



FCA News

FEBRUARY 2024

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CO-CHAIR CORNER

FCA Annual Meeting is Feb. 18, 3 p.m. – please plan to attend!



We look forward each year to the annual meeting, seeing many members in person and enjoying some fellowship and Finnish pulla and other treats at the cultural center.

You'll hear updates from the Board of Directors and committee chairs on our 2023 efforts and progress in meeting the goals of our three-year capital campaign. We are so gratified by the support we've received to make major refurbishments to our beautiful cultural center including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. Dedicated in 1974, the FCA Cultural Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024.

We will also be promoting an online auction. We've gathered a couple dozen fun donations. Bidding will open on February 17 and close on March 2. Among the items up for bid are various pieces of Finnish artwork, a stay at a Finnish log cabin resort in the Upper Peninsula, a Finnish gift basket of gift shop merchandise, Garden Club items to beautify your yard and garden, and autographed items from Detroit Red Wings Goalie Ville Husso, who hails from Helsinki. All proceeds from the auction will go toward the roof project. Please bid early and often!



We look forward to seeing many of you on February 18. With gratitude,

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 6 Fundraising Committee 11:00 am Sunday, February 11 Sunday Brunch 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Sunday, February 11 Finnish Meet Up 1:30 pm Thursday, February 15 FCA Bakers 9:30 am

Friday, February 16 Rental

Friday, February 16 Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm

Saturday, February 17 Rental

Saturday, February 18 FCA Senior Housing Corp. 1:00 pm

Sunday, February 18 FCA Annual Meeting 3:00 pm

February 18-24 National Sauna Week

Friday, February 23 Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm

Sunday, February 25 Nordic Heritage Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm

Reservations are recommended for all events.

MARCH

Friday, March 1 Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm

Friday, March 1 Rental Saturday, March 2 Rental Sunday, March 3 Rental

Friday, March 8 Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm Friday, March 8 St. Urho Celebration 7:30-9:00 pm

Sunday, March 10 Rental Thursday, March 14 Rental Friday, March 15 Rental

Friday, March 15 NO Lenten Fish Fry

Saturday, March 16 Rental Sunday, March 17 Rental

Friday, March 22 Lenten Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 pm

Saturday, March 23 Easter Craft Show 10:00 am-3:00 pm Sunday, March 24 Nordic Heritage Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm

ST. URHO CELEBRATION



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

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

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

Mary O'Brien





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

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier, Roger Wanttaja

2 Year

Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,

Christine Manninen

3 Year

Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien,

Janet Suomi

Alternates

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

Financial Review

Mary Kaye Aukee Gene Belttari Joanne Quellette

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

Follow FCA on Instagram @finnishcenterassocaiton



ANNUAL MEETINGS

February 18, 2024

FCA Senior Citizen's Housing Corporation 1:00 pm Finnish Center Association 3:00 pm

The FCA has three Board of Trustees positions to fill and three candidates who are members in good standing. They will be voted in by acclamation during the meeting. The biography of each candidate is included below.

Members present in person or via Zoom will be voting on Trustee Alternates, Committee Chairpersons and Financial Review Committee.

If you are unable to attend these important meetings, you can have another member who attends the meeting vote on your behalf. You would need to complete a proxy form. This proxy form can be emailed to you by requesting one through the finnishcenter@gmail.com or by calling the FCA at (248) 478-6939 to have one mailed to you.

Note: Whether we email you a proxy form or a paper proxy form by mail, the completed proxy form needs to be at the FCA prior to the start of the meeting.

If you have any questions, please call or email the FCA.

Peggy Burns I have enjoyed volunteering at the Finnish Center ever since I retired as an office administrator for 35 years. My parents are both Finnish, my father was born in Finland and raised in Hancock, Michigan. I volunteer in the front office multiple times a month and have learned how the business side of the FCA functions. I also help make pasties, pula and other places where I can offer my services. I have been coming to the Finnish Center for years enjoying the events and food. I am happy to help out whenever I can, and look forward to being on the board.

I am running for a seat on the FCA Board of Trustees. I grew up in Detroit, one of four Ramona Dixon children to Francis and Catherine Dixon. My father's family, Dixon (originally Tikkanen - Little Woodpecker) hailed from Redridge, Michigan. His mother, a Kokkila, is from Nisula, Michigan. Our yearly summer trips to my grandparents' once-working farm outside of Nisula had a tremendously beneficial impact on my life; Saturday night sauna, mountain climbing, berry picking, swimming excursions, running down to the spring for water and exploring the woods and farm. And I continue to make frequent trips to the Houghton/ Hancock area where family reside. I went on to earn an undergraduate degree in biology and master's degree in elementary education. I taught science in Detroit Public Schools for 20 years. Other family members have had deep ties to FCA through my Uncle Sanfrid Dixon (Design Engineer), who designed the FCA logo, was a member of the Findlandia Male Chorus, designed FCA drama club backdrops, as well as playing mandolin with the FCA strings. My Uncle Bruce Dixon (Cement Worker) and his wife Clarabeth (Salo) were also active FCA members. I am excited to say that I am now an FCA member, have joined the Finnish American Singers of Michigan and work the front office of the Finnish Center Association. I have always been keenly aware of a vastly different and interesting heritage in my Finnish past and would like to be a part of the FCA and its success in the future. I hope that I have half as much to offer the FCA as it has given faithfully to the community over the last 50 years.

Roger Wanttaja I am running for a second elected term for the FCA Board of Trustees. I've also been serving as Building and Grounds Committee Chair, wherein I have implemented numerous equipment and facility repairs and upgrades that have both heightened appeal and greatly reduced operating costs. I have been a volunteer and member of the FCA since my childhood and both of my parents were charter members of Finnish heritage. I am proud to be a part of the team in preserving the Finnish immigrants' heritage and culture in the greater Detroit area. I enlisted in the US Air Force as an Avionics Electronic Technician (Sergeant) during 1983-1988. Since then I have worked in automotive engineering, first at Chrysler (1988-1990) as an EMC Test Technician and since 1990, a Senior Technical Specialist for a Tier I automotive supplier.



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

SET UP: Friday, March 22, noon-3 pm. SHOW TIME: Saturday, March 23, 10 am-3 pm LUNCH and BAKE SALE

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



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

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

Olla pullahiiri – To be a bun mouse A bun mouse, pullahiiri, has a sweet tooth. Never underestimate the Finns' love for sweet cinnamon and butter buns, which are traditionally enjoyed with coffee. When combined the two are called bun coffees aka 'pullakahvit', in Finnish.

FEBRUARY GARDEN CLUB

The month of February, even with a moderate winter, is a difficult month to admire. We wonder how wildlife can survive during such an unpleasant time of the year. Some people feed wildlife thinking that they are helping in some way. One example is the feeding of deer. Such beautiful animals. Unfortunately, they love to munch on the plantings that we have added to the environment. Many female deer can give birth to from one to three fawns each year. This geometric progression of the deer population has resulted in a herd of two million deer in southeastern Michigan. Normal predation of deer such as freezing weather, the taking of deer during the hunting season, and starvation, are no longer able to control the deer population. Local governments are unable to come up with a solution that is safe and acceptable to their communities. Many of us remember stories from our youth in which anthropomorphized animals gave them human qualities and made us less willing to control the size of wildlife populations.

Our experience with wildlife in Finlandia Gardens has been mostly positive as we have so much for them to eat that we seldom lose a total species of plant. Deer prefer to taste, nibble, and then move on to other flora in our gardens. We hope this will continue to be true in the years ahead.

Two positive notes about February are that this is the month when maple-syruping begins and that this is when we can see spring bulbs beginning to emerge in our gardens near the FCA building. Let's wish for an early spring and a successful growing season in 2024.

David Sharpe

GIFT SHOP

Happy February, 2024!

I have completed the inventory so now I can order the traditional items we all know and love as well as new items for the gift shop. I'm also preparing a gift basket for the online auction coming up soon and sponsored by the fundraising committee. This should be a fun event.



Bundle up and come and see us. The first snow is a reminder that things can still be new and beautiful, even in winter.

Janet Suomi Gift Shop Chairman

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Helvi Koivunen** (12/2/23) donations have been made by Sandra & David Scheel, Jacqueline Scheel, and Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Ann Makila** (11/29/23) a donations have been made by Lois Holmes and Kathryn Hill.

In memory of FCA member Maria Lena Kuhn (11/27/23) a donation has been made by Kathryn Hill.

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



There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone the light remains.

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~Hoda Kotb

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SUNSHINE LADY



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

This little-known function has been around for many years, and can only be accomplished when I am notified that someone needs a card. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you, Eunice Potti Gould

CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE

Finnish Center Association has received a generous donation of two cemetery lots at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia MI 48154. The donation was made by Elizabeth Maki in memory of long time Finnish Center members Allie (her mother) and Emil Porkka. The lots are located in Garden of Hours, section 895, graves 1 & 2. Each grave can hold one full body burial along with two cremains or just 3 cremains per grave. If you are interested in purchasing them, please give a call to Finnish Center for more information. Telephone (248) 478-6939 or email: finnishcenter@gmail.com

FCA SEEKS RENTAL COORDINATOR

FCA gets a large portion of its income from renting its facilities to community groups and families for various functions including meetings, retreats, workshops, wedding receptions, funeral lunches, family parties, and other community events. Sarah Wiideman had performed this duty effectively and graciously over sixteen months. However, Sarah has moved to the east coast to be closer to family, and a volunteer is now needed to be the first point of contact for rental inquiries, including responding to requests with pricing and availability, and coordinating tours of the building, if requested. Once a rental is secured, Paul Rajala updates the rental calendar, procures the necessary linens and bar service (if requested), and coordinates volunteers to be onsite to provide FCA oversight. Can you help? Hours are minimal (est. 2 hours/week). This position offers a fun way to get involved with FCA and contribute to the broader community.

If interested, please contact Paul Rajala at the FCA office (248) 478-6939 or finnishcenter@gmail.com.

FINNISH MEET UP

February 11

The Finnish Meet Up originally scheduled for January has been rescheduled for February 11th after the February brunch. This is a new series of events that we are bringing to FCA, which we are calling the "Finnish Meet Up". If you remember the "Let's Talk" series we did a few years back, it was great fun and we are hoping to build up something similar again this year to re-energize the members. The first meeting will now be immediately following the Sunday brunch on February 11th. We will start off with a short presentation on Finland, we hope that will start off the conversation. Then we will open the floor for conversation. At the first Meet Up, we will attempt to organize ourselves and plan for future events. Please join us as we are looking for ideas on what kinds of discussions we can have at upcoming meetings!

Have you found something Finnish you'd like to share with other people interested in Finnish things? Then this is the place to go! Discussions are welcome about anything related to Finland and of interest to Finnish Americans. Please join us!

Date: February 11, 2024, 1:30 pm Location: Finnish Cultural Center 35200 West Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48335

thrivent.

Kim Dwyer, FIC, RICP*, CLTC*



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FINNISH CENTER
ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

SPRING FLEA MARKET

April 13, 2024 9 am - 3 pm



Plans are being made for the spring flea market. We are looking for volunteers to help with the FCA tables and the lunch counter. We are also seeking additional flea market vendors.

Rental forms have been sent to former participants. Additional applications are available in the FCA office. Office hours are M-W-F 11 am - 3 pm.

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

Ouestions?

Contact Katy Koskela - kakoskela@hotmail.com Nancy Rajala - njrajala@comcast.net

LOOK FOR OUR NEW AED MACHINE NEXT TIME YOU'RE AT FCA

By the time you're reading this newsletter our Chain of Survival class will have occurred. Sixteen FCA students will have gone through our AED/CPR/Heimlich Maneuver class with the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

What can you do to help save a life? Look for and find our new AED Zoll machine in the Emergency Defibrillator cabinet on the hallway wall. Which wall? After you walk in FCA's main front doors, turn right as if you're heading towards our restrooms, you'll find the AED cabinet on the wall to your right.



FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 - PART 6

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 sixth group of sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony is listed below.

While looking through old copies of the FCA Newsletters, I found photos from the February/March 1974 issue showing the progress of our Cultural Center building construction as of December 1973. Although these black-and-white images are small and a bit grainy, one can see that the project site was snow-covered and the erection of the concrete block walls was in progress. The two large laminated beams that allow for a clear open-span floor space in the banquet hall are in place, seated on their columns; however a roof was still not covering the area.

In my more than 50 years of construction in Southeast Michigan, I've encountered the difficulties of building throughout the winter in a climate such as ours and all the special requirements to be met. However, I am sure that the FCA Finns from the U.P. and from Finland were undaunted.

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, <u>finnishcenter@gmail.com</u>, (248) 478-6939, or me personally, <u>prajala@comcast.net</u>.

Loukinen, Frank H. and Sylva Lusebrink, Jennie J. Lystilä, Sally

Mäenpää, Toivo and Ellen Maio, John and Lillian Makee, Ed and Rachel

Makee, Lois Mäki, Laina

Mäki, LindaMäki, NaomiMäkinen, Evert and HelenMäkinen, John and MildredMaky, Uno A.Malström, Robert and LeilaManley, Neil and ErmaManley, Wilfred and EleanorMannisto, Ralph and Ruth

Marshall, Hilda Kostamo Martin, Ann E. Määttälä, Tarmo and Bea Mattila, Ralph and Milda Mäyry, Elma S. Mäyry, Impi

Mikko, Frances E. and Aili M. Miller, John Moilanen, Joseph

Mustonen, Gertrude A. Naasko, Edwin and Irene Nampa, George and Dorothy

NORDIC HERITAGE FOLK DANCE PRACTICE

The Nordic Heritage Folk Dance group welcomes both children and adults to come and learn basic steps like polka, waltz and schottische and simple-to-intermediate folk dances depending on the dancer. Our goal is to have fun while keeping the culture of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden alive through folk dancing.

Sunday, February 25, 2024 Location: Finnish Center Association Sunday, March 24, 2024

Nayback, Ruben and Grace

All practices begin at 2:00 pm with a 'family-style' practice where both children and adults learn folk dancing together for the first hour. We want to ensure folk dancing continues for generations. The next hour or longer is for adults where the folk dances can become more challenging depending on the participants. We hope to see you at one of our practices! We plan on practicing once a month except in the summer. Future dates will be announced later.

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

FCA BAKERS



Tom Buchanan, FCA baker, cooling the pulla/nisu milk in the snow at the January 18th baking event because the FCA ice machine wasn't turned on.

Next baking date: February 15

Photo by Louise Hartung



OH LOOK, FINNISH UBER

FCA'S SECOND DIA FINNISH FILM EVENT

On December 17, ten Finnish Center members and friends met at the Detroit Institute of Arts to watch Aki Kaurismäki's new film "Fallen Leaves"/

"Kuolleet lehdet." It was the winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and is Finland's entry in the Oscars.

Before the movie, we enjoyed visiting during lunch in the DIA Café, and afterwards we shifted to the Kresge Court to discuss the film and continue visiting.

"Fallen Leaves" is a visual description of how two lonely people meet and ultimately become a couple. There was general agreement that the film was humorous, extremely well-acted and directed, worth seeing again, and deserving of an Oscar.

Review by Louise Hartung



Left to right: Glenn Kujansuu, Dayna Kujansuu, Sandy Gersky, Kurt Haveri, Barb Gersky, Larry Gersky, Yvonne Lockwood, Louise Hartung; not pictured Kathryn Hill, Jim Fostey.

Photo by Jim Fostey



FISH FRIES, BUFFETS AND BRUNCHES

The FCA has resumed its schedule for our regular meal events, although the first buffet in January was cancelled due to the big storm. To aid our members in driving to the events during late afternoon and evening hours, we have scheduled some Sunday morning brunch buffets. The first one was on January 21st and went well with a large variety of menu items and some spirited conversations within the small group that attended. For February the first event is another brunch buffet on the 11th. There will be a meet up immediately after. This is a great opportunity for all to receive food for both the body and the spirit.

With Lent beginning on the 14th our menu will focus on traditional fish fries on the 16th and the 23rd. They will continue on March 1st and March 8th. At the latter event the St. Urho king will be crowned. Due to a rental conflict there will be no Lenten fish fry on March 15th nor on Good Friday (March 29nd) but the March 22 date will remain.

We ask for your comments and preferences regarding the meals. We will evaluate the April-June events based on your feedback. Talk to Chef Michael Grant, server Suzi Grant, or call the Finnish Center. We would like to have as many of you as possible attend. It makes for a good time and allows us to keep the tradition going.

Cost for all events is \$15.00. Beer and wine are available at the evening meals. Reservations are requested (not mandatory) so that we can efficiently prepare for all. Sign up at the FCA or call in to (248) 478-6939.

NATIONAL SAUNA WEEK – FEBRUARY 18 - 24

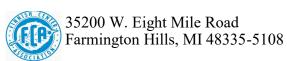
The importance of the sauna to Finnish identity has been explained by Dalva Lamminmäki, folklorist and doctoral researcher, in BBC Magazine, of sauna culture at the University of Eastern Finland: In Finland, the sauna is "one of the key national symbols" precisely because it's very much an everyday ritual for Finns, with 3.3 million saunas in a country of 5.5 million inhabitants. "Everyday practices are relevant to national identity also because over time they form a widely shared understanding of the culture and what it is like to be a citizen of a country," she adds, "It's said that sauna creates a basis for understanding what Finnishness is."

Here are some thoughts about the meaning and nature of sauna:

- All people are created equal; but nowhere more so than in a sauna.
- The sauna is a poor man's pharmacy.
- In a sauna, one must conduct oneself as one would in church.
- If a sick person is not cured by tar, spirits, or sauna, then they will die.
- A woman looks her most beautiful after the sauna.
- A house without a sauna is not a home.
- No sauna, no home.
- A sauna without a birch whisk is like food without salt.
- On the benches in sauna there will be born thoughts and feelings that can never be born in any other place in the world.
- The best political agreements were born in a sauna with lots of Koskenkorva.
- When you hear the black sauna stove organ playing, you forget all your sorrows of everyday life.



FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL			
DatePhone:	ema	ıil:	
Applicant			
Applicant/Spouse			
Address			
City			code
Signature	Are you o	of	Finnish descent?
Annual membership, single, one vote			
Annual membership, couple, two votes			
☐ Life membership, one vote			
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