

## 33RD NORWEGIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD

APRIL 11, 2009

### *Got rømmegrøt? Got lefse?*

Got more Norwegian food, entertainers, vendors, raffle prizes, and demonstrators?

Of course! You'll find it all at the 2009 Norwegian Heritage Festival!

Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. in PLU's University Center.

**Food:** Visit the *Norsk Café* in Chris Knutzen Hall, where the food choices will include *smørbrød* (open-face sandwiches), delicious *småkaker* (cookies), *ertesuppe* (pea soup), *pølse med lompe* (a sort of Norwegian hot dog), and *fruktsuppe* (fruit soup), in addition to the aforementioned *rømmegrøt* (soured cream pudding) and *lefse*!

**Entertainment:** While you're enjoying the food you will be entertained by several local Scandinavian musical groups: the Normanna Male Chorus, Nordic Exposure (a folk dance band), the Embla Lodge *Leikarring* dance group, and the Smilin' Scandinavian!

**An exciting addition to the festival:** Be there at 1:30 p.m. to hear the official announcement of the 2009 recipient of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize. All of the participating organizations at the festival support this worthy award.

**Vendors:** You'll be sure to find just the right sweater, *lefse* stick, or last minute Easter gift at one of the many vendor booths from all over Pierce County, who will offer their unique Scandinavian goods for sale.

**Demonstrations:** Watch demonstrations of Norwegian arts and crafts, including *Rosemaling*, *Hardanger* embroidery, spinning, and wood-carving.

**Information:** Friendly people at information tables will introduce you to the local Norwegian organizations that make the Norwegian Heritage Festival possible – Norden Lodge #2, Sons of Norway; Embla Lodge #2, Daughters of Norway, *Nordlandslaget Nordyset*, and the Scandinavian Cultural Center at PLU.



**Raffle drawings:** Thanks to the vendors and sponsoring organizations, there will be several great prizes! Drawings will be held twice during the festival. (You must be present to win.)

**The Scandinavian Cultural Center:** Finally, you will want to take an opportunity to visit the SCC, which will be open during the festival. Just take the elevator down to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and see this beautiful addition to the PLU campus, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! You won't want to miss the new exhibit there, **In Nicholas Delin's Footsteps**, a photo exhibition on the historical Swedes and Swedish-speaking Finns who were influential in early Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, from 1850 to 2000.

Artwork courtesy Sharon Aamodt

[www.nordicfolklore.com](http://www.nordicfolklore.com)

## SCC COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LISA MARIE OTTOSON

Greetings to you and thank you for supporting the Scandinavian Cultural Center with your membership. I am grateful and want you to know that your annual support means that the important and meaningful work of the center will continue to inspire and enrich the lives of visitors, young and (well...) not so young.

I hope you can join us for some of our upcoming events, as we have a great deal planned for the next couple of months (check out the details in the calendar section). We began our **Nordic Film Series** and have three more great films scheduled. You can read more about the films in the article by Prof. Troy Storfjell on page 5. Our **Norwegian Heritage Festival** is planned for April 11 so be sure to stop by, and a lecture by Brian M.

Magnusson is scheduled for April 5 - the official opening of our wonderful new **Nicholas Delin exhibit**. **Cooking classes** are scheduled, along with our ongoing **language classes** as well. Last, but certainly not least, the **Annual Spring Banquet** is set for May 30, and I truly hope you will be able to join us, because it will be extra special this year. Did you know that the Scandinavian Cultural Center was opened in May of 1989? The SCC is **20 years old!** We will be celebrating at the Spring Banquet, so be sure to watch for more information.

Blessings to all for a wonderful spring!

*Hilsen*, Lisa Marie



## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE NORWEGIAN TODAY

MAREN ANDERSON

I grew up with a strong sense that I was not simply an American, rather a Norwegian-American. My grandparents reminisced about their homeland of Norway, telling stories of this mythical perfection.

When I decided to study Norwegian in college, my studies were driven by a search for identity grounded in my ancestral roots. However, after four years of language and culture study, my senior thesis opened my eyes to a new understanding of Norway and what it means to be Norwegian today.

In our Languages and Literatures senior seminar this fall, the class of 14 participants selected “In the Margins: Language, Culture and Identity”. With this topic as my guide, my semester’s work focused on literature published around the celebration of Norway’s centennial celebration in 2005.

In 1999, the Norwegian government formed a working group called “World Citizens for 100 years”. The group led efforts to commemorate the significance of Norway remaining completely sovereign, examine the modern expressions of Norwegian-ness, and reflect on how Norwegian identity may change in the next century. One significant product out of this working group was the publication of four anthologies on identity. The anthology entitled *Mangfold* (Diversity) contains particularly interesting essays and perspectives on how modern Norwegians express their relationship to Norwegian nationality.

After analysis of two essays in the anthology, I discovered surprising perspectives on the strength and sustainability of national identity in the modern era of globalization. Expressing ideas of national identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century poses a very interesting challenge because, the essay and anthology suggest, the importance of the nation-state seems to be dwindling. Rather, individuals are searching for their understandings of identity in ideological groups and smaller communities—the all-encompassing *metanarratives* are being replaced by smaller more precise narratives that more succinctly express

identity. Individuals are no longer satisfied by allowing citizenship to be the main determinant of their identity.

I began my studies in Norwegian hoping to discover how my identity as a Norwegian-American may still connect me to the revered land of Norway. Yet, my senior capstone project has forever shifted my perspective on identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Identity is never static, rather always shifting, and in this modern era of globalization the understanding of what it means to be a Norwegian depends more on personal narrative and experience rather than the possession of a passport.

## SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

### A Message from the Chair, Troy Storfjell

The last few weeks have involved some hectic moments in planning as this year's **Nordic Film Series** finally got underway. Publicity posters and screening licenses have had to be arranged, presenters contacted, and brief film summaries written. But, although it has been a fair amount of work, it has been a pleasure. The attendance at our first two films has been good, and with the 1995 Dogme film *Italian for Beginners* (*Italiensk for begyndere*, Lone Scherfig, Denmark) and the 1966 classic *Persona* (Ingmar Bergman, Sweden) we've watched two very different films from two very different periods in Nordic cinema.

Interestingly, though, both films have been very influential outside of Scandinavia. Not only have they become required viewing in film studies programs around the world, they have also gone on to inspire writers and directors in multiple countries and cinematic traditions, even including Hollywood. While the Dogme movement's rejection of overproduction may have been most noticeable for the wave of shaky, hand-held camera work that exploded onto televisions and movie screens in the mid 1990s, its insistence on story over spectacle carried over into other sites of production as well, inspiring a number of independent films that offered an alternative to the over-the-top, blockbuster mainstream. And Bergman, of course, has long been considered one of the central figures of the European *auteur* tradition, highly respected both inside and outside of Hollywood. *Persona* itself strongly influenced such films as Woody Allen's *Another Woman* (1988), David Fincher's *Fight Club* (1999), and David Lynch's *Mulholland Dr.* (2001).

What the international reputations and influences of these Nordic films helps to illustrate is the global nature of film itself, and how no single national cinema can be understood in isolation. European, Asian, Latin American, and Hollywood directors have been watching each other's works for generations, inspiring and provoking each other in such a way that the global history of cinema can be viewed as one long conversation. We hope that you will enjoy participating in that conversation through the remainder of the Film Series. ❖

- Sunday, April 5 "Man Without a Past" Aki Kaurismaki, 2002 (Finland)
- Sunday, April 19 "Hunger" Henning Karlsen, 1966 (Norway)
- Sunday, May 10 "101 Reykjavik" Baltasar Kormakur, 2000 (Iceland)



## WHAT'S IN A LANGUAGE?

### January Term 2009 Course in Iceland and Norway

PROFESSOR CLAUDIA BERGUSON

## Programs of Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies January Term 2009 Seminar Leader

In the February 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet*, one article headline read “*Kven er mest fundamentalist?*” (Who is most fundamentalist?). From the headline alone, one might assume that the article dealt with religious fundamentalism, but it dealt instead with the latest language debate in Norway. This debate tackles the question of whether Norwegian national newspapers ought to be required to publish at least some of their material in *nynorsk*, one of the nation’s two official forms of Norwegian, or ought to remain exclusively *bokmål* publications. While the debate poses more questions than answers, one thing is certain: Language in the Nordic region continues to be a source of engaged debate and discussion.

This comes as no surprise to eleven students who studied “Culture, Language and Identity in Iceland and Norway” on a PLU January Term course. The group, led by Professor Claudia Berguson, spent three days of study on campus before departing for Reykjavik by way of Copenhagen. After five days in Reykjavik, the group moved on to Norway. Oslo was the “home base” for the group during the next two weeks, with several days spent in Volda/Ørsta and a day trip to Hamar. During the three weeks abroad, the seminar group met with Norwegian and Icelandic experts in a diverse number of settings –



from national language councils to national libraries, from urban university classrooms to cultural and multicultural centers – and heard the common theme that language remains very relevant to discussions of identity, nation building and globalization in the small nations of Iceland and Norway. In addition to guest lectures and presentations, the group met for discussions of readings and to compare the developing understanding of language as a dynamic and changing marker of identity.

Not all was study, of course. The group relaxed at Iceland’s famous Blue Lagoon, enjoyed tours of national museums and cultural sites, and made individual excursions to ride horses in Iceland, buy Icelandic and Norwegian literature and DVDs, and brave a snowstorm to see the statues at Vigeland Park. In their final papers, students explored topics ranging from the future of *bokmål* and *nynorsk* in



Norway to a cultural comparison of attitudes toward language preservation in Iceland and Norway.

The course was launched this year by the programs of Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies to add depth to the curriculum and provide students with a hands-on study of language beyond the classroom. Initiative for the course grew out the need to address students’ questions about the relationship between the Scandinavian languages, the existence of minority language forms, and the diversity of accepted forms of written and spoken language.

Interested in hearing more about the topic of culture, language and identity? Join us for a **presentation at**

**the Scandinavian Cultural Center on April 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

**PEKKA AND PERTTU: SUPERB PERFORMANCE BY FINNISH VIRTUOSI**

GUNNULF MYRBO

On Friday, February 20th, in the Scandinavian Cultural Center, Pekka Pentikainen and Perttu Paappanen presented a highly impressive program of Finnish music. It was titled *Finnish Fire and Ice Accordion and Fiddle*, a very fitting description of the performance. Pekka and Perttu both performed expertly on various sizes of button accordions, while Perttu also performed on the fiddle. The selections ranged from traditional Finnish dance music to pieces recently composed by Pekka. The styles of music varied considerably, but each piece was masterfully performed. The program clearly impressed and delighted the audience.



The evening ended with coffee/tea and *småkaker* (cookies), and an opportunity to meet and converse with Pekka and Perttu. Again a delightful evening at the SCC.

## CALENDAR

### EXHIBIT & EVENTS

**Current Exhibit: In Nicholas Delin's Footsteps**, a phenomenal photography collection produced by Professor Brian B. Magnusson. (See the article in the January/February Scene for more information about this exhibit.)

**Official Exhibit Opening and Lecture** by Brian B. Magnusson: Sunday, April 5, 6 PM

**Norwegian Heritage Festival:** Saturday, April 11, from 11 AM - 3 PM. Free admission, with raffles and entertainment throughout the day! Join us for an immersion into Nordic culture, music, dance, food, arts, and crafts. Announcement of 2009 GTPP laureate. (See page 1)

**Special Presentation on January Term Trip:** Wednesday, April 16, 7 PM. Prof. Claudia Berguson and students will discuss culture, language and identity.

**SAVE THE DATE! May 30, Annual Spring Banquet**, Celebrate the SCC's 20th Anniversary!

**NORDIC FILM SERIES in the SCC** - all films start at 3:00 p.m. Free admission!

Sunday, April 5 "Man Without a Past" Aki Kaurismaki, 2002

Sunday, April 19 "Hunger" Henning Karlsen, 1966

Sunday, May 10 "101 Reykjavik" Baltasar Kormakur, 2000

### CLASSES

**Scandinavian Cooking Classes:** 10 AM - Noon; \$5 per class; No registration required. (Class participants receive samples of all foods demonstrated.)

Tuesday, March 10 Swedish Cooking Class Norden Lodge #233 - Vasa Order of America;

Wednesday, March 11 Norwegian Cooking Class Embla Lodge #2 - Daughters of Norway

Saturday, March 21 Norwegian Cooking Class Embla Lodge #2 - Daughters of Norway

Tuesday, March 24 Norwegian Cooking Class Embla Lodge #2 - Daughters of Norway

Saturday, March 28 Danish Cooking Class Thyra Lodge #19 - Danish Sisterhood

**Intermediate Norwegian Language Classes:** Mondays, 6-9 PM IN THE SCC

**Beginning Norwegian Language Classes:** Tuesdays, 6-9 PM IN THE SCC

Contact: Audun Toven 253-536-8392 or tovenat@plu.edu

### MEETINGS

**Danish Sisterhood**, April 1 at 11 AM. Questions, call 253-539-0587

**Danish Sangaften**, March 15, April 19, at 6 PM. Questions, call 253-984-6700

**Executive Board Meeting**, March 17, 1 PM, UC 212  
**SCC Council Meetings**, March 11 and April 15, 5:30 PM IN THE SCC

### ALSO OF INTEREST....

#### **Tacoma - Aalesund Sister City Food and Film Festival**

**“The Bothersome Man”** (a comedy-drama) Thursday, April 2, at the Blue Mouse Theater. Tickets: \$18. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Film at 7:00 p.m. Tickets at the theater (N. 27th and N. Proctor St.) and at the Pacific Northwest Shop, 2702 N. Proctor St., 253-752-2242. Norwegian food will be served, followed by cultural entertainment and the showing of the film.

#### **Visiting Writers Series: Brad Land – “The Writer’s Story”**

Thursday, April 23: 5:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at the Garfield Book Company, followed by a reading at 7:00 p.m. in the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Join us for an evening with Brad Land, author of the best-selling memoir Goat and the novel Pilgrims Upon the Earth.

**Book signing and discussion:** Saturday, April 25, 3:00 p.m. at the Garfield Book Company Chuck Fowler and Capt. Mark Freeman. The co-authors of Tugboats on Puget Sound, a brand new installment in the *Images of America* series, will be in-store to discuss and sign their book.

## **THE BOOK NOOK - A TIME TO RELAX AND READ**

KAREN GIGUERE, Garfield Book Company

DOGHEAD, by Morten Ramslund . Winner of the Danish 'best novel' and 'best author' awards.

This novel about three generations of a highly dysfunctional Norwegian family is an international sensation, and is sure to gain devoted fans in the United States as well. The tale begins with the narrator visiting his dying grandmother, where he finds out that the family stories told down the generations have been lies, and that his grandfather was not a war hero but a liar and a cheat, nicknamed “crackpot.” By the time the real stories unfold, this book, like all great novels, will never be forgotten.



### **GREATER TACOMA PEACE PRIZE**

#### **MARCH 31 IS THE DEADLINE...**

to make a nomination for the 2009 Greater Tacoma Peace Prize! With committee representation from the SCC, Embla Lodge (Daughters of Norway), and Norden Lodge (Sons of Norway), the GTPP is endorsed by the Pierce County and Tacoma City Councils and relies on sponsorships and contributions from local businesses and individuals. The name of the 2009 recipient will be announced on April 11 at the Norwegian Heritage Festival, and the award will be presented at the SCC’s Spring Banquet/20th Anniversary Party on May 30. To find out how you can help, and/or make a nomination for 2009, please call 253-564-2822, or visit [www.tacomapeaceprize.org](http://www.tacomapeaceprize.org).

#### **2009 Committee**

Thomas Heavey, Lisa Ottoson,  
Janet Ruud, Tonia Simpson,  
Andreas Udbye, and Susan Young



The *Scandinavian Scene* (Susan Young, Editor) is a bi-monthly newsletter published for members and friends of the Scandinavian Cultural Center. For membership information, call 253-535-7322 or 535-7349, or e-mail <youngse@plu.edu> or write to: Scandinavian Cultural Center, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447. Visit our website: [www.plu.edu/~scancnr](http://www.plu.edu/~scancnr)

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