



SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER
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SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #3, May 2023

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The Scandinavian Cultural Center
at Pacific Lutheran University

Norwegian Constitution Day May 17, 2023 *Syttende Mai* Celebration

Flag raising at 8:30: a.m. in Red Square at PLU
followed by a procession to the
University Center

Reception following in the
Scandinavian Cultural Center
along with a short program



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UPCOMING EVENTS ON PAGE 11

Scandinavian Cultural Center Council

Officers

President Judy Scott
Vice President Kate Emmanuel-French
Secretary Janet Ruud and Lisa Ottoson
Treasurer Melody Stepp
Immediate Past President Gerda Hunter

Council Members

Linda Caspersen	Marlene Lovstrom
Karen Chapman	Jon Malmin
Carlin Harris	Jean Malmin
Gerd-Inger McDougall	Don Ryan
Kim Kittilsby	Ruth Peterson
Ed Larson	Christine Taylor
Sharon Krause	
Shan Rayray, Lodge #2 Daughters of Norway	
Amy Swanson King, Pacific Sámi Searvi	
Johan Karlsen, Norden Lodge #2, Sons of Norway	
Marilyn Mahnke, VASA Lodge #233	
Melanie Berg, Danish Sisterhood	
Maddie Lamwers, PLU Student	
Aubrietta McCrone, PLU Student	

Scandinavian Scene Editor: Judy Scott
Scandinavian Scene Design: Marianne Lincoln
Please direct questions to Judy Scott flygerjudy@gmail.com

Open Hours Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm (year-round)
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 12 pm - 3 pm (academic year)

Scandinavian Cultural Center Council Calendar

Spring 2023 - Summer 2023

May 2023

- Wednesday, 10th, 6 pm, Council Meeting
- Saturday, 13th, 12 - 3 pm, Spring Banquet, By Invitation, Buffet Luncheon
- Wednesday, 17th, 8:30 am Red Square, 9:00 am SCC, and program until 10 am, Norwegian Constitution Day

June 2023

- Sunday, 4th, Noon - 4 pm, Council Workshop

June, July & August

- Open hours on Sunday only, Sunday 1 - 4 pm

Next academic year, watch for...
A Thor Hyerdahl lecture
Student Market

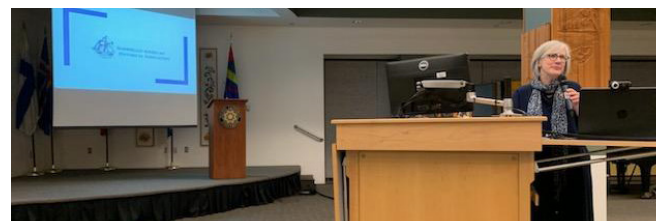
VISITOR FROM NAHA



Dr. Amy Boxrud, Director of the Norwegian American Heritage Association was a special guest at the March Council meeting. She presented a short program about the upcoming 200 year anniversary of Norwegian emmigration to the United States.

Plans are being made now to mark this celebration throughout the country and PLU will likely be a participant in the festivities.

Our Council member Kim Kittilsby is a member of the NAHA National Executive Board.



PRESIDENT BELTON & PROVOST GREGSON



Luncheon and collection viewing with PLU President Alan Belton, Provost Joanna Gregson and the Council Executive Board



FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a year of transition this has been! It's not over yet, either. There have been meetings with PLU President Alan Belton and Provost Joanna Gregson, to work towards a shared vision of where the Scandinavian Cultural Center fits in going forward, without a Director and with a student population that is 70% non-white.

Not having a director will be the new normal, so the Council has worked very hard to present the exhibits,

programs, and banquets you have seen or recently participated in.

We have new officers as of the April Council meeting. I will remain Council President for one more year. My Vice President is the renown Dr. Don Ryan, bringing so much expertise and connections from the greater world to benefit the SCC. Sharing the Secretary role are Janet Ruud and Lisa Ottoson. Melody Stepp is sharing and mentoring the role of Treasurer with Kate Emmanuel-French. Thank you to each of you for caring about the SCC to serve in these capacities.

In this time of change, we are working for understanding and fellowship with one another and the staff and students of PLU. We want to build relationships with the new student population through hospitality and teaching. As we open ourselves to new possibilities and capabilities, you are welcome to join us!

Wishing you all the best,
Judy Scott, SCC Council President



FASTELAVN FEBRUARY 20, 2023



OUTREACH AT SPANAWAY ELEMENTARY



NORWEGIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL APRIL 29, 2023



PER OLSSON AND GARDEN GNOMES



Sentimental Swedish Pine Planted

In 2018, Council President Judy Scott visited the site of her Swedish great, great, great grandparents' home near Alfta, Halsingland, Sweden. Being the first American family member to be at that site in decades, Judy thought about all the relatives at home that are descended from the family whose home area she was at. She spied a tiny little tree down near her feet and immediately decided to take a piece of the homestead with her- the tiny little tree that looked like 'Thing 1' from Dr. Suess. (See photo of young Per at the bottom of FROM THE PRESIDENT, page 3.)

The tree got stuffed inside a sandwich bag inside Judy's purse along with some dirt and moss from the home's location. For the trip back to Washington, Judy can tell you in person how that got cleverly hidden away in her luggage. Needless to say, the tree arrived, and it's been growing ever since May 2018.

The tree got named after her third great Grandfather, Per Olsson. Groundskeepers Henry Risen, Arborist, and Dalton Best did the digging and planting. The type of tree is actually a Pinus Sylvestri, a tree with a good reputation for solid wood that many items are made from in Sweden. If you are near the Viking boat prow when you come to campus, take a look for Per and see how he's growing.

RECEPTION FOR RICK STEVES MARCH 22, 2023



SILVERSMITHS MARCH 20, 2023



FEATURED COUNCIL MEMBER GERDA HUNTER



The lovely décor and food that you experience at an event in the Scandinavian Cultural Center in the past 10 years have been the work of our Hospitality Chair, Gerda Hunter. Gerda's daughter, Laura, worked at PLU for a number of years, so that's who brought her to the Council after Gerda and her husband Keith moved down to Puyallup after she retired from the Kent School District. A 1992 Masters in Education graduate of PLU, Gerda gets great satisfaction working with the "dynamic, wonderful, talented individuals who are now friends" at the SCC.

Her background in Education, Speech and Audiology make her very passionate about working with students of all ages. Gerda likes involving them in activ-

ities in the SCC or putting on a cultural display in the community, like the Spanaway Elementary Multicultural Fair in March. During the Norwegian Heritage Festival, Gerda spearheaded the children's activities in the SCC, complete with a display of books from each Nordic country.

Gerda feels at home in the SCC because of her own heritage interests, which could be the same for other people with the same roots. She says "the SCC is a place to get acquainted, use your talents and education, and find all kinds of volunteer opportunities".

Tusen takk for gjestfrihet Gerda! Thank you for the hospitality Gerda!

FEATURED COUNCIL MEMBER MELODY STEPP



Just about any day of the week, you can poke around the Scandinavian Cultural Center and find Melody Stepp, Council Treasurer and Assistant for the Collection, busy doing something. You can easily tell who Melody is as she most always has a big smile on her face. She works right along with the Collections Chair to put up the displays that all who enter the SCC get to enjoy. Melody gets satisfaction from being able to show off the work that others have done, whether it's a piece of carved wood, blown glass, or an art masterpiece.

Melody got involved in the SCC because she decided to take Norwegian Language class from Professor Audun Toven, once she and her husband Bill moved to Parkland. Professor Toven spoke a lot about the SCC so Melody decided she, "had to check it out". In the process of doing that, she met the first Director of the SCC, Susan Young, who was working on an exhibit. Melody started helping her and hasn't stopped helping with

exhibits since then! She marvels at the transformation of the former graveled empty space to becoming the Center that it is now. It was an expensive labor of love by our founders that she truly is passionate about keeping relevant and welcoming to whomever enters. That's why she recommends that others get involved with the Council for the SCC, "because I'd look forward to them thanking me for helping them get involved with a diverse and wonderful group". *Du er den beste Melody! You are the best Melody!*

FEATURED COUNCIL MEMBER LINDA CASPERSEN

Florence Buck, the founder of the Scandinavian Cultural Center, is responsible for recruiting Linda Caspersen. Ms. Buck knew that Linda had studied textiles and weaving in Norway - weaving alone for an entire year, 40 hours a week - and asked her to come help identify donated pieces of the Collection back in 1996.

By that time, Linda had been a Professor of Clothing and Textiles and had written a book on weaving. Linda's day job became a disaster when Day Care became a challenge, so she quit and took up volunteering for the SCC, because she could bring her then 3 year old daughter along with her.

From there, Linda took over researching for and setting up exhibits in the SCC. She found the volunteering to be extremely educational, as volunteering can be, and the flexibility of setting her own hours made it even better. Added to this, Melody Stepp "is very easy to work with" and the rest of the Council members are like having an extended family. "It's



something for young people to think about, establishing a pattern of volunteering early in your life. My father always said "the more you give, the more you get back, 10 fold"

Linda's favorite part of what she does is the set up and research for an exhibit. "I learn so much in the process!" she exclaimed. With way over 5000 hours donated to the SCC exhibits and activities, it's obvious this is a passion for Linda.

Tusen tusen takk for alt du gjør, Linda!

A thousand thousand thanks for all you do, Linda!

