

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #2, 2016

Scandinavian Cultural Center at PLU

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Lorilie Steen
Carol Voigt

COVER IMAGE:

Painting by Elly Stormer-Vadseth (Class of 2016).
Entered in the "Inspired by Munch and the Sea"
Student Exhibition. Received Second Place.

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.

FRA MITT HJERTET...

The last two years as President have flown by and now it is time to pass on the gavel to a new person to serve in that capacity. I knew it would be a difficult task to fill the shoes of Past President **Melody Stepp**, but with the help of an incredible Council and Docent Group, the job was accomplished.

This article would not be complete without going back to the beginnings of the Scandinavian Cultural Center. I remember so well the shoveling of the dirt and the first auction to raise money to get started. Many of the original Founders and Donors are no longer with us in person, but definitely in spirit. The hundreds of hours working with **Florence Buck** painstakingly cataloging, cleaning, repairing and storing the textile pieces (weavings and costumes) are one of my favorite memories. This goes back to the early 90's. It was an amazing learning experience and I consider it to be a big part of my education in Clothing and Textiles. Continuing the legacy of the original board and Founders was a major factor in the decision to serve as an Officer on the Scandinavian Cultural Center Council. Another historical event at the SCC was witnessing the generous donation of a Hardanger Fiddle from PLU alum, **Lynn Berg**. This presentation at the Nordic Christmas Program evolved into a chain of events that forever changed history! His fiddle donation eventually became the evolution of the Harding Kvartett, thus leading the way to a-filled-to-capacity Lagerquist Hall concert titled "Nordic Vibrations" in 2003. This was one of the many programs my sister and I worked on under the direction of **Susan Young**. We were also lucky enough to work with Susan or many years as exhibit coordinators.

As our new Director, **Elisabeth Ward** came to PLU and the Scandinavian Cultural Center, we have witnessed many wonderful changes. The SCC received a new look and it is beautiful! Our programs, lectures and exhibits have been exceptional. Through her work, she has paid tribute to the history of a culture(s) as well as moving forward to include the evolution of constant flux in the current Nordic countries. The work Elisabeth has accomplished should be a job for at least two people!

Highlights as President of the SCC this past year for me are several:

- Visiting Royalty to the PLU Campus and SCC along with the opportunity to meet King Harald V of Norway in person and perform for him in the "Harding Kvartett", was truly an honor.
- The opportunity to again visit Vesterheim in Decorah, Iowa was a highlight due to the fact that I was able to go into the Textile Archives headed up by **Laurann Gilbertson**, Textile Curator. Thank you to the Council for voting to contribute financial support to the trip so I could accompany Elisabeth!
- The permission to curate the "Common Threads" Exhibit allowed me to work in collaboration with SOAC. I feel privileged to have worked with another department on the PLU Campus and was lucky enough to have help from **Laila Caspersen Hansen** and **Katherine Vailwith** curating, and **Maren Johnson** in the preparation of the textile pieces for hanging.
- Another project was the rewriting/editing of the current bylaws. This was a new learning curve for me. Without the help of many, many volunteer hours by **Lisa Ottoson** and **Janet Ruud**, we would not have been able to move forward in a timely manner. I am awed at their expertise on so many levels!
- The biggest highlight for me was the lifelong friendships I have gained from working with some highly talented, creative and hard working individuals that honor their heritage and are willing to share it with others. Volunteer hours provide a backbone to any organization and without the people that donate thousands of hours of their time, many groups would be almost non-existent, as well as many communities. I say a huge thank you to all of you!

Pacific Lutheran University is blessed to have a Scandinavian Cultural Center on their campus and I hope they continue to honor that presence. I wish the next slate of officers the best of luck as they continue to keep the legacy alive.

**Outgoing President,
Linda Caspersen**

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTIONS

REGISTRARS TO THE RESCUE: JUNE 22

The Scandinavian Cultural Center has been selected as one of two Tacoma area museums for this year's "Registrar's to the Rescue" program. At each Washington Museum Association (WaMA) Annual Conference, Registrars to the Rescue partners with Art Work Fine Art Services to bring together a team of trained museum professionals to volunteer on a special collections project in Washington State. This program was initiated to extend the experience of trained museum professionals to cultural centers, heritage organizations, and local museums. **Rebecca Engelhardt**, the Registrar and collections manager at the Tacoma Museum of Glass explained, "These museum professionals can share their knowledge and improve the stewardship of cultural heritage collections in Washington State."

Members of the SCC are invited to join in on June 22nd and assist the professional registrars from museums around the state of Washington as they work on the SCC collection. This is a great opportunity for SCC members to learn more about our costume collection and about how to store and maintain collections in the way that best preserves them for the future.

The mission of WaMA is to: Encourage and facilitate the use and development of the highest professional standards; further the role of museums as community



partners in education; and serve as a statewide advocate for museums and actively promote the collection, preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of historic, scientific, artistic and cultural material, sites, practices, and ideas.

The SCC's original proposal to Registrar's to the Rescue was an overall assessment of our collection storage with an eye to determining the most critical areas. Two members of Registrars to the Rescue came to the SCC in March to look through our collection, and quickly identified our costume collection as the most in need of upgraded storage. They also noted our paintings were incorrectly stored, but mostly they felt that all the wonderful costumes that have been donated over the years by **Pat Kelley** and **Linda Caspersen** need more room to breathe!

Working with Linda, who is also the SCC's Textile Curator, we came up with a plan and with the help of Registrars to the Rescue, we will be rehousing the entire Costume Collection on June 22nd. Registrars to the Rescue volunteers will supply needed materials and teach us how to create supportive and non-toxic storage solutions for our costume collection, as well as rolling up their sleeves to lift and move things around! Linda and I then plan to move the other textiles this summer. Hopefully, by the start of next year, we will have collection storage areas worth showing off! But we need volunteer help!

Those interested in assisting can get in touch with either Elisabeth or Linda. It will be a fun and educational day!

EXHIBITS

STUDENTS INSPIRED BY MUNCH!

When **Elisabeth Ward** told **Stephanie Stebich** of the Tacoma Art Museum that PLU was celebrating its 125th anniversary, TAM decided that a special Norwegian-themed exhibition should be mounted. Entitled *Munch and the Sea*, the exhibition features many prints and other works by Edvard Munch where he uses water and the ocean to express his emotion.

Edvard Munch and the Sea opened April 9th at TAM and will be on display until July 17th. Since opening, TAM's exhibition received worldwide acknowledgement and has been shared all over social media, including mention of Elisabeth, the SCC and PLU in a multitude of press releases and articles.



Winning Munch-Inspired art from Hannah Nagy and Camille LaRocca. Their collaborative effort involved body paint, a trip to Owens Beach, and a beautifully executed photo shoot!

The SCC has put together a lecture series on campus to help highlight the exhibition. It also sponsored a student art contest inspired by Munch and the Sea. All undergraduate students at PLU were invited to submit works of art reflecting the technique and motifs used by Edvard Munch. The First Place winner was a three-photograph series from **Hannah Nagy** and **Camille Larocca** (Class of 2019); **Second Place** went to a painting by **Elly Stormer-Vadseth** (Class of 2016); The Third Place winner was a three-photograph series by **Sarah Berger** (Class of 2016); and two Honorable Mention awards went to **Annie Bunch** and **Grace Hancock**.

We received magnificent art pieces and can hardly believe the talent these young artists have! Cash prizes of \$500 for first place, \$250 for 2nd place and \$125 for third place were awarded during the Norwegian Heritage Festival. **Allison Morehead** was the honored guest juror for the event and lecturer.

The SCC is now displaying over 15 works of art from PLU students! Admire them during our open hours through July.

NO LABOR LOST: OPENING MAY 1

This semester **Dr. Elisabeth Ward** has had the privilege of teaching a course for the History Department entitled "Public Museums". History students who don't go into teaching or get an advanced degree can put a B.A. in History to good use at museums, especially smaller regional and local history museums. Scan majors and minors also have promising museum potential, especially in this area. So PLU likes to offer this course on a very regular basis. When I was asked to teach this class, I decided that I'd work with the students to create a real exhibit in the Scandinavian Cultural Center!

Jen Jenkins, Chair of the Scandinavian Studies Program, approved a topic for the course that would also allow the course to fulfill a Scandinavian Studies elective credit. With the course taking place during the Spring, and with all the conversations around



United Textile Workers of America marching in 1934.

campus about social justice, I thought people might be interested to learn more about May Day in Scandinavia.

One holiday that is celebrated all over the Nordic region, and much of Europe, is May 1st, International Workers Day. Unlike American Labor Day, this has not turned into a casual day to relax; it remains a day when there are marches and protests against inequality. When I was living in Iceland, this holiday surprised me, as did things like how strict laws were about equal representation of women in the workplace. The strong support for workers rights and protections is one of the reasons that the Nordic countries are called Social Democracies. Many of the policies are based on ideas of socialism and related philosophies of economy and there is state ownership of industries that are private in the United States. I thought it might be an interesting surprise to Scandinavian-Americans and to students at PLU to see this radical side of Scandinavia in an exhibit.

The policies for the Nordic economic model, which were put in place between about 1950 and 1980, came after many Scandinavians left to the U.S. I was curious whether or not the seeds of the Nordic model were

already in the culture before immigration. Certainly the idea of *jamteloven*, where no one should put themselves above others, is not especially capitalistic!

So the task I set before the class was to research the role of Scandinavian Americans in the U.S. Labor movement. I was very much inspired by **Carla Wulfsburg**, who had told me about a political movement in North Dakota in the 1920s led by Norwegian American farmers called the Non-Partisan League. There is not all that much written about Scandinavian-Americans and the Labor movement, but there are however a few very well known Labor rights advocates in the U.S. The Swedish born Joe Hill wrote the most famous songs of the *Wooblies*, and the Norwegian longshoreman Andrew Furseth organized shipping unions along the West Coast. But there were also Scandinavian-Americans that did not want to get involved in an activity that some characterized as un-American, including the famously union-busting Norwegian mayor of Seattle, Ole Hanson.

There are 18 students in my class this semester, and the students are a wonderful mix of advanced history majors, Scandinavian majors and minors, and students taking the course for elective credit from other majors. It has worked out very nicely, with the students working in groups of three, each of them tackling one of the six bays in the main Hildahl Gallery of the SCC. The students have decided to look at specific industries that resonate with residents of



Loggers at work.

the Pacific Northwest and Scandinavia, and that are well-represented in the SCC collection.

The exhibition title, suggested by students in the class, is “No Labor Lost: Industries of the Labor Movement”. The title is meant to emphasize that the advances made in workers rights and protections have not been forgotten even though the Labor Movement is not as strong today as it once was. The exhibition is organized into Shipping, Logging and Mining, Trains and Grains, Textiles, Ceramic and Glass Factories, and Fishing. The students have carefully researched the U.S. and Scandinavian sides of these industries, looking especially at how the Labor Movement has changed the industries. In the center of the room, the students suggested reconstructing a float used by craft guilds during the May Day rallies that used to be popular in the United States. Not many people know that International Workers Day, May 1st, was first an American holiday before it was picked up internationally. So this exhibition hopes to entertain, enlighten, and get people to question a few things.

I am very proud of the students in my class for enthusiastically taking on this exhibit project and so grateful for the chance to work with them. The exhibit will be on display through July 5th. Please come see it!

Elisabeth Ward

RUNES REVEALED: OPENING JULY 8

We are excited to report that a fascinating art exhibit called “Runes Revealed” is coming to the SCC on July 8th and will be on view through September 24. This is an exhibition of contemporary artwork by Nordic Bay Area artists who were inspired by the ancient Norse runes, a distinctive form of writing that developed before the Viking Age and was used into the 19th Century in some areas.

The runic alphabet is loosely based on the Old Norse and the Vikings. But it was not only a simple representation of sounds; each rune was imbued with symbolism, mystery and an association with specific gods in Norse mythology. In their exhibition, the Nordic 5 Artists expressed the mystique of the runes in a variety of mediums, including painting, prints, sculpture, textile and photography. Included



Birch Bark Sculpture with Runic Alphabet by Norma Anderson Fox

alongside each artwork are brief explanations from each artist about what the piece means to them and how they created it. You will learn more about how this ancient alphabet resonates in us today.

Many members of the SCC might remember that they exhibited here in 2008 and we are delighted to have them back. The Nordic 5 Arts are a group founded in 1993 by **Kati Casida**, an artist of Norwegian heritage, as an organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. The group allows expression in the arts to flourish and gathers artists with a common heritage to explore new ideas and present a unique Nordic/Scandinavian sensibility.

Now comprising 30 professional artists, the group has presented many exhibitions during the past twenty years, showing their work in museums, galleries, educational institutions, and corporate and public exhibition spaces. The group also promotes Nordic cultural events in the Bay Area and has sponsored folk dance, poetry readings and lectures, including a presentation by **Craig Dykers**, the lead architect at Snøhetta, about the new expansion of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. For more information about Nordic 5 artists, visit their website, www.nordic5arts.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUNCH LECTURE: MAY 12



Dr. Patricia Berman

Patricia Berman, Professor of Art at Wellesly College, will give a lecture entitled “Dreamscapes: Munch, Memory, and the Sea” at the Scandinavian Cultural Center on Thursday, May 12th. From 2010-2015, Berman held a faculty position at the University of Oslo

(Norway), where she was heavily engaged in research on Edvard Munch, and she has curated several exhibitions focused on his work, including “Edvard Munch and the Modern Work of the Soul” at MoMA in New York City in 2006.

Berman will be the final of two lectures highlighting Edvard Munch in conjunction with the TAM exhibit. Her talk will be followed by a panel for Mental Health Month, where Patricia will be joined by **Dr. Sergia Hay** from the Philosophy Department who specializes in Kirkegaard and **Dr. Tom Handlan** from the Counseling Division who specializes in moving on from tragedy (he is himself a severe burn survivor). Munch had copies of Kierkegaard’s writings in his personal library, and his philosophical influence is seen particularly in the painter’s interest in the concepts of Angst and Despair. It should be a very interesting panel.

SPRING BANQUET: MAY 21

What a fabulous year we have had at the SCC! Come and celebrate all the accomplishments and help us congratulate the 2016 SCC Study Away scholarship winners.

The banquet will be Munch and Sea-themed this year with a delicious seafood buffet. SCC members will receive an invitation and reply card in the mail. Tickets are \$25.00. The banquet will take place in the SCC from 4-7 p.m. on May 21. Come wade into all things Munch with the PLU Community!

CONSTITUTION DAY: MAY 17

Join us on May 17 to celebrate Norway’s Constitution Day! There will be a flag raising ceremony at 8:30 in PLU’s Red Square, followed by a breakfast in the SCC hosted by PLU President, **Dr. Thomas Krise**. In addition, we are excited to welcome special guest **Linda Cathrine Hofstad Helleland**, the Norwegian Minister of Culture!



The procession from Red Square to the SCC is led every year by PLU Professor of Music Svend Rønning who plays his hardanger fiddle for the occasion!

MUSIC FROM SEPTENTRIO: JUNE 16

The SCC often receives emails from musicians traveling through the Pacific Northwest, wondering if we’d like to have them play for us. We can’t always say yes, of course, but thanks to the cooperation of Nordlyset and **Ross Willison** we were able to say yes to Septentrio to come to the SCC this June! They will perform at Nordlyset’s Strawberry Festival and all members of the SCC are invited to join. There will be a strawberry dessert buffet before the concert.

Septentrio combines Swedish and Finnish folk music together with its own compositions to enthrall concert audiences and its dancing public. Firmly rooted in Nordic folk music, Septentrio is a unique trio combining three nationalities. **Leonor**

UPCOMING CLASS ROSEMALING: JUNE 23-25



Septentrio

Palazzo, from Belgium, plays a 5-string cello. She is particularly dedicated to baroque music and Swedish folk music. Finland is represented by the virtuoso accordionist **Hannu Kella**, well-known from numerous tours with the Finnish group Tsumi Sound System. **Hans Kennemark**, on the fiddle, is one of Sweden's most renowned folk musicians.

Their compositions explore the full scope of sound that this unusual combination of instruments allows. The 5-string cello with its higher string makes it possible for Leonor to play the melody as well as conventional cello parts. This possibility opens new ways for melodies and harmonies to travel from one instrument to another, expanding *Septentrio's* musical universe. *Septentrio* has performed at major folk music venues throughout Sweden and at the Kaustinen Folk Music Festival in Finland.

The performance starts at 7 p.m. in the SCC and strawberry treats will be provided from Nordlyset Lodge's Strawberry Festival. Come enjoy this free summertime event!

One can take a rosemaling class, but then, there's taking a rosemaling class from a true expert who is not only a gifted painter, but a patient and insightful instructor. I have taken classes from **Marilyn Hansen** on my own, and together with my mother, **Ines Marie Ottoson**. It was such a wonderful way to gain a new depth of knowledge into the craft, but also the culture which is behind the various specialty styles that exist; Rogaland, Telemark, etc.

In Marilyn's class, she shares knowledge of the art's history, traditional color schemes and 'insider tips' that only someone with her expertise could share. Whether you've never taken a class from her, or have taken from several other instructors, I highly recommend this particular project class. You'll also enjoy sharing your educational voyage with the other painters.

The class will be limited, since personal time with Marilyn is part of the key to a successful class, so, register quickly. I assure you it will be well worth your time. You'll learn, laugh, and come away with a lovely rosemalled plate and an experience that is first class.

Lisa Marie Ottoson



Marilyn Hansen-Instructor

PHOTOS FROM PAST EVENTS



We had a great, busy Spring!
(Clockwise from top): Swedish Heritage Program, Huckweaving Class, Norwegian Heritage Festival, Stoughton Highschool Dancers, and several cooking classes!



THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

MAY 2016 - JULY 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND IN THE SCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



OPEN HOURS:

Sundays 1pm - 4pm
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 11am - 3pm

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| May 1 (Sun) | Opening of “No Labor Lost: Industries of the Labor Movement” Exhibition. This student-curated exhibit focuses on the history of May Day, and on different industries in the U.S. and Scandinavia. Food from local, responsible companies and fair-trade coffee provided. 4 p.m. |
| May 2 (Mon) | Scandinavian Folk Dance Class with musical performance, 7-8:30 p.m. in CK West. \$30 per couple, \$20 individual, \$10 for students. |
| May 4 (Wed) | Danish Sisterhood, (Meeting at member’s house) 11 a.m. |
| May 9 (Mon) | Last Scandinavian Folk Dance Class, 7-8:30 p.m. in CK West. \$30 per couple, \$20 individual, \$10 for students. |
| May 11 (Wed) | Council Meeting, 6-8 p.m. |
| May 12 (Thur) | “Dreamscapes: Munch, Memory and the Sea” Lecture by Dr. Patricia Berman followed by a panel discussion for Mental Health Month. 7 p.m. |
| May 15 (Sun) | Danish Sangaften, 2pm |
| May 17 (Tue) | Constitution Day (Syttende Mai)! Flag raising at 8:30 a.m. in Red Square followed by breakfast in the SCC. Special guest Norwegian Minister of Culture, Linda Cathrine Hofstad Helleland. |
| May 21 (Sat) | SCC Spring Banquet and the 2016 student scholarship awards are announced, 4-7 p.m. \$25.00 |
| June 1 (Wed) | Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m. |
| June 8 (Wed) | Council Meeting, 6-8 p.m. |
| June 16 (Thur) | Nordlyset Lodge Strawberry Festival, 6-8 p.m. |
| June 16 (Thur) | Traditional Scandinavian musical performance from Septentrio (A Swedish-Finish-Belgium trio), 7 p.m. |
| June 22 (Wed) | Registrars to the Rescue, All day. |
| June 23-25 (Thur-Sat) | Rosemaling three-day class. Cost is \$60 inclusive, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Class will be taught by Marilyn Hansen. |
| July 8 (Fri) | Opening of “Runes Revealed”. An art exhibit by the contemporary Nordic 5 Arts inspired by the Viking Runic alphabet, 6-8 p.m. |
| July 9 (Sat) | Embla Summer Luncheon, 11a.m.-2 p.m. |
| July 13 (Wed) | Council Meeting, 6-8 p.m. |



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

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The Scandinavian Scene is a quarterly newsletter published for members and friends of the SCC.
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**MEMBERSHIP
LETTERS HAVE
BEEN SENT OUT.
DON'T FORGET
TO SEND YOUR
RENEWAL TO
THE SCC!**



"Woman Warrior" Runic Sculpture by Kati Casida