

SUMMER/FALL 2024

# SALOLAMMEN SANOMAT

News from the Salolampi Foundation



## REMEMBERING MARLENE BANTTARI

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of a dear friend of Salolampi, **Marlene Banttari**. Marlene led an impactful and community-oriented life.

Marlene enjoyed activities related to her Finnish heritage and was active in promoting Finnish language, food and culture, especially through Salolampi.

Marlene's contributions to both the Salolampi Finnish Language Village and the Salolampi Foundation could not be overstated: in addition to being a long-time volunteer and donor, she served as the President of the Salolampi Foundation, editor of the Salolammen Sanomat, and chair of the annual phone-a-thon.

Marlene also had a passion for food and education, which was evident in her professional and volunteer work. She had a long career in the food industry, working as an educational manager for Pillsbury. Her expertise led her to become a veteran judge at the Minnesota State Fair, where she participated in food judging for over 25 years.

We would not be where we are today as an organization without the many contributions of Marlene and her late husband, Ernest. Please join the Salolampi Foundation Board in celebrating the life of an incredible woman and friend to Salolampi. **Donations in memory of Marlene Banttari can be made online or mailed to P.O. Box 14480 Minneapolis, MN 55414.**



Marlene Banttari teaches pulla-making at Salolampi

## IT'S BACK! FINNISH FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

We're excited to share the return of the Winter **Finnish Family Fun Weekend** this January.

Join us **January 17-20, 2025** for an incredible winter experience at Salolampi led by Susan *Susanna* Harstad.

We'll enjoy activities like sauna, hiking, singing snowshoeing, and baking, all while learning Finnish.

Both individuals and families are welcome.

**Adult price \$395**  
**Youth price \$215**  
**Ages 3 and under free**

Register online **by Dec. 20th** at [concordialanguagevillages.org](https://concordialanguagevillages.org).

[www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org) | [info@salolampi.org](mailto:info@salolampi.org) | [@Salolampi](https://www.instagram.com/Salolampi)



SALOLAMPI

## CHOIR VISIT TO FINLAND

In August 2024, my husband, Ed, and I traveled to Finland with the Finnish Expatriate choir (Ulkosuomalaisten Suurkuoro). Led by Maria Männistö and Eva-Christina Pietarinen, the choir connects Finns and friends of Finland around the world and makes Finnishness known in the world, just as Salolampi does at its programs.

We performed in seven concerts over the ten day trip, including at the famous Temppeliaukio Church in Helsinki, as well as Turku, Lahti, Tampere, and Hämeenlinna.

I was delighted to join in this experience with several adult week participants and Salolampi Foundation board members, including Richard Castro, John Hanson III, John Hanson IV, Carol Liederbach, and Mark Viste (pictured below).

*Jiina Watts*



### SAVE THE DATE!

Check your phones and emails this November and December as volunteers from the Salolampi Foundation reach out for our fall scholarship fundraiser.

**Thank you for  
your generosity.**

## SCENES FROM CAMP

Thank you to our donors and partner organizations for generously supporting scholarships for youth to attend our Finnish language programs. Our villagers had a great summer in 2024!



## KIITOS VAPAAEHTOISILLEMME

The Salolampi Foundation organized its semi-annual Salolampi Work Weekend (*Talkoot*) May 17-19, 2024. We want to thank the following Spring Work Weekend volunteers who gave of their time and talent to keep our Salolampi site beautiful:

**John Laitinen, Linda and Stanley Davis, Susan Harstad, Emily Helgersen, Brad Horras, Ann Hutchings, Alec Janson, Lyndon Johnson, David Kimball, Iris Lahti Anderson, Eli Lahti Schlotec, Kristi Loeck, Lily Obede, Sue Romano, Lisa Romano and Kaisa Taipale.**

We invite all friends of Salolampi to volunteer with us:

- caring for the Salolampi village site at a work weekend,
- serving on the Salolampi Foundation Board or Committee, or
- calling donors for our annual fundraiser.

Email [info@salolampi.org](mailto:info@salolampi.org) to let us know you'd like to volunteer!



# KEVÄÄN AIKUISVIIKKO 2024

Our 2024 Spring adult week was a huge success! Our 23 participants from all around North America studied Finnish with our experienced Finnish language teachers, including Tiina Watts, who has been teaching at adult weeks for over 20 years.

Adult week participants also enjoyed Nordic Asahi exercise classes, folk dancing instruction, cultural presentations on Finnish graveyards, Marimekko's Unikko anniversary, wildlife, family history, food, and even a tree-hugging competition.

The outdoor or indoor sauna was hot every day, and Finnish food was served every meal. Participants were able to dye wooden beads, weave belts, go Nordic stick-walking in the woods, play mölkky and kyykkä, make munkit (Finnish donuts), play the kantele, sing lots of Finnish songs, and eat lots of pulla.

Our Fall Adult program was an extended weekend in September, and our next Spring adult week will be May 11-17, 2025. For more information about adult weeks and to register for all programs, visit [www.concordialanguagevillages.org](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org). *Tervetuloa!*



## FROM ENGLAND TO FINLAND

VIA WINNIPEG AND SALOLAMPI

I spent the majority of my life in England, yet I developed a fascination with Finland from a young age. Whether it stemmed from poring over maps or diving into books, there was something about Finland that resonated deep within me.

Given my interest in Finland, I was surprised it took me 50 years to finally visit the country. But when I did, it surpassed all my expectations. I found myself returning often and developed an interest in learning Finnish. While I always enjoyed language study Finnish felt different and uniquely challenging.

Finding a place to study Finnish in London proved to be a challenge, but I eventually discovered an evening class at a college in South London, taught by an instructor from Finland. Our group even created our own motto: *Suomi ei ole vaikeaa, se on erilaista* (Finnish isn't difficult, it's just different!)

Later, in August 2009, I emigrated to Winnipeg, Canada, I initially regretted that this decision would likely halt my Finnish studies (or so I believed!)

However, during a cultural event at the Winnipeg Scandinavian Centre in 2010, I was thrilled to discover a Finnish Room that was about to start offering Finnish lessons. I enrolled in these classes, and a good friend and classmate introduced me to a 'Finnish Language Camp' in Bemidji. It's worth noting that Winnipeg and Bemidji are quite close, despite being in different countries. I attended my first Adult Week at Salolampi in May 2011 and have returned every year since, except for a pause due to COVID.

Salolampi has added a crucial element to my language learning experience. Being there feels like living in a slice of Finland, right in the heart of North America. Does this mean I will no longer wish to visit Finland? Absolutely not! However, without Salolampi, I might have abandoned my journey.

*Richard Riku Castro*



# FINNFEST AWARD

At FinnFest 2024, I joined friends and special guests from Finland and the US at the FinnFest Gala Dinner and FinnFest 2024 Awards ceremony.

It was my privilege to accept the **Robert W. Selvala Society award** to Salolampi for its contributions to FinnFest and for expanding American appreciation and understanding of Finland and Finnish America.

I accepted this award on behalf of everyone who has made Salolampi a reality over the past 46 years: our villagers, families of villagers, staff, volunteers, and especially our donors.

According to FinnFest, the Robert W. Selvala Society honors people whose contributions to FinnFest USA have expanded American appreciation and understanding of Finland and Finnish America. Honorees illustrate a commitment to FinnFest USA's approach and positive actions to assist and encourage its success.

The Society is named for the first President of FinnFest USA whose 15-year tenure, 1983-1999, personifies significant contributions made to the purpose and life of FinnFest USA. Robert Selvala lived the definition of "extraordinary contributions and commitment" to Finnish and Finnish American visibility, appreciation, and understanding through FinnFest USA's program.

*Jenna Pulju Porter*

## SALOLAMPI AT FINNFEST 2024

Did we see you at FinnFest this summer? Salolampi Foundation and CLV once again returned to Finn Fest in Duluth this July.

At the Salolampi table in the *tori*, many Salolampi alumni and donors said hello and reminisced about their time at Salolampi, while many new people learned about Salolampi for the first time.

Meanwhile, our adult program Instructors, Tiina Watts and Susan Susanna Harstad, led a rousing **Salolampi Singalong** on the performers' stage and once again offered a **Mini Salolampi** session. Tiina, Susanna, and Lily Linnea Obeda, also led several days of Finnish language instruction for adults as part of the FinnFest programming.

Many former Salolampi staff and villagers in attendance met at the young professionals gathering that FinnFest arranged at Hoops Brewing in Canal Park, that included a welcome by Salolampi Foundation Board Member and former villager, Ashley Aili Lund. Later in the weekend, the Salolampi Foundation itself hosted an event for all Salolampi alumni at Hoops Brewing, organized by board members Jeff and Laura Bernard Moon. Incoming Salolampi Foundation President, Susanna Ojo, volunteered in many capacities at FinnFest, including at event registration.

A highlight of the week, Salolampi dean, Jen Jenna Pulju Porter, accepted the Robert W. Selvala Society award at the 2024 Finn Fest awards on behalf of Salolampi for our contributions to FinnFest and Finnish language and culture in the United States. You can read more about this in the sidebar at left.

The Salolampi Foundation thanks everyone who supported FinnFest, visited our booth, participated in one of our sessions, or attended an event. We are especially grateful for all those who volunteered their time to bring Salolampi to FinnFest. See you next year in Duluth!



L to R: Salolampi receives the Robert W. Selvala Society Award; board members and CLV staff at the Salolampi *tori* booth; Susanna and Tiina lead a Salolampi Singalong



# THANK YOU TO OUR SALOLAMPI DONORS

Donations January 1 – August 31, 2024

## Kulta (\$1000)

Dale Sola Charitable Trust

## Hopea (\$500-999)

Finnish-American Society of the  
Midwest

Lisa Helstein

Takkunen Family Foundation

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## Pronssi (\$100-499)

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## Rauta (Up to \$100)

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Reino Ojala

Robert J. & Sandra Lautigar

Sandra Schultz

Seija Stratton

Stephan & Judy Szyszkoski

Tanya Stanaway

Wesley Mattson

## GIFTS IN MEMORY

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Finnish American Society of  
Milwaukee

### Kenneth Daniels

Takkunen Family Foundation

### Floyd Harvala

Wolf MN Finnish American  
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### Ellen Hallikainen

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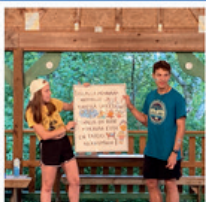
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Scan the code below to  
help send a kid to camp!



## GIVE TO SALOLAMPI

To give online:  
Visit [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org)

To give on a mobile device:  
Scan the QR code above -or-  
Venmo @SalolampiFoundation

To mail us a check:  
Address and send to  
**Salolampi Foundation**  
P.O. Box 14480  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-0480  
or use the enclosed envelope.



# 2025 FINNISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Register for sessions now at [www.concordialanguagevillages.org](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org), and tell a friend!

Session Type	Start Date	End Date	Registration Deadline	Age Range	Price*	Session Code
Family Fun Weekend	1/17	1/20	12/19/24	0-99	Adult - \$395 Youth - \$215 0-3 - FREE	FI013FA03B
1-week FAMILY WEEK	6/10	6/15	5/10	0-99	Adult - \$910 Youth - \$760 0-3 - FREE	FI063FA05B
1-week	6/16	6/21	5/19	7-12	\$1,395	FI063YU05B
1- week	6/30	7/5	6/1	12-18	\$1,395	FI065YU05B
2-week	6/16	6/28	5/19	8-12	\$2,695	FI063YU12B
2-week	6/30	7/12	6/2	10-18	\$2,695	FI065YU12B
4-week	6/16	7/12	5/19	12-15	\$5,400	FI063YU26B
High School Credit (2 wk)	6/16	6/28	5/19	13-18	\$3,110	FI063CR12B
High School Credit (4 wk)	6/16	7/12	5/17	13-18	\$5,710	FI063CR26B
Finnish Apprentice	6/16	7/12	5/25	16-18	\$3,135	FI063AP26B

**\*Opting into scholarships greatly reduces the cost of attendance. See additional information below.**

## SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

The mission of the Salolampi Foundation is to sustain the Finnish language and culture through scholarships and program support to the Salolampi Finnish Language Village.

Numerous scholarships are available from various organizations to reduce the cost of attending Salolampi. The Salolampi Foundation offers opt-in scholarships for youth villagers or 25% of tuition for all residential programs (up to \$50,000 available for all villagers) on a first come, first serve basis.

To learn about this and all other scholarships available from Concordia Language Villages, FACA, Finlandia Foundation, and other organizations, visit: [www.salolampi.org/scholarships/automatic](http://www.salolampi.org/scholarships/automatic)







CONCORDIA  
LANGUAGE VILLAGES

# LEARN

# FINNISH

## VIRTUAL OFFERINGS with Tiina Watts

### Adult Conversation Hour

October 22-November 26, 2024  
Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

January 14-February 18, 2025  
Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

February 25-April 1, 2025  
Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### Adult Virtual Class | Beginner 1

January 14-April 1, 2025  
Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m.

### Adult Virtual Class | Intermediate 1

January 15-April 2, 2025  
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

## OVERNIGHT OFFERINGS with Tiina Watts

### Adult Weekend

September 12-September 16, 2024

### Adult Week

May 11-May 17, 2025

### Family Weekend with Susan Susanna Harstad

January 17-January 20, 2025

### Family Week

June 9-June 14, 2025



### Nordic Holiday Workshop

with Jessica Dina Korynta  
December 6-8, 2024



SCAN TO REGISTER!



### Summer Youth Overnight Camps

1-week, 2-week, 4-week,  
High School Credit

Summer 2025 Youth  
Overnight Registration  
**OPEN NOW!**

# SALOLAMPI



800-222-4750 | CLV@CORD.EDU | CONCORDIALANGUAGEVILLAGES.ORG | BEMIDJI, MINN.



## Salolampi Foundation

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*Susanna Ojo, President Elect*  
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*Kaisa Taipale*

### Ex-Officio Members

*Jen "Jenna" Pulju Porter, Dean*  
*Mary Maus Kosir, Executive Director, CLV*  
*Marc Johnson, Development Director, CLV*

Salolampi Foundation  
P.O. Box 14480  
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### Summer/Fall 2024 Sanomat Team

Editor: Katie-Rose Imbriano  
Contributors: Richard Castro, Jen Pulju Porter,  
Kaisa Taipale, and Tiina Watts

## WINTER/SPRING ADULT PROGRAMS

REGISTER NOW

Register now at [www.concordialanguagevillages.org](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org)

Session Type	Start Date	End Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Age Range	Price	Session Code
Family Fun Weekend	1/17/25	1/20/25	12/19/24	Bemidji, MN	Ages 0-99	\$395	FI013FA03B
Adult Class - Beg. (Tues)	1/14/25	4/1/25	1/2/25	Virtual	Ages 18-99	\$470	FI013AD12V
Adult Class - Int. (Wed)	1/15/25	4/2/25	1/2/25	Virtual	Ages 18-99	\$470	FI013AD12V
Adult Conversation Hour	1/14/25	2/18/25	1/2/25	Virtual	Ages 18-99	\$210	FIA060109V
Adult Conversation Hour	2/25/25	4/1/25	2/11/25	Virtual	Ages 18-99	\$210	FI025AD06V
Adult Week	5/11/25	5/17/25	4/13/25	Bemidji, MN	Ages 18-64	\$1,210*	FI053AD06B

\*Discounts for seniors (65+) and college students with ID

For a digital copy of the Sanomat or to update your  
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