

# SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #3, 2016

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## FEATURES INSIDE

THE NORDIC FIDDLERS  
BLOC CONCERT

SWEDGEN ROAD TOUR

ICELANDIC LITERATURE  
LECTURE

NORDIC EXPLORERS  
EXHIBIT

AND MORE...





## SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER COUNCIL

**At the June meeting, the Scandinavian Cultural Council elected the following slate of officers for 2016-2017:**

President, Edgar Larson

Vice President, Kate Emanuel-French

Secretary, Lynn Gleason

Treasurer, Jamie Foster

And the President appointed Janet Ruud as Parliamentarian.

### **Ex-officio members of the Executive Board:**

Kevin O'Brian, Dean of Humanities

Troy Storfjell, Professor and Acting Chair of the Scandinavian Studies Program

Claudia Berguson, Svare-Toven Professor of Norwegian

Kerstin Ringdahl, Curator of the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection

Elisabeth Ward, Director of the Scandinavian Cultural Center

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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*Ed Larson*

As the incoming president of the Scandinavian Cultural Council I have been asked to write to the members of the SCC and tell what I hope will happen in the coming year.

I would like to propose a number of items, and do so in the context of the mission statement

of the SCC, which says that “the SCC works to enrich understanding of Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American cultures in support of PLU’s educational mission and in recognition of PLU’s Scandinavian heritage.” That is an ambitious mission statement, to say the least. If in the coming year we can accomplish a small portion of what that statement implies, I will be extremely happy. Let me suggest some ways in which I hope that we, as an SCC organization, can work to realize that mission.

Of course, it is important that the SCC works together with two other segments of the University; namely, the Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian Studies and also the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection. Working together, these three areas of the University will provide an ongoing stream of pertinent information relative to Scandinavia, including programmatic offerings, educational opportunities, and an historical perspective.

First of all, the SCC has always offered a variety of programs throughout the year. This includes lectures, musical entertainment, and the like. In addition, the SCC provides ongoing displays and exhibitions pertaining to Scandinavia. More and more the effort has been to design programs around the idea of the relationship between Scandinavia and other parts of the world. While Scandinavian countries are singularly unique in many ways (ask any Norwegian, Swede, Dane, Finn or Icelander!), it is important to realize and to note the ways in which each and all of these countries are a part of the world community. The SCC provides programs to enhance our understanding of Scandinavia and its relationship to the rest of the world.

Secondly, the Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian Studies Program offers opportunities not only academic offerings for PLU’s students, but also there are instances in which SCC members and members of the local community can benefit from academic programs. While SCC and community members may not be sitting in the PLU classrooms, there are times in which faculty members, through media outside of the classroom (for example, lectures and writings) offer meaningful opportunities for those who are interested in Scandinavia and its role in the world. This is why the SCC works with the PLU faculty who teach in the Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian Studies Program.

Secondly, the Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian Studies Program provides academic offerings not only for PLU’s students, but also for SCC members and members of the local community. Helping Scandinavians to understand the history that is a part of the Scandinavian experience both at PLU and around the Pacific Northwest is a way that many can personally relive the experiences of previous generations. For this reason, the SCC works together with the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection.

Finally, all of these things that have been mentioned are a part of what is offered and available for members of the SCC and the local community. I hope that in the year to come, you, as members, will take advantage and participate in the opportunities that are available. Also, there are many ways that you can be an additional part of the SCC – for example, serving as a docent, being on a committee, helping to plan an event, and the list goes on. The members of the SCC Council are the ones who, together with Elisabeth Ward, do a great deal of the planning and carrying out of the work of the SCC. It is also my hope that you, as members, will offer to assist members of the SCC Council. If you think you might have an interest in serving in any way, please call Elisabeth Ward at 253-535-7349, or call me, Ed Larson, at 253-222-3373 with any questions you may have.

– ED LARSON

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## THE NORDIC FIDDLERS BLOC, OCTOBER 9



The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc, an amazing trio of fiddlers from Norway, Sweden and the Shetlands, is coming to Pacific Lutheran University! The trio, featuring Olav Mjelva (Norway), Kevin Henderson (Shetlands) and Anders Hall (Sweden) will play a concert with dancing following, on Sunday, October 9. The trio is known for clever arrangements, using the fiddles to create bass lines and riffs, and leaving the listener wondering how three fiddles can generate such amazing sound. Each of these fine fiddlers is known as a leader within their respective traditions. The concert with dance following starts at 6:00pm in Chris Knutzen Hall. Tickets are \$10 for non SCC members and \$8 for members, available through the SCC concierge.

Olav Mjelva is no stranger to the Northwest. He has performed and taught in the Seattle area several times. Olav began playing the fiddle as a child, and branched out to play the hardanger fiddle, which he uses in the trio, later. He is sought after as performer,

studio musician, teacher, and dance fiddler. A member of multiple groups, Olav has received the Spelemansprisen, the Norwegian equivalent of a Grammy for his debut solo album, and was the Norwegian Folk Musician of the Year in 2013.

Kevin Henderson is regarded as one of Shetlands finest fiddle players. He began playing at the age of 9, and a year later was studying with the late, great Willie Hunter, perhaps Shetland's finest fiddler of our time. He is a founding member of the powerhouse Shetland band, Fiddlers' Bid, and is a member of the legendary Boys of Lough. Kevin has been active performing and teaching, most recently teaching at the renowned Haugaard International Fiddle School in Germany.

Anders Hall is from Hälsingland, Sweden. He is multi-instrumental, playing fiddle, viola, and hardanger fiddle. Not only is he well versed in Swedish traditional music, but he also studied at the famed Ole Bull Academy in Voss, Norway. As a result, he is also well versed in Norwegian traditions. He strives to fit together old traditions with innovative ideas and expression, which have a unique way of engaging the listener.

In addition to performing at PLU, the trio is giving workshops the same day, Sunday, October 9, at the Cedar Valley Grange in Lynnwood, just north of Seattle. The workshops are open to the general public. For details, check [www.skandia-folkdance.org](http://www.skandia-folkdance.org).

### Want a sample?

Check out [www.thenordicfiddlersbloc.com/video](http://www.thenordicfiddlersbloc.com/video).



The band will have their most recent album, "Deliverance," available for sale at the show.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SWEDGEN ROAD TOUR 2016, SEPTEMBER 24

Have you hit a brick wall in your Swedish research or don't know where to begin? A group of three Swedish genealogists are touring the United States for the sole purpose of helping Swedish-Americans learn more about their heritage and how to do Swedish research.

These three individuals participated in previous SwedGen tours and have decided to continue the tradition with the new SWEDGEN 2016. On previous trips, the group was successful in helping many individuals get started with their research as well as breaking down many brick walls. This year the group will be making stops in Oregon and Washington states.

The group will lead a Swedish genealogy research day that will include presentations and demonstrations on how to use the various resources for Swedish genealogical and historical research. There will be presentations on Swedish genealogical online resources, Swedish genealogical CDs and Swedish emigration.

The tour participants will assist individuals with their personal research. The group will have access to Swedish online and CD genealogical resources including resources specific to regional areas such as Kalmar, Jönköping, Halland, Jämtland and Stockholm.

The Swedish tour participants will be Charlotte Börjesson, Olof Cronberg and Anna-Lena Hultman. Kathy Meade, the U.S. representative for ArkivDigital, will also be accompanying the group. Below are short biographies of the tour participants.

- Charlotte Börjesson has been doing genealogical research for more than 20 years and has deep experience with both Swedish and American resources. She has been a board member of the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden (DIS) and is currently active as a Disbyt representative. She is the culture leader for the Vasa Order of America in northern Sweden. Her areas of expertise

include research within in western Sweden as well as computer genealogical research and photography. She has participated in the SwedGen tours since 2002.

- Olof Cronberg was for many years the chairman of the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden (DIS). He is a medical doctor. He has extensive experience working with both Swedish and American genealogical resources and has a very strong understanding of the genealogical software program, Disbyt. He has participated in many of the SwedGen tours.
- Anna-Lena Hultman has been doing genealogical research for more than 40 years and is well-known as an expert on emigration research and Västergötland. She was one of the key persons in the development of the Emibas CD, a CD with information on more than 1.1 names emigrants leaving Sweden between 1845 and 1930. She also guides many North Americans during the summer months in locating their ancestor's homestead in Västergötland. Anna-Lena has her own research stuga in Hössna. Anna-Lena has participated in all the SwedGen tours.
- Kathy Meade is the U.S. representative for ArkivDigital, a company that offers online access to newly photographed color images of the Swedish historical records. Besides working for ArkivDigital, Ms. Meade volunteers at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago the Arlington Heights Memorial assisting patrons in researching their Swedish heritage. Kathy has been helping persons with their Swedish research as well as giving Swedish genealogy presentations throughout the country for more than ten years.

The SwedGen 2016 Research Day will be a great opportunity to get help with your Swedish genealogical research.

To reserve your spot, email [scancntr@plu.edu](mailto:scancntr@plu.edu) today! Cost is \$25 and will include lunch.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ICELANDIC LITERATURE LECTURE, OCTOBER 16

In Iceland, there is a saying expressing national pride: Iceland has the highest number of Nobel Prize in Literature Laureates in the world. That's an impressive statement, but as Icelanders are quick to point out (since they have an ironic sense of humor), it is only valid if one is looking at per capita statistics. In fact, there has only been one Icelander awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, Haldor Laxness. But with only 300,000 people living in Iceland, it only takes one Nobel Laureate to make it the highest in the world, statistically speaking.

A more telling statistic is this one: Iceland has a 99.9 percent literacy rate, and it has been that high since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a nation of readers and writers and book lovers. The most common Christmas present in Iceland isn't toys or perfume or clothes, it is books. Special catalogues are mailed to every household in Iceland with scores of new titles written by Icelanders for Icelanders, as well as translations into Icelandic of global classics. It is the rare Icelander who doesn't personally know a published author. So to stay the least, Iceland has a vibrant literary society.

What is most amazing is that this characteristic of Icelandic culture stretches back over 800 years. In the time of King Haakon the Good of Norway, it

was the Icelander Snorri Sturluson who was writing down the chronicles of the Norwegian kingdom. And it was the monasteries all over Iceland producing books for the Nordic region. What is the reason for this? Some people point to the long, cold, dark winter nights in Iceland, and the lack of any other sort of occupation or amusement, as well as lots of sheep and goats, for making books out of animal skin.

But in a lecture on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, two experts on Icelandic literature, Gisli Sigurdsson and Ornlófur Thorsson, accompanied by one modern day Icelandic author, Guðmundur Andri, will present other reasons for Iceland's obsession with storytelling. A nation founded by Viking explorers, early Icelanders had some very interesting stories to tell, and tell them they did. The Icelandic sagas, which tell of the settlers to Iceland during the Viking Age, are recognized as the highest level of medieval world literature.

In this lecture, you will learn more about Icelandic literary history and contemporary literary culture in Iceland, as well as about the amazing Icelandic sagas. Please join us for this special Sunday afternoon lecture, made possible by Iceland Naturally, Leifur Eriksson Publishing, and the Icelandic Consulate of Minnesota. I know I will be there! Elisabeth

# COLLECTION CARE

**The move is underway!** We made tremendous progress moving our costume collection from the closet near the kitchen to its new permanent storage in professional museum cabinets in our back storage room. The cabinets, made by Viking Metal Cabinets out of Iowa, will keep the clothing collection in great condition for easily 100 years, and the purchase of those cabinets was made possible by the Joanne Klein Memorial Fund. Linda Caspersen remembers well how much Joanne loved to work with the collection, especially the costumes, so this seemed especially appropriate. The SCC costume collection consists of bunads representing most of the districts of Norway, two wedding dresses from the 1890s, men's bunads, priest outfits, undergarments and aprons with hardanger embroidery, and adorable children's costumes as well as Scandinavian-American costumes worn at festivals and a collection of Saami clothing, especially hats and shoes.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we started the move, and we got more than half-way done, thanks to the volunteer help of museum professionals from all over the state of Washington, in town for the Washington State Museum Association. A big thanks to Rebecca

Engelhart of the Museum of Glass for coordinating the Registrars to the Rescue program, and we look forward to her help moving forward.

The next step is to finish moving the costumes, and we will be continuing with that process on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Linda Caspersen invites any SCC member with a sewing machine or sewing skills and free time on a Friday is welcome to join in the process, and

learn about the collection and how the new storage will preserve it.

Once that is moved, we will be moving the rolled textiles (weavings and hangings) to where the costumes had been, getting all the paintings and framed art together, and moving the porcelain collection in with the metals, out of the wood room. This process will take probably a

good 18 months to two years, since we will be taking inventory and doing collection assessment along the way as well. Whew, that sounds like a lot of work! But it will be worth it, and of course, volunteers are always welcome to help! Jamie Foster, Linda Fialkowski, Maren Johnson, Carlin Harris, Ericka Michal, Lois Kutscha, and Shari Russell all did a great job on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Linda Caspersen and I really appreciate it.

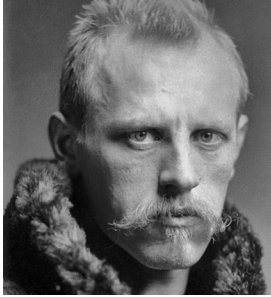


# EXHIBITS

## NORDIC EXPLORERS



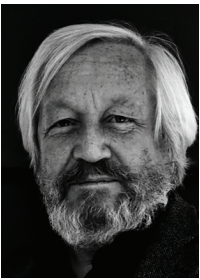
*Roald Amundsen*



*Fridtjof Nansen*

Despite their relatively small populations, the countries of Scandinavia have produced a remarkable share of world-class explorers. Nordic explorers have spanned the globe encountering new lands, boldly reaching inaccessible places, pushing the boundaries of the possible, and making countless contributions to human knowledge. Vikings seafarers, for example, were in America 500 years before Columbus, a Norwegian was the first to the South Pole, and Thor Heyerdahl was a pioneer of experimental archaeology in the world's oceans.

In October, an exhibition at the Scandinavian Cultural Center will celebrate the accomplishments of Nordic explorers from the past and present, and will look at their on-going legacies. "Beyond the Horizon: The Legacy of Nordic Explorers," will feature information regarding the explorations and discoveries of the likes of Leif Erikson, Fridtjof Nansen, Roald Amundsen, and Thor Heyerdahl.



*Ragnar Kvam*

To kick-off the exhibition, the annual Thor Heyerdahl lecture will be presented by Ragnar Kvam, Jr., a distinguished Norwegian sailor, journalist and writer. Kvam, who lives in Oslo, will share his experiences in writing the definitive biography of Thor Heyerdahl which has been published in three volumes.

The exhibition opening and the lecture will take place on Wednesday, October 5th, at ??? P.M. Admission is free and open to the public.

## EXHIBITION OPENING: SEPTEMBER 30

Linda Caspersen will be putting up an exhibition in the Stuen Room in September about the SCC's Costume Collection and our recent efforts to rehouse the collection in museum-quality



storage. To open the exhibition, she will be giving a talk on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm, as part of the programming for the Docent Appreciation Luncheon. Other SCC members may attend by emailing in advance to [scancntr@plu.edu](mailto:scancntr@plu.edu). Thanks to Kate Emanuel-French for this wonderful suggestion!

The exhibition will include many of our beautiful bunads and other costumes out on mannequins in the Stuen Room for all to see. Just as impressive, we hope, will be the text panels discussing the science of preserving clothing for future generations.

The exhibition in the Stuen Room will only be open during regular SCC Open Hours, and by special request. It will be on display through January. We hope you come by to enjoy it!

## LARSON DISPLAY CABINETS: MIGRANT LITERATURE

In coordination with Claudia Berguson, the exterior cabinets of the Scandinavian Cultural Center will be arrayed with a selection of literary works written by immigrants starting in October. This will include books from both immigrants to Scandinavia and emigrants from Scandinavia to the U.S.. Claudia plans to compare and contrast these works with examples of immigrant literature from other cultures around the world, as suggested by other faculty members in the Division of Humanities. We are looking forward to this peek into the literary output of displaced people.



# RECENT EVENTS



SCC Scholarship Award winners Sarah Ameny and Florence Reichers with the awards committee at the SCC spring banquet.



Norwegian Minister of Culture Linda Hofstad Helleland and her family at the 17th of May celebration.



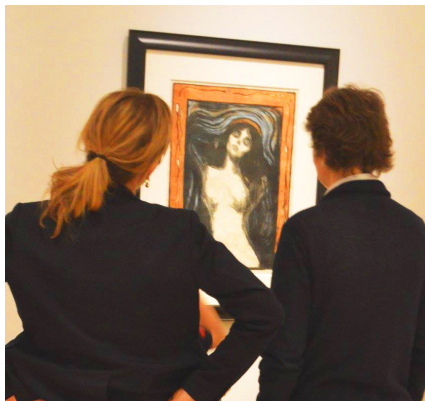
The "No Labor Lost" exhibition, curated by students in the History Department, will remain on display through Labor Day



Participants in Marilyn Hansen's rosemaling class enjoyed three days of learning this traditional craft.



Linda Caspersen and Jean Malmin at the TAM fundraiser luncheon. Linda and the Hardanger Quartet performed in honor of the Edvard Munch and the Sea exhibition.



Minister Helleland and Museum Director Stephanie Stebich examine an original Munch print at the Tacoma Art Museum's special exhibition.



Two of the artists whose works are displayed in Runes Revealed exhibition, Elizabeth Stokkebye and Maj-Britt Hilstrom

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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*Elisabeth Ward*

This September 1<sup>st</sup> marks my third year anniversary as Director of the Scandinavian Cultural Center, and so I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all of you! Managing a complex organization like this one is not something that my academic training

prepared me for, and I know all of you have extended to me a great deal of patience and understanding as I have grown into the job. There is still lots of room for improvement, of course! I am so amazingly grateful to everyone on the SCC Council, each of whom have helped me tremendously, especially as the new bylaws have gotten put into place.

This job is tricky because the Director ends up managing both the front end (content and programming) and back end (organization and systems). As some of you have noticed, I have tended to prioritize programming, which means details can get overlooked. Thank you to all the volunteers that have taken on many, many tasks over the last three years to help keep things running as smoothly as possible. Of course it would be wonderful to have a second staff person in the office, or more student workers, but it is also possible to right size our programming: sometimes less is more. And there are a few divisions around campus that are able to help, if I give them a heads up. Conferences and Events does the set up for all of our meetings and events, all free of charge, which is essential to our program's success, and this newsletter (for the first time) was produced with the help of the Division of Marketing. We will keep working on how to maximize all the great resources we have here at the SCC: an amazing collection of artifacts, a beautiful space, a dedicated group of experienced volunteers, a strong academic program, and a lively campus community. There is so much potential here, I am very excited!

One division on campus that I'm beginning to work with more closely is the Wang Center for Global Education. In fact, they are sending me to the Faeroe Islands this September! The Wang Center asked if it would make sense for PLU to offer a January term study away focused on the North Atlantic, so I proposed a course that goes to the Faeroes, Iceland, and Shetland Islands, and maybe Greenland. I'll be gone for about 10 days in mid-September, and will post updates to the Scandinavian Cultural Center website about my trip. The biggest question mark in my mind is if there will be enough to do and see during the short, wintery days to make a trip in January worthwhile. But I am excited to go to the Faeroe and Shetland Islands, I have never been there before!



The last three years have been a period of tremendous personal and professional growth for me, and that is absolutely only because so many of you have taken the time to talk to me and to let me feel a part of this community. You've all mentored me in ways big and small, and I thank you. My cup is overflowing.

– ELISABETH WARD

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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(Open hours canceled 8/7, 10/18, 10/23) (Sept 6 - School Begins)

- Aug 10 - Wed** ..... Council Meeting, 6pm - tentative.  
(SCC may be unavailable)
- Aug 12 - Fri** ..... Clothing Collection Care Follow up
- Aug 24, Wed - 28, Sun** ..... Sons of Norway International Convention at the  
Tacoma Conference Center, with special SCC open hours  
and tours for conference attendees
- Sept 7 - Wed** ..... Danish Sisterhood Meeting, 11am
- Sept 12 - Mon** ..... Scandinavian Club Meeting, 7pm to 9pm
- Sept 14 - Wed** ..... Council Meeting, 6pm
- Sept 23 - Fri** ..... Runes Revealed Artist Talk, 6pm
- Sept 24 - Sat** ..... SwedGen Workshop, all day, 9am-4pm, \$25
- Sept 30 - Fri** ..... Docent Training and Appreciation Luncheon, 10:30-1pm
- Sept 30 - Fri** ..... Opening of "Care of Clothing" exhibition in Stuen, Noon
- Oct 5 - Wed** ..... Danish Sisterhood Meeting, 11am
- Oct 5 - Wed** ..... Thor Heyerdahl Lecture and Nordic Explorers  
Exhibition Opening, 7pm
- Oct 9 - Sun** ..... Nordic Fiddlers Bloc Concert and Dance in CK Hall, 6pm,  
\$8 ticket
- Oct 10 - Mon** ..... Scandinavian Club Meeting, 7pm to 9pm
- Oct 11 - Tues** ..... Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am
- Oct 12 - Wed** ..... SCC Council Meeting, 6pm
- Oct 16 - Sun** ..... World Literature from Little Iceland?  
Lecture and discussion, 4pm
- Oct 24 - Mon** ..... Norwegian Cooking Class, 11am
- Oct 26 - Wed** ..... Swedish Cooking Class, 10am
- Oct 31 - Mon** ..... Norwegian Cooking Class, 11am



SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER  
12180 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
TACOMA, WA 98447-0003



### **FRONT COVER: "VIKING SHIP"**

The SCC collection includes a select number of original oil paintings. One of them is the work on the cover, Viking Ship by F. Mason Holmes from 1936. Many SCC members probably recall this work hanging on the wall of the SCC, but it has been in storage for many years because it was damaged. Holmes work has been cleaned and repaired, and the frame restored, by Phoenix Restoration in Seattle, a painstaking process that took almost a year to complete. It will finally be displayed again in our new exhibition on Nordic explorers opening October 5th.