

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

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Fall 2014



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Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or suggestions! Information on how to reach specific members is available from SCC Director Elisabeth Ward at (253) 535-7349 or wardei@plu.edu. You may also email our main address scancnr@plu.edu or call during open hours to (253) 535-7532.

COVER IMAGE: Detail from the Parkland Mural on Garfield Street, which SCC Members Karen Bell, Melody Stepp, Lynn Gleason, Sonja Ruud, and Elisabeth Ward worked on during the summer.

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT... hopefully you received your special

This year we've celebrated the stories of the determination of strong people in the face of adversity. From the Saami exhibition in February and March, to the exhibit and interviews in April about Denmark's War Years, through our film series about bold and fearless people who learned what they were capable, to the Immigrants Experience exhibition, we've had chances to reflect on amazing stories of perseverance. We also celebrated important achievements, like the 200 year anniversary of Norway having its constitution and our own strength during our 25th year anniversary of the SCC. The SCC really is all about the people; our families, our history, our ancestors – and our futures.

During the summer break, I hope you all have had an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful weather, beautiful sunsets, and your families. With summer hours almost over, our docents will be returning to their Fall through Spring schedules, so you'll have more opportunities to enjoy the Center: Sundays, 1pm to 4pm and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11am to 3pm. We kick off the Fall season with a special modern art exhibition, arriving at the Scandinavian Cultural Center directly from the Eidsvoll Constitution Center in Norway. That opens to the public Aug 24th, but

"members only" invite to the sneak preview on the 23rd. You can read more about this extraordinary exhibit in the "Upcoming Exhibition" section.

My term as President ends this September, but I will be joining our fabulous corps of volunteers to help with all sorts of Fall and Winter events, which we will be gathering to help plan soon, like the Sankta Lucia Fest, the Nordic Sweater and Other Things Sale, and the Annual Nordic Christmas Fest, to name a few. Dates and times will be in the Calendar of Events in the Fall and Winter issues of the Scene, as well as online. We have so many things to look forward to this coming year.

We also have a list of items to work on including our bylaws, speakers, classes, exhibits, and the film series. If you are

interested in volunteering your time and talents, try being a part of this great family. If you're not already a member, please join the Scandinavian Cultural Center.

I've thoroughly enjoyed being this term's Council President and look forward to working with the new Council President **Linda Caspersen** and all of the volunteers who will be serving during 2014/15. Thank you again to all of you.

Ha det bra, **Melody Stepp**



Melody Stepp working on the Parkland Mural, which includes a group of Scandinavian Dancers.

SPOTLIGHT ON



opposite directions. I like to think of this as symbolic of the Scandinavian American experience. Like our recent immigration exhibition highlighted, being Scandinavian-American means keeping one eye on our heritage in Scandinavia, even while we look to

The Scandinavian Cultural Center holds over 3200 artifacts, 95% of which were gifts and donations made by members of the community. The collection that is housed at the SCC is therefore collectively an expression of our experiences of Scandinavia and Scandinavian-American heritage. But some of the pieces are also powerful symbols in and of themselves. One of the most beautiful, oldest, and symbolic pieces in the Scandinavian Cultural Center's collection was donated to us in 1988 by **Mrs. John Stensrud**. It is an ale-bowl, which is pictured above, and is over 250 years old. It has wear marks on the handles, showing that it has been heavily used through the years. And its use is a fitting symbol for us today, because an ale bowl like this is a communal cup, filled with ale and passed from person to person. It is an object that ties many people together, just as this place ties all of us together. And if we look at the shape of it, we can see that there are two horse-heads on either end of the handles, looking in

see ways in which our future can be inspired by the example Scandinavians provide to the world. We are looking both ways at once, like this bowl. To mark our 25th anniversary we installed a new sculpture in the Scandinavian Cultural Center, modeled after this important object, and made by **Mark Ottoson**. Look for it above the stage next time you come in! **Elisabeth Ward**



THE COLLECTIONS

Every summer, the Scandinavian Cultural Center sponsors a student to work with Kerstin Ringdahl in the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection (SIE for short). Malena Goerl, this years intern, shares this about her summer research:

“As the (SIE) student intern, I work closely with the manuscripts in the SIE collection. I arrange, describe the content, and write biographical/historical sketches for each collection. The collections include historical records of people, families, and organizations associated with immigration as well as letters, diaries, biographies, directories, catalogs, rosters, brochures, etc.

When the opportunity arose to catalogue our collection of Nordic folk and traditional music and dance records, I was thrilled to be part of the process. It was quite an experience sorting through over 100 45-rpm and 230 33-rpm long-playing records, and then researching and documenting each album. Originating from Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, and Finland, all of the records have been donated to the SIE collection throughout the years. It was an exciting process to catalogue the records so that the cultural experiences gained from the collection can now be more easily accessible.

There is such a vast amount of genres included in the collection ranging from Brita Borg’s comedic “Fat Mammy Brown” to



the patriotic “Fighting Men of Norway,” sung by a Norwegian Lutheran church choir. I also found gospel songs, traditional dance songs, polka, hambo, and schottis music, as well as songs for children while sorting through the collection. Among the treasured artists featured on these records are the notable Arvid Franzen, Inger Jacobsen, and Jussi Björling. With songs in both the native Nordic languages and in English, the

collection exemplifies both the culture’s traditional music, such as “Björneborgarnes Marsch,” and the integration of the Scandinavian culture into American culture, as heard in the Stan Boreson Trio’s “I Love Seattle.”

Malena Goerl



SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

The Scandinavian Cultural Center will be the U.S. premier of the only traveling exhibition created in Norway to mark the 200 year anniversary of its constitution.

In 1814, during the Napoleonic War, Denmark lost control over Norway, a territory it had held for over 300 years. Leaders from throughout Norway quickly gathered to craft a new constitution, one that would establish Norway as an independent country with its own government. Drawing

inspiration from the constitution of the United States and French philosophy, Norwegian leaders drafted a document to create a democratic government with a balanced federal authority. This document was signed in the mountain retreat of Eidsvoll on May 17th, 1814, a date commemorated by Norwegians every year as their national day. With only a few amendments, it has been in continuous force since 1814, making it the oldest such constitution in Europe.

An exhibition celebrating this remarkable document opened on May 17th, 2014, at the Eidsvoll Center in Norway. Made up of works by 10 renown Norwegian modern artists, it is a critical visual exploration of themes ranging from freedom

and stability, to the struggles facing democracy and globalization. Accompanying the show is a scholarly volume with essays by leading authorities on the history and importance of the Norwegian Constitution. The exhibition and the publication were curated by **Trond B. Olsen** of ArtPro, Norway, who will give a speech at the special “Members Only” preview on August 23rd. The title of



Nordman 1, one of the more than 30 works that will be on display during the exhibition.

the exhibition and publication is “1814-2014: Red White and Blue – Norwegian Constitution, American Inspiration.” Each of the 10 chosen artists submitted several works, which range from bold, colorful graphics to subtle ink drawings and photographs, as well as oil paintings, sculptures, and mixed-media.

The honor of hosting the U.S. premier of these specially commissioned artworks at the Scandinavian Cultural

EXHIBITIONS

Center is thanks to the efforts of **Kim Nesselquist**, Consul of Norway in Seattle. Although this exhibition will be of special interest to Norwegians and Norwegian-Americans, the themes of these art works should also inspire students to think about ways to create a more inclusive democracy.

The exhibition opens to the public at 1pm on Sunday, August 24th, and will be on display at the Scandinavian Cultural Center until September 28th. From PLU, the exhibition will move to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

OCTOBER 1 : TWO ENVIRONMENTAL EXHIBITIONS OPEN !

After the closing of the Bicentennial Exhibition, the Scandinavian Cultural Center will quickly put up two other exhibitions, both with a focus on the Nordic Environment. One is entitled “Nordic Eco: Steps towards Sustainability”, which is guest curated by a graduating senior in the Norwegian Program, **Margret Dolde**. “Meg” as she is known has worked with Elisabeth Ward and with the Sustainability Office to develop an exhibition for the main Hildahl Gallery. It will feature all of the Nordic countries, including Greenland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland for the ways they are working to create a more sustainable future. Hands-on interactives, photos, videos, artifacts, and text will examine Nordic innovation in renewable energy, ice-core research, and recycling among other things. This exhibition is made possible by the **Joanne Klein Memorial Exhibition fund**, which is used primarily for student curated exhibitions.

The second exhibition opening

October 1st is a single artist show, featuring the work of Icelandic textile artist Sigrun Lara Shanko. Titled “Elements of Power: Capturing the Icelandic Landscape”, it will run from Oct.1 until Oct. 22nd and is supported by Iceland Naturally. Sigrun has exhibited her works in Iceland, Italy, China, and Great Britain, among other places. Her long running series of silks infused with themes from the Viking Age continues, but recently she has turned her passion to another textile medium, rugs, and to a new theme, Icelandic nature. Employing a

unique tufting technique, and utilizing pure Icelandic wool, she captures the contours of landscape features like glaciers, volcanoes, and rivers, in bold designs. 5 of the pieces are newly created for this exhibition, but her most famous and widely displayed creation will also be included, Langjokull, inspired by the long glacier in southern Iceland. An intimate artist reception and talk is planned for the evening of October 16th.



VIKING FILM SERIES The Film Series has been a great opportunity, since it started a few years ago, for the faculty from the Scandinavian Area Studies Program to present some of their interests to the Scandinavian Cultural Center membership and PLU student body in a fun, engaging, and hopefully thought-provoking way. This year, I have been asked to share some of my knowledge about the Vikings with the membership and students. I usually try to keep my Viking-geekiness somewhat a secret, but the cat is out of the bag, so I might as well fess up that I adore the Viking Age. And I am really looking forward to talking about it with everyone during the film series.

There are unfortunately not that many good films about the Vikings, especially any that would lead to interesting conversation afterwards. The recent films have tended towards the fantastical – Thor

interacting with giants in computer animated splendor, or Vikings whisked off to battle aliens on other planets. On the other extreme are documentary type movies about the

Vikings, or dramatic recreations like the History Channel Viking show.

In deciding on films for this series, I looked for films with reasonable depictions of the Vikings, but that still had a compelling story. I also wanted to explore how depictions of the Vikings change over time and place. There seems to be national divisions in how the Viking Age and Viking culture is understood and portrayed. This happens very often with historical subjects – it is easy to project onto the past what we want it to be like, instead of what it was really like. All of the Scandinavian countries, and much of northern Europe, consider the Viking Age formative for their countries (or more accurately, to the kingdoms that would become the modern day countries). That sense of continuity can make depictions of the Vikings very politically sensitive.

Watching films about the Vikings from different countries and time periods will hopefully lead to some interesting conversations. We will begin the series on **September 14th** with one of the more recent films, and one produced, interestingly enough, by a Polish production company. Called “Stara Básn,” (Ancient Tale, released 2003), it draws on the evidence we have for Viking settlements along the Baltic coast, part of the Eastern expansion of the Vikings. In October, we will move westward towards Sweden, to an Ingmar Bergman film set at the end of the Viking Age titled “Jungfrukällan” (Virgin Spring), which was very controversial when it first came out in 1960. It will be shown on **October 26th**. We will finish our journey this year in Denmark, with a screening on **November 23rd** of a



EVENTS

classic Danish film about the Vikings, “Hagbard and Signe.” I am still working on securing a good copy of that film, so it is possible we may instead watch another Danish film in November, but there are good alternatives. In 2015, we will pick up the series again in February with the classic American film, featuring Kurt Douglas, “The Vikings” from 1958, set in Norway and the British Isles. We will end the series in March with a recent Icelandic film “Í skugga hrafnsins” (In the Shadow of the Raven) from 1988. This is the best film in the Viking Age trilogy made by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson.

I am looking forward to spending these Sunday afternoons with as many of you as can make it, watching good films about a fascinating period in Northern European history. But be warned, I suspect by the end of the series, many of you may find yourselves shouting out “By Odin’s Eye!”
Elisabeth Ward

NORDIC CONCERT AT TRINITY



Trinity Lutheran Church
Summer Concert Series Presents
SVEND RØNNING, violinist
LISA BERGMAN, pianist
PAN-SCAN—PAN-NORDIC:
A Recital of Nordic Composers



Featuring music by Aulin, Brustad, Gade, Jónson, and Sibelius.

Friday, August 29, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church,
Parkland, Washington

FREE!



LECTURE ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN ICELAND, OCTOBER 1ST

At 7pm on October 1st, in conjunction with the two environmental exhibitions, the SCC will host a talk on the history of geothermal and hydroelectric power harnessing in Iceland. Guest speaker, Árni Gunnarsson, has worked for 14 years at Landsvirkjun, the largest public energy company in Iceland, as Senior Project Manager. His visit to PLU is being facilitated by the Icelandic Consulate in New York. Icelandic leadership in the field of geothermal and hydroelectric energy production will be featured in the Nordic Eco exhibition (see page 6), and fits in also with the ‘Elements of Power’ rug exhibition.

Árni’s talk at the opening reception for both exhibitions will draw on his extensive experience in geothermal project design, management, construction, feasibility studies and power plant control philosophy. All are welcome!

FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS

H.O.ME PROGRAM

Our members have a special opportunity to kick off a new program for International Students enrolled at Pacific Lutheran University. The International Student Services office would like some help making international students feel more connected to the local area, and knew the members of the Scandinavian Cultural Center would be the best choice for doing so. Many students come to PLU without ever getting to know what life in Tacoma and Washington is all about. Though many international students come from Scandinavia--especially Norway and Denmark--this is a wonderful chance to meet students from far and wide. The program is called Hospitality Offered by Members of the Local Community, or H.O.Me for short. If you are interested in helping make an international student feel at home when they come to PLU, please let **Linda Nyland** or Elisabeth know. There is a short form you need to fill out, available online.

Students will be paired with families based on shared interest. We ask families to invite an international student to at least one outing or event during the Fall semester. Please consider applying at

<https://forms.plu.edu/709> to show some famous Scandinavian hospitality.

GET COOKING IN OCTOBER!

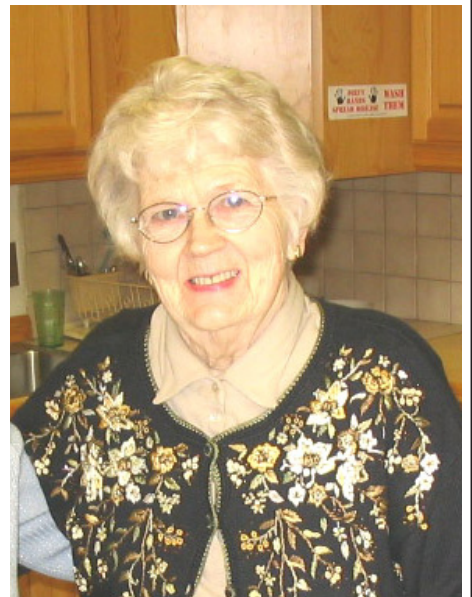
During October, the Daughters of Norway and the Swedish Vasa Lodge will be cooking up a storm in the Scandinavian Cultural Center kitchen. Cooking instruction begins at 10am, and then the meal is served for lunch, all for only \$5. See the schedule in the Calendar on the next page, and come join us!

NORDIC EXCHANGE - RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY NOVEMBER 5TH

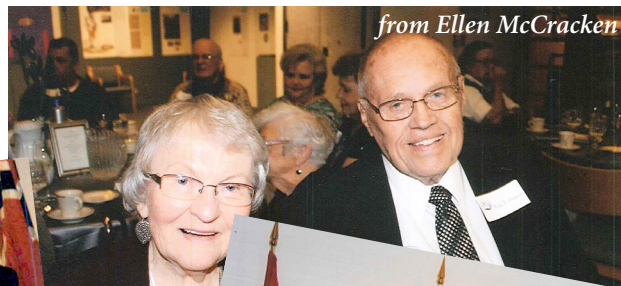
We had a wonderful turn out in 2013 for the combined Nordic Exchange and Danish Sisterhood Bazaar, so we are going to do it all again! The Danish Sisterhood finds vendors for inside the SCC, while our members have tables in the hallway outside. Please let Elisabeth know if you have any Nordic wares you would like to trade or sell. The Exchange takes place on November 22nd.

FOND REMEMBRANCE

Esther Hirschberger's daughter, Nancy, called to share with us the sad news of her mother's passing on July 3rd. **Susan Young** had this to say about Esther, "I am so glad Esther will be remembered in the Scene. She was a member of the SCC for as long as I can remember. She was chair of the docent committee for many years and did a fantastic job. She also received the SCC Outstanding Service Award in 2008, and her name is on the perpetual plaque hanging on the wall in the SCC near the entrance. Esther was one of the most genuinely kind and cheerful people I have ever known. She will be missed."



25TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS



FALL CALENDAR

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

OPEN HOURS: Sunday 1pm to 4pm except August 31st and October 5th and 19th.

Tuesday and Wednesday 11am to 3pm starting September 9th.

August 23rd	"Members only" opening reception, 4pm – 6pm
August 24th	Red White and Blue Exhibition Opens, 1pm
August 26th, 27th	Bonus Open Hours in Honor of Special Exhibition, 11am to 3pm
September 3rd	Danish Sisterhood meeting on Anderson Island.
September 10th	Cultural Council Meeting, 6:30pm
September 11th	H.O.Me Program Kick-off (see page 10), 7pm
September 14th	Viking Film Series – "Stara Basn", 2pm
September 27th	Greater Tacoma Peace Prize Banquet, 6pm, \$50
October 1st	Danish Sisterhood Meeting, 10am
October 1st	Opening of "Nordic Eco" and "Elements of Power" exhibitions, 11am
October 1st	"Geothermal Energy in Iceland" talk and reception, 7pm
October 7th	Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am, \$5 fee
October 14th	Swedish Cooking Class, 10am, \$5 fee
October 15th	Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am, \$5 fee
October 16th	Talk by Sigrun Lara Shanko, Icelandic Textile Artist, 5pm
October 19th	Danish Sangeaften, 2pm
October 25th	Norwegian Cooking Class
October 26th	Viking Film Series, Ingmar Bergman's "Jungfrukällan"
November 5	Danish Sisterhood, 10am



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
Scandinavian Cultural Center
12180 Park Avenue S.
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003

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Elisabeth Ward, Editor 253-535-7349 Email: wardei@plu.edu Website: www.plu.edu/scancenter

