



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2023

CO-CHAIR CORNER

We all make marks on this world as we move through it. It's inevitable that our presence has an impact. Some choose to tread heavily on the people and physical things around them. They touch things with a heavy hand that can cause unnecessary and unintended damage, and raise their voice or rev their engine with no recognition of the disruption they are causing.

Why not go easy? Take notice of the history of a place and treat old things and people with the respect they deserve. Observe and tread lightly on the living things beneath your feet. Let your touch be light, your sight keen, and your voice soft and aware.

When you camp, outdoor ethics instruct us to "leave no trace," which is sound advice for everyone. A few of the principles:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Be considerate of others

No matter where we are in this world, we should all strive to leave things better than we found them. Thanks to all the FCA volunteers, members and friends who make our Finnish corner of the world a great place to be. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

With gratitude,

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



DINNER AND A CONCERT

The Novi Concert Band has been performing June and December concerts at the Finnish Center for decades. If you have never attended one, your opportunity is coming up on December 8. Following a buffet prepared by chef Mike Grant of Michael's Touch of Class, you can enjoy a variety of pieces by this group of Novi-area musicians under the leadership of Director Scott Cramer. Maestro Cramer had spent 30 years as the band, orchestra, and choir director at John Glenn High School in Westland and has been with the Novi Concert Band since 2005.

So come, have a meal, and relax with a glass of wine or a favorite beer from the bar as you listen to holiday favorites. See more about the band on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/novicconcertband/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 3	Pasty Prep
Saturday, November 4	Pasty Event
Wednesday, November 8	FCA Board Meeting 7 pm
Thursday, November 9	FCA Bakers 9:30 am
Friday, November 10	Scandinavian Market Set-up
Saturday, November 11	Scandinavian Market 10 am-4 pm
Saturday, November 18	SWEA Christmas Fair 7:30 am-6 pm
Sunday, November 19	Folk Dance Practice 2-5 pm
Thursday, November 23	Thanksgiving Office Closed
Friday, November 24	Office Closed
Sunday, November 26	FASM Concert at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2:00 pm
Thursday, November 30	FCA Bakers 9:30 am



DECEMBER

Saturday, December 2	Finnish Independence Celebration 5:00 pm
Friday, December 8	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:00 pm
Friday, December 8	Novi Concert Band 7-8:15 pm
Saturday, December 9	Finnish Christmas Dinner Workshop 1 pm
Saturday, December 9	Finnish Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 13	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 14	Rental
Thursday, December 14	Charity Poker 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday, December 15	Rental
Friday, December 15	Charity Poker 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Saturday, December 16	Rental
Saturday, December 16	Charity Poker 6:30pm-2:00 am
Sunday, December 17	Rental
Sunday, December 17	Charity Poker 6:30 pm-2:00 am
Monday, December 25	Office Closed

**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

Alternates

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

Financial Review

Mary Kaye Aukee
Gene Beltari
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

FCA ELECTION NOTICE 2024

Election at the Annual meeting on February 18, 2024 at 3:00 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 16, 2024 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 FCA (248) 478-6939.

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



MEMORIALS

In memory of **Robert Salmonson 9/3/23**, brother of FCA life member Hazel Munro, donations have been made by Judy Devine, Debra L. Closurdo, and Richard Burkholder.

The FCA would like to extend condolences to the family and friends of FCA life member **Ilene Yanke 10/1/23**.

Our apologies for the misspelling of the following names in the October issue. It should have been:

In memory of FCA life member **Mamie Liimatta (DOD unknown)**, **Ainard Liimatta (11/9/1976)**, **Wilho Liimatta (8/12/1997)**, FCA life member **Ruth Liimatta (3/18/2023)** and FCA life member **Rev. Elmer Liimatta (3/31/2023)** 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, 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

CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE

Finnish Center Association has received a generous donation of two cemetery lots at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia MI 48154. The donation was made by Elizabeth Maki in memory of long time Finnish Center members Allie (her mother) and Emil Porkka. The lots are located in Garden of Hours, section 895, graves 1 & 2. Each grave can hold one full body burial along with two cremains or just 3 cremains per grave. If you are interested in purchasing them, please give a call to Finnish Center for more information. Telephone (248) 478-6939 or email: finnishcenter@gmail.com

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. Sarah Wiide-man had performed this duty effectively and graciously over the last sixteen months. However, Sarah has recently moved to the east coast to be closer to family, and a volunteer is now 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. 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.



**SCANDINAVIAN MARKET
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

10:00 am – 4:00 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 crafts, clothing, books, jewelry, pottery and more.....

FinnFolk will provide music throughout the day.

FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 3

In the September issue of the FCA News we noted that our Cultural Center Building will be turning 50 in September of 2024. The third group of sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony is listed below in this November issue.

We have gotten responses from many current and former FCA members who have acknowledged their descendancy from the founders listed in previous issues. Please review the table below and if you know of any of our current members that are on this month's list, or are the children or grandchildren of them please contact the FCA, finnishcenter@gmail.com, (248) 478-6939, or me personally, prajala@comcast.net.

Harja, Tauno and Alice

Hatch, Marie

Heikkinen, John and Doris

Helin, Charles and Mary

Henline, Minda

Hill, Toivo and Maria

Hiltunen, Jarl K.

Hirshey, John II, Gary, Scott

Holmbo, Leonard and Betty

Husa, Emil

Harju, Willard and Mildred

Heikka, Kenneth and Darlene

Heinonen, Waino and Eleanor

Helin, Lempi

Hicks, Anna Ingrid

Hill, Wesley and Ellen

Himanka, Jussi ja Helena

Hirvelä, Lincoln and Laura

Honkala, Toivo and Elma

Hyrkäs, Robert W. and Carol J.

Haro, John and Elizabeth

Heikkinen, Einar and Viola

Heikkala, Fred and Elvie

Heliste, Reuben and Elna

Hiettikko, Neil and Mildred

Hiltunen, Arvid and Helmi

Hirshey, John and Ruth

Holm, Antti E. and Impi M.

Höyhty, Andrew and Lillian

Hytinen, Robert W.

NORDIC HERITAGE FOLK DANCE PRACTICE

The Nordic Heritage Folk Dance group welcomes both children and adults to come and learn basic steps like polka, waltz and schottische and simple to intermediate folk dances depending on the dancer. Our goal is to have fun while keeping the culture of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden alive through folk dancing.

The remaining 2023 practice will be:

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Finnish Center Association

All practices begin at 2:00 pm with a 'family-style' practice where both children and adults learn folk dancing together for the first hour. We want to ensure folk dancing continues for generations. The next hour or longer is for adults where the folk dances can become more challenging depending on the participants. We hope to see you at one of our practices!

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



THOUGHTS ABOUT NOVEMBER

It is difficult to say goodbye to the warmer seasons in the gardens. We sometimes forget that they do not last forever. But there still is much to be done as we retreat to the wood shop to begin another stage of garden management. Rebuilding and repairing outdoor structures, organizing the wood shop, making indoor improvements, planning for the next garden year, and, of course, helping in the Finnish Center. This will keep us engaged during the cooler times.

This year was the best we have seen in the twenty years of Finlandia Community Gardens. We had more garden assistance, more visitors, more donations, and our gardens received more positive comments from members and friends than ever before. This has been greatly appreciated, as well as it is befitting, for this year we celebrate our twentieth year of the evolution of Finlandia Gardens.

Now it seems suitable to take time to reflect on all of this and to consider the future of the FCA and our gardens. This is something each member of the FCA should consider, as we have created an exceptional Finnish Center and gardens that should continue. We and our forebears have invested time and treasure to create an ethnic gem that needs to be sustained. by all of us.

David Sharpe



GIFT SHOP



November is such a wonderful time of the year in the gift shop. We see families coming together for Thanksgiving, and taking time to visit with us. We see the excitement of young and old at the Scandinavian Market. We're stocking the shelves in anticipation of a great turnout. It is such a special event, and we look forward to helping you have a fun shopping experience.

Pencil in November 11 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm on your calendar,

Janet Suomi

CHAIN OF SURVIVAL CLASS



FCA has a new AED (automated external defibrillator). This is an important part in the Chain of survival steps. Farmington Hills Fire Department will be instructing us at FCA on Saturday January 20, 2024 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. We will be trained on our new AED along with CPR and Heimlich maneuver (for choking).

Cost for the training is \$45 to qualify to receive a certificate card or \$25 without a certificate card. Space is limited. Register by December 28, 2023.

If you have questions or to RSVP please email the FCA at finnishcenter@gmail.com or call Kathryn Hill at FCA (248) 478-6939.

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

FCA POKER FUNDRAISER

Warning! This headline may be misleading!

No, we are not hosting a poker tournament at the Finnish Cultural Center. No, we will not ask you to gamble away your hard-earned money. Yes, we are asking you to volunteer some of your time for an important and lucrative fundraising opportunity for the FCA.

Can you count red (\$5) and white (\$1) poker chips? Can you count folding money ranging from \$1 to \$100 bills? Can you make change? If you can answer YES to these simple tasks, you meet the qualifications to be a worker at our upcoming four-day charity fundraiser in December.



Is it at the Finnish Center? No, the venue is the poker room at Vision Lanes in Westland. Do you have to know how to play poker? Absolutely not. Is the poker room filled with smoke? It is not because no smoking is allowed and this policy is enforced. Is the venue safe? It certainly is, as numerous security cameras are in place. Can you volunteer for a seven-hour shift? Perhaps not all can do this, but half shifts can be accommodated if necessary. Are you able to endure working until 2:00 a.m. for just one day? If yes, you would be especially valuable because two of our event days require it. But know that you would be working with two seasoned veterans who actually enjoy these hours and will keep you awake.

The days and times are as follows:

Thursday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, December 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 17, from 6:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Please volunteer to at least one (or more) of these shifts. Contact Ilona Takakura at (734) 228-8225 or via email at rccilona@hotmail.com.

Vision Lanes is located in Westland at 38250 Ford Rd.



FCA RECEIVES MI NONPROFIT RELIEF GRANT

The Fundraising Committee is happy to announce that the FCA has received a \$25K general operating support grant from the Michigan Nonprofit Relief Fund. The funding for this program comes from the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds awarded to the State of Michigan as part of the American Rescue Plan Act.

This grant will be used to fund daily operations of the FCA (e.g., utilities, office support, rental coordination) and cannot be used for capital improvements such as the new roof campaign.

The FCA's three-year capital campaign, *It Takes a Village To Raise a Roof*, continues to receive donations. All gifts are tax deductible. You can pay your donation by credit card (visit finishcenter.square.site) or by mailing a check to:

Finnish Center Association
35200 West Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

If you are interested in planned giving via a will or trust, we would be happy to work with you. Please contact us at 248-478-6939 or by email at finishcenter@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!



FINNISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

One of the highlights of our holiday season will be the Finnish Christmas Dinner, to be held on December 9 at 6:00 p.m. If you have never been to this event, please come join us! If you have attended before, join us again this year for this festive holiday treat. The food is wonderful and will, no doubt, bring back some memories of past Christmases with some of the Finnish food enjoyed by all.



This year we have added a very special event for those of you who would like to learn how to make some of these dishes. Ilona Takakura has invited as many as want to come at 1:00 pm to join her in preparing the dinner that we will later enjoy. You will learn how to make rutabaga casserole, Rosolli and more. Please call the Finnish Center if you wish to attend either or both of these fun events.

Donations are gratefully accepted. The Gift Shop will be open for your shopping convenience and for those last-minute gifts that you can only get at FCA.

Mary O'Brien, chairman

FCA BAKERS



The FCA bakers prepare pulla/nisu on October 17.

From left to right, Peggy Burns, Dee Aebersold, Nancy McClenahan, Sandy Gersky, Louise Hartung, Bonnie Swindell, Chris Martin, and Tom Buchanan. Shop for your loaves in the Gift Shop and at the Scandinavian Market on November 11.

Louise Hartung, Coordinator

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

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN

October is a leading month for the Finnish American Singers of Michigan. We have been hard at work practicing the music leading to our November 26th Christmas concert. Our GREENS sale was held this month, taking orders leading to a November delivery of the fragrant holiday greens. We rested after our September pasty extravaganza when we participated in the production of 800 plus yummy pasties leading to our reprise of the event in November just before the Scandinavian Market.

In a similar way, the holiday music we will be singing is, "leading" us, both singers and listeners through the December holiday. It is truly Christmas: From Start to Finnish! Both Michigan and Finland anticipate, some eagerly some not, the arrival of a *White Christmas*. Irving Berlin composed the classic song that was the linchpin for a movie of the same title. We have the addition of a solo verse in Finnish, emphasizing the American- Finnish connection. How about a chilly but fast sleigh ride? In *The Sleigh*, we go "Lightly flying o'er the snow ... with sleigh bells ringing, gaily singing, merrily we go." For those that are not crazy about cold weather, we sing a song to the Prince of Ice, *Little Jack Frost (Get Lost)*, with the title phrase repeatedly emphasizing our displeasure!

However, the song *Little Tiny Child* reminds us we are being led to the birth of a special Baby: "When you awake a new world will dawn ..." "Peace we obtain, therefore let us rejoice. He alone is the Prince of Peace..." the Finnish *Oi sä remuisa* tells us. Perhaps He truly is the best Christmas gift, although the point of view in *You're All I Want For Christmas* offers a different opinion! Of course, we all know about the gifts given during the *Twelve Days of Christmas* but do you know what happened after they were received? Find out in *The Twelve Days AFTER Christmas* as written by Fredrich Silver!

Which leads us back to the most wonderful gift which we would all agree, is peace, *Wonderful Peace*. With its beautiful harmonies and gentle melody, this Swedish carol written in 1921 has become a beloved Christmas offering. The lyrics "Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise" lead us to *The Bell Carol of the Kings*. It interweaves the Ukrainian *Bell Carol* and *We Three Kings* with lyrics leading the kings, or wise men to the Baby. " Westward

leading, still proceeding, Guide us to the Perfect Light..."

We hope you will join FASM Sunday, November 26th, 2 pm, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, MI when we hope to *lead* listeners toward a wonderful, musical holiday at our free concert, **Christmas: From Start to Finnish!**

Katy Koskela

"Fallen Leaves"/"Kuolleet lehdet" directed by Aki Kaurismäki

This film, winner of the Jury Prize at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, is playing at the Detroit Institute of Arts' Detroit Film Theatre. Join other FCA members on Sunday, December 16, for the 2:00 pm show, and visit with them in the Crystal Gallery afterwards to discuss the movie.

Fallen Leaves is the story of two lonely people who meet and attempt to become a couple. Kaurismäki's storytelling of how this attempt proceeds has been described as "comically poignant."

The movie is in Finnish with English subtitles. Tickets cost \$10.50, but DIA members, seniors, and students pay \$8.50. Call Louise Hartung, (248) 217-0331, if you'd like to join this gathering.



FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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

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Farmington, MI
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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