



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

MAY 2024

CO-CHAIR CORNER

On April 12 in Hancock, Michigan, FCA members and the FCA Senior Citizen's Housing Corporation were recognized for our gift of more than \$4 million to Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), the premier source for support of Finnish-American culture and heritage in the United States. Through our gift and others, FFN has been able to purchase the Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) and its extensive archive and art gallery, Northwind Books, and the Finnish American Folk School to ensure a sustainable future for these cultural institutions.

FCA's historic gift was the result of the recent sale of FCA Senior Citizen's Housing Corporation's Tapiola Apartments in February 2024. This decision was agreed to by majority vote of all FCA members in 2022. The donation of the proceeds of the Tapiola Apartments takes the hopes, dreams, and intentions of past generations and carries them forward into the future.

The public ribbon cutting on April 12 marked a grand reopening of the FAHC. Members of the FCA Senior Housing Board were in attendance, including Mia & Olli Lamminen, Marilyn Clark, and FCA Co-chair Christine Manninen. FCA members and our Tapiola donation were acknowledged numerous times at the events by the speakers including FFN President Anne-Mari Paster, Board Member Tim Nurvala, and Executive Director Tommy Flanagan. Associated events included a tour of the Quincy Mine, weaving and bowed lyre demonstrations, and a Saturday evening reception with many members of the community, Finnish Ambassador Jarmo Sareva, and the FFN performer and lecturer of the year.

It was moving to see the gratitude from the Hancock community and the staff of the FAHC. We all love our Finnish heritage.

FCA should be very proud of this gift. FCA's decision preserves the shared history of our organization and ensures that our founders' experiences and achievements will always be celebrated and remembered.

The legacy of Finnish America lives on.

With gratitude,

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



Left: First book printed in Finnish in 1642 . Only 13 exist in the world, and two are at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Mich.
Photo credit: Marilyn Clark.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Thursday, May 2	Rental
Friday, May 3	Friday Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Sunday, May 5	Scholarship Reception 1:00 pm
Sunday, May 5	Ships in the Keweenaw 2:00 pm
Wednesday, May 8	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 9	FCA Bakers 9:30 am
Sunday, May 12	Mothers Day Brunch 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Sunday, May 19	Meetup 12:00 pm
Sunday, May 19	Nordic Heritage Folk Dance 2:00-5:00 pm
Thursday, May 23	Charity Poker 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday, May 24	Charity Poker 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday, May 24	Rental
Saturday, May 25	Charity Poker 6:30 pm-2:00 am
Sunday, May 26	Charity Poker 6:30 pm-2:00 am
Monday, May 27	Office Closed - Memorial Day

Reservations are recommended for all events.

JUNE

Friday, June 7	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:00 pm
Friday, June 7	Novi Concert Band 7:00-8:15 pm
Saturday, June 8	Rental
Wednesday, June 12	FCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, June 20	FCA Bakers 9:30 am
Friday, June 21	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm
Saturday, June 22	Juhannus 5:00 pm
Sunday, June 23	Rental
Sunday, June 30	Rental

35200 W. Eight Mile Road
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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

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

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

thrivent

Kim Dwyer, FIC, RICP®, CLTC®

Financial Advisor

Generational Wealth Advisors
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Monroe, MI 48161



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@finnishcenterassocaiton



The Finnish Center Association Presents:

Ships In The Keweenaw

A Video and Pictorial Presentation by Roger Hewlett -Mariner – Engineer

Sunday May 5, 2024 - 2:00 pm



Freighters
At Copper Range Coal Dock-1906



SS South American
Visits Houghton -1959



Keweenaw Shipwreck Coast
City of Bangor Wrecked – 1926

Photos Courtesy :

Isle Royale National Park Service

Michigan Tech Archives

Mining Gazette – Bowling Green Sate U.

Rudy Maki –J.Kurtti -D.Metz-V.Kanthak-Others



USNPS Ranger III
Goes to Isle Royale -2023

Videos Courtesy :

Georgian Bay Line-GLMI

National Park Service

Bruce Tomlinson - Others

Roger Hewlett – Jonene Eliasson

Including:

Copper Range > Mining > Milling > Smelting> Shipping



Champion Mill – Freda



Quincy Smelter



Copper Range Railroad
Hauling Copper Ore and Ingots

Program Presentation at :

***Finnish Cultural Center of Farmington Hills, Mi.
35200 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335***

Benefit program for the roofing fund

****Coffee and Pulla Will Be Served***

Donations Greatly Appreciated



You're invited!
**MOTHER'S DAY
BRUNCH**

May 12, 2024 • 11am-3pm

**35200 EIGHT MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335**

**Beef tenderloin • Baked salmon
Shrimp cocktail
Roasted potatoes
Rice pilaf • Garden salad
California blend veggies
Scrambled eggs
Pancakes and fruit
Sausage • Ham • Bacon
Rolls and pastries
Asst. desserts
Asst. beverages**

**\$48 per person, all-inclusive
\$18 per person, children under 12**

Call 248.478.6939 for reservations

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Roger Taurianen (3/22/24)** donations have been made by Patricia Swinderski and Patricia Weinrauch.

In memory of FCA life member **Helvi Koivunen (12/2/23)** a donation has been made by Louise Hartung.

In memory of **Barbara Eko Murphy (12/20/23)** a donation has been made by Jill Hill-Michael.

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.



*If you get tired,
learn to rest, not to
quit.*

Bansky

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



The FCA awards scholarships for individuals studying in colleges or universities in the academic year 2024-2025. The Scholarship Committee awards funds for Finnish language or culture study, for example at Salolampi. The committee is currently evaluating the credentials of the applicants.

There will be a reception for the new recipient(s) on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 1 pm. Please join us to help congratulate our scholarship recipients.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

We are most appreciative of these generous donors to our three-year capital campaign, which commenced in June 2023 and will conclude in June 2026. Donations to this campaign are financing major refurbishments to our beautiful cultural center including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. You can view progress in meeting our \$300,000 goal on a fundraising thermometer in the FCA lobby. Kiitos to all!

Hopea/Silver (\$500-\$999)

Christine Koskimaki-Attalai
David & Katy Koskela

Pronsi/Bronze (\$100-\$499)

Christine Ahola
Mary O'Brien
Stephanie Washio

Kittos/Thank you (\$1-\$99)

Anonymous Donor
Sandra Blackwell
Jim Glover

March 1-31, 2024

Happy Mother's Day



SOCIAL NEWS

Meetup for May will be May 19 at 12pm. This month our topic will be Finnish foods! This interesting topic will feature sampling different foods. This will be followed by a discussion on these special foods. If you are coming, please bring something for us to sample. If you don't cook or bake, please join us for an enjoyable afternoon. The stories are always interesting and bring back great memories. This will be our last meetup until September and has been fun to hear such interesting stories of Finland and The UP!

May 3 our Friday night buffet. 4:30-7:00 pm with menu available prior to dinner. Cost of buffet is \$15.00.

May 5 at 2:00 pm, we will have a special program of "Ships on the Keweenaw" with Roger Hewitt. There will be photos and videos. Please join us for this special presentation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7 Novi Band Concert and Buffet

June 21 Friday Night Buffet

June 22 Juhannus with a bonfire, music and a buffet dinner with strawberry shortcake.

July 21 Annual Finnish Center picnic with hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fun of a summer picnic.

August 10 Outdoor flea market and craft show. Since this is outdoors, we ask you bring your own tables. Finnish Center will charge \$20 for a space. In the event of bad weather, we will be in the main hall.

Details on these events to follow.

SAVE THE DATE

September 14 The Finnish Cultural Center building will be celebrating 50 years! How exciting. Many organizations haven't lasted this long. This building is "the life of The Finnish Center Association". Let's get together for a great night of celebration. There will be music by FinnFolk and others. On this very special night, we will be honoring some members who have been here for many or all of those years. A special event will be to honor FinnFolk for their years of service.

Dinner will be served with salmon and special pasties for your enjoyment. Please come for this special night! There will be more details coming in the next newsletter and watch for more announcements in emails and on Facebook.

Mary O'Brien
and Social Committee



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.

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.

Location: Finnish Center Association
Sunday, May 19, 2024 2-5 pm

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

After the May date we will be taking the summer off.
Join us again in the fall.



GIFT SHOP

As we welcome in the beautiful month of May, there are special occasions when you may need something for a special someone. Come in and see our selection of gifts. There is sure to be an item that is just right. We look forward to seeing you.

Now available is Trenalry Toast Economy Bag and Trenalry Toast Cardamom. Also in stock is Finnish Sauna Soap.



SPRING POSSIBILITIES

May is the month of possibilities. The cold of winter and early spring is in the past. Now we can look forward to many beautiful days and enjoy the out-of-doors. A new Kwanzan cherry tree has been planted by the lounge and we await the coming blossoms which appear later than most spring bloomers. Also, two additional trees have arrived at the FCA, a red maple and a white oak. These were donated by a sorority that will plant them on Arbor Day in our West Gardens. New garden volunteers want to be a part of our community gardens and will make their contributions in beautifying our center. A new colorful sculpture has been added to our landscape and it symbolizes inclusion for Finlandia Community Gardens and our Finnish Center. As we enter the season of renewal we hope all of you will visit our gardens to honor and remember the many FCA members and friends who have gone before us. They are the persons who created our

unique center and beautiful landscape.

David Sharpe

Kas Howell stands behind an extension of evergreen trees located in the southwest lawn near Max the bear.



APRIL FLEA MARKET



Thank you to the following groups and people who made the April 13 Flea Market a success: FCA Bakers, FCA Pasty crew, FCA members that baked treats for the bake sale. Peggy Burns, Ramona Dixon, Kathryn Hill, Irene Lamanen, Jim Lee, David Koskela, Paul Rajala, David Sharpe, Janet Suomi and Roger Wanttaja. We also would like to thank all the vendors that sold a wide variety of cool items and of course the customers.

Katy Koskela
Nancy Rajala
Coordinators



APRIL BAKERS

FCA Building and Grounds Chair Roger Wanttaja recently repaired the heating, temperature, and fan elements of the proofer/warmer oven. Paul Rajala and Tom Buchanan then worked together to determine its suitability for using as a moderate heat source for the first and second rising of the pulla/nisu. The oven worked very well for that purpose, so the bakers were able to use it in making 50 delicious loaves. Kittos Roger, Paul and Tom.



Tom Buchanan prepares the pulla/nisu dough for its first rise in the proofer oven.

APRIL NORDIC DANCE PARTICIPANTS



As you can see all ages can learn to dance.



VOTE FOR ROOF EXPENDITURE

If you are an FCA member, check your mailbox for an upcoming vote to complete the next phase of the roof replacement on our beautiful cultural center. According to FCA bylaws, any expenditures over \$50,000 require a member vote. And a big thank you to contributors to our capital campaign who are making these refurbishments possible.

THANK YOU FROM THE FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS OF MICHIGAN

The choir would like to thank members and friends for their support of the choir this season. As many know, the choir performs a Christmas concert, which has been held the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend for a few years. It is a great way to usher in the holiday season, especially when it falls, as it often does, on the first Sunday of Advent! We have moved our concert venue to the church where we practice, Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, Michigan, and have found the acoustics there to be more favorable for our smaller choir than the large banquet room at the FCA where we formerly held our concerts. Pencil it in on your 2024 Calendar.... December 1, 2024!

Our spring concert has been a "moveable feast," so to speak. Traditionally performing during May, the concert this year was moved to April 21st due to the May wedding of one of our prominent sopranos, Cortney Standifer. As the youngest member of the choir, we are thrilled to celebrate the occasion with her and perhaps provide some sage advice from our much older members! However, moving the concert date up meant that the choir vice-president and another soprano, Helena Hatten would not be able to sing since she was scheduled to be on a mission trip with her church, arriving back home the day AFTER the concert! We have missed her this spring, but know she was very excited about the planned trip. One choir evening, we also celebrated the birthday of the person who has been a member of the choir the longest, Dee Aebersold. Although she is over 90, we all agree she doesn't look or act a day over 80!

The choir has been asked to sing at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Finn Camp in June 2025. We have discussed starting winter practices later (February/March) and having our spring concert closer to the anniversary date, so we are ready to perform at the Camp. You will be hearing more about their celebration, which is planned for three days of activities. It would be great to have strong support from FCA members and we would love to see familiar faces in the audience.

The choir funding comes mostly from pasty sales, run so well by Paul and Nancy Rajala. Thank you to the loyal cadre of people: the Friday prep group, the Saturday baking and packing group, and the buyers, and the FCA for the use of the facilities. It truly takes a village to successfully produce as many pasties as have been sold. Before you know it, choir members may contact you (in October) to see if you would like to purchase holiday greens. That is our other fundraiser, and though we don't realize as much revenue from it, we have found it is very popular with those that order each year. Try them this fall if you haven't in the past. The greens are beautiful, the process easy, and we appreciate your support.

A big thank you goes to our fabulous director Alex Cave and accompanist Hope McGookey as well! The choir hopes you have been as impressed as we by their attention to detail, interest in all things Finn, and eagerness to embrace the Finnish music we sing. We are all looking forward to another great year, beginning practices after a summer break, and starting after Labor Day in September. If you love to sing and would like to join us, you can leave a message at the FCA or contact any member of the choir.

Katy Koskela
FASM President



FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 9

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 ninth group of sponsors from the 1974 dedication ceremony is listed below. Sponsorship helped the building project cross the finish line with their monetary donations.

Please review the table below and if you know of any current FCA members that are on this month's list, or are children or grandchildren of them please contact the FCA, finnishcenter@gmail.org (248) 478-6939, or me personally, prajala@comcast.net.

Suni, Armas and Shirley	Tauriainen, Rueben and Helen	Telin, Al and Ruth
Tiller, Edith C.	Tiura, Frans R. and Mary	Törmä, Soine and Sylvia
Turovaara, Waino and Eleanor	Turunen, John R and Ethel H.	Turunen, Ruth L.
Usitalo, Arnold and Seija	Vickery, Hulda Suomula	Vollmer, Jules and Sylvia
Wainionpää, Aili	Wälimaa, Edwin J. and Gertrude	Wälito, Sally
Wälivaara, Walfrid and Helen	Walls, Joseph G. and Sandra M.	Wamsley, Robert and Olga
Wanttaja, Ray and Pearl	Wargelin, Philip and Mildred	Watilo, William
Wäyrynen, Einard and Helen	Weckström, Leo and Martha	Werner, Lloyd and Lila
Wertheimer, Fred L. and Helvi E.	West, Ted and Doris	Wiinamäki, Edith
Wiitanen, Clarence E. and Martha E.	Wilson, Irene	Wilson, Walter and Betty
Wiitla, Alfred and Taina	Zehel, Helen Wiitala	

You may not know that the Finnish Cultural Center building that you are familiar with today is not the same as the building that was dedicated in 1974. Back then it was much smaller, consisting of the current areas of the Library, Gift Shop, Restrooms, Offices, Finland Room, Bar, Banquet Hall, and the Stage area. A huge addition was constructed 8 years later that included the Lounge, a Large Kitchen, Dance Floor, and NE Storage Rooms. See the photo below for a southwest elevation of the original 1974 building.



FCA POKER FUNDRAISER

Warning! This headline may be misleading!

No, we are not hosting a poker tournament at the Finnish Center. No, we will not ask you to gamble away your hard-earned money. Yes, we are asking you to volunteer some of your time for an important and lucrative fundraising opportunity for the FCA.

Can you count red (\$5) and white (\$1) poker chips? Can you count folding money ranging from \$1 to \$100 bills? Can you make change? If you can answer YES to these simple tasks, you meet the qualifications to be a worker at our upcoming four-day charity fundraiser in May.



Is it at the Finnish Center? No, the venue is the poker room at Vision Lanes in Westland. Do you have to know how to play poker? Absolutely not. Is the poker room filled with smoke? It is not because no smoking is allowed and this policy is enforced. Is the venue safe? It certainly is, as numerous security cameras are in place. Can you volunteer for a seven-hour shift? Perhaps not all can do this, but half shifts can be accommodated if necessary. Are you able to endure working until 2:00 am for just one day? If yes, you would be especially valuable because two of our event days require it. But know that you would be working with two seasoned veterans who actually enjoy these hours and will keep you awake.

The days and times are as follows:

Thursday, May 23, 10 am to 6 pm

Friday, May 24, from 10 am to 6 pm

Saturday, May 25, from 6:30 pm to 2 am

Sunday, May 26, from 6:30 pm to 2 am

Please volunteer to at least one (or more) of these shifts. Contact Ilona Takakura at (734) 228-8225 or via email at rccilona@hotmail.com.

Vision Lanes is located in Westland at 38250 Ford Rd.

SWEDEN JOINS FINLAND IN NATO

The threat of Russian aggression in Ukraine prompted Finland to apply and receive membership into NATO in 2022. Sweden applied at the same time and finally was made a part of NATO in March of 2024. Norway, Finland, and Sweden have recently celebrated with joint defense exercises in the Finnmark region of northern Norway.

NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

I do not watch much regular season ice hockey except the Red Wings on TV. But when it comes to the NHL playoffs the competition gets tougher and the level of play is taken up a notch. Since our Red Wings missed the playoffs, I follow other favorite teams based upon the number of Finns on the roster.

The *Dallas Stars* feature four with Miro Heiskanen, Roope Hintz, Jani Hakanpää, and Esa Lindell. The *Florida Panthers* also have four - Aleksander Barkov, Niko Mikkola, Eetu Luostarinen, and Anton Lundell.

The *Colorado Avalanche* skate three Finns – Artturi Lehkonen, Mikko Rantanen, and Joel Kiviranta. Teuvo Teräväinen, Sebastian Aho, and Jesperi Kotkaniemi are the three on the roster of the *Carolina Hurricanes*.

Since none of the other NHL playoff teams have more than two Finnish players, I will celebrate when one of these four teams hoists the Stanley Cup this year.



Submitted by
Paul Rajala



Toivo: We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole. Hilma took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few bolts, and laid the pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her purse and measured the pole.

Hilma announced, "Eighteen feet and six inches," and walked off.

Heikki shook his head and laughed, "Ain't that just like woman? We asked for the height and she gives us the length."

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](https://www.instagram.com/finnishcenterassociation)



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