



FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

January 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 8 Bakers
- 9 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 11 Sunday Brunch 12 noon-1:30 pm
- 11 Suomi Koulu 12 noon-2 pm
- 14 Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 14 Rental
- 16 Pasty Prep 10 am-2 pm
- 17 Pasty Bake and Sale
- 17 Sunday "A Night of Blues & Karaoke"
- 21 Rental
- 23 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 25 Suomi Koulu 12 noon-2 pm
- 25 Sunday Open house 1-4 pm
- 28 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon

FEBRUARY

- 6 Friday Night Buffet 5-8pm
- 8 Sunday Brunch 12 noon-1:30 pm
- 8 Suomi Koulu 12 noon-2 pm
- 11 Rental
- 14 Valentine Dinner Dance 4 pm
- 15 Sunday FCA Annual Meeting 3 pm
- 18 Rental
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
- 22 Suomi Koulu 12 noon-2 pm
- 22 Sunday Open House 1-4 pm
- 25 Wednesday Monthly Luncheon 12 noon
- 27 Friday Night Buffet 5-8 pm
(Friday Buffet every Friday during lent)



**RESERVATIONS ARE
SUGGESTED FOR
DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**

Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Mondays 7 pm
- Library
Open Monday 10 am-2 pm
- Nikkarin Talo
Mondays 9 am
- Finlandia Garden Club
Mondays 9 am

Monthly Events

- Finnish Conversation
1st Friday of the month 10 am
- Sunday Brunch
2nd Sunday of the month
12-1:30 pm
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month Noon
- Open House
Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I hope all of you have had a wonderful Christmas holiday!

It is exciting to begin the new year in view of the progress we have made with the challenges we have faced. We have come a long way in a few years and hope that the upcoming election will sustain our progress. We are finally on our way towards a healthy, renewed and vibrant Finnish Center. Your support of this board makes it possible.

Donations made directly to FCA are greatly appreciated. Only by giving donations directly to the FCA organization can one be assured that they will go 100% to FCA for our needs. Thank you to all who can help contribute!

A lot of young voices are also heard during our events thanks to the Suomi Koulu. More than a dozen children are participating in the classes and more students are interested to join in 2015. As we all know, Finnish language is the mainstay of our culture, and it is important to keep it alive. We are happy to let you know that adult classes will also start in January. Thanks to our cultural committee, plans are also on the way to start the weaving classes again! We have also been asked to participate in a dance performance in February with our folk dances. I am hoping that it will be a wonderful spark to get our folkdance group alive again.

A big thank you goes to our tireless volunteers who give of their time and skills in keeping our doors open. Without our volunteers, we would not be where we are today. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help out so we don't burn out the people who give so much of their time to the Center. The Committee Chairpersons have made sure that the activities meet the expectations of our members. We have had a lot of activity during the fall months, both FCA functions and rentals, including the 40th anniversary of our building dedication and culminating with a very busy December. Now is a good time to keep the momentum going for 2015. What better occasion to get going than Karaoke evening January 17, 2015!

As always, if you have any questions or comments I would love to hear from you. Thank you for your support! Hope to see you at the Finnish Center!

Mia Lamminen, Chairman

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

~Sherry Anderson

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Officers

Mia Lamminen, Chairman
Roger Wanttaja, Vice Chairman
Robert Waissi, Secretary
Marlene Ruuskanen, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Carl Aebersold, Olli Lamminen,
Marlene Ruuskanen

2 Year

Lois Makee, Robert Waissi,
Roger Wanttaja

3 Year

Lila Ball, Mia Lamminen,
Margaret Laurila

Alternates

#1 Katie Waissi
#2 Terry Ball
#3 Carol Tudball

Financial Review

Melissa Biddix, Maria Hill,
Erik Lindquist

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds

Carl Aebersold

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Heidi Mellanen-Swiecki

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Margaret Laurila

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Eija Lyytinen-Tatseos

Publicity & Publications

Fran Fadie

Social

Lila Ball

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Paul C. Hendrickson, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
248 471-3802

Tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Jennifer Bridges, Manager
248 442-7250

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Finland's 97th Independence Day Celebration was held on December 6, 2014 at the Finnish Center. The program started with a flag ceremony and live performances of the Finnish and American national anthems played by Katri Ervamaa and sang by Meeri Pantsar, one of the Suomi Koulu students. Roope Pantsar and Nicholas Kaipainen were flag bearers. Mia Lamminen, Chairman of the FCA, gave the welcoming speech and introduced the guest speaker Mr. Paul Potti, Honorary Consul of Michigan.

Finlandia was performed by Katri Ervamaa. Finlandia Foundation performer of the year Mr. Olli Hirvonen, with his Jazz Guitar, gave a beautiful performance that concluded the formal program. Refreshments and coffee followed and the program ended in a fun jamming session. FinnFolk played wonderfully as usual, and Olli Hirvonen joined them in the fun.

Thank you very much to the volunteers for making the program a success. A special thank you to the Cultural Committee for making the event a memorable one. A big thank you also goes to the musicians, Olli Hirvonen, Katri Ervamaa and FinnFolk. It goes without saying that music brings people together!



Roope Pantsar and Nicholas Kaipainen were flag bearers.



FinnFolk members perform with Olli Hirvonen.



Olli Hirvonen

JANUARY IN THE GARDENS

The Garden Club members were out in early January removing the holiday lights and decorations that we placed around the Finnish Center in early December. Gee, for some reason it seems colder now than it was in December when we had to replace the faulty GFCI in order to power the lightshow near the Finnish Center sign by Eight Mile Road.

The new artificial poinsettia that we purchased prior to Christmas at 75% off will stay for a while to brighten the pots until our spring bulbs arise. We can always utilize a few more flowers if anyone has extras so we can put a few new ones onto the bridge next year, since we were unable to find any substantial arrangements to replace what we currently have.

January finds us repairing benches brought in from various areas around the center. These will be painted or stained early in the spring. We are also making bird houses to replace a few next spring as some have seen better days.

If you have any questions, comments, or donations, you can contact me at 734-546-5190 or gaylegullen@hotmail.com.

Gayle Gullen
Finlandia Garden Club President



Neil J. Lehto

Attorney and Counselor At Law

nlehto@sbcglobal.net

4051 Wakefield Road
Berkley, Michigan 48072

(248) 545-1753 (Phone & Fax)

GIFT SHOP

Did you know the Gift Shop has a variety of items for everyone?

Babies/children: bibs, cups, story and coloring books, toys, and t-shirts-(onesies can be ordered).

Food: bread, toast, coffee, candy, herring (sour cream or wine sauce), juustoa, pearl sugar, glogg, Christmas soda, Maltex (hot cereal), etc.

Gifts: runners, dish towels, shopping bags, votives, candles, dishes, caps, knitted hats/socks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, scarves, etc.

Sauna/bath: buckets, towels, essence, shampoo, soap.

Books: cookbooks, sauna, fiction, fact, dictionary, poetry, biography

There is always something discounted!! MEMBERS, receive 5% off all non-discounted items totaling \$25.00 and that's including FOOD!

NEW YEAR GREETINGS



Denise & Cortland Book
Dianne & Dale Larson
Dagmar & Gerry Malstrom
Peggy Puuri
Millie & Raoul Rousseau
John Saetta
Randy Wanttaja
Pearl & Ray Wanttaja
Roger Wanttaja



E & G Heating

Heating and Cooling
Service and Installation
Mostly Residential

(734) 812-6318 - Greg Makila

MEMORIALS

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, Happiness Fund, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Center.

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

You may also direct your donation toward the Senior Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

Please include full name, address, date of death of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed. **Also include all names of donors.** If the deceased is a non-member of the FCA please include city and state of residence.

Correction -

In memory of FCA life member **Alfred "Al" Hakala** (11/25/04) a donation has been made by his wife Vi.

In memory of FCA life member **Ethel Niemi Turunen** (10/26/14) a donation has been made by Pearl & Ray Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Melvin (Tem) Ahonen** (10/17/4) a donation has been made by his wife Virginia.

In memory of FCA life member **Shirley Burke** (10/28/14) a donations have been made by Evelyn Keskinen and Ruben Nayback.

In memory of FCA life member **Joyce Juntunen** (11/18/13) a donation has been made by Harold Juntunen.

In memory of **Kenneth Juntunen** (6/30/00) a donation has been made by Harold Juntunen.

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

FCA life member Ethel Turunen (10/26/14)



SUOMI KOULU IS IN SESSION



Alexandra Brewer with the older children.



Alex Kaipainen with the younger children.

GOING PLACES

Detroit Symphony – Sunday, January 11, 2015, \$96. Lunch will be at Sinbad’s. Combo with Nardineers. Depart at noon and return about 6 pm.

Soaring Eagle – Monday, February 16, 2015, \$38. Featuring the Kingston Trio. Combo with Nardineers. Leave at 8 am and return about 9:30 pm.

Purple Rose Theatre – Sunday, March 1, 2015, \$92. Lunch at the Common Grill. The play will be Steel Magnolias. Combo with Nardineers. Leave at 10 am and return about 5:45 pm.

Meadowbrook Theatre – Sunday, April 26, 2015, \$82. The performance will be Meshuggah Nuns. Lunch at Kings Court Castle. Combo with Nardineers. Leave at 10:15 am and return about 5:15 pm.

If you leave your car at the FCA while on a trip, please park at the north end of the property. If you park near the main or lounge entrances you are using spaces needed for other functions.

Pearl Wanttaja
(248) 541-0054



FACEBOOK

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



SUNSHINE LADY

Sending get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards and words-of-encouragement cards to FCA 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, Marge Salo



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Recently a letter requesting donations was sent from FACC (Finnish American Cultural Corp.) that referenced FCA in it and alluded to ties with FCA. FCA and FACC are separate and independent organizations.

This letter was not presented to FCA board for review and approval nor was notice given of its mailing. If you received a donation letter from FACC please contact our chairman Mia Lamminen. We can then also provide some legal information regarding this issue.

Thank you!

KARAOKE NIGHT

Join us on Saturday, January 17, for a Night of Blues & Karaoke! Time to be determined. Charge is \$5.

Karaoke is all about having a blast and singing like no one is listening! Come enjoy a fun night with music and friends!



A case of mistaken identity!

It seems as though Millie Harju’s black nylon coat with a beige color took a trip to a new home after the November Sunday Brunch. It was mistakenly taken for a black nylon coat with a grey color. Contact Millie at (248) 645-2764 if you find have the her coat. She would love to have it returned. Thank you.



FROM THE LIBRARY



We have recently added the following books to our library:

FINLAND: DESIGNED ENVIRONMENTS, essays by Jennifer Komar Olivarz, Jukka Savolainen and Juulia Kauste. This was published by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, which recently presented the first major U.S. exhibition of Finnish design by an American museum since 1997. Minnesotans value their natural environment as do Finns; in many ways it resembles that of Finland with its abundance of lakes and natural birch forests, among other things. This is reflected in Finnish design, from furniture to architecture. The book contains illustrations of many of the exhibits in this latest exhibition. Find it in 710 Fi.

LAKE SUPERIOR PROFILES: PEOPLE ON THE BIG LAKE, by John Gagnon. The author, a journalist, carpenter, and publisher interviewed fifteen people living in the Lake Superior area, from Thunder Baby, Ontario, to Minnesota, to Baraga to Whitefish Bay on the east end of Lake Superior, as well as places in between. No doubt there are many interesting people in this area, but he seems to have picked the cream of the crop. Very interesting reading. It's in 977.49 Ga.

THE KNUUTI FAMILY FROM KEMI, FINLAND TO KEWEENAW BAY, MICHIGAN, compiled by members of the family. This follows the lives of several members of the family from Finland to America. Some experienced the war in Finland, some of them spent time in Sweden during the war, all of them finally settled in America. Interesting reading even if you don't know the family, since it is more or less the story of the trials and successes of typical immigrants. Profusely illustrated. 920 Kn.

MARIMEKKO: FABRICS, FASHION, ARCHITECTURE, edited by Marianne Aav. You read about Marimekko in the October 2014 issue of the FCA newsletter. This expands on the topic with much interesting detail and illustrations. 338.7 Ma.

CALLING FINLAND, by Timo Nicholson. This is a small book with beautiful photographs of Finland. Captions in many languages including English. 914.71.

SUURI TOIVELAULU KIRJA, compiled by Aapeli Vuoristo. We are fortunate to have acquired this donation with over a hundred Finnish songs, practically any Finnish song you could think of. Many have both Finnish and English words. 784 Su.

THE LION OF FINLAND, by Tuukka Talvio. This is not about Mannerheim, or about lions, but about the history of the Finnish national emblem or coat of arms. 929.6 Ta.

WOOD FIRE SAUNAS AND IRON MINES: TALES FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA. This is one in a series of at least 75 of this type of book published by Hometown Memories in Hickory, N.C. In January of 2014 folk in the Upper Peninsula were invited to share their memories of the "good old days". Solicitations were extended through newspapers and by letters sent to people who might be interested. From the responses 311 were chosen for this book. The result is delightful, fun reading. Young people can learn how it was in "olden times" and old timers can reminisce about the olden days. This book cannot be bought in bookstores or on Amazon. It is sold only by the publisher. It's a large hardback book of 400 pages. If you don't care to tackle the whole thing come and browse through a few of its stories in the library. 920 Wo.

UUSIN PURJEIN, by Pauli Ylitalo. This book was given to us by the director of the Raahe Girls' Choir. Not only is Ylitalo a gifted choir director but also a gifted poet. In beautiful verse he tells the story of Raahe, Finland, enhanced by the beautiful photography by Auno Aunola. It's worth perusing even if you don't read Finnish. 914.74 Yl.

Lillian Lehto, FCA librarian

FCA BAKERS

Our next pulla/nisu baking date will be on Thursday, January 8, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the FCA kitchen. If you can't make it quite that early, come when you can. Lorraine will be making calls to the regular bakers and three possible new bakers. Hopefully, we will have good travel on the roads that day.

The very good news is that in two baking sessions in December produced about \$500 for the FCA. This was for just our offerings of Christmas Tarts and pulla/nisu at the Scandinavian Bazaar. Sincere thanks to those who made it possible: Char Lytikainen, Dee Aebersold, Betty Taipalus, Barb Whitty, Hannah Carlson, Lorraine Hannah, and Ilene Yanke. Paljon kiitoksia!

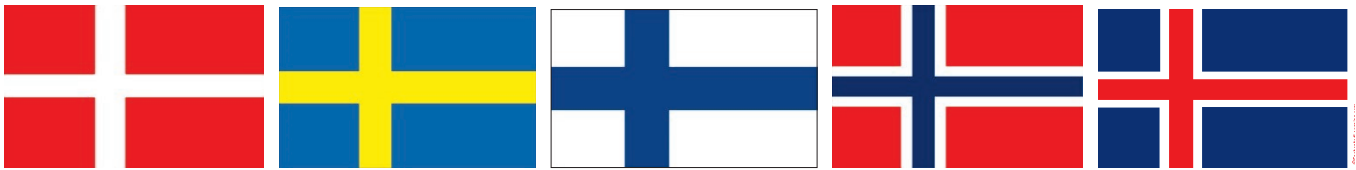
Ilene Yanke

FCA SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING CORPORATION NOTICE

We are seeking candidates for three Board of Trustee positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 15, 2015 at 1 pm. If you are interested in participating as a member of the Board, forward a short resume (max 250 words) including your birthplace, your formal education and professional background as well as explanation of how you would contribute to the Board.

This should be received no later than January 20, 2015. Send to:

FCA Senior Citizens Housing Corporation,
Attn: Secretary
35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335



KIITOS

Thank you to all involved who made the Scandinavian Bazaar a success. Special thanks to all our exhibitors: Finn Weavers, Ollie Koski, Fritzcraft, Joyce Holmes, The Swedish Club, Swedish Club Women's Organization, Scandia House, Lavender Fleece, Finnish Family Bath Products, John Depa, Richard Willard and the Danish Club. Nordcap Lodge/Sons of Norway and FCA volunteers provided great food for the visitors. Thank you also goes to all the tireless volunteers who made it all happen. Without our volunteers we could not have done it. Our bakers did a great job in filling our table for the bake sale. Thank you also to Paul Rajala and his crew who provided pasties which sold out in no time. Our gift shop had stocked up the store with great gift items, food and candy. Special thanks also goes to Finnfolk for providing music for the occasion.

The date for next year's Bazaar
is November 14, 2015.
Mark your Calendars!

KIITOS! Mia Lamminen

Sandy Scheel of Finn Weavers
displays her woven rugs.



Institute of Migration in Turku, Finland

by Ismo Soderling, Director, Institute of Migration, Turku, Finland, Guest Columnist

Siirtolaisuusinstituutti--The Institute of Migration--is the leading migration research and documentation center in Finland.

It was in the 1960's that the research and documentation of the data relating to the migration to the Americas was started actively to be collected. Young researchers traveled in those areas of North America that had been settled by Finnish immigrants interviewing Finnish Americans. The first generation of immigrants had already departed this life, but their children were an excellent source of information and data. The information that was collected in these travels had enough research material for several decades. About the same time (1960's) hundreds of thousands of Finns emigrated to Sweden.

Finland soon realized that there was an acute need to create an institute to research and document the migration events. The Institute of Migration was established in 1974. The partners of the newly created Institute were all Ministries and Universities. The funding for the new Institute came from the Ministry of Education, while the city of Turku provided the Institute our excellent premises.

The Institute of Migration has always had its headquarters in Turku. The regional Center of Ostrobothnia was established in Seinäjoki in 1994. This was quite essential because over half of the migrants to the US came from the Ostrobothnia. Later, in the spring of 2014, the Institute established the Center of Swedish speaking Finland in Karleby. This was required because Finland is formally a bilingual country, and it was important to provide services and research in migration for Finland's Swedish speaking minority.

Today, all types and forms of migration are of interest to the Institute of Migration. We have not forgotten the Finns living in North America. However, we need to keep in mind that the migration to Finland is considerable. It is important that the migration (in-migration/immigration) is also our responsibility. Our last two studies describe well our research interests. Riita Niemi studied Australian Finns while Paula Konnila was interested in Finns living on the Spanish sunshine coast. For the Finns, Spain today is what Florida and California are for Americans. Spain has become 'Eldorado' for the Finnish retirees.

The archive of the Institute of Migration is the largest of its kind in Finland. We receive donations and endowments from around the world. The last sizable donation was by the children of Hugo Maki. Hugo Maki was 102 when he died. He traveled several times around the US and Canada collecting material from the local Finns. From his archives it became clear that the first winners in dogsledding were Finns, who knew how to train and breed dogs to become excellent racers. The archive of the Institute of Migration arranges exhibits from the material it receives. Our last exhibit was about Christmas cards and letters. Hilma (of Hancock) wrote to her aged parents 100 years ago: "I am sending you this one dollar note. Please buy some presents for yourselves. Be well. Hilma"

The Archive of the Institute of Migration accepts gladly material donations. It is crucial that any documentation regarding migration will be preserved for the future generations to tell the stories of hard work, tough lives, and also of happy days. We also can provide photos if you are, for example, writing a book or arranging an exhibit.

The archivist of the Institute of Migration, Jarno Heikkila (jarno.heikkila@utu.fi) is always available to assist you. Similarly, our director of information services, Jouni Korkiassari is available to assist you. Jouni is a skilled and active photographer: he has tens of thousands of photos of American Finns. (joukork@utu.fi)

The Institute of Migration also offers genealogy services. We assist people to locate their relatives or roots. Finnish Americans are often in contact with us, and our genealogy researcher Elisabeth Uschanov is superb in finding long lost relatives. If you have a need to locate relatives in Finland, please contact Elisabeth at

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Institute of Migration in Turku, Finland (continued from page 9)

Elisabeth.uschanov@utu.fi. She can assist you with the information about when and how various people migrated to the United States.

The Institute also has an information service department. Our publicist, Lilli Kojo (lilli.kojo@utu.fi) can quickly provide information on Finnish Migration.

I am the director of the Institute of Migration and I also write articles on important migration themes. My last article was about Bruno Nordberg. He developed the most efficient mine elevators. Thanks to Bruno, the Quincy mines in the Michigan UP operated efficiently as the ore quickly lifted up from the underground mine shafts. My next article is about Nils-Erik Wahlberg who lived about the same time as Bruno and is considered to be a significant automobile developer of this time. The reputation of Nash cars is mostly thanks to Finnish Nils-Erik.

Our operations are versatile and are continuously expanding. When you come to Turku next time, you are welcome to visit us and see our exhibits. Our coffee pot is always kept warm--as are also Finnish pulla.



The permanent American exhibit in our Institute.

RENT THE FCA

If you, or someone you know, has a need for a hall to rent for special events such as birthdays, weddings, baby or bridal showers, memorial services, please consider the Finnish Center. Contact the FCA office at (248) 478-6939 for more details.



ELECTION NOTICE 2015

The FCA Nominating Committee is asking for your assistance in finding candidates to fill three positions on the FCA Board of Trustees.

Please contact Annikki Kurvi at akurvi@sbcglobal.net or (248) 225-3912.

Members running as candidates need to submit short biographies (250 words or less) by January 5, 2015 for publication in the FCA newsletter.

Please consider serving the FCA as a leader in one of these positions.

FASM 20/20 HINDSIGHT LOOKS AHEAD

Many people take the opportunity in January, the first month of a year, to look back on the past year(s) and evaluate occurrences and lessons learned to help them better deal with the tribulations and successes they might encounter during the upcoming year. Like the Roman God Janus, this time is used to both look back and look forward.

The Finnish American Singers of Michigan take this opportunity to follow that precept - we look back and reflect on our past in order to be more successful in reaching our goals in 2015. Our group has a very long and illustrious history. FASM has:

- Varied in number over the years from over forty to under 20 members, but has remained committed to representing the Finnish culture and language proudly through song.
- Been a welcoming group to both Finns and non-Finns alike.
- Striven to perform professionally, excellently, and enjoyably despite the varying degrees of musical background, proficiency, or expertise by its members.
- Taken many opportunities to share its musical offerings with our local community through concerts at the FCA, at community events, and in outreach at venues like nursing homes.
- Proudly represented The Finnish Center, the Finnish culture and our group at national gatherings where the Scandinavian culture is feted.

We hope that 2015 includes these facets of our group.....enhanced. We would love to have more singers join us, enabling more options in the music we are able to present. Our practices are held on Monday evenings from 7 -9 pm at the Finnish Center. **Just come!** You can listen to a practice or join in with no pressure or obligation. My first practice 4 years ago occurred after a brief invitation by two members selling pasties at the Flea Market. I dropped in the next Monday, which happened to be the last practice before their spring concert. They graciously gave me music and let me sing with them, although for me, despite my very Finnish last name courtesy of my husband, I only sang the English songs! That easy, welcoming visit and the treats afterward drew me back the following fall when they returned to practice after their summer break.

We would like to build on our desire to reach out to others who are enriched by hearing [our] music, and hope the opportunities to do so and the ability to do so on the part of our members present themselves this year. It reminds me of the children's hymn instructing: "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine....Hide it under a bushel - NO, I'm going to let it shine!"

We hope to attend an upcoming FinnFest. A [website](#) promoting the 2015 event which celebrates the 150th anniversary of Sibelius' birth shares: "*FinnFest USA 2015 occurs in Buffalo, New York over a long weekend in October in special celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and the 75th anniversary of the opening of Buffalo's Kleinhans Music Hall, designed by Finnish architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen and designated "one of the greatest concert halls in the United States"*. Although FinnFests are usually held in the summer, this promises to be a grand celebration. Perhaps you'll decide to attend as well!

Lastly, our group would love to thank all of the people that have helped us in some way during 2014. You have:

- Promoted and attended our concerts.
- Bought Christmas greens during our Greens Sale this fall.
- Made, bought, sold, and eaten pasties.

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FINLAND TODAY

First, Finland is still one of the least corrupt countries in the world, that's according to Transparency International. On their list of the Least Corrupt Countries in the World, Finland is again in third place, behind Denmark and New Zealand. At bottom of the list are North Korea, and Somalia. Transparency International looked at 175 countries with the following in mind: is there a sign of prevalent bribery, is there a lack of punishment for corruption and for public institutions that don't respond to citizen needs? Out of 100 possible points, Finland received 89, New Zealand 91 and Denmark 92. Oh, by the way North Korea and Somalia each were at 8 points.

In a controversial decision, on Dec. 5th, Finnish lawmakers, by a vote of 115-74, have decided to allow Fennovoima to build a new nuclear power plant on the northwestern coast of Finland. What makes this controversial is the fact Finns are building it with the help of the Russians. The plant will cost between \$4.9 - \$7.1 Billion. Fennovoima is 34% owned by the Russian Rosatom. The project was still in doubt until earlier in the week, when the Finnish utility company, Fortum OY, said it would buy 15% stake in Fennovoima, giving it the 60% domestic ownership required by Finnish law. What makes this deal even more complicated, is the fact that Fortum's investment is contingent on the utility getting majority ownership of a sizable number of hydropower plants in Russia as part of an asset swap involving Rosatom and the Russian natural gas giant Gazprom. Finland's problem is that the vote by the Parliament, can be seen as helping Russian interests even if it is driven by simply commercial considerations, so says Arkady Moshes, a scholar of EU/Russian relations at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki.

Here is more of a personal or an individual Finnish medical statistic. In Finland 87% of patients survive breast cancer, the highest rate in Europe. Finland also has Europe's highest patient survival rate for ovarian and prostate cancer, with 90% of the patients surviving prostate cancer. For ovarian cancer, though it's the highest in Europe, only 45% of Finnish patients survive.

The Finnish start-up company, Spektikor, based in Oulu, has begun supplying NATO forces with heart rate indicators. The disposable ECG indicator, developed by Spektikor, will be available to all NATO troops and partner countries. The device uses visual indication of the heart rate by the means of LED indicators that change color, allowing the caregiver to register the patient's lowered or elevated heart rate quickly in person or by remote monitoring. According to Spektikor, the device lends itself well to situations where several persons have to be monitored simultaneously remotely. The device was founded in 2010 in the Oulun Yritystakomo incubator. The ECG device has been developed and tested in cooperation with the Oulu University Hospital, the Finnish Defense Forces, the Finnish Red Cross, and the Regional Rescue Services of Oulu-Koivismaa.

The Song Labs, a Chinese high tech company, has started to test and manufacture its radiotherapy equipment in Kuopio. The radiotherapy equipment is used in the treatment of cancer. The Kuopio area is one of the medical technology hubs in Finland with strong emphasis on medical physics and clinical research. The hub offers a variety of R&D and investment opportunities with the MD companies, University of Eastern Finland, University of Savonia Applied Science, and the University Hospital of Kuopio. The new owners of the Song Labs' IPR will be the Nordic Radiotherapy OY, which is 51% owned by Finns and 49% by Chinese.

Finland has a new distillery! It is the Kyrö Distillery Company, located in Isokyrö, in western Finland. Says Miika Lipiainen, the CEO of the company, "We will make one hundred percent rye whiskey. There are few such producers in the world, but, far as we know, none have it as their main product." According to EU legislation, a beverage must age at least three years before it can be called a whiskey. Therefore the first official batch will not be ready until 2017. But the company's first product called

(continued on page 13)

Finland Today (continued from page 13)

"Juuri" or "Root", a rye distillate aging to become a whiskey, can already be enjoyed in cocktails. The company also has clear-cut plans for entry into the international market, aiming boldly at metropolises such as London, Berlin, Hong Kong, and Tokyo

And finally, Heikki belonged to a weight losing club and it was the year ending awards ceremony and party. They gave out various awards until they got to the "big one", to the member who had lost the most weight. It went to an elderly gentleman named Matti.

Heikki asked Matti "What did you do to lose all that weight"?

Matti said, "It was easy, every day at 6 pm, I took out my false teeth".

Hyvaa Uutta Vuotta!

Markku Ketola marketola@yahoo.com

FASM (continued from page 12)

- Baked bread, cookies, and other treats that have benefited FASM directly and indirectly through FCA events.
- Donated your used goods and bought ours at our booth at the Flea Market.
- Unlocked doors, kept track of finances, and generally encouraged us to keep doing what we have been doing for so long and to take advantage of new technologies to advertise to a broader audience.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We look forward to a stellar year in 2015 and hope you come along for the ride!

Submitted by FASM VP and Scribe, Katy Koskela

**JANUARY PASTY SALE**

January 17 is the date of the next FCA pasty bake and sale. All orders must be placed by the end of the day Monday, January 12, to be assured of being filled. The cost is \$5 each and orders must be picked up on Saturday the 17th between 11 and 4.

The most efficient way to place your order is to email your name, phone, and quantity of pasties desired to fca-pasties@comcast.net. This method also provides for a 10% discount on orders of 10 or more that are picked up on Saturday. If you use this method, you will receive a return email confirming your order.

The second best way to order is to use the sign up sheet in the lobby of the Finnish Center. Name, phone, and quantity are needed, and pickup is on Saturday the 17th between 11 and 4.

Finally, calling the FCA during business hours with your order information will get your order placed. Be sure to include name, phone and quantity.



As always, we welcome volunteers to help make the pasties. Sign up in the lobby of the FCA or contact Paul Rajala at fca-pasties@comcast.net. Help is needed on Friday the 16th between 10 and 2 to peel veggies, or on Saturday the 17th between 7 and 4 for a multitude of tasks. Please let us know when you can volunteer so we can best use your talents.

Paul Rajala, FCA Pasty Coordinator

The Finnish Center received a copy of the RAAHEN SEUTU newspaper from Pauli Ylitalo with the following article:

A TRAVEL STORY: THE RAAHE YOUTH CHOIR PERFORMED IN AMERICA IN JULY By Miia Lehti

The Raahe Youth Choir's trip to America was launched from the grounds of the Raahe central school. The destination of the trip was the Children of the World in Harmony choir festival, which was being held for the 21st time. The location of the festival was Petoskey, Michigan.

Arrangements for the trip across the ocean were initiated in August of 2013. The trip was organized by Ritva Ylitalo. The group consisted of 25 choir members, assistant Katriina Leppänen and the accompanist Timo Juntunen as well as manager Brita Karihtala, according to the choir director Pauli Ylitalo.

The first stop was Toronto where their bus driver, David Andzejwski, awaited them. He was also their guide, for the process of getting across the border was very strict. "Our fingerprints and palms were photographed", said Pauli Ylitalo. In Toronto Ylitalo met a familiar man, Pekka Särkkä. "He was a childhood friend from a neighboring town", Pekka remarked.

The first concert was in Farmington Hills, where we found a Finnish-American organization, the Finnish Center. We were asked to perform and our reception was truly warm. The Finnish Center hall was chock-full when the choir performed. Among other songs the American audience heard "Koti maani ompi Suomi" and the Finlandia hymn. Both songs moved many to tears.

Next on our program was the choir festival itself in Petoskey, where the choir members were lodged with local families. At the festival we saw groups from Mexico, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic and the U.S. A festival choir sang in which 11 from Raahe also appeared. It was led by Argentinian Oscar Escalade. Katriina Leppänen assisted Oscar, and Timo Juntunen served as accompanist. A combined choir, which included all participants in the festival, also performed. Two songs were specially composed for this performance; one of them was led by Ylitalo. The festival is sponsored by Voices Without Borders.

During the festival the Malaysian airlines plane was shot down over Ukraine. During a church service at the festival, Ylitalo dedicated a Ukrainian folk song in memory of the victims. The choir mirrored the reactions of the audience. Since my back was turned to them I could not see the reaction of the audience but I noticed that some of my singers were about to cry. The reaction of the audience was caught by the singers.

The choir also visited the beautiful Niagara Falls. The choir broke into spontaneous singing of the Finlandia hymn, which the other tourists listened to with great interest. An older woman thanked us for the song. She said she loved Finland because of Armi Kuusela. She had lived in the Philippines and knew about the Finnish beauty queen who was chosen Miss Finland in 1952 and then participated in the Miss Universe contest, becoming its first titleholder.

The girls also had an opportunity to go shopping in Toronto. Afterward Sara and Jack Kukuk sent Ylitalo a thank-you letter.

The girls from Raahe served splendidly as ambassadors for their country. Their parents certainly deserve to be proud of them.

(Translation by Lillian Lehto)

(Photo of Raahe Choir at Niagara Falls on page 15)



Raahé Choir at Niagara Falls

ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE: **DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 5TH**
EDITOR CONTACT INFO: PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL: nrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,000 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue.

Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.

Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.

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