

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

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FEATURES INSIDE:

Visit of H. M. King

Harald V of Norway

Svare-Toven Lecture

NFS Grundtvig Day

Focus on Members

Hardanger Fiddle



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COVER IMAGE:

His Majesty King Harald V of Norway will be the 2015 Commencement Speaker for Pacific Lutheran University. His visit is part of PLU's 125th Anniversary Celebration. Details about His Majesty's visit are found on pages 2, 4, 9, and 10.

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.

FROM THE DIRECTOR...♦♦



The King is coming, the King is coming! I have heard many people say that sentence lately, with a mixture of joy, amazement, and amusement. How often in our lives will we get to say that sentence? Each time it is said or heard,

it joins a long echo of others who have said the same sentence through the ages. Kings and queens bring people together, and have been doing so for Scandinavians for over 1000 years.

It is a profound honor to be assisting with the planning for the King's visit. It is a big job, and I have but a small role. Norwegian Consul for Seattle, Kim Nesselquist, has of course the lion share of duties, and indeed we can thank him for the idea to extend an invitation to the King from Pacific Lutheran University to be the Commencement Speaker at PLU's graduation ceremony in the Tacoma Dome. He is coming specifically because this year marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of PLU. (Bjug Harstad signed the articles of incorporation on December 11, 1890.) You have probably noticed the banners around campus announcing our 125th, and other special events are planned for the Fall, especially for Homecoming and "Founder's Day" in December. But by far the biggest event of PLU's quasiquintennial is the Royal Visit on May 23rd!

My job in particular is to make sure Red Square is filled with friendly faces when His Majesty arrives to campus on the morning of May 23rd. HM King Harald will take a short tour of campus with his entourage, beginning near the library, walking past the Norwegian flag in the center of "Red Square"

(because of all the bricks!), and ending up at the Anderson University Center.

This stroll through campus will be one of the only public viewing opportunities during His Majesty's visit, and definitely the most picturesque, especially if it is filled with smiling faces in bunads and Norwegian sweaters! So I am counting on all the members of the Scandinavian Cultural Center to help me out. Tell your friends and neighbors, bring your kids and grand kids, and join in the fun. We will be handing out Norwegian flags, singing Norwegian songs, and hopefully sharing our enthusiasm with the wider community. This is a great opportunity to show how important PLU's long-standing relationship to Norway is for all of us.

Another job I have been working on is perhaps not as celebratory, but it also promises to have long-term dividends for the Scandinavian Cultural Center. We have secured the help of James Hushagen, former Regent of PLU, a PLU Alum, and active member of the Choral Union and the national ELCA Board, to help us with our bylaws. Though he isn't quite royalty, it is really nice to have someone with his credentials crafting a new governing document. Any new bylaws go through an approval process, and they have to be agreed upon by the Provost of PLU and by the Cultural Council. If you are interested in this process, you are welcome to join us for our Cultural Council meeting in June, which will be rather heavily focused on the revised bylaws. Jim is committed to making the Scandinavian Cultural Center an important community resource that serves the mission of PLU, and he believes new, simplified bylaws can help us grow the program. But of course, none of his ideas will be adopted unless the Cultural Council agrees.

So, with those two complex, but exciting, things to work through, I admit I am looking forward to the summer! *Ha det bra!* Elisabeth

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTIONS

A DONATION FIT FOR A KING

by Linda Caspersen

Imagine making a donation to your Alma Mater that creates a legacy. This is exactly what's happening because of a generous donation of a Hardingfele (Hardanger fiddle) to the Scandinavian Cultural Center by Lynn Berg, PLU class of 1964.

My family first had the honor of meeting Lynn Berg when we were the musical entertainment for the annual Nordic Christmas Celebration in the SCC at PLU in 1997 where he made his donation of the Hardingfele. Little did anyone imagine where this fiddle would appear in 2015.

The Hardanger fiddle is commonly known as Norway's national instrument. Although it looks similar to a regular violin (flat fiddle), it has some distinct differences. The most distinguishing feature is that the 4 to 5 strings run underneath the beautifully decorated, inlaid mother of pearl fingerboard. These sympathetic strings add to the "haunting" or "echo" sound of the melody strings and produce a moving "drone" voice. Another feature is the carved head of a maiden or, more commonly, a dragon or Lion of Norway. The fiddle is decorated with black ink decorations known as "rosing" on the body of the instrument. The top of the instrument is carved from one single piece of wood before being attached to the instrument body. The Hardingfele that Lynn donated to the SCC is exquisitely carved and decorated, and has a beautiful sound.

One of Lynn's wishes was that his donated instrument be played. It is currently in the hands of PLU Music Professor, Svend Rønning. Because of Dr. Rønning's mastery of playing the violin and Hardingfele, the value of Lynn Berg's instrument will continue to increase over time.

The earliest documented example of a Hardingfele was the Jaastad fiddle made by Ole Jonsen in Hardanger, Norway from 1651. The shape of that instrument changed around 1850 to look similar to what we see today.

Today there are many people playing Hardingfele in a Spelemannslag. This is a fiddling group that might also include guitar, accordion, button accordion, and string base. Some groups also include dancers. The fiddles are popular today in Norway and in the United States. As the great influx of immigrants came to America, there were well known fiddlers who brought their playing skills with them. Many of them ended up in the Midwest where competitions in both fiddling and dancing occurred. These contests still exist, especially in Norway. Part of this competition includes the art of making the Hardingfele. Lynn Berg is the ONLY American to win a medal in one of these competitions in Norway! (His Bronze was awarded in Vågå.) Another accolade is that one of his fiddles has traveled around the world as the Hardingfele for the Lord of the Rings concerts.

Lynn's idea for building the quartet instruments



Photo of the four instruments in the Harding Kvartett that will perform for His Majesty on May 23rd. The first fiddle is the piece in the Scandinavian Cultural Collection.

started when I told him that it would be much easier to play a hardingcello, rather than a hardingfele. His response was, “Hmm...” The next time we met he showed up with a carved hardingcello head and then shortly afterwards with the fingerboard and body. Because he had built the cello and two fiddles, he decided to complete the quartet with the viola. This is the only true Harding Kvartett in existence. There is a decorated cello made in 1860 in a museum in Norway, but it does not have the understrings or other features that make up a true Hardanger instrument.

Lynn Berg’s instruments were featured in a Nordic Vibrations Concert at Lagerquist Hall in 2004, a 2005 concert in Gig Harbor, Amerikappleik in 2006 at St. Olaf and a benefit concert at Nordic Heritage Museum in 2014.

The greatest tribute to Berg’s instruments and donation will, however, be the Harding Kvartett playing at PLU’s luncheon in honor of His Majesty King Harald V of Norway on May 23rd, 2015. All performers are local and have strong ties to PLU. They will be performing a special composition by Dr. Brian Galante, PLU Professor of Music. The performers are:

First Hardingfele:	Ms. Janis Upshall
Second Hardingfele:	Mr. Stein Olaf Hansen
Hardingviola:	Dr. Svend Rønning
Hardingcello:	Ms. Linda Caspersen

MAY 2ND MERIMEKKO STYLE!

In 1951, a Finnish woman by the name of Armi Ratia started a company based on her passion for dresses of bold colors and patterns. “Mari” is a play on her own name, while “mekko” is dress in Finnish. The SCC is fortunate to have a lovely collection of Marimekko pieces due to the hard work of former Council member **Aila Vorhies** from

Helsinki, Finland. Hospitality Chair **Gerda Hunter** suggested a Merimekko theme for our Spring Banquet, and the rest of the committee wholeheartedly agreed! Note the change of date to May 2nd.

The date was changed so that we could enjoy hearing the musical stylings of a young Finnish-Norwegian trio, called Nord Trio. Sini



Simonen, violin, Heidi Luosujärvi, accordion, and Inger-Kristine Riber, piano, are coming to the Pacific Northwest for the dates of May 1 to May 5, so we had to act fast to have them come to PLU. Also, many people voiced concern that the original date of Sunday, May 10th, conflicted with Mother’s Day.

New this year to our Spring Banquet is the inclusion of students and faculty in the Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian Programs. The Scandinavian Cultural Center dedicates one-third of our endowment funds to awarding merit scholarships and study-away awards to students interested in Scandinavia, in addition to hiring student workers for the SCC and for the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection. So it seems only fitting that we should have an event where members of the SCC and students at PLU get to spend some time together talking and sharing a meal. The Spring Banquet will include announcing the student winners of the SCC awards, as well as enjoying a taste of spring, Merimekko Style!

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 30TH A WELL-HIDDEN LIFE: SIGRID UNDSET IN EXILE

*Svare-Toven Endowed Professorship Lecture
by Claudia Berguson*

The name Sigrid Undset is most often associated with the author's masterpiece historical novel *Kristin Lavransdatter* (1920-1922), her polemical essays and her status as one of only three Norwegian writers to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. Seldom do we associate Undset with exile and narratives of a temporary home in America. In her lecture April 30th, Svare-Toven Professor Claudia Berguson explores the well-hidden life of Sigrid Undset during her exile years in Brooklyn during World War II. The lecture, which focuses on letters exchanged between Sigrid Undset and three American women authors, considers how letters form their own narrative of wartime. Seen in contrast to the dominant World War II stories of heroes and traitors, the letters prompt us to ask, "How did Sigrid Undset's life in exile become a well-hidden story? What life in America did Sigrid Undset cultivate through letter writing? and, How is the story of this well-hidden life significant to our critique of national narratives that form a collective memory of war?"

Sigrid Undset's literary career began in 1907 with her novel *Fru Marte Oulie*. With its first sentence "I have been unfaithful to my husband," the novel challenged conventional writings about women and societal norms. Attention to lives of women in society continued to be the focus of Undset's modern and historical novels. Undset was especially gifted as a writer of historical fiction. This is evident in her trilogy *Kristin Lavransdatter* which painted a vibrant medieval Norwegian life and landscape. In fact,

one literary critic observed that Undset's fictional Middle Ages became the Middle Ages for many of the reading public. It is an irony of Undset's life that her power to create history in fiction was silenced by the historical events of war.

Forced to flee her home in the first weeks of Nazi occupation of Norway, Undset arrived in the U.S. in August 1940. She declared at once that "war is no time for literature" and turned her talents to writing essays and speeches. In the common narrative of World War II, Undset was a stalwart "information soldier" who brought awareness to the Norwegian cause and to victims of war in Europe. But is this the entire story of her life in exile? Letters exchanged with American authors Willa Cather, Marjorie Rawlings and Hope Emily Allen form a story in which a "time for literature" and even an occasional wish to forget the war entirely emerge. As the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II is observed this year, the lecture brings to light one among many well-hidden stories of individuals in wartime.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the lecture.

MAY 11TH: A PIVOTAL DANISH FIGURE GETS HIS DAY AT PLU

The Scandinavian Cultural Center is pleased to have the opportunity to host **Edward and Hanna Broadbridge** at Pacific Lutheran University on May 11th for a full day of events focused on the life and work of Danish philosopher, bishop, poet, and school reformer NFS Grundtvig (b. 8 September 1783 – d. 2 September 1872). Edward Broadbridge has published three books on Grundtvig, and part of the program will include book signing at Garfield Book company at noon on May 11th. He sends in the following article explaining Grundtvig's importance:

*Freedom our watchword must be in the North,
freedom for Loki as well as for Thor.
(Nordic Mythology, 1832)*

*Human comes first, and Christian next,
for that is life's true order.
(Human comes first, 1837)*

*In this lies our wealth, on this tenet we draw:
that few are too rich, and still fewer too poor.
(Far higher are mountains, 1820)*

Although Hans Christian Andersen and Soren Kierkegaard are better known internationally, Grundtvig is of far more importance for the Danish nation. He was born into the Enlightenment, became a Romantic, was a founding father of the new democratic Denmark in the constitution of 1849, and a member of the very first parliament. From Grundtvig's three summers in England sprang new educational ideas that led to the People's High School movement. His hymn-writing in the wake of Luther helped to define the Christian faith for modern Danes. He wrote volumes on education, philosophy, history, politics, and theology as well as over 2,000 hymns, songs, and poems. Grundtvig was a country boy who moved to the city. For most of his life he was a practising pastor, preparing Sunday services and preaching hundreds of sermons. He married three times and fathered five children, one of whom was a Lutheran pastor in Clinton, Iowa for 17 years.

In the recently published second volume of his history of democracy the eminent American political philosopher, Francis Fukuyama, includes a brief section entitled 'Getting to

Denmark'. He writes, "By this I mean less the actual country Denmark than an imagined society that is prosperous, democratic, secure, and well governed, and experiences low levels of corruption. ... How did Denmark come to be governed by bureaucracies that were characterised by strict subordination to public purposes, technical expertise, a functional division of labor, and recruitment on the basis of merit?" In other words, how does a nation reach a state where 'few are too rich and still fewer too poor'.



As can be seen from the first quotation Grundtvig set freedom as the highest achievable goal for all nations. And this freedom is the right of both Loki (the trickster god) and Thor (the protector god). In the 1849 constitution the Danish people acquired by law among others personal freedom, home freedom, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and freedom of association.

In the second quotation Grundtvig argues that we should concentrate on this life rather than the next. We are all children before we are adult, all human before we are Christian – or anything else, all created in the image of God. It was for this affirmation of life that Grundtvig became known in the USA, as Joy Ibsen writes: "Happy Danes embraced the reality of life with its imperfections, focusing on enjoyment of nature, folk culture, and community. In contrast, the heritage of Holy Danes had its roots in the Inner Mission pietistic movement, and a more ascetic lifestyle."

The third quotation, which draws its inspiration

GRUNDTVIG CONTINUED...

from the gathering of manna in the desert in Exodus 16:17, has since become a watchword in Denmark for the goals of Danish society that Fukuyama identifies: a genuinely collective spirit found in a tribe or a clan. This spirit is at present under pressure from global capitalism, immigration, and the gradual loss of common values.

To properly honor this wide-ranging, influential figure, the following program has been organized for May 11th:

10:30am - Morning Chapel at Lagerquist Hall will include Edward playing some compositions inspired by Grundtvig's poetry

Noon - Book Signing at Garfield Book Store

1:45pm - Guest lecture by Edward Broadbridge in Svend Rønning's Music of Scandinavia course

5pm - Public Lecture in the Scandinavian Cultural Center by Hanna Broadbridge on the Danish Educational system and modern day Denmark.

All events are free!

SCANDINAVIAN FOLKDANCE CLASS!

Dig out those dancing shoes, because the Scandinavian Cultural Center folkdancing class is getting geared up to begin again! Experienced, patient, and skilled instructors **Bob Hamilton** and **Leslie Foley** will be offering beginning level Scandinavian folk dance in October and November. An eight week class beginning October 12th will get us all ready for dancing around the Juletree in style this year. The class will cost \$40 and will take place in Chris Knutzen Hall. We will send an email to all members when the online reservation system is up and running, so stay tuned!

UPCOMING CLASSES

SONORO SCANDINAVIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Many members of the SCC remember fondly the children's choir that used to be active around PLU. After over a decade without a Scandinavian children's performing group in the Tacoma/Pierce County area, the Sonoro Choral Society has filled the need by starting the Sonoro Scandinavian Children's Choir (SSCC).

Janet Ruud was instrumental in bringing together the Director of the Sonoro Choral Society, **Jeremy Shilley**, and Elisabeth Ward to build up momentum for such a project. An informational meeting was held on March 22 at the Scandinavian Cultural Center, and rehearsals began on March 24. Fourteen enthusiastic six-to twelve-year-old singers meet with director Jeremy Shilley every Tuesday at 6 PM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lakewood.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center is supporting the start-up of the new chorus by providing scholarships to all members of this first start-up class. New members of this class will be accepted until the end of April. After that, the choir will concentrate on polishing preparations for its first performance, which will take place on May 23 at the celebration in PLU's Red Square to welcome



His Majesty King Harald of Norway to the PLU campus! It is a tradition for children to welcome royalty wherever they go, and the Scandinavian Cultural Center is proud to be able to sponsor a batch of youngsters learning Scandinavian songs for the occasion.

After May 23, membership will be opened again, and interested parents may contact the director by phone or email (253-307-1226 or Jeremy.shilley@gmail.com). The choir looks forward to singing with the Sonoro Women's Choir in a concert to be held on June 19 and 20. Further opportunities to perform include local Scandinavian festivals throughout the year and the annual Sankta Lucia program at PLU. The SCC Cultural Council will consider ways to continue to support the participation of youngsters in the choir as it develops.

FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS

SONJA RUUD

Growing up, I was always aware of my Norwegian heritage. I was well acquainted with many varieties of Norwegian baked goods, learned words like "uffda" and "tusen takk," and hosted Norwegian relatives visiting Washington on many occasions. However, it wasn't until I spent a semester studying away in Norway as a PLU student that I came to appreciate the significance of this background.

My family in the US has maintained contact over the years with many relatives in Norway, which gave me many people to visit during the fall of 2011. I was exceedingly fortunate to even have relatives in the small town of Elverum, where I was based for the semester. The first time I met Per (my second cousin once removed) and his wife Hanne, they cooked me a wonderful meal in their home and showed me many old family photographs. Per is very interested in

genealogical research, and had compiled a booklet, in English and Norwegian, tracing our shared family history back many generations.

It was enlightening to learn more about my family

roots, including the challenges that brought my ancestors to the US. I began to see my Norwegian heritage beyond a collection of fun traditions, as something that connects me to a larger narrative of people, stories and places.

When I returned to PLU a year after graduating to work in the Wang Center for Global Education, I was grateful for the opportunity to be involved with the Scandinavian Cultural Center. I have enjoyed collaborating with the SCC around PLU's two semester study away programs in Norway (in Oslo and Telemark). After having experienced firsthand the benefits of immersing oneself in another culture, I would like to see every student have the option to study away. Scholarships like those offered by the SCC go a long way in helping to make this opportunity accessible to students of all backgrounds.

For the last year and a half, I have also had the chance to serve on the Scandinavian Cultural Center Council and later on the Executive Board, which has opened my eyes to yet another circle of connectedness. In addition to being able to learn more about my Norwegian-American identity, I have become engaged with people with shared interests and background. Though I will be leaving PLU at the end of this academic year to begin graduate school, I have learned the value of staying connected, and plan to maintain my SCC membership for years to come!



UPCOMING EXHIBITS

NORWAY, 1890: A TIME OF TRANSITION

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, Bjug Harstad made his way by train from Decorah, Iowa, to Tacoma, Washington, with the task of establishing a Lutheran college. Intended to service the many Norwegians working in the shipping and logging industry of a booming frontier town, the charter of Pacific Lutheran Association was signed on December 11, 1890.

Pacific Lutheran University is commemorating the 125th anniversary of this optimistic and heartfelt act in many different ways during 2015. In addition to hosting His Majesty the King Harald of Norway, PLU will also be telling its story through an online, virtual exhibit of 125 objects, creating a documentary about the history of PLU, and curating a poster show to travel to Seattle, Portland, and beyond.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center will be doing its part by mounting an exhibition delving into “the Norway of Bjug Harstad.” The dynamic period in Norwegian history from 1848 to 1890 is known as the “Modern Breakthrough” in Norwegian culture. Luminary literary figures, such as Georg Brandes and Henrik Ibsen, brought to the forefront important debates, especially about the status of women. In 1884, married women in Norway got the right to vote and control their own finances, thanks in large part to plays like “The Doll House”. It is easy to forget that the Norway that produced Ibsen is the same culture that produced Bjug Harstad. They shared an optimism and a desire to change the world. It is therefore worth noting that the first graduate of PLC was a woman!

The exhibition, opening on June 20th, will trace the various currents of political and social change coursing through the fjords of Norway between the time of Bjug’s birth in 1848 and the founding of PLU in 1890. Fittingly, the exhibition will open on the anniversary of Bjug’s death (June 20, 1933). His lifetime spanned an exciting period in Norwegian history, and we look forward to sharing that story with the students of PLU and the Scandinavian community in the area. Please join us for the opening at 7pm on Saturday, June 20th.

TREASURED CHESTS

The “Treasured Chests” exhibition is beginning to take shape in the Stuen Room! Come by to see our latest acquisitions during our open hours, and to admire the wonderful donation of the Hougen family to PLU.



THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

SPRING AND SUMMER 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**We are on
facebook!
Please like us!**

OPEN HOURS:

Sundays 1pm to 4pm (except June 7)
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11am to 3pm
Special this summer! Extra open hours!

- April 25th Norwegian Heritage Festival, 11am to 3pm
- April 26th Danish Sangaften, 2pm
- April 30th Svare-Toven Endowed Lecture. "A Well-Hidden Life: Sigrud Undset in Exile" by Claudia Berguson, 7pm
- May 2nd Marimekko Themed Spring Banquet! \$30. Please RSVP by 4/28
- May 6th Danish Sisterhood , 11am
- May 11th N.F.S Grundtvig Chapel Service, 10:30am
- May 11th Book signing at Garfield Book Company, 12 noon
- May 11th Grundtvig and Modern Danish Education, 5pm
- May 13th Council Meeting 6:15pm
- May 17th Annual Norwegian National Day Flag Raising Ceremony, followed by a breakfast reception with Thorhild Widvey, Minister of Culture for Norway, 9am
- May 17th Danish Sangaften, 4pm
- May 23rd Welcome H.M. King Harald V on Red Square 10:45am
Lunch with H.M. King Harald V (By invitation only)
- June 10th Council Meeting 6:15pm
- June 10th Open Hours and Strawberry Festival 11:30am-1pm
- June 20th Exhibition Opening "Norway, 1890: A Time of Change"
- July 8th Open Hours and Raspberry Festival 11:30am-1pm
- July 31st Memorial Service for Valda King
- August 5th Open Hours and Blueberry Festival
11:30am-1pm
- August 10-21 SCC Closed: Summer Break

**PLEASE JOIN US ON "RED SQUARE"
(IN THE CENTER OF PLU CAMPUS,
NEAR THE NORWEGIAN FLAG)
ON SATURDAY MAY 23RD BEFORE
10:45AM TO HELP WELCOME HIS
MAJESTY KING HARALD OF NORWAY
TO PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY!**



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

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THANKS TO ROY HAGGSTROM OF LAKEWOOD FOR DONATING A MAP OF "NORDEN" FROM 1905. THIS 110 YEAR OLD SWEDISH MAP NOW IN THE INTRODUCTORY BAY OF THE SCC USED TO HANG IN "ATLAS TAVERN" IN DOWNTOWN TACOMA UNTIL 1948.

