



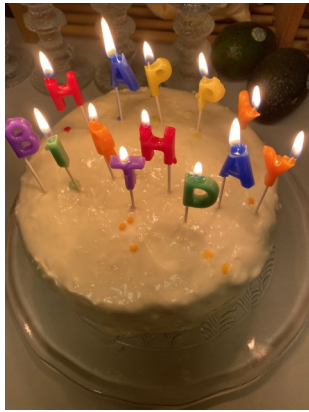
Finnish Center Association

# FCA News

MARCH 2024

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

## CO-CHAIR CORNER



It is 2024 and our beautiful cultural center, dedicated in 1974, is turning 50! Happy birthday.

Whatever the number, birthdays should always be celebrations. As a birthday gift to the cultural center, we are giving it some TLC and long-awaited upgrades. Most notably is a new roof, the first phase of which was completed in February, with subsequent phases to follow in the coming year. This is in large part to all the generous donations made to our three-year capital campaign. Through grants and private donations, we have already raised over \$130,000 toward our \$300,000 goal. Kiitos!

But our work is only beginning. Many areas of the building are in need of attention. The FCA's Building & Grounds Committee has prepared a prioritized list of repairs and improvements, which, in addition to the roof, include upgrades to restrooms, plumbing, carpet, paint, HVAC, masonry, entryway, and sidewalks.

The FCA Board of Trustees recognizes that the time is now to invest in the future of FCA. In years ahead, FCA hopes to be a remote hub for the Finnish-American Heritage Center in Hancock. This might entail housing surplus archival materials, hosting traveling exhibitions, or hosting companies like Marimekko to do pop-up shops in conjunction with other FCA events. Having a fiber studio at FCA might also be an excellent opportunity.

Together, we can make it happen. A big thank you to all who attended our annual meeting on February 18. We want to especially acknowledge the Board of Trustees, Alternates, Committee chairpersons, and Financial Review Committee for stepping up to serve FCA in the year ahead. We look forward to working together with all of you.

With gratitude,

Roger Wanttaja and Christine Manninen

## GIFT SHOP



New inventory of Moomin mugs has arrived. Left: Moomin House and Little My. Right: Meadow Snufkin, and Love.



The jam supply of Cloudberry, Blueberry, and the ever-popular Lingonberry is available for purchase.



March 2 is the deadline for the online auction, check out the gift basket that has been donated by the Gift Shop as well as other great items. Be sure to bid and bid often!



Janet Soumi

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

Friday, March 1	Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm
Friday, March 1	Rental
Saturday, March 2	Rental
Sunday, March 3	Rental
Friday, March 8	Pasty Prep 9:15-noon
Friday, March 8	Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm
Friday, March 8	St. Urho Celebration 7:00-9:00 pm
Saturday, March 9	Pasty Event 6:15 am-1:00 pm
Sunday, March 10	Rental
Wednesday, March 13	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, March 14	Rental
Friday, March 15	<b>NO</b> Lenten Fish Fry
Friday, March 15	Rental
Saturday, March 16	Rental
Sunday, March 17	Rental
Thursday, March 21	FCA Bakers 9:30 am
Friday, March 22	Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm
Friday, March 22	Craft Show Set Up 12:00-3:00 pm
Saturday, March 23	Easter Craft Show 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Sunday, March 24	Meet Up Noon
Sunday, March 24	Nordic Heritage Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm
Saturday, March 30	Rental

**Reservations are recommended for all events.**

### APRIL

Friday, April 5	Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 10	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Friday, April 12	Flea Market Set Up 12:00-5:00 pm
Saturday, April 13	Flea Market 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Sunday, April 14	Brunch 10:00 am-1:00 pm
Friday, April 19	<b>NO</b> Buffet
Sunday, April 21	FASM Concert 2:00 pm
Saturday, April 27	VAPPU 5:00 pm-Midnight
Sunday, April 28	Nordic Heritage Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm

## FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

### Hours of Operation

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

**thrivent**

Kim Dwyer, FIC, RICP®, CLTC®

#### Financial Advisor

Generational Wealth Advisors  
kim.dwyer@thrivent.com  
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**Office** 248-719-8520  
39500 Orchard Hill Place, Suite 170  
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19 Washington St  
Monroe, MI 48161



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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

Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,  
Christine Manninen

##### 2 Year

Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien,  
Janet Suomi

##### 3 Year

Peggy Burns, Ramona Dixon,  
Roger Wanttaja

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#2 Marilyn Clark  
#3 Paul Rajala

#### Financial Review

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Nancy Lee  
Joanne Ouellette

#### 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

Mary O'Brien

Follow FCA on  
Instagram

@finnishcenterassocaiton





The FCA is planning an Easter craft show on March 23. There is still room available if you would like to participate. The fee is \$30 for an 8 foot table. Applications are available at the FCA.

**SET UP:** Friday, March 22, 12:00-3:00 pm

**SHOW TIME:** Saturday, March 23, 10 am-3 pm

Lunch & bake sale available for purchase

Contact Mary O'Brien at (248) 895-3231 or the Finnish Center at (248) 478-6939.



## SPRING FLEA MARKET

April 13, 2024

9 am - 3 pm



The FCA has been cleaning more areas of the Finnish Center and finding treasures galore. Be sure to stop by and see what we have uncovered. We will not, however, be accepting donations. If you have items you want to remove from your home please consider renting a table.

Tables are \$30 for one 8' table.

\$20 for an 8' space providing your own table.

Rental forms are available in the FCA office or by contacting Katy Koskela or Nancy Rajala. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 11 am - 3 pm.

Lunch, pasty and baked goods will be available for purchase.

Want to volunteer to help?

Can you bake for the bake sale?

Questions?

Contact Katy Koskela - [kakoskela@hotmail.com](mailto:kakoskela@hotmail.com)

Nancy Rajala - [njrajala@comcast.net](mailto:njrajala@comcast.net)

## ST. URHO CELEBRATION



The Finns are celebrating! St. Urho was such a hero for saving the Finnish grape crop from the frogs and grasshoppers. We hope you will join us for this fun event.

Following the Friday night Lenten Fish Fry, the party will begin. There will be music, a parade, purple balloons bouncing around and the crowning of a new king.

It will be a special night, so put on your purple and green clothing and join the fun on March 8, 7:30-9:00 pm.

Mary O'Brien



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



The FCA will award scholarships for individuals studying in colleges or universities in the academic year 2024-2025. Applicant needs to demonstrate a direct relationship to FCA or the Finnish culture in general. Furthermore, the Scholarship Committee awards

funds for Finnish language or culture study, for example at Salolampi. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2024 at 3 pm. The application will be available on the FCA website. [www.finnishcenter.org](http://www.finnishcenter.org) The Scholarship Committee will hold a reception for the new recipient(s) on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 1 pm.



Ole and Sven went fishing one day in a rented boat and were catching fish like crazy. Ole said, "We better mark dis spot so ve can come back tomorrow and catch more fish." Sven then proceeded to mark the bottom of the boat with a large 'X'. Ole asked him what he was doing, and Sven told him he was marking the spot so they could come back to catch more fish.

Ole said, "Ya big dummy, how do ya know ve are going ta get da same boat tomorrow?"

## MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Eleanor Martin (2/6/24)** donations have been made by Mary Ann Hanninen, Barbara & Joseph Jaschuk, Cheryl Wakeham, Jason Wakeham and Ella & Drew Wakeham.

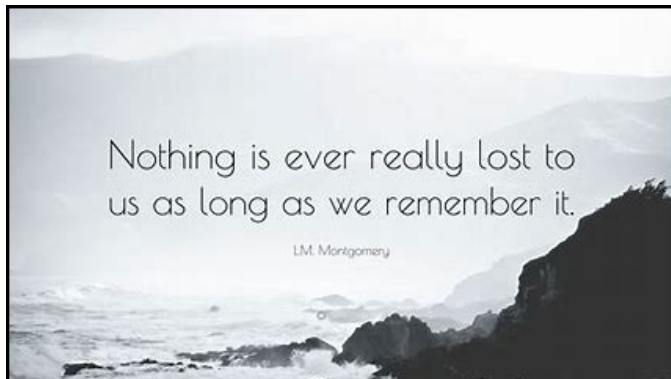
The FCA would also like to extend condolences to the family and friends of **Astrid Anna Lisa Sandberg (2/4/24)**

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat/Nordic Heritage 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](http://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](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com)



## JOB AVAILABLE RENTAL COORDINATOR (part-time, paid)

The Finnish Center Association is seeking a part-time Rental Coordinator. The position requires strong administrative, communications, and organizational skills. Proven experience with event planning and management is desired. The full job description is being finalized. If you are interested and would like the job posting emailed to you, please send your request to [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com). No phone calls, please.

## TAPIOLA GIFT COMPLETE TO PRESERVE FINNISH HERITAGE & CULTURE

The FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation (Senior Housing) is a concomitant charitable organization to the Finnish Center Association (FCA), sharing the same members but having separate boards of trustees. Senior Housing was initiated in 1984 primarily by Rev. Elmer Liimatta and Paul Hendrickson. Hendrickson was the driving force until his retirement in 2016 due to poor health. Following his retirement, the Senior Housing Board of Trustees decided to embark on a long-overdue complete renovation of Tapiola Apartments. Despite delays, a \$3 million bank loan was secured in early 2020 and renovation commenced. Unfortunately, the renovation coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, delaying completion until summer 2023.

In June 2022, the Senior Housing Board of Trustees unanimously voted to seek membership approval to donate Tapiola Apartments to support Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), which the membership overwhelmingly approved. The bank verbally agreed to allow FFN to assume the \$2 million renovation mortgage balance. However, when the donation papers were ready, the bank reneged on its promise, demanding full payment or a new mortgage at a higher interest rate. This led FFN to request the Board of Trustees to sell Tapiola on their behalf.

The Board negotiated the sale to Piper Management, the highest bidder, for \$7 million. The documents were signed on February 9, 2024. Piper Management is the same management company that currently manages the property.

After paying off the bank loan, approximately \$4.7 million was paid to FFN to support Finnish heritage and culture, specifically preserving the Finnish archives and the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan, following the closure of Finlandia University.

Additionally, the board decided to donate remaining funds held by the Senior Housing Corporation to FFN to establish an endowment fund for future FCA operations. This endowment is estimated to be several hundred thousand dollars, which will benefit FCA for many years to come.

## FCA RECEIVES SECOND MACC GRANT



The Fundraising Committee is pleased to report that the FCA has received a second grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC). The \$48,000 grant, awarded February 16 through the FY24 MI Nonprofit Arts and Culture Covid Relief Fund, brings the FCA's three-year capital campaign closer to its goal of \$300,000.

The campaign, aimed at restoring and enhancing our aging cultural center, commenced in June 2023 and will conclude in June 2026. Donations to the campaign are financing major refurbishments including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway.

Donations of any size are welcome. All gifts are tax deductible. You can pay your donation by credit card (visit [finnishcenter.square.site](http://finnishcenter.square.site)) or by mailing a check to:

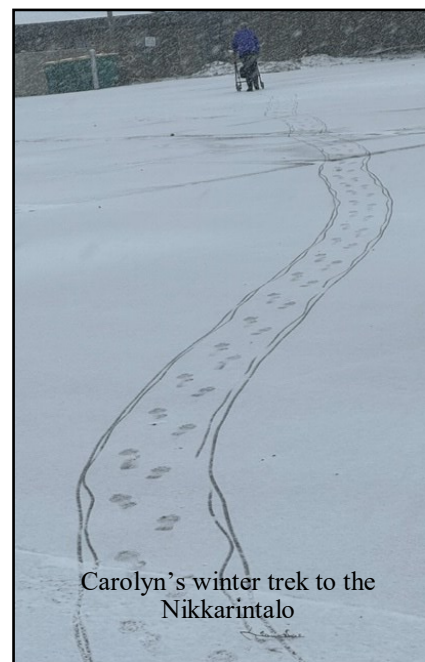
Finnish Center Association  
35200 West Eight Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

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 [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com).

## DEDICATION

Carolyn Sawyer, a senior resident of Tapiola Village, has been a daily garden associate during the last year. Formerly, the owner of a quarter horse farm, she enjoys Finlandia Gardens and works steadily in the wood shop and gardens beautifying our landscape. She is a talented painter and helps renew our outdoor furniture and garden adornments. She is greatly appreciated and finds working at our gardens invigorating and exciting.

David Sharpe



Carolyn's winter trek to the Nikkarintalo

## 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.

Location: Finnish Center Association  
 Sunday, March 24, 2024 2-5 pm  
 Sunday, April 28, 2024 2-5 pm

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! We plan on practicing once a month except in the summer. Future dates will be announced later.

If you have any questions please email Glendene Thornbloom at [gathorn4@gmail.com](mailto:gathorn4@gmail.com) or the FCA at [finnishcenter@gmail.com](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**VAPPU**  
 Saturday, April 27, 2024  
 5:00 pm - Midnight

Details to follow in the April issue of this newsletter.



## CULTURAL CENTER CORNERSTONE

In June of 1974, more than two months prior to the opening of the Finnish Cultural Center, a cornerstone ceremony was held. For those who may be unfamiliar with this tradition, a cornerstone originally was a structural object placed in the foundation of a building, commonly on the northeast corner because it was thought to be an auspicious position. Origins of the cornerstone are vague, but in buildings of Judeo-Christian origin often refer back to the Bible.

Today the structural cornerstone has been replaced by a purely ceremonial or decorative object. It often contains a cavity in which a time capsule or *votive deposit* is placed. The following is part of an article written by Viola Pudas for the August, 1974 FCA Newsletter:

On June 9 the cornerstone laying ceremonies were held at the FCA building. Although the ground was wet, the new cement patio afforded a good place for the activity.

Pastor Elmer Liimatta began the ceremony with an invocation. President Ted Puuri and Consul Harry M. Virjo greeted the guests. Mrs. William Pudas, who was mistress of ceremonies, told about the contents of the stainless steel con box that was to be cemented in back of the cornerstone. It contained 20 items: our Constitution and By-Laws, recent copies of the FCA Newsletter, a history of FCA by Earl Pennanen, a report on the library by Eva Koskimäki, a report on the Finnish language classes, the list of Gold Brick buyers, current issues of the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, recipe for a Sisu Sling, our golden seal, etc. The architect, Eino Kainlauri showed the granite cornerstone marked "FCA 1974". The ceremony ended with the audience reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.



The cornerstone in its current location on the west side of the building south of the main entrance.



Architect Eino Kainlauri holds the cornerstone.  
Viola Pudas is seated, front row, third person the from the left.

## FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 7

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 seventh group of sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony is listed below. Sponsorship helped the building project cross the finish line with their monetary donations.

But whose hands actually built the Finnish Center? In looking through the old FCA Newsletters and programs I have discovered that the architect was Eino Kainlauri, president of KMM Associates, Inc., of Ann Arbor and that the contractor was Degenhardt and Daly of Ferndale. However, most of the finishing work such as painting, tile and carpet laying, and landscaping was done by volunteer FCA members. Volunteers were needed then to build and are needed now to maintain our Finnish Cultural Center, not only with their trades skills but with their financial help.

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](mailto:finnishcenter@gmail.com), (248) 478-6939, or me personally, [prajala@comcast.net](mailto:prajala@comcast.net).

Nelson, Esther	Niemi, Arthur and Saima	Niemi, Arthur J. and Ruth A.
Niemi, Carrie M.	Niemi, Edwin and Helmi	Norback, Ella
Nordström, Glenn and Gladys	Nummela, Sulo	Nummela, Toivo and Maria
Nuorala, Leonard and Arlene	Nurmi, Paavo and Nancy	Okkonen, Leo and Clara
Oleson, Harold and Irene	Olson, Alford and Amy	Pakkala, Arne J. and Jean
Palmer, John H. and Saima H.	Pehkonen, Taimi	Pelican, George and Paula
Pelosmaa, Harold	Pelto, Ray	Pennanen, Erland and Elizabeth
Pennanen, Leonard E. and Judith E.	Perälä, Jenny	Pietälä, Henry and Helen
Piilo, Herbert and Dorothy	Piirainen, Uno and Florence	Potti, Noah and Eunice
Przbylski, Dr. Thomas and Mirja L.	Putkela, Fred and Ethyl	Puuri, Ted and Peggy
Pyhtilä, Melvin and Pat		

## MARCHING THROUGH THE GARDENS

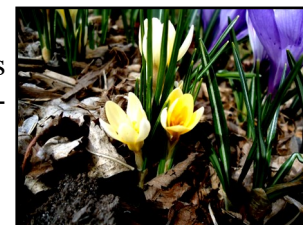
It appears we are having a warmer winter. Plants are emerging in all areas of our landscape, and we are delighted at the promise of the coming spring. It seems that spring comes and goes so quickly. In our effort to get as much out of life as possible, we often let spring march by before we know it.

Gardeners are not able to let that happen as we have so much to do in preparing the gardens for the growing season. We want Finlandia Gardens to represent the Finnish Center to the members and the greater community as best we can. This requires the assistance of everyone connected to the FCA to make this possible. We have a beautiful landscape with great potential. The problem is that we gardeners don't have the time needed to plan and implement the possible uses of our gardens. We could have more gatherings of all kinds, using the gardens as a beautiful setting in which to hold events.

Are you aware that we have a Memorial Garden developed in remembrance of FCA members and friends who have left us? This garden can be found in the area south of the lounge beyond the trees and Gazebo. It is a lovely area with a bench and flora that bloom throughout the growing season. We hope you will visit this garden. You are welcome to suggest plantings to add to this dedicated location in remembrance of a loved one.

We are delighted when you show interest in Finlandia Gardens by asking questions and visiting our green space at your pleasure. Guided tours of the gardens are available upon request.

David Sharpe





## YOU KNOW THOSE SKIS IN THE LIBRARY.....?

There have been a pair of long, wooden, cross-country skis leaning against the wall behind the door in the FCA library for a very long time. Have you seen them? Do you know their story?

A three-page narration written by their original owner describes their story and may remind you of places you have been and pastimes you enjoyed.

In 1938, on a round trip to Finland financed by playing the piano shipboard, Helen Kyro bought a pair of cross country skis for her brother Erick, a student at the University of Michigan. Buying ski boots, he drilled six shallow holes into the soles of them, matching the location of small metal pegs in the base plate of the rat trap (Rotanloukku) bindings to make them fit well.

His father, William A. Kyro, had a contract to book and play Finnish movies in several Midwestern states. Erick took a working break from school the first half of the 1938-1939 school year, booking the movies, transporting the films and monitoring theater attendance throughout Michigan, predominantly in the Upper Peninsula. He took the 86" skis with him, laying diagonally from the front to rear of his 1936 Dodge Sedan. For showings in neighboring states and southern Michigan, Erick's father purchased two 35mm projectors, stands, a screen, a record player, and records of American and Finnish dance music, all to fit into the Dodge and to be used in rented halls or outside. The screen was carried in a long wooden box mounted onto metal racks attached to the car's right side front and rear fenders. Quite a load!



1936 Dodge Sedan

Showings were arranged with theaters or rented halls, with the bonus of dancing after the movie where dance floors were available. Advertised as "Tanssia lopuksi" (dancing afterward) attendees enjoyed music by Glenn Miller's orchestra and Finnish accordion master Viola Turpeinen. Attendance was wonderful at the movies which were advertised by the theaters as well as in the Finnish language newspapers such as Raivaaja and Suometar. In order to receive the percentage of the "take" by theaters, Erick needed to be present at each performance to verify the ticket count and rent calculation. In between performances, one time, he took his ever-present skis and skied on a trail near Newberry, leading to an inactive Civilian Conservation Corps camp, manned by a caretaker, who was thrilled to share his coffee and kirppuja (zweiback) with the young man.

Erick traveled to communities in the U.P. such as Ironwood, Crystal Falls (Ejay Theater owned by Mr. Bregger), Houghton, South Range, Gwinn, Trout Creek, L'Anse (New Mazda Theater), Iron River, Negaunee (Theater owner was Mr. Jafet Rytkonen) and Ishpeming (Mrs. Thomas was the owner). Occasionally, with advance notice, the N.Y. distributor of the Finnish films would ship a film to arrive at a theater prior to the showing. Arriving in Ironwood on the advertised day, Erick discovered it had not arrived, but was headed there by train. Despite being on schedule, the train would not arrive on time, so Erick thought outside the box. Driving his car to the town about 3 hours east and battling blowing snow and freezing wind, the film was offloaded per the telegraphed instructions, picked up by Erick, and driven back to Ironwood *just* in time for showing as promised!

In Kaleva, Michigan, arrangements were made with Mr. Yanke, the school principal, to show Finnish films in the school auditorium and share the proceeds with the school. In Detroit, films were shown at the Oakman Theater, no longer in use. Traveling south to Ashtabula, Ohio, movies were shown with dancing following at the Finnish Hall.

(continued on page 10)

Library (continued from page 9)

Formerly Ejay Theater, now the  
Crystal in Crystal Falls, MI.



Erick, living in Detroit, didn't use the skis after the one Newberry excursion. When his brother-in-law was the Honorary Vice-Consul for Finland in Michigan, he said his daughter had lost the boot clamp from one of her Finnish ski's Rotanloukku binding. Erick loaned a clamp that never was replaced and thus not useable, making them a fond reminder of a wonderful winter up north.

In 1976 he sold them to a co-worker at Chrysler, who donated them, in 2006, to the FCA. They are in original condition. The Finnish American Historical Archive in Hancock, Michigan might be able to confirm whether this type of skis were used by the Finnish military during the Winter War with Russia.

With their Michigan connections, I am sure the Library of Michigan archives as well as Hancock's FAHA would be interested in adding the skis to their collection, where they would become part of Michigan's rich Finnish history, as well as displayed for study and enjoyment for many rather than languishing behind doors and hidden from sight. Donating them to us was generous, but with Mr. Kyro's additional history they would be a wonderful addition to a managed archives.

Originally written by Erick W. Kyro, April 2006

Condensed by Katy Koskela, 2024

### SING INTO SPRING

Henry Williamson identified spring aptly when he wrote, *Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water*. Although spring conjures thoughts of new life, hope, renewal, warmth, and light to most of us, it may arrive in less than auspicious conditions. The familiar phrase "March enters like a lion but leaves like a lamb" echoes Williamson's words, but this writer discovered its origins are perhaps more complex than most of us realize (see <http://tinyurl.com/Lion-lamb-proverb>).

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan would like to lead you gently into the warmer months by *Say(ing) It With Music* as Irving Berlin suggested. "Play a simple melody like my mother sang to me." One song, *To Spring*, written by J.S. Bach, repeats in counter melodies by all of the choral voices "...merry music by pipes and voice to welcome spring." Lane Johnson's complex *Sing On*, urges us to "Take the time to look around and find the things that keep you singing on." Isn't a beautiful, sunny day conducive to humming or singing as you work?

Even the night "music" changes as spring arrives. Frogs and insects speak up, new leaves rustle in the breeze, water flows. *Songs in the Night* by Victor C. Johnson reminds us "The cares of the day shall silently fade away, as music fills the night." The cold of winter changes to refreshing spring rain and as the hot summer progresses, welcome thunder forecasts the music of raindrops on roofs and dusty ground. Joyce Eilers describes that welcome "music" in *Send Down the Rain*.

The FASM choir hope you mark your calendars for our spring concert to usher in the season and refresh your soul. Please join us Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 2 pm for our free concert at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152. We would love to see you!

K. Koskela, FASM President

## LOUHI AND ILMATAR

There has been a beautiful piece of artwork displayed in the Finnish Center for nearly two decades. It is the print of Barbara Eko Murphy's 2006 original painting *Louhi*. Now displayed on the wall outside the gift shop it depicts this Finnish goddess of nature and mistress of the north (Pohjola).

In the *Kalevala*, Louhi is described as a powerful and evil witch queen, who steals the magical Sampo from Väinämöinen, hero and main central character. Väinämöinen retrieves it and in an epic battle, Louhi is vanquished but the Sampo is destroyed

Adjacent to the *Louhi* print is another work by this artist, the painting *Ilmatar*, goddess of the air in the *Kalevala*. She is sometimes known as Luonnotar, which means "female spirit of nature". The Finnish folk-lore relates that she was impregnated by the sea and the wind and thus became the mother of Väinämöinen.

For more perspective, read the Finnish epic poem *Kalavela*, which can be found the Finnish Center Library.

Barbara Eko Murphy is a local southeast Michigan artist. She donated the *Louhi* print to the Finnish Center in memory of member Ailie Eko. *Ilmatar* was purchased by the Finnish Center in 2006. Perhaps you can pause on your way into the lounge or gift shop to reflect on these depictions of characters from Finnish mythology.



Louhi



Ilmatar

## FINNISH MEET UP - GROWING UP FINNISH

We had our first Finnish Meetup on February 11th. We started with a presentation on Finland by Lon Matero, which prompted some discussion about our Finnish roots. It was really interesting to see the different backgrounds and perspectives of the various generations. We are really looking forward to future events.

The format for future meetups will be to have a theme for each event. We will do a short presentation/video, followed by some discussion and stories. We are also thinking of having a "show and tell" table where people can display items related to the topic of discussion. It should be lots of fun.

The next meetup will be on March 24th, starting at noon with a light lunch and refreshments. We will be viewing the video "Growing Up Finnish" which was put together by FCA some years ago. It should be great for newer members to be able to view the video and get some perspective from long-time FCA members on their background. We encourage everyone to attend.

Pre-registration is not required, but you can [register](#) for our Meetup group online to get notified about upcoming events.

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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

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!



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**THAYER-ROCK  
FUNERAL HOME**  
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