

# THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

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NORWEGIAN EMIGRATION

UPCOMING CLASSES

SWEDISH GENEALOGY

NORDIC ORGAN CONCERT

VESTERHEIM MUSEUM



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### COVER IMAGE:

*Still from Disney's Frozen, showing the stave church architecture of Arendelle Castle. The exhibition "Norwegian Inspiration for Disney's Frozen," curated by Elisabeth Ward, will be on display at the SCC until March 8th.*

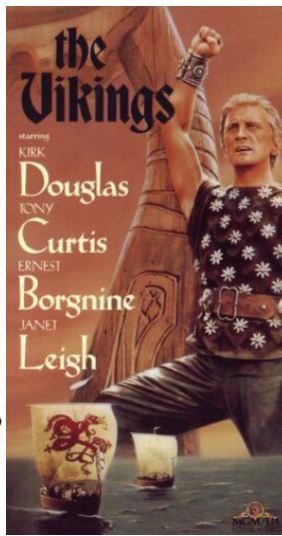
*Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or suggestions! Information on how to reach specific members is available from SCC Director Elisabeth Ward at (253) 535-7349 or wardei@plu.edu. You may also email our main address scancntr@plu.edu or call during open hours to (253) 535-7532.*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Happy 2015 everyone! There is so much to look forward to in 2015, lots of great events and also exciting opportunities ahead for the Scandinavian Cultural Center to expand our collaborations with our member organizations, sister institutions, and PLU divisions and offices. I will have more details about all of that in the Membership Request letters coming out in late February. Remember, all membership renewals are now due in March, which is membership month! So please renew. Your membership and donations ensure the continued preservation of PLU's Scandinavian heritage.

Getting to know the Scandinavian Cultural Center members has reminded me of getting to know my extended family back in Iceland. So many of the members have deep personal ties to one another, the SCC, and PLU. **Linda Caspersen** has been an amazing resource for me, and I am so grateful for her insights and energy. Of course, I still miss **Melody Stepp** and hope she'll be back to coordinating exhibitions with me soon! Thank you also to the docents who have been especially kind about sharing their background and stories with me - **Esther Ellickson, Maren Johnson, Karen Robbins, Carmen Knudtson, the Kastelles, Julie Ann Hebert**....each one has given me invaluable insights into PLU and the SCC. I am finally starting to feel a bit "in the loop"!

I've enjoyed having time for those sorts of conversations now that things have settled down a bit. But it will be picking back up again in no time! The Scandinavian Cultural Center is a dynamic, grass-root organization, and we have some great examples of that in the programming



coming up in the next few weeks. The Sámi Film Festival on Feb. 6th is entirely the doing of **Lynn Gleason**, the Wheat Weaving class on Feb. 8th is the brain child of **Karen Bell**, and the program on Feb. 10th about Emigration from Norway comes to us from **Judy Scott**. And of course, **Ed and Betty Larson** continue to take the helm on the Swedish Heritage Program. If you have an idea for a program or a class, the Cultural Council, myself and PLU are here to facilitate. And we are looking for volunteers to help with our big Christmas programs especially. Please contact **Lisa Ottoson** if you could lend a hand.

I hope my own contributions to the Scandinavian Cultural Center are well received. The exhibition "Norwegian Inspiration for Disney's Frozen" certainly has been! The next exhibition planned for the Hildahl Gallery is a bit more challenging; it is entitled "Comings and Goings: Scandinavian Approaches to Birth and Death." I will be working with PLU visiting faculty members **Olivia Gunn** and **Erik Johannessen** to put this exhibit together, which will look at the way rituals and beliefs around birth and death have changed in Scandinavia over time. That exhibit will open March 17th, and I hope to see you at the opening reception.

Of course, Vikings are always popular, and I have just mounted in the Larson Gallery an exhibition about the Vikings, using posters from the Oslo Ship Museum and artifacts from our SCC collection. That will be up at least through the end of the Viking Film Series, which continues Feb. 25th and April 1. Note that the time has changed from Sunday afternoons to Wednesday evenings, but will still be lots of fun!

We sure are a busy family here at the SCC...  
*Skoal for 2015, and to all of you! Elisabeth*



1849. Very shortly thereafter, a large number of Norwegian settlers arrived. By 1860 there were 1,960 inhabitants. In a 2010 census, the population of Decorah was 8,127. The town also hosts a Nordic Fest every year in early July to celebrate the Norwegian culture.

Vesterheim is an important part of the town of Decorah, especially after it separated from Luther College in 1967. Its collection currently boasts a library, a Folk Art School and showcases 12 historic buildings. This is the largest collection of Norwegian-American artifacts of its kind in the world. According to USA TODAY, Vesterheim is one of “ten great places in the nation to admire American folk art.” You certainly do not need to be Norwegian-American to appreciate everything Vesterheim has to offer. Immigration is an ongoing saga in the United States. By understanding our differences, we can begin to discover and honor our similarities!

A highlight of the visit to Vesterheim Museum will be a presentation by our own Director Dr. Elisabeth Ward. She will be speaking about the history of the SCC at PLU, about our collection, and its impact on our community and University. The staff of Vesterheim will be present and we are thrilled about getting the word out about our incredible Center! After looking through some of the photographs of the catalogued pieces from Vesterheim and comparing them to pieces we have in our possession, I am even more convinced that the Scandinavian Cultural Center and its offerings have an amazing amount to share with PLU faculty and students.

As President of the PLUSCC, I feel this trip directly implements one of the goals I had as incoming president which is more collaboration with other institutions on a local

## VISIT TO VESTERHEIM!

Elisabeth Ward, Ericka Michal and I (Linda Caspersen) will have the opportunity to visit Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa this February. We will be hosted by Laurann Gilbertson, long time Textile Curator at Vesterheim. This educational visit will give great insight into our own current PLUSCC artifact collection as it relates to content and updated appraisal values. The viewing of the entire museum will take place on Sunday, February 1st, and some of its archives currently not on exhibit will be introduced to us on Monday, the 2nd. This visit will also be incorporated into the research project being conducted by Elisabeth and Ericka, which is funded by the Humanities Division’s “Kelmer Roe Student-Faculty Research Award.” Ericka and Elisabeth put together a proposal to compare the collection of the Scandinavian Cultural Center with Vesterheim’s collection.

The Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and Heritage Center houses over 24,000 artifacts. The collection of objects began in 1877 at Luther College, which is the largest employer in this small town nestled along US Route 52 and Highway 9 in the northeast corner of Iowa. Decorah was named after Waukon Decorah, a powerful Winnebago tribal leader. After the removal of the Winnebago people in 1848, the Day family was allowed to acquire their land in

# THE COLLECTIONS

as well as national and international level. I am truly honored to be a part of this endeavor and am looking forward to sharing the experience upon our return.

*På Gjensyn*, Linda Caspersen

## TWO ROSEMALED CHESTS

Though the Scandinavian Cultural Center has a lot of impressive tapestries, and wonderful carvings and a great collection of bunads, one thing we have not had much of in our collection is rosemaled chests. Vesterheim on the other hand has so many, they are no longer accepting any more! That turned out to be fortunate for us, because it meant that the Hougen Family decided to donate their family trunk to PLU/SCC.

The Hougen family story in the United States begins when **Jens Johannessen Hougen** and his wife **Christene Oldsdatter Hougen** sailed from Bergen in 1857. They settled in a small town apply named Norway, Iowa, where they raised 11 children, all of whom survived to have families of their own. The descendants now number over 1000. In the summer of 2014, the family held a reunion at the Scandinavian Cultural Center, and that is when it was decided to donate Pastor Jens Hougen's trunk from 1856 to us. The trunk has been in the home of Lee Hougen in Virginia recently, but is being packed up and shipped to PLU this spring.

The Hougen family has deep connections to PLU: One of Jens' sons, **Johan Olai**, became a pastor in Tacoma, and his daughter **Agnes married Ole J. Stuen**, after whom Stuen Hall is named. Agnes and her sister, **Esther (Davis)**, are immortalized in the *Sisters* sculpture in Red Square for all the hard work and love they put into building up PLU in the interwar years. Given the links between the Stuen family and the

Hougen family, the trunk will be on display in the Stuen Room of the SCC for the foreseeable future.

It will be joined by another trunk recently donated to the Scandinavian Cultural Center, which comes to us from a much less likely direction, Hawaii! The trunk is dated to 1840, but was in Askøy (near Bergen), Norway until 1965. It was originally from Lyster (Sognefjord) in Norway. It comes to the Scandinavian Cultural Center thanks to a conference held on the PLU



campus during the summer of 2014, when a conference attendee, **Solveig Lamberg**, born in Norway and now living in Hawaii, visited the Scandinavian Cultural Center. She explains, "When I attended a summer institute at PLU during the summer of 2014, I discovered the SCC and felt that this was a perfect home for my beloved heirloom." Solveig had been searching for a place to donate the trunk, since the climate of Hawaii is not good for artifacts, and her home is being threatened by the Kilauea volcanic eruption.

We are honored to have the opportunity to preserve, display, and share both of these wonderful rosemaled chests. And we thank the donors for augmenting this part of our collection with such heartfelt and special donations.

**FEB. 6<sup>TH</sup> SÁMI ÁLBMOTBEAIVI 2015**

This year, the SCC celebrates Sámi Álbmotbeaivi (Sámi National Day, February 6) through an exploration of Sámi film. Our Sámi Film Festival will consist of two feature-length films—one depicting a pivotal moment in Sámi history and another portraying a classic Sámi folktale—two short documentaries, and five short films. These Sámi-directed films all treat different topics relating to the Sámi, the Indigenous people of northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia's Kola Peninsula. Film is a wonderful medium for allowing Sámi perspectives to reach audiences around the world, demonstrating that a people can hold onto their traditions and culture while still being completely contemporary. We hope you will join us to see Sámi sharing their voices through words and pictures, interviews, and art.

The following is the film schedule for Friday, February 6. Films are shown in **Xavier Hall, room 150**. Light refreshments will be available throughout the day, and reindeer sausage will be served during the 6 pm break. More information on each film is available on the SCC website.

1:00 pm – 2:36 pm *Kautokeino opprøret (Kautokeino Rebellion, 2008)* – Directed and co-written by Nils Gaup, this feature length film is based on the 1852 uprising, when local Sámi, some involved in the Læstadian religious movement, tired of exploitation and social marginalization by Norwegians, take matters into their own hands, with tragic consequences.

2:45 pm – 3:40 pm *De Gode Hjelperne (The Secret Helpers, 2012)* – This documentary by Harry

Johansen and Torill Olsen is a rare view into traditional healing by those called ‘helpers,’ people within the Sámi community possessed with a gift for healing, relieving pain, and even staunching bleeding. 3:50 pm – 5:00 pm *We are Sámi* – This short documentary produced by Gáldu Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a general overview of modern Sámi life, language, goals and struggles.



Excellent for anyone unfamiliar with the Sámi people. 5:10 – 6:11 pm *Three shorts written and directed by the Sámi filmmaker Marja Bål Nango* in 2013, a young woman from Galgujávri in Norway. Her newest work earned Nango the Debut Film Award at the Tromsø International Film Festival this month.

6:11pm – 6:30 pm *Meal Break*

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm *Ofelaš (Pathfinder, 1987)* – A Sámi teenager, Áigin, must find a way to stop the čudit bandits before they destroy his entire community. The first full-length

feature film about the Sámi to also be written and directed by a Sámi (Nils Gaup), *Ofelaš* is a creative re-telling of a well-known Sámi folktale. It was well received by Norwegians and Sámi alike, and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. It will be shown together with an animated short from 2014 directed by Jouni West entitled Áigin.

**MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, NORDIC ORGAN CONCERT**

New Jersey-based organist James D. Hicks presents Nordic Journey, a concert featuring organ music from Scandinavia, on Sunday, March 1 at 8:00 pm, in Lagerquist Hall. The fifty-four stop mechanical-action organ from the workshop of Paul Fritts is a wonderful vehicle

## EVENTS

for the enjoyment of Nordic music.

The program on Sunday March

1st will also be special because of the range of organ music Hicks will be playing. Ten years of research have resulted in Hicks releasing four compact disc recordings, produced by the American Pro Organo label. Each of the four volumes of the Nordic Journey series was recorded in different churches and cathedrals throughout Sweden. The pieces include new music specifically commissioned for the project, little-known works from previous eras, some of which have never been published, as well as a few old standards.

The program on March 1st draws heavily from Hicks' newest endeavor, Nordic Journey, Volume V, a double cd to be recorded this coming April at Kalmar Cathedral, Kalmar, Sweden. This collection highlights the diverse traditions of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Faroe Islands. Two world premieres will be included: "Nordic Fanfare" by contemporary Swedish composer Fredrik Sixten, composed in January 2015 and based on a Swedish folk song; and Intermesso from the Faroese composer Pauli i Sandgerdi who arranged this composition, originally scored for wind quintet, for Hicks in 2014. Not normally known for its organ music,



the Faroe Islands are otherwise on the cutting edge of many things Nordic. Hicks will visit the Faroe Islands this summer, participating in concerts in this country's annual Summartónar.

Additional works in this concert will include works in the Romantic style by Swedish composer Oskar Lindberg and the Icelandic master Páll Isólfsson, as well as a jazz-influenced work by Nils Lindberg. Other contemporary works composed for Hicks by Kjell Mørk Karlsen and Sven-Ingvar Mikkelsen, from Norway and Denmark respectively, will further illuminate the diversity of contemporary Nordic expression.

We look forward to seeing many members of the SCC at this free concert coordinated with the Music Department of PLU.

### APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> SVARE-TOVEN LECTURE: A "WELL-HIDDEN LIFE": UNDSET IN EXILE

For many, the name of Norwegian author Sigrid Undset is synonymous with Kristin Lavransdatter and the historical novel. A less known chapter in the life of this Norwegian author is her years in exile in the United States during World War II. SCC members are invited to a lecture April 30th in which **Dr. Claudia Berguson**, PLU associate professor of Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies, will discuss what has been referred to as Undset's "well-hidden life" in exile in New York City from 1940 to 1945. Dr. Berguson's lecture is based on her research of letters exchanged between Sigrid Undset and three American women authors, **Willa Cather**, **Marjorie Rawlings** and **Hope Emily Allen**. These letters form a narrative that complicates the common story of wartime sacrifice and stoicism, revealing the ways in which the author most known for her medieval historical fiction turned into an "information soldier" during wartime. Dr. Berguson will share excerpts from the letters as she explores how Sigrid Undset contrasted observations of the richness of American way of life with the human tragedy of wartime.

## FEB. 10<sup>TH</sup>: EMIGRATION FROM SNERTINGDAL

In less than a 40 year period of time, almost half of the residents of the 40 mile long valley known as Snertingdal left for other countries, mainly the United States and Canada. There were multiple factors that lead to the mass exodus from this particular valley: political, economic, social mores and structure. On Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm, **Finn Brobakken**, a native of Snertingdal, will present his insights from growing up there as he learned his own relatives' stories and found out more from neighbors who had family members who left. Joining him in the second half of the program will be SCC Council Member **Judy Scott**, a graduate of the Norwegian program at PLU in 1978, who will share excerpts of her grandfather's personal account of his emigration from Snertingdal in 1906.

### **Christian Miller**

became a professor at the University of Puget Sound and returned to his homeland in 1946 as soon as the war was over, to teach for a year at the University of Oslo. As a special treat, Judy Scott will also share highlights from the Norwegian Constitution 200 year Jubilee at Eidsvoll, which Judy attended with two of her

pg. 7

## FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

American cousins, along with their relatives in Norway. Join us for this heartfelt evening that brings the immigration story full circle, and shows that roots so deep are never forgotten.

## APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>: SWEDISH HERITAGE PROGRAM: ARKIVDIGITAL



*Judy Scott's grandfather Christian Miller and his older brother Haldor, ages 12 and 17 in this photo from 1906. It was taken shortly after they had emigrated from Snertingdal.*

Would you like to know how to go about researching your own family tree, genealogy, and ancestry? This year, **Ed and Betty Larson** bring to the Scandinavian Cultural Center a special program, preceded by a hands-on workshop, led by **Kathy Meade of Arkivdigital**.

Arkivdigital is an online database of all Swedish church records, and an invaluable tool for anyone researching Swedish ancestry.

Kathy will be joined by **Lorna Nelson and Lenora Lynan** from the McPherson County Old Mill Museum, which is an outdoor museum featuring the 1904 Boberg Swedish Pavilion, where

many Swedish-American heritage events are held annually.

Kathy, Lorna and Lenora have worked together many times to demonstrate to audiences in the U.S. how to use the Swedish Arkivdigital database, and we are thrilled they have agreed to come to PLU for our Swedish Heritage Program.



## UPCOMING CLASSES

## NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE CLASS

The main program on Sunday, April 12th from 2pm to 4pm will feature presentations by our guests, as well as a spread of Swedish delicacies, and, thanks to the generosity of Ed and Betty, everyone is welcome to attend for free. On Saturday morning, a smaller group can get hands on training in a workshop at the PLU computer lab (in the basement of Mortvedt Library). The workshop can only accomodate 18 individuals, and it includes certain requirements, so contact Ed or Elisabeth quickly to reserve your space! And don't forget to mark your calendars for April 12th, for another unforgettable Swedish Heritage Program.

### FEB. 8TH: WHEAT WEAVING CLASS

Wheat weaving is an art form that originated in farming societies of Europe thousands of years ago, and was likely practiced in Scandinavia well before the Bronze Age. Select pieces of wheat and straw were woven together to create intricate designs, shapes, and patterns. Like many ancient folk crafts, wheat weaving managed to survive in some farming communities, and it is now experiencing a renaissance. Come on Sunday, February 8th, to learn how to make your own decorative pieces out of wheat from a local wheat-weaving expert, Jean Whipple, at 1pm in the Scandinavian Cultural Center. All supplies will be provided as well as hands-on instruction, all for the low cost of \$10. This is a great way to make a personal Valentine gift to take home!



Olivia Gunn, Lecturer in the Norwegian Program for the last three years, has agreed to teach members of the SCC Norwegian in the Scandinavian Cultural Center this spring. The class will run for 8 weeks, and will be held on Wednesdays from 3pm to 5pm, starting Feb. 25th. No class on April 1. Final class meeting April 22nd. Total cost is \$80, includes materials.

This is a great opportunity for absolute beginners or for those wanting to add to and refine a basic knowledge of the Norwegian language. We will concentrate on “cognates, customs, and culture.” In other words, we will spend time developing awareness of those elements of Norwegian that should be easily accessible to English speakers – including words that sound the same and similar grammatical structures – in order to build confidence. In addition, we will develop vocabulary and pronunciation skills to aid those who might want to travel to Norway (or just for fun!). Finally, we will spend time discussing contemporary Norwegian culture.

We will use materials from the Textbook and Workbook, *Sett i Gang I*. Olivia will make copies of materials available to students, or you can choose to purchase your own copy of the book.

The goals of this class will be 1) to have lots of fun, 2) to develop familiarity with written Norwegian and comprehension of and comfort with spoken Norwegian, and 3) to exercise our brains. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the class. I look forward to working with you! *Olivia Gunn*

Norwegian Cooking Classes will be held on March 10th, 16th, and 28th at 10am. Swedish Cooking Class will be held on March 26th at 10am. Cooking Classes cost \$5 and include sampling the cooked dishes!

# FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS



The julbord served up delicious food! Photo by Marianne Lincoln.



The 2014 Outstanding Service Award was given to loyal SCC Council Member Clarene Johnson. Congratulations!



## H.O.M.E PROGRAM CONTINUES

Thanks to the wonderful families that agreed to offer hospitality to international students at PLU during the Fall of 2014, the program has been extended! Applications for families are available at <https://forms.plu.edu/709> and the welcome reception will take place on Feb. 15th at 4:30pm. Please sign up!



Thanks to Kerstin Ringdahl, our Lucia event this year was Ekta Svensk! Photo by M. Lincoln

Meg Dolde, PLU senior majoring in Norwegian and English, was this year's Lucia, winning the SCC's \$500 scholarship. She is pictured here with Chelsea Miller at IKEA, where the Lucia and her brides passed out fresh baked buns on the morning of December 13th, just as Lucias do in Sweden every year!



## THANKS FROM THE DANISH SISTERHOOD

Thyra Lodge #19 in Tacoma would like to express their gratitude for meeting at Pacific Lutheran University. In December the large hall was beautifully decorated for the holidays and provided the backdrop for our annual Christmas bazaar. The live music and decorated Scandinavian trees created a festive scene. The 2014 bazaar was an outstanding success and will allow us to be generous with our scholarships again this year. Another advantage of meeting at PLU is the opportunity to get to know the Danish exchange students. We are also delighted to now have a representative on the SCC Council and look forward to continued collaboration. Any SCC members interested in Denmark are invited to join our lodge!

# THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

## SPRING 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

We are on  
facebook!  
Please like us!

### OPEN HOURS:

Sunday 1pm to 4pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 11am to 3pm

Closed Feb. 25th and April 5th

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Feb 4th    | Danish Sisterhood Meeting, 11am  |
| Feb 6th    | Sámi National Day Celebration: Film Festival in Xavier Hall<br>1pm-8pm |
| Feb 8th    | Wheat Weaving Class, 1pm to 3pm, \$10 per person                       |
| Feb 10th   | Norwegian Emigration with Finn Brobakken and Judy Scott, 7pm           |
| Feb 11th   | Cultural Council Meeting, 6:15pm                                       |
| Feb 13th   | Fastelavn Celebration at PLU morning chapel, 10:30am                   |
| Feb 15th   | Danish Sangaften, 2pm  |
| Feb. 15th  | H.O.Me Program Meet and Greet. 4:30pm                                  |
| Feb 22nd   | Oleana Sweater Event at Garfield Book Store, 2pm                       |
| Feb 25th   | Norwegian Language Classes Begin, 3pm                                  |
| Feb 25th   | Viking Film Series: 1957 Kirk Douglas in The Vikings, 7pm              |
| March 1st  | Nordic Journeys Organ Concert in Lagerquist Hall, 8pm                  |
| March 4th  | Danish Sisterhood, 11am  |
| March 10th | Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am  |
| March 11th | Council Meeting 6:15pm   |
| March 16th | Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am  |
| March 17th | Exhibition Opening: "Comings and Goings in Scandinavia", 7pm           |
| March 26th | Swedish Cooking Class, 10am  |
| March 28th | Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am  |
| April 1st  | Danish Sisterhood Meeting, 11am  |
| April 1st  | Viking Film Series: Shadow of the Raven (Iceland/Sweden), 7pm          |
| April 8th  | Council Meeting 6:15pm   |
| April 12th | Swedish Heritage Program: Arkivdigital, 2pm-4pm                        |
| April 19th | Danish Sangaften, 2pm  |
| April 25th | Norwegian Heritage Festival, 10am to 4pm                               |
| April 30th | Svare-Toven Endowed Lecture by Claudia Berguson, 7pm                   |
| May 10th   | Spring Banquet SAVE THE DATE!  |



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The Scandinavian Scene is a quarterly newsletter published for members and friends of the SCC.  
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