

## Norway's Peace Engagement: Kristian Harpviken speaks on November 6<sup>th</sup>

You are cordially invited to a presentation on Norway's role in international peacebuilding November 6<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm in the Scandinavian Cultural Center. It is a privilege to bring guest speaker Dr. Kristian Harpviken, Director of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, to the PLU campus to present "Norway's Peace Engagement: Accomplishments, Achievements and Deep Dilemmas." Dr. Harpviken is a highly respected researcher and commentator on issues of conflict and peace, and he is often quoted in international media for his prediction of the year's Nobel Peace Prize winner. Join us to hear more about how the small Nordic country of Norway plays a role on the global stage of building peace. Dr. Harpviken will address the policies, successes, and challenges of Norwegian peace engagement. Light refreshments will be served from 6-7 pm. The event is free and open to the public. It is made possible through the Svare-Toven Endowed Professorship in Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies and a grant from NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad). It has been organized by Claudia Bergeson, Svare-Toven Endowed Professor of Norwegian at PLU.



In honor of Dr. Harpviken's visit to PLU, and our support of the Greater Tacoma Peace

Prize, a new exhibition entitled "Embracing Peace: Everyday Objects of Reconciliation" will be installed in the Scandinavian Cultural Center Hildahl Gallery. The exhibit will include new artifacts donated to the Scandinavian Cultural Center by Judith Williams, as well as many other pieces from the SCC collection. The exhibition will be up from November 3rd until January 28th, 2014.

*Gleðileg Jól*

*God Jul*

*Glædelig Jul*

*The annual Julefest will take place  
on December 21st! See you there!*



## *From the SCC President . . .*

God Jul and Happy Holidays Everyone! I'm so excited about all of the events we have to look forward to. I'm also enjoying getting to know our Scandinavian Cultural Center Council community better. Volunteers like **Karen Kunkle**, who does such a tremendous job as our Hospitality chair. You can always count on a beautiful display of food and decorations, and a welcoming smile. She makes our guests know that we are glad they're attending. **Lisa Ottoson** has done an excellent job in each of the many roles she's played within the SCC, including currently serving as the Treasurer. As Events chair, she coordinates wonderful concerts, and special programs, and we wouldn't expect any less from this accomplished lady. **Kate Emanuel-French** volunteered to chair the Docent Committee, and she has done an outstanding job. She makes sure our public hours are covered and has increased the number of volunteers, we are fortunate to have her. These are a few of the council members I have the privilege to work with.

Something that I'm grateful for is the increasing student involvement with the Scandinavian Cultural Center. We welcome members of the recently formed PLU **Scandinavian Club**. We have already met with students **Hallie Peterson**, **Madeleine Brekke**, and **Kindra Gallan**, to see how we can work together, and it is very promising. Of course our own student assistant, **Kiersten Bowers**, who is the reigning Lucia, has been invaluable during her time with center -but this is her last semester. I can't imagine what it will be like not having her calm manner, quick knowledge, and fun attitude around while working in the center! We have also invited the Resident Advisors to take part in events and help us encourage their students to also. We want to hear their ideas as well. We are also planning to have more events, and more Nordic organizations involved.

Please come and see the revamping going on in the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Thanks to the cooperation between various PLU offices and departments and Elisabeth Ward, SCC director, and the council, you are going to benefit greatly. Lighter, brighter, more exhibit areas, rearrangement of displays, and more signage are a few

upgrades you can look forward to soon. In fact, come to the Christmas season events and you will already see changes. Although it's very important that what is done will continue to honor the past, I hope we can strike a gracious balance between doing that, and looking forward and welcoming the future.



*Top: M. Ellickson, L. Ottoson, J. Ruud, E. Ellickson, K. Kunkle, M. Stepp, A. Govig, K. Robbins, Bottom K. E-French, S. Young, C. Knudtson, M. Johnson, C. Voigt at the Docent Appreciation Luncheon.*

*Ha det bra, Melody Stepp*

## *From the New Director . . .*

My first article for the Scandinavian Scene! What a pleasure to have this opportunity! Since I started here on September 1<sup>st</sup>, I have met more caring, interesting, dedicated, and talented people than I really could have imagined. I can't wait for the upcoming events in November and December, when I will get to meet even more of you! A special thanks goes out to **Susan Young**, who really went the extra mile to make sure everything was in as good a shape as possible before I arrived. Her organizational skills are extraordinary, and, well, I freely admit I will not be able to live up to her standards completely. But in other ways, I hope she, and the membership of the Scandinavian Cultural Center, will feel like the Center is in good hands with me as the director. **Melody Stepp** also deserves a big, big thanks for everything she has done to make me feel welcome, and to take certain tasks under her wing as I get myself oriented. Our goal is to give the membership everything they have come to expect from the Scandinavian Cultural Center over the years, with hopefully some extra new bonuses. Melody is determined not to let anything slip through the cracks during this transition, and I for one am very grateful for her leadership.

Over the next few months, there will be some changes to the Scandinavian Cultural Center. What do I mean by change? Creative, **Honest**, Artistic, Novel, **Genuine**, Exciting, that spells change! I want the Scandinavian Cultural Center to be a shining beacon representing the membership, and reflecting the Scandinavian ethic of hard work and equality.

Whenever I think of what being Scandinavian means to me, I immediately think of my grandfather and grandmother in Iceland. She worked first as a hired hand at a farm on the shores of Lake Thingvellir, where she met my grandfather. The two of them then moved to the town of Keflavík, where she worked in the fish factories and he worked as a brick layer. They raised their four children, and took in several others, all the while filling their home with books, music, and the most amazing wood carvings I have ever seen. And coffee, and flatbread, and fish, lots and lots of amazing fresh fish. My grandmother's kitchen was the hub of activity for the neighborhood, she made everyone feel so welcome.

I am sure so many of the members have memories like that, of their parents and grandparents, and I suspect several of you are hubs of activity yourselves! I feel blessed to be among people who can appreciate what it takes to make the most out of what little one has. The Nordic countries are not the easiest places on earth to eke out a living, and yet they found a way to become some of the best societies today in which to live. That truly is remarkable.

And so I say, *Ég hlakka svo til!* (That's Icelandic for: I am really looking forward to it!)

*Elisabeth I. Ward*



*Esther Ellickson (R) welcoming Elisabeth Ward (L) to her new office. Photo: Kate Emmanuel-French*

## *In Memoriam*

One of our council members is no longer with us, we will miss **Gunnulf Myrbo**, who passed away September 1<sup>st</sup>. He was a long-time council member and a good friend of the center. His sense of humor and patience, among his other qualities, will be remembered. On behalf of the SCC, Lisa Ottosom shared these memories at the memorial held for Gunnulf in the SCC on September 28th:

“In the mid-80’s, I had the pleasure of working in the Department of Religion and Philosophy, and that is when I first got to know Professor Myrbo. He was always pleasant and offered a smile when he came back to his office. It also seemed that he had a good relationship with all his students.

After graduation I would invariably see Gunnulf while attending various Scandinavian events all around the community.... The Norwegian Heritage Festival that happens here in April, the big October Scandinavian Days at the Puyallup Fair that is now the NORDIC FEST up in Edgewood as well as many events here in the SCC and concerts over in Mary Baker Russell Music Center. He was engaged in life. Not matter what, he was engaged, interested and positive.

I learned so much from Gunnulf about the Nordic Countries. For example, I learned that when pronouncing proper nouns in Finnish, you ALWAYS put the accent on the first syllable. This may not seem big to you, but to me as the Programs Director on the SCC Council, I wouldn’t want to offend a musical performer! He saved my bacon.

I recently read through his last few emails and recalled our conversations. He loved the Scandinavian Cultural Center, and was a key founder in making sure it came into being. As we talked about it’s origin, he let me take notes so I’d get it right, for those who were not there. I am grateful for all the work Gunnulf did while he was on the Council. His SCC Council resignation email was difficult to read, and I’m sure it was difficult for him to write.

In these last few months, clearly Gunnulf was physically diminished from the effects of the disease,

and its treatment. I was so pleased to see him at 208 Garfield with Alice, just before the left for Norway. What an amazing man to keep positive and working on that bucket list every moment possible. I suppose that is his last lesson to me. Don’t ever hold back from accomplishing your goals. Keep working them, engaged in life and never giving up. *Takk for Alt Gunnulf, Takk for Alt.*”



### *Aamodt Fire:*

### *Lend a hand on November 19th!*

**Sharon Aamodt**, whose wonderful illustration have graced so many of our members cherished objects, suffered a house fire last month, where she lost her computer and all her image files. To help recover and restart her business, the Scandinavian Cultural Center is hosting a “Scanning Party.” Please bring any items you have with Aamodt images on it to the SCC during open hours on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will scan or photograph the items and return them, either while you wait or in a few short days. Thank you !

## *Nordic Film Series, Sundays, 2:00 PM*

The theme for the Scandinavian Film Series for 2013 is *War, Occupation, and Resistance*. As the faculty member from the Scandinavian Area Studies Committee responsible for coordinating the series, I suggested this theme not only because of the high quality cinematic treatment it has received in recent years but also because of the central importance the WWII experience is to our understanding Scandinavia today. That wartime experience was very diverse, and it continues to shape the way that Scandinavian countries see themselves and each other: Denmark and Norway were under Nazi occupation from 1940; Sweden remained neutral; Iceland (at the time a Danish possession) was occupied first by the British, then by the Americans; and Finland fought two bloody wars against the Soviets.



*Peter Grosvenor, Associate Professor of Political Science. Photo courtesy PLU*

Like most British people who grew up in the 1950s or 1960s, my view of WWII was shaped by a constant television diet of black-and-white war films that oversimplified the moral issues of the war. In the films selected for this series, we still find Scandinavian film makers committed to celebrating the heroism of resisters. But we also find a frank engagement with the brutality of the war, and a readiness to address uncomfortable issues of internal divisions and betrayal in the resistance groups, and the inevitable civilian casualties.

The series opened in April with a screening of the documentary *Through Hell and High Water* (2003). Mrs. Kelly, who still lives in Washington, was the guest of honor at the screening, along with the film's director, Scottish filmmaker Elly Taylor. I was pleased to have the opportunity to bring together the film maker, star, and the members of the SCC for that special event last spring.

The series continued in September with *Max Manus – Man of War*, first released in the US in 2008, and the most expensive Norwegian film ever made. It tells the story of Manus (played by Aksel Hennie), one of the leaders of the “Oslo Gang” of saboteurs who wreaked havoc with German supply lines through Oslo fjord. The film also portrays resistance hero Gunnar Sønsteby (played by Knut Joner), who visited PLU in 1998 to inaugurate the Harstad series of lectures.

October's film was *Flame and Citron*, also released in the US in 2008, and directed by Ole Christian Madsen. Flame and Citron were the code names of two Danish resistance assassins, played respectively by Thure Lindhart and Mads Mikkelsen.

**The series continues on November 10** with the 2002 Russian-made film *The Cuckoo*, set in Finland during WWII. Directed by Aleksandr Rogozhkin, it stars the Finland-born Sámi actress Anni-Kristiina Juuso. This historical comedy drama takes a somewhat lighter approach to the theme of the series. Set in 1944, as Finland prepares to withdraw from the Continuation War against the Soviet Union, the film finds a Soviet soldier and a Finnish soldier brought together at a Sámi woman's remote farmhouse. Serious and funny misunderstandings then ensue as the characters try to communicate across three different languages and cultures.

We will end the series on **December 8** with *The Winter War* (1989), from Finnish director Pekka Parika. Based on the novel by Antti Tuuri, this film is a realistic and unsparing depiction of the experiences of

Finnish volunteers during the brutal Russo-Finnish War of 1939–40, during which the Finns were outnumbered five to one but nonetheless managed to inflict half a million casualties on the Soviets, forcing them to capitulate.

I lead a discussion at the end of each screening, and the audiences so far seem to have found the films thrilling, moving, at times harrowing, but above all very informative about a hugely formative period of modern Scandinavian history.

*Peter Grosvenor, Scandinavian Area Studies Committee*

## ***Upcoming Event: Danish Folk Duo***

Mette Kathrine Jensen (accordion) and Kristian Bugge (violin) grew up near each other in Velje, Denmark, but did not start playing together until they were both admitted to the Folk Music Department of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts Southern Denmark. As the only students seriously interested in the purely traditional side of Danish music, they start their own duo, under the name of Jensen & Bugge.

Now celebrating their 10th anniversary, and their huge success both in Denmark and abroad, Jensen and Bugge will be coming to the Scandinavian Cultural Center on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This young, traditional Danish folk music duo has this to say about their inspiration:



### ***Changes to the Scandinavian Cultural Center Membership***

Wondering why you haven't gotten a renewal notice for your SCC membership this fall? One of the changes that the council approved at the request of the new director is going back to an annual, rather than rolling, membership system. That means all members, regardless of when you signed up, will receive renewal notices at the same time, around February 15<sup>th</sup>. To be fair to people who have renewed recently, they will be "grandfathered" in for 2014, and will receive a renewal notice the following February. Please feel free to contact Elisabeth at (253) 535-7349 or at [wardei@plu.edu](mailto:wardei@plu.edu) if you have any questions or concerns about this!

And the same is true for any of the upcoming changes. We will be painting the Scandinavian Cultural Center after the holidays, using a white and "shipyard blue" color pallet. We are also expanding the exhibition space to include the hallway and meeting area. If any of this is of concern, please let me know!

"From the word go it's been traditional music that we cherish and we focus on. That's how we met, and we have played countless concerts and for dances both in Denmark, Germany, USA and even in South Korea - all over the place," says Kristian, and Mette continues, "We visit lots of old musicians, learn their music and the different playing styles that still exist in the various parts of the country. You could say we are specialists in the musical dialects of Denmark".

## Winter 2013 Calendar of Events

### ● **Exhibits**

*Looming Large: 300 Years of Woven Artistry* On Display in the Stuen Room

*Nordic Sweaters: Innovation and Style* On Display in the Larson Gallery

*Embracing Peace: Everyday Objects of Reconciliation* On Display in the Hildahl Gallery

### ● **Public Hours: Free Admission**

Sundays, 1:00-4:00 PM, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11:00AM-3:00PM. CLOSED 12/22-1/3.

### ● **Svare-Toven Lecture: Dr. Kristian Harpviken, Free Admission**

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, refreshments served at 6:00PM (See p. 1 for details).

### ● **Swedish Cooking Class, \$5, No Reservations Required**

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

### ● **Nordic Film Series, Sundays, 2:00PM, Free Admission**

November 10, December 8 (See p. 4 for details)

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

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> (No meetings in December or January)

### ● **Nordic Exchange and Danish Sisterhood Holiday Bazaar**

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM-4:00PM. Call 253-535-7322 to reserve a table for the Exchange.

### ● **Danish Duo, Kristian Bugge and Mette Jensen, Free Admission**

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00PM, Free Admission (See p. 5 for details).

### ● **Danish Sangaften—Newcomers Welcome—2:00PM, Free Admission**

November 17, December 15, January 19 Info: 253.984.6700

### ● **Swedish Sankta Lucia Fest, \$5 for SCC Members**

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM, Lagerquist Hall

### ● **Norwegian Language Christmas Service, Free Admission**

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in the Ness Family Chapel (formerly Tower Chapel), 7:00PM-8:00PM

### ● **Nordic Christmas Fest, \$40 for SCC Members**

Saturday, December 21, 6:30PM

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

*November & December 2013*

*10% off all food items—just in time for Christmas baking!*



# Scandinavian SCENE

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