, September 15	Rental
Saturday, September 16	Rental
Friday, September 22	Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Friday, September 22	Pasty Prep 9:30 am
Saturday, September 23	Pasty Event

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

JUHANNUS 2023 CELEBRATION ENJOYED BY MANY

FCA members and guests had good weather to enjoy the various activities of Juhannus 2023...the threatened rain didn't materialize after all. A delicious dinner was prepared and served by Michael's Touch of Class staff. The Gift Shop was a popular place this evening, and the bar was open for wine, beer, and pop sales. People visited the many areas of our beautiful Finlandia Gardens.

FinnFolk provided background music during dinner, and after dinner, many folks moved to chairs that had been set up around the kokko/bonfire. FinnFolk passed out its reprinted songbooks so everyone could sing along with, listen to, or make requests for some of the songs included in it. Each song was introduced and described by FinnFolk members so the audience would understand the story it told. In fact, singing along and listening were so popular that we didn't even have time to weave the colorful ribbons of the "Juhannus pole" before dark arrived!

How did this pleasant, fun event happen? It happened because many VOLUNTEERS worked to make it happen: before the celebration, during the evening, and after it. KIITOKSIA PALJON to all who donated their time to create this traditional Finnish celebration!

Louise Hartung, organizer of Juhannus 2023

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

Officers

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Roger Wanttaja
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Asst. Treasurer, Mia Lamminen
Secretary,
Sherrill Tedford

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Cultural

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Education

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

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Mailing

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Membership

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Social

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Olli Lamminen, Chairman

Tapiola Village

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

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Henry "Hank" Naasko (7/9/23)** a donation has been made by Paul & Nancy Rajala.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Liimatta (3/18/23)** donations have been made by Max & Tuija Lunsford, Gary & Laura Lunsford and Robert & Tina Lunsford.

In memory of FCA life member **Ralph Mattila (7/13/20)** a donation has been made by Norma & Dennis Mattila.

In memory of FCA life member **Milda Mattila (11/2017)** a donation has been made by Norma & Dennis Mattila.

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. 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.



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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Unfortunately, in April, our Social Chair Mary O'Brien was forced to resign due to an injury. In order to continue organizing and holding social events, we are in need of help. A new chairman cannot not be elected until the annual meeting. However, in the meantime, the Finnish Center needs activities for the members to get together and enjoy each others company. We all want social events to resume so volunteers are needed to help organize and plan events.

We have lots of ideas but need your help! Are you able to plan an event or help to plan one? Even just joining in to make coffee or help clean up after an event? Maybe you could supply decorations or make a dessert? We could host a craft event or a musical presentation or a travelogue with your help! Perhaps a game night or euchre event. Or just hosting a movie. We'd love to have some new, fresh ideas of how we can connect with each other and make the Finnish Center a fun place for all if we put our hands and minds to work.

Please contact FCA if you would like to help out with the social committee. We are hoping to get a few people so that we can start planning events for the second half of the year. Remember, the members are the life-blood of organizations like FCA and together we can keep things going for years to come. Will you join us?

VOLUNTEER





SO YOU WANT TO WEAVE RAG RUGS!

The history of rag rug weaving at the Finnish Center goes 'way back. Many women who learned to weave as young people gathered to form the FinnWeavers organization. The group learned from each other many aspects of rag rug weaving thereby improving their skills. Also, they taught others who wanted to learn this craft and the FinnWeavers became an integral part of the Finnish Center.

In past years members and guests of the FCA were interested in learning more about the weaving of rag rugs. In 2016 the first of our formal classes was offered to the pleasure of the students. It was planned to offer additional classes but COVID and other situations got in the way.

Finally, the FCA is pleased to announce that a class will be offered in October of this year! Sandy Lampi Scheel will be the instructor and the barn loom that was donated several years ago will be used by the students to learn how to weave. This class will be offered on **October 17, 18 and 19 beginning at 10:00 am** in the morning. The class will consist of information sharing, demonstrations, discussions, hands on projects as well as weaving. Please contact Sandy for additional information or to register for the class (see below.)

There will be a \$50.00 fee made payable to the instructor at the beginning of the class. This will cover transportation for the instructor as well as hand-outs and weaving supplies for each student. When signing up for this class each student will be given a list of supplies they should bring. Also, students will be encouraged to bring a light lunch and a beverage of their choice.

If this class is of interest to you but the dates do not fit in your schedule, please let Sandy know and we should be able to schedule another class that is better for you. Also, we plan to offer weaving classes in 2024 - just let Sandy know that you are interested. Call (989) 245-2364 or email at sndscheel@gmail.com

Please know that the weaving classes are part of the Cultural Programming at the Finnish Center. Your participation in this class helps to keep the Finnish heritage alive and will encourage others to learn more about our history.

GIFT SHOP

We are excited to offer Thimbleberry jam, juustoa (squeaky cheese) and Finnish lapel flags again! We have also added an assortment of t-shirts for both adults and little ones as well as infant onesies. A new assortment of books is available. We are also expecting 2024 calendars in the near future.



Lapel pin

We look forward to seeing you soon.

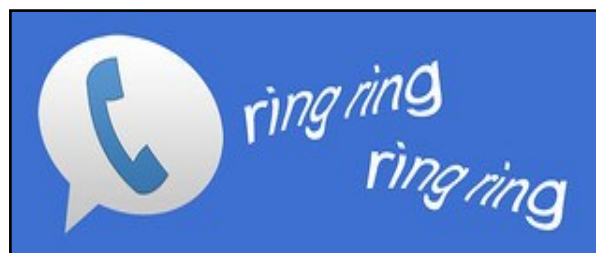
Janet Suomi
Gift Shop Coordinator

FRONT OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Do you have two or three partial days most months you can help? The FCA is hoping to add a few more people to our front office rotation. The office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

It's a pleasant job answering the phone, 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. Some may want to make a purchase from the gift shop. Not difficult yet semi-social camaraderie with a friendly smile.

Please contact Paul Rajala at prajala@comcast.net



NORDIC HERITAGE FOLK DANCE PRACTICE

- GOAL:** To have fun while preserving our Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish culture through folk dancing.
- FOR:** Everyone who would like to have fun learning basic steps and simple dances from the Nordic countries along with more complex dances for the experienced folk dancer.
- AGES:** 6 - 100
- WHEN:** Sunday, September 10, 2023
- WHERE:** Finnish Center Association
35200 W. Eight Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI
- TIME:** 2:00 - 5:00 pm

If you have any questions please email Glendene Thornbloom at gathorn4@gmail.com or the FCA at finnishcenter@gmail.com



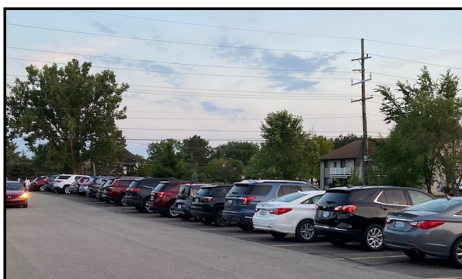
Sponsored by the FCA Cultural Committee

FARMINGTON HILLS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

Recently, the FCA parking lot was filled with cars and hundreds of people as the City of Farmington Hills celebrated fifty years since its founding.

A fireworks display at the nearby ice arena brought thousands of people to the area and the Finnish Center parking lot was conveniently located. The display of lights was spectacular and the visitors were delighted with the program and our gardens. The FCA gardeners welcomed the visitors and urged them to return and visit the center and gardens in the future.

The fireworks are presented every ten years to honor the founding of the city.



EIGHT DEADLY SHOTS

Directed by Mikko Niskanen, Finland, 1972

Did you watch/will you watch any of the Finnish movies at FinnFest USA this August? There were no movies by Mikko Niskanen on the FF schedule, but the Detroit Institute of Art's Detroit Film Theatre will be showing one on Sunday, August 27, at 1:00 pm. Come to the DIA and join other FCA members and other Fennophiles in seeing this unusual film. It is in Finnish, with English subtitles. Well-known Finnish director Aki Kaurismaki has this to say about the movie: "The crowning achievement of Finnish filmmaking and one of the masterpieces of European cinema."

The DFT will screen the movie only once, in its entirety. It is 316 minutes long, plus intermission minutes. (NOTE: this is 5 hours, 16 minutes.) The Crystal Gallery Café will be open during intermission, which is on the second floor of the Film Theatre.

The Film Theatre brochure gives this description of *EIGHT DEADLY SHOTS*: This long unsung landmark of Finnish cinema, inspired by an actual 1969 event, is the magnum opus of the virtually unknown (in the U.S.) writer-director-actor Mikko Niskanen. He delivers a shattering performance as Pasi, a farmer who struggles to support his family through occasional odd jobs and who seeks aid and comfort in alcohol—making it, selling it, drinking it—which creates turmoil within his family, brings him into conflict with the law, and leads him on a gradual, likely slide toward oblivion. Presented here in its original four-chapter format as made for Finnish television in 1972, this monumental vision of human endurance is the rare, great epic woven from the fabric of ordinary life." It was restored by Martin Scorsese's Film Foundation, with funding by the Lucas Family Foundation.

Ticket prices: \$9.50, general admission; \$7.50, DIA members, seniors, students; \$35, five discount passes. Go to the Crystal Gallery Café during intermission and look for your other FCA members and friends. You may call me at (248) 217-0331 anytime to let me know that you're coming and to look out for you during intermission.

Louise Hartung



FINLANDIA GARDENS IN THE SUMMER

The summer season in Finlandia Gardens is a joy to behold. Blooming perennial flora makes an appearance almost daily and annual plants are a continuing glow of color throughout the gardens.

Volunteer gardeners are appreciated and numerous individual volunteer opportunities make it possible for one to have a hand in garden beauty without making a major commitment. Surprisingly, we can even accommodate persons of limited mobility.

The appearance of new wildlife makes a gardener's heart sing. We hear frogs in the wetland, see ducklings, watch an Ohio vulture swooping near the ground as it is chased by a red-winged blackbird, a blue heron rises above the pond as it lifts off for a new location, and a muskrat rambles through the pond.



A new dahlia garden has been created, thanks to a generous donation from a neighbor with flora of many colors and even a chart showing their beauty. New umbrellas adorn our patio and our bear in the evergreen garden has been restored. Garden gatherings are possible for our members and friends. We welcome memorial donations for the selection of unique additions to our gardens. One suggestion is a Persian Silk tree also known as a mimosa. It has beautiful blooms in the summer. We recommend you come by to see what Mother Nature and our volunteers have prepared for your enjoyment. Garden volunteers are usually on site during morning hours and can answer gardening questions or offer a tour on our electric cart. Happy Summer from the FCA garden crew.

David Sharpe

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

Henry Jay Naasko
July 14, 1941-July 9, 2023



The Finnish American Singers of Michigan (FASM) are sad to share the news of the passing of their former director, Henry (Hank) Naasko on July 9, 2023. After suffering from ill health for quite a while, his wife Sandy relayed that he passed away peacefully under hospice care with his beloved granddaughters playing music and singing at his side.

Hank was the director of the FCA's Finlandia Male Chorus before leading FASM as its director for more than 25 years. Choir concerts, and certainly rehearsals, were punctuated with stories of his youth among his many Upper Peninsula Finnish relatives. Their love of music fostered his own desire to pursue music in college, leading to a music/history education degree at his beloved University of Michigan. Remaining an avid fan, Hank attended U of M football games faithfully for more than 50 years, despite rain, heat, or snow! He was also extremely proud of his college years singing with the Michigan Men's Glee Club, the second oldest collegiate chorus in the United States, and long acclaimed as one of the finest male choruses in the world.

His teaching career took place in Livonia, MI where he taught both middle and high school music as well as American history. Whether appearing in class dressed in historical costume, sharing molasses cookies made with his grandmother's recipe to illustrate the sugar trade, or encouraging the shy singer to shine, he engaged his students and built up thriving choral music programs at the schools where he taught. One member of the Finnish American Singers, Nancy Jacobs, has fondly shared stories about singing 35 years ago as a student in an elite choral group, that Hank directed. Other members recall experiencing Hank's performance abilities with the Ann Arbor Civic Theater in productions of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Les Misérables*.

His musical influence has spread to his close-knit family as well. All three of his daughters are instrumental musicians and his granddaughters are both instrumentalists and vocalists. The Finnish American Singers were pleased to have two of the girls play and sing at one of our concerts and always enjoyed hearing of their musical achievements. Family time at the Naasko home invariably included music!

This was never more evident than during the Christmas season, which for Hank began in the early fall when he started listening to some of his more than 300 Christmas albums and CDs! He sheepishly once told the choir about having to pull over in his little red convertible because a Christmas song was playing that had brought him to tears and he couldn't see to drive! He was unabashedly sentimental, and music was often the key that unlocked his tears.

Although the singers of FASM as well as his other friends and family will certainly share tears of laughter, sentiment, memories, and sadness at the loss of this man, we appreciate the influence he has had in our lives and in all those around him. He will be missed.

FINNISH CENTER ART OF NOTE

This painting and weaving done by Carol Stapula hangs in the FCA office, and is a free hand copy of *Fallen Angel* by Hugo Simberg. The original is part of a fresco in St. Johns Church, Tampere, Finland.



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



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(248) 474-4131
Paul N. Potti, Director