

SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #1, 2020

Published by the Scandinavian Cultural Center
at Pacific Lutheran University

**SCARS LEFT BY THE BODY
IN MOTION EXHIBIT
INGE MILLER SERIES
UPCOMING EVENTS
AND MORE...**





SCANDINAVIAN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2019-20

Karen Bell, Chair, Classes Committee
Linda Caspersen, Textile Curator, Chair, Artifact Committee
Kate Emanuel-French, Chair, Docent Committee
Emma Foster, Collections Committee
Lynn Gleason,* Secretary, Chair of Membership
Gerda Hunter,* President, Chair, Hospitality
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
Donald McFarland, Banquet 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
Scandinavian Scene Assistant Editor: Juli Rendler
Scandinavian Scene Design: PLU Marketing and Communications
Please direct questions to schroejm@plu.edu
or call 253-535-7349

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings SCC Members,
Happy New Year, everyone! I
hope the beginning of this new
decade is going well for you all!

As I reflect on the 2019
Christmas season and the three
events hosted by the Scandinavian
Cultural Center (SCC) – the
Norwegian Language Service, the
Sankta Lucia celebration, and the

Jul Banquet – I am especially reminded of the role the
volunteers play in the life of the Scan Center.

As you are probably aware, the events and activities at
the SCC have always been heavily dependent on the
time and talents of the membership volunteers. From
the very beginnings of the SCC with a small group
of determined Scandinavians to the current Council

Members, Docents, and others, a dedicated group of
members has been involved with the activities and
events. Not only could the SCC not function as
actively without its volunteers, it makes it possible for
“many hands” to “make light work!” In fact, it makes
the work a lot more fun and gives a chance to get
acquainted with fellow members.

It's the members that are the life of the Scandinavian
Cultural Center and that enrich our organization,
exhibits, and events. There are opportunities for you,
too! Join us for a work party day or join us for an hour.
It's a welcoming place and the coffee is always on!

Feel free to contact me to see how you can be an SCC
volunteer!

Mange Tak,
Gerda



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear SCC Members,
I wanted to share that
for the Sámi National
Day for this year,
PLU's Indigenous
Scholars, including
Sámi students Elle
Sina Sørensen and
Mathile Magge,

hung a poster exhibit and launched their
campaign, "We are Lutes too" – they did
such wonderful work and it was a joy to
work with them. Their efforts dovetailed so
well with the Sámi National Day.

Best,
Jason



SPRING EXHIBIT: SCARS LEFT BY THE BODY IN MOTION

Starting in March, after the Sámi National Day exhibit and Indigenous Scholars' campaign posters come down in the SCC, we will start putting up an exhibit entitled "Scars Left by the Body in Motion," which will be a mediation on folk art, craft, material culture, and Nordic identities. The title is inspired by a quotation from folklorist Henry Glassie's book *Material Culture* (1999):

"The world enter the artifact in materials, abiding in stone, mellow and gray, in swirls of woodgrain and the luster of silk. Materials carry the scars left by the body in motion: the rhythmic chips of the chisel and the scoops of the adze, the twists of spun fiber, the dainty pricks of the needle. Artifacts recall the technology by which nature was made cultural, and they incarnate the creator's mind, holding in form and ornament the plans that preceded them and the decisions committed in their making." (42).

This exhibit will go up gradually as we talk to creators and makers, seeking the poetry of these artifacts in the Scandinavian Cultural Center Collection. The exhibit will feature about 30 artifacts that represent the breadth of the collections: souvenirs, figurines, woven artifacts, folk costumes, wooden bowls and utensils, rosemaled plates, carved spoons, tine, bone spoons, commemoration plates, mangelbords, i.a. Dr. Schroeder's Nordic Folklore students will be working with the artifacts to learn how to "read" artifacts and see the poetry and dance of makers' bodies with the world.

EXHIBIT OPENS MARCH 2020 AND WILL CLOSE IN AUGUST 2020.

We encourage you to drop by the exhibit and let us know what you think, to add your thoughts about the meaning of these artifacts. Tell us what meanings that you see that the makers have inscribed into the artifacts, even if we do not know their names.



MEMORIES FROM THE HOLIDAY SEASON



THE INGE MILLER SERIES

(Adventures in Denmark and Danish history and culture)

In this issue of the Scandinavian Scene, Inge Miller continues her series about her adventures in Denmark and about Danish history and culture, with her third article, about one of her trips as a teacher to Denmark's islands.

In the late fifties there was a shortage of teachers in certain areas of Denmark, which gave those of us, who were headed to college, a great opportunity to apply for a year of a teaching position, and at the same time earn a teacher's salary, while gaining experience in the classroom. I had applied for a job on the Island of Als, just off the mainland of Jutland, in the Southern part of Denmark, and reported for duty in Mid-August 1959. It wasn't a very big school, perhaps only 11 or 12 teachers. I rented a room with the use of the bathroom and part of a shelf in the refrigerator. The circumstances didn't lend themselves to too much cooking aside from a cup of tea and a sandwich.

But luck would have it, that a young female teacher, just graduated from college, also had moved to town. Her position was permanent, so she had a lovely new apartment with all the facilities for cooking. She generously offered myself and another temporary (male) teacher to cook dinner every evening for the three of us, if the two "temps" would do the dishes. We accepted at once! Although the male teacher almost got in the doghouse once, when he said: "What is IN this? If the doctor should ask?" After dinner each night, we dutifully did the dishes and then departed for our lowly dwellings to prepare our lessons for the next day.

Well, we had a great year, and at the end of the school year I was even more certain than ever that I wanted to become a teacher. In fact, it had been a dream of mine up through my own schooling, and now, there was one more big adventure awaiting me as the classroom teacher of a 7th grade class. This adventure entailed a one week bicycle trip covering 5 Danish islands, teaching history, biology, geography, etc. as we went along. Of course, since it was a coed class, a

male teacher went along, as did his wife, so I was not alone with a flock of 30 teenagers. But in those days the traffic wasn't what it is today, and neither were teenagers!

We started from our hometown, Augustenborg, and bicycled to the town of Mommark, where



we caught the ferry over to Faaborg on the Island of Fyn, then mounted our "iron horses" again towards the Island of Langeland, where we stayed the first night in a Youth Hostel. It felt good to stretch our aching legs, and other body parts, that were not used to riding a bike so many hours a day. After dinner at the hostel we enjoyed a stroll through the town of Rudkøbing, with its picturesque cobblestoned streets and halvtimbered houses.

Langeland had some quite interesting personalities from Danish past to be worth studying. First and foremost, Adam Oehlenschläger, who is the author of our national anthem, "Der er et yndigt land", "There is a lovely country". He was a close friend of H.C. Ørsted, who was born in Rudkøbing and was the one who discovered electromagnetism, and by the way,

went to the same high school as yours truly! So these two great personalities in Danish literature and science fields had their connections to Langeland, and gave me the opportunity to enlighten my students about these “Great Danes”, as we explored this unique Island.

Adam Oehlenschläger (1779 -1850) was a romantic historic writer, his first works being written back in the early 1800, right after the British sunk our navy in the harbor of Copenhagen! A four hour war, it was a terrible defeat for Denmark that completely threw the Danes into a national depression. Especially since the country at the same time went bankrupt! Denmark was on the side of France in the Napoleonic Wars but since then we have been sure to always be an ally of England.

Oehlenschläger’s writings were a great boost to the Danes’ pride in their country after these dark years. During a visit to his friend Ørsted on Langeland, he wrote our national anthem. This was his first journey outside of the immediate vicinity of Copenhagen. He was so taken by the beauty of this archipelago as he traveled through to get to beautiful Langeland, that he found a spot by the Baltic Sea, sat under a great big beech tree and wrote the song. The original had 12 verses, but only 3 are used today.

Here is the translation of the first stanza:

*There is a lovely land
With spreading, shady beaches
near Baltic’s salty strand
Its hills and valleys gently fall
Its name is old Denmark
And it is Freja’s hall.*

(as they say, it loses something in the translation)

My students also learned and wrote reports on H.C. Ørsted, who discovered electromagnetism and also invented aluminum. Just where would we be without that Great Dane today?

Well, onto the next Island, Lolland, where we stayed in the beautiful historic town of Maribo. You can probably detect from its name, that back in Catholic times this town had a large cloister, of which only the majestic cathedral is still standing, which we of course



visited as our first point of interest. But more up to date, I wanted the students to become familiar with yet another well-known Danish author, who trod his childhood shoes on Lolland close to Maribo.

His name was Kaj Munk, he wrote many books, plays, poetry and at least one song that every Dane knows and loves. This song is about a blue Anemone, that grows and thrives in the fertile soil of Lolland, but is pulled up and replanted in the sand of Westjutland. This anemone is a metaphor for his own life as he eventually became a pastor out “in the sticks” in western Denmark.

When Denmark was occupied during WW2, Kaj Munk became part of the resistance through his writings. The Germans didn’t always get it, since several of his plays were historic. Eventually they caught on, when in church on New Year’s Day he didn’t deliver his sermon from the pulpit, but wearing his black overcoat and bright red muffler, he spoke to his congregation in front of the altar about how Denmark should “not live in bondage and subjugation, may it happen by cowardice, greediness or stupid compliance.”

Earlier in December 1943 he had preached at the Cathedral of Copenhagen, even though he had been warned not to by the bishop. After his demonstrative sermon on January 1st 1944, the Nazis were fed up with him and came for him in the middle of the night on January 4th. He was later found shot to death in a ditch near Silkeborg, a few hours’ drive from his home, where his wife and children had witnessed his capture.

After the war, a large but simple granite cross was raised at the spot where he was killed, and I remember that every time my family drove by on our way to visit relatives, we always stopped for a few minutes to pay our respects, and my father would lay flowers at the foot of the cross. A Great Dane had given his life for Denmark, but he lives on, not only as a gifted author, but as so much more, as one who dared stand up to the enemy for his beliefs.

As you can imagine, it was a very busy week for all, the teachers included! The Isle of Falster and Møn went by, as our sore legs and other body parts got used to being in constant contact with the pedals and saddle several hours a day. Once we reached the Island of Sjælland, (these aforementioned islands were connected by bridges) we began to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The former Royal Residence of Roskilde was the end of the line for us. It was founded by King Harald Bluetooth in the year 980 A.D., and was the capital of Denmark from 1100 - 1443. The gothic cathedral is on the UNESCO list, it now houses 39 tombs of Danish monarchs.

One being of Queen Margrethe the First, who gathered Denmark, Norway, and Sweden in the Kalmar Union, over which she ruled with great efficiency. This Union

lasted for 126 years, and as similar as these three Scandinavian countries are, perhaps not in topography, but in languages, religion, people, maybe they would have been better off staying together? Well, a lot of topics were certainly covered during this week, actually several were not even mentioned here due to lack of space. The plan was to catch the train in Roskilde and ship our bikes right along with us to return home to Augustenborg, we were a tired but excited group filled with enough new impressions, experiences, and memories to last a lifetime.

In fact some fifty plus years later, during one of my visits to Denmark, I actually did this very trip again, this time by car, with a good friend of mine. I had never been back to those islands, but revisiting sure was fun. The lodgings were much more comfortable, but we did miss the quiet back roads, with just the occasional car overtaking us. Those were the days!

If you have stayed with me this far, I do thank you for your patience, and I do promise that my next article will be much shorter, but hopefully its contents well worth your while. By the way, did I mention that I bought my bicycle with part of my first paycheck, and that I still have it, in mint condition! I taught 36 hours a week and my monthly salary was \$165!



THERE IS A LOVELY LAND WITH
SPREADING, SHADY BEACHES
NEAR BALTIC'S SALTY STRAND...

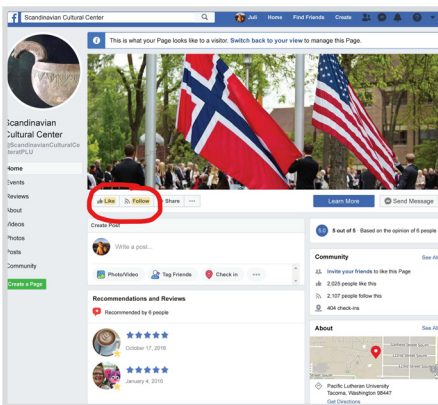
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Scandinavian Cultural Center is hosting several **Norwegian Cooking Classes** throughout Winter/Spring 2020. For dates please check the calendar on page 11. We are offering tasty **Norwegian Cooking Classes** in our lovely demonstration Hatlen Kitchen. Dishes from Norway will be presented by our guest chef. All cooking classes will take place from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The cost is only \$5, which includes a taste of the results. You can register at each event.

Join us in the Scandinavian Cultural Center for **Danish Sangaften**. Every 3rd Sunday of the month, we come together to enjoy food and Danish choral music.

Sons of Norway and *Daughters of Norway* in Olympia present our 14th annual **Norway Day** on **April 18, 2020** from **10 am to 4 pm**. visitors that There's more to Norway than lutefisk and lefse. We offer the Nordic Café where you can taste traditional Scandinavian cuisine, a delicious bake sale, vendors offering items of cultural interest, Vikings, Fjord horses, Norwegian Elk Hounds, genealogy, music, entertainment and general Scandinavian fun. You will find us at the Thurston Co Fairgrounds, 3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Lacey, WA.

The **Norwegian Heritage Festival** will be taking place on April 25th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. throughout the Anderson University Center (AUC) on the PLU campus. There will be wonderful vendors selling handcrafted items, as well as delicious food. In the Scandinavian Cultural Center there will be Viking Reenactments among other fun activities.



SCC ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & TWITTER

Hello everyone! The Scandinavian Cultural Center has multiple social media pages that we'd love for our members to be involved in. The Center updates these pages on a regular basis with updates on events happening at our own center and/or in our larger Tacoma community.

The **Facebook** page generally has posts about upcoming events, photo albums of previous events and regular updates about new things happening at the Center. Our Facebook page can be found at facebook.com/ScandinavianCulturalCenteratPLU/. You could also find our page by going to the Facebook home page and searching for

Scandinavian Cultural Center. If you'd like to receive updates from this page, make sure to either like the entire page or follow us. The like and follow button can be found directly under the banner photograph on our homepage.



Instagram is an entirely photo based forum, this page will be more geared towards students on PLU campus and will have more individual photos or videos of events. Our Instagram username is **@scancenterPLU**. To receive updates, you can follow the account from your own. The photos we post will appear on your own timeline.



Our **Twitter** page is based on shorter posts of photos with small captions or retweeting other pages' posts. This page can be found at twitter.com/scancenterPLU, to receive updates from our twitter, make sure to follow this page.

2020 SPRING 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.

Mar. 3 (Tues)..... Norwegian Cooking Class 11-1pm, \$5

Mar. 7 (Sat) Norwegian Cooking Class 11-1pm, \$5

Mar. 11 (Wed) Norwegian Cooking Class 11-1pm, \$5

Mar. 11 (Wed) SCC Council Meeting, 6 pm

Mar. 15 (Sun) Danish Sangaften, 2 pm

Mar. 21 (Sat) Danish Cooking Class, 11-1pm, \$5

Apr. 8 (Wed) Council meeting, 6 pm

Apr. 19 (Sun) Danish Sangaften, 2 pm

Apr. 25 (Sat) Norwegian Heritage Festival 11-3 pm

May. 13 (Wed) SCC Council Meeting, 6 pm

May. 17 (Fri) Norwegian Constitution Day, 9 am

May 30 (Sat) Estep Rosemaling Class, 9-3, \$35

June 11-13 (Th-Sat) Hansen Rosemaling Class, 9-3, \$75

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
12180 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
TACOMA, WA 98447-0003

www.plu.edu/scancenter
[@scancenterplu](https://www.facebook.com/ScandinavianCulturalCenteratPLU)

