

# SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #1, 2017

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Sámi National Day  
Celebration

Lecture by the Director of  
the Fram museum, Norway

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## SCANDINAVIAN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016-17

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\*\*Elected Officers

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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*Elisabeth Ward*

One of my favorite words in Icelandic is *samvinna*. It means working together, since *vinna* is work and *sam* comes from *saman*, cognate with the English word “same.” So a direct translation would be people working on the same thing. More formally, it is translated using generic sounding

English terms like cooperation and collaboration. This is an important principle in the Scandinavian countries, where competition, especially in the workplace, is not as foundational as in the U.S. system. It has been my pleasure the last few months to have opportunities to lecture at Scandinavian organizations ranging from Daughters of Norway in Bellingham, WA to Son’s of Norway Snorre Lodge in Hayward, CA.

I believe in *samvinna*, especially with the other Scandinavian organizations in our area and in the U.S. As Director of the SCC, I have visited the Scandinavian American Foundation in New York, Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa, and worked with the Swedish Institute in Minneapolis to ensure the work of the Scandinavian Cultural Center and Cultural Council is known nationally. There is certainly more that can be done in that regard; for instance, I would like to have our collection more widely known as both a research and lending resource for our sister institutions.

Closer to home, *samvinna* has come very easily along the “I-5” corridor. In January, I made my fourth trip down to Nordia House in Portland, and will be going there again in March to give a lecture. I highly encourage all SCC members who are heading to Portland to visit this beautiful location and building, designed in a very modern Scandinavian style. North of us in Seattle, I recently went to visit the Northwest Danish Association headquarters, and will be having representatives come

down in early February to visit the SCC. For both the Nordia House and the NDA, the subject of our *samvinna* revolves around exhibitions. Neither of those organizations have a large artifact collection nor curators producing exhibits, so we are working on ways to let those organizations borrow exhibits we produce here at the SCC. I’m so pleased to have an opportunity to have our work find new audiences!

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, another piece of *samvinna* will be the topic of conversation at the SCC. Eric Nelson, Executive Director of the Nordic Heritage Museum, and Erik Pihl, Community Transition Leader, will be coming to the Scandinavian Cultural Center to give us an update on the new Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. Ed Larson, Lisa Ottoson and I feel like this will be a good opportunity for SCC members to think about growth and change in the Nordic community and how we can stay involved and relevant to that evolution in cooperation with what they are doing. This is a “members only” event that we hope you will attend.

Closest to home, *samvinna* certainly is exemplified by our work with our colleagues at PLU. The Scandinavian Studies Program and the Norwegian Program have been meeting over the Fall and Winter, and have voted to merge into a new Nordic Studies program. This merger hasn’t yet been approved by the Provost, but it is a great example of *samvinna*. As part of that proposal, the ability of the Director of the SCC to contribute to the teaching load of the new program was highlighted. This represents an important opportunity to demonstrate that the SCC is effectively contributing directly to the core mission of the University: to educate students. Indeed, PLU is full of examples of that kind of *samvinna*; President Krise teaches himself, as do several of the VPs and other administrators. The spring is a great season to reflect on how beautiful it can be when things work together.

– ELISABETH WARD

**The Scandinavian Scene is edited by Elisabeth Ward and  
designed by PLU Marketing and Communications.  
Please direct questions to [wardei@plu.edu](mailto:wardei@plu.edu) or call 253-535-7349.**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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*Ed Larson*

It is really difficult to keep up with everything that is going on around the Scandinavian Cultural Center! As you browse through this issue of Scandinavian Scene you will notice a tremendous number of opportunities that are available for your enjoyment.

As I look at the schedule for the next 3-4 months, it is amazing to see a variety of programs and activities that are available for members of the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Are you interested in learning how to make some put your cooking skills into practice by attending a Swedish, Norwegian or Danish cooking class? There is an opportunity for you to put on your apron and either learn new skills or brush up on what you already know.

Are you interested in music? There are concerts by outstanding Scandinavian artists on the schedule. These are wonderful opportunities that are available to SCC members, as well the local community.

Maybe your interest is in artifacts – the SCC is continually displaying a variety of such items. There is always an exhibition of one sort or another within the SCC. Take a stroll through the SCC and you will be amazed at the what you can find.

Later this spring there will be a program with the Director of the Fram Museum. In late April the very popular Norwegian Heritage Festival will take place.

As members of the SCC you have a variety of opportunities at your fingertips. It is my hope that you will take advantage of what is available for you. Come, bring a friend, and make the SCC and its activities a part of your life.

– ED LARSON

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS

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### RE • FORMING

Pacific Lutheran University and its partner ECLA Region 1 synods have been working together to observe the 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, which started in Northern Germany in 1517 with Martin Luther. All year long, there will be events tied into this 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, both at the church and University levels.

PLU has chosen the theme for the year to be Re-forming, and you may have already noticed banners around campus with that word, the dates 1517-2017, and emblazoned with core principles of Lutheranism.

Dr. Ward is on the planning committee for these events, a committee chaired by Dr. Samuel Torvend and including Bishop Rick Jaech, Rev. Jan Ruud, representatives from Pres. Krise's office, Marketing, Music, and Religion, and of course Pastor Jan Rude.

The theme of Re-forming was chosen for PLU because it resonates in many ways with the lives of students, whose college experience encourages opportunities to think about how they want to re-form themselves and re-form society. Certainly the brave, critical thinking that led Martin Luther to question the religious

practices of his day is still needed today. Embracing the potential of ongoing change is life-affirming.

At the Scandinavian Cultural Center, we like to embrace change particularly at the level of the exhibitions, which we try to change every three-four months. So for the year of 2017, Dr. Ward has planned three exhibitions around the theme of the Lutheran Reformation. The first is an exhibit re-formed from one the SCC prepared for the Nordic Heritage Museum and the Nordia House in Portland, on the occasion of PLU's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Entitled "Lutheran Education on the Frontier," this exhibition has not yet been shown at the SCC! So we are looking forward to it coming home. It will be augmented with artifacts from the PLU Archives and from the SCC Collection.

The second exhibition, which is planned to open in late April, 2017, is one that will be guest curated by Dr. Michael Halvorson of the History Department, and it will look at the way the Lutheran Reformation impacted Scandinavian politics, history, and society. Look out for the next issue of the Scandinavian Scene where that exhibit will be highlighted.

From February through April, please come enjoy the "Lutheran Education on the Frontier" exhibition!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## SÁMI ÁLBMOTBEAIVI (SÁMI NATIONAL DAY) CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 6

This year's celebration of Sámi Álbmotbeaivi (Sámi National Day) at PLU's Scandinavian Cultural Center will begin at 12 pm on Monday, February 6, and will feature food, song, good company and more. Sámi National Day has been celebrated in Sápmi, the Sámi homeland, since 1993, and commemorates the First Sámi National Congress, which was held on the Norwegian side in Tråante / Trondheim in 1917. This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the beginnings of the pan-Sámi national organization, and will be celebrated with a host of gala activities in Tråante. In addition to an address from Lynn Gleason, President



*Delegates in Tråante (Trondheim) at the 1917 Sámi National Congress  
February 6, 1917.*

of the Pacific Sámi Searvi, the SCC celebration will feature live streaming from the big event with PLU's own Professor Troy Storfjell, who will be taking part in Sápmi.

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## FEBRUARY FILLED WITH MUSIC! Feb. 10, 21, 26, and March 4

Three exciting Nordic musical performances—from Iceland, Norway, and Finland—will be taking place during February. The first will take place on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, in Lagerquist Auditorium, featuring a musical performance by Guðrún Ingimars(dóttir).

Soprano Gudrun Ingimarsdottir was born in Iceland and began her vocal studies at the Reykjavik Voice Academy. She continued her studies in London at the Mayer-Lismann Opera Centre and was a student of



*Guðrún Ingimars(dóttir)*

Prof. Vera Rozsa. At the music conservatory in Stuttgart, Germany, she studied with Professor Sylvia Geszty and completed the Opera School there. She has

attended masterclasses with Elly Ameling, Janet Perry, Robin Bowman and Siegfried Lorenz, among others. She also attended the Bayerische Theater Academy.

Ms. Ingimarsdottir received a special recognition at the International Erika Köth Competition. In her home country, Iceland, she has been awarded various cultural institutions' recognitions.

Her performance at 8pm in Lagerquist will feature opera pieces from the Nordic countries. Admission is complimentary, but donations will be accepted at the door.

On Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8pm, we turn to a celebration of the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg in a concert entitled Nynorsk! Northwest favorite and new Artistic Director of the Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series in Seattle, soprano Laura Loge will be joined by Canadian/Danish pianist Sandra Mogensen, celebrated for her performances and recordings of Edvard Grieg's lyric pieces for piano as well as collaborations with singers from the Nordic countries. Together they will bring to life Edvard Grieg's duplicitous Vinje songs, opus 33, highlighting

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Laura Loge

the poetry of O. E. Vinje, written in Nynorsk and steeped with elements of the Telemark dialect, and Norwegian folkeviser, opus 66, for piano. This concert is sponsored by the Dillon Concert Association, Daughters of Norway, and the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Tickets will be \$5

for SCC Members and PLU Alumni, and \$8 for general admission at the door and through the PLU concierge.

Finally, on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm, Finnish organist Jaana Jokimies from Kotka, Finland will be performing 'Nordic Delights' organ concert at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tacoma. This performance is free and open to the public. But please note it is in downtown Tacoma, not at PLU.

But the Nordic music doesn't stop at the end of February! PLU's Choral Union will be performing on Saturday, March 4 in Eastvold Auditorium of the Karen Hille Phillips Center. This will be the North American debut of Ēriks Ešenvalds' *Nordic Light Symphony*. Like many Latvians, Ēriks is inspired by the cultural connections between Latvia and the Nordic countries, especially Sweden, of which it was a dominion land for several centuries. Come enjoy PLU's Choral Union take on this original composition at 8pm in Eastvold Auditorium. Tickets available from the PLU concierge.

## LECTURE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FRAM MUSEUM, NORWAY

**April 9, 2 p.m.**

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Martin Greene, member of the Explorers' Club of Seattle, an exciting visit to Seattle/Tacoma is being organized for Geir Kløver, Director, the Fram Museum, Oslo, Norway. The enthusiasm for this visit has been wonderful, a tribute to



Geir Kløver, Director of the Fram Museum, Oslo Norway

the long relationship between the Scandinavian peoples and the Pacific Northwest.

Geir has been Director of the Fram Museum for 11 years. This is the most popular museum in Norway, approaching 400,000 visits per year. The museum houses *Fram*, the ship Fridtjof Nansen (1883-86) and Roald Amundsen (1910-12) used for their epic polar explorations, and *Gjoa*, the ship Amundsen used in the first successful transit of the Northwest Passage (1903-06).

Geir has published more than 20 books and has lectured in 20 countries. He is bringing the new exhibit, "*Lessons from the Arctic*" to Seattle for its inaugural showing at the Nordic Heritage Museum, and will include special panels about Amundsen and his visits to Seattle and the West Coast of America.

Martin was inspired to put this collaboration together after hearing Geir speak in Oslo in both June and December of 2016. Geir and his colleagues had put together a spectacular program on C.A. Larsen, Antarctic explorer and whaling expert, bringing together diaries, logbooks, photographs and 30 descendants of Larsen. For this program, Geir supervised publication of three new books and a very informative educational exhibit about Larsen's life, about the Swedish Antarctic Expedition 1901-04, and about the history of Antarctic whaling.

At his lecture in the Scandinavian Cultural Center on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm, he will speak about Larsen's expedition as well as give an overview of the Fram Museum. This event is free and open to the public. Please encourage anyone with an adventurous spirit to come!

# UPCOMING CLASSES

## COOKING CLASSES IN MARCH!



The amazing gift of the SCC kitchen, donated to us by Roe Hatlen in 1989, continues to be such an amazing source of collaboration and inspiration. During the month of March, the Daughters of Norway Embla Lodge #2 will offer classes starting at 10am on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Attendees will learn how to make appetizers, a main dish, and dessert drawn from Norwegian and Norwegian-American traditions, and get to sample all dishes after the class. Thanks to their lead, other lodges are now also offering cooking classes. The Vasa Order of America, the Swedish lodge in Tacoma, has been offering cooking classes for the last several years, and this March will be having a cooking class featuring Swedish dishes on the 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10am. And we are excited to announce the Danes are now offering, the Danes are now offering a class as well! The Danish cooking class will be on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10am. All classes are \$5 and include an opportunity to sit down afterwards and taste what has been made. The SCC is so pleased that the local lodges help make this kitchen a vibrant place of learning about our culinary traditions!

## READING ROOM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Scandinavian Cultural Center subscribes to a number of newspapers, magazines, and journals written primarily in English about the Nordic Countries. We want to make sure our members take advantage of the opportunity to read up on what is happening across the U.S. and in the Nordic Countries by taking advantage of our Reading Room. This is the part of the Center across from the kitchen, where couches and chairs, as well as comfy "sweater pillows" for wiggly youngsters, are set up. Ruth Peterson will be working over the spring to make that space more user-friendly and organized, which includes some general reference books. Please feel free to come any day during Open Hours to look through our Reading Room! It is part of the way we all stay informed and engaged with the wider Nordic community. The SCC subscribes to these periodicals on behalf of all of our members, and you are welcome to come read them at the SCC. But please do leave them for others to enjoy as well!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

As a member you will have the opportunity to volunteer in areas of specific interest to you. For example, SCC members serve on the Scandinavian Cultural Council, teach cooking and language classes, help with exhibit preparation and much more. Another way to volunteer is by serving as a docent during regularly scheduled public hours. To find out more about volunteering, send us an email at [scancntr@plu.edu](mailto:scancntr@plu.edu) or call 253-535-7322.



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTION

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How to manage 3000 artifacts tucked away in five separate storage areas is the on-going project of the Collections Committee, chaired by Linda Caspersen. Over the last several years, we have taken various steps to make things easier. The first was to procure an artifact database, and since the summer of 2014 we have been working hard to make sure every artifact is listed in there with a photograph, measurement, description, and a sense of its condition, as well as of course who gave it to the SCC. This work is far from over, and Jamie Foster in particular has been so helpful to Elisabeth in improving the database since 2015. We probably have four or so more years of work to do, though!

In the summer of 2016, we started on the next phase of the artifact project, moving the collection around to better utilize the storage spaces we have. The new cabinets we purchased for the clothing collection were essential for this effort, since it allowed a space that was not secure enough for collection storage to become secure. Linda is still working hard on creating supports and covers for each of the costumes, so that they can be hung without damaging the fabric. We started on this effort thanks to the Registrars to the Rescue event in June of 2016, and got about half-way done. If you are interested in helping Linda with this project on Wednesday, February 8th, or if you can help at another time, please contact her at (253) 219-8044.

Over the Christmas holidays, work began on the next phase of the collection move. All of the rolled tapestries, which had been put on shelves that in many cases were too short to fully support the weight of the tapestries, are being moved into a new wall-slat system, where each tapestry is fully supported by a series of hooks along the wall. Many thanks to Trevor Thiessen and Stein Andresen for volunteering to install that system. Once the tapestries are moved, the paintings can be placed flat on the shelves, instead of leaning against one another.

A new phase of our collection care will be beginning on February 17th. Linda Caspersen and Elisabeth have invited several museum professionals, PLU employees, and SCC members with particular expertise to be on the Collection Committee. They will help us create a Collection Policy, as well as help us determine if we may want to consider de-accessioning any items in the collection. Linda will be making regular reports to the SCC Council about the work of the Collection Committee. We are grateful to the following people who have agreed to serve on the committee: Rebecca Engelhardt from the Museum of Glass (of Finnish heritage), Sarah Samson of the Renton History Museum (of Danish heritage), Marv Petersen from the SCC Membership, Sue Loiland from PLU's Advancement Office, and Fred Poyner IV of the Nordic Heritage Museum. Linda and Elisabeth look forward to working with them to develop a collection policy.





# RECENT EVENTS



# FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS

## CARLIN MYRBO HARRIS, CHAIR OF THE BANQUET COMMITTEE



*Carlin Myrbo Harris and her husband Cody*

My father, Gunnulf Myrbo, began teaching Philosophy at PLU in the 1970's and he was active in helping the Scandinavian Cultural Center get its start in 1989.

I have always been proud of my Norwegian heritage. My maternal great grandparents emigrated from the Trondheim

area, settling in Saskatchewan. My father was born in Oslo and moved to British Columbia at the age of fourteen. Like many children of immigrants, I had familiarity with traditions, food, culture and language. Our Christmas Eve meal always includes homemade lefse and risengrynsgrot, surkål and a family recipe for medisterkake.

But, other than one summer as a child I hadn't been back to Norway and was eager to do so. Last summer my husband Cody and I were able to travel to Norway with my mother Juanita Stalwick. We spent a few very rainy days in Bergen before departing on the Hurtigruten ferry North to Kirkenes near the Russian border. We had a wonderful week, enjoying the delicious food on board, the amazing coastal views and even a couple of excursions to visit a Viking longhouse museum and a "Sámi Autumn" experience in the Lofoten Islands.

The following week we flew back to Trondheim where we visited with my mother's relatives, braved an early morning swim in the fjord, drove to visit the farm where her ancestors had lived and the churchyard in which they were buried.

We then rented a car and drove to the coast to travel the windy Atlanterhavsvæien, the switchbacks of Trollstigen and Geiranger fjord and eventually on to a fabulous four days in Oslo where we visited with my father's sister and my cousins. The whole experience was so meaningful to me, to reconnect with family I hadn't seen in years, to visit the beautiful places my father had described and

engage with the people, landscape and culture of Norway.

Other than the homemade cotton bunad I wore as a "faculty kid" serving at the Yul Boutique, I have been wanting a bunad for many years. While in Oslo, I was directed to a local store where the lovely saleswoman showed all of the elements and upgrades available to complete the Oslo bunad. I was so proud to bring one home and debut it at the Nordic Julefest in December. The bunad represents to me a way to honor my family and culture and I hope it will be a family heirloom as well.

Following my father's death in 2013, we felt the SCC was an appropriate venue for his Memorial Service. It was at this time that I met the newly hired Director, Elisabeth Ward, and I expressed to her an interest in becoming more involved myself. I attended several events that year and the following year helped with the banquet committee decorations. Then this year, while away in Norway, I was nominated to become Chair of the Banquet Committee. It was a happy surprise upon my return and I enjoyed planning A Royal Copenhagen Christmas banquet with my small but powerful committee of Gerda Hunter and Lisa Ottoson.

While a student at PLU I lived off-campus and worked evenings so I wasn't as involved in PLU activities as I wish I had been. I'm so happy to now have a way to reconnect with this wonderful campus, to contribute in my small way to honoring and furthering Nordic traditions, to learn more about my Scandinavian culture through its valuable programs, and to carry on the family involvement in the work of the SCC.

Carlin is a 1987 graduate of PLU, who now works as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in private practice. She and her husband Cody live in Puyallup.



# CALENDAR OF SPRING 2017

## OPEN HOURS

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*All events take place in the SCC and are free unless otherwise noted.*

- Feb 1**..... Meeting of the Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.
- Feb. 6**..... Saami National Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Feb. 8**..... Clothing Collection Workshop, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Feb. 8**..... Scandinavian Cultural Center Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 10** ..... Lutheran Education Luncheon (by invite only), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Feb. 10**..... Gudrun Ingimunds Concert, 8-9:30 p.m.  
Lagerquist Auditorium, \$5 suggested donation
- Feb. 19**..... Danish Sangaften, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 21**..... Laura Loge Concert, "Nynorsk: Edvard Grieg Song Recital",  
7 p.m., \$5 for SCC Members, available from the PLU concierge
- Feb. 28** ..... Fastelavn, 4-8 p.m.
- March 1** ..... Meeting of the Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.
- March 4** ..... Nordic Light Choral Union Latvian Program
- March 8** ..... Scandinavian Cultural Center Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- March 11, 21, 29** ..... Norwegian Cooking Classes, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- March 13**..... Ålesund Sister City screening of Norwegian film "Cool and Crazy", 6 p.m., Grand Cinema, Tacoma
- March 16** ..... Swedish Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- March 19** ..... Danish Sangaften, 2 p.m.
- March 22**..... Wine and Cheese Reception with Nordic Heritage Museum  
Leadership, SCC Members only, 7-9 p.m.
- March 25**..... Danish Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- April 2** ..... Western Rosemalers Annual Meeting
- April 5**..... Meeting of the Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.
- April 9** ..... Lecture by Geir Klover from the Nansen Museum, 2 p.m.
- April 12**..... Scandinavian Cultural Center Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- April 21**..... Opening of 500-Year Anniversary Exhibit
- April 23**..... Danish Sangaften, 2 p.m.
- April 29**..... Norwegian Heritage Festival,  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**May 20th**  
Spring Banquet





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



## FRONT COVER

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, in 2017 the Scandinavian Cultural Center will be hosting a series of exhibitions in the Hildahl Gallery exploring its legacy. See inside for more details.

**Watch your mail for membership renewal letters, which will be mailed out soon. March is Membership Month and we so appreciate everyone getting their membership renewals in on time!**