



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

DECEMBER 2023

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CO-CHAIR CORNER

Hyvää Joulua! God Jul! Merry Christmas!

No matter how it's said, the sentiment is the same. Holidays in Finland and the Nordic countries lift spirits and bring joy to a cold and dark place where the sun only shines for a few hours each day in December. For many of us, it brings us a sense of security and calmness to see the familiar blanket of white. Celebrating Joulua or Jul (Yule) marks the return of the sun and the cycle of the seasons.

In this holiday season, there is a personal connection forged by exchanging Christmas cards. The act of sending a folded piece of paper with a handwritten greeting from one house to another is like a yarn tying each family together into a beautiful tapestry. It was, and is, a simple way to stay connected with those people in our lives who, in some way, have witnessed our journey. Send some cards to those you love. The act of holding a tangible object brings a special comfort that we can't get from the digital form.

And be sure to join us at FCA for some special December events including a Finnish Independence Day Celebration on December 2. This fundraiser for our roof project will include a delicious dinner with Finnish appetizers and specialties accompanied by a talk on "Music, Language and Liberty" by Anu Muhonen, director of Finnish Studies at the University of Toronto, and beautiful musical performances by a chamber quartet and FinnFolk. On December 9 join us for a Finnish Christmas Dinner with many Finnish specialties. All are welcome to spend the afternoon at FCA learning how to prepare the traditional foods, as well.

Wherever these holidays find you, we hope you can celebrate our shared Finnish culture.

With gratitude,

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 2	Finnish Independence Celebration 5:00 pm
Wednesday, December 6	Cake Day 1:00 pm
Friday, December 8	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:00 pm
Friday, December 8	Novi Concert Band 7:00-8:15 pm
Saturday, December 9	Finnish Christmas Dinner Workshop 1 pm
Saturday, December 9	Finnish Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm
Sunday, December 10	Rental
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.**

JANUARY

Monday, January 1	Office Closed
Wednesday, January 10	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Friday, January 12	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Saturday, January 20	AED Training 11:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday, January 21	Sunday Brunch 10:00 am-1:00 pm

JOULUTORTTU

A *joulutorttu* ("Yule tart", Swedish: *jultårta*; sometimes known as *tähtitorttu* "star tart") is a Finnish Christmas pastry. It is traditionally made from puff pastry in the shape of a star or pinwheel and filled with prune jam and often dusted with icing sugar. The pastries can be in other shapes and apple used in place of the prune jam.

Joulutorttus are mostly made in Finland but also in Sweden.



In 2020, a company that sells the dough estimated that the average Finn eats about 18 pieces of joulutorttu each year.

Hopefully, you will be able to consume your 18 pieces of joulutorttu with your friends and family this holiday season.

Hyvää Joulua

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 Belttari
Joanne Quелlette

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.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

February 18, 2024 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.



SENIOR HOUSING TRANSFER MOVING AHEAD

The FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation board of directors reports that the gift agreement and proposed property transfer, approved by FCA member vote in June 2022, has been a long process but is nearing completion. There have been many delays, including flood damage and a resulting insurance claim, and issues with the bank loan transfer to Finlandia Foundation National (FFN).

To expedite the transfer and preserve more of the gift, the board agreed at its Nov. 13 meeting that the optimal solution is to sell Tapiola and then transfer the net proceeds to FFN. Invitations to purchase the property will be sent out to several local management companies this month, and there will be a 30-day deadline for bids to be accepted. The board will review all bids and proceed with the sale in coming months.

The goal of the gift to FFN is to preserve Finnish culture in the U.S. by making the Finnish-American Heritage Center in Hancock, Mich., self-sustaining. Due to the closure earlier this year of Finlandia University, the heritage center and its archives are in jeopardy. The Finnish archives are well-used and need to be preserved. Also, digitizing the archives is a high priority goal for FFN so they can be used by Finns around the world. The archives will likely grow as many people want to donate Finnish records and items.

FCA Co-chair Christine Manninen noted that a possible endowment for FCA (from FFN) has also been proposed. FFN Board Chair Anne-Mari Paster said that FFN would like to ensure sustainability for FCA moving forward and is encouraged by its leadership changes and growth. This will be further discussed at the next FCA Board meeting on December 13, 2023.



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**

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Ilene Yanke (10/01/23)** a donation has been made by Louise Hartung.

In memory of **Robert Salmonson (9/3/23)**, brother of Hazel Munro, a donation has been made by Johnson, Kula & Company.

In memory of FCA life member **Margaret Rantanen (6/20/23)** donations have been made by Elizabeth & David Sabo and Henry Rantanen.

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.



“What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us” – Helen Keller

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 sixteen months. However, Sarah has 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.



Tapiola Village had a visitor recently.

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 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 am 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 am to 6 pm
Friday, December 15, from 10 am to 6 pm
Saturday, December 16, from 6:30 pm to 2 am
Sunday, December 17, from 6:30 pm to 2 am

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

Vision Lanes is located in Westland at 38250 Ford Rd.



GIFT SHOP

Joyous greetings from your Gift Shop! We have some new items coming in that weren't available at the Scandinavian Market. We're getting Raspberry Ball Candles, Marimekko napkins, Suomalainen mugs, Living with a Finn Mugs, and Sisu Scramble Mugs. We also have Wiener Nougats, Fazer boxed and wrapped chocolates, and Siljan Croustades Crispy Shells.



We're having a sale on all Iittala glassware - 25% off, excluding Taika dinnerware. The sale will run from December 1 through 14.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Janet Suomi
Gift Shop Chairman

"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 CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 4

In the September, 2023 issue of the FCA News we noted that our Cultural Center Building will be turning 50 in September of 2024.

Our Board of Trustees are true trustees of the Finnish Center as they seek capital funds through grants and campaigns to assure that this building will be still be here for future generations of Finnish Americans. The fourth group of sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony is listed below in this issue. As we have just celebrated our Thanksgiving holiday, we should give thanks to the members that gave us this wonderful building where we celebrate Finnish culture. Please review the table below and if you know of any current members that are on this month's list, or are children or grandchildren of them please contact the FCA, finnishcenter@gmail.com, (248) 478-6939, or me personally, prajala@comcast.net.

Isaacson, Esther

Jacobson, Dr. Arvid and Sally

Johnson, John and Dorothy

Johnson, Willard and Eleanore

Jouppi, Andrew and Aileen

Kaellner, Henry and Helen

Karling, Nels and Martha

Keippela, Wainö and Saima

Keränen, Eero and Eleanore

Kinnunen, Charles J. and Edla

Kivistö, Wendla V.

Immonen, Elmer and Helen

Jalkanen, Dr. Arthur W. and Beverly

Johnson, Dr. Lars and Marja

Jokinen, Andrew and Catherine

Jurva, Onnie and Lillian

Kangas, Einard and Helmi

Karvonen, Richard and Vilma

Kemppainen, Bruce and Shirley

Kesti, Arne A. and Toini V.

Kivimäki, Hugo A. and Helen

Koivu, Bill and Toini

Jackonen, Felix and Margaret

Johns, Robert and Ruth

Johnson, Roy W. and Irene

Jokinen, David and Joyce

Jurva, Roy and Ruth

Kantola, Richard E.

Katajamaki, Antti and Aino

Keränen, Carl and Edla

Kettunen, George and Elsie

Kivimäki, Vert C. and Gertrude E.

FINNISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

One of the highlights of our holiday season is the Finnish Christmas Dinner on **Saturday, December 9 at 6:00 pm**. The food is wonderful and will, no doubt, bring back some memories of past Christmases with some of the Finnish food enjoyed at other times.

This year we have added a very special event for those of you who would like to learn how to make some of the traditional Finnish dishes. Ilona Takakura has invited you to come at 1:00 pm to join her in preparing the dinner that we will eat. You will learn how to make rutabaga casserole, Rosolli and a potato dish along with ham. Please call the Finnish Center if you wish to attend either or both fun events. Hope to see you there.

Donations are gratefully accepted. The gift shop will be open for your shopping convenience.

Mary O'Brien, chairman

CAKE DAY

Cake day will be celebrated on **Wednesday, December 6 at 1:00 pm**. Please join in to celebrate Finnish Independence Day (try to pronounce it in Finnish, Itsenäisyyspäivä) with cake and ice cream and of course, coffee.

Independence Day is the combination of solemnity and enjoyment. On the serious side, you have speeches, visits to cemeteries, tributes at war memorials and special church services. On the lighter side, people place blue and white candles in their windows, bakeries sell blue and white pastries, shops are adorned with blue and white decorations and there are blue and white flags displayed everywhere.

We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration of Finland's Independence.

Mary O'Brien



FCA HONORED

The Finnish Center was honored in October when Finlandia Community Gardens received a Beautification Award from the Beautification Commission of Farmington Hills. This award considers many features of garden displays including street appeal, maintenance, purpose, etc. The gardens have previously been honored for specific qualities including environmental concern, community involvement, and comprehensiveness. The Finnish Center is a site for MSU Master Gardener participation.

The Commission gives awards for offices, businesses, shopping centers, entrances, condos, places of worship and organizations. The FCA was the only organization awarded for landscaping in 2023.



FCA receives the 2023 Beautification Award.

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 **Friday, December 8, 7-8:15 pm**. 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.

Besides a number of Christmas songs, the band will present Clare Grundman's *A Finnish Rhapsody*, a medley that includes "Oi Kallis Suomenmaa" (O Blessed Fatherland); "Kesailta" (Summer Evening); "Talons Tyttö" (The Country Lass); Sibelius' *Finlandia*; and a reprise of "Oi Kallis Suomenmaa."

So come, have a meal, and relax as you listen to holiday favorites.

Dinner & Concert \$15
Concert Only \$5

WINTER WONDERLAND

Have you ever thought of winter as a wonderland? I'm sure in February that may be a difficult stretch, but in November and December, with holidays looming, don't we wait for the first snow in eager anticipation?

Gardeners do appreciate winter. Not only are the gardens often beautified in gossamer white, but a garden walk in the quiet of a winter day can be delightful. Cheery calls of birds at feeders, gardens sleeping quietly beneath the snow, and holiday lights glowing as darkness falls, are delightful to be seen. The Scandinavian Market, with Nordic delights, the aroma of pastry making emerging from the FCA kitchen, and the music of Sibelius flowing from one's iPhone, makes the season bright and a satisfying respite from the busy time of the growing season. This view of winter may be overly optimistic but we hope it brings you the joys often associated with our memories of times past.

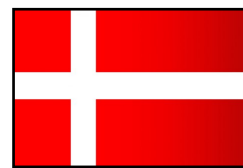
We wish you a winter season of peace and contentment.

David Sharpe



The FCA bakers preparing pulla/nisu for the Scandinavian Market. From left to right: Dee Aebersold, Tom Buchanan, Peggy Burns, Bonnie Swindell and Nancy McClenahan. Photo by Lousie Hartung.

The loaves sold at the Market, along with the other delicious baked goods donated by FCA members.



KIITOS

Thank you to all involved who made the Scandinavian Market a success. Special thanks to all our exhibitors: Finn Weavers, Nordkap Lodge, the Swedish Club, Swedish Club Women's Organization, Scandia House, Accents by Agatha, Fritzcraft, Lavender Fleece, Vintage by Annikki, Forgotten Crafts Funky Beach Frames and Ann Tomlinson. Thank you also to FCA volunteers Paul & Nancy Rajala, Kathryn Hill, Christine Manninen, Nancy Hanson, Ramona Dixon, Kendra Dinsdale and Nicholas Kaipainen who provided great food and coffee for the visitors. Thank you also goes to all the tireless volunteers who made it all happen, Margaret Laurila in the office, Irene Lamanen and Marilyn Clark at the entrance, Jim Lee setting up and Roger Wanttaja working behind the scenes to make sure things worked properly. Without our volunteers we could not have done it.

The FCA member bakers did a great job of filling our table for the bake sale. Jukka Pietilä and Ilona Takakura, Vickie Kimler and Charlie Harkins took care of the bake goods sale. Thank you Paul Rajala and his crew who provided pasties and Finnish bakers who had baked Pulla. Thank you also to Janet Suomi who had stocked up the gift shop with great gift items, food and candy and sold by her tireless volunteers Malla Sandberg, Mary O'Brien, Ed O'Brien, Sherrill Tedford, Marilyn Emerson, Helena Hatten, Linda Tuomaala, Sue Trescott and Peggy Burns. Jim Lee, Kathryn Hill, Roger Wanttaja, and Lon Matero took care of cleaning up after the event. Finally a special thank you to Finnfolk for providing music for the occasion.

KIITOS!

Mia Lamminen

PHOTOS FROM SCANDINAVIAN MARKET
NOVEMBER 11, 2023



Photos by Lavender & Rose
Photography



PASTIES FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN MARKET

On November 4th volunteers produced pasties for the Scandinavian Market, both frozen and heated for immediate consumption or to go. Those dedicated workers that peeled and diced on Friday were Dee Aebersold, Peggy Burns, Joann Coobatis, Karen Call, Jon Call, Larry Gersky, Peggy Hanninen, Jess Hatten, Irene Lamanen, Margaret Laurila, Sharon Parkila, Sandy Reidenbach and David Sharpe.

The Saturday crew was Peggy Burns, Kendra Dinsdale, Ramona Dixon, Karen Gasinski, Frank Gottberg, Helena Hatten, Kathryn Hill, John Hookana, Nancy Jacobs, Katy Koskela, Yvonne Lockwood, Neil Manley, Lon Matero, Nancy McClenahan, Jan Mills, Nancy Rajala, Paul Rajala, John Saarinen, John Welsh.



Ramona Dixon and Nancy Jacobs roll out the dough.



Katy Koskela crimping the pasties.



Lon Matero - Oven Man



Nancy Rajala, Helena Hatten and Jan Mills in the packaging department.

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