

# SALOLAMMEN SANOMAT

News from the Salolampi Foundation



## SÁMI KOTA UPDATE

If you have been to Salolampi in the last 25 years, then you have seen our beautiful Sámi kota, located on the road to sauna near the entrance to the *luontopolku*. Sámi are the traditional Indigenous peoples inhabiting the northern part of Finland (Lappi).

The structure was built at Salolampi in 1999. Charlo Mayo, Niilo Ilmari Mattus and his son, worked on its initial construction Ilmari, whose Sámi name is Uccpárnáá Vuoli Ilmar, advocates for Sami language and cultural heritage.

Recently, the kota has deteriorated due to age and weather conditions. However, in summer 2024, a team of volunteers led by Jim and Ruth Pulju and Phil and Katja Zarns, worked to restore the kota for the enjoyment of all Salolampilaiset. The group upgraded the central rock and cement fire ring to a practical grill with a hood that connects to the chimney, ensuring that the smoke rises up and out, as was intended in the building's initial plans.



## TERVETULOA!

Please join us in welcoming **Susanna Ojo** as our new Board President! Born and raised in Espoo, Finland, Susanna now resides in Minneapolis. She brings a wealth of experience from her work with the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce and her three years of service on the Salolampi Foundation Board of Directors.



# KIITOKSET

The Salolampi Foundation thanks three long-time members of our board of directors for their service.

**Aino Wheler** is our Past President.

Aino was a Salolampi counselor from 1998-2001, and has served in a leadership position on the Salolampi Foundation board for many years. Recent donors will recall receiving a thank you letter or email from Aino. Aino lent her professional expertise in non-profit fundraising to Salolampi, and set the organization's development vision.

**Paavo Taipale** has served on our board for 22 years (!) where he has filled many roles, including President and Treasurer. Paavo was also a villager and summer staff member in the 1990s and 2000s. Paavo led the work weekend for many years, and has attended work weekends since he was a youth.

Last but not least is **Richard "Riku" Castro**, whose reflection on his path to Salolampi was featured in the Summer/Fall 2024 Sanomat. In addition to his many years of service to the Salolampi Foundation Board, Riku is a long-time Adult Week participant and Phone-a-thon caller.

In addition to our regular board members, the Salolampi Foundation extends its sincere gratitude and warm wishes towards a departing ex-officio board member, **Mary Maus Kosir**, outgoing Executive Director of Concordia Language Villages. In her four (4) years leading the organization, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Salolampi Finnish Language Village. We wish her the best.

**We are grateful for the service of our board members, who have helped to make Salolampi a great place to learn and grow. While we will miss their presence, we know that their commitment to advancing Finnish language remains strong. Monet kiitokset!**

# SUMMER 2025 FINNISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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

Session Type	Dates	Deadline to Register	Ages	Price*	Session Code
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 at right.**



# 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. Many scholarships are available to reduce the cost of attending Salolampi. See below for more information.

Scholarship Organization	Scholarship Type/Amount	Information
Salolampi Foundation	Opt-in scholarships for youth villagers, 25% of tuition for all residential programs (up to \$50,000 available for all villagers, first come, first serve.)	Apply by filling out the CLV Passport Fund form when you register for a session and OPT-IN. More information at <a href="http://www.salolampi.org/scholarships/automatic">www.salolampi.org/scholarships/automatic</a>
FACA Twin Cities (Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.)	Children or relatives of FACA members	Please contact FACA directly for more information. <a href="http://www.finnfaca.org">www.finnfaca.org</a>
Finlandia Foundation National	First-come, first-served scholarships for youth villagers, \$300 Travel Grants	Apply by filling out the form and returning it to FFN by email <a href="http://finlandiafoundation.org/programs/salolampi-finnish-language-village/">finlandiafoundation.org/programs/salolampi-finnish-language-village/</a>
Finlandia Foundation local chapters	Check with individual chapters	Please contact individual chapters for more information.
Concordia Language Villages Passport Fund	Needs-based scholarships for residential youth villagers	Apply by filling out the form when you register for a session <a href="http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/scholarships-ps-faq">www.concordialanguagevillages.org/scholarships-ps-faq</a>
MN Office of Higher Education Enrichment Stipend	Opt-in scholarships for youth villagers, 25% of tuition for all residential programs	<a href="http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-dates-and-rates/costs-and-scholarships/mn-department-of-higher-education-scholarships">www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-dates-and-rates/costs-and-scholarships/mn-department-of-higher-education-scholarships</a>
Ken Daniels Memorial Scholarship Fund	Varies	In memory of Board member, Ken <i>Erkki</i> Daniels. Please email the Daniels family at <a href="mailto:danielsperhe@g.com">danielsperhe@g.com</a> for info on how to apply.

IN MEMORIAM

## STANLEY DAVIS



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Stanley Davis, a beloved long-time volunteer and donor to the Salolampi Foundation.

I had the pleasure of volunteering with Stanley at the Fall Work Weekend in 2024. His unwavering dedication and enthusiasm for Salolampi's mission have left a lasting impact on our organization.

Stanley was not only a devoted volunteer and long-time donor, but also the loving husband of our current board member, Linda Davis, and parent of former villager, Lee Davis.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Linda and their family during this difficult time. Stanley's legacy will continue to inspire us, and we are grateful for the many years he dedicated to the Salolampi Foundation.

Donations in memory of Stanley Davis can be made online or mailed to P.O. Box 14480 Minneapolis, MN 55414

# FALL AT SALOLAMPI

by Elizabeth Helvi Brauer

In September 2024, Salolampi held an extended **Fall Adult Weekend**. Adult weekend participants and staff came from seven different states and one province. It was likely the warmest fall program in Salolampi history with temperatures in the mid-80s for most of the weekend. There were lots of opportunities to study Finnish in small-groups with *Tiina*, *Susanna*, and *Helvi* to sing, craft, play games, sauna, and bake.

A simulation of a Finnish *kirpputori*, organized by Susanna, had gently used goods from Finland, new products - like Salolampi Foundation Board Member, Steve Leppälä's "Got viiliä?" shirts, and handknit hats. This simulation, held throughout the weekend, tied in well with Tiina's and Helvi's cultural presentation about their experiences thrifting in Finland. The Juli Wood Quartet was a delightful addition to programming this fall. They performed following the banquet meal and many participants got up to dance to Raatikko.

Salolampi's **Spring Adult Week is May 11 - 17, 2025**. For more information about adult programs and to register for all programs, visit [www.concordialanguagevillages.org](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org). *Tervetuloa!*

Later in September, the **Fall 2024 Work Weekend** brought together past villagers, current and past staff, Salolampi Foundation Board members, community members, parents of villagers and staff, and CLV leadership staff. We also had the help of AmeriCorps volunteers. Projects completed include chopping and stacking wood for the lakeside firepit and beach sauna; removing all rocks and cleaning area along the side of the yellow wing flowerbeds; placing; placing new weed barrier landscaping fabric, and continuing restoration of the Sami kota.

Our fall work weekend was co-led by **John Laitinen** and **David Kimball** with volunteer support from: **The Brauer Family, Carol DeVries, Ann Hutchings, Marc Johnson, Eli Lahti-Schlotec, Kristi Loeck, Sue Romano, Jaime Somero, Nora Wikstrom, and AmeriCorps Volunteers**.

Work Weekends are held twice a year in the fall and spring, with the **Spring Work Weekend** scheduled for **May 9-11, 2025**. Work weekends are open to anyone interested in visiting and helping spruce up Salolampi and have been held since the early 1990s. If you are interested in joining work weekend, please visit <https://www.salolampi.org/support-us/work-weekends>.



# ALUMNI PROFILE: PAAVO TAIPALE

*Interviewed by Katie-Rose Imbriano*

For Paavo Taipale (pictured at right with former Board President Aino Wheler), Salolampi is a family affair. I sat down with him to hear how it all started and what his vision for Salolampi now that he is moving.



**Tell me about why you came to Salolampi the first time, and what made you want to keep coming back.**

My family has been part of Salolampi since the beginning. My father was a counselor, and my grandmother a cook at the first ever sessions of Salolampi. My memories of my first year at Salolampi go back to when the red Kioski, Pankki and Askarteluhome building was a volleyball court and cabins 4 (Lappi) and 5 (Savo) were not yet built. I remember having a good time at my first two-week session and making some great friends back then. I even had some pen pals for several years (this was the 1990s). To this day I loosely keep in touch with one friend back from my first year at Salolampi. In addition to being a villager, I attended work weekends regularly with my twin sister, Ritva, and my father and grandfather. I remember bringing water to the volunteers erecting Cabins 4 and 5, and I couldn't tell you how many times I have cleaned and washed the benches of the Ranta Sauna.

**What's your favorite thing about Salolampi?** The people and the sauna!

**How did your Salolampi experience change the way you viewed the world?** I think growing up speaking Finnish and English at home and almost yearly trips to Finland during my youth has always given me a more worldly view. The experience at Salolampi/CLV expanded that further knowing that there were villages around the lake with others learning French, German, Spanish, Norwegian and other languages. Whether you can speak only a few words of another language or can have a conversation in another language, it garners a level of respect, understanding and acceptance of others.

**What did you study in college, and how did you decide on a career? Did your experience at Salolampi influence your career?** I studied Aviation Management at the University of North Dakota to become a commercial pilot. The Salolampi experience made me want to be able to travel world, meet people from different places that speak different languages and have had a variety of life experiences. My profession as an airline pilot has afforded me the time and ability to travel all over the world. I have many places to visit yet but I have been fortunate to be able to walk the Great Wall of China on work layover, hike Mount Kilimanjaro with friends on my time off, see Little Blue penguins in New Zealand and of course, a yearly trip to Finland to visit family, friends and great saunas.

**You have been on the Salolampi Foundation Board for 21 years (!) What drives your service to Salolampi?** I joined the Salolampi Foundation back in 2004 while a student at UND. As a former villager I think I brought a different perspective to the board of largely older retired folks on the board, like my grandfather. I always like going up to the Salolampi site in Bemidji, MN. The location on the shores of Turtle River Lake is just so beautiful. I really enjoyed work weekends and started to lead those weekends for many years. It was just another reason to spend time there and take a sauna! The Salolampi Foundation made a great investment/donation in gifting the Salolampi buildings to CLV. I always felt it was important that we help keep Salolampi looking great and maintain our investment in the upkeep of the physical site for those that attend Salolampi. Children and adults alike will want to come back to a place that keeps looking beautiful. As a third generation board member, I have felt it is very important to maintain a strong organization, mission and legacy so youth are able to attend Salolampi. I also enjoy the people on the board, especially other people I attended Salolampi with, as a villager and as staff. The board members are great individuals and we have worked well together to bring the foundation forward into a stronger position for the future.

**Do you have any advice for young people interested in studying Finnish?**

Attend Salolampi! Visit Finland, find someone you can converse with and try not to worry about making mistakes!

# THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Donations September 1 – December 31, 2024

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Address and send to  
**Salolampi Foundation**  
P.O. Box 14480  
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## SPRING ADULT PROGRAMS

REGISTER NOW

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

Adult Week	5/11/25	5/17/25	4/13/25	Bemidji, MN	Ages 18-64	\$1,210*	FI053AD06B
Family Week	6/10/25	6/15/25	5/10/25	Bemidji, MN	Ages 0-99	\$910	FI063FA05B

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

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