



Scandinavian SCENE

MAY/JUNE 2010

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER AT PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Tenth Annual Spring Banquet

Where will you be on Saturday, May 22? If you are not at the Scandinavian Cultural Center that evening, you will miss a spectacular spring celebration, not to mention a marvelous meal, extraordinary entertainment, and the presentation of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize! Invitations are in the mail, so make your reservation early. Doors open at 6:00 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. The banquet menu features seared salmon with herb mustard sauce, roasted fingerling potatoes, and garden-fresh vegetables. Chocolate Torte and Keyline Cheesecake head the dessert list. Tickets are \$35 (SCC members) and \$40 (non-members). Attire is semi-formal and Nordic *bunads* are encouraged. Deadline for reservations is May 14.



Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Danielle Lemieux on the French horn. Danielle is Director of Music for Children and Youth at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows. In 1997, while a student at the University of Puget Sound, Danielle directed

the Enzian Ladies Swiss Choir, a local amateur group that sings traditional Swiss folk songs in the four languages of Switzerland. She studied French horn and conducting for two years at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Maine, and subsequently spent two months in Beckenridge, Colorado, with the National Repertory Orchestra, a preeminent intensive fellowship program that equips young musicians for orchestral music careers while providing the highest level of musical experience. In addition, Danielle spent nine months studying music in Norway on a Fulbright scholarship under the tutorage of renowned hornist Frøydis Ree Wekre who played with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra for over twenty years.



The Greater Tacoma Peace Prize (GTPP) is designed to recognize, honor and encourage peace building, education, and awareness in our own communities and beyond. The 2010 GTPP will be presented to laureate Kim Ebert of Tacoma, Washington. Kim is a parent volunteer/educator at Bryant Montessori School where she is well known as a leader in peace building. Bryant Montessori School is located in the Hilltop area of Tacoma and is comprised of a racially and economically diverse population. Kim has a keen understanding about the importance of peace building and devotes her time and talents bringing education and awareness to Bryant students and staff.



News from the SCC Council President

Smuler fra den SCCC Presidenten . . .

Syttende Mai (May 17th) is just around the corner and the Norwegian Flag Raising ceremony is set for precisely 9:00AM on campus in Red Square. Priorities are essential, especially for those in the workforce. I am confident your employer will forgive your tardiness if you arrive a bit late on Monday morning!

The current exhibit is an incredible display of Nordic costumes and textiles selected from our permanent artifact collection (see p. 3). I encourage you to visit the Center in the next few weeks to discover the history and archival significance of the pieces on display. We welcome visits by larger groups and are happy to provide information about the Center and program offerings. Please consider scheduling a visit soon by contacting our Director, Susan Young (youngse@plu.edu or 253.535.7322).

We hope the Spring Banquet on Saturday, May 22, has been added to your social calendar! The SCC is proud to be one of the sponsoring organizations of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize which will be awarded that evening. The name of the 2010 laureate, Kim Ebert, was announced last month at the Norwegian Heritage Festival. Kim has made significant contributions toward peace building and improving the human condition both locally and globally. Join us on May 22 to learn about her achievements and congratulate her on receiving this award.

The purpose of the SCC is to bring together individuals and organizations to support the university's Scandinavian Area Studies Program, the Scandinavian Immigrant Collection, and to promote development and understanding of the Nordic immigrant and Scandinavian-American experiences, cultures and heritage; and to promote ties with Nordic cultures and societies. What better time than now to acknowledge our connectedness to one another on this singular planet. ~ *Hilsen, Lisa Marie Ottoson*

News and Notes . . .

Danish Language Classes: If you would like to take a conversational Danish language class, please let us know. We have an energetic and talented, first-generation Danish instructor ready to begin classes if we generate enough interest. Contact us by calling 253.535.7322 or email [<youngse@plu.edu>](mailto:youngse@plu.edu).

PLU Bookstore Expands Scandinavian Inventory! The PLU Book Company located at 208 Garfield Street, Tacoma, is expanding their Scandinavian inventory. If you would like to help keep the momentum going, plan to visit the store soon and often!

Farewell to a Beloved SCC Member: Long-time member Jarl Secher-Jensen passed away on April 4, 2010. In a touching tribute to her husband, Dee Secher-Jensen wrote, "I am renewing my SCC membership at the household level, because even though Jarl has died, we still ARE." We will miss Jarl, but look forward to a long and continued relationship with Dee.

SCC Goes Green! In an effort to join forces with other departments on campus, we are polling our readership to get feedback on the idea of sending the *Scandinavian Scene* newsletter by email in lieu of "snail mail." The advantages to the change has several benefits: (1) it is eco-friendly, (2) it is cost effective by eliminating the need for printing, postage, and paper, and (3) it is expeditious. Not only will our readers receive the newsletter as soon as it is completed, they will receive it in color, a feature that is cost prohibitive using print shop methods. **We need your feedback.** If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please let us know by sending a brief email to [<youngse@plu.edu>](mailto:youngse@plu.edu). Those who do not currently have email addresses will continue to receive the newsletter via regular mail service.

Discovering Nordic Heritage: Costumes and Textiles

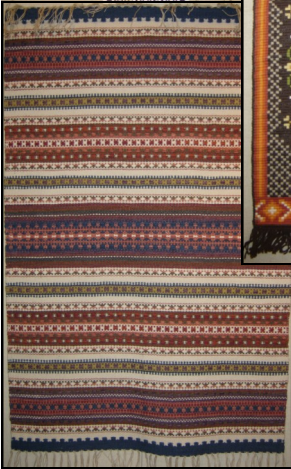
Imagine that you are walking through a small town or village where everyone is dressed in folk costumes—the men in knee breeches and white linen shirts, and the women in long brightly colored skirts with aprons, bodices, and matching bonnets. Unless you were visiting Scandinavia or attending a Nordic folk festival, these images would seem strange to you. Yet this is precisely what you would have seen in Scandinavia a century ago. Today, one rarely sees national costumes worn on the streets, but they are standard attire at all festive occasions. Scandinavians and Scandinavian-Americans wear them proudly wherever and whenever an opportunity arises.

Primarily due to regional differences between and within the Nordic countries, each region has its own style of national costume with matching accessories that reflect the region's history and culture. A century ago you could determine much more from a costume than the region it represented. For example, you could tell whether a woman was married, or a widow, and whether a young girl had had her first communion by the length of her skirt or the head covering she wore. Costumes are made with the finest materials and represent countless hours of sewing, embroidery, tailoring, crocheting, knitting, lace-making as well as silver-smithing, blacksmithing, and leather working.

Lundebyunad with matching purse.
Donor: Patricia Kelley



Wall hanging, *klokkestreng* (bell pull).
19x32" Donors: Arne and Gloria Pederson



Throughout the twenty-year history of the SCC, the permanent artifact collection has more than tripled in size, thanks to our generous donors. A significant portion of the collection is comprised of Nordic folk costumes and woven textiles. These priceless heirlooms that have been handed down from generation to generation are now permanently housed in the Cultural Center and will be on display from May 5 through September 12. Entitled "Discovering Nordic Heritage," the current exhibit celebrates the artistry and skill that are synonymous with the creation of Scandinavian costumes and textiles. Regardless of your own heritage, you will marvel at this treasure trove of Nordic artifacts.

SCC Permanent Artifact Collection is going online!

Thanks to the tireless efforts of SCC Director Susan Young, her student associate Emma Kane, and SIEC curator Kerstin Ringdahl, the entire SCC artifact collection will soon be online. The website will provide researchers with a color photograph and description of each piece, its provenance, and the name of the donor. The process is painstaking, but we hope to complete the project by May 2011.

Wall hanging in brown tones.
30x60" Donor: Astrid Hildahl



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On April 24, the main level of PLU's University Center underwent a "Norwegian" transformation. Visitors were greeted by local vendors selling authentic Norwegian wares—from sweaters, rosemaling, and weaving, to art, woodcarving, and Hardanger embroidery. Tantalizing aromas from the "Norwegian Café" permeated the air and stimulated the senses while musical entertainers cultivated the festive atmosphere. Mark your calendars for next year—April 30, 2011!

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"We are members of one body . . . We were born for the good of the whole". These prophetic words were spoken by Norwegian immigrant Thea Foss who took a singular rowboat, painted it green, and turned it into a maritime empire. The inspiration for Hollywood's "Tugboat Annie," Thea Foss was a pioneer woman with a head for business. On April 27, we spent an evening with Thea Foss. We began with the showing of "Finding Thea" the acclaimed documentary film produced and directed by Lisa Ostrander and Nancy Bourne Haley. Then, acclaimed storyteller Karen Haas took center stage and right before our eyes, she became Thea Foss. Dressed in period costume and speaking with a Norwegian accent, Karen's creative and entertaining reenactment allowed Thea to share her life story in first person. Thanks to Karen, Haas, Lisa Ostrander, and Nancy Bourne Haley, Thea's legacy and her place in Washington history will live on for generations to come.



Coming this Fall!

8%2/) . */4)- "069 !Dekorglädje)
Swedish Paintings by Alison Aune



Dalarna Day Lily, 2007 (8x8")

We are pleased to announce yet another extraordinary art exhibit that will be arriving in September. "Ornamental Joy" or *Dekorglädje* (literally translated decoration happiness) will be on display from September 14 through November 14, 2010, and features the work of Swedish

artist Alison Aune of Duluth, Minnesota. Alison's work is inspired by Swedish peasant patterns and their botanical symbolism. The *Dekorglädje* series was created as a tribute to Alison's maternal Swedish forbearers and other "artists in aprons." By revising and reinterpreting traditional designs into an exciting contemporary context, Anne pays tribute to contributions made by women to Minnesota-Swedish folk art. The exhibition premiered in 2007 with a display at the Duluth Art Institute.



Alison Aune, a self portrait

Alison Aune is an associate professor and area chair of art education at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She was recently in Sweden as a Fulbright scholar where she spent a semester at the University of Växjö, teaching and researching art and museum education. She will be on campus in September and will speak at an opening reception currently being planned. Be sure to watch for the date in the next issue!

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The group meets from 6:30—7:30 PM—NEWCOMERS WELCOME!
Garfield Book Company located at 208 Garfield Street, Tacoma, WA 98444

Monday, May 3 7 Sun Storm by Åsa Larsson

Stockholm attorney Rebecca Martinsson comes from remote Kiruna in Sweden's far north, where she was involved with a fundamentalist church called The Strength of All Our Strength. When a church leader is brutally murdered, Rebecca returns to Kiruna to defend the victim's sister who has been charged with the crime. Author Åsa Larsson grippingly builds suspense while creating mood using frozen landscapes and isolated locations to evoke the icy inner lives of the church members.

Monday, June 7 7 Silent Patriot by Astrid Karlsen Scott

When Germany attacked Norway in 1940, Hugo Munthe-Kaas became the youngest recruit in the brutal campaign. He served as a secret agent for British Intelligence Service, set up an undercover network of coastal radio operations, rescued four sailors left behind in Norway, participated in a near fatal seek and destroy mission., and trained underground fighting forces, preparing them for battle. In 1943 he received the War Cross with Sword, Norway's highest wartime medal. He also received the British Distinguished Service Medal, and the French Legion of Honor. His story deserves a place of honor in every WWII library.

Monday, July 5 7 Alberta and Freedom by Cora Sandel

Aspiring writer/author Alberta Selmer escapes from a suffocating provincial life in Norway to seek summer riches in Paris. But Paris is not all she imagined. Alberta's self-esteem is low, and her inexperience makes her prey to the casual approaches of predatory men. Relationships, when they happen, are neither easy nor happy. Feeling her talent as a writer beginning to suffer and her freedom stagnating, Alberta struggles to survive.



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Annual Sigrid Undset Festival, May 25-30**

The 2010 Sigrid Undset Festival (also named Norwegian Festival of Literature) is the largest literature festival in the Nordic countries. Its main focus is Norwegian contemporary literature and the interaction between literature and society. The festival is Norway's largest meeting point for authors, translators, literary critics, publishers, and librarians. Taking place in May in Lillehammer every year since 1995, the festival is named in honor of Nobel Laureate Sigrid Undset who lived in Lillehammer the last 30 years of her life (1919-1949).

The main theme for the 2010 festival is "Breakaway" in literature. Breaking away can be both beautiful and painful. It can make us free and independent, but it can also leave us in utter loneliness and isolation. How are contemporary authors and contemporary literature important in constructing or changing the identity of a nation? In literature it can intend to shape society and history, to shape new alliances and connections.

Considered a prestigious honor, PLU Associate Professor Claudia Berguson will be a guest speaker at this year's festival. Claudia teaches Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies. She earned a doctorate from the University of Washington, where she wrote her dissertation on Kristin Lavandatter. We extend our congratulations and well wishes.



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The *Scandinavian Scene* is a bi-monthly newsletter published for members and friends of the SCC.
Susan Young, Editor 253-535-7322/253-535-7349 Email: youngse@plu.edu Website: www.plu.edu/~scancnr

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