

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

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Winter 2014



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THOR HEYERDAHL
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A SWEDISH
CHRISTMAS FEST

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MEMBERS' PHOTOS

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Loralie Steen
Carol Voigt

COVER IMAGE: Tapestry from the Scandinavian Cultural Center collection. Inside this issue, Linda Caspersen explains how this beautiful work of art, donated to the SCC in 1989, was originally made over 100 years ago.

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

It is with great pleasure I take on the new post of President of the SCC this year. Melody Stepp will be an extremely difficult act to follow! We have the honor of having a very talented group of people serving on the Executive Advisory Board as well as the General Council. Without our volunteer docents to keep the Center on task during open hours, the SCC would not be what it is today. A special thank you to Kate Emanuel-French who coordinates all of our docents! Our Center hours are: Sundays, 1pm to 4pm and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am to 3pm. Please stop by to see some of our amazing exhibits.

As the new President, I have several goals in mind. One is to reach out to the community to become more involved and consider joining the Council. We are a fun group and you would be amazed at how much you would learn about our rich heritage from the five Nordic countries.

Another goal is to bring more PLU faculty and students to become more involved in our events and/or exhibits. I truly believe that the SCC is a "gold mine" and needs to become more integrated into the University. The archives boasts a large number of museum quality artifacts that could be studied or used for research purposes in a wide array of disciplines.

I am aware of other collections in the United States that envy many of our valuable pieces.

Our director, Dr. Elisabeth Ward is working very hard in implementing top notch programming, speakers and traveling exhibits. The PLU's SCC is getting publicity globally! I am looking forward to working closely with her.



Linda Caspersen takes over as Scandinavian Cultural Center Council President.

Fall is now upon us and we are finally cooling off. This means our Holiday season is near which includes the Nordic Sweater and Other Things Sale and Sankta Lucia. We would be thrilled to have help setting up Christmas Tree Exhibit on November 20 and/or 21st! The Christmas Banquet actually falls on Sankta Lucia Day, December 13th,

so a special treat of a Swedish Christmas dinner is in the works.

Be on the watch for classes that include food, wheat weaving, language, dancing and more. Should you have a special talent for a Nordic related class, or know someone, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events this year. Bring a friend and come enjoy an educational Nordic experience.

På gjensyn, Linda Caspersen

KROKBRAGD TAPESTRY

On the front cover of this issue of the Scene is one of our beautiful handwoven tapestries. We chose to highlight this textile because many people (especially Scandinavian) have returned from Norway with a similar types of pieces that they have purchased, been gifted, or possibly inherited. Very often it is in the form of a table runner. PLU's SCC has been fortunate enough to have acquired many of these valuable pieces in the artifact collection!

This particular wall hanging was donated by B.E. Andrews, thanks to the help of Jim Kittilsby, in 1989 which makes it one of the earlier artifacts to be brought into the collection. It is titled "KROKBRAGD" and is handwoven on a floor loom. The technique in English is called "BOUNDWEAVE.

The definition of hand weaving is the interlacing of two threads at right angles, thus creating "binding points" where the warp and weft intersect. Examples of textiles that do not generally intersect at right angles that date back to the beginning of civilization are knotting, netmaking, and macrame. These techniques were vital to survival! Hand weaving was originally achieved with the use of an upright loom. These were simple looking, but

could produce very complex weaves. We are now living in a world where technology dictates rapid production as well as creative design.

This "KROKBRAGD" technique is typically found in Western Norway and the various patterns are indicative of small communities, thus the variations from one textile piece to another. This wall hanging (especially in years past) was most likely used on a wall where there was little insulation, or as a bed covering for

warmth. The warp (lengthwise threads) was either flax or cotton. The weft (woof or filling) came from local Norwegian sheep and was originally hand spun on a spinning wheel. The wool used in handwoven articles is slightly stiff and different from the softer wool used in the famous Norwegian sweaters. This is attributed to the various grades of wool found in the specific breeds of sheep in Norway. You will notice the soft colors of yarn used in this textile. As a general rule, wool is very easy to dye with natural plants. Wool has a "reptile like" appearance under the microscope and in order



Back side of weaving. The back side produces a stripe like effect due to the laying of so many layers of yarn in order to produce the desired pattern on front.

to get the dye to attach to the wool, a "mordant" is used. The mordant (often alum) attaches itself to the wool and the dye attaches itself to the mordant.

THE COLLECTIONS

The colors vary from region to region in Norway depending on the available plants. The colors were also dictated by merchants that traveled to other countries and traded goods. This “KROKBAGD” weaving most likely employed the use of the following sources for color:

Green: Lichen or Moss

Gold: Blueberry leaves or
Lady's Mantle
Brown: Bark
Red: Madder Root

*Diagram 1: Cloth
diagram of Krokbragd
as it looks for a weaver
getting ready to "dress"
the loom.*

Red: Madder Root

does not come from Norway and was probably brought into the country by people who traveled to Asia.

Handweaving can be a very technical process. It is math-based, but provides a wonderful opportunity for people to be creative. The study of textiles is extensively used to learn a great deal about a culture or society. It is especially useful to archeologists, historians, anthropologists, textile curators and environmentalists, to

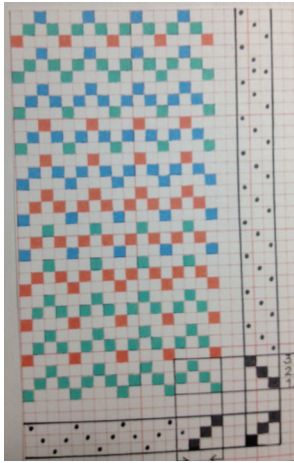


Diagram 1: Cloth diagram of Krokbragd as it looks for a weaver getting ready to “dress” the loom.

name a few. Take great care of your precious handwoven articles! There was a lot of work that went into these beautiful pieces. Should you have Nordic items you want to pass on, the SCC would be honored to have them become a part of our artifact collection.

Linda Caspersen

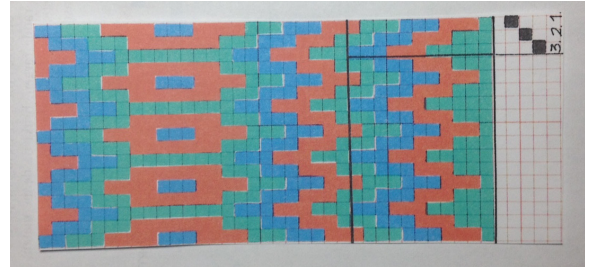


Diagram 2: How the cloth will look when woven.
The outlined area is a complete area of diagram 3.

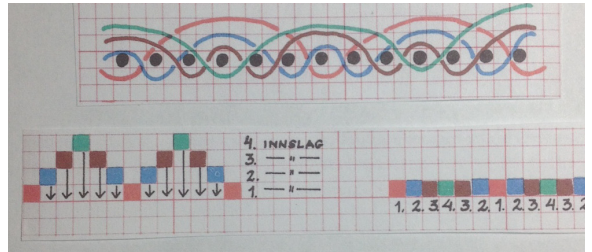


Diagram 3: This cross section explains the color sequence to the weaver.

NEW ARTIFACT DATABASE

NEW ARTIFACT DATABASE Thanks to a generous donation from **Thomas Carlson**, the Scandinavian Cultural Center was able to purchase software that has been specifically designed to help small museums manage their collection. The new database software is called “Past Perfect” and was suggested to SCC Director Elisabeth Ward by the Pierce County Historical Society, of which the SCC is a member. With over 3000 artifacts in our collection, it was getting too much to keep track of on an excel spreadsheet, so it was great to find this software. During the summer, student worker **Jonathan Dennie** began moving information from the excel files into the database. One of the nice features, other than being able to search for things without the possibility of accidentally deleting information, is that the new database allows images to be added next to all the information about an artifact. It is like each artifact gets its own “facebook page”, with an image and a story to tell! Another student, **Ericka Michal**, will be working with the database extensively as part of a student-faculty research grant, called the Kelmer-Roe grant, which will be summarized in the next Scene. But for now **Susan Young** is going through the database, making sure all is as accurate as can be!

BJUG HARDSTAD LECTURE: NOVEMBER 17TH

The Scandinavian Area Studies program is pleased to invite Norwegian journalist and editor **Cathrine Sandnes** as our 2014 Harstad Memorial lecturer. Sandnes is an influential voice in current social debate on gender equality, contemporary literature and sport in Norway. In her lecture, Sandnes will explore the particular challenges and successes of “having it all” - parenthood, family and career - in contemporary Norwegian society.



Cathrine Sandnes' decades of engagement in feminist issues began in 1990 with her work as a newspaper journalist. She held the position of cultural editor for the newspaper Dagsavisen from 1998-2000 and 2002-2005. From 2006-2014 Sandnes served as the editor of Samtiden, Norway's largest and oldest cultural and political journal. Under her leadership, the journal received several awards for its intense and critical engagement with contemporary issues. In 2013, Sandnes was named to the Norwegian government's commission for the marking of the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote, and was responsible for the publication of Norsk likestillingshistorie 1814-2013, a history of women's equality from 1814 to 2013. She is presently the director of the Norwegian think tank Manifest. Cathrine pg. 5

Sandnes lives in Oslo, Norway.

The Bjug Harstad Memorial Lecture is an endowed lecture made possible through the generous support of Harstad family and friends. Light refreshments will be served following the lecture.
Claudia Berguson

UPCOMING
EVENTS

A SWEDISH LUCIA CHRISTMAS: DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH

December 13th has always been the official date of the Lucia festival in Scandinavia, and this year we decided to follow suit, with a very authentic Swedish Smörgåsbord for the Nordic Fest Dinner scheduled for December 13th, from 4pm to 7pm. The student Lucias will be joining us that night, singing their songs along with the Vasa Choir. We will do a scaled-down version of the public concert, with dancing around the tree accompanied by **Leslie Foley** and her Swedish folk band on the 12th of December in Chris Knutzen Hall. Tickets will be \$5 for non-members. The student Lucias will then be ready to shine as PLU's ambassadors to IKEA on the morning of the 13th, maybe even handing out some buns! Later on the 13th, from 4pm to 7pm, members will be invited to a Swedish Smörgåsbord as our annual Nordic Fest Christmas Dinner. Tickets \$35 for members.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: DECEMBER 3RD

Arthur Sortland has agreed to be our officiant for the Norwegian Language Christmas Service, which will take place in the Ness Family Chapel (also known as the Rose Window Chapel) on the 3rd floor of the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Students in the Norwegian Language classes at PLU will sing and read bible passages, all in Norwegian. We hope lots of Norwegian students here on campus will join us, as well as all community members who want to hear some Norwegian, and sing along!

THOR HEYERDAHL CELEBRATION

NOV. 8TH AND 10TH The year 2014 is a big year in Norway. Not only is the 200th anniversary of the constitution being celebrated, but it also the 100th birthday of one the country's most beloved citizens, the explorer and writer, Thor Heyerdahl. Heyerdahl first came to the world's attention in 1947 for his dramatic Pacific voyage aboard the "Kon-Tiki," an experimental replica of an ancient seagoing raft built to test the possibilities of a scientific theory. The expedition captured the world's imagination and the book about the Kon-Tiki sold tens of millions of copies published in dozens of languages. The documentary about the voyage won an Oscar (it will be shown at the SCC on November 8th). Over the next 55 years, until his death in 2002, Heyerdahl organized additional experimental voyages, directed archaeological excavations in such places as Easter Island, Peru, the Maldives, Russia and the Canary Islands, and he wrote numerous scientific articles and many popular books. Apart from his scientific work, Heyerdahl became an advocate for global environmental and peace issues. He was, in many ways, a citizen of the world.

Given PLU's deep-seated Norwegian heritage, it is no surprise that Thor Heyerdahl would visit the campus which he did on three occasions. In 1966, he received PLU's Distinguished Service Award and in 1996, he accepted the President's Medal from former University president, Loren Anderson. Heyerdahl returned in 1998 as the commencement speaker. The latter two visits were facilitated by **Donald P. Ryan**, Faculty Fellow in the Humanities at PLU, who served as Heyerdahl's right-hand man from 1995-2002. Ryan is still very much involved in Heyerdahl's legacy including projects with both the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo and The Thor Heyerdahl Institute in Larvik, Norway.

Activities in Norway celebrating Heyerdahl's

birthday (Oct. 6th) include a day of lectures, the presentation of a new book on his scientific work, and a special honorary dinner to be attended by the King and Queen.

PLU will have its own celebration with a film festival on the 8th to mark the opening of



Like countless other children, Sam Ryan was inspired by Thor Heyerdahl.

our Thor Heyerdahl exhibition. The festival from 1pm to 5pm will include two documentaries about Thor Heryerdahl, and the feature length film about the Kon-Tiki voyage, introduced by Don Ryan. The exhibition combines posters and images from the Thor Heyerdahl institute with artifacts and books from the SCC collection and from Dr. Ryan.

On the 10th of November, presentations by Ryan, two Norwegian visitors, **Knut Pihl** and **Willy Østreng**, from the Heyerdahl Institute, and **Jenna Coughlin** from UC Berkeley will be moderated by Professor **Mike Halvorson**. Pacific-inspired fare will be served, and welcome comments provided by PLU **President Krise**.

Thor Heyerdahl's zeal for life and his "out of the box" thinking are well worth remembering. As Loren Anderson stated in 2012 during a final address to the University, "Heyerdahl personified our great human capacity to wonder, to stand in awe of creation, to ask why, and to live into the question for a lifetime."

SCC THANKS CHRISTINE BEASLEY FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS DOCENT!

In recognition of her dedication to the SCC, we asked Christine to tell us about her link to PLU and her experience as docent in the SCC. Here's what she wanted to share with the membership:

My mother's parents came from northern and western Norway while my father's parents were Swede-Finns who came from the Munsala area in Finland. I grew up in Fircrest, WA and had relatives around Washington State, including Ballard, as well as in Alaska. A number of those relatives had strong Scandinavian accents that I loved hearing. It was also a pleasure at family gatherings to meet relatives visiting from the old countries

While definitely being part of an American family, I was very aware of the fact that I was only the second generation born in this country and proud of my heritage. Growing up, I enjoyed various traditions and aspects of my heritage and the cultures. Things like: attending "Julotta"- Swedish Christmas Morning service that ended with lighted candles as dawn broke; not putting

up the Christmas tree more than a week before Christmas; saying "ishda" – think yucky-- and discovering the other school kids did not know the word; eating potato sausage, gjetost (my first and favorite cheese), creamed carrots sprinkled with allspice, and lutefisk (that one



Photo by Marianne Lincoln

took years to grow on me), Swedish meatballs and pancakes; wearing a handknit Swedish/Norwegian sweater as a toddler/young child. I loved the sølje mom and grandma wore, the Hardangersøm pieces and Scandinavian table cloths that were used for special occasions, and listening to Scandinavian music on records and old reel to reel tapes of Stan Boreson that dad had recorded off the radio. Then there were the family items like the cone of sugar that pieces would have been broken off of for coffee; the floor loom and spinning wheel, and trunk that had belonged to my father's mother; and other Scandinavian books and items around our and relatives' houses. Seeing, for the first time, my grandmother's actual naturalization/citizenship certificate, almost as wide and tall as a newspaper. These things along with regularly visiting Skandiagard (a store, restaurant and museum of diorama buildings) in Gig Harbor, attending the annual Scandinavian Festival that was originally five days long in downtown Tacoma, and attending the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard inspired me to learn more, whether family stories or cultural things including the Norwegian or Swedish language.

Pacific Lutheran University provided the



Christine is seen here 2nd from the right, with the docents from 2002: Sharolyn Blanchard, Bonnie Rediske, Evelyn Reynolds, Ann Nielsen, Carol Voigt, Esther Hinschberger, and Inez Ellingson

OUR MEMBERS

opportunity
to learn

Norwegian while pursuing a college degree. Having learned from my parents to appreciate the value of an education, I had always planned on attending college. And even as a youth, I was aware of PLU's reputation as a high quality university and its Norwegian connections. I remember the 1975 visit to PLU by King Olav V. I enjoyed my Norwegian language studies with Professors Audun Toven and Janet Rasmussen so much that I continued, graduating with a Norwegian major in addition to my BA in Business Administration.

My dream trip being to go to Scandinavia, my husband made sure I got to Norway by arranging for us to have our honeymoon there. I still hope to make another trip to Scandinavia sometime. He also learned quickly to stop for yard sales, bakeries (especially if Scandinavian) and Scandinavian shops.

I became a docent for the Scandinavian Cultural Center as a way to stay involved with PLU and my heritage, and as an opportunity to volunteer in the community. Having enjoyed my tenure serving as a docent in the SCC, I had not realized it had been 20 years. During that time I have served in hospitality, helped put up and take down exhibits, greeted visitors, shared Scandinavian heritage, culture and traditions with visitors, as well as learned more from visiting Scandinavians, done center housekeeping, and directed people around



Thor Heyerdahl in the SCC kitchen during his visit to PLU in 1998 or 1996. But we don't know the names of the two lovely ladies standing next to him! Can any of our members identify them, and let Kerstin Ringdahl know? Thank you for your help!

campus.

It has been exciting to watch the Cultural Center evolve from its seed as a dream. Especially as I have been able to watch from

NORDIC EXCHANGE: NOVEMBER 22ND

Several of our members have already reserved their tables for the Nordic Exchange, taking place on November 22nd. But if you have gently-used Scandinavian things you'd like to sell or exchange, please let us know, as we still have a few open spots. And like last year, we are teaming up with the fabulous and wonderfully well-attended Danish Sisterhood Bazaar, so it should be a fun and festive event!

the inside as well as the outside for the past two decades. And I have had the pleasure to work with many wonderful people-- docents, council members, center directors, visitors, artists/performers, students and professors. I look forward to many more years as a docent, the Center's continuing evolution and the experiences yet to come.

PHOTOS FROM PAST EVENTS



Rachel Nesvig performed on her hardanger fiddle for the Docent Luncheon on September 22nd. Photo by Marianne Lincoln



Photo by Janet Ruud

At the Board meeting in October, we wanted to thank Melody with a cake all her own, after she'd brought in so many during her service as SCC Council President!



Photo by Karen Robbins

Icelandic artist Sigrun Lara Shanko wowed everyone with her gorgeous rugs, indepth knowledge, and great personality. Some of her rugs have now found new homes in Tacoma!



Photo by Melody Stepp

October was a busy month in the Hatlen Kitchen, between the Norwegian cooking classes, the Swedish cooking class, and cookie baking for the Nordic Festival in Edgewood.



The Scandinavian Cultural Center was transformed into an art gallery for the special traveling exhibition "1814-2014 Red, White, and Blue: Norwegian Constitution, American Inspiration." PLU photographer

THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

WINTER 2014-2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

OPEN HOURS:

Sunday 1pm to 4pm (except 11/9)
Tuesday and Wednesday 11am to 3pm
Closed for Holidays 11/30 and 12/22-12/31



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| November 5th | Danish Sisterhood 10am |
| November 8th | Thor Heyerdahl Film Series 1-5pm |
| November 10th | Thor Heyerdahl Birthday Symposium 6-8pm |
| November 12th | Council Meeting 6:30pm |
| November 16th | Danish Sangaften, 2pm |
| November 17th | Bjug Harstad Memorial Lecture by Norwegian Journalist and Editor Cathrine Sandnes 7pm |
| November 20th and 21st | Please contact Melody if you want to help decorate the holiday trees! |
| November 22nd | The Danish Sisterhood Bazaar 10am-4pm |
| November 22nd | All Things Nordic Exchange 10am-4pm |
| November 23rd | Viking Film Series Continues: Hagbard and Signe (1967) |
| December 3rd | Danish Sisterhood Meeting, 10am |
| December 3rd | Norwegian Language Christmas Service (Julegudstjeneste) 7-8pm
Service will take place in the Ness Family Chapel |
| December 10th | Council Meeting 6:30pm |
| December 12th | Sankta Lucia Concert in Chris Knutzen Hall, \$5 |
| December 13th | Swedish Smörgåsbord (Lucia themed Nordic Fest) 4-7pm, \$TBD |
| December 21st | Danish Sangaften |
| January 7th | Danish Sisterhood 10am |
| January 11th | Norwegian Inspiration from Disney's "Frozen" Exhibit Opening and Film Screening of "Frozen" 4pm |
| January 18th | Council Meeting 6:30pm |
| February 4th | Danish Sisterhood 10am |
| February 6th | Sámi National Day Film Festival, Location and Time TBD |
| February 11th | Council Meeting 6:30pm |



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
Scandinavian Cultural Center
12180 Park Avenue S.
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003

The Scandinavian Scene is a quarterly newsletter published for members and friends of the SCC.
Elisabeth Ward, Editor 253-535-7349 Email: wardei@plu.edu Website: www.plu.edu/scancenter



LUCIA FESTIVAL WILL BE DECEMBER 12 AND 13TH