

April 3rd - Harstad Lecture: *The Arctic Pastoral*

Henning Howlid Wærp, Professor of Nordic Literature at The University of Tromsø, will present this year's lecture named in honor of PLU Founder Bjug Harstad. Dr. Wærp has edited and published books on polar literature, on Knut Hamsun and Cora Sandel, and on prose poems and poetry. He has also published two collections of poetry and one novel. His talk is entitled "The Arctic Pastoral", and will focus on Nordic polar literature from the end of the 19th to the beginning of the 20th century, including Fridtjof Nansen, Helge Ingstad and Knud Rasmussen.



Dr. Henning Wærp will give this year's Harstad Lecture.

The lecture is organized by Dr. Olivia Gunn, Visiting Assistant Professor in the Norwegian Department. She has this to say about her time at PLU so far, "I was born in Ballard in 1979 and went to elementary school at West Woodland. I attended high school north of Seattle and completed my BA at the University of Washington. So, when I came to PLU in the fall of 2012 after completing my PhD, I was also coming home to the Pacific Northwest – and it's great to be here!

I was inspired to learn Norwegian by my maternal grandparents, who emigrated from Norway – bestemor: Eikefjord, Sunnfjord district; bestefar: Bø i Vesterålen – in the 1920s. While growing up, I listed to them speak Norwegian to each other. It functioned almost as a private language for them, especially to communicate things children weren't supposed to hear, and I wanted in on the secret! After graduating from high school, I attended the Nordhordland Folkehøgskule (a post-secondary people's "high school") just outside of Bergen. I've returned to beautiful Vestlandet on several occasions to complete coursework and do research.



At the University of Washington, I majored in Norwegian and English. I then went to the University of California at Irvine, where I wrote my dissertation on the French Symbolist theater's adoption and adaptation of Scandinavian and Belgian artists. Here at PLU, I've taught beginning and intermediate Norwegian, introduction to Scandinavian area studies, and writing. I've very much enjoyed getting to know the students here, who are friendly, kind, and curious – and I look forward to meeting many of you at the Harstad Lecture on April 3rd." *Dr. Olivia Gunn*

From the President...25 years and counting!



Combing through the archives, we've found great photos like this one of Florence Buck and Auden Toven from before the SCC opened.

What an exciting time for us! From conception to reality the Scandinavian Cultural Center has been an intricate weaving of cultures, community and academia. In preparation for its 25th Anniversary, I have been reading many articles about its beginnings, about the dreams of its founders and the work that went in to fulfilling those dreams. It's thrilling to be a part of the 25th celebration of what a determined group of Scandinavians have created; this great Nordic jewel of the northwest.

Today, as in the past, we have very dedicated volunteers. Several have been in the pictures I've been sorting through of

events from years ago, over and over. People such as: **Ed and Betty Larson, Janet Ruud, Kerstin Ringdahl, Judy Scott, Linda Caspersen, Susan Young, Ray Tobiason, Jim Kittilsby, Kim Nesselquist, Karen Robbins** and gratefully, many, many more. These people are part of the center's early history. And, sadly, so many familiar faces in those photos are no longer here to celebrate; however, I believe we honor them by celebrating in the same way that they gave to the center- with joy and commitment. Of course I refer to our friends such as; **Audun Toven, Florence Buck, Joanne McDonald, Gunnulf Myrbo, Joanne Klein, Roger Hildahl**, and unfortunately many more who are gone, but are in the essence of the Center. It lives because they did, and because we carry on.

Now, we have the opportunity to go even further toward the dream fulfillment- March began the new annual membership. Just one time during the year we renew our dedication to its growth and success. But, we also need to continue donating items to the archive, and funds to renew the call to action Audun Toven gave us. If you haven't enjoyed the Center lately please do, take a look at the structure, the exhibits, the calendar of events, and meet the SCC Director, Elisabeth Ward. When you do, I believe that you will renew your membership and that you will become an active part of our Scandinavian Cultural Center's bright future. It belongs to all of us. Looking forward to seeing you at the May 10th celebration of our 25th Anniversary!

March was Membership Month! If you received a renewal letter, and haven't had a chance to reply yet, please do so soon! And if you have, Thank YOU!!

Ha det bra, *Melody Stepp*

From the Director...Settling in

It has been six months since I started working here at the Scandinavian Cultural Center, and I feel like I am starting to settle in. It is funny that although physically this place is closer to California than it is to Iceland, it reminds me so much more of Iceland. I'm sure this has something to do with the environment—being near the water, having the length of the days change—but it also has to do with the people and the pacing of things here. I am still trying to figure out if the network of people who know each other is as tight-knit as in Iceland (I would suspect not), but the pacing reminds me so much of Iceland. When I was in Iceland, people would show up at the museum somehow magically on just the right day, just when I was starting to think about one project or another. And that has happened to me here also – **Melody Stepp** stops by to talk about an event that I was just writing an email about, or **Lisa Ottoson** mentions an idea that will solve a problem I had been milling over that day.

And with the students, this happens all the time as well. When I first got here, I thought things would be more top-down (America corporate style), so I went to the head of Student Life, and arranged various meetings, saying that I wanted to develop programs that would encourage students to work on exhibitions at the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Those meetings led nowhere. And it turns out, they weren't necessary. The students came by, all on their own: first **Lynn Gleason** (whose help



Elisabeth Ward and Richard Klein in Gig Harbor, where they met to discuss how to best honor Joanne Klein's memory.

with the Sami exhibit you can read about below), then **Meg Dolde** (who has joined our Council meetings and will be helping with a project in the fall), and also **Hallie Peterson** (president of the Scandinavian Club). It is like the fruit here is so ripe, one does not even need to pick it, it just falls down right on one's lap!

But nowhere is this wonderful synchronicity more apparent than in the recent donation by **Richard Klein** to the Scandinavian Cultural Center, in honor of his wife **Joanne**, whom I am sure many of you remember as an active member of the Council. I had been looking at the budget, worried about how we could do all the things we wanted to do with our already substantial commitments, when **Ed Larson** said, "Let's go to lunch with Dick Klein – he's got a nice surprise for the SCC." And indeed the Klein's gift is exactly the amount I had been thinking we needed to do some of the things the Council and I want to do! Now we are working on how to make sure it is used in ways Joanne would have liked best. I was also very touched to learn that **Roger Hildahl** had included the Scandinavian Cultural Center in his will, which will make a substantial impact on our endowment. It is so wonderful to have that sense of shared purpose and understanding among a diverse and rather far-flung group of people. So I am starting to learn that here, we can trust in one another to know what needs to be done without a lot of discussion. Just like when I lived in Iceland! Takk fyrir! *Elisabeth I. Ward*

A Student Reflects on the Sami Exhibition

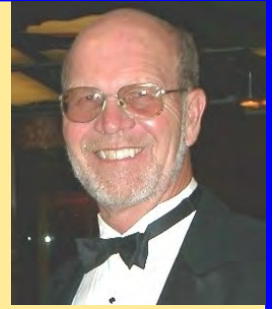
I cannot thank the Scandinavian Cultural Center enough for the opportunity to work with **Dr. Troy Storffell** and **Dr. Elisabeth Ward** on the Sámi exhibit. It was an extraordinary means to get to know both of them better and to learn even more on a subject I've been captivated by since coming to PLU. I went from not even knowing the Sámi exist to finding out they are part of my own ancestry, just weeks ago. I thought it was incredibly gracious of Dr. Storffell, who is himself Sámi, to encourage my participation in the SCC's first Sámi exhibit. I was shocked that the **Tacoma News Tribune** decided to do an article on the exhibit and my experiences, and I hope it brought more attention not only to the Sámi and the SCC but also to our own local indigenous peoples. The SCC hosted such a beautiful Sámi Day ceremony by opening with the Chief Leschi Elementary children's drum group; I was thrilled that was part of the program.

Over the last four years, many of my classes in the Scandinavian Studies program used resources at the SCC, from Viking battle reenactments by the ship prow with **Dr. Michael Halvorson's** Vikings class, to an introduction to SCC artifacts and their cultural and historical context in **Dr. Claudia Berguson's** Scandinavian Folklore class. After graduation I'm hoping to continue my interest in current Scandinavian politics and pop-culture, inspired by **Dr. Peter Grosvenor's** Scandinavian Politics class. I feel very grateful that PLU has such exceptional professors and the SCC to create such an outstanding learning experience, especially for the sake of those of us not able to study abroad.

I feel very fortunate that I was the guinea pig student for what I sincerely hope is a regular practice of having student-curated or student-assisted exhibits at the SCC. It was an incredible learning experience incorporating information I've learned from all my classes into understanding Scandinavians, and the Sámi, and therefore the world, a little better. This project on the Sámi people broadened and deepened my appreciation of not only understanding another culture, but how to study and represent it as respectfully as possible. Learning that through a hands-on experience from two experts was invaluable. Being part of this project meant the world to me and I will never forget it!

Tusen takk, Ollu giitu, Lynn Gleason

In Memoriam: Roger Hildahl



Roger Hildahl, a 1962 alum of Pacific Lutheran University, died on November 6, 2013. Roger and his wife, **Joanne**, were long-time supporters of PLU and the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Roger's parents, **Astrid** and **Earl Hildahl**, were also a significant part of the development of the SCC. With this as a background, it is obvious why Roger remembered the University, the Earl and Astrid Hildahl Endowed Scholarship Fund, and the SCC Endowment Fund with bequests from his estate. One of the members of the PLU staff who visited with Roger and Joanne over the years, noted how they were always interested in what was happening at the University, and they welcomed the opportunity to provide ongoing support. Living in Reno, NV, the Hildahls were disappointed that they could not visit the PLU campus more frequently. Blessed be the memory of Roger Hildahl.
Rev. Ed Larson

Upcoming Exhibition *Piecing it Together*

The Scandinavian Cultural Center and its significant collection of artifacts representing the Scandinavian immigrant community will be joining forces with three other remarkable PLU resources for an exhibition that will open **April 21st, 2014**. Entitled “Piecing Together the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience,” the exhibition will feature photographs and letters from the PLU archives’ Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection, curated by **Kerstin Ringdahl**. Visitors will also be able to listen to audio clips representing some of the wonderful personal narratives stored in the “New Land, New Lives Oral History Collection”, made from interviews with many Scandinavians in the area,

and songs
from the

Normanna and Sangerfest collections, among others. PLU is also blessed to have a faculty member, **Dr. Claudia Berguson**, who specializes in Scandinavian immigrant literature. Dr. Berguson will be writing the text for the exhibition, drawing on the narratives and written representations of the immigrant experience that make it possible for us today to understand the heartache and sacrifice, but also the joy and opportunity, that leaving



Norwegian Heritage Festival

April 26th, 11am–3pm

Do you long for lefse? This is the fix! A day of Norwegian entertainment, demonstrations, information, food and vendors. Come and enjoy, Saturday, April 26th in the Anderson University Center. Organized this year by the Sons of Norway, the main floor will be transformed into what is reminiscent of a Scandinavian street fair. See what Viking life was like, watch carving and woodworking demonstrations, and admire beautiful embroidery. Have a lunch of Norwegian food including; ertesuppe, rømmegrøt, smørbrød and, of course, lefse. Enjoy the music and dancers. Take home a bit of Norway from the vast array of items available for purchase. There's just too much to list everything here- Come and see for yourself!

Embla Lodge #2 is also helping with the Festival, and they put in this request: “If you have any items we could sell at our yard sale to benefit Daughter’s of Norway convention delegates please contact: Melody Stepp at (253) 566-1442.”

Scandinavia for “Amerika” really meant. Quotes from works of literature, audio from interviews, hand-written letters, vintage photographs, artworks and hand-made objects will be brought together in this exhibition. It will be on display during the **May 10th Spring Banquet**, and remain up through much of the summer. We are looking forward to sharing with the community the many resources we have here at PLU that help us research and understand the experience of immigrants leaving home for a new land. *Elisabeth Ward*

Upcoming Events:

April 27th - An Enchanting Adventure!

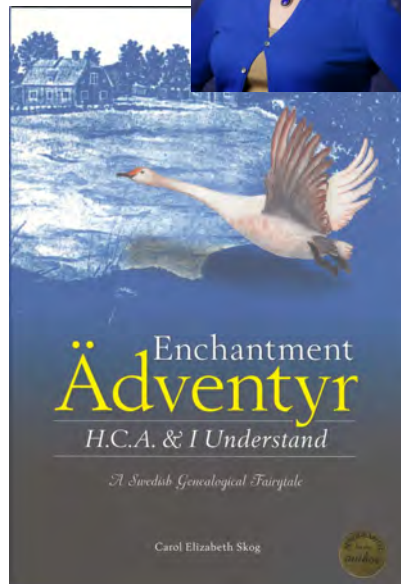
The Scandinavian Cultural Center is hosting a book presentation and signing on Sunday 27 April, from 2pm to 4pm. The book, written by PLU alumna Carol E. Skog, is an imaginative combination of real genealogical research infused with the rich folklore tradition of Sweden. In the story, fairytale magic from a Swedish Count interrupts the author's planned genealogical search, and a serendipitous encounter with a wood sprite propels the author back into the heritage and customs of her ancestry. Fairytale symbolism brings out the conflict of the "divided heart" so familiar to those of us with Scandinavian heritage.

The book includes an appendix with selected recipes that the characters ate and tips by the author, including resource references, for others

engaged in their own genealogical discoveries.

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's spring banquet will take place on May 10th. We will be celebrating our 25th anniversary!



April 9th: A Day to Remember

In conjunction with the exhibition "Escape from Extermination: The Jews of Denmark", now on display in the Scandinavian Cultural Center, **Inge Miller** suggested we organize an event on the date Denmark was liberated from Nazi occupation, April 9th, 1945. Though this year is not a big anniversary of that date, it is important for us because of the current exhibition on display. So at 2pm, during open hours at the SCC, we will be showing the film "Hvidsten grubben", about a group of Resistance fighters, that came out in 2012. Light refresh-



ments will be served. Earlier in the day, at 10am, we are getting together to record memories of Denmark during World War II that some of our members have related since the opening of the exhibition. Lunch will be provided for those who come to share and record their memories.

If you have memories of growing up in Denmark around the time of World War II, we want to hear from you! Please let us know and hopefully join us at 10am on 4/9.

Spring 2014 Calendar of Events

- **Bjug Harstad Lecture: “Arctic Pastoral”—6:30-8:00PM, Free Admission**
Thursday, April 3rd, heavy refreshments provided
- **Liberation Day Observation—10:00AM TO 4:00PM, Free Film**
Wednesday, April 9th. 10AM interviews, 2PM film showing. Please call 235.535.7349
- **Exhibits**
Piecing Together the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience
On Display in the Hildahl Gallery April 21st—July 15
Danish Rescue of the Jews: Exhibition from the Danish Resistance Museum
On Display in the SCC Meeting Room until May 1st
Lending a Hand: The Scandinavian Cultural Center’s Silver Jubilee
On Display in the Larson Foyer
- **Public Hours: Free Admission**
Sundays, 1:00-4:00 PM, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11:00AM-3:00PM
CLOSED 4/20
- **Executive Board (UC 212, 5:30PM) & Council Meetings (SCC, 6:15PM)**
Wednesday April 9th, Wednesday May 14th, Wednesday June 11th
- **Danish Sisterhood Meetings—Newcomers Welcome—9:30AM**
April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th
- **Immigration Exhibition Opening Reception—4:00-6:00PM, Free Admission**
Monday, April 21st (Easter Monday), refreshments provided
- **Norwegian Heritage Festival— 11:00AM-3:00PM, Free Admission**
Saturday April 26th
- **Carol Skog *Enchantment Adventyr* Book Event—2:00PM, Free Admission**
Sunday, April 27th, light refreshments provided
- **Spring Banquet—6:30PM**
May 10th, special price of \$25 per person to celebrate 25 great years!
- **Danish *Sangeaften*—Newcomers Welcome—2:00PM, Free Admission**
May 18th, June 15th, NO Sangeaften in April. Info: 235.984.6700

*The Scandinavian Shop at the PLU Garfield Book Company
offers special monthly discounts to SCC Members with membership card.*

April & May 2014

20% off all Scandinavian bakeware and books!



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