Hello FCA members,

Summer has arrived and activity is picking up at the Finnish Center! In addition to the Friday night dinners, we encourage everyone to visit FCA on June 25 for the annual Juhannas celebration. The evening will include food, beer and wine, music, bonfire, gift shop, pasty sale, and the opportunity to visit with friends and enjoy the beautiful Finlandia Gardens. The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with the bonfire/kokko to follow at 8 p.m. If you plan to attend, please contact FCA to register for the event.

As the temperatures rise and midsummer approaches, we think of the Finns spending time at their lakeside cottages (mökki), which typically include a sauna, boat dock, and fire pit or grill.

Finns make the most of their summer. Short but satisfying, the bright, warm summer months are filled with color and life and especially appreciated after the long period of darkness, snow and cold.

Summer is the time to enjoy the water, whether swimming, boating, paddling or fishing. Finns value nature and enjoy escaping to a quiet setting where they can slow down and spend time with their family and friends.

Like Michigan, Finland is blessed with abundant lakes and streams. By some estimates, Finland has just shy of 200,000 lakes, so it is no surprise that they play key roles in Finnish culture and recreation. Happy summer!

With gratitude,

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

FINNISH EXCHANGE STUDENT

At the FCA buffet on Friday, June 3, we had a visitor from Finland. Northville High School exchange student Nella Kukkurainen and her host mother Amanda Harley dropped in for a meal and to listen to music by FinnFolk.

Nella has been living here in Northville with Amanda and two younger American “sisters” since September and will be ending her adventure in just a few weeks. She’ll be heading back home to Helsinki where she lives with her mother, who is a TV news personality with the YLE network and her father. Her Finnish parents hail from Puolanka and Lahti.

Nella has a cousin who played as a defenseman for the Dallas Stars and the Finnish national hockey team. Julius Honka was on the roster of the Stars from 2014 to 2019. Note that Dallas currently has five other players from Finland.

After the meal and the music, Nella and Amanda visited the FCA gift shop where they were particularly interested in the Fazer chocolate and the Finnish licorice.

RECEPTIONISTS WANTED

The FCA is needing volunteers to help in the front office answering the phone and a few related tasks. This will entail a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

It’s a pleasant job with people coming and going … some walk-ins with rental questions, others with memorial checks for members who have passed on and still others just want to say “Hello” and meet and greet others. Friendly folks! Some may want to make a purchase from our gift shop. Not difficult yet semi-social camaraderie with a receptionist smile.

Please contact Paul Rajala prajala@comcast.net
MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA member Pasi Kaipainen (5/8/22) a donation has been made by Kathryn Hill.

In memory of Julene Lampinen, sister of member, a donation has been made by Alice Toss.

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, Soittoniekat/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. You may also direct your donation toward the Elders’ Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing. 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.

REMINDER

JUHANNUS IS COMING!

Enjoy Juhannus at the Finnish Center on Saturday, June 25 beginning at 6 pm

Two delicious menu options, music, bonfire, gift shop, pasty sale, beautiful Finlandia Gardens, visiting with friends.

Dinner begins at 6:00, and the price is $9.00. You can choose meat: hot dogs and hamburgers; or vegetarian: Penne Pasta Alfredo, with sweet bell peppers, broccoli, onions, and carrots, in Alfredo sauce. Tossed salad or chips are available with each option. You can buy dessert for $3 - pie or fancy layer cake. Beer and wine available for purchase.

The bonfire/kokko will be lighted at 8:00 pm.

As usual, please call the Finnish Center office, at (248) 478-6939, to sign up for dinner so we will know how much food to provide. You can also leave a voice mail message.
NOVI CONCERT BAND PERFORMANCE AT FCA

After the FCA Friday Buffet on June 10, the Novi Concert Band entertained the crowd with a fine concert. Director Scott Cramer led the Band and the audience in the National Anthems of the United States and Finland. Next was “Finnish Rhapsody,” arranged by Clare Grundman and consisting of melodies from three Finnish pieces, one of which was the hymn from Finlandia. The band then played selections from the Avengers, Star Wars and Star Trek, and Leroy Anderson’s “Horse and Buggy.” The evening concluded with a musical salute to the U.S. Armed Forces.

FLEA MARKET AND CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, September 10
10 am - 4 pm

Suzi Grant and Mary O’Brien will chair this event. We hope you will be able to come and enjoy the day.

Interested in becoming a vendor? Eight feet of space with table is $30 if table is furnished by the FCA or $20 for 8 feet of space if you furnish the table. Deadline to sign up is August 29.

Please contact the FCA at (248) 478-6939 or Mary O’Brien at (248) 895-3231 for more information.

(See application form on page 7 of this newsletter)

SAVE THE DATE!
OUTDOOR GIFT SHOP
Saturday, August 27
10 am - 2 pm

This will be held in the gardens. It promises to be a fun day. We hope you will join us.

BLIND DATE....

How was your blind date?” a college student asked her roommate.

"Terrible!" the room-mate answered. "He showed up in his 1932 Rolls Royce."

"Wow! That's a very expensive car. What's so bad bout that?"

"He was the original owner."
WESTWARD FOR A FINNISH CONNECTION

In 2009, a 5,000 mile car trip to the west coast was erratically chronicled by this writer, an informal journal kept in a spiral notebook. Read recently, it sharpened dim memories and evoked a feeling of wonder and thankfulness for our beautiful country and all it has to offer.

One goal of the trip was to meet a Finnish relative of my husband. After much genealogical research, he found a nephew of his Finnish grandfather living in Astoria, Oregon. Although Koskela is a relatively common Finnish name he had never met anyone related to him with that name, so a visit was planned. Vaino and Lempe Koskela let us know the trip was timely, since they were both 86 years old and knew time was fleeting! We had never visited the Pacific Northwest and eagerly anticipated our visit.

Traveling long distances each day, we began in Livonia, Michigan through Chicago, Illinois where the normal traffic was halted due a messy accident and clean-up of a semi-trailer hauling leafy greens and sweet potatoes. Past the city we viewed tall, green corn in flat, flat fields. Roadsides left natural and not mowed were a paintbox of green, gold, creamy white, deep purple, and French blue flowers. Lovely! Crossing the Mississippi into Iowa brought a change in the topography - hills and rolling countryside. Corn was planted following the curves in the landscape and rolled like green ocean waves as the fields undulated in the wind.

We passed dozens of refitted school buses in that state, special roof bike racks holding distance bikes for teams of people traveling west and cleverly painted which kept us amused but puzzled as we passed. One team’s bus, painted brick red just like children’s cardboard building “bricks” identified themselves as Team Brick in a sign. Under that it said “We lay anything!” (Ahem!) Another one, painted green, was labeled “Grain Train – where every hour is happy hour.” At a rest stop we found they were heading to the starting point of RAGBRAI – the acronym and trademark for the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, sponsored by the Des Moines Register. It is a non-competitive week-long bike tour west to east across the state of Iowa held since 1974! Check online for more information if you are interested. It’s amazing!

While visiting friends in Colorado we drove the highest highway in the United States, a narrow dirt road at an elevation of 14,000 ft…very scary! Continuing west brought us to stark, rocky cliffs, ledges with tall skinny pines, gorges, and dramatic layered rock formations. Not to be missed was a 23-mile drive through the Colorado National Monument Park near Grand Junction, CO. Much like the Grand Canyon, it was stark, steep, hot, and beautiful. We were amazed to find many of the roads and short sandstone block retaining walls were built by the CCC in the 1930s, mostly by hand. Heading north and skirting Salt Lake City, we drove west through desert areas to Winnemucca, NV where the land was gray, with clay-like mounds piled up; miles of empty dry land were occasionally interrupted by low brush, rocks, railroad tracks, and telephone poles. Northern Nevada is the opposite of Michigan. No leafy green trees or sparkling rivers and lakes to provide respite from the heat, sun, and sand. Entering Oregon, we thought we were out of the mountains because we couldn’t see them around us. After going around a “hill” and seeing miles in the distance from a very high elevation, we discovered that was because we were on the top of the mountain! Driving up and down mountainsides and following huge valleys we ended up spending the afternoon at Crater Lake, a gorgeous, blue, blue lake in a national park of the same name. The lake is clear and startling blue because the blue spectrum light is the only one perceived due to the depth of the lake (1,943 ft. deep, 4-6 miles wide). It is one of the deepest lakes in the world!

Taking two days to travel up the Oregon coast, we finally arrived at the Koskela residence in Astoria just before the dinner our hosts had prepared for us. We enjoyed cooked carrot rounds, boiled whole potatoes, cooked pork, homemade bread, cranberry sauce, and homemade apple pie. We ate very well during our visit, though sometimes the food was new or unusual to us. They wanted to feed us constantly and couldn’t understand this writer’s aversion to coffee, definitely not a Finnish trait! As dessert was eaten, Vaino asked if we wanted to “go to sauna.” After asking some questions about protocol and procedure, my husband and I agreed with some laughter, curiosity, and trepidation! Having built his own sauna, it was complete with two levels of benches, a heater, shower, and water faucet. After showing us “the ropes,” we stripped in a little anteroom and entered the sauna proper. Throwing water on the hot rocks in the heater to create steam, we sat on the high bench and started to

(continued on page 6)
Westward for a Finnish Connection
(continued from page 5)

sweat! Eventually moving to the lower bench as it got too warm, we lasted about 15 minutes before showering, dressing in our PJs, and heading back upstairs. Vaino and Lempe “went to sauna,” and then we all turned in expecting a busy day the next day. After sleeping well and before sightseeing in Astoria, Lempe served us pannukakku, a pancake she served with fruit, powdered sugar, and berry preserves. I still use her recipe to make it today. Yum! We enjoyed our views of the city and its history. Approximately one quarter of Astoria’s residents have Finnish antecedents, but maintaining the culture is difficult there with third and fourth generation families. Much like Michigan, early settlers arrived in the area to find work in the logging and fishing industries. It soon became the largest Finnish settlement west of the Mississippi.

The afternoon was spent chatting, looking at pictures, and sharing genealogical research of my husband’s as well as recording family memories of Vaino’s. The older couple had led interesting lives. We heard about being Finnish War veterans (both of them), the Russian occupation, emigration to the United States, and their subsequent jobs and hobbies. They were able to travel to Finland annually, if desired, for medical evaluation as war vets, paid for by the government, and had made the trip just the year before.

Vaino had worked as a tailor and showed us examples of his handmade suits, driving caps he was still making, and pictures of all the seat cushions with trapunto details he made for his motor home.

[Photo courtesy of Clatsop County Historical Society]

Very spry at 86, they traversed the stairs in their home constantly, tended their yard, gardens and shrubs on their hillside lot, and stayed busy with sewing, knitting, and for Lempe, all manner of hand work. Surfaces of tables and chairs showed evidence of her skills in crochet, embroidery, cross-stitching, and knitting. Offered an afghan, a small, brightly colored one kept handy in our home for cold feet reminds us of these distant relatives! Visiting with them was definitely the highlight of our long trip.

Still retaining the distinction as the only family member met with the same last name, we were saddened to hear they both passed away the last two years, living almost 100 years and demonstrating that sisu we hear so much about.

Take time this summer to connect with distant or perhaps not well-known Finnish relatives. Encourage sharing of family stories or participating in some Finnish cultural event. Urge your family members to join the Finnish Center Association for a small yearly amount, helping to keep part of your family history alive and well.

Author: Katy Koskela

FFN would like to increase communication with their chapters. If you would like to receive their newsletters and e-News, you can do so by using the below link. If you are unsure yet and just want to read more about Finlandia Foundation National, also use the below link.

https://finlandiafoundation.org/about-ffn/newsletters/

The spring 2022 issue has an beautiful two-page article about FCA’s Master Gardener David Sharpe and his wife Jeanette. Both are life members of the organization. The newsletter chronicles his and Jeanette’s heritage, meeting, lives, and careers. It highlights David’s accomplishments regarding the establishment and continuing growth of our Finlandia Gardens.

There is a copy of the newsletter in the lobby of the FCA. Please stop by to rest in the comfort of the Finlandia Room as you read about this devoted couple.
FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER
35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI  48335
(248) 895-3231 Mary O’Brien
Suzi Grant

Request for Table(s) for Inside Flea Market & Craft Show
Saturday, September 10, 2022

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City ________________________________________________
Phone ______________________________________________

Email ______________________________________________

Type of items you sell ________________________________

_____ $20.00 - (Bring your own table – approximately 8 ft)
_____ $30.00 - (Table supplied by us – 8 ft)

Reply by August 29, 2022, to reserve your space.
Write “Flea Market and Craft Show” on the outside of the envelope.

I release the Finnish Center Association (FCA) from any responsibility, personal liability, loss, or damage of any kind in connection to this market and show. I agree to abide by all rules set forth by the FCA.

Signature ____________________________________________
Date __________________________________________________
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

Recommended by: ___________________    _________________________

Visit us on “Finnish Center and Hall” Facebook page and “like” us to get the latest updates!

FCA Senior Living
One and two bedroom rentals. Convenient, safe and affordable in highly desirable Farmington Hills, MI
Contact us at:
  Tapiola Village  (248) 471-3802
  www.fcaseniorhousing.org

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