

2012 Award Presentation Honors Father William "Bix" Bichsel, S.J.

The Greater Tacoma Peace Prize is presented at the annual Spring Banquet in the Scandinavian Cultural Center on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University. Over 160 members of the Tacoma community attended the banquet on June 2, 2012, to help celebrate the presentation of the 2012 award to peace activist Fr. Bill Bichsel. 'Bix,' now in his eighties, has dedicated his life to the causes of peace and justice, even when taking a stand means going to jail. Bichsel's lifelong activism led to his selection as the GTPP laureate for 2012.

The concept of a local peace prize came from Thomas Heavey, Founding Chair of the GTPP and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2005, upon the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Norway's peaceful separation from Sweden, and inspired by the Nobel Peace Prize, Tom and others created the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize to honor local community members who work for peace. The GTPP Committee meets throughout the year to receive and review nominations, raise funds, plan the Oslo trip for the laureate, and promote the cause of peace. For more information, visit their website: <http://www.tacomapeaceprize.org/>



Fr. Bill Bichsel and Thomas Heavey



Denny Flannigan and Father Bix

In his nomination essay, Denny Flannigan (above left) wrote, "How appropriate and just plain right to honor [Fr. Bix] while he still lives, acts, and defies conventions that need defying."

A special component to the program was the premiere performance of "Lullaby for Peace," an original composition by Pacific Northwest musician Erik Snyder. Mr. Snyder (right) wrote the piece especially for the awarding of the 2012 Greater Tacoma Peace Prize to Father Bix. Attendees' comments were deservedly laudatory. Visit Erik's website: <http://eriksnyder.bandcamp.com/> to listen to this incredible composition. (Photo credits: Blake Kremer and Andreas Udbye)



Erik Snyder

New Danish Folk School Set to Open in Minneapolis

by Ed Andersen, Erik Bruun and Gitte Mohr

The Danish American Center in Minneapolis announces the opening of The Danebo Folk School, where rooms for up to 25 residents overlook the picturesque Mississippi River. The Danebo Folk School follows the original Danish *Folkehøjskole* concept. It is a one week residential program for adults. The inaugural session will run from September 16-22, 2012, with special classes in watercolors and woodcarving offered by experienced instructors.

The idea of folk schools in Denmark was the brain child of N.F.S. Grundtvig in 1840. He developed the idea of a school for the people, *the folk*, in contrast to the academic high school, *Latin Skolen*, which was geared towards educating the elite. He was inspired by the ideas that sparked the revolutions and changes in governing that were happening all over the western world. He recognized that a broad based education of the population was the prerequisite for a healthy democracy.



In contrast to the prevailing schools that functioned through rote learning, repetition, and testing, folk schools did not have a narrowly defined educational objective. They offered classes in literature, history, religion, social skills needed to function in the world, gymnastics, and art, but, there was no testing and no formal diploma. It was a school for learning: learning from each other, learning to live, and learning that life could be rich with many opportunities. Folk schools were private schools and primarily served the young people in the rural population, who had very few other educational options after primary school ended at the age of twelve.



Danish Folk Schools in America

Many of the early emigrants to America came from the rural populations in Denmark and were familiar with *Folkehøjskolen*, (The Folk School). As they settled their communities they established seven such schools across North America. The folk schools flourished for many years as a focal point for the education of the rural Danish young people. As the American school system expanded, the need for additional educational opportunities for children and young people declined. During the 1920's the Danish American Folk Schools began to close for lack of students. Some buildings were converted to other uses, and some were torn down. Today, two remnants of the Danish American Folk Schools are going strong.

Danebod Folk School in Tyler, Minnesota, has been in existence since 1888. The school closed after a few years of declining enrollment, but reopened in 1946. It became the home of the Danebod Family Camps that today attract 400 people to three camps every summer. **The Solvang Folk School** was founded in 1911. Later known as Atterdag College, it operated until 1936, when the building was converted to a retirement home. Today the building is gone, but the spirit lives on in the Farstrup-Mortensen lecture series sponsored each February by the Bethania Lutheran Church in Solvang, California.

Watercolors and Woodcarvings
September 16 to 22, 2012

Come to Restore — Leave Revived

Fine arts and crafts
Lectures and discussions
Field trips
Folk dancing and music
Nature walks
Danish-inspired community meals

For registration and information:

<www.danebofolkschool.org>

612-567-7185

<info@danebofolkschool.org>

PLU Welcomes New President

Effective June 1, 2012, Thomas W. Krise became the thirteenth President of Pacific Lutheran University, founded in 1890. On Tuesday, September 4, PLU will celebrate both the inauguration of its new president and the academic year Opening Convocation.



"Patty and I are delighted and humbled to be tapped for this important journey," Krise said.

Dr. Krise is a retired Air Force officer and former professor of English. He was the dean of the arts and sciences college at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, and according to PLU officials, was chosen as PLU's president in a unanimous vote of the Board of Regents. He is married to Patricia (Patty) Love Krise, a Fortune-50 manager and executive currently with the Ford Motor Company.

"His experience, his proven leadership ability and his understanding of the values and aspirations of the university make Thomas Krise a perfect fit with PLU," said Bruce Bjerke '72, chair of the Board of Regents.



Kim Nesselquist Knighted on 17th of May



Kim Nesselquist, Knight 1st Class

Norwegians around the world celebrate *syttende mai*, the 17th of May, in remembrance of the 1814 signing of the Norwegian Constitution declaring Norway as an independent nation, which became official in 1905 when Norway peacefully broke away from Sweden and elected a king.

Amid the celebrations, Seattle's Honorary Norwegian Consul Kim Nesselquist was named knight first class to the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. This prestigious award began in 1985 by then-King Olav V to honor foreigners, Norwegian citizens living abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomats, foreign civil servants in Norway, and Norway's honorary consuls for outstanding service in the interests of Norway. Norway Consul General Sten Arne Rosne made the presentation on behalf of HRH King Harald.

Nesselquist has a degree in Marketing from the Oslo School of Marketing, and a Bachelor's degree in international affairs from PLU ('83). In Norway, he was a political adviser for the Conservative Party, served as adviser in the Mayor's Office in the City of Oslo, and as a deputy minister (*Byraadsekretær*) of Health and Social Services. He served two terms on the City Council of Drammen, his hometown.

He returned to America in 1990 and has since served as Executive Director and CEO of the Norwegian American Foundation (2003-2011), and board member of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, of which he was President, the Norse Home Retirement Center, the Norwegian American Weekly, UW Center for Scandinavian Studies, the Norway America Association (Oslo), and as Regent at PLU until 2011 when he took a position in the Office of Development at the university. Kim and his wife Krystn have three children.

Reaching Out to the Community to Share Norway

by Susan Young

Several months ago, I was contacted by Joan Rittierodt and Kelley Lee, teachers at Pope Elementary School in Puyallup. They told me about a cultural day they were planning for the students at Pope on June 7th. It was to focus on Scandinavia—music, dance, folk art, and artifacts. It sounded like an exciting and worthwhile project



and I readily agreed to help. Together, with the help of many other talented musicians and artisan, we were able to put together a fantastic cultural program for the students and teachers.

A talented group of young Finnish musicians called *Jepokryddona* was on tour in the Pacific Northwest and agreed to give the opening performance (left). *Jepokryddona* (formed in 1994) is a folk group made up of Swedish speaking Finns who, for the most part, play traditional music from Jeppo, Finland. www.jepokryddona.com/

Nordic Exposure (right), a group of extremely talented musicians, were very popular with the students. The group has performed at the Scandinavian Cultural Center on several occasions, most recently at the 2012 Annual Spring Banquet. Pictured left to right: Laurie Walton, Karen Goettling, Jeff Anderson, and Jane Johnson. Karen, Jeff, and Jane played at Pope Elementary.



A day devoted to Scandinavian culture would not be complete without folk dancing. Dressed in their native Norwegian costumes, the Daughters of Norway Embla No. 2 *Leikering* (left) performed several lively dances much to the delight of the students. Pictured left to right: Melody Stepp, Mary McGoran, Diane Nelson, Judie Miller, Joan Anderson, Carol Voigt, Mardy Fairchild.

The Scandinavian Shop at the PLU Garfield Book Company offers special monthly discounts to SCC Members with membership card. July and August—20% off all jewelry

Artic Culture with Elementary School Children



The teachers at Pope Elementary (left) wanted to be able to teach their students the art of wheat weaving. Skilled instructor Jean Whipple was more than willing to help. The teachers had a great time learning a new craft and were anxious to pass it along to the students in their classes.



Paper woven hearts are very popular in Scandinavia. Pictured to the right, SCC members Betty Larson (standing) and Melody Stepp (in red at end of table) show several teachers how to cut the colorful paper strips and then weave them into decorative heart baskets. Even the school principal, David Sunich, got into the act.



Pictured above is a display window in the hallway just outside the school library. Items in the display were drawn from the Scandinavian Cultural Center Permanent Artifact Collection. The exhibit was designed and mounted by SCC Vice President Melody Stepp. The stunning display contained items of interest to children and adults, and was enjoyed by all.

Rosemaling is a very popular form of folk art painting in Norway. SCC member Julie Ann Hebert (below) shared her talents as an expert rosemaler with the children at Pope Elementary. The students had a great time painting their own designs on paper plates to hang on their classroom walls.



Julie Ann Hebert



Peter Grosvenor

Gunnar Sønsteby (1918-2012) A Life to Remember, a Life to Honor

By Professor Peter Grosvenor

Department of Political Science, Pacific Lutheran University

Whenever I am home in London at Christmas, I visit Trafalgar Square for the gigantic Christmas tree the Norwegians give us each year in recognition of Britain's support for the Royal Norwegian Government, and for the Norwegian resistance, during WWII. The Norwegian resistance captured my imagination early in life when I saw Anthony Mann's film *The Heroes of Telemark* (1965), a romanticized account of the famous

operation to destroy the German heavy water plant at Rjukan. So I will always be indebted to PLU for giving faculty and students the opportunity to actually meet resistance leader Gunnar Sønsteby when he visited campus to inaugurate the Harstad series of lectures in March 1998.

Mr. Sønsteby passed away on May 11, at the age of 94. He was Norway's most decorated soldier, and the only one ever to be awarded the War Cross with three swords. He was also honored with the British Distinguished Service Order, and the American Medal of Freedom with Silver Palm. His war memoir *Report From #24* (1965) is a classic of its kind and recounts his role first as a member of the Milorg resistance movement, and then also as an agent of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE).

As a member of the "Oslo Gang," Mr. Sønsteby played a leading role in highly effective clandestine actions. These included the theft of note-printing plates from the Norwegian central bank, the sabotage of arms and aircraft manufacturing, the destruction of files and records intended for use in deportations and ration reductions, and the disruption of the railways as the Germans tried to redeploy the Wehrmacht southwards after D-day. Upon the liberation of Norway, Mr. Sønsteby served as a bodyguard for the returning royal family.



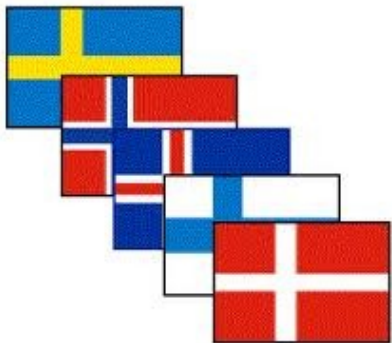
Gunnar Sønsteby



After the war, Mr. Sønsteby left to study at the Harvard Business School, and worked for a time in the American oil industry. He returned to Norway as a private businessman but continued to work tirelessly to educate young Norwegians about the war years. He was also active in the successful campaign against the naming of an Oslo street in honor of novelist Knut Hamsun, who had gifted his Nobel Prize to Joseph Goebbels. In 2007, a statue of Mr. Sønsteby was unveiled in Oslo by King Harald V, and in 2008 he was portrayed by Norwegian actor Knut Joner in the film biography of another distinguished resistance leader *Max Manus*.

Like other countries occupied during WWII, Norway continues to debate difficult questions of resistance and collaboration, and the many complex ethical dilemmas that the occupation experience inevitably produced. But Gunnar Sønsteby was laid to rest as a national hero. His state funeral took place in Oslo Domkirke on May 25, with King Harald and Prime Minister Jens Soltenberg in attendance.

SAVE THESE DATES IN OCTOBER



Embla Lodge No. 2 Daughters of Norway
presents

NORDIC FESTIVAL

A celebration of Nordic culture

Saturday, October 13, 2012

10:00 am—4:00 pm

Edgemont Junior High School
2300 110th Avenue E
Edgewood, Washington

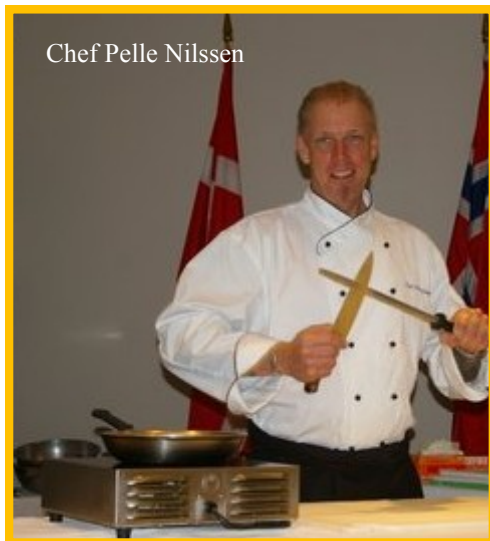
For further information contact: Mardy Fairchild, Festival Chair
253.677.7700 or mfairch@citysounds.biz

FIFTH ANNUAL SWEDISH HERITAGE PROGRAM

Sunday, October 28, 2012, at 2:00 PM

Back by popular demand, Swedish Chef Pelle Nilsson will return for another outstanding cooking demonstration and tasting. Chef Pelle currently resides in San Francisco where he is a private chef and caterer. He began his dynamic culinary career at the age of fourteen, learning the classic European way of cooking while working alongside German and French chefs at a five-star hotel in Sweden. His impressive resume includes preparing a royal banquet for King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Funding for this exceptional annual event is made possible by the Betty and Edgar Larson Endowment, established in memory of Per Jonsson and Anna Persson Jonsson (parents of Betty Larson) and Ole Elias Larson Fjorstad and Hildur Johansson Larson (parents of Edgar Larson). Programs funded by the endowment focus on Swedish music, art, politics, history, and tradition, as well as current events. The 2008 inaugural event entitled *Dalahäst: Symbol of Sweden* focused on Swedish folk art. The 2009 program spotlighted renowned Swedish composer Karin Rehnqvist. The 2010 program featured Swedish cuisine with renowned Swedish Chef Pelle Nilsson. The 2011 program took place in Tacoma's Museum of Glass and featured a presentation and demonstration by Swedish glass artist Ingalena Klenell.



Chef Pelle Nilsson



Scandinavian SCENE

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Susan Young, Editor 253-535-7322/253-535-7349 Email: youngse@plu.edu Website: www.plu.edu/scancerter

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