

# SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #2, 2019

Published by the Scandinavian Cultural Center  
at Pacific Lutheran University

Spring Schedule  
Some SCC History!  
Judy Scott's Talks in Norway  
Upcoming talks and events  
and more...







## SCANDINAVIAN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018-19

---

Karen Bell, Chair, Classes Committee  
Linda Caspersen, Textile Curator, Chair, Artifact Committee  
Kate Emanuel-French, Chair, Docent Committee  
Lynn Gleason,\* Secretary, Chair of Membership  
Gerda Hunter,\* President, Chair, Hospitality  
Clarene Johnson, Chair, Sunshine Committee  
Kim Kittilsby, Chair, Student Connections, Lucia co-chair  
Edgar Larson, Chair, Advancement Committee  
Marianne Lincoln, Chair, Publicity  
Marlene Lovstrom, Chair, Kitchen Committee  
Jon Malmin, Chair, Music Programs  
Jean Malmin, Music Committee  
Lisa Ottoson, Chair, Special Programs Committee  
Ruth Peterson, Chair, Reading Room Committee  
Shan Rayray, Exhibits Committee  
Janet Ruud, Chair of Bylaw Committee, Parliamentarian  
Don Ryan, Chair of Landscape Committee  
Judy Scott,\* Vice-President  
Melody Stepp,\* Treasurer,  
Jeanette Wiggins, Chair, Lucia Committee

\*Elected Officers

---

Scandinavian Scene Editor: Jason M. Schroeder, PhD

Editorial Assistant: Coral Hunter, '20

Scandinavian Scene Design: PLU Marketing and  
Communications

Please direct questions to [schroejm@plu.edu](mailto:schroejm@plu.edu)  
or call 253-535-7349

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings, SCC members, and happy spring!

Many signs of spring are now finally starting to show up, and by the time you receive this edition of the Scene the new season will be officially here. And that means we can look forward to the three SCC events coming up, including the **Norwegian Heritage Festival**

on April 27, **Syttende Mai** on May 17, and the **Spring Banquet** on May 11.

This year's annual Spring Banquet will also be a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Actually, the SCC was started well before that with the vision and talent of the Center's Founders.

They worked with an architect, with contractors, and with PLU to create the SCC space. They ran the "Thrifty Troll" and donated their time and money, a kitchen, display cases and the stage. Many of you may know or know of these early members, some of you are kin to them, and some of you were even part of it, met, planned and donated. The opening of the doors was the culmination of a lot of hard work and the desire to honor and share a Scandinavian background and culture.

We owe a debt of gratitude to so many of the early SCC members and look forward to the future of the Center and all it will mean to members, PLU students, and the community. We hope to see you and celebrate with you at the Spring Banquet!

Best regards,  
Gerda





# EXHIBIT: SKOLSTREJK FÖR KLIMATET

## “GRETA THUNBERG AND SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE”



Students and climate change activists around the world have decided to go on strike from school, including a worldwide strike on March 15. These protests are inspired by Greta Thunberg of Sweden.

Greta Thunberg is a 16-year-old climate change activist in Sweden. In August 2018, she started this global movement, although her concern was personal and local. On August 20, she sat outside the Swedish Riksdag (Parliament) with a sign that read “Skolstrejk för klimatet” – School strike for the climate. She wrote on Twitter that she was fed up with grownups destroying her future and declared that she would be on strike every Friday until Sweden’s election day on September 9, 2018. Her actions, words and presentation went viral and inspired Fridays for Future, where now there are students doing school strikes about climate change inaction all over the world: including in Japan, all over Europe, Canada, the United States (including in Washington state), Nigeria, Mali, Uganda and so many more.

Greta Thunberg had planned only to be on strike until the September 9th election, but she has continued every

Friday up to now. Her hope is to pressure politicians to act on information that climate scientists are presenting. She spoke to the global elite at Davos, saying “I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act.” Vox.com journalist Umair Irfan notes: “Thunberg has managed to both channel and elevate the frustration and fear many young people feel about policymakers’ reticence to take climate change really seriously.”

The SCC’s student employees, Coral Hunter and KD Williams, developed an exhibit based on Greta Thunberg and the school strikes she has inspired. They have researched Greta Thunberg and Fridays for Future, planned and installed an exhibit in the SCC. We encourage you to come see the exhibit as it bears witness to the impact that young people are making in the world, both on climate change and in documenting and publicly presenting this impact. The SCC welcomes you to come and see the work that the world’s and PLU’s young people are doing here and around the world.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have a so-called smartphone that I use for my calendar, for calling and texting my family and, from time to time, to check my emails. And from time to time, the programmers who designed the operating systems and applications I use “update” the applications whether I want them to do so or not. Reflecting on my reactions to these moments of finding out the application has changed are enlightening for me. I go through some stages of surprise (What?), fear (How do I make it work?!), anger (WHAT!), and finally a grudging acceptance (oh, there it is). It is a pretty minor and short reaction to a rather unthreatening event. My reaction of fear is based on things changing.

I find myself thinking a lot about fear right now. I hear my students speak about their fears for their personal futures, for the future of the human race, for the threats that their generation is facing, fears of failure, of not being able to make a difference. I think about my own fears, which are not that different from theirs. And for both my students and me, our fear comes from fear of changes we cannot know.

In my office window, I have a poster that reads “All tradition is Change” – a quote from Barbro Klein (1938-2018). Barbro Klein was a Swedish folklorist and one of my many mentors. She used this phrase as a subtitle to her book on Swedish traditional folk arts and material culture. Her point was that Swedish folk art has always been changing because people are at the roots of all tradition. Traditions don’t pass themselves

down. People pass traditions down to others; they decide what traditions to pass down. The recipients of traditions also chose what traditions they want accept in an ever-changing world. People set aside traditions and later generations take up these forgotten traditions. All tradition is change and all tradition is continuity and discontinuity alike.

In June 2016, while doing fieldwork, I asked a woman on Åland how her Midsommar celebrations have changed since she was a little girl. She told me nothing had changed. I pointed out the Oreo cookies and asked if they had had Oreos when she was a little girl. No, she said, but we’ve always had cookies. I like to reflect back on her statement when I feel frustrated that the smartphone app has changed or when people are changing traditions.

–Jason Schroeder



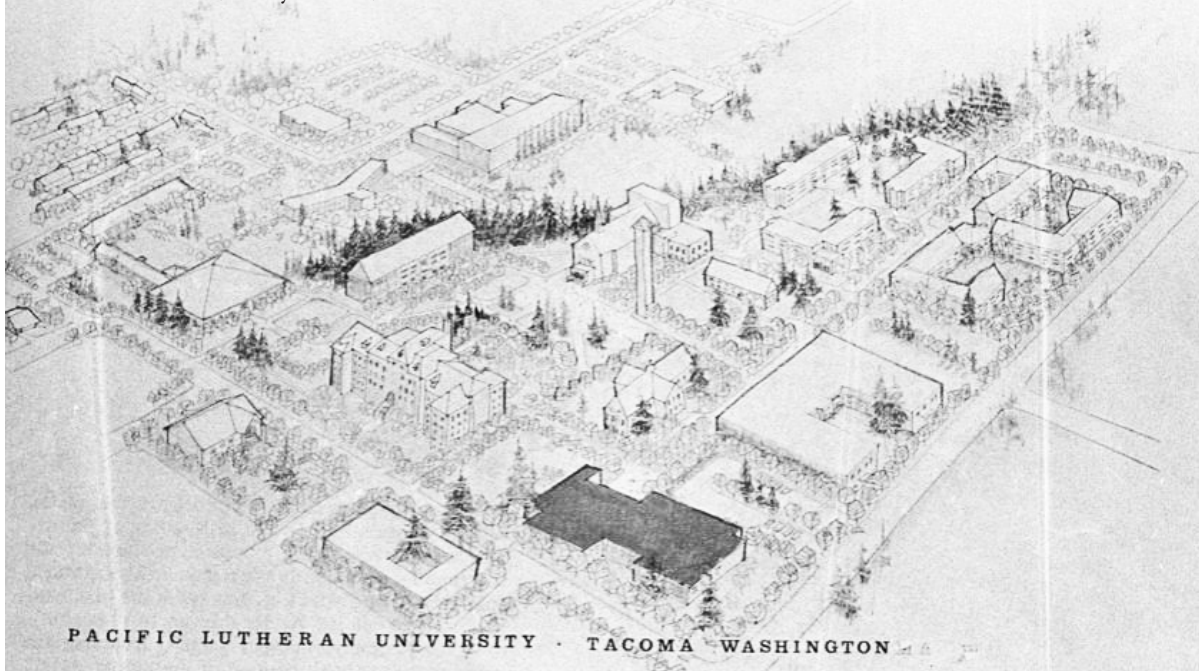


# EARLY SCC HISTORY

The Scandinavian Cultural Center as a place will turn 30 years old on May 7 this year. The Scandinavian Cultural Center as an idea well over 40 years old now. In the folders and binders of the SCC, there are old agendas and minutes. One of the older documents I have found is titled: "Meeting Agenda: Founder's Committee of the Scandinavian Heritage Council. Monday, January 14, 1980." Above this, the secretary, Florence Buck has handwritten the date and her name. This first meeting happened at 3 pm that day at the Alumni House Conference Room. The four agenda items were: 1) Outline of Heritage Council purpose and tasks. 2) Report concerning perceived areas of cooperation/conflict with Museum in Ballard, 3) Establish timetable and assignments toward formation of full Heritage Council, and 4) Review new and previously suggested names for Council as to: a) geographic area represented, b) types of business or profession represented, and c) organizations represented. Attending this meeting were Ted Karl (presiding), Joanne Klein, Claes Hagstrommer, Auden Toven, Gunnulf Myrbo, Janet Rasmussen, Luther Bekemeier, Molly Edman, and Florence Buck.



A few short months later, on April 14, 1980, the first meeting of the newly named Scandinavian Cultural Council was held at the Alumni House. Florence Buck noted in her carefully typewritten notes that eighteen people attended; they watched "a film strip titled "Sharing in Strength" for the capital campaign, discussed the Scandinavian Area Studies offerings, highlighted upcoming events in the local area of interest, discussed the programs that the Council would undertake." From other minutes and agendas, these early meeting slowly discussed and defined what they wanted the Center to become, how it would look, and what it would do, and how to finance it.



# SHARING FAMILY HISTORY IN SNERTINGDAL

by Judy Scott

“In 2018, I was invited to come speak in Norway at four different venues and share my great grandparents’ immigration story because my grandfather wrote eloquently about their experiences. I was flattered and more than a bit nervous, because I had to do it in Norwegian. The timing for this was also inviting because I would be able to join my relatives in celebrating Norwegian Constitution Day in Snertingdal.

I arrived in Norway on May 1, 2018. My cousin, Britt Alund, helped me with pronunciations that I was struggling with. We did spot checks while driving in the car and stayed up late reading my presentation to be sure I had it right. This practice was after I had done my own crude write-up in Norwegian which was then polished thanks to a U.S. military wife who is one of Britt’s best friends’ daughters.

My first venue, the Sons of Norway in Hamar, went a bit rough as I was so nervous. The presentations went better each time though, as I continued to practice. Snertingdal school, Biri, and Gjøvik brought out many of my relatives as well as other in the area. It was fun to have relatives find out they were related to people they already knew, but who were not aware of their relationships. A total of 110 attended my lectures.

A quick trip to Halsingland and Dalarna regions of Sweden allowed me to meet my family there for the first time ever. I returned in time to celebrate Syttende Mai in Snertingdal, attending church service in Seegård kirke with my cousins, followed by the parade at the bottom of the valley with everyone in the area. They had me join them in the parade despite my only wearing an Oleana sweater and not a bunad. Afterwards, we ate a delicious meal at my cousin Anne Alund Fladsrud’s comfortable home where I marveled at the experience of a lifetime I had just had.”





## MEET CORAL HUNTER, SCC OFFICE INTERN

Scandinavian Cultural Center student intern Coral Hunter '20 is continually turning out exceptional work for the Center through her graphics designs for events and flyers, assistance with communications, updating social media accounts, assisting with programs, and recently for her invaluable role in helping put together the membership survey,

which I hope everyone turned in online or by mail. Before I could even say, "How did you do that?" she and Director Jason Schroeder created the survey far better than I ever could have imagined it. As Chair of the Membership Committee, but also as someone who lives in Poulsbo and not able to drop in at the Center on a whim, I am eternally grateful to them both for basically doing my job for me. Coral set up the survey online, as well as the system by which the results are compiled so we can put the information you give us into action

as quickly as possible. Coral's quick and efficient finishing of tasks has expedited a number of projects and given many of us time to focus on bigger projects we may have otherwise had to sideline.

Coral is a majoring in mathematics and also earning a minor in computer science. Her grandparents are immigrants from Denmark and she grew up spending a lot of time in the SCC, so she is very familiar with its events and members. She is also the ASPLU student council representative at SCC council meetings. In March, she and KD Williams installed a pop-up exhibit about Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish student working for global action on climate change. I am only beginning to scratch the surface of everything Coral does for the SCC, and she is one of many people making the Center a more responsive and interactive place for its members.





## UPCOMING TALKS



### ROZ SPITZER DISCUSSES ANNA'S HOME • April 5, 7 p.m.

Roz Spitzer will discuss her recently-published novel, "Anna's Home," which is based on the courtship of her great-grandparents, Dr. G.A. Anderson and Anna Lavinia Tilderquist Anderson. Dr. Anderson was the first permanent Swedish Lutheran minister in the Washington Territories, coming to Tacoma in 1884 as minister to the First Lutheran Church and serving the Swedish communities throughout Puget Sound.

She has done a lot of research over the past 6 years while working on the novel, including on the early Augustana Synod Lutheran churches, Gustavus Adolphus College (where G.A. Anderson taught and Anna L. Tilderquist was a student from 1883-84), women's education in the Lutheran colleges in the 19th century, Scandinavians in Minnesota in the 19th century, immigration from Sweden, early days of Tacoma, the roles of Scandinavians and churches in the Chinese Expulsion in Tacoma in 1885, Scandinavian immigration experience compared with other cultural and ethnic groups, secret and cultural societies of the 1880s, women's suffrage, the development of railroads, the mosquito fleet on Puget Sound, and much more. She has presented at the Swedish Club of Seattle and for other groups, where her talks have been very well received. She is a 1968 graduate of PLU and earned an MA in English from University of Washington. She is a retired educator. **Please check out her website as well: [rosalindspitzer.com](http://rosalindspitzer.com)**

### DAVE ELLINGSON – PADDLE PILGRIM • June 9, 2 p.m.

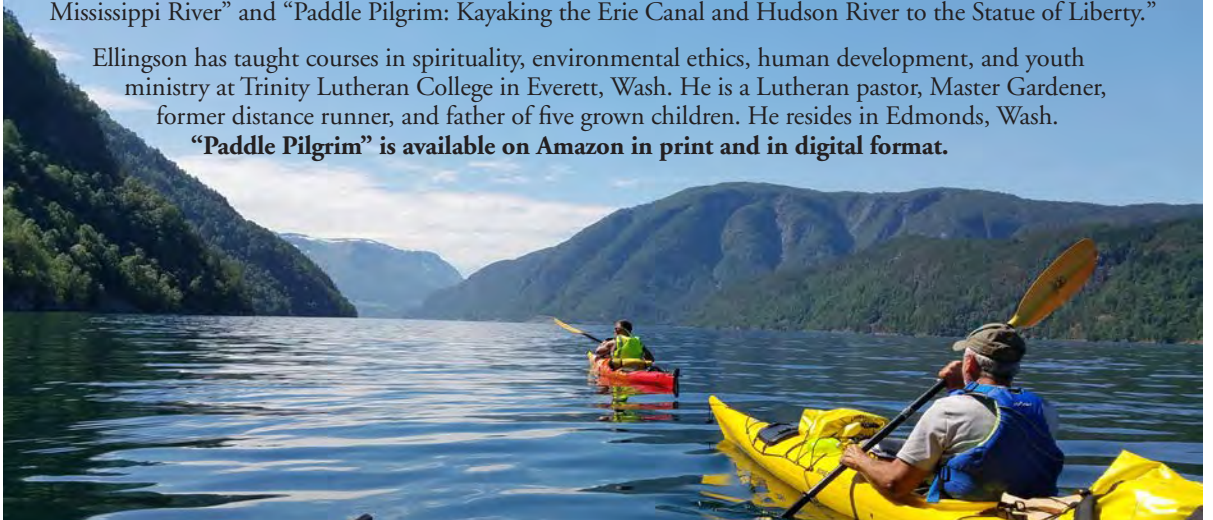
"Paddle Pilgrim" chronicles a month-long paddle adventure on the magnificent Sogne and Hardanger Fjords in Norway, where the author's ancestors emigrated from to America in the 1850's. The narrative weaves together three elements:

1. Paddle: daily detailed accounts of experiences on the water and in the mountains (what happened?)
2. Ponder: reflections on those experiences and their significance (what does this mean?)
3. Pictures: award-winning photographs which bring the experiences to life (what did I see?)

Other books by the author include: "Paddle Pilgrim: An Adventure of Spirit and Learning Kayaking the Mississippi River" and "Paddle Pilgrim: Kayaking the Erie Canal and Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty."

Ellingson has taught courses in spirituality, environmental ethics, human development, and youth ministry at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, Wash. He is a Lutheran pastor, Master Gardener, former distance runner, and father of five grown children. He resides in Edmonds, Wash.

**"Paddle Pilgrim" is available on Amazon in print and in digital format.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Sunday, June 16, 1:30 pm

Port Townsend author Barbara Sjöholm will share with SCC members her new book, an English translation of “By the Fire: Sami Folktales and Legends, collected by the Danish ethnographer and artist Emilie Demant Hatt (1873-1958)” in the early twentieth century. By the Fire, newly released by the University of Minnesota Press, includes Demant Hatt’s original linocut illustrations and an afterword by Sjöholm about the Sámi storytellers, many of them women, and the background of the folktales, most collected in Swedish Sápmi. Sjöholm will discuss the stories and present slides of the artwork and photographs of the storytellers. She will be joined by several members of the Pacific Sámi Searvi, who will read aloud some of the folktales.

Sjöholm is extensively familiar with Demant Hatt’s work, having translated her travel narrative, “With the Lapps in the High Mountains: A Woman among the Sami 1907-1908,” and written a biography of this remarkable woman, Black Fox. Demant Hatt was also the editor and translator of Johan Turi’s book “An Account of the Sámi (1910),” the first book written by a Sámi author in Sámi about the Sámi people. Sjöholm is also the author of “The Palace of the Snow Queen: Winter Travels in Lapland,” about her own experiences in northern Scandinavia over several winters. All books will be for sale at the talk. Co-sponsored by the Pacific Sámi Searvi.



## Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join the Daughters of Norway, the Sons of Norway and the Scandinavian Cultural Center at the Norwegian Heritage Festival in the Anderson University Center. Enjoy Norwegian foods, such as rømmegrøt and smørbrød, as well as finding Norwegian crafts and knick-knacks to purchase. There will also be live entertainment (musicians, singers, and dancers) informational booths for Glamfolk Viking age reenactors, Sámi heritage, and children’s activities.

## Saturday, May 11, 5 p.m.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center will have a spring banquet to celebrate the Center’s thirty years of service. There will be a contemporary smorgasbord for the feast, a celebration of the SCC’ presidents, and more. Look for the invitations coming to SCC members at the beginning of the month.

## Friday, May 17, 8:30 a.m.

PLU’s Office of the President, in conjunction with the Scandinavian Cultural Center will celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day by raising the flags and music. Come in your best bunad!



# 2019 SPRING CALENDAR

---

## OPEN HOURS

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

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

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

Apr. 3 (Wed) .....Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.

Apr. 5 (Fri) .....Roz Spitzer “Anna’s Home” – meet the author, 7 p.m.

Apr. 10 (Wed).....Council meeting, 6 p.m.

Apr. 14 (Sun) .....Danish Sangaften, 2 p.m.

Apr. 27 (Sat).....Norwegian Heritage Festival 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

May. 6 (Wed).....Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

May. 8 (Wed).....SCC Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

May. 11 (Sat) .....SCC Spring Banquet 5 p.m.

May. 17 (Fri) .....Norwegian Constitution Day, 9 a.m.

June 9 (Sun).....Dave Ellingson “Paddle Pilgrim” Film and  
Book Signing, 2.p.m.

June 12 (Wed).....Council meeting, 5-8 p.m. (TBA)

June 16 (Sun) .....Barbara Sjoholm “By the Fire” book talk 1:30 p.m.

## 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 Center 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 253-535-7349.



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

