



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2024

CO-CHAIR CORNER

Rumi said: Let the beauty of what you love be what you do.

These simple words are better than any advisement you could get from a career counselor, pastor or therapist. We all have things in our life that we are passionate about or bring us great joy. Things that we do that we don't consider work and that make the hours fly by because we aren't thinking about the clock but are absorbed and fully engaged in the task at hand. If you do what you love, everything else seems to figure itself out.

Life seems to flow when we strive for our work and play to be one and the same thing — all one, indistinguishable, having equal importance and value. Finns say *saldo*, or balance. May we all find this saldo.

With gratitude,

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



FCA GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024
3:00 pm



In person or via Zoom. A membership quorum is needed for the meeting, so please try to attend. An email with the Zoom link will be sent out closer to the October date of the general meeting.

Immediately following this meeting will be the regular FCA Board meeting with Committee Chairs. You may stay and attend this meeting only if you desire. The FCA does not need a membership quorum for this second meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A very important (and lucrative) fundraising activity for the FCA is our State of Michigan authorized poker event that is coming up October 10-14 at Vision Lanes in Westland. Workers are desperately needed for both the 10 am to 6 pm and 6:30 pm to 2:00 am shifts. Partial shifts can be arranged.

Please help out, even a little, so that we can keep our state license and so that just a few volunteers do not have to carry the load. Contact Ilona Takakura via email rccilona@hotmail.com (734) 228-8225 or Paul Rajala, prajala@comcast.net (248) 921-0831 for more information.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 2	Office Closed
Wednesday, September 4	FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Friday, September 6	FCA Pasty Prep 9:30 am-noon
Saturday, September 7	FCA Pasty Event
Sunday, September 8	Meetup Movie "This is My Childhood: Finland at War" 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 11	Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, September 12	Rental
Saturday, September 14	Cultural Center 50th Anniversary 5:00 pm
Sunday, September 15	Rental
Sunday, September 15	Nordic Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm
Friday, September 20	Rental
Saturday, September 21	Rental
Sunday, September 22	Rental
Tuesday, September 24	FinnWeavers 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Wednesday, September 25	FinnWeavers 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Thursday, September 26	FinnWeavers 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Friday, September 27	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm

Reservations are recommended for all events.

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 3	FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Thursday, October 10	Poker Fundraiser 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday, October 11	Poker Fundraiser 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday, October 11	Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Saturday, October 12	Poker Fundraiser 6:30 pm-2:00 am
Sunday, October 13	Poker Fundraiser 6:30 pm-2:00 am
Sunday, October 13	Movie "Pelkie" 1:00 pm
Friday, October 18	Rental
Saturday, October 19	Rental
Sunday, October 20	Nordic Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm
Thursday, October 24	Rental
Thursday, October 24	FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Friday, October 25	Rental
Friday, October 25	Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Saturday, October 26	Rental
Sunday, October 27	General Meeting 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 27	Joint Board Meeting

Finnish American Singers of Michigan
Meet on Mondays at 6:00 pm beginning September 9 at
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
34567 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, Mi 48152

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

Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,
Christine Manninen

2 Year

Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien,
Janet Suomi

3 Year

Peggy Burns, Ramona Dixon,
Roger Wanttaja

Alternates

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

Financial Review

Mary Kaye Aukee
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





50th Anniversary Celebration of the Finnish Center Building

Dinner Menu

Salmon / Pork Tenderloin

Broccoli / asparagus

Salad - cucumber and pickled beets

Scalloped potatoes

Rolls / dessert

Saturday September 14, 2024

Starting at 5pm

Cost: \$25 / person

Music by Finn Folk and the Rockin' Rutabagas!

Please RSVP by phone 248-478-6939 or email finnishcenter@gmail.com

MEMORIALS

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

In memory of FCA life member
Eunice Potti Gould (5/2/24)
donations have been made by Kathryn Hill,
Louise Hartung, Paul Lampi, Jacqueline
Scheel Weidman, and Sandy &
David Scheel.

In memory of FCA life member
Markku Ketola (5/1/24) a donation
has been made by Sandy & David Scheel.

In memory of FCA member
Glenn Mikko (3/23/24)
a donation has been made by Bruce Mikko.

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

FCA life member **Clifford Laho (8/8/24)**
FCA life member **Dagmar Malstrom (7/28/24)**
FCA life member **Lois Lindgren (7/16/24)**

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. Memor-
ial 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.



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 in-
terested in purchasing them, please give a call to
Finnish Center for more information. Telephone
(248) 478-6939 or email: finnishcenter@gmail.com



MR. SUNSHINE

Sending get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards, words
-of-encouragement cards to members.

We would like to thank Bob McAlpine for volunteer-
ing to take on this task. Contact the FCA if you know
of a person or family in need of comfort. Email or
call your card requests to the attention of the "Mr.
Sunshine" at the FCA.

The FCA is low on cards. If you have cards that are
appropriate or blank, please drop them off at the FCA
Center. Thank you.

Bob McAlpine
Mr. Sunshine

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

thrivent

Kim Dwyer, FIC, RICP®, CLTC®

Financial Advisor

Generational Wealth Advisors
kim.dwyer@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/kim-dwyer

Office 248-719-8520
39500 Orchard Hill Place, Suite 170
Novi, MI 48375

Text 248-963-8258
19 Washington St
Monroe, MI 48161





Scandinavian Market

Saturday, November 16, 2024

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Finnish Center Association

35200 W. Eight Mile Rd.

Farmington Hills, MI 48335

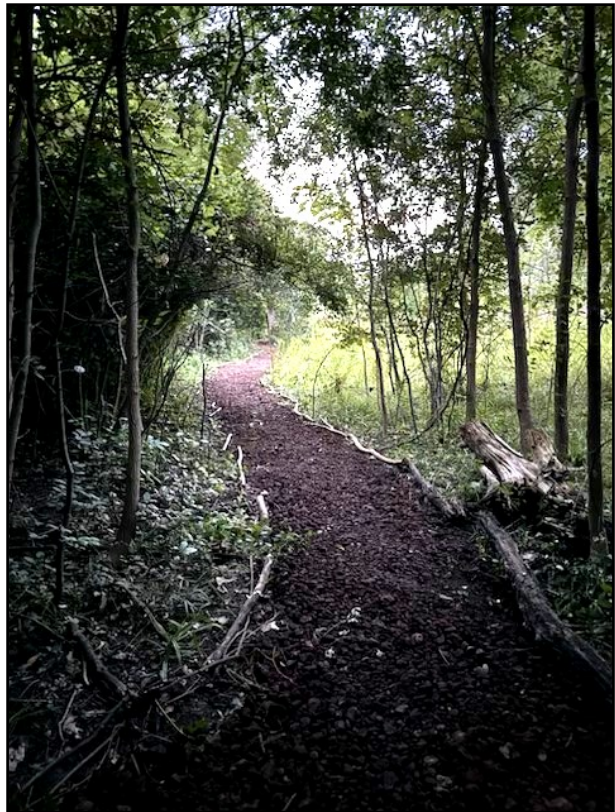
(248) 478-6939

Admission \$2

**PUBLIC
WELCOME**

*Come enjoy the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of
Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland & Denmark*

FINLANDIA GARDENS



August 3rd and 4th were special for Finlandia Gardens and the Finnish Center. At 8:30 am, Boy Scouts began arriving at the gardens. This began Phase I of a plan to build a trail in the FCA wetland. Using the labor of more than 20 Scouts with their parents and leaders, a trail was outlined weaving in and out of the woodland tract on the northern edge of the wetland property. These efforts included removing unwanted trees and shrubs to open the route of the trail, putting down Mesita stone donated from Tapiola Village, moving wood chips, disposing of branches, and placing a bench in a wooded portion of the trail.

This first phase runs west of the wetland walkway which runs across the wetland that was also built as an Eagle Scout Project some years ago. Noah Waldren, a member of Farmington Troop 179, and his companions completed the western portion of the wetland trail as his Eagle Scout project. These projects normally take about 40 hours, but this one took 400 hours just for Phase I.

Phase II will complete the trail, running east around the ponds, completing a trail encircling the wetland and running back to the FCA. Another scout from the same troop has interest in completing Phase II by October of this year finishing the wetland trail.

The wetland trail will enhance our gardens by offering another feature to attract younger visitors and volunteers to our center.

David Sharpe
FCA Landscape Coordinator

50

50TH ANNIVERSARY Saturday, September 14, 2024

Celebrating 50 years in the Finnish Cultural Center Building. Festivities begin at 5:00 pm. A magnificent dinner is planned with interesting speakers. Music by FinnFolk and Rockin' Rutabagas. Please join us for a wonderful evening. Make your reservations by contacting the FCA by phone, email or by using the sign-up sheet at the Center.

Mary O'Brien

SEPTEMBER PASTY BAKE

On Saturday, September 7, the crew will be baking pre-ordered pasties. If you would like to volunteer to help with the veggie peeling and dicing on Friday the 6th or with the assembling, baking, and packaging on the 7th, please email to fcapasties@gmail.com or call the FCA at (248) 478-6939. Note that volunteers receive a complimentary pasty.

Any pasties unsold that Saturday will be available to purchase through the gift shop.

Paul Rajala, pasty coordinator

SOCIAL NEWS



MEETUP Sunday, September 8 1:00 pm

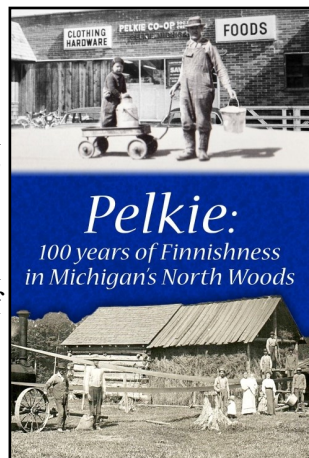
The movie presentation will be *This Is My Childhood: Finland at War*. Come join in to watch the film and have a discussion.

<https://www.meetup.com/>

MEETUP Sunday, October 13, 2024 1:00 pm

The movie presentation will be "*Pelkie: 100 years of Finnishness in Michigan's North Woods*". This should be entertaining with many interesting stories of growing up in the U.P.

Mary O'Brien
Social chair



Plan to attend a joyous celebration of **Finland's Independence Day** on Saturday, December 7, 2024 starting at 5 pm, at the Finnish Center Association. The evening will include Finnish specialties by Annabel's, keynote speaker, Finnish music and dance.

More details to follow!

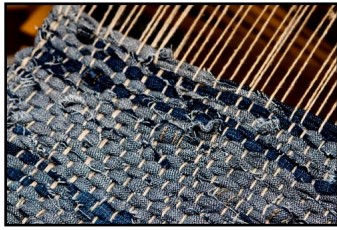
GIFT SHOP

Fall is upon us, and I hope you had a wonderful summer. I went to Paradise, Michigan for the Wild Blueberry Festival and saw lots of old friends!

The gift shop now has Thimbleberry jam, new t-shirts and sweatshirts, and the best Fazer chocolate in the whole world (according to a man from Finland who attended a recent event).

We will be open for the pasty pickup on September 7, the 50th anniversary celebration on September 14, and the buffets that start on September 27. Our regular hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Janet Suomi



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. 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.

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 cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden alive through folk dancing.

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.

Sunday, September 15, 2024 2-5 pm
Location: Finnish Center Lounge

Sunday, October 20, 2024 2-5 pm
Location: Finnish Center Main Hall

Sunday, November 3, 2024 2-5 pm
Location: Finnish Center Main Hall

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



THE YOOPERS CALUMET PASTY FEST 2024

A decision to attend Pasty Fest 2024 in Calumet, Michigan found four friends (Nancy & Paul Rajala and Katy & David Koskela) anticipating a busy, event filled-festival weekend. Surprisingly, we discovered the Festival itself is held only one afternoon! So, Saturday, August 17th we began the festivities by shopping at the Calumet Farmer’s Market near the Agassiz Park.

A wide aisle flanked by vendor canopies enticed with colorful fresh produce, handcrafts, and homemade foods. We bought cinnamon as well as custard-filled nisu rolls, and thimbleberry tarts (our favorite) to share. Walking over to 5th street where the special Pasty Fest vendors and most of the activities were held, we watched the Calumet Copper King high school marching band as they brought up the end of a parade, providing music for the Renaissance-attired participants, costumed pasty “ingredients”, and other festival folks preceding them, passing classic cars on one side of the street and festival goers on the other. Watching, Katy’s attention was caught by the 1941 Calumet & Hecla Mining Co. ambulance parked across the street, which she felt she might need after walking the street length to visit all of the vendors!

Our own Mr. Pasty, Paul Rajala, stood for a picture with the popular costumed Cousin Jack Pasty. For those that wanted to sample basic pasties from some of the nine bake-off competitors, they were able to purchase for \$40 a sampler of four, four-ounce pasties. The first 100 people purchasing could vote on their favorite. The winner this year was the East Fork Pasty Co. who will have bragging rights for the next twelve months! The Keweenaw Coffee Works was selling gourmet pasties as well and had a long line into their store of eager buyers. Music on the streetcorners, humorous painted cutouts for pictures, a bubble machine for the kids (crazy!), all manner of crafts and merchandise, as well as stores the length of the street joined the fun with smiles and greetings.

Unwilling to wait in long lines for pasties in Calumet, the travelers stopped at Lawry’s Pasty Shop in Ishpeming (a favorite) where frozen pasties were purchased to take home and the driver, David Koskela, ate a hot one for lunch, cleverly bringing his own Ketchup from home!

For the most up-to-date photos and others’ experiences at the 2024 Pasty Fest, check out their Facebook page! Photos here are from their site as well as taken by Katy Koskela.



KCW PASTY FEST <small>HANDMADE AT KEWEENAW COFFEE WORKS</small>	
KCW BREKKIE PASTY <small>Available 8am until Sold Out</small> Huevos Rancheros Hatch Red Chile Sauce, Black Beans, Scrambled Egg, Chihuahua Cheese, Cilantro and Onion w/ Avocado Crema Sauce \$12	NOW THAT'S A PASTY \$13 Chicken & Leek Pasty braised with Blake's Cider \$15 Steak & Ale Pasty w/ KBC Widow Maker Braised Beef Tenderloin, UP Gourmet Mushrooms & Cheddar Cheese w/ Bacon Jam \$20 KCW Reuben Pasty Wagyu Pastrami, Swiss Cheese, Sauerkraut w/ KCW Reuben Sauce
THE KCW PASTY Grass-fed Beef, Heritage Pork, Potato, Onion, Garlic, Rutabaga, Celery, Carrot \$14	\$18 Spanish Paella Pasty Chicken, Shrimp, Scallop, Spanish Chorizo, Spices and Spanish Rice w/ Cilantro Lime Dipping Sauce \$18 Duck Cassoulet Pasty Confit Duck, Duck Sausage, Cannellini Beans, Onion, Garlic, Bacon Lardons, Stock, Spices and Herbs
VEGGIE PASTY \$11 Curried Veggie w/ Mint Yogurt Sauce & Mango Chutney	
GLUTEN FRIENDLY KCW Pasty and Veggie Pasty ONLY <small>Price Closes: First Served, No Pre-orders.</small> Add \$1 <small>NOT MADE IN A CERTIFIED GLUTEN-FREE KITCHEN MADE WITHOUT ANY OF THE COMMON ALLERGENS</small>	
<small>Brekkie Pasty Available 8am until sold out All other Pasty Sales will start at 12pm, not before. Arrive Early, Limited Quantities. Open 8am to 4pm Aug 17</small>	



LEARN LIKE A CHILD OR WITH ONE

It's exciting for a librarian to see books checked out of a library and to know people are actually looking at the titles shelved there! Recent FCA circulating books include children's folk tales, military history of war in Finland, description and history of the social climate there, teaching yourself Finnish, and one novel, *The Seven Brothers*.

This is the English translation of the first novel written in Finnish by a Finnish-speaking author, *Seitsemän veljestä* by Aleksis Kivi. Known as the National Writer of Finland, Kivi's book published in 1870, two years before his death at age 38, is viewed as a pioneer of Finnish realistic folklore and often as stated in Wikipedia "the greatest Finnish novel of all time." Laying the foundation for what has been referred to as "the Great Tradition in Finnish Prose," a Good Reads review describes this tradition as "characterized by realism, humor, respect for the common people, and depiction of nature as both friend and foe." Despite such a weighty description, an Amazon reviewer in 2016 describes this book in a much more down-to-earth way. "The seven brothers are a bunch of likeable blokes. This book could also be read to a child since their adventures are so nutty."

Recently a bag of newer children's books in Finnish was accepted by this librarian (despite a ban on taking book donations) from a young Finnish mom moving to California. She had no idea, however, that we even had a library or that we actually DID have children's books in the collection. Spread the word! Currently we have two shelves of both fiction and non-fiction juvenile books.

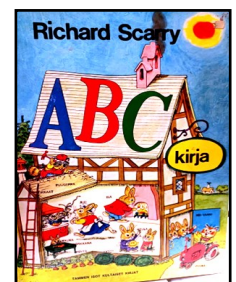
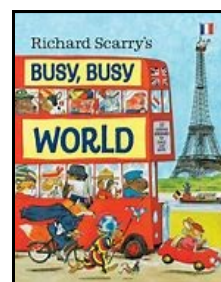
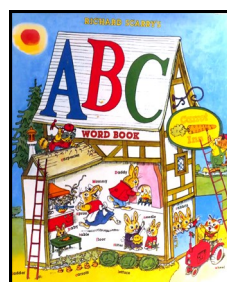
Readers might recognize the cartoon-like Moomin characters in several books by Tove Jansson. Jansson, a Swedish speaking Finn (1914-2001), studied art in Finland, Sweden, and France becoming a writer, artist, and illustrator of both books and comic strips. The books are about a community of trolls living in the magical Moominvalley. As Publishers Weekly asserts, their adventures illustrate themes including kindness, respect for nature, tolerance, friendship, and courage. Working for the Finnish ceramics firm Arabia producing the iconic Moomin mugs using Jansson's characters with her permission, mug designer Tove Slotte guessed the Moomins resonated so closely with Finns because, "Finns feel a connection with the Moomin family, ... they value similar things, such as family and nature. Moomins often do things that Finns also enjoy: they go on adventures, camp in the archipelago, or head out to the woods."

The Canine Kalevala by Mauri Kunnas, recasts in English the legendary adventures of three Finnish heroes who are rivals for the hand of the Maiden of Pohja with characters from a tribe of wild and wooly dogs of the gloomy North. If you would prefer a youth version of the Kalevala in Finnish, we have the six volumes of *Laslen Kultainen Kalevala (Children's Golden Kalevala). Legends and Folktales of Lapland*, originally published in 1972, on our shelves in wonderful condition, written in English, providing cultural history for children AND adults in a readable, entertaining format.

RICHARD SCARRY is one of the most iconic children's authors EVER! In his extraordinary career, Scarry illustrated over 150 books, selling over 100 million copies around the world, currently published in over twenty languages. The animals in Scarry's books are doing everyday human activities: shopping, working at various jobs, playing, traveling, and getting into hilarious "pickles!" Children (and parents) identify with and love their antics while learning about familiar as well as unfamiliar things in a fun way. We have his *ABC Book* in Finnish, shown with the English version every public library owns, as well as another book, *Hauska, Hauska Maa* (*Funny, Funny World*). Wouldn't this be a fun way to learn Finnish, looking at the ABC books side-by-side?

Check them out (pun intended)!

Submitted by Katy Koskela, FCA Librarian Pro Tem





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**
 33603 Grand River,
 Farmington, MI
 (248) 474-4131
 Paul N. Potti, Director