



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

JUNE/JULY 2024

CO-CHAIR CORNER

As summer nears, we have more good news to report. The roof replacement project will be completed this year thanks to all the generous donations to our capital campaign and the support of our FCA members.

Last month we sent out a vote to approve the final expense, which was unanimously approved by the membership by a vote of 244-0. This will now allow us to schedule the final phases of the roof replacement and related repairs due to damage from leaks. This maintenance on our cultural center is long overdue and a wonderful way to celebrate the building's 50th anniversary this year. On September 14 we'll be hosting a special celebration of this important anniversary. Details are coming soon.

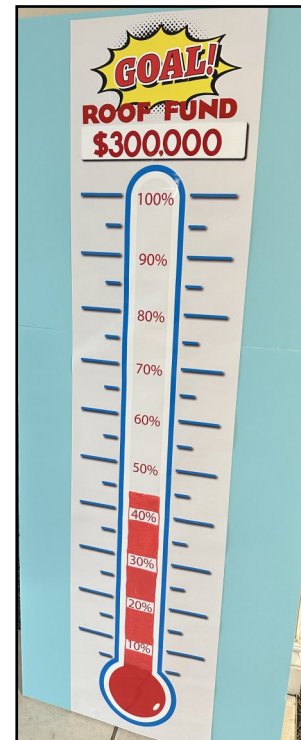
We are now in year two of our three-year capital campaign so we aren't done yet! The FCA's Building & Grounds Committee has prepared a prioritized list of repairs and improvements, which, in addition to the roof, include upgrades to restrooms, plumbing, carpet, paint, HVAC, masonry, entryway, and sidewalks. Donations of all sizes are gratefully accepted.

Secondly, we have hired a part-time rental coordinator, Patricia (Patty) Trojan. Patty will be handling all external rentals of the cultural center, which is a major source of income for us. If you are interested in renting the facility, you may send requests to finnishcenter@gmail.com or complete the online form at finnishcenter.org/rental-inquiry. Members do receive a discount on rentals. Welcome, Patty!

Lastly, we have received a new grant from Finlandia Foundation National (FFN). This grant of \$4,700 will support planning and entertainment for our 2024 Independence Day celebration in December. We are appreciative of FFN's support of our cultural activities and bringing more talented Finnish writers, artists, scholars, and musicians to Michigan.

With gratitude,

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

Friday, June 7	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:00 pm
Friday, June 7	Novi Concert Band 7:00-8:15 pm
Sunday, June 9	Olli Soikkeli Concert 2:00 pm
Wednesday, June 12	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, June 20	FCA Bakers 9:30 am
Friday, June 21	Juhannus Celebration 4:30-10:00 pm
Sunday, June 23	Rental
Sunday, June 30	Rental

JULY

Thursday, July 4	Office Closed
Friday, July 5	Office Closed
Sunday, July 14	Rental
Saturday, July 20	Rental
Sunday, July 21	FCA Picnic

Reservations are recommended for all events.

35200 W. Eight Mile Road
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Tel: (248) 478-6939
finnishcenter@gmail.com
www.finnishcenter.org

Officers

Co-Chairs
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Roger Wanttaja
Vice Chair, Kathryn Hill
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Sherrill Tedford

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Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,
Christine Manninen
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Janet Suomi
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#2 Marilyn Clark
#3 Paul Rajala

Financial Review

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Nancy Lee
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Building & Grounds
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Cultural
Yvonne Lockwood
Education

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Janet Suomi

Mailing

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Membership

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Ed O'Brien

Social

Mary O'Brien



FCA WELCOMES PATTY TROJAN

Patty is our new very part time rental coordinator. Patty comes to us with previous event planning experience and will be helping us with paid outside rental events. She is currently going through orientation and learning our facility.

As always, FCA member events will continue to be handled by our own volunteer members.

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

thrivent

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2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION



The 2024 FCA scholarship reception was held on Sunday, May 5th. The five recipients were Amelia Lampi, Isaac Hanson, Meeri Pantsar, Robert Crouse, and Roope Pantsar. Amelia Lampi, a graduating high school senior, will enroll in Hope College. She plans to major in Chemical Engineering. Isaac Hanson, who studies Geography at University of Minnesota, is an active participant in the Finnish language program there. Meeri Pantsar studies Behavioral Neuroscience at Grand Valley State University. Robert Crouse is completing his Bachelor's Degree at Michigan State University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Roope Pantsar studies Economics and Computer Science at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



Left to right: Meeri Pantsar, Roope Pantsar and Ameilia Lampi.

The FCA Scholarship Committee Chair Irene Lamanen led the recipient meet and greet with other committee members Janet Suomi, Yvonne Lockwood, and Ilona Takakura.

SOCIAL NEWS

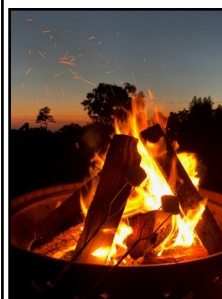
Vappu

Vappu was a huge success! The food was great as were the decorations. Ramona Dixon and her committee worked very hard to make the night magical and it was indeed. Thank you, Ramona!

Musical Program

On Sunday, June 9 at 2:00 pm we are having a very special program. Olli Soikkeli, a Finnish guitarist based in NYC will perform, along with Brad Brose on the bass guitar. They will be playing "Gypsy Jazz" in the style of Django Reinhardt. This will be a very unique experience to be long remembered. We offer this for an entry fee of \$12.00. Refreshments will be served for your enjoyment. Please join us and bring a friend!

Juhannus



We will be celebrating Juhannus on Friday, June 21. Unfortunately, there was a conflict on the 22th. Our celebration will include a bonfire with music. The cookout-style dinner will include hamburgers, hot dogs and a vegan dish. Dessert will be strawberry shortcake. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening of celebration.

Annual Picnic



The second annual Finnish Center picnic will be Sunday, July 21. Join us one and all for the festivities. We will take an opportunity at this special event to honor our donors for their efforts to keep the Finnish Center the wonderful place it has been and still is. Everyone is welcome.

A Date to Remember



Saturday, September 14 will be the 50th anniversary of the Finnish Center building. A party to commemorate this special occasion will be celebrated in the main hall of the Finnish Center. A dinner will be served with a program to follow. Put this date on your calendar because you will not want to miss the fun! More information to follow in the months to come.

Mary O'Brien
Social Chairman

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Markku Ketola (5/1/24)** a donation has been made by Jonene & Roger Hewlett.

In memory of FCA member **Tuija Kaarine Lunsford (5/5/24)** a donation has been made by Max W. Lunsford Family.

In memory of **Roger Taurianen (3/22/24)** a donation has been made by Stephanie Washio.

In memory of **Elaine Weider (2024)** a donation has been made by Mary Stapleton.

In memory of FCA life member **Paavo Nurmi (7/26/21)** a donation has been made by Nancy Nurmi.

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

FCA life member **Eunice Gould (5/2024)**

FCA life member **William Baker (2023)**

FCA life member **Beatrice Joanne Niemi (2/9/21)**

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, 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

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.



EUNICE POTTI GOULD

Eunice passed away suddenly. Through the cards she sent as the Sunshine Lady, she brought joy and comfort to the Finnish Center Association members who were ill and bereaving. Memorial services will be announced at a later date.

Joanne Potti Ouellette

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

TRENARY EGGNOG FRENCH TOAST

In a baking dish, prepare a mixture of 3 eggs, 1/2 cup eggnog, a dash of salt, and a splash of vanilla. Whisk together until well blended.

Soak six slices of Trenary Cinnamon Toast in the mixture for 30 minutes on each side.

Fry in pan coated with butter over medium heat until golden brown. Once you taste this you will make it a Yooper holiday tradition.

Note: If you try this with regular bread, soak in mixture only for a minute or so per side. Otherwise the bread will fall apart.

Trenary Cinnamon Toast is available in the FCA gift shop.



DULUTH, MN



RAG RUG WEAVING CLASSES TO BEGIN

For those of you who have patiently waited for the above announcement, thank you! One of the missions of the Finnish Center is to keep the Finnish heritage alive and share what we learn and know with others. There have been requests for the FCA to teach various cultural classes and Rag Rug Weaving is among them.

Sandy Lampi Scheel will be the instructor and the barn loom that was donated several years ago will be used by the students. The class will consist of information sharing, demonstrations, discussions, hands-on projects as well as weaving. Students will be given a list of supplies they should bring when they register for the class. Also, students will be encouraged to bring a light lunch and a beverage of their choice. The FinnWeavers fund will cover transportation costs for the instructor as well as handouts and weaving supplies for each student. Sign up for the classes by contacting Sandy at (989) 245-2364 or email at sndscheel@gmail.com.

Two introductory sessions will be organized in 2024 for those wishing to learn about rag rugs. Dates are set for the “Crash and Burn Class”, September 24, 25, and 26 beginning at 10:00 a.m. are the dates and times. This class is ideal for those who will be coming in from out-of-town or for those that are anxious to learn weaving quickly.

For others who would like to learn at a more relaxed pace we will schedule a class that will meet three times on days that are compatible with students’ calendars. If this is of interest to you, determine what days of the week would be most convenient for you and let Sandy know. You and the other students will agree on our class schedule.

If 2024 doesn’t work with your schedule, know that we will plan on having classes in 2025 and in years to come. We look forward to having you become an FCA FinnWeaver as you learn to weave.

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN

“Say It With Music” at their 2024 spring concert

In honor of both the United States and Finland, the singers open their concerts with “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Maamme”. This time, the ending piece was Sibelius’ beautiful “Finlandia-hymni”, a song now sung in many countries.

The FASM titled their concert “Say It With Music” after a medley of songs by well-known composer Irving Berlin, many if not all of which were familiar to the audience.

In between, songs in both Finnish and English were performed. Topelius’ “Hankoniemen silmä” described the last look that emigrants had of their country as they sailed away to new lives. Instead of accompanist Hope McGookey playing “Mun kanteleeni” on the piano, she played the tune on a 12-string kantele as the choir sang it. This was followed by another heart-felt song, “Karjalan kunailla”, about beautiful Karelia. Director Alex Cave said that the powerful and ever-popular “Sininen ja valkoinen” is a common karaoke choice in Finland.



A variety of emotions was also expressed in the songs performed in English. “Songs in the Night” was inspired by William Blake and Henry W. Longfellow. “Sing On!” stated that there is always a way to sing on. And finally, “Send Down the Rain” was dedicated to the memory of long-time FASM member Charlotte Lytikainen, who made this her song for many years.

At the end of the concert, Director Cave asked all the FASM members who were of Finnish heritage to stand...and then all those who weren’t. Surprisingly, more members were NOT of Finnish heritage. He wanted to show that one doesn’t have to be Finnish American to enjoy singing in this wonderful choir!

Concert Review by Louise Hartung

FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 10

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 patrons and non-individual sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony are listed below. Sponsorship helped the building project cross the finish line with their monetary donations.

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.org (248) 478-6939, or me personally, prajala@comcast.net.

The first group is a list of patrons of the dedication ceremony. No criteria were given for the patron donation level.

American-Scandinavian Foundation	Armstrong, Mrs. Hilda
Dreyer, William G. and Rachel R.	Jouppi, Alfred and Gertrude
Jutila, Dr. Sakari and Shirley	Koskie, Arthur W. and Margaret B.
Koskimaki, George and Eva	Levoska, Donald E. and Elma J.
Luutinen, Waino and Airiina	Niemi, Hugo and Rita M.
Pudas, William F. and Viola	Soderblom, Virve
Virjo, Consul Harri M. and Irene	Waara, William and Jennie
Wantin, Alfred O. and Signe A.	

There were also non-individual sponsors: Finnish groups, other Nordic clubs, official governmental authorities, and commercial businesses.

Arpi Swedish Club	Consulate General of Finland in New York
Danish Club of Detroit	Embassy of Finland, Washington D.C.
Finlandia Male Chorus	Finnish-American Club of Detroit
Finnish American Historical Society of Detroit	Finnish Center Folk Dancers
Kaleva Hall Association	Kaleva Park Association
Knights of Kaleva, Auran Maja No. 44	Ladies of Kaleva, Auratar Tupa No. 49
Norwedian Club of Detroit	Finnair
Scandia Sauna Sales	Scandinavian Airlines



NOVI CONCERT BAND Friday, June 7

Dinner 4:30 - 7:00 pm
Concert 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Concert and buffet \$15 for adults
\$5 for children under 12
Concert Only - \$5

JUNE
9



SUMMER JAZZ CONCERT

Olli Soikkeli
June 9th, 2:00 PM

Olli Soikkeli, a Finnish guitarist based in NYC, will join us at FCA along with Brad Brose on the Bass Guitar. They will be playing 'Gypsy Jazz' in style of Django Reinhardt.

Admission: \$12
Light refreshments to be served

Finnish Cultural Center
35200 Eight Mile Rd
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248-478-6939 or finnishcenter@gmail.com

NATO PARADE OF NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE EVENTS NORFOLK, VIRGINIA April 20, 2024

by Randy Wanttaja, Chapter President, Finlandia Foundation of Tidewater, Virginia

In addition to being the home of the largest US Naval station, Norfolk, Virginia is also the home of NATO headquarters in North America. Brussels, Belgium is the European home of NATO. Staff members from each of the 31 NATO member nations are assigned to NATO headquarters and live here in Norfolk or Virginia Beach along with their spouses and families, typically for two-year assignments. In previous years, as Finland had only 'observer' status with NATO; by Randy Wanttaja, Finlandia Foundation of Tidewater, Virginia, there had been only one family assigned to Norfolk at a time. But with the official recognition of Finland as a full member of NATO in 2023, the staffing requirements are being expanded. We currently now have 10 Finland families assigned to Norfolk NATO headquarters, with an additional 10 families arriving by October 2024.

Each year in April, the city of Norfolk hosts the NATO Parade of Nations and International Village. The event originally began in 1955 as the Azalea Festival and has ultimately evolved into the NATO Festival of Nations. Families from each of the 31 NATO member national delegations construct a parade float which they feel best represents their nation to the rest of the world. 2024 was the first year that Finland was represented in the parade's 71 year history. Our Finnish NATO families had been busily constructing a beautiful float of their own design, for several months. Only members of our NATO families could ride on their country's float. Auxiliary organizations were invited to walk alongside each nation's float, so of course members of Tidewater Finlandia Foundation chapter were invited to carry the FINLAND banner, wave Finland flags, pass out flags to parade spectators, and to walk alongside the float. In addition to 31 national floats, the NATO Parade of Nations also included musical and marching units from the US Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force. This year's parade featured visiting drum and pipes corps and military band units, from Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as color guards and marching units from high school bands participating in the Virginia International Music Festival competition, more than 70 units in all.

The NATO Parade of Nations was held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 in downtown Norfolk. The float designed and built by our 10 Finland NATO families included a lakeside sauna complete with white smoke, white picket fence, grassy meadow, birch tree forest, and silhouette of the Finland map. Children of NATO families rode on the float, waving Finnish flags, while their parents walked alongside wearing sea-blue polo shirts. Finlandia Foundation Tidewater folks, wearing white shirts with Finland/ Suomi design and the chapter logo, carried the FINLAND banner ahead of the float. As we processed with the float, we waved Finland flags and passed out flags and Moomin lollipops to the spectators along the mile long parade route.



Each country with their float was announced to the crowd first as it approached the VIP viewing stand, and again midway during the parade. Finland's status as a new member of NATO and also a first-year participant in the NATO parade was announced. The announcers also described the theme of the Finland float, and the significance of sauna in Finnish society.

All along the parade route, we were greeted by shouts of "Welcome Finland! Welcome to NATO!" By the parade spectators. This was a very heartwarming and unexpected welcome by the diverse audience, composed of a mix of American visitors from across the mid-Atlantic region. This was an emotional experience for all of us who participated in the parade. The parade and festival attendance were estimated at 10,000.

Following the parade, each of the 31 NATO nations hosted a booth in the International Village, held in Town Point Park on the banks of the Elizabeth River. Samples of food and drink, national flags, travel guides, stickers and candies were be offered at each booth. Visiting kids were offered a "passport" which they could get stamped at each booth. The Finland booth

was hosted by our NATO families, as well as by four representatives from Finnish Soldier Home Society (Sotilaskotiliitto), who travelled from Finland solely for this event.

(continued on page 11)

NATO (continued from page 10)

The Sotilaskoti ladies cooked and served samples of donuts (munkki) to those who visited the Finland booth, along with Fazer chocolates and Finland pamphlets.

The annual NATO festival and Parade of Nations is organized by the Virginia Arts Festival and is held in concert with the annual Virginia International Tattoo event, is held at Scope arena. It features over 800 performers and is a showcase for all of the visiting international military bands, pipe and drum corps, highland dancers, US Air Force, Naval and Army musicians, as well as choristers from Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Old Dominion University, all performing in a 120 minute spectacle of sight and sound. This year International Tattoo was represented by visiting units from Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as the XV du Pacifique Army Rugby Team.

We are excited to learn that Kaartin Soittokunta (The Guard's Band) Finland's oldest military band, has accepted the invitation to participate in next year's Parade of Nations and Virginia International Tattoo spectacle, in here in Norfolk in April 2025!

Regards,
Randy Wanttaja, (chapter president)
Finlandia Foundation of Tidewater Virginia
VaFinnsSecretary@gmail.com



Parade



Backside of Finland's float.



SACT General Philippe LaVigne, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, enjoying munkki prepared by the ladies of Sotilaskoti, Soldiers Home Society, along with Captain Veli-Petteri Valkamo, commander of Finland's NATO delegation in North America.



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!



Follow FCA on Instagram @finnishcenterassociation




THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME
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 Farmington, MI
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