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While on the topic of ancestry, it is with great excitement that we welcome PLU’s new president Thomas Krise and his wife Patricia. Tom’s mother is descended from Norwegian immigrants. Some of you had the pleasure of meeting Tom and Patty at the SCC Spring Banquet/Greater Tacoma Peace Prize event in early June. We look forward to seeing much more of them as they settle into their new life here in Tacoma.

What are your stories? What legacies have your immigrant forbearers left for you? Why is it important to you? How do you pass it on to your families and future generations? Why is the PLU Scandinavian Cultural Center important to you and what kinds of programs would you like to see? I would love to hear what your Scandinavian heritage means to you and how it influences your lives. ~ Best Embedded, Kim
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Kerstin Ringdahl
University Archivist

EXHIBIT: Norway: The Vikings, the Art, and the Music—Continued through October
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**Norwegian Cooking—Tuesday, October 9, Thursday, October 18, Saturday, October 27**, 10:00 AM, $5 Per Class. Info: 253.838.4232 or jcwillison@comcast.net Reservations not required.

**Wheat Weaving Class—Saturday, October 27, $15 per class, 2:00 PM, $15 (includes supplies)**
Reservations required by October 20. <whipplejch@yahoo.com> or 660-866-0888

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**Hardanger Embroidery—Saturdays, November 3 and November 10, $15 per class.**
Info: 253.838.4232 or <omittodla@comcast.net> 253-531-8327

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**Additional Tickets - $1.00 each For more information contact: Mardy Fairchild, Festival Chair (253) 677-7700 or mfairch@citysounds.biz

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**NORDIC FESTIVAL**

**A CELEBRATION OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**EDGEFORD JR HIGH SCHOOL**

**2300 – 11 AVENUE E, EDGEGWOOD, WASHINGTON**

ENJOY TRADITIONAL MUSIC, ARTS, CRAFTS, & REFRESHMENTS

FREE PARKING—$1.00 ADMISSION & 1 PRIZE DRAWING TICKET

DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS ALL DAY—Additional Tickets - $1.00 each

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**Fall 2012 Calendar of Events**

**News from the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection**

The Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection (SIEC) is a depository of historical materials relating to immigrants to the Pacific Northwest from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The collection includes items that support the academic, educational, and research programs of the university and the research needs of scholars and other researchers beyond the immediate university constituency (Quoted from the SIEC website: <www.plu.edu/archives/sie/>)

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News from the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection . .

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Scandinavian Cultural Center Fall 2012 Classes
Free Admission to PLU Students with ID

Hardanger Embroidery with Edda Todd
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, $15 per class
Saturday, November 3 and Saturday, November 10
Reservations required by October 29
<omitodd@comcast.net> 253-531-8523

The exact origins of Hardanger embroidery are not known but it is thought to have its beginnings in ancient Persia and Asia. During the Renaissance this early form of embroidery spread to Italy where it evolved into Italian Reticella and Venetian lacework. By 1700 variations of this type of embroidery had spread to northern Europe where it developed further into Danish and Dutch Hedebo, Scottish Ayrshire and Ruskin lacework as well as Norwegian Drawn Work, as it was then called. In the period between 1650-1850 Hardangersom (meaning: work from Hardanger area) flourished in Norway. Flax was grown, carded, spun and woven into white fabric and thread which was used to make and decorate traditional Norwegian costume items called bunads (national costumes) as well as other items of clothing and household linens such as mats, curtains and bedspreads.

Save the Date!
Sunday, October 28, 2012, 2:00 pm
Fifth Annual Swedish Heritage Program
Scandinavian Cultural Center
Admission is Free

Back by popular demand, Swedish Chef Pelle Nilsson has agreed to return for an encore cooking demonstration. Seating is limited so make your reservation early by sending an email to <youngse@plu.edu> or by calling 53-535-7322.

Wheat Weaving with Jean Whipple
Saturday, October 27
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, $15 (includes supplies)
Reservations required by October 20
<whipplech@earthlink.net> or 860-866-0888

Even for the earliest civilizations success of a harvest has always been critical to survival. In the ancient mythology of many cultures there are tales of harvest celebrations and by the 1500s in Great Britain there are accounts of sheaves being decorated to represent the spirit of the harvest. By the late 1800s the making of harvest tokens spread throughout Europe. Knowledge and skills of working with straw were brought to America, their new homeland, by immigrant families. From the late 1700s, straw plait and loom-woven straw products were made for the important straw hat industry on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Plaiting (pronounced with a short a) is also known as braiding. Modern straw workers refer to it as wheat weaving. There are hundreds of different plaits derived from other forms of braiding industries and from the straw hat industry. Plaits can be made from whole, hollow stems of grass or wheat. (Classes continued on Pg. 6)

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From the SCC Director...

It happens every summer—time flies by too much too quickly and before you know it, Fall will be here. During the summer months, programs sponsored by the SCC Council slow down significantly, thus giving me a chance to work on other areas of responsibility. This summer my staff and I focused once again on the permanent artifact collection inventory. I am proud to announce that our 2,816 piece collection was inventoried and new items were cataloged and photographed. The next phase of this never-ending process is to put the entire collection online for educational and research purposes. In the meantime, I think it might be fun, as well as educational, to provide our readers with some stats about our very impressive collection.

As stated earlier there are 2,816 pieces in the SCC Permanent Artifact Collection documenting the cultural, social, political, and economic history of Scandinavian immigrants and Scandinavian-Americans who came after them. An astounding 190 named donors (see Pg. 5) and 208 anonymous donors have contributed their precious family heirlooms to the collection (furniture, costumes, porcelain plates, pewter plates, pewter decorative items, textiles, handwork, wood carvings, jewelry, children’s toys, and framed artwork).

What impresses and fascinates me most about many of the items in our collection is not that they are aesthetically beautiful but they are utilitarian and functional, and they are representative of the culture and history of Scandinavia. For example, the Center is home to a small collection of stoneware plates produced by Arabia, a Finnish ceramics company, founded in 1873. From 1976 to 1999, Arabia produced an annual plate to commemorate the Kalevala, a 19th Century work of epic poetry compiled by Elias Lönnrot from Finnish and Karelian oral folklore and mythology. The Kalevala is regarded as one of the most significant works of Finnish literature. It also played an instrumental role in the development of the Finnish national identity, the intensification of Finland’s language strife, and the growing sense of nationality that ultimately led to Finland’s independence from Russia in 1917. The first version of The Kalevala (called The Old Kalevala) was published in 1835. The version most commonly known today was first published in 1849 and consists of 22,795 verses, divided into fifty songs (Finnish: runot).

Each commemorative plate is signed by the artist Raija Uosikkinen and has a passage (in Finnish, Swedish, and English) that it represents written on the back. The 1976 plate seen here is titled “Vainumoinen’s Sowing” and reads, “Now I scoop the seeds to scatter as from the creator’s arm, that the country may be fertile and the corn may grow and flourish.”

The SCC artifact collection houses the 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985 Kalevala plates. To complete the entire series, we need the 1978 plate and 1984 through 1999 plates. If you would like to help us complete the series, please contact me by email <youngse@plu.edu> or by phone, 253.535.7349.

Each donor has made a significant contribution to the Smithsonian Cultural Center Permanent Artifact Collection.

Sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to the Scandinavian Cultural Center Permanent Artifact Collection.

Susan Young, SCC Director
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Rieck, Myra
Ringdahl, Kerstin
Rogers, Bernice
Russo, Linda
Rud, Janet
Sandefjord Girls Choir
Sargent, Shirley
SIEC, PLU
September/October 2012 4

September/October 2012 5
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DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS ALL DAY— Additional Tickets - $1.00 each

For more information contact: Mardy Fairchild, Festival Chair
(253) 677-7700 or mfairch@citysounds.biz
Warm Autumn Greetings to you! I hope your summer was filled with fun, family, friends and many warm relaxing long days. Whether you have been out traveling or enjoying our own beautiful Pacific Northwest “playground” we are privileged to call home, you no doubt have many pleasant summer memories.

This summer I had the chance to travel to Iowa and Minnesota with my dad to explore our Kittilsby family history. The trip far exceeded our expectations and as a result, a clearer picture emerged of the early Norwegian immigrant experience of our family who settled in the mid-west. The Kittilsby side of the family immigrated to America from Norway in 1851 and settled in Calmar, Iowa, near Decorah. The Kittilsbys were among the early founders and supporters of both Luther College in Decorah and St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

The Kittilsbys and the other Norwegian immigrants in Calmar built a church and recruited a pastor from Norway to serve the small congregation. My dad and I were very moved when we visited the gravesites of our ancestors located in the small cemetery adjacent to the church building because they understood the need to educate the children, plus train future pastors and teachers. This led to the creation of an academy which became Luther College. Anders Larsen Kittilsby was an early regent of Luther College and two of his daughters grew up to be key figures at St. Olaf College. The immigrants placed great importance on faith, education, service, caring for others, and teaching the next generation about their culture, language and heritage. The communities, churches, institutions of higher learning, social groups, and fraternal organizations left a lasting legacy for all those who celebrate their Scandinavian roots.

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Kim Kittilsby
SCC Council President