

SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #4, 2019

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INGE MILLER SERIES

MEET THE NEW SCC INTERNS

NORWEGIAN CONCERTS

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

AND MORE...





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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings SCC Members, Those “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” will soon be coming to an end! Hopefully, you have enjoyed the many sunny days and some long relaxing evenings. It also means it is time to look forward to a new year at the Scandinavian Cultural Center. There are many events, activities, and classes already planned for you so be sure to check the

schedule in this edition of the SCENE and save some dates on your calendar!

For me, I am already looking ahead to Summer 2020! My daughter, Laura, her husband, Jon, the two granddaughters, Clara & Eleanor, my husband, Keith, and I are busy planning and researching for a trip to Norway. We are hoping to visit cousins in Oslo, where my maternal grandfather left from to come to America. And also visit the Valdres area where my third cousin still lives on the Aaberg family land. When we were there in 2002, I was able to visit the many farms that appear on my genealogy chart, the churches where my family worshipped, the graveyards where they were buried, the *stavkirke* where they might have been married, and the beautiful mountains between Trondheim and Fagerness. This

trip I am looking forward to meeting more cousins, renewing acquaintances with those we met before, and introducing my granddaughters to their family heritage.

Many of the SCC members have talked about how amazed our Scandinavian relatives have been at the interest we Americans have in our Scandinavian ancestors. I think it is we who are amazed at our Scandinavian ancestors who left their land, homes, and families to come to these distant shores, many times never to return or see their families again. And why did they leave their homelands? Each one has their own story of why they came to America land, opportunity, adventure, etc. One thing is for sure they were brave, strong, and hardworking people who brought their legacy to so many places here and left their mark on our hearts.

And isn't that how the Scandinavian Cultural Center came to be? To celebrate and share the heritage and legacy of the thousands of Scandinavians who came to this new land and made new lives for themselves, built businesses and new cities, and contributed to the culture of so many places. We are forever grateful to them, grateful to have a place like the SCC to honor and remember them, and grateful to share the stories and culture with the students at Pacific Lutheran University.

Looking forward to seeing you at many of our SCC events this year. – Gerda



FALL EXHIBIT: LIVING HISTORY & NORDIC IDENTITY

KD Williams, our long-time student intern has graduated from PLU and headed to the University of Washington's Museology Graduate Program. Congratulations KD! She has gifted us an exhibit titled "Living History and Nordic Identity: Bringing the past to life in the present" based on her capstone project for her BA in Scandinavian Area Studies, which Dr. Schroeder supervised. The exhibit encourages visitors to interact with conceptions of the past and Nordic identities by presenting objects that Viking Age and medievalist re-enactors use, as well as incorporating her fieldwork with the re-enactors. Groups featured in particular include the Glamfolk (known to SCC members for their booth in the Scandinavian Cultural Center at the Norwegian Heritage Festivals), The Northwest Viking Alliance, Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), Empire of Medieval Pursuits,

and a couple international medievalist fighting groups including Historical Medieval Battles (HMB) and Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA). Her exhibit explored the ways that re-enactors use a variety of arts, crafts, fighting styles, lived experiences, and extensive experimental archeology projects to re-create and shape their sense of the historical Nordic world and their own Nordic identities. Galleries include displays of the results of many of these efforts with features on fighting and weaponry, armor, textile production, jewelry making and even blacksmithing. The exhibit encourages visitors to touch and experience a wide variety of artifacts and materials so they too can have an immersive experience like those groups who are being featured. Additionally, a variety of local Nordic medievalist artisans will have their works featured throughout the exhibit for all to enjoy as well.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hej! I hope you had a wonderful summer and that your autumn is settling in comfortably with hot chocolates and hot soups. My time this summer was busy and productive, but also fun. I visited Sweden, Åland,



and Finland – I included a picture for you to enjoy. I also rode my bicycle around the Olympic Peninsula. As you know, we have many events coming up in November and December and I urge you to look through these pages to find them all. The Christmas Banquet committee is already hard at work and their ideas sound amazing – I am so thankful to them and all other committees and volunteers that make things happen at the SCC. We look forward to serving you this coming year.

After much planning over this summer, I want to let you know that over the course of this year, we will start publishing our SCC Collections records online so that you, PLU students, faculty, community members, and researchers can access our collection. I want to thank Tom Carlson for his generous financial gift that has made this possible. We also are developing a research station in the SCC so that you can come in and examine artifacts that you find online. Finally, we have

a project to install temperature and humidity monitors and pest control in all the storage rooms, as well as several other collections storage improvements. We will have more news about these projects in the second issue of the 2020 Scandinavian Scene.

Just below this, I wanted to share a statement that the PLU's Center Coalition (which I work with) recently put out concerning the ELCA's recent decisions at the 2019 ELCA Assembly in Milwaukee, WI.

Sincerely, Jason

FROM THE PLU CENTERS COALITION

The ELCA's recent decisions to be a Sanctuary Church, address issues of sexism, condemn white supremacy, affirm inter-religious commitments, and to apologize to people of African descent aligns with the University's vocation



and the PLU Center's missions and commitment to upholding the values of Lutheran Higher Education and Diversity, Justice, Sustainability. The PLU Centers Coalition is proud of our University's connection to the ELCA!

THE INGE MILLER SERIES

(Adventures in Denmark and Danish history and culture, Part 2)

In this issue of the Scandinavian Scene, Inge Miller continues her series about her adventures in Denmark and about Danish history and culture, with a second article, wherein she traces memories of her time growing up in Denmark during the Nazi occupation. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have and learn something new!

—Dr. Schroeder

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Since I was born shortly before the German Occupation of Denmark during World War II, I have always had a great interest in any part of the history of Denmark, both the terrible and the triumphant. I had intended to write about my impressions of a new museum on the west coast of the Jutland peninsula, as I mentioned in my last article. But the museum, Tirpitz Museum brought to mind memories of growing up in Denmark's second largest city, Aarhus, during those dark five years for the Danes. So I would like to share with you four of my memories from those years which are etched in my mind.

A Danish Child's Memories of World War II

I have many eventful memories from my childhood during the dark days of the Nazi occupation. One of these memories is that my parents and I always slept in our clothes. Because of air raids, everyone needed to evacuate to a basement for safety. Since our house did not have a basement, we were assigned to go to our neighbors, an elderly couple, who lived across the street and had a basement, when the air raid sirens sounded. The sirens sounded mostly at night, which is why we slept in our clothes so we could make a quick dash across the street. One night during an air raid, I remember my father banging on the neighbor's door but no one answered. Finally the lady of the house opened the door and let us in with the excuse, "Oh, my husband is listening to BBC," so he had been wearing headphones and had not heard my father knocking. After such a long night in the shelter I was always treated to a piece of furniture

for my dollhouse from the old couple's toy store. I still have several of those little chairs. Now my great-grandchildren play with them seventy-seven years later.

Another memory: Once my mother met a friend, when we were out shopping one day: "Oh, I thought, you were underground," my mother said, to my great surprise. How could this man be living under the ground? Everything was so strange. It was later in school, that I understood that he was a member of the Resistance, fighting the Nazi occupiers and that to be underground meant he was in hiding.

With no refrigerator, my mother and I went shopping for groceries every day, especially in the summer. The fourth of July 1944 was no exception. It was early afternoon and we had just come home from our shopping in our neighborhood. We were on the doorstep when an absolutely horrible explosion was heard all over town. The British had bombed German ammunition ships, sitting in the harbor being loaded with supplies for German troops in occupied Norway. There were 150 barges loaded with 300 tons of ammunition. One can imagine the city being in mayhem that beautiful summer day. 2000 grenades "rained" down, and left shrapnel in their path. Thirty-three Danish ship workers were killed and 250 seriously wounded. It is the image of the gravely wounded that I



still have etched in my mind. We lived near the harbor and my mother and I stood outside watching as truck after truck passed by, loaded with the wounded on their way to the General Hospital. These innocent workers who had gone to work just hours earlier, were now piled high on those trucks. They were drenched in blood which even gushed onto the road below. That was my first real encounter with war. What that little girl saw that day, she never forgot: War is ugly, bloody, terrifying and scary, and as one grows up, one realizes, this is true for all ages, not only a little girl safe by her mother's hand.

So my happiest memory from World War II is the evening of May 4th, 1945. During the occupation, we were forbidden to listen to the BBC but on that evening, while we listened to the regular Danish radio program, it was interrupted by a speaker from the BBC who announced that the Germans had capitulated and Denmark was free! For the past five years, Danish windows had been covered at night with black curtains

“CLOSED DUE TO HAPPINESS”

which people immediately tore down and threw into big bonfires in the middle of the streets. People climbed on top of streetcars, waving hundreds of red and white Dannebrog flags and singing our national anthem. Denmark was a sea of happiness! A wonderful tradition was born that evening which lives on to this day. People found candles and placed them in all of their windows: light had come over the country again! There was even a shopkeeper in Copenhagen, who on May 5th placed a sign on the door of his business: “Closed due to Happiness” [*Lukket på grund af Glæde*]! Even in our home today, here in the US and after so many years away from my native country, I still place candles in the windows every May 4th to commemorate that Happy Day of liberation.

Tirpitz Museet

I had set out to write this article about the Tirpitz Museum but wandering through it woke personal, childhood memories, but I feel like I need to talk a little about the museum as well. Because of my keen interest



in World War II, I was very excited to hear about this new museum called Tirpitz Museum (also known as Blåvand Bunker Museum) on the west coast of the peninsula of Jutland, what we Danes call “the Mainland.” Jutland juts up from Germany and the rest of Europe towards the rest of Scandinavia. Having heard of this new museum, I knew that I just had to see it on my next visit to Denmark. The museum was developed out of the ruins of Hitler's Atlantic Wall. From 1942-1944, Hitler had this Atlantic Wall built to be ready for the Allied invasion. It stretched from the North Cape in Norway to the Pyrenees in southern France and consisted of 8,000 bunkers, including 2,000 built along the west coast of Denmark in Jutland. After the war, some of these bunkers were removed or covered up but many of them still stand unchanged. One of these is located in Blåvand on the coast of Jutland, not far from Esbjerg where I always spend a few days visiting family on my annual trips to Denmark. Construction of this bunker began in 1944 as part of the Atlantic Wall defenses but was never completed. The bunker is rather large, measuring 7500 square feet and is named Tirpitz after a German battleship. The museum opened in June 2017. It is very unique as it is partially underground and the bunker's squat, dark presence contrasts with the new creation of lightness and openness that the Danish architecture firm Bjarke Ingels Group designed. There is a shaft of light that pierces into the darkness of the bunker. That light shaft in the bunker at the Tirpitz Museum reminds me so much of the candle light that shone in windows (and still does now) on May 4th that day of liberation when the darkness of Nazi occupation ended.



I am headed for Denmark again in October, so I am sure, I will be inspired and bring back more than enough to share with you in future articles. –Inge Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS



KNUT VAAGE AND THE VALEN TRIO PERFORMANCE

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. performance

Scandinavian Cultural Center

Valen Trio, founded in 2009, consists of cellist John Ehde, pianist Einar Røttingen and violinist Ricardo Odriozola. They will be performing classical Norwegian music. They are well-known for outstanding performances of Norwegian composer Fartein Valen's chamber music and also exploring music from the 19th and 20th centuries they feel deserves additional recognition. Despite being named in honor of Fartein Valen, they also specialize in compositions from Klaus Egge and Ketil Hvoslef.



PEACE QUEEN FROM THE (253)

Tuesday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Scandinavian Cultural Center

Ms. Melannie Denise Cunningham will present a special showing of her documentary film *Peace Queen from the (253)* just for the Scandinavian Cultural Center's members. She filmed the documentary in Norway when she visited for the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony as the 2018 Greater Tacoma Peace Prize Laureate. The 30-minute film promises a moving and powerful look at her interactions with Norwegian citizens and institutions examining peace and reconciliation. Please join us for the film, questions & answers with Ms. Melannie, and reception goodies.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Christmas Exchange and Danish Sisterhood Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Scandinavian Cultural Center and Anderson University Center 133

Join us for another edition of the Christmas Exchange (the Sweater Exchange) in AUC 133 and the Danish Sisterhood Holiday Bazaar in the SCC. Send an email to scancntr@plu.edu to reserve a table at the SCC Christmas Exchange.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Ness Family Chapel

Join us for the Norwegian Language Christmas Service, followed by a reception in the Ness Family Lobby.



SANKTA LUCIA CELEBRATION

December 6, 7 p.m.
Scandinavian Cultural Center

Join us for singing and dancing, as well as the crowning of this year's Sankta Lucia. There will be lussekatter and other Lucia day treats and goodies to eat!

NORDIC CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Saturday, December 14, 5 p.m.
Scandinavian Cultural Center

SCC's annual Christmas Banquet. The banquet will be Viking themed this year. Wear your best Viking garb and celebrate community and culture.



MEET 2019-2020 SCC INTERNS



Collections Intern:

Imani Keyes '21

I am a business major with a history minor. I enjoy spending time with my friends, family, and pets and I am eager to learn. After college I intend to pursue a career in museum curating. I am progressing as a leader and learner by understanding, retaining, and relaying the past and future events of Scandinavian culture. During my tenure at the SCC, I will bring mature, critical learning perspectives so that the students, faculty, and guests visiting the SCC will leave with new knowledge. My job is to understand all the donations we have in PLU's SCC collections. One of my tasks is to check the database to the paper records to make sure the information is correct. I also research artifacts I find in the collections, which helps me understand why these artifacts are special to the Center and to Nordic culture. Once again, during my stay at the SCC, I hope I can provide a warm and inviting visit that can enhance people's ideas of different cultures positivity. I truly love my job and I can't wait to create a learning environment for everyone that is FUN!



Events Coordinator:

Alexandra Schrader '21

I love connecting with others and sharing the stories of those around me! As a current student in my junior year at Pacific Lutheran University and a Strategic Communication major, I am constantly working to hone my skills of writing, editing, and online media. I am an emerging communications specialist and I love being creative. When I am not busy with school or work, you can catch me spending most of my free time drawing, painting, and hanging out with my friends, family, and dog, Jasper! Growing up in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, I've also spent a lot of my time outdoors doing the activities I love such as: running, hiking, and exercising! I am very eager to be a part of a community that will present meaningful, creative, and inspiring events, for the PLU community to enjoy!



Communications Intern:

Juli Rendler '22

I am a second year PLU student. I moved from San Jose, CA to attend PLU and am very excited to be working as the communications intern in the Scan Center on campus. I am currently a biology major and plan to earn my Master's degree in Education to eventually work as a science teacher. During my high school years, I worked as an editor for my school newspaper, University Preparatory Academy's *Aquila*, and will depend on the skills I learned in those three years on staff to help me excel in this position and support the Scan Center and local Scandinavian community. As well as working as an intern this academic year, I plan to succeed in the classes I'm taking, to continue to explore the Tacoma area and visit the local National and State parks nearby. For the upcoming year of 2020-2021, I will be applying to study abroad in Norway and hope to be accepted into that one of the amazing international programs PLU has to offer.

2019-2020 FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

OPEN HOURS

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

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

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

- Nov. 6 (Wed).....Danish Sisterhood, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Nov. 6 (Wed).....Valen Trio concert, 7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. concert, free
Nov. 12 (Tues).....Peace Queen documentary film showing, SCC 7-9 p.m.
Nov. 13 (Wed)SCC Council Meeting, 6-7 p.m.
Nov. 17 (Sun)Danish Sangaften, 2-4 p.m.
Nov. 23 (Sat)Danish Sisterhood Holiday Bazaar and Nordic Sweater Exchange, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Dec. 4 (Wed)Danish Sisterhood, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 (Wed)Norwegian Language Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m.,
Ness Chapel and Lobby
Dec. 6 (Fri).....St. Lucia Celebration
Dec. 14 (Sat).....Nordic Christmas Banquet, 5 p.m.
Dec. 15 (Sun).....Danish Sangaften, SCC
- Jan. 8 (Wed)SCC Council Meeting, 5-7 p.m.
Jan. 19 (Sun).....Danish Sangaften, 2-4 p.m.
- Feb. 6 (Wed).....Sámi National Day 6 p.m.
Feb. 12 (Wed).....Council meeting, 6 p.m.
Feb. 16 (Sun).....Danish Sangaften, 2 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 or call 253-535-7349.



SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER
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VIKING THEMED CHRISTMAS BANQUET

