Finnish Center Association



FCA News

OCTOBER 2024

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CO-CHAIR CORNER

On September 14 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our beautiful Finnish Cultural Center building. The Cultural Center was dedicated on September 21, 1974 – eight years after the Finnish Center Association was founded in 1966.

Over the past 50 years, tens of thousands of people have visited and shared time together in this space. It has brought not only Finns together but people of all ages and ethnicities. It is FCA's home and like a second home to many of us.

We are also celebrating the completion of a new roof! The FCA Board of Trustees commenced fundraising efforts and a Capital Campaign in 2023. We are more than 60 percent of the way toward meeting our goal of \$300,000 for major structural improvements and refurbishments to the Cultural Center. The new roof was recently completed in August 2024 through a grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, as well as generous donations.

We are so thankful for our amazing members, donors and volunteers. *Kiitos paljon* (thank you very much)! Without you and your unwavering support of the Finnish Center Association, none of this would be possible. The roof is only the beginning. In coming years, additional improvements to the building's masonry, entryway, bathrooms, and other amenities are planned.

When we work together, all things are possible.

With gratitude,

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

> Roger Wanttaja welcomes guests to 50th anniversary party. Photo by Ed O'Brien



FCA GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024 at 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.



Photo by Christine Manninen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 3 FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5:00 pm

Saturday, October 5 Rental

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 Meetup Movie "Pelkie" 1:00 pm Sunday, October 13

Rental Friday, October 18 Saturday, October 19 Rental

Sunday, October 20 Nordic Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, October 22 Rental Thursday, October 24 Rental

Thursday, October 24 FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5:00 pm

Friday, October 25

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

Reservations are recommended for all events.

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 1 Pasty Prep Saturday, November 2 Pasty Event

Sunday, November 3 Meetup Topic: Finnish Christmas 1:00 pm

Sunday, November 3 Nordic Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm

Thursday, November 7 Rental Friday, November 8 Rental Saturday, November 9 Rental Sunday, November 10 Rental

Wednesday, November 13 Board Meeting 7:00 pm Thursday, November 14 FCA Bakers 9:30-5:00 pm Scandinavian Market Set up Friday, November 15

10:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday, November 16 Scandinavian Market 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Friday, November 22 Rental Saturday, November 23 Rental Wednesday, November 27 Rental

November 28 & 29 Closed for Thanksgiving

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

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



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member Margaret A. "Peggy" Puuri (8/30/24) a donation has been made by Gary Veights.

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.



FINNISH CENTER
ASSOCIATION
Hours of Operation
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

thrivent.

Kim Dwyer, FIC, RICP*, CLTC*



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

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



MR. SUNSHINE

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

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

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 recilona@hotmail.com (734) 228-8225 or Paul Rajala, prajala@comcast.net (248) 921-0831 for more information.





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

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

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.

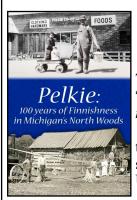
Sunday, October 20, 2024 2-5 pm Location: Finnish Center

PUBLIC

WELCOME

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

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



MEETUP Sunday, October 13 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.

MEETUP Sunday, November 3 1:00 pm



Topic: How did your Finnish family celebrate Christmas? Finnish food will be there for you to sample. We hope you will join us.

https://www.meetup.com/

Carol Sawyer is an amazing garden volunteer.

FCA BAKERS



Left to right: Nancy McClenahan, Chris Martin, Dee Aebersold, Bonnie Swindell, and Tom Buchanan (Louise Hartung not shown)

Nisu is available for \$8 and can purchased through the gift shop.



GIFT SHOP

We have wonderful special occasions at the Finnish Center, and the Scandinavian Market is a gem! It will be held on November 16 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. I've been adding inventory to the gift shop, with very large orders coming soon. We will have favorite specialty food items along with our regular food items, calendars, special mugs, t-shirts and sweatshirts, jewelry, decals, books, and many more wonderful items. We have the very best volunteers who will be helping you with your purchases.

I appreciate your requests for certain items, and I will try to fill those as soon as possible. A request was made for Sauna scents, and we now have Forest, Eucalyptus, Birch and Citrus. We also have the best Sauna soap!

Have a wonderful October! Janet Suomi



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER

Saturday, September 14, we celebrated 50 years of the Finnish Cultural Center building. It was exciting to have so many people come to enjoy this special occasion. The delicious food was provided by Michael's Touch of Class Catering.

We honored the FinnFolk who are here to bring enjoyment through music whenever we need it. The Rockin' Rutabagas added fun with popular rock music from the 70's. The night also took a special touch to honor some of our donors and some past chairman. Volunteers are so important to the Finnish Center.

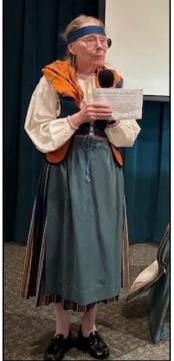
I would like to thank some of our volunteers for helping make the night possible: Nancy Rajala for the beautiful decorations, Ramona Dixon for bar tending, Ed O'Brien for publicity and photography, Louise Hartung for her words on the history of Finn Folk and suggestions, Peggy Burns for the beautiful cake, all our wonderful speakers Roger Wanttaja, Joanne Ouellette, Louise Hartung and Paul Rajala, Kristen Kreiner for helping with words I couldn't pronounce and Kendra Dinsdale and Jim Lee for clean up. And thank you to everyone who came to share this event!

Mary O'Brien





Top row left to right: Mary O'Brien, Joanne Ouellette, Louise Hartung. Bottom right: FinnFolk and the Rockin' Rutabagas Photos by Ed O'Brien











Finnish Center Association celebrates

Finland's Independence Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 at 5 pm

Folk Music by FinnFolk
Cash Bar

Dinner with Finnish Appetizers and specialties

By Annabel's

Coffee and dessert

Keynote Speaker

Tommy Flanagan

Executive Director, Finlandia Foundation National

Finland Today: From Legacy to the Future

And

Musical Performance by

Katri Ervamaa (Cello), Naki Kripfgans (piano), Jennifer Goltz (voice)

Finnish Tangos Old and New

Tickets \$75.00
Children under 12 \$10.00, under 5 free
Reservations by December 2, 2024

35200 West 8 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, Mi 48335 Phone: 248-478-6939 Email: finnishcenter@gmail.com

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK (SOUND) A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!



Choir rehearsals have started for the Finnish American Singers of Michigan, singing music that not only hints at the coming holiday, but bows to the fall and changing weather we have already begun to see. The lyrics of *Something Told* the Wild Geese are clear: Though

the fields lay golden, something whispered 'Snow'. Of course our choir wants to encourage people to sing, to enjoy singing with others and the community it engenders. We share that feeling with the songs *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing* and *Harmony*. "Harmony, Harmony, Let's all join in the Harmony, and sing away the hurt and fear,..." The traditional titles of *Silent Night* and *O Holy Night* as well as *The First Noel* are tempered with a little non-traditional humor in *The Man With the Bag* and *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*. Adding Finnish music rounds out our concert program for our December 1st concert. We would love to see you that day at 2:00 pm, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia to give a jump start to your holiday anticipation.

Katy Koskela, FASM President

OTA A

FCA SEEKS NOTARY VOLUNTEER

The FCA is looking for someone who lives close to the Center and could be available to notarize documents. These documents are vital to get special liquor licensing for rental events. The FCA would cover the cost for the Oakland county notary fee as well as the notary stamp needed to complete the notarization.

If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering for this job please contact the FCA office at (248) 478-6939.



SEPTEMBER PASTY EVENT

On September 6th and 7th we had a very successful pasty event. On Friday, the vegetable day, we had 15 volunteers, which made the peeling, dicing, and portioning go very quickly. Thanks to Dee Aebersold, Peggy Burns, Karen Call, Jon Call, Joann Coobatis, Larry Gersky (who ran the dicing equipment), Peggy Hanninen, Jess Hatten (who picked up, cleaned up, and moved tables and chairs), Sue Mannisto, Cheryl McKinnon, Fred Page (dishwasher), Sharon Parkila, Sandy Reidenbaugh, and David Sharpe. The whole operation was done by noon!

On Saturday the crew, although a bit short-handed, was able to produce and deliver 800 pasties! These volunteers were Peggy wonderful Burns (scooping), Bette Clary (dough), Bryant Clary (trays), Kendra Dinsdale (crimping), Ramona Dixon (crimping), Karen Gasinski (dough), Helena Hatten (packaging), Kathryn Hill (packaging), John Hookana (scooping), Nancy Jacobs (dough equipment), David Koskela (ovens), Katy Koskela (crimping), Yvonne Lockwood (crimping), Neil Manley (mixing equipment), Nancy McClenahan (cashier), Norma Mitchell (dough), and Nancy Rajala (dough making, packaging, distribution organizing). Thank you to all.

NOVEMBER PASTIES

Our upcoming event in November is very important—we will be making pasties for the **November 16th Scandinavian Market**, where they can be served hot or purchased frozen. Friday, November 1st will be our vegetable peeling and dicing day and Saturday the 2nd is our assembling, baking and packaging day.

Customers and volunteers on the regular email list will be notified for ordering. Note that a limited number of pasties will be available for sale on November 2 so order quantities may be restricted. But as usual all volunteers will receive a complimentary pasty for their efforts.

If you wish to have your name placed on the ordering list, please contact <u>fcapasties@gmail.com</u> or call the FCA office at (248) 478-6939. The cost will remain at \$8.00 each and the pasties must me picked up on November 2 between 9:30 and 1:00.

Paul Rajala, Pasty Coordinator

TREES, TREES AND GREENS!



The landscape in Michigan is noted for large expanses of lush, green pine trees. Aside from the state tree, the Eastern White Pine, can you name the other four most common types of conifers found here? Although we may recognize the differences in appearance and characteristics, we may not know their names (Red Pine, Scots Pine, Jack Pine, Pitch Pine). Finns settling in the Upper Peninsula did so because it resembled the country they loved with lakes and large bodies of water nearby, seasonal weather changes, and forests of towering trees. Many Finns also headed to the Great Northwest, settling in Washington state and Oregon for the same reasons.

This October, orders are taken for the annual GREENS fundraiser held by the Finnish American Singers of Michigan. Perhaps you are familiar with the beautiful evergreen products we sell because you have ordered from us in the past or have been gifted with one of them. However, the company that makes the gorgeous products is probably *unfamiliar!*

Sherwood Forest Farms was founded over 60 years ago by Cecil Callison in Centralia, Washington. His vision was to help non-profit organizations attain their fundraising goals through the sale of beautiful Pacific Northwest evergreen products. The focus of the company has remained the same, and although they have grown, they have resisted the temptation to sell to retail outlets thus creating competition for the non-profit selling organizations. One change made was to consolidate production facilities from seven to one, helping with efficiency and assuring that their products go from the temperature-controlled manufacturing areas directly into thirty-three degree cold storage for a final inspection, packaging, and shipment. A call placed to them, however, is always answered by a real person. Everyone is friendly, willing to answer questions, solve problems or find someone that can!

Cecil's plan was to do no harm to the forests through harvesting techniques, and that principle is followed to-day. The company website states: "We pride ourselves on our environmentally friendly way of harvesting of our evergreens. We never cut trees down, nor do we utilize old growth materials. Our evergreens are harvested by trimming boughs from trees in the Cascade mountains of Washington State mountains. This pruning helps the trees sustain a healthy growth pattern and fosters a healthy ecosystem in their growth area." Noble Fir, the high growth pines used for Sherwood's products, are the largest of all fir species with their strong boughs weighing 3-5 pounds, and with superior needle retention. Trees used are between the ages of 5-15 years old and often cutting is rotated between several areas, thus promoting the health of the trees.

Follow the process. The National Parks auction areas to be logged or cut from, the company bids to access the property, then a team trucks as close as they are able to the site, hiking the rest of the way on foot. Once there, they cut boughs from trees, like pruning, which helps the trees and helps with forest management. Branches are stacked in mounds, tied together, carried to a pick-up location where a helicopter flies them back to the trucks where they are loaded and transported to the Sherwood facility. Remember, this is in the mountains, not on flat terrain! Half of their greens come from national land and about half from private land. Once at Sherwood, greens are unloaded and moved into the assembly areas where the wreaths, garland, swags, and centerpieces are hand created. From there they move to 33 degree holding areas until shipped in refrigerated trucks to Fed Ex distribution points. Ours is Detroit. Delivered the next day or two to organizations, delivery is swift and timely. Direct delivery items follow a similar path, only are delivered *directly* to the purchaser or giftee by Fed Ex! A video vividly illustrating this process is accessible at

https://www.facebook.com/SherwoodForestFarms/videos. or https://fb.watch/uzdG7zvOag/

Contact any choir member, or choir president, Katy Koskela at kakoskela@hotmail.com to order GREENS during the month of October for November delivery. This link will be active for ordering GREENS online in October: SherwoodFundraiser.com/FASM. There will be a link available in October on the FCA website as well as the Finnish American Singers of Michigan Facebook page for ordering GREENS online. You will be able to order there for local delivery to the FCA or direct delivery to you or a giftee, with options for payment. Thank you for your anticipated support!

LOUHI WITCH OF THE NORTH FARM

Children's book review by Ramona Dixon

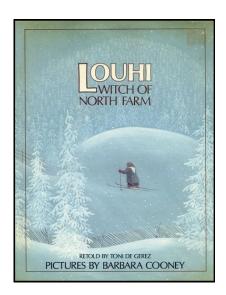
As youngsters, we were sure that the elderly woman around the block was a witch. She was very mean. She came to mind last spring when two neighborhood boys cautiously approached my back fence. One, on a dare, asked what I had in my 2'x 3' planting boxes. The boys looked relieved to find I was just preparing the beds for vegetables. One boy teased the other saying, "Aw...he thought you were a witch, and you buried children there." Yes, I had come of age and had become the neighborhood witch!

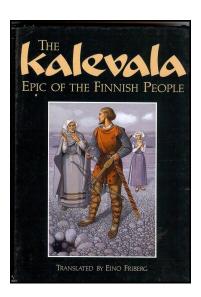
When I saw the title, *Louhi Witch of North Farm*, in the children's section of the FCA library I was intrigued. This tale from the *Kalevala* is retold by Toni De Gerez and beautifully illustrated by Barbara Cooney. In the *Kalevala*, "Pohjola" (Northland) is "a thriving farm or manor, a cold village, or a tribal domain ruled over by Louhi." A thriving farm seems like a good thing, a cold village not so, and a place ruled by Louhi, downright ugly. That was life in this arctic region: good, bad, and often frightening. In De Gerezs' version, Louhi is much more relatable. Bored with baking bread, making blueberry soup, and knitting, Louhi feels the need to stir up trouble, "What good is a Witch who is too good?" She packs her boots with sweet grass for warmth, waxes her skis, and heads outdoors.

We can imagine life in Pohjola, where the sun only peaks out along the horizon for part of the year and life turns even gloomier without the moon. It is no wonder Louhi is a bit bored. But it is the sweetness of Väinämöinen's (Great Knower) kantele playing and singing that lulls Moon to come closer, settling upon a birch bough (crafters may find a ready-made pair of visuals in Cooney's illustration). Sun also comes down to rest upon a pine branch. Louhi is able to capture both Sun and Moon simply because they are within her reach. The Pagan reverence for nature in the belief in shapeshifting is evident when Louhi turns into Eagle to capture Sun and Moon, Hawk when she hears Väinämöinen and Seppo (the blacksmith) have plans to find her, and Dove when she returns Sun and Moon back to the sky out of fear for her life.

In the conclusion to this fabulous children's book about the "nature" of Finnish people DeGerez writes:

Now there would be time: Night time and day time. There would be weather: Winter with ice and snow and cold winds. Summer with bright-eyed flowers, birds, and tall grasses. The sun and the moon are back. Look! Listen! Louhi has flown back to her home in the North Farm. And Väinämöinen is singing again.





For a deeper dive into this tale, see Runo 47 and Runo 49 of Eino Friberg's, *The Kalevala Epic of the Finnish People*, where much can be learned about what was important to our pagan ancestors. These and other titles can be found in the FCA's Eva Koskimaki Memorial Library. Come explore!



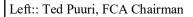
SEPTEMBER 21, 1974

DEDICATION OF THE FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER









Top: Viola Pudas, Mistress of Ceremonies, Eino Kainlauri, Architect, Shirley Kemppainen, Manager

Right: Reverend Elmer Liimatta.

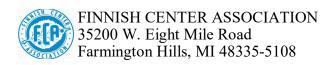
Bottom left: Harry Virjo, Finnish Consul, Ted Puuri at ribbon cutting

Bottom right: Eliisa Mannisto Seigle and Don Reinholm raising the flag.









Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICAT	ION OR RENEWAL	
DatePhone:	email:	
Applicant		
Applicant/Spouse		_
Address		_
City		
Signature_	_Are you of Finnish desce	ent?
 □ Annual membership, single, one vote □ Annual membership, senior* or youth*, one vote □ *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age □ Annual membership, couple, two votes □ Annual membership, family, one vote □ Life membership, one vote □ 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

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