

## **“Uncovering My Scandinavian Roots”**

Lecture by Genealogist Lorna Nelson  
Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM, Free Admission  
Anderson University Center, Knutson Hall

### ***Where do I start?***

*Church Records? Or CDs & Online Resources?  
Disbyt & Dispos Databases?  
Probate Records & Estate Inventories?  
Military Records? Or Historical Maps?*

Lorna Nelson comes to the Scandinavian Cultural Center with an acknowledged expertise on the ethnic and religious communities of her own state, Kansas, with a particular interest in the Scandinavians who settled in the Lindsborg region. Although her daily museum research includes the state's Germans and Mennonites, Lorna has focused much of her genealogical attention on the early Swedes and other Scandinavian groups in Kansas and has provided invaluable assistance to individuals throughout the United States seeking to discover their roots in Northern Europe.

On Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 PM, Lorna will present a lecture entitled, “Uncovering My Scandinavian Roots,” in Anderson University Center, Knutson Hall (located just inside the glass doors on the main floor). Lorna holds a Master of Arts in History from Wichita State University, and has served as Director of the McPherson County Museum in Lindsborg, Kansas, since 1995. She oversees a large and comprehensive museum collection that encompasses two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, and an extensive research library. Prior to assuming administrative duties for the Old Mill Museum, Lorna served in supervisory positions for living history museums in both Kansas and Missouri. With a life-long interest in history, and many years of genealogic experience, Lorna's introduction to Swedish culture and history began with her move to Lindsborg. Assisting researchers who visit the museum archives has further developed her interest and research skills in the field. After personally experiencing the joy of finding her own family roots, Lorna now enjoys helping others to make their own discoveries. “Since the research work we do at the museum is primarily Swedish, those records will be my point of reference,” says Nelson. “However,” she adds, “when I mention our projects to document the settlements and preserve records, the information easily applies to working with any Scandinavian-American community.” She will bring lots of handouts that include good resources for the other Scandinavian countries.



# You Really Do Have to be “Warped” to “Weave”

## About the New Weaving Project

The Scandinavian Cultural Center is home to an authentic Bergman loom. Just recently, Linda Caspersen-Andresen, SCC Textile Curator, warped (aka dressed) the loom in preparation for an exciting, on-going program for teaching others to weave. “The loom has been warped,” says Linda, “and we all know you have to be warped to weave!” The first phase of the project took place on March 4, when Linda worked with her first two students, Ellen McCracken and Karen Robbins. “Once the loom was warped and ready to go,” says Linda, “we learned how to cut strips of fabric that will be used for weaving beautiful rag rugs.”



If you would like to learn to weave, contact Linda at (253.219.8044) or <lindacaspersen@gmail.com>. You may also contact Karen Robbins at (253.988.1833) or <robbinsnestwa@comcast.net>. Lessons will be taught during public hours on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 3:00 PM. Lessons are free but you must call Linda or Karen before coming, to be sure an instructor will be on hand. Each student will work on the same rug, and together we will make something beautiful. The completed rugs will be used as gifts, raffle prizes, and auction sales. All proceeds will go to the Scandinavian Cultural Center.

## History of the Loom



In 2001, Kaylan Ardora of Tacoma donated the Margaret Bergman floor loom pictured above. Margaret Olofsson Bergman was a renowned weaver, teacher, and designer. Born in 1872 near Rorosjon, Jamtland, Sweden, she learned to weave at the age of seven from her mother, Maria Einarsdotte. In

1901, Margaret immigrated to the United States. A month later, she wed John Bergman in Seattle, and the couple moved to Bredidablik, a Scandinavian settlement north of Poulsbo. In 1914, after an absence of thirteen years while raising her six children, Margaret returned to weaving, and eventually designed and patented two looms (circa 1930s): the Bergman suitcase loom and the Bergman floor loom. Each loom was designed with unique folding frames that enabled the loom to collapse even when fully warped. Bergman conducted weaving classes and seminars throughout the Pacific Northwest and parts of British Columbia. In 1935, her students in Tacoma formed the first weaving guild in the western United States. Margaret was also instrumental in the formation of the Seattle Guild (1937) and the Kitsap County Guild (1938).



Margaret continually refined her skills, working at the loom until just a few weeks before her death on July 18, 1948, at the age of 76.

## *From the Scandinavian Area Studies Program Chair*

Spring is around the corner, which for the Scandinavian Area Studies Program here at PLU means early Christmas – why? This is the time of the year when the SCAN Program committee has the opportunity to reward deserving students in our program by awarding them scholarships, faculty/student research stipends, and travel abroad awards. The SCAN Program is in a very fortunate position indeed – we are privileged on the one hand to have had individual donors establish a number of endowed scholarships for students in Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian, and on the other to have at our disposal endowed funds from the Scandinavian Cultural Center to support students in both programs. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our donors and the SCC for the financial and academic support their generosity provides for our students.



The spring season is also traditionally when our annual endowed Bjug Harstad memorial lecture takes place. This year's lecture, entitled "Celebrating the Return of the Sun and the Recognition of a People: The Sámi National Day in the Context of Myth and Poetics," was presented by Professor Harald Gaski of the University of Tromsø in Norway, and was a great success and attracted a full house of both PLU students and faculty as well as visitors from outside the PLU community to the Scandinavian Cultural Center. I was delighted to meet some of Bjug Harstad's descendants at the event – the endowed lecture fund that Harstad's extended family established ensures that we will be able to attract the most interesting scholars and cultural practitioners of Norwegian culture(s) to PLU every year.

Finally, I'm also very excited to announce the next iteration of our annual Nordic Film Series, coordinated this year by Professor Peter Grosvenor in PLU's Department of Political Science, focused around the theme of *Resistance*. The first of the films entitled "Through Hell and High Water," will be shown later this spring (See article below), with the rest to follow over the course of the fall semester (details to follow) – we encourage anyone with an interest in Scandinavian culture and film to attend; looking forward to seeing you all there!  
*Ha det så bra*, Jennifer Jenkins, Chair, Scandinavian Area Studies Program

### *2013 Nordic Film Series to Focus on "War, Occupation, and Resistance in Scandinavia"*

The first film in our 2013 series will take place on Sunday, April 28, 2:00 PM, in the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Admission is free. The title of the film is "Through Hell and High Water: The Nancy Kelly Story." This award-winning documentary film tells the story of the most extraordinary rescue during WWII that resulted in saving the lives of 500 souls. It is also the touching love story of an 18-year-old girl fleeing from Nazi occupation. At times frightening, this is the story of undeniable courage in the face of adversity and the determination of the human spirit to fight for freedom at all costs.

We are pleased to announce that Nancy Kelly will be present on the evening of the showing, as will the film's director/producer, Elly M. Taylor, an international award-winning director. She was born in Edinburgh, England, and brought up in Ayrshire, Scotland. Elly, who believes in good storytelling and quality work, considers the common thread running through her films, be it documentary or drama, is that the message is strong and moving.



Kim Kittilsby  
SCC Council President

## *Greetings to my fellow story-tellers!*

Not long ago, I spoke with Signe Aarhus, cofounder of Oleana sweaters. She was visiting the Scandinavian Shop at PLU to introduce her newest line of “made in Norway” sweaters and accessories and also her latest book, “From Dream to Fairytale Reality,” recently translated into English. During our conversation, Signe shared a profound idea with me, “The future belongs to the storytellers.” I have pondered the importance of that statement ever since.

One day I paid a visit to one of our own “storytellers,” Kerstin Ringdahl, University Archivist and Curator of the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection (SIEC) in the PLU library. For over 31 years, Kerstin has been instrumental in preserving the Scandinavian immigrant story. I first met Kerstin when I was ten years old; to me, she was “the fun woman from Sweden who lives in the little white house down the hill.” The SIEC is a magnificent collection of books and historical documents that tell the stories about Scandinavian courage, faith, hope, and dedication.

Not long after that I ran into Norwegian Consul Kim Nesselquist. Kim, his wife Krystn, and I attended PLU together in the early 1980’s. It’s always fun to catch up with Kim to reminisce and tell stories about our time together as students. Recently, Kim accepted a position in the PLU Office of Development, and one of his current objectives is to raise awareness of the Svare/Toven endowment fund campaign. The endowment is named in honor of Trygve and Hulda Svare and Audun Toven. At PLU’s 2012 *Syttende Mai* (Norwegian Constitution Day) celebration, after a decade of fundraising, President Loren Anderson announced the establishment of the Svare/Toven Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies Endowed Professorship. The goal now is to raise additional funds for the establishment of a Svare/Toven Endowed Chair position. (See P. 5 for more details). I am proud to share with you that the Scandinavian Cultural Center Council voted unanimously to donate \$50,000 to the Svare/Toven Endowed Chair campaign fund.

There is a special place in my heart for the Svare and Toven families. They played a significant roll in the story of my life. Trygve Svare was the pastor who confirmed my paternal grandfather, Lyle Kittilsby, in North Dakota (circa 1920). Later, he was a pastor in Parkland and also a professor at PLU. My dad, Jim, first met Trygve in 1956 at an orientation for freshman at the Svare home near the PLU campus. Trygve later served as cultural attaché to Norway. My grandparents, Lyle and Katy Kittilsby, bought the home next door to the Svare’s (circa 1970). At that time, Trygve’s nephew Carroll “Doc” Svare and wife Cora lived there. The two families became close friends and remained so for the rest of their lives. The original Svare endowment was set up by Trygve’s children, Betty Svare Parrott and Richard Svare (cousins of “Doc” Svare). Like his father, Richard loved the arts and culture, spoke Norwegian, and lived a rich and colorful life, including once being invited to the Paris home of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor for Thanksgiving dinner!

My first recollection of Audun Toven is when my family and I went on his “honeymoon” with him in the mid-1970’s. Well, it’s not exactly what you think! Several PLU families chartered a flight from Vancouver, BC to Oslo, Norway. Audun and wife Iral had recently married and were on the same charter flight. As a youngster, I thought we were celebrating their honeymoon! However, once we got to Oslo, they went their way and we went ours! In later years, Audun would become my PLU professor, PLU advisor, and beloved friend. As we all know, Audun was instrumental in the creation of the Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies programs at PLU, as well as the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Audun was a storyteller who enhanced and enriched our lives. We, too, are story tellers, and through our stories, Audun’s legacy will live on for generations to come.

*Beste Hilsen, Kim*



## Meeting Audun Toven's Challenge for an Endowed Chair in Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies



By Kim Nesselquist

In both my roles as Consul of Norway for Washington and Idaho and Development Director at PLU, I feel great responsibility for continuing the fundraising for the Svare/Toven Endowed Professorship in Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies in order to meet Audun's challenge to build the endowed Professorship into an Endowed Chair.

This is a great goal, and it means that we need to increase the capital in the endowment to USD 2 million. At present the endowment's value stands at \$1,275,000, so we need an additional \$725,000 to go to reach Audun's challenge.

Endowed Chairs are associated with the best universities and colleges around the world. They are elite faculty positions that represent prestige, leadership, and profound responsibility. An endowed Chair will, in addition to the Endowed Professorship, secure funding for Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies programs and activities at PLU for perpetuity.

The Svare/Toven Endowed Professorship is named, and it is correctly decided that the Chair will carry the same name. Since naming rights often is an incentive for larger gifts, the fund raising is therefore focusing on existing donors to continue to give on an annual basis, and to find new donors who will make a five-year commitment at an annual amount they are comfortable with.

I hope you will help me in reaching this great challenge, both through your own giving and by helping us find new potential donors. Please contact me at 206.790 3088 or [nesselquist@plu.edu](mailto:nesselquist@plu.edu) if you want more information.

*It is with regret that we announce, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Svare/Toven lecture scheduled for March 18, featuring Ottar Grepstad, has been cancelled.*

*The Scandinavian Shop at the PLU Garfield Book Company offers special monthly discounts to SCC Members with membership card.*  
**March & April, 2013**  
**10% off on Scandinavian flatware and serving pieces**

# *In Memory of Norwegian Artist Sigmund Aarseth*

(May 16, 1936—December 12, 2012)



Sigmund Aarseth was born in 1936, right before World War II, in Sæbø, a small town on the West coast of Norway. He studied painting in Oslo after the war and was certified as a Master Painter. He and his wife, Ingebjorg, moved to her home in Valdres, where they raised three children, Gudmund, Marit and Halldis. In May of 2010 the Norwegian Crown awarded to Sigmund Aarseth the St. Olav Medal of Culture as the premier painter of Norway. Aarseth had an international reputation for both fine art and rosemaling.

Aarseth's paintings are in major collections around the world, including the Scandinavian Cultural Center Permanent Artifact Collection. The SCC at Pacific Lutheran University is home to seven original Aarseth masterpieces (three are pictured below). He also painted murals and decorations informed with a Scandinavian motif in countless interiors throughout Europe and the United States.



36x48"



36x48"



48x96"

You can experience Aarseth's passion for life through his art by going on line and entering "Sigmund Aarseth Painting to Music." Watching the video pictured to the right will transport you to the magical world of art and music. You will actually see how Sigmund Aarseth transformed color, shape, texture, and light into visual poetry. He has left an artistic legacy of great importance to all of us.



# Calendar of Events

## ● **Exhibits**

Nordic Textiles: From Handwork to Weaving. Now on display through April 14, 2013

Nordic Literature: Fact to Fiction, April 17—August 25, 2013

Public Hours: Free Admission

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

(Note: There will be no public hours on Easter Sunday, March 31.)

## ● **Danish Sisterhood Meetings. Info: 253.843.2279—Newcomers Welcome**

Wednesdays, March 6, April 3, May 1, 11:00 AM, Free Admission

## ● **Executive Board and SCC Council Meetings, Wednesday Evenings**

Executive Board: March 13, April 10, May 8 (No meetings in July and August)

Board: 5:30-6:15 PM, UC 212

Council: 6:15-7:30 PM, SCC & UC 134

## ● **Danish *Sangaften*—Newcomers Welcome—Free Admission**

Sundays, March 17, April 21, May 19, 2:00 PM, Info: 253.984.6700

## ● **Norwegian Cooking Classes, Daughters of Norway, Embla#2**

Tuesday, March 12; Saturday, March 23, Wednesday, March 27, 10:00 AM, \$5 per class

Info: 253.838.4232

## ● **Swedish Cooking Class, VASA Order of America**

Tuesday, March 19; 10:00 AM, \$5 per class. Info: 253.446.7703

## ● **Svare/Toven Endowed Lecture (Cancelled)**

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## ● **“Uncovering My Scandinavian Roots” (See P. 1)**

Lecture by Lorna Nelson, Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM, in Anderson University Center, Knutson Hall (located just inside the glass doors on the main floor), Free Admission

## ● **Western Rosemalers Association Quarterly Meeting**

Sunday, April 14, 12 noon. Info: 253.841.3392

## ● **Norwegian Rosemaling Classes**

Tuesday, April 23, Saturday, May 11, Saturday, May 18, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM. Registration required. \$25 per class. Info & Registration: 425.765.3694 or 425.882.3647

## ● **Norwegian Heritage Festival**

Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM—4:00 PM. Free Admission. Info: 253.422.0444

## ● **Nordic Film Series, “Through Hell and High Water” (See P. 3)**

Sunday, April 28, 2:00 PM. Free Admission. Info: 253.535.7349



# Scandinavian SCENE

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