



Scandinavian SCENE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER AT PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY



Kim Kittilsby
SCC Council President

Warm Autumn Greetings to you! I hope your summer was filled with fun, family, friends and many warm relaxing long days. Whether you have been out traveling or enjoying our own beautiful Pacific Northwest “playground” we are privileged to call home, you no doubt have many pleasant summer memories.

This summer I had the chance to travel to Iowa and Minnesota with my dad to explore our Kittilsby family history. The trip far exceeded our expectations and as a result, a clearer picture emerged of the early Norwegian immigrant experience of our family who settled in the mid-west. The Kittilsby side of the family immigrated to America from Norway in 1851 and settled in Calmar, Iowa, near Decorah. The Kittilsbys were among the early founders and supporters of both Luther College in Decorah and St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

The Kittilsbys and the other Norwegian immigrants in Calmar built a church and recruited a pastor from Norway to serve the small congregation. My dad and I were very moved when we visited the gravesites of our ancestors located in the small cemetery adjacent to the church building because they understood the need to educate the children, plus train future pastors and teachers. This led to the creation of an academy which became Luther College. Anders Larsen Kittilsby was an early regent of Luther College and two of his daughters grew up to be key figures at St. Olaf College. The immigrants placed great importance on faith, education, service, caring for others, and teaching the next generation about their culture, language and heritage. The communities, churches, institutions of higher learning, social groups, and fraternal organizations left a lasting legacy for all those who celebrate their Scandinavian roots.

The history of Pacific Lutheran University, founded by Norwegian immigrants, is similar. Here at the SCC, our goal is to bring together individuals and organizations in the Pacific Northwest to support the university’s Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian programs, the Scandinavian Immigrant Collection, and to promote development and understanding of the Nordic immigrant and Scandinavian-American experiences, culture and heritage; and to promote ties with, and awareness and understanding of, contemporary Nordic cultures and societies.

My parents, myself, my brother and sister-in-law all attended PLU, a sister institution of both Luther and St. Olaf Colleges. Could Anders Larsen Kittilsby have ever imagined that the same values he held dear would be instilled in his great-grandson Jim Kittilsby over 150 years later? During his 23 year career at PLU, Jim was instrumental in helping to raise funds to build the Scandinavian Cultural Center, thereby helping to insure the Nordic legacy would live on.

While on the topic of ancestry, it is with great excitement that we welcome PLU’s new president Thomas Krise and his wife Patricia. Tom’s mother is descended from Norwegian immigrants. Some of you had the pleasure of meeting Tom and Patty at the SCC Spring Banquet/Greater Tacoma Peace Prize event in early June. We look forward to seeing much more of them as they settle into their new life here in Tacoma.

What are your stories? What legacies have your immigrant forbearers left for you? Why is it important to you? How do you pass it on to your families and future generations? Why is the PLU Scandinavian Cultural Center important to you and what kinds of programs would you like to see? I would love to hear what your Scandinavian heritage means to you and how it influences your lives. ~ *Beste Hilsen*, Kim



Kerstin Ringdahl
University Archivist

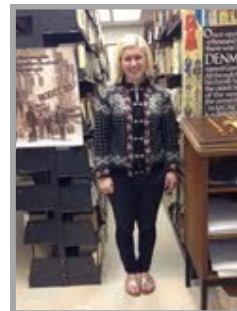
News from the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection . .

The Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection (SIEC) is a depository of historical materials relating to immigrants to the Pacific Northwest from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The collection includes items that support the academic, educational, and research programs of the university and the research needs of scholars and other researchers beyond the immediate university constituency (Quoted from the SIEC website: <www.plu.edu/archives/sie/>)

An important part of the SIEC is the Oral History Project that “contains the recorded interviews of 282 men and women who emigrated from Scandinavia and settled in the Pacific Northwest. The project started during an experimental course on Scandinavian Women in the Pacific Northwest. Students in the class were encouraged to interview women and learn about their existence as immigrants to the United States. The project was continued and expanded with support from the PLU president's office and by grants from the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, from the Joel E. Ferris Foundation, and the Norwegian Emigration Fund of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project was directed by Dr. Janet E. Rasmussen, a former professor at Pacific Lutheran University. A book written by her, *New Land New Lives, Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest*, was based on these interviews.” (excerpt from the SIEC website)



Jorgina Moore, a Scandinavian Studies and Anthropology major, was the 2012 summer intern for the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection (pictured right). She worked full-time during the summer and will continue to work part-time during the academic year. Her main task during the summer was to digitize all the oral histories onto MP3's so that they can be uploaded onto a digital asset manager and then be available on the SIEC website. Once this is finished, the voices of the Scandinavian immigrants



who were part of the New Land New Lives Oral History Project will be available for everyone to hear online. Jorgina is a third generation Norwegian; her grandparents came from Trondheim. She has completed two years of Norwegian and traveled to Norway and Iceland as part of Dr. Claudia Berguson's J-Term class. The picture (upper left) was taken during their trip.

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

*September—20% off glass birds
October—20% off all glass mugs and cups*

Scandinavian Cultural Center Fall 2012 Classes

Free Admission to PLU Students with ID

Norwegian Cooking with Daughters of Norway, Embla 2

10:00 am to Noon, \$5 per class

Tuesday, October 9

Thursday, October 18

Saturday, October 27

Reservations not required



Traditionally, Norwegians preserved fish, meat and game by drying, salting or pickling it. These techniques are still used in modern times, but out of choice rather than necessity. Fish, meat and game are generally used fresh or frozen in Norwegian cuisine, but pickled, smoked and salted foods are still popular. Most fish is simply braised or poached, but every imaginable cooking method, including frying, dry-curing, brining, grilling and smoking, also has its place. Meats are roasted, braised, stewed or fried, depending on the cut and recipe. Vegetables are usually boiled or braised, and soups and stews are often prepared as well. *Rømmegrøt* is Norwegian porridge made with sour cream, whole milk, wheat flour, butter, and salt. *Rømme* is Norwegian word meaning a heavy sour cream. *Grøt* translates as porridge.

Wheat Weaving with Jean Whipple

Saturday, October 27

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, \$15 (includes supplies)

Reservations required by October 20

<whipplejch@earthlink.net> or [360-866-0888](tel:360-866-0888)



Even for the earliest civilizations success of a harvest has always been critical to survival. In the ancient mythology of many cultures there are tales of harvest celebrations and by the 1500s in Great Britain there are accounts of sheaves being decorated to represent the spirit of the harvest. By the late 1800s the making of harvest tokens spread throughout Europe. Knowledge and skills of working with straw were brought to America, their new homeland, by immigrant families. From the late 1700s, straw plait and loom-woven straw products were made for the important straw hat industry on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Plaiting (pronounced with a short a) is also known as braiding. Modern straw workers refer to it as wheat weaving. There are hundreds of different plaits derived from other forms of braiding industries and from the straw hat industry. Plaits can be made from whole, hollow stems of grass or wheat. (*Classes continued on Pg. 6*)



Susan Young, SCC Director

From the SCC Director...

It happens every summer—time flies by much too rapidly and before you know it, Fall has arrived. During the summer months, programs sponsored by the SCC Council slow down significantly, thus giving me a chance to work on other areas of responsibility. This summer my staff and I focused once again on the permanent artifact collection inventory. I am proud to announce that our 2,816-piece collection was inventoried and new items were catalogued and photographed. The next phase of this never-ending process is to put the entire collection online for educational and research purposes. In the meantime, I thought it might be fun, as well as educational, to provide our readers with some statistics about our very impressive collection.

As stated earlier there are 2,816 pieces in the SCC Permanent Artifact Collection documenting the cultural, social, political, and economic history of Scandinavian immigrants and Scandinavian-Americans who came after them. An astounding 190 named donors (see Pg. 5) and 208 anonymous donors have contributed their precious family heirlooms to the collection (furniture, costumes, porcelain plates, pewter plates, pewter decorative items, textiles, handwork, wood carvings, jewelry, children's toys, and framed artwork).

What impresses and fascinates me most about many of the items in our collection is that not only are they aesthetically beautiful but they are utilitarian and functional, and they are representative of the culture and history of Scandinavia. For example, the Center is home to a small collection of stoneware plates produced by Arabia, a Finnish ceramics company, founded in 1873. From 1976 to 1999, Arabia produced an annual plate to commemorate the *Kalevala*, a 19th Century work of epic poetry compiled by Elias Lönnrot from Finnish and Karelian oral folklore and mythology. The *Kalevala* is regarded as one of the most significant works of Finnish literature. It also played an instrumental role in the development of the Finnish national identity, the intensification of Finland's language strife, and the growing sense of nationality that ultimately led to Finland's independence from Russia in 1917. The first version of *The Kalevala* (called *The Old Kalevala*) was published in 1835. The version most commonly known today was first published in 1849 and consists of 22,795 verses, divided into fifty songs (Finnish: *runot*).

Each commemorative plate is signed by the artist Raija Uosikkinen and has a passage (in Finnish, Swedish, and English) from the epic tale that it represents written on the back. The 1976 plate seen here is titled "*Vainamoinen's Sowing*" and reads, "*Now I scoop the seeds to scatter as from the creator's finger, from the hand of him almighty, that the country may be fertile and the corn may grow and flourish.*"¹⁴ The SCC artifact collection houses the 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985 *Kalevala* plates. To complete the entire series, we need the 1978 plate and 1984 through 1999 plates. If you would like to help us complete the series, please contact me by email <youngse@plu.edu> or by phone, 253.535.7349.



*Sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to the
Scandinavian Cultural Center Permanent Artifact Collection*

Aamodt, Sharon	Flesland, Harold	LaFlamme, Karen J.	Rieck, Myrna
Alm, Ivar	Fogelquist, Ross	Lalone, Eeva	Ringdahl, Bernst
Anderson, Bonnie	Forsberg, Mary	Langvad, Clara	Rogers, Bernice
Anderson, MaryAnn	Freeman, Anne	Larson, E. Arthur	Russo, Linda
Anderson, Neil	Fynboe, Carl/Ingrid	Larson, Ed/Betty	Ruud, Janet
Andersson, Victor	Gerla, June	Larson, Palma	Sandefjord Girls Choir
Andrews, B.E.	Gilmur, Thelma	Lavin, Kandy	Sargent, Shirleyanne
Ardora, Kaylan	Gleason, Hildur Øyen	Lee, Otis Jr.	SIEC, PLU
Bainard, Beatrice	Gracey, Lola	Lickfelt, Mercedes	Schafer, Eldon
Bainard, Frank	Grant, Esther	Lund, Beverly	Schnathorst, Mildred
Bates, Liz	Greer, Lorna	Lund, Thelma	Schwind, Elsie
Batey, Katharyn M.	Hansen, A./J. Lee Estate	Lunden, Robert	Seaburg, Lois
Baxter, William/Janice	Hansen, Laila	MacDicken, Nancy	Servey, Karen
Bekkedal, Verona	Hansen, Marilyn	Mackenzie, Barbara	Serwold, Joann
Benton, Roger	Harstad, Grace	Magelson, Joe/Dorothy	Sherry, Grace
Benton, Signe	Hartzler, Sharon	Mannskor, Bergen	Smith, Donna
Berg, Lynn	Hathaway, Mrs. Robert	Mannskor, Fana	Smith, Edvard/Gladys
Berger, Mrs. J.	Hatlen, Rich/Karen/Betty	Mannskor, Normanna	Sons of Norway, Hoved-
Berglund, Marie	Haugtvssa-Borre Leikaring	Marano, Agnes	stad Lodge, Olympia
Bethel Lutheran Church	Hebert, Julie Ann	March, Florence	Sowell, Sigrid
Bierce, Steve	Hildahl, Astrid	Marimekko Company	Spanich, Lillian
Bobko, Walter/Murial	Hilstad, Mary	Mayor of Kragerø	Spawn, Mary Ann
Brewer, Floyd	Hirschman, Marguerite	McLane, Shirley	Stensrud, Mrs. John
Brynestad, Richard/Rosemary	Holland, Gil/Margaret	Meyer, Karen	Stewart, Norita
Buck, Florence	Horner, Layton/Marian	Michal, Ericka	Stuen, Mark/Corinne
Caspersen, Robert	Husted, Robert	Miller, Inge	Swenson, Rodney/Evelyn
Caspersen-Andresen, Linda	Jensen, Ole	Moffett, Lena	Svare/Parrot Estate
Chew, K./P. Aker Family	Jensen, Solveig	Mueller, Julia	Sweiso, Harriet
Christiansen, Norm	Johnsen, Margit	Nakkerud, Trygve	Teer, Marianne
Clausen, Lois	Johnson, Alalie	Nesvig, Milton	Tegner, Lee
Copley, Anna	Johnson, Bertil	Newcomer, Dorothy	Terjeson, Thomas
Daughters of Norway,	Johnson, John/Beverly	Nileit, Tore	Thue, Claire
Embla Lodge 2	Johnson, Roy	Nilsen, Arvid/Esther	Tobiason, Dorothy
Deck, Evelyn	Johnson, R. Padre	Olsen, Mary	Tollefson, Julius
DeRosa, Bella	Karl, Betsy	Olson, Esther Astrid	Tollefson, Nicki
Duncan, Rosemary	Kase, Lori	Olson, Jill	Torgerson, Blanche
Duvall, Lilly	Kayser, P.G.	Olsson, Nils	Urlie, Ann
Ellickson, Esther	Kelley, Pat/Estelle	Ottoson, Lisa	Vaughn, Johanna
Ellingson, Inez	Kelly, Merilynn	Packard, Marthajane	Vorhies, Aila
Emerick, Brian/Judy	Kemp, Carol	Parkhurst, Elsie	Warren, Robert Estate
Emerson, Elene	Kirkebo, Mrs. J.	Pederson, Arne/Gloria	White, Nancy
Evans, Sonja	Klein, Richard/Joanne	Pilcher, Jan	Wilson, Don
Family of Olav I. Otheim	Kleivi, Bjorg	Polcyn, Laura	Wise, Odny
Fauske, Marian	Knudson, Mel/Melba	Postman, Jack/Marge	Wold, David/Elisabeth
Feroy, Aashild	Knutsen, Karen	Ramstad, Philip	Young, Rhoda
Fialkowski, Linda	Kooley, Ken/Lola	Rasmussen, Janet	Young, Susan
Fjermadal, Greta	Kvalheim, Garfield/Fran	Richards, Margaret	Zornes, Bruce/Clarice
	Kvalheim-Zaffino, Ruby		

Scandinavian Cultural Center Fall 2012 Classes Continue from Pg. 3

Free Admission to PLU Students with ID

Hardanger Embroidery with Edda Todd

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, \$15 per class

Saturday, November 3 and Saturday, November 10

Reservations required by October 29

<omitodd@comcast.net> [253-531-8523](tel:253-531-8523)

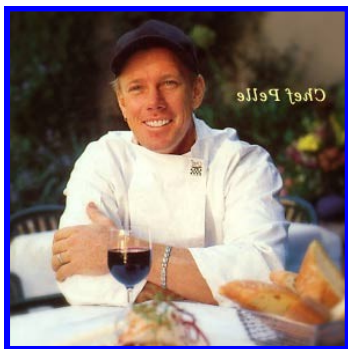
The exact origins of Hardanger embroidery are not known but it is thought to have its beginnings in ancient Persia and Asia. During the Renaissance this early form of embroidery spread to Italy where it evolved into Italian Reticella and Venetian lacework. By 1700 variations of this type of embroidery had spread to northern Europe where it developed further into Danish and Dutch Hedebo, Scottish Ayrshire and Ruskin lacework as well as Norwegian Drawn Work, as it was then called. In the period between 1650-1850 *Hardangersom* (meaning: *work from Hardanger area*) flourished in Norway. Flax was grown, carded, spun and woven into white fabric and thread which was used to make and decorate traditional Norwegian costume items called bunads (national costumes) as well as other items of clothing and household linens such as mats, curtains and bedspreads.



Save the Date!

Sunday, October 28, 2012, 2:00 pm

**Fifth Annual Swedish Heritage Program
Scandinavian Cultural Center
Admission is Free**



Back by popular demand, Swedish Chef Pelle Nilsson has agreed to return for an encore cooking demonstration. Seating is limited so make your reservation early by sending an email to <youngse@plu.edu> or by calling 53-535-7322.

Fall 2012 Calendar of Events

- **Exhibit: Norway: The Vikings, the Art, and the Music—Continued through October**
Public Hours: Sundays, 1:00-4:00 PM, Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 11:00 AM -3:00 PM.
Admission is free and open to the public. Coming Soon! Contemporary Nordic Literature.
(No Public Hours on October 14, 28, November 21, 25, December 4, 16, 23, 25, 26, 30)
- **Second Annual Nordic Festival—Saturday, October 13** (see details below).
- **Executive Board and SCC Council Meetings, Wednesday Evenings**
Executive Board: October 10, November 14, 5:30-6:15 PM, UC 212 (No meeting in December)
Council: October 10, November 14, 6:15-7:15 PM, SCC (No meeting in December)
- **Danish Sisterhood Meetings. Info: 253.843.2279—Newcomers Welcome**
Wednesdays, October 3, November 7, and December 5, 11:00 AM, Free Admission
- **Danish Sangaften — Info: 253.984.6700—Newcomers Welcome**
Sundays, October 21 and November 18, 6:00 PM, Free Admission
- **Norwegian Cooking — Tuesday, October 9, Thursday, October 18, Saturday, October 27**
10:00 AM. \$5 Per Class. Info: 253.838.4232 or <jwillison@comcast.net> Reservations not required.
- **Wheat Weaving Class— Saturday, October 27, \$15 per class. 2:00 PM. \$15 (includes supplies)**
Reservations required by October 20. <whipplejch@earthlink.net> or 360-866-0888
- **5th Annual Swedish Heritage Program, Sunday, October 28, 2:00 PM**
Free Admission. Reservations required. (See Pg. 6 for more info.)
- **Hardanger Embroidery— Saturdays, November 3 and November 10, \$15 per class.**
Info: 253.838.4232 or <omitodd@comcast.net> 253-531-8523
- **Nordic Sweaters/Treasures—Sales and Exchange— Saturday, November 17**
Free Admission. To reserve a vendor table call 253-535-7349 or send email to <youngse@plu.edu>
- **Danish Sisterhood Christmas Bazaar— Saturday, December 1, Free Admission**
To reserve a vendor table call Lois at 253-301-3333 or email <lm_halley@yahoo.com>
- **Annual Swedish Sankta Lucia Fest— Wednesday, December 12.** See next issue for more info.
- **Annual Nordic Christmas Fest— Saturday, December 15,** Info: 253-535-7349. Invitations will be mailed out in early November.

EMBLA LODGE NO. 2 DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY PRESENTS

NORDIC FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

EDGEMONT JR HIGH SCHOOL

2300 - 110 AVENUE E, EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON

ENJOY TRADITIONAL MUSIC, ARTS, CRAFTS, & REFRESHMENTS

FREE PARKING—\$1.00 ADMISSION & 1 PRIZE DRAWING TICKET

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For more information contact: Mardy Fairchild, Festival Chair

(253) 677-7700 or mfairch@citysounds.biz



Scandinavian SCENE

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