

Scandinavian SCENE

ISSUE #1, 2014

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER AT PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Us Local People: Sámi Vuoïŋŋa New Exhibit Showcases Sami Artifacts

Sámi culture, history and resistance to colonial pressures will be featured in a new SCC exhibit opening on February 6. Titled “‘Us Local People’: Sámi *Vuoïŋŋa* and Resilience,” the exhibit tells the story of how Scandinavia’s Indigenous Sámi people have endured land theft, racism, and attempts to eradicate their culture and language, not only resisting and surviving, but in fact building a vibrant, strong society of their own. Visitors will get to see Sámi arts and crafts, listen to traditional *joik*, and even experience a full-sized *lavvu*, or Sámi tent. They will also be able to learn about ongoing threats to Sámi life and culture, especially transnational mining ventures, and get a unique look at some ways that today’s Sámi are fighting back.



Sámi vuoïŋŋa means Sámi spirit, or Sámi cultural identity, and was part of the “Čájjet Sámi Vuoïŋŋa!” (Show Sámi Spirit!) slogan of the ČSV movement of the 1970s and 80s.

This exhibit will open at 4 p.m. on February 6, as part of PLU’s second annual celebration of *Sámi Álbmotbeaivi*—Sámi National Day. This day was chosen in 1992 by the Sámi people of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia in commemoration of the first international Sámi congress in Trondheim in 1917. That gathering was organized by Elsa Laula Renberg, a South Sámi woman from the Swedish side, and began the Sámi rights movement that led to official government recognition of Sámi rights, the creation of Sámi Parliaments in Finland, Norway and Sweden, and a revitalization of Sámi culture. PLU’s celebration will include music, film and food, as well as a short talk by Professor Troy Storfjell, a Mark Sámi from the Norwegian side. The exhibit will run until early April, and will serve as a showpiece for the SCC during the Regents’ meeting, the Holocaust and Genocide conferences, and this year’s annual Bjug Harstad Memorial Lecture, which will be given by Professor Henning Howlid Wærp of the University of Tromsø. SCC Director Elisabeth Ward worked on the exhibit with **Lynn Gleason**, a Sámi-American student from Puyallup, Professor Storfjell, and student **Peter Hunt**. Many of the artifacts were loaned by Sámi-Americans living in the Pacific Northwest, and part of the exhibit will focus on the experience of Sámi immigrants to the United States. Hope to see many of you at the opening! *Prof. Troy Storfjell*

From the President...

Godt Nyttår!

Although we're at the beginning of 2014, we are nearly halfway through the 2013/2014 school year. It was a busy beginning, with the Larson's Swedish Program (Ekelund), The Sweater and Nordic Treasures Sale and Exchange, the Sankta Lucia Festival, the Norwegian Language Christmas Service and the Viking themed Christmas Dinner. As well as the concerts, exhibits, the 'Resistance' movie series and lectures we enjoyed. Not to be outdone, the coming months will bring more performances, lectures, and exhibits



Melody congratulates this year's Lucia, Anna McCracken.

and the Norwegian Heritage Festival (Saturday, April 26th). Our program and exhibit committees and all our volunteers are at work putting together a wonderful celebration of the SCC's 25th Anniversary. This year's 17th of May (syttende mai) is also very special since it celebrates Norway's 200th Constitution Day.

As always our volunteers are the best. Here are a few more folks I'd like to recognize. **Clarene Johnson** and **Norita Stewart** are volunteers of the best kind, and both have deep PLU roots. They are currently working together and helping keep our volunteer's equipment and supply inventory recorded and accessible. And they keep their 'eyes out' for items, large and small, that we need and are responsible for revamping our kitchen and supply areas. Clarene and Norita frequently help at our events wherever they are needed, and they can each be counted on to do a brilliant job. **Judy Scott**, also a Lute, when not doing extra duty as a nurse, or being a neighborhood good-Samaritan, or (rarely) getting to fly her plane, serves as our Secretary. I truly appreciate her work on behalf of the council, and hope she realizes how much she's appreciated.

Of course, this school year has brought us Dr. Elisabeth Ward. From rearranging the 'Scan' center, having it repainted and getting alarms installed, among a few of the current projects, to being an integral part of all the fall and winter programs and events, she has been a welcome addition to the SCC. Our director, council and all of the SCC volunteers are the kind of people who will do everything they can to make the Scandinavian Cultural Center continue be one of the best parts of our community.

Ha det bra,

Melody Stepp

From the Director...

Lightness and Darkness

People often call Iceland the Land of Fire and Ice, a land of extreme contrasts. When I was living in Iceland, the contrast that really struck me was the radical shift from one season to the next. I had spent most of my time in Iceland as a child during the mild summer months or brief visits over Christmas. So living there year-round from 2006 to 2010, I was finally able to experience the months of January, February, and March. I was amazed by the way everyone got up and went to work, even when it was still pitch black outside at 10am, and the snow was three feet deep. And then before you knew what was happening, the days were suddenly longer than the nights, even by the end of March. Of course, the winter storms stepped up their force, even as the days lengthened. It was all absolutely mindboggling to me.

While volcanoes are unique to Iceland, all of the Nordic countries showcase dynamic contrast, swinging from endless summer days to cold dark winter nights. I've often wondered if that experience is what makes Scandinavian artists so daring. From film to music to painting and architecture, Scandinavian artists like to combine two contrasting elements, to bring together life and death, sadness and laughter. Indeed, from the weather to the landscape to the culture, everything in Scandinavia is dramatic. I hope to bring a bit of that to the Scandinavian Cultural Center in the coming months, starting with a contrastive paint-scheme: bright white paired with a warm, deep blue. And the upcoming exhibitions about the Danish rescue of the Jews and the struggle for Sámi rights both have a powerful narrative about contrast and change.

The Nordic Christmas Fest last December also had a dramatic flair, thanks in very large part to the artistic vision and enthusiastic hard work of **Lisa Ottoson**, **Linda Caspersen**, **Judy Scott**, and **Melody Stepp**. We transformed the Scandinavian Cultural Center into a Viking Chieftain's Hall, with wooden chandeliers and a few special Viking-clad re-enactors! Though much of that was successful, I must apologize for any undo drama brought on by me sending out invitations late and a lack of adequate explanation about the change of time. That made the event a bit more stressful than intended. But to those who did make it, and at the right time, I hope you enjoyed the food and the festivities.

As I start my fifth month here at the Scandinavian Cultural Center, and go through January, February, and March, I trust things will get easier, just as the days are slowly getting brighter and brighter. And so I say, *þetta réttast!* (That's Icelandic for: *it will all work out somehow!*)

Elisabeth I. Ward



Director Elisabeth Ward attending the Norwegian Christmas

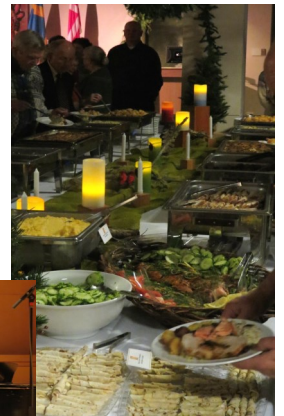
Christmas 2013 Programs

Sankta Lucia, Nordic Christmas Fest, Norwegian Language Christmas Service

Top (l-r): Table decorations at Nordic Dinner, Lucia singers at Lagerquist

Middle: Norwegian students sing at NLCS, Anna McCracken lights the hope candles at Lucia Fest, decorations at Nordic Dinner.

Bottom: Vasa Choir performs at Lucia, Shirley Haukali's cookies at Nordic Dinner, Phil Nesvig's sermon at NLCS



Scandinavian Dance Classes lead up to a great concert!

Slip on your dancing shoes, grab a partner, and get ready to learn a variety of Scandinavian traditional folk dances this spring! PLU employee and fiddle player **Leslie Foley** has teamed up with **Bob Hamilton** to teach schottis, polska, mazurka, and circle mixers from Sweden and Norway. Both Bob and Leslie have many years experience dancing and fiddling. The classes will run for six consecutive weeks, every Monday night at 7pm, starting February 17th. Two of the dances that will be taught are called “emergency polka”, which can be used with a variety of folk accordion and fiddle songs. Other dances are more regionally specific, and intended for certain songs. But all will be fun and easy to learn! Beginners will be welcomed and encouraged, while intermediate dancers will be refined and polished.



The classes will take place at the Chris Knudtzen Hall West, which is room 214 in the Anderson UC Building of PLU (upstairs from the Scandinavian Cultural Center), because the dances need to be done on a wooden floor. We will be advertising the classes to PLU students, so we hope for a nice, diverse group of dancers. Cost will be \$15 for students, \$20 for SCC members, or \$30 per couple.



Then get ready to show off those newly learned dancing skills at the Aallotar concert scheduled Sunday, March 30th! This live performance from two rising Finnish musicians will also take place in Chris Knudtzen Hall, from 5pm to 7pm.

Aallotar is a freshly minted trans-Atlantic collaboration between violinist Sara Pajunen (Minnesota) and accordionist Teija Niku (Finland). One hundred years ago, their ancestors lived within miles of each other in the western regions of Finland: the ensemble is founded on the common musical ground the women share, but also revels in the cultural differences formed when a lineage is separated by an ocean and the passage of time. Aallotar’s music, released on their March 2014 debut album, has been described as “exquisite, sophisticated chamber folk music.”

*March 30th:
Aallotar!*



Upcoming Events:

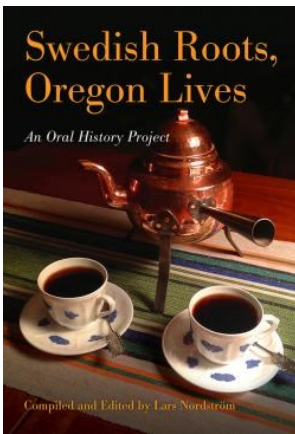
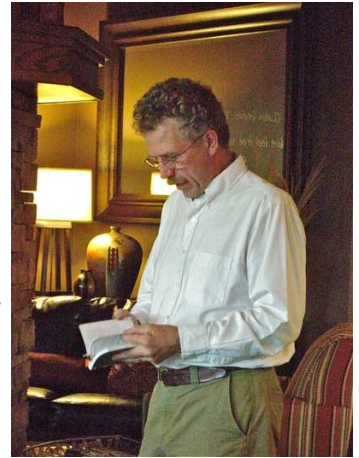
Lars Nordström Book Signing January 24th!

A good friend of the Scandinavian Cultural Center, Lars Nordström, is coming to Garfield Book Company on January 24th to read from and sign copies of his new book, *Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives*. For ten years, he has led an educational, non-profit, historical research group in Oregon called Swedish Roots in Oregon. Among many other things, this group has published two books, *Swedish Oregon* (2008), a history of the Swedes in Oregon, and *Ten New Lives:*

Swedes in the Pacific Northwest (2011). The latter is

a volume of oral histories. For both of those books,

Lars came to the Scandinavian Cultural Center for a book reading. This time, **Ed Larson** suggested a book reading at the Garfield Book Company, PLU's bookstore. **Linda Nyland** has been instrumental in setting up the event, and has secured for us not only a wonderfully cozy room but also a selection of Scandinavian treats. The event will take place at 4pm, and is free. This is also a great opportunity to take advantage of the end-of-season sale at the Garfield Book Store, and of course, to get your own, autographed copy of this well-researched and fascinating book about our Swedish neighbors to the south!



February 23rd: Soup with Sallie!

Sallie Shaw, the 2013 Greater Tacoma Peace Prize Laureate, is an outstanding member of the greater Tacoma community and deeply committed to peace. She has founded or been instrumental in organizations ranging from Jewish Voices for Peace, Ground Zero Center for Non-Violent Action, Interfaith Youth Camp of Key Island, and the Associated Ministries of Pierce County. For these and her many other efforts, she was chosen as the GTPP laureate, and sent to Norway to participate in "Nobeldagene" (the Nobel Days) during December of 2013. She and her traveling companion Linda Frank met with leaders at several peace organizations/entities in Oslo and Lillehammer, and they attended the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony on December 10.

On Sunday, February 23rd, Sallie will give a presentation about her experience and answer questions at the Scandinavian Cultural Center. A luncheon of soup, salad, bread, and dessert will be served. The cost is \$18 per person. Please contact the SCC or Janet Ruud if you would like to make a reservation.

Now accepting nominations for 2014 GTPP! Please go to www.tacomapeaceprize.org to learn more about how to nominate a worthy local person!

Winter 2014 Calendar of Events

- **Exhibits**

Us Local People: Sámi Vuoiŋŋa and Resilience

On Display in the Hildahl Gallery

Danish Rescue of the Jews: Exhibition from the Danish Resistance Museum

On Display in the SCC Meeting Room

- **Public Hours: Free Admission**

Sundays, 1:00-4:00 PM, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11:00AM-3:00PM

CLOSED 1/15 AND 1/27-30

- **Danish *Sangafsten*—Newcomers Welcome—2:00PM, Free Admission**

January 19th, February 16th, March 16th, Info: 235.984.6700

- **Lars Nordström Book Signing at Garfield Bookstore—4:00PM**

Friday, January 24th

- **Saami Exhibit Opening Reception—4:00-8:00PM**

Thursday, February 6th, refreshments will be provided

- **Executive Board (UC 212, 5:30PM) & Council Meetings (SCC, 6:15PM)**

Wednesday February 12th & Wednesday March 12th

- **Scandinavian Dance Classes— In Chris Knutzen Hall West**

Mondays, February 17th– March 24th, to register call: 253.535.7322

\$20 per person, \$30 per couple for 6 classes

- **Soup with Sallie, with Tacoma Peace Prize Recipient 2013 Sallie Shawl—1:00PM**

Sunday, February 23rd, \$18 per person, \$5 per student

- **Danish Sisterhood Meetings—Newcomers Welcome—9:30AM**

January 8, February 5th, March 5th

- **Norwegian Cooking Classes—10:00AM**

March 12th, March 18th, March 29th, \$5 per class, walk-ins welcome

- **Finnish Violin and Accordion Duo, Aallotar— 5:00-7:00PM, Free Admission**

Sunday March 30th, hor d'oeuvres will be provided

* Event will take place in Chris Knutzen Hall West (so we can dance!)

*The Scandinavian Shop at the PLU Garfield Book Company
offers special monthly discounts to SCC Members with membership card.*

*February & March 2014
20% off all jewelry items!*