



435 New Fourth Street, Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

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FAIRPORT HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS FINNO-UGRIC WORLD TOUR

On Saturday, November 7th as part of its ongoing Casual Conversations series, the Fairport Harbor Public Library will host the Fairport Harbor leg of the Finno-Ugric World Tour. A presentation will be given by Gage “Touko” Keränen, Young Leaders Board member and Outreach Lead for the Finlandia Foundation National (FFN). The event represents a collaboration between the library and the Finnish Heritage Museum of Fairport Harbor.

The Finno-Ugric peoples are a large collection of ethnolinguistic groups across Northern, Central, and Eastern Europe as well as Siberia who speak Finno-Ugric languages, a major branch of the Uralic language family. About 27 million people speak one of the Finno-Ugric languages worldwide, with most of them living in Europe. The largest three groups are the Hungarians, Finns, and Estonians who own independent states. Other major groups include the Sámi people in northern Norway and Sweden as well as other groups in the Russian Federation.

After Hancock, Michigan was chosen as the international Finno-Ugric capital of culture for 2026, the only non-European city or village selected in the award’s twelve-year history, a grant-funded public relations campaign was launched. As part of the campaign, Keränen is offering a traveling presentation, the Finno-Ugric World Tour, to distribute information about the Finno-Ugric peoples of the world. The tour includes stories of his travels through Finland, Estonia, and Latvia and includes videos, photos, and props representing the Finno-Ugric peoples. There will also be free booklets and pins for attendees to take home.

Gage (Touko) Keränen is a Finnish American from Grand Rapids, MI, with roots in Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula. He has been active in several Finnish communities across the U.S., including in Phoenix and Tucson. After studying Conservation Biology at Arizona State University, Keränen now works in the nonprofit sector and is a passionate community builder, aiming to strengthen Finnish American communities through language learning, folk arts, and educational opportunities.

The Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) is a non-profit, philanthropic organization founded in 1953 in Pasadena, California, that champions Finnish American culture and builds bridges between modern Finland and the United States.

The presentation will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fairport Harbor Public Library Conference Room. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the general public. Seating is limited so reservations are required. For more information, and to reserve a spot, call the library at 440-354-8191.