



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2024

CO-CHAIR CORNER

Happy New Year!

According to a Finnish proverb, midwinter is karhu kylkeänsä kääntää, meaning “when the bear rolls over on to his other side.”

The milestone will be celebrated at Heikinpäivä throughout January at the Finnish-American Heritage Center in Hancock, MI. The month-long celebration culminates with a parade, polar plunge, and dances on January 27. Held annually since 1999, the mid-winter festival features workshops on Finnish crafts and cooking, markets, polar plunge into the frigid waters of the Portage Canal, music and dancing, and other fun winter games.

The celebration’s themes are taken from the Finnish folk sayings associated with the name day for Heikki (St. Henrik’s day, traditionally January 19), including Heikki heinät jakaa (Heikki divides the hay) and Talven selkä poikki (winter’s back is broken). The bear – an ancient Finnish and Sami symbol — is always a familiar figure in the celebrations.

The most popular events at Heikinpäivä are kicksled races for kids and the always entertaining wife-carrying contest! Basic rules require one spouse to carry the other through an obstacle course featuring scenes of traditional Finnish domestic life. Agility, strength, speed and a sense of humor are required.

Happy Heikinpäivä!

With gratitude,

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

Photo credits: Finlandia University



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday, January 1 | Office Closed |
| Tuesday, January 2 | Fundraising Committee 11:00 am |
| Wednesday, January 10 | FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm |
| Thursday, January 11 | FCA Bakers 9:30 am |
| 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 |
| Sunday, January 21 | Finnish Meet Up 1:30 pm |
| Friday, January 26 | Pasty Prep 9:15 am-2:00 pm |
| Saturday, January 27 | FCA Pasties 7:00 am-2:00 pm |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday, February 11 | Sunday Brunch 10:00 am-1:00 pm |
| Friday, February 16 | Rental |
| Friday, February 16 | Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm |
| Saturday, February 17 | Rental |
| Sunday, February 18 | FCA Annual Meeting 3:00 pm |
| February 18-24 | National Sauna Week |
| Friday, February 23 | Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm |

**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 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 pm.

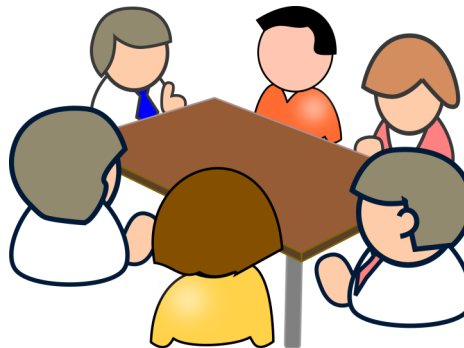
The FCA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill three positions on the FCA Board of Trustees. Members running as candidates need to submit short biographies (250 words or less) by January 16, 2024 to the Finnish Center Association via email to finnishcenter@gmail.com, attention Nominating Committee Chair.

Also, currently FCA's Education Committee Chair and Social Committee Chair positions are vacant. A bio is not required for these roles. We only need you to voice interest in these positions.

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 attend if possible.

FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Finland's 106th Independence Day Celebration was held on December 2, 2023, at the Finnish Center. FinnFolk, our resident band, performed Finnish music during cocktail hour. The program started with a flag ceremony and Finnish and American national anthems. Roy and Ryan Takakura were flag bearers with Elias and Lillian Kirschenmann. Mrs. Marilyn Metsa-Clark gave the welcoming speech and introduced performers Kyoko Kashiwagi on violin and Naki Sung Kripfgans on piano who performed pieces of Leevi Madetoja, a Finnish composer. After a delicious dinner Marilyn introduced our keynote speaker, Anu Muhonen, a Professor of Finnish studies at the University of Toronto.

Anu Muhonen gave a very interesting speech where she addressed how Finnish composers, writers and poets build Finnish national identity with the power of words and music during the national romantic era before our independence. Muhonen connected her speech to the musical repertoire performed during the evening by Kyoko, Naki, Katri and Jennifer. She also discussed that Jean Sibelius, Toivo Kuula and their friends and colleagues in the Finnish art circles worked hard to build the momentum of the Finnish folk, Finland's people.

She analyzed Sibelius *Finlandia* and reminded us how the significance of *Finlandia* describing Finland's national longing for freedom is unique among the world's compositions. Muhonen discussed how we can express our belonging and heritage in the way we show appreciation to Finnish arts and cultural representations but also addressed that a common way to preserve our Finnish legacy is to keep our cultural traditions alive. One good way to do this is to organize events such as the Independence Day celebration.

Muhonen also drew examples from her research among Finnish Canadian seniors in Toronto and reflected that these stories can be placed in the era of the entire 106-year history of independent Finland. The whole story of Finland's history is heard in them. They reflect a wide range of world-historical and cultural-historical events and eras. The stories of every person are also stories of the history of Finland, Canada, North America, and the whole world.

The program ended with a beautiful performance of music by Toivo Kuula (another Finnish composer) performed by Katri Ervamaa, cello, Naki Sung Kripfgans piano, and Jennifer Goltz, voice, and culminating with *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius.

Thank you very much to for all the volunteers for making the program a success. A special thank you goes to Sarah Wiideman, Kathryn Hill, Nancy Rajala, Sherrill Tedford, Janet Suomi and Katri Ervamaa for their contributions to the program.

Mia Lamminen



Anu Muhonen, Keynote Speaker, Professor of Finnish studies at the University of Toronto.

Finnish Independence Day (continued)



Left: Kyoko Kashiwagi on violin and Naki Sung Kripfgans on piano

Above: Katri Ervamaa, cello, Naki Sung Kripfgans piano, and Jennifer Goltz, voice

Below: Anu Muhonen and Mia Lamminen



The dinner started with appetizers of Karjalan pirrakat with egg butter, Gravlax, capers, chopped onion, Dijon sauce.

Dessert consisted of plum-tarts, cream cake and pulla.



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Ilene Yanke** (10/1/23) a donation has been made by Jonene Eliasson & Roger Hewlett.

The FCA would like to extend condolences to the families and friends of the following:

FCA life member **Helvi Koivunen** (12/2/23)
 FCA life member **Ann Makila** (11/29/23)
 FCA member **Maria Lena Kuhn** (11/27/23)
 FCA member **Basil Moore** (10/27/23)

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; 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.



Those we love don't go away, They walk
 beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but
 always near, Still loved, still missed and
 forever dear.

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.



GIFT SHOP

It's inventory time. That means no new merchandise will be ordered until that is completed.

We had a wonderful December in the gift shop and I want you to know we (Janet Suomi, Paul Rajala, Ramona Dixon, Sherrill Tedford and Peggy Burns) appreciated your patronage. We really enjoyed seeing you and we hope you enjoyed your visit.

Have a great January! Stay warm!

Janet Suomi

SPRING FLEA MARKET

April 13, 2024



Plans are being made for the spring flea market. We are looking for volunteers to help with the FCA tables and the lunch counter. We are also seeking additional flea market vendors. There is a list of participants from 2022/2023 that we will be contacting but our philosophy is the more the merrier.

Applications will be going out after the first of the year and will also be available in the FCA office.

Questions?

Contact Katy Koskela - kakoskela@hotmail.com

Nancy Rajala - nrajala@comcast.net

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.

CAKE DAY

December 6

Finnish Independence Cake Day was a small event. However, cake and ice cream was enjoyed along with conversation and gratefulness for the men and women who made Finland's independence possible.



FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 5

In the September, 2023 issue of the FCA News we noted that our Cultural Center Building will be turning 50 in September of 2024. In this issue the fifth group of sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony is listed below.

As I typed the names of those sponsors into this article I was very careful to record them exactly as they were originally printed in the program, noting that so many of the names from fifty years ago have the Finnish vowels *ü* and *ö*. In my college courses in German I learned that these two dots over the character are called an umlaut, but the Finnish word is *pisteet*. In the 2015 FCA directory the Finnish letters *ü* and *ö* no longer appear in the names and have been replaced with *u* and *o* respectively. This certainly contributes to the anglicized way that we often pronounce the names now!

Please review the table below and if you know of any current FCA 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.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Koivunen, Erkki and Helvi | Konola, Andrew and Helen | Koski, Arvid and Eleanor |
| Koski, John E. and Marie M. | Koski, Mary | Kouki, Pentti, T. and Sanni |
| Kuivinen, Toivo and Mary | Kuusisto, Erkki, Phyllis and Eric | Kuusisto, Susan |
| Kuusisto, Urho ja Aira | Kuusisto, Yrjö, Jane and Paavo | Kyrö, Eino und Martha S. |
| Kyrö, Erick and Violet | LaCourt, Ronald and Anna | Lahti, William and Emma |
| Laine, Einar W. and Lyyli S. | Laine, Wilbert and Bertha | Laitinen, Uno and Elsie |
| Lake, Esther | Lampi, Laina and Paul | Lane, Walter and Margaret |
| Larson, Walfred and Lucille | Lehto, Edward A. | Lehto, Lily |
| Lehto, Wäinö and Elva | Lehtonen, Lillian | Leinonen, Arthur E. and Mildred |
| Lilli, Earl and Lydia | Lindgren, Karl and Sophia | Lister, Marie |
| Locke, Eleanor Mäki | | |

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Human integration
With faunal cousins,
in close proximity.
Vast terrain to roam, explore.
The eternal plan proceeds in
Life and death,
As we,
Inspired,
And yet dismayed,
That so vast a plan
Cannot be fully understood.

by David Sharpe

JANUARY IN THE FINLANDIA GARDENS



January comes from the name of the Roman god, Janus, meaning new beginnings or transitions, expressions of garden expectations. In January the gardens are sleeping and gardeners are anticipating the first signs of spring, which will appear next month.

Winter in the gardens has a special quality not seen in other seasons. On a cloudy day, earth tones predominate, and when the sun emerges the beauty of winter is clearly evident. Sunlight reveals the subtle beauty of stems, tree trunks, and the remains of summer blossoms. A few native asters still hold their blooms as snow begins to fall. Seasonal decorations are seen throughout the gardens, and after dusk, holiday lighting around the buildings, brings the beauty of the season into view.

Winter is a time of rest for the gardens as gardeners continue their efforts preparing for the coming spring. The wood shop is busy with restoration and the designing and building of new garden features. Bird and suet feeders need refilling and watching avian guests is a delightful winter activity. A garden visitation on a sunny day in winter is satisfying if only viewed from a warm automobile.

David Sharpe

SOUNDS OF JOY, BEAUTY, HUMOR AT FASM CHRISTMAS CONCERT

November 26, 20023

“From Start to Finnish” was the title of this winter concert, and seven of the seventeen songs were in Finnish. So that all in the audience could understand and appreciate these seven pieces, their English translations were included in the program. And, when the audience was invited to sing along with the choir on the final piece, “Finlandia hymni,” many people joined in, whether in English or in Finnish.

Five soloists were featured during the concert: Nancy Jacobs, on “Kun joulu valkeneepi;” Vickie Kimler, on “Joulupuu on rakennettu;” Paul Rajala (also in Finnish) on “White Christmas;” Karen Gasinski, on “Little Tiny Child;” and Cortney Standifer on “Joulu hymni.” This last piece began with a beautiful introduction by the choir’s accompanist, Hope McGookey. She played the intro on a kantele that had arrived previously from Finland and was placed somewhere in storage within the FCA building. This past summer cleaning out areas behind the main hall curtain area it was discovered. The singers were authorized to have the instrument examined and tuned by a local luthier so it could be played rather than just sitting in its shipping crate. Hopefully, Hope will continue her studies of the kantele so it can be featured in future concerts.

Musical humor always appears in the singers’ concerts. “Mistletoe” was a musically interesting piece, with each of the four verses moving to a higher key, and singer Marcia Cave - wife of Music Director Alex Cave - holding a piece of mistletoe over Alex’s head and giving him a kiss on the cheek at the end of the piece. Also humorous was “The Twelve Days AFTER Christmas,” a funny take-off on “The Twelve Days Of Christmas.” The audience responded with laughter during both pieces.

“Bell Carol of the Kings” was a complex, unusual, lovely blend of two pieces, the Ukrainian “Carol of the Bells” and “We Three Kings of Orient Are”. Handel’s “Joy to the World” was the favorite carol of the FASM’s former Music Director, Hank Naasko, who passed away earlier this year, and was dedicated to his memory.

The singers will perform again at their Spring Concert... I’ll be there, and hope that you’ll enjoy it also!



FINNISH MEET UP

As a group of FCA members we would like to try something new for 2024 and would like to start a regular “Finnish Meetup”. If you remember the “Let’s talk” series we did a few years back, it was great fun and we are hoping to build up something similar again this year to re-energize the members. The first meeting will be immediately following the Sunday brunch at the FCA on January 21st. We will be talking about everything and anything of interest to Finnish Americans. Please join us as we are looking for ideas on what kinds of discussions we can have at upcoming meetings!

Have you found something Finnish you’d like to share with other people interested in Finnish things? Then this is the place to go! Discussions are welcome about Finnish names, Finnish family, Finnish ancestry, Finnish hometowns, Finnish saunas, Finnish cottages, Finnish migration, Finnish & Cornish mining, Finnish forestry, Finnish history, Finnish weaving, Finnish linguistics, Finnish music, Finnish film, Finnish characters, Finnish sports, Finnish games, Finnish lore, Finnish writers, Finnish stories, Finnish traditions, and Finnish epics. Not to mention Finnish foods!

Date: January 21, 2023, 1:30 pm

Mary O’Brien, David Sharpe, Ed O’Brien, Lon Matero

FCA BAKERS



FCA Bakers baking pulla/nisu for Finland's Independence celebration on December 2nd.

Left to right: Bonnie Swindell, Louise Hartung, Tom Buchanan, Peggy Burns, Dee Aebersold, Nancy McClenahan and Chris Martin.

Photo by Paul Rajala

I'm Finnish
Trust me
I Keep Calm

The stone get nervous before me.

UPDATE:

Library Evaluation and Woven Hangings Inventory

Work continues on the professional evaluation of the materials in the FCA library collection. Close communication with the archivist at the Finnish American Historical Archive (FAHA) in Hancock, Michigan is taking place ensuring that materials better suited for their archives than our library will be transported there. The goal, as with any professionally organized and managed library, is to tailor the collection to the patrons that will be using it. Hopefully the library will be more appealing, user-friendly, and accessible as this process continues!

The inventory of the woven hangings, ryijy and raanu, owned by the Center, will continue after the holidays. Along with a database of statistics and details about each hanging, there will be an accompanying picture. After a full inventory is finished (we are about half done now), storage capabilities will be assessed. At this point, it appears that accessible and safe storage may be an issue for everything we currently own. Options have been discussed with the board and will be further pursued after the completion of the inventory. Members will be kept informed.

If you have questions, suggestions, or comments regarding either the library or the inventory, please contact Katy Koskela at kakoskela@hotmail.com or leave a message at the FCA with your contact information and you will be contacted.

CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!

For those of you that participate in Facebook, perhaps you have seen pop-up information about a mass singing experience called *Choir, Choir, Choir!*. Their website explains that Daveed Goldman and Nobu Adilman (AKA "DaBu") started Choir! Choir! Choir! in Toronto as a weekly drop-in singing event in February 2011. Combining singing, comedy, and community-building, the duo now travel around the world to bring friends, foes, and strangers together to sing the greatest songs of all time. All you have to do is show up on a single day and they'll teach you your parts! If you want to see more, check out their YouTube presence at <https://www.youtube.com/choirx3>.

Although you may not experience exactly the same type of singing event, certainly community-building, comedy, AND singing are experienced at the rehearsals of the Finnish American Singers of Michigan on Monday evenings from 6-8 pm. Practice prior to our spring concert will begin January 15th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152. Do you love to sing? It's a plus if you read music, but it is not required. For the Finnish songs we sing, the lyrics are learned phonetically, so it is not necessary to speak Finnish either! Perhaps this is the creative outlet you have been missing.

If you were able to join us for our wonderful holiday concert in November, thank you! We would love you to see you at our Sunday, April 21st spring concert. Note the date now on your calendar!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

We are most appreciative of these generous donors to our three-year capital campaign, which commenced in June 2023 and will conclude in June 2026. Donations to this campaign are financing major refurbishments to our beautiful cultural center including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. You can view progress in meeting our \$300,000 goal on a fundraising thermometer in the FCA lobby. Kiitos to all!

Tiimanti/Diamond (\$10,000+)

Lois Lindgren
David and Jeanette Sharpe

Kulta/Gold (\$1,001 - \$4,999)

Carol Hardy
Neil Manley
Loretta Mannisto
Christine Manninen
Daniel Siivola

Perhe/Family (\$1,000)

Norbert Leppanen
Frank Ruohonen
Janet Suomi

Hopea/Silver (\$500 - \$999)

Kathryn Hill
Mark Hill
Louise Hartung
Irene Lamanen
Diane Luoto
Linda Poirier
Paul Tulikangas
JoAnn Viinikainen
Sandra Walls

Pronsi/Bronze (\$100 - \$499)

Donna Aho
Diana Baker
DFCSCA Sisterhood
M. Forshey
Margaret Freers
Larry Gersky
Eunice Gould

Viona Hakala
Harold Juntunen
Lois Kaarre
Donald Keski-Hynnila
Marilyn Kramer
Marjorie Kuehn
Annikki Kurvi
Richard Lampi
Nancy Lee
Neil Lehto
Joan Lemke
Fern Malila
Norma Mattila
Bruce Mikko
Martean Mikkola
James Milke
Gerald O'Neill
Anu Pantsar
Elizabeth Sabo
Sandra Scheel
Evelyn Tapani-Rosenthal
Dennis Usitalo
Wayne Walli
Roger Wanttaja
Joy Wong

Kiitos/Thank You (\$1 - \$99)

Eleanor Bradlin
Lois A. Brooks
Joan Daley
Vienna A. Harju
John Johnson
Joanne Ouelette
Alden Virenus
Lee Williams

(Received is through
November 30, 2023)

JANUARY PASTY EVENT JANUARY 26 AND 27

Who can resist a hot pasty on a winter's day? The FCA has planned a pasty-making event for late January to help you satisfy that need. On Friday the 26th the volunteers will be busy peeling and dicing rutabaga, carrots, onions, and potatoes. Then on Saturday the 27th the pasties will be assembled, packaged, and sold.

The cost is \$8.00 per pasty and they must be picked up on Saturday, January 27th between 9:00 and 1:00 p.m. There is limited freezer space, so if you would like to pick up your order at a later date we require that you pre-pay.

PRE-ORDERING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! Email information will be sent to all those on the current ordering list. If you are not on the list to order by email, but would like to be, please send your name, e-address, and phone number to the following at fca-pasties@gmail.com. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the FCA lobby or you can call the office at (248) 478-6939. Note that the deadline for ordering is January 19.

Making hundreds of pasties may sound easy, but a crew of volunteer workers is needed to perform the multitude of tasks. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me through the FCA office or at fcapasties@gmail.com. The benefits of volunteering are that you can get out of the house on a winter's day, you can socialize with the other interesting workers, and you can further the fundraising efforts of the Finnish Center and the Finnish American Singers. The final reward is that you will receive a complimentary pasty!

Paul Rajala, FCA pasty coordinator



POKER ALL STARS



The FCA would like to thank the following volunteers for the helping with the FCA fundraising Charity Poker event held at Vision Lanes in Westland December 14-17, 2023.

Marilyn Clark
Alice Manley
Helena Hatten
Ilona Takakura
Ramona Dixon
Gene Belttari
Malla Sandberg
Jeff Fritz
Christine Manninen
Paul Rajala
Ed O'Brien
Lon Matero
Mia Lamminen
Olli Lamminen
Sherrill Tedford

They helped raise needed funds for the mission of the Finnish Center. Thank you all.

NORTH WOOD HUMOR

Lena asked Ole, "What's the most romantic place you've ever been?"

Ole replied, "Right here, Lena, sitting next to you in this charming little Finnish café."

Lena smiled and said, "Aw, Ole, that's sweet."

Ole added, "Plus, the meatballs are pretty good too!"

Ole asked Lena, "What do you want for your birthday?"

Lena replied, "A divorce."

Ole was shocked and asked, "I wasn't planning on spending that much!"

It's a quiet summer evening and Heikki and Hilma are sitting on a park bench along the Portage Canal in Houghton, when Heikki finally asks Hilma "Whenever I get mad at you, and fly off the handle, and make fool of myself, you never seem to get upset, how do you manage to control your temper?"

Hilma responds, "Oh, I just go and clean the toilet."

Heikki asks, "How does that help?"

Hilma replies "I use your tooth brush."

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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

Prsrt STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Farmington, MI
Permit NO 250

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