

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #1, 2016

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FEATURES INSIDE:

Svare-Toven and
Harstad Lectures

Student Intern
Reflects

Christmas Photos

Sámi National Day

Upcoming Exhibits



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COVER IMAGE:

Close-up of one of the textiles in the Scandinavian Cultural Center Collection that will be on display in the exhibition curated by Linda Caspersen *Common Threads: An Overview of Scandinavian Textiles*, on display in Ingram University Gallery Feb. 3-April 3. Photo by Laila Caspersen-Andresen.

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 difficult to believe that we are already in the year 2016. This past year at the Scandinavian Cultural Center has been extremely busy and I would like to reiterate that our Center would not exist without the thousands of volunteer hours and a full-time active Director. Thank you to all!

There are many highlights in 2016, but one that really stands out is the 2015 NORDIC CHRISTMAS FEST which took place on December 19th. The themed dinner event was “A Child’s Christmas Wish”; a spinoff from the very popular book by Per Breiehagen. Nordic countries are known for giving children the space to shine, grow, inspire, and be stars in their own right. The five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) are recognized for their leadership in childhood care and educational techniques. The magic of childhood is greatly respected.

As a special treat, the Sonoro Scandinavian Children’s Choir, directed by **Jeremy Shilley**, entertained us with traditional songs from several of the Nordic countries. The group was small, but left us with a powerful message as to the positive influence music has in our lives. The choir was founded in 2015 in honor of the visit of King Harald V of Norway. They welcome children ages 6-12 and are supported by the SCC. Please consider signing up your children and grandchildren! More information is available at www.songsosonoro.com.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Outstanding Service Award. Lisa Ottoson presented the award to **Edgar Larson**, and the list of his years of service both to PLU and the SCC is long. His family was present to help him accept this well-

deserved honor! **Betty Larson** (his wife) is a past recipient as well.

Doug Hinner from catering, as usual, outdid himself. His presentation of the appetizer buffet and 3-option plated Nordic main courses were a treat to the palate. We have been so thrilled to be able to work with him many of our bigger events.

The evening was completed with the singing of five children’s Christmas favorites in the native languages and ending with Silent Night in English. A special thank you to **Karen Robbins** on the piano. The rest of the Christmas Committee consisted of Linda Caspersen, Carlin Harris, Gerda Hunter, Clarene Johnson, Lisa Ottoson, Janet Ruud, Judy Scott, and Elisabeth Ward.

We are continuing to work on the updating of our SCC bylaws. It is a tedious process and we are appreciative for the excellent contributions from **Lisa Ottoson** and **Janet Ruud**. They are both valuable resources to the daily functioning of the SCC and have been for many years. The draft is soon to be presented to entire Council for suggestions and approval.

*På gjensyn (until we see again),
Linda Caspersen*



Linda Caspersen (L) leads the Sing-Along during the Nordic Fest Dinner, with help from other native speakers (L-R): Edgar Larson, Harald Overa, Linn Chloe Hagström, Ann Vargas, Bryndis Crider, and Sigrún Lára Shanko.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTIONS

WESTERN ROSEMALERS GIFT

Established over 40 years ago, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the late **Florence Buck**, the Western Rosemalers Association has been an important force in revitalizing the rosemaling tradition in North America. Rosemaling, the art of painting wood with wonderful floral and geometric designs, began as a two-dimensional representation of the very expensive baroque style carvings fashionable in the 1700s, but it soon flourished into a lively folk tradition. Different districts in Norway and parts of Sweden came to specialize in particular colors and designs, and developed their own techniques and styles of rosemaling. But by the late 19th century, it was a dying tradition among Norwegian-Americans, and there were a dwindling number of heritage bearers still active in Norway. A key to keeping this colorful folk knowledge alive on the westcoast since the 1970s has been the rosemaling classes the Western Rosemalers have offered at PLU and elsewhere in Washington, led by renown and well-respected rosemalers.

The Western Rosemalers Association has, over the years, amassed a wonderful collection of fine examples of rosemaled pieces donated by the artists who taught the classes and others who wanted to encourage the Western Rosemalers' good work. Until recently, all of those pieces were held in the collection storage area of the Nordic Heritage Museum (NHM) in Ballard, Seattle. In 2015, in preparation for moving their collection to a new facility, NHM asked the Western Rosemalers to formally donate their collection to them. But remembering the role PLU had played in the creation of the Western Rosemalers, and in recognition of the SCC at PLU hosting their annual meeting, the Western Rosemalers decided to split the collection, leaving half with the NHM and donating the other half to the SCC.

The SCC is delighted to be adding to our collection pieces made by Gunnor Bo, Norma Splitt, Judith Nelson Miner, Kari Signe Brathen, Barbara Wolter, Dorothy Peterson, Elaine Schmidt, Shirley Evenstad, and Nancy Schmidt. We offer our sincere thanks!

pg. 3



The donation from the Western Rosemalers will enhance the SCC's Rosemaling Collection, which currently includes, among other pieces, this one painted by Nils Ellingsgaard when he visited PLU in 1979.

THE ARTISTRY OF SCC TEXTILES

The Scandinavian Cultural Center in collaboration with the School of Arts and Communication is excited to announce the exhibit, *Common Threads: An Overview of Scandinavian Textiles*. The exhibit will be presented in the PLU University Gallery, located in Ingram Hall, the main Art Department building.

The presentation of textile pieces will include a sampling of the SCC's collection of beautiful wall hangings, rugs, tools used in the preparation of these pieces, and several costume artifacts. The exhibition will represent all five of the Nordic countries, as well as Sámi pieces. As a special feature, Swedish tapestry weaver **Cecilia Blomberg** will display several of her exquisite tapestries.

The exhibition opens February 3rd, and join us for a formal opening and reception on February 10th. The exhibition gallery will also be open during the Sámi National Day program on February 6th, which will take place in Ingram 100.

ON DISPLAY: EXHIBITIONS

Linda Caspersen and Laila Caspersen Hansen are the curators for the exhibition. Assisting them will be PLU Gallery Technician, Katherine Vail. The exhibition will be on display through March. We thank Professor Heather Mathews for this opportunity to show the artistic side of the many wonderful textile pieces in the SCC Collection.

FORGOTTEN NORDICS EXHIBITION

On January 13th, with tremendous help from Dr. Troy Storfjell and Linn Chloe Hagström, a new exhibition was installed, on display through April 9th. The exhibition looks at the lesser-known and often forgotten groups of people that have been part of the Nordic region historically, as well as more recent immigrants. The exhibition asks the questions, “Who is Nordic? Who is Scandinavian?” and looks especially at the way national identities have been created.

Entitled *Forgotten Nordics: Ethnic Diversity and National Narratives*, the exhibition does not focus on particular minority groups, but rather on the process by which a majority identity was created that then left others out. It starts in the Viking Age, when there were no national identities, only regional

and local groups. It then looks at how the process of adopting first Christianity and then Lutheranism created an “in-group” of believers, which excluded for instance the Sámi. Perhaps the most surprising part of the exhibition is the section on colonialism: the Nordic countries today are well-known for spreading democracy and peace, but 300 years ago the Dano-Norwegian and Swedish kingdoms were caught up in the European power-grab to claim land and resources in Africa, across the North Atlantic, and in the Caribbean. These colonized people, which included slaves, are often forgotten when we think about who is Nordic. Another section of the exhibition looks at the way wars have torn apart communities and families that once were part of the Nordic fold. It ends with an examination of the immigrant groups that have been coming to the Nordic region since especially the 1970s and the modern refugee crisis.

In a delightful bit of synergy, both the Svare-Toven lecturer, organized by Claudia Berguson, and the Bjug Harstad lecturer, organized by Sergia Hay, will deeply explore some of the topics touched on in the exhibition. In addition, Daron Olson will be lecturing on March 13th at 2pm on the subject of the Vikings and how that relates to Scandinavian identity. So join us this Spring as we explore the question of “Who is Nordic?” in this exhibit and related programming!



The *Forgotten Nordics* exhibit now on display in the SCC.

MUNCH EXHIBIT AT TAM!

When the Tacoma Art Museum heard that PLU was celebrating its 125th anniversary, it decided that a special Norwegian-themed exhibition should be mounted. Entitled *Munch and the Sea*, the exhibition will feature many prints and other works by Edvard Munch where he uses water and the ocean to express his emotion. The SCC will be putting together programming on campus to help highlight the exhibition, including a student art contest inspired by Munch and lectures. *Munch and the Sea* opens April 9th at TAM and will be on display until the end of July.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SÁMI NATIONAL DAY: FEB. 6TH

Up-and-coming Indigenous actor and filmmaker **Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers** will speak and screen her short film *Bihttoš* (Rebel) at this year's Sámi álbmotbeaivi / Sámi National Day celebration.

Bihttoš tells the story of Elle-Máijá's father, Sámi rights activist **Bjarne Store-Jakobsen**, how he met her mother, Kenai First Nation (Blood Tribe) activist **Dr. Esther Tailfeathers**, during the 1980s, and Elle-Máijá's complicated and sometimes strained relationship with her famous father. The unconventional documentary has won a number of awards, including the 2015 Seattle International Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize Documentary Short Award.

Raised in Norwegian Sápmi, the United States, and Canada, Elle-Máijá was named by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as one of their "Indigenous Youth Leaders: 5 Under 30 to Watch in 2015," and *Bihttoš* was picked up for in-flight screening by Air Canada and Alaska Airlines.

Her father Bjarne Store-Jakobsen was given the nickname *Bihttoš*, or Rebel, in acknowledgment of the central role he played in the ČSV Sámi rights movement of the 1970s and '80s, a movement in which Sámi on the Norwegian side successfully pressured the government for recognition of their Indigenous status, the creation of the Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament), changes to the country's constitution, and legal protection for the Sámi languages. Bjarne was elected as a representative to the Sámediggi for the 2005-2009 session.

Sámi álbmotbeaivi has been celebrated by the Sámi since 1993, and commemorates the first pan-Sámi political meeting on February 6, 1917, in Trondheim. PLU and the SCC have been celebrating the Sámi National Day since 2013. This year's celebration will run from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, in Ingram 100. Admission is free, and refreshments, including reindeer sausage, will be served.

Bures Boahhtin! (everyone welcome) Troy Storffjell
pg. 5



Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, who is the featured guest for Sámi National Day. Photo by Blaire Russell.

DANISH FASTELAVN: FEB. 9TH

On Tuesday, February 9th, The Scandinavian Cultural Center will break out the costumes, cat decorations, and feathers, and serve up some candy and cream-puffs for Danish Fastelavn. The name means "Promise of the Fast", and takes place on Fat Tuesday and the morning of Ash Wednesday. Like Mardi Gras, the idea is to enjoy, for the last time, many of the things that will be given up for Lent. The Danish tradition mixes this Christian tradition with much older practices marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring, like dressing in costumes and chasing away a black cat. We hope PLU students gearing up for the Spring Semester, which starts Feb. 8th, will enjoy this free and fun event. It is a great way to mark a new beginning!

SVARE-TOVEN LECTURE: FEB. 25TH

It is my pleasure to announce the Svare-Toven lecture for this year. Our speaker, **Grete Brochmann**, is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Oslo and a widely-recognized expert on immigration in Norway and the Nordic region. Her lecture, entitled “Scandinavian Welfare States: The Immigration Challenge,” promises to provide timely perspectives on immigration as it is experienced in Scandinavian societies today.

Dr. Brochmann’s many publications include articles and books on the history of immigration, comparative research on migration in the Nordic countries and refugees in Norway today. She has served on the board of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo and currently is a member of the organization’s research project on transnationalism and the welfare state. Her expertise has been tapped for several government commissions studying immigration, multicultural societies and the sustainability of the welfare state.

Dr. Brochmann will speak Thursday, February 25, at 7 pm in the Anderson University Center Regency Room. Her lecture is one of two featured keynote addresses for this year’s Wang Center for Global Education symposium. The lecture is made possible by generous donations to the Svare-Toven Endowed Professorship, and is organized by Dr. Claudia Berguson. The lecture is free and open to the public. Mark your calendars for this timely lecture on immigration in Scandinavia! *Claudia Berguson*



STEINAR BRYN: FEB. 17TH

We are delighted that Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Steinar Bryn from the Nansen Peace Center in Norway was able to reschedule his talk, which had been postponed due to health concerns, to February 17th. Thanks to **Dr. Amanda Feller** in Communications for organizing his visit, and we look forward to welcoming him to the SCC!

HARSTAD LECTURE: MARCH 14TH

This year’s **Bjug A. Harstad** Memorial Lecture will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7 pm in PLU’s Scandinavian Cultural Center. The lecture, “The Role of National Identities in a Rapidly Changing World,” will be delivered by **Dr. Hege C. Finholt**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Arts and Ideas at the University of Oslo, Norway.

Dr. Hege C. Finholt holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston University and a master’s degree in philosophy from the University of Oslo. She has taught at several universities in the U.S., including Boston College, Boston University, and University of Massachusetts. She did post-doctoral work at the Centre for Ethics at the University of Toronto, financed by the Canadian government, and has received other study grants from the Norway-America Association, Sons of Norway, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation. In Norway, she worked as an assistant professor at Lillehammer University College prior to her current position at the University of Oslo. Her research is focused on the assumptions that underpin political power, national identities and democracy.

Dr. Finholt provided the following abstract for her lecture:

National identities play a strong role in people’s lives. And yet, it is not always obvious what we mean by national identities and the role it plays in political arrangements. For instance, European integration has in many places lead to a revival of nationalism where some politicians argue that their particular national values are being attacked due to European integration- and globalization in general. They worry that economic and political integration will eventually erase the plurality of national identities that we

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

find in Europe today. By giving a philosophical analysis of nationhood and national identity I argue that such a worry is both important but also deeply misguided. I argue that it is possible to envision a European Union, or similar political arrangements, that is the home of a plurality of national identities. This is, however, not an easy task and it requires a fundamental change in the way in which Europeans think about the ethical principles which underpin political power and the relationship between democracy and justice.

This year's Harstad Lecture is organized by **Dr. Sergia Hay**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at PLU and a new member of the Scandinavian Area Studies Committee. Dr. Finholt and Dr. Hay were first introduced by Dr. Hay's cousin, **Kathryn Lohre**, National Council of Churches past president, ten years ago when all three women lived in Boston, MA. Since then, Drs. Finholt and Hay have maintained a friendship and ongoing conversation about the current state of philosophy and its pedagogy.

The Bjug A. Harstad Memorial Lecture is an endowed lectureship made possible through the generous support of the Harstad family and friends. Recent previous lecturers include Cathrine Sandnes, Professor Henning Howlid Wærp, and Eldbjørg Hemsing. Everyone is welcome to this free lecture!

PLU WELCOMES A UNIQUE HIGH-SCHOOL DANCE TROOP: MARCH 24TH

On Thursday, March 24th, the beautiful Lagerquist Auditorium at PLU will be graced with the artistry and costumery of a talented group of young folk dancers. The Stoughton Norwegian Dancers is a group made up of Stoughton High School students who perform authentic Scandinavian dances.

The group began in 1953 with a performance in Stoughton, Wisconsin's own *Syttende Mai* (Norwegian Independence Day) parade. Now they share their talents all across the United States, entertaining young and old and hopefully leaving behind an increased awareness of Norwegian heritage. Last summer, the Dancers had an opportunity to share their love of Norwegian folk dancing with numerous communities in Norway. They had the privilege of performing in Oslo, Lillehammer, Gjørvik, and Bergen as well as for the Prime Minister. They have been featured in *Folkemusikk*, a magazine in Norway all about folk music and dance in Norway, as well as the travel show *Norge Rundt*, which means "Around Norway". Each year many students in Stoughton try out for the six to ten vacancies in the group left by graduating seniors. Being a Norwegian Dancer is held in high regard among the students and community. The students who are members of the group are excited to share what they have learned of Norwegian traditions during their West Coast Tour in March 2016.



FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS

Oh, what an adventure it has been!

In early January, we finally opened the exhibit *Forgotten Nordics: Ethnic Diversity and National Narratives*, which I have been working on during my fall internship with Dr. Elisabeth I. Ward and Dr. Storfjell. It has been a fun, challenging, and very rewarding learning experience.

I grew up in a small town in northern Norway called Kjøpsvik, but I have lived on Sotra (an island off of the coast of Bergen) since 2001. I was one of the few girls in Kjøpsvik with a multi-ethnic background (my father migrated from Sweden and my mother from the Philippines) and I always felt a bit out of place growing up. I came to Pacific Lutheran University in spring of 2013 seeking a global education, and I have learned so much while earning my Anthropology and Global Studies degree. I started working for Dr. Ward almost two years ago and it has been awesome! I am so grateful for this amazing opportunity, and I want to thank Dr. Ward for her tireless efforts in making the SCC a welcoming, inter-cultural, and dynamic space.

For the latter half of my collegiate career, I spent time in the SCC every week doing office work, advertisements, tabling at events, and assisting in setting up and taking down exhibits. This is not simply an office job! It has been wonderful to work for Dr. Ward who is an insightful, motivating, and intelligent scholar! I have learned so much from her, and she also helped me with the methods section of my Anthropology capstone (BA thesis). During my internship this fall semester, I focused on creating the *Forgotten Nordics* exhibit, which is currently on view in the SCC. After countless hours of brainstorming, planning, writing, and discussing, the exhibit is finally up!

It has been so much fun to get to know and learn from the SCC membership throughout my time here. Many delightful conversations have been had within this lovely community filled with great people. I will miss you all.

Thank you for everything!

Linn Chloe Hagström



SWEDISH HERITAGE PROGRAM

This year's Edgar and Betty Larson Swedish Heritage Program will take place on Sunday, April 3rd, and will focus on the important legacy of Swedish film. Although many know about the famous Swedish film-maker Ingmar Bergman and the many actors and actresses that have come out of Sweden, like Max von Sydow and Ingrid Bergman, there is a much longer tradition of Swedish film.

The program will begin with a talk by Dr. Amanda Doxtater of the University of Oregon in Eugene. Dr. Doxtater teaches Swedish and the History of Film at UofO. She has lived in Sweden both as a child and as an adult. Her dissertation focused on the Scandinavian Silent Film industry and its use of Melodrama, focusing in particular on the Danish director Carl Theodor Dryer.

After a break for refreshments, Dr. Doxtater will screen *The Phantom Carriage*, a silent film from 1921 by Victor Sjöström. It is considered one of Sweden's greatest films. Everyone is welcome to this free event.

SISTER CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Tacoma's Norwegian Sister City, Alesund, will be featured on Feb. 8th at the Sister City Film Festival. The program begins at 6pm with a cultural presentation, followed by a screening of the Norwegian film *Headhunters*. The event is free and takes place at the Rasmussen Rotunda of UPS.

PHOTOS FROM PAST EVENTS

(clockwise from top): 2015 Lucia Chelsea Miller and attendants at King's Manor; Harald Overa, Judy Scott and Gerda Hunter decorate the tree; Danish Sisterhood hosts Danish students for a holiday meal; the Lucia candidates served at PLU's Winter Fest; Ed Larson celebrates his Outstanding Service Award with wife Betty and kids Mike and Beco.



THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

FEB 2016 - APRIL 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND IN THE SCC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

OPEN HOURS:

Sundays 1pm - 4pm (except 2/7, 3/27)

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 11am - 3pm (except 3/2, 3/15)

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Feb. 3 (Wed) | Danish Sisterhood, 11am |
| Feb. 6 (Sat) | Sámi National Day event in Ingram 100, 5pm-7pm |
| Feb. 9 (Tues) | Fastelavn Celebration, 6pm-8pm |
| Feb. 10 (Wed) | "Common Threads" exhibition Opening Reception
University Gallery (in Ingram Hall), 5pm-7pm |
| Feb. 11 (Thur) | Council Meeting, 6-8pm |
| Feb. 17 (Wed) | Lecture by Steinar Bryn of the Nansen Peace Center, 6pm |
| Feb. 21 (Sun) | Danish Sangaften, 2pm |
| Feb. 25 (Thur) | Svare-Toven Lecture: Grete Brochmann "Scandinavian Welfare States:
The Immigration Challenge" Regency Room, 7pm (Wang Symposium) |
| March 3 (Mon) | Danish Sisterhood, 11am (Location TBD) |
| March 9 (Wed) | Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am, \$5; Council Meeting, 6pm |
| March 13 (Sun) | Lecture by Daron Olson, "The Vikings in North America", 2pm |
| March 14 (Mon) | Bjug Harstad Memorial Lecture: Hege Finholt "The Role of National
Identities in a Rapidly Changing World", 7pm |
| March 16 (Wed) | Swedish Cooking Class, 10am, \$5 |
| March 19 (Sat) | Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am, \$5 |
| March 19 (Sat) | 2015 GTPP Laureatte Tom Dixon on his trip to Norway, 2pm |
| March 20 (Sun) | Danish Sangaften, 2pm |
| March 22 (Tues) | Norwegian Cooking Class, 10am, \$5 |
| March 23 (Wed) | Lecture by Dr. Patricia Berman: "Edvard Munch and Modernity", 5pm |
| March 24 (Thur) | Stoughton Highschool Norwegian Dancers, Lagerquist, 7pm |
| April 3 (Sun) | Ed and Betty Larson Swedish Heritage Program: Swedish Film from the
Silent Era. Presented by Dr. Amanda Doxtater, 2pm |
| April 6 (Wed) | Danish Sisterhood, 11am |
| April 9 (Sat) | "Inspired by Munch" student art exhibition at the SCC, 10am-4pm
(in honor of "Edvard Munch and the Sea" at Tacoma Art Museum) |
| April 13 (Wed) | Council Meeting, 6pm |
| April 17 (Sun) | Western Rosemalers annual meeting, 11am |
| April 23 (Sat) | Norwegian Heritage Festival, 10am-4pm |
| April 24 (Sun) | Danish Sangaften, 2pm |
| April 28 (Thur) | Opening of "Love of Labor: The History of May Day" exhibition, 4pm |





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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HAND-MADE
PRINTS LIKE THIS
ONE, ENTITLED
"MELANCHOLY",
CAPTURE EDVARD
MUNCH'S INTEREST IN
THE SEA. IN HONOR
OF PLU'S 125TH
ANNIVERSARY AND
OUR NORWEGIAN
HERITAGE, THE
TACOMA ART MUSEUM
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APRIL 9TH 2016.

