

Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

#### FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

#### **CO-CHAIR CORNER**

It has been a somewhat rainy past couple months in southeast Michigan, but amid the busy days of summer, a rainy afternoon can be an unexpected pleasure.

As the skies darken and raindrops begin to tumble from the clouds, everything seems quieter. The rain decreases dust and slows traffic, and waters all the thirsty gardens and flowers. The sounds of nature are accentuated — the bird calls, the chirping of the squirrels, the buzzing of insects. The slow drip of water off the eaves is melodic.

Sitting on a covered porch during a rain is the best. The feeling of the air cooling as the moisture falls is refreshing and cleansing. The roof shelters you from the drops but you almost feel as if you are standing unprotected, feeling every sensation of the water falling all around.

A rainy afternoon seems to unburden us from the constant immediacy of life, the feeling that we should always be doing something or going somewhere. Just as we refresh our screens or web browsers, the rain refreshes us.

Rain gives, restores, renews, replenishes. Soak it in. And be sure to stop by FCA to see the gardens in full bloom...thanks, in part, to the rainy days.

With gratitude,

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





#### FRIDAY BUFFETS RESUME IN SEPTMBER

*Michaels's Touch of Class* will be preparing our Friday evening buffet meals again this fall. The first one is on September 8 featuring entrees of Finnish Meatballs or Sweet and Sour Pork. Two weeks later on September 22 the choices are Finnish Sibelius Chicken or Baked Cod. Also included with the meal are water and coffee as well as appropriate side dishes such as salad, rolls, potatoes, coleslaw and vegetables. Each week's specific menu will be sent out to members a few days ahead via email blast or can be obtained by calling the FCA office.

Beer and wine will be available for purchase, and desserts are offered at an additional cost. Come and listen to the music of *FinnFolk* while you enjoy a meal with members and friends.

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 1 Monday, September 4 Thursday, September 7 Friday, September 8 Sunday, September 10 Wednesday, September 13 Thursday, September 14 Rental Friday, September 15 Rental Saturday, September 16 Rental Friday, September 22 Friday, September 22 Saturday, September 23 Thursday, September 28 Rental Friday, September 29 Rental Saturday, September 30 Rental **OCTOBER** Sunday, October 1 Rental Thursday, October 5 Saturday, October 7 Rental Friday, October 13 Rental Friday, October 13 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday October 17-19

Office Closed Office Closed FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5 pm Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm Folk Dance Practice 2-5 pm Board Meeting 7 pm Rental Rental Rental Pasty Prep 9:30 am Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm Pasty Bake & Sale Rental Re

Sunday, October 1RentalThursday, October 5FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5pmSaturday, October 7RentalFriday, October 13RentalFriday, October 13Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pmTuesday, Wednesday, Thursday<br/>October 17-19Rag Rug Weaving 10:00 amSunday, October 22Ships in the Keweenaw 2:00 pmSunday, October 29Folk Dance Practice 2-5:00 pm

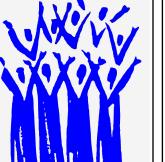
#### FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS

Eighteen months ago, things looked bleak for the Finnish American Singers of Michigan. We had not sung as a group in a couple of years due to the pandemic. Our director was no longer able to lead the group, illnesses lingered from Covid-19 complications, and we were saddened by the passing of some members. But the decision was made to hire a new director, move to a new venue that had marvelous acoustics, begin singing together again, and carry on with that SISU that is in our Finnish DNA.

Now a year later we are beginning our second year with an accomplished director, Alex Cave, a wonderful and talented accompanist, Hope McGookey, and some new and returning members. What would make the upcoming year even better is if we could increase the number of voices!

Why don't you consider coming to the first of our regular Monday rehearsals on September 11, at 5:45 pm. We meet at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, just 1.5 miles from the Finnish Center. We would love to have you! Do not be concerned if you do not speak Finnish, because choirs often sing in other languages, and we all will learn it together.

Call FASM president Katy Koskela if you have any questions, (734) 674-0434.



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

 Year
 Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier, Roger Wanttaja
 Year
 Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford, Christine Manninen
 Year
 Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien, Janet Suomi

Alternates #1 Paul Rajala #2 Marilyn Clark #3 Nancy Hanson

**Financial Review** Mary Kaye Aukee Gene Belttari Joanne Quellette

Committee Chairpersons Building & Grounds Roger Wanttaja Cultural Yvonne Lockwood Education

Finance Mia Lamminen Gift Shop Janet Suomi Mailing Alice Manley Membership Sherrill Tedford Publicity & Publications Ed O'Brien 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)** donations have been made by Sally & Joseph Bernbeck, The Rice Family, Mary Stapleton, Barbara & Richard Bray.

#### The FCA would also like to extend condolences to the family and friends of Margaret (nee Dahlgren) Rantanen (6/20/23).

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. Memorial donations can now be made online on our revised FCA website; <u>finnishcenter.org</u>

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-ofyou 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

#### VOLUNTEER DINNER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 28 HAS BEEN POSTPONED

We regret to inform you we are postponing the volunteer dinner until spring. We wanted to make this a special event and thought we could do a much better job if we had more time to work on it. Please watch the newsletter for the next date. We apologize for the change in plans and hope each volunteer will join us in the spring. And of course if you would like to help plan this or other events, please contact the FCA.

#### VOLUNTEERS TACKLE STORAGE ROOM

On July 18<sup>th</sup> a group of eight volunteers spent a few hours removing old equipment from the stage area in the Banquet Hall and in the Annex Storage Room behind it. The main item was an old walk-in cooler that had not been used in many years. The group uncovered an old Coke cooler on wheels with the FCA logo on the side that was buried in the corner. It is believed that this was used in the 70s and early 80s when the FCA participated in the Detroit Ethnic Festivals in Hart Plaza on the riverfront.

Those wonderful volunteers were David Koskela, Katy Koskela, Nancy Rajala, Jim Lee, Lon Matero, Jamie Coobatis, Bruce Mikko, and Paul Rajala.

#### FCA SEEKS RENTAL COORDINATOR

FCA gets a large portion of its income from renting its facilities to community groups and families for various functions including meetings, retreats, workshops, wedding receptions, funeral lunches, family parties, and other community events. Now that the covid pandemic has lifted, FCA is again inviting rentals. A volunteer is needed to be the first point of contact for rental inquiries, including responding to requests with pricing and availability, and coordinating tours of the building, if requested. Once a rental is secured, Paul Rajala updates the rental calendar, procures the necessary linens and bar service (if requested), and coordinates volunteers to be onsite to provide FCA oversight. Sarah Wiideman, who graciously volunteered as rental coordinator for the past two years, has offered to provide training to a new volunteer. Can you help? Hours are minimal (est. 2 hours/ week). This position offers a fun way to get involved with FCA and contribute to the broader community. If interested, please contact Paul Rajala at the FCA office (248) 478-6939 or finnishcenter@gmail.com.

# **The Finnish Center Association Presents:**

Ships On the Keweenaw

## Great Lakes Freighters- Passenger Ships - Since 1880s

SS South American visits Houghton A Video and Pictorial Presentation by Roger Hewlett Mariner - Engineer- Pilot

Sunday October 22, 2023- 2:00 pm

At : Finnish Cultural Center of Farmington Hills, Mi. 35200 W.Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, Mi.,48335



1959 - SS South American Visits Houghton Rudy Maki - Photos



1906-At the Copper Range Coal Docks



2023- US-NPS Ranger III to Isle Royale



1926 - City of Bangor - Aground - Keweenaw Pt

Photos, Videos from National Park Service and Michigan Tech Archives and Self and Friends For more information Contact : FinnCenter at (248) 476-6939 or: email: Roger Hewlett at <u>Hewlett-juntunen@sbcglobal.net</u>

082023-RGH

\*Coffee and Pulla will be served Donations are greatly appreciated

#### FASM GREENS SALE



Don't wait, Halloween will be too late to order your holiday GREENS! The Finnish American Singers of Michigan will again be taking orders DURING the MONTH of OCTOBER for greens from Sherwood Forest Farms in Washington State so that you may receive them close to Thanksgiving. Those of you that have ordered these beautiful greens in the past know how full, fresh, and lovely they are.

Sherwood again has enabled a website for ordering, paying by credit card, check, or cash. This website will be active on October 1<sup>st</sup> with the link provided on the FCA gift shop website also.

http://sherwoodfundraiser.com/FASM

Ordering from the Local Delivery option finds GREENS delivered to the Finnish Center. Local residents can then pick up their greens there on Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, time TBD, paying your check or cash then if that was the option you chose online. You may contact any choir member to order as well. We will be happy to take your order as we have in the past.

With a **Direct Delivery** order, items are sent directly to the recipient from Sherwood Forest Farms. This is an outstanding option to share a little bit of the "North" and holiday joy with recipients living out of personal delivery range while supporting FASM at the same time. Greens can be sent to any state in the lower fortyeight, with the cost including mailing charges and tax. Even if you are local, you may choose to have your item(s) directly delivered to you by the company. (The Evergreen Gift Set under the Direct Delivery option is a GREAT deal!)

> LOCAL DELIVERY ITEMS: Delivered to you by a choir member or to the Finnish Center Assn, 8 Mile Rd, **Farmington Hills, MI**





\$35



\$25



\$20

Noble Fir Door Swag 10 ft/\$27.50

#### DIRECT DELIVERY ITEMS:

Mailed directly to recipient from Sherwood Forest Farms in Washington state within the first two weeks following Thanksgiving. Items will include a greeting from the purchaser.

\$27.50



22" Mixed Greens Wreath 2 Western Cedar Garlands \$45



**Tall Reindeer** \$30



\$55

**Evergreen Gift Set** 

\$85

Best Deal!!



**Holiday Door Swag** \$45

**Gift Centerpiece** 

\$40



28" Mixed Green Wreath \$55



**Cone Gift Basket** \$38



#### 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.)

At this time there is no fee for the class. The Finn Weavers fund will cover transportation for the instructor as well as handouts 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 <u>sndscheel@gmail.com</u>

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.

#### FCA SEPTEMBER PASTY EVENT

The next FCA pasty-making fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, September 23. As always, we will need workers on both Friday the 22nd and Saturday the 23rd.

Note that pre-ordering is essential to be assured that your order can be filled. The preferred method is by the email notification list. We will be sending out this email about three to four weeks ahead. If you are not currently on the list but would like to be, contact us via email at <u>fcapasties@gmail.com</u> and we will add your name and email address to receive the notification.

You can also order by calling the FCA with your name, phone number, and the number of pasties to be purchased. The cost of the pasties will remain \$8.00.

Making the pasties requires a sizeable corps of workers. Tasks such as setup, peeling, dicing, and cleanup are on the Friday schedule, and setup, mixing, dough-pressing, crimping, cooling, packaging, selling, and cleanup are the many jobs required by the Saturday crew. All volunteers will receive a complimentary pasty. To volunteer, call the FCA or email to fcapasties@gmail.com.

For all those orders of 10 pasties or more, the cost will be \$7.50 each, but we are asking that the \$0.50 savings per pasty be donated to the FCA fundraiser for the replacement of the roof.

Paul Rajala, FCA Pasty Coordinator



#### 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.

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WHEN: Sunday, September 10, 2023 at Finnish Center Association at Finn Camp 2524 Loon Lake Rd. Wixom, MI 48393
 WHERE: Sunday, October 29, 2023 at Finnish Center Association Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Finnish Center Association at Finnish Center Association

**TIME**: 2:00 - 5:00 pm

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

#### WEAVING STORAGE

While working on the project of creating a database catalog of the weavings owned by the FCA, storage issues have surfaced. The project coordinator is looking for UNBLEACHED MUS-LIN that can be used to cover the rolled hangings. Yardage of at <u>least</u> 1-yard-long pieces is needed. We will help you pare down your sewing stash!

White COTTON sheets or large WHITE cotton tablecloths are also welcome. Do you have a beautiful damask tablecloth your children or grandchildren don't want because it needs to be *ironed*? Well, we'll gladly take it! Several have been donated and work perfectly to protect the hangings as they are stored, but we have others that still need protecting.



Please bring them to the FCA in a bag marked "FOR WEAVINGS."

Kiitos Katy Koskela

#### **GIFT SHOP**

Autumn is just around the corner and the gift shop will be open for the fall events in addition to our regular weekly hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. We have beautiful gifts for weddings and other occasions. Did you know that we can ship items anywhere in the United States? We are also making preparations for the Scandinavian Market on November 14.

Thank you for supporting the gift shop. We enjoy seeing you!

Janet Suomi, Gift Shop Coordinator



#### **AUGUST 19 FCA PICNIC**

What a great day to be outside and enjoy being together again! The food was good, the music was great and the weather even cooperated. It was wonderful to see everyone back at FCA to enjoy the last bits of summer. We had over 50 people attend and all seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Thank you so much for coming and supporting the Finnish Center! A huge thank you to the volunteers. Special thanks to David and Jeannette Sharpe for all their help, Sherrill Tedford for cleaning up, Ed O'Brien for publicity and being cashier, to all the bakers for the goodies, Janet Suomi for opening the gift shop, Kathy and Ryan Lindstrom for helping get things ready, Christine Manninen for bringing the hot dogs from the UP, and FinnFolk for providing music during the event. And special thanks to Paul Rajala for all the little things that help put this together. It's only through so many volunteers pitching in that we can put on these fun events and share our Finnish culture. If you can volunteer to help the social committee, please give a call to the Finnish Center.

#### Social Committee





Top to Bottom:

Mary O'Brien

Jon & Karen Call

Donald Savela and his daughter Susan

#### FROM THE GARDENS



Seasons have often been associated with feelings in literature and music. Spring is considered a time of optimism and hope, summer is often when dreams are realized, and a time for relaxation, and winter a culmination and the completion of the year. The season of autumn is associated with moments of reflection, resolution, and remembrance.

We must remember that summer goes on into late September. We often hear that when summer ends, gardens quickly go into decline and winter is soon upon us. Gardeners realize that this is not the case, as the months of autumn continue with the blooming of new perennials. These enter the scene, often until the latter days of October. Autumn is a time of emerging hues, with orange, reds and browns entering the landscape in great profusion.

This year we are having a great growing season in Finlandia Gardens, perhaps the best ever, complemented with the assistance of many new garden associates. Our gardens are receiving rave reviews from our visitors as they walk and inspect the flora.

The outdoor summer picnic was a wonderful opportunity to see the efforts we have made this year in maintenance and development of our community garden. We have received numerous donations from local garden centers and other businesses. Our future in Finlandia Gardens is full of promise with your continued support. Visit and be proud of what is being accomplished in Finlandia Gardens of the Finnish Center.

We also hope you will support the efforts being made to raise the necessary funds to upgrade our aging infrastructure at the Finnish Center. This is a daunting challenge and we need your support.

Your dedicated gardeners

SEPTEMBER 2023

#### FINNISH CENTER MEMBERS ATTEND FINNFEST



Kathryn Hill, Fern Malila and Neil Manley



Yvonne Lockwood



Dave & Katy Koskela



Jonene & Roger Hewlett



Donna & Jim Aho

As you can see by the photos the FCA was well represented at FinnFest in Duluth, Minnesota July 26-30, 2023.

The panel discussions, music, demonstrations, food, imports and more were enjoyed by all.

It was announced that FinnFest will be held in Duluth for the next 5 years.



Jim Fostey & Louise Hartung



Paavo Nurmi, Nancy Nurmi, Kathryn Hill and Fern Malila



Paul & Nancy Rajala



# **Finnish Cultural Center celebrates**

# Finland's Independence

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 5PM

### "Music, Language and Liberty"

#### Featuring Keynote speaker

Anu Muhonen, MA, PhD, Director of Finnish Studies at the University of Toronto

### "The Language of the Heart"

And

#### Musical performance by

Kyoko Kashiwagi (violin), Jennifer Goltz-Taylor (voice), Katri Ervamaa (cello), Naki Sung Kripfgans (piano)

#### "Chamber Music in the Age of Resistance"

#### Dinner with Finnish Appetizers and Specialties by Annabel's

Cash Bar Coffee and dessert

Folk music by FinnFolk

Tickets \$100.00\*\* Children under 12 \$20.00, under 5 free. Reservations by November 25, 2023 \*\*Roof fundraiser

35200 W. 8 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335 Phone: 248-478-6939 Email: finnishcenter@gmail.com



#### SCANDINAVIAN MARKET SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 10 AM – 4 PM

at –

**Finnish Center Association** 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335 (248) 478-6939 or (734) 834-6085

# **Public Welcome**

\$2 donation at the door

Featuring:

Imports from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland as well as Scandinavian art and food, UP recipe pasties, pulla and nisu, decorative arts and crafts, clothing, books,

pottery and more.....

FinnFolk will provide music throughout the day.

#### FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024

Were you aware that our building was dedicated on September 21, 1974? A copy of the dedication ceremony program was dropped off to the office recently. In browsing through it three things immediately came to mind: our building is showing its age as evidenced by the challenges we now face with the deteriorating roof and other items; there are a heck of a lot of Finnish surnames on the list of sponsors; and nearly all of the persons listed are sadly no longer with us.

I was able to recognize the names of three current active members from the list, as well as the children, grandchildren, and descendant relatives of a few more. But certainly the membership of the FCA reading this article can come up with a lot more.

Please review the names from the list below (only the A's and B's are shown in this issue). Subsequent issues will continue with names on through the alphabet. Contact me if you are or know of current members that have descended from those proud Finnish Americans that built this organization and building. Email the FCA at <u>finnishcenter@gmail</u>.com, call us at (248) 478-6939, or email me personally at <u>prajala@comcast.net</u>.

Adams, Paul and Lois Aho, George and Evelyn Aho, Philip O. and Irene E. Aili, Waino and Elizabeth Airo, Oliver and Alvera Aittama, Adolph and Lovern Aittama, Rudolph and Norma Alcenius, Marie J. Alexander, Keith and Pia Anderson, Charlotte

Anderson, Eleanore Anderson, John W. and Barbara K. Anderson, Reinolt and Lorraine Anderson, Wesley and Bertha Antila, Larry A. and Irma R. Antis, Jack and Maija Liisa Anttila, Eric and Saima Aukee, Lauri and Lillian Aula, Matt A and Helen J. Autio, Rachel Baaki, Donald W and June K. Bagnasco, Angela and Caesar Bagnasco, Ronald and Mary Jeanne Beltry, Emil and Elina Björkman, Stig Blom, Robert and Toini M. Boraks, Ludvig and Mollie Brooks, Elmer and Marie Brown, Emmy Brown, Kenneth L and Alice Brown, Archie and Viola

#### 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	Visit us on "Finnish Center and Hall" Facebook page and "like" us to get the latest updates!
DatePhone:email:	
Applicant	
Applicant/Spouse	
Address	
	FCA Senior Living
City State Zip code Signature Are you of Finnish descent? Annual membership, single, one vote	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
<ul> <li>Annual membership, family, one vote</li></ul>	
□ Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)	<b>THAYER-ROCK</b>
Amount enclosed	<b>FUNERAL HOME</b>
Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,	33603 Grand River,
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108	Farmington, MI
	(248) 474-4131 Paul N. Potti, Director
	Paul N. Polu, Director