ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE:

The AGM of the Scandinavian Cultural Society will be held at the:

Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC, on:

Monday, February 24th, 2014 at 7:00 pm to:

1) Consider the reports of the Directors.
2) Consider the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st, 2013.
3) Elect directors, Group B.
4) Transact such other Business as may properly come before the meeting.

Attendance at this Annual General Meeting is open to all group representatives and individual members.

Dues may be paid at or prior to the meeting.

Dated the 20th January, 2014.
By order of the Board of Directors for the Scandinavian Cultural Society.

The Scandinavian Cultural Society and the Scandinavian Community Centre present

Nordic Design 2014: Mid-Century Modern

February 22 and 23, 2014
Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street Burnaby

Opening Reception and concert Saturday 11:30
Saturday evening presentation

Each country will display its own designs. Commercial exhibitors will show and sell.
Talks will be offered on Nordic design, antiques and collectables.
Coffee and food will be available.

Nordic Mid-Century Modern designs are world famous.
Come and be proud of our design heritage

Information: Carolyn: cthauber12@gmail.com
John: stuartj@direct.ca

Supported by BC Gamming Commission
Danish Canadian Community Centre
President's Message:

In 2013, the Scandinavian Cultural Society increased its focus on our Nordic heritage. Each step was carefully planned and implemented by the members. It took many hours to organize and assemble surreal concepts and events to display Nordic life. Most of the work was concentrated on the photo and art show, the Nordic Spirit show and also included our newsletter deserves special mentioning.

We appreciate the photographic coverage of our events done by Arne Möller, Bent Ostergaard and Randall Peterman. We thank Judith Anderson, Carolyn Thauberger, and Diane Rogers, for their descriptive articles using their creative writing skills. Our newsletters by Robert Asgeirsson continues to wow everyone. In fact, I, myself, relay much appreciation for his countless hours of work.

Our board continues to work harmoniously and will do so for many years to come. We have assembled valuable records of our Nordic immigrants to B. C., both in photographic and digital form. It is hoped someday to have an archive with records and artifacts here in the Scandinavian Center to benefit future generations.

Also, my appreciation goes to all who contributed to our programs. We gratefully acknowledge financial support from: our members, the BC Gaming Commission, the City of Burnaby, and the Danish Canadian Community Center.

Most respectfully,

Poul Erik Rasmussen

Nordic Design 2014: Mid-Century Modern

Watch for our exciting new show set for February 22nd and 23rd, 2014. It will replace our annual Art and Photography show and, if successful, Nordic Design will continue to alternate years with the Art show. With this first show the SCS plans a general display of Mid-Century Modern furniture, glass, tools, textiles and clothing, jewellery, interiors and architecture from 1950 on that set new design standards for the world to copy. The show will include talks, videos, workshops, and music.

We plan two sources of design materials. First, we invite you to loan us pieces that illustrate Mid-Century Modern design. Your homes are filled with outstanding examples of Danish furniture, Swedish and Finnish glass and textiles, Icelandic jewellery, and Norwegian wood—affordable, practical, and beautifully designed.

Then we will invite Vancouver community partners selling both contemporary and collectable designs to offer design examples for show and sale. You can come to learn, enjoy, and purchase. You are also welcome to sell your loaned artefacts. Carolyn Thauberger and John Stuart are leading show organization. John, retired museum curator and collector, has extensive knowledge of Nordic design. Contact Carolyn, (cthauber12@gmail.com) with your own ideas, offers to help, and to present your articles for display. We appreciate your help; the safety of your fine artefacts will be our first priority.

Come and be proud of our outstanding design heritage!

A Concert & Dance Evening with Danish Folk Musicians

The Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver will host Danish folk musicians Peter Uhrbrand (fiddle) and Ole Mouritzen (accordion) as they present an evening of music from the historic island of Fanø. Uhrbrand and Mouritzen are widely revered as the premiere exponents of the lively Fanø music tradition.

The evening will begin with a concert, after which the floor will open for dancing – and it’s guaranteed that few listeners will be able to remain in their seats! In addition, on Tuesday, 27 May, the visitors will teach Fanø tunes to local musicians.

This event will be sponsored by the Scandinavian Cultural Society.
The Scandinavian Cultural Society presents

Nordic Spirit 2014: The Home Front
Photos, stories, and presentation around Nordic life during and after the War

British forces occupy Southeast Iceland

Saturday and Sunday April 12 and 13 2014,
10 am to 4 pm
Opening reception Saturday 11:30 am
Saturday 7:30 pm, dramatic readings

Watch for the full schedule at scandinaviancentre.org
We are grateful for our financial support:
BC Gaming Commission,
Danish Canadian Community Centre

Nordic Spirit 2014: The Home Front

Nordic Spirit 2014 will record and retell the home front experiences of Scandinavian people during and just after World War II. The full recordings will be preserved and shortened versions displayed and/or presented in dramatic readings during the Nordic Spirit show on April 12th and 13th.

The memories from our own Centre members are surprisingly informative.

Aage Karlsen followed many German soldiers in Norway to collect cigarette butts for the tobacco he could resell because money for food was so scarce.

Pia Christensen’s family in Denmark made a desperate trip to get an infant to medical care when travel was banned.

Bjorn Tokle, a Saskatchewan farmer, told how his grandmother baked bread with messages inside which she carried over the mountain behind their Norwegian farm.

Judith Anderson reported how heroic farmers in Iceland saved most of a group of British soldiers bogged down during a training expedition in local mountains.

Books and films have preserved large and dramatic events around the war but the experiences of ordinary people like us are equally interesting. They should not be lost.

Help us preserve these stories while they are still remembered. A voice recorder for your use will be left at the Centre. Borrow it to tell your stories or to interview others so we can preserve our heritage experiences. You can contact Carolyn Thauberger to arrange for recording help at: 778-329-6964 or send an email to: cthauber12@gmail.com).
A review of our 2013 cultural programs:

Sheila Wright sang ballads with her lyre.

2013 Art & Photography - Show & Sale

The 2013 show was held on the 23rd & 24th of February. Our annual art exhibition, originally billed as an “Art Show”, has evolved over the years to feature an increasingly varied array of media, including photography. Photography this year was a major component, and the boundary between camera art and other visual media was often refreshingly hard to discern! Featured photographer Satu Bell exemplified this trend beautifully. Her lyrical and sometimes fantastic photographs, printed on canvas or watercolour paper, often defied categorization as one medium or another.

In addition, fourteen other artists hung over fifty works, and both artists and craftspeople offered beautiful items for sale at tables as well.

Music for the opening ceremony on Saturday was provided by the Scandinavian folk band “Sammenspil”.

For visual-media artists who value their Nordic heritage or depict Nordic themes, this show provides a unique opportunity to display and sell their work. We are privileged to make this possible.

Thanks to Sonja Busch and Carolyn Thauberger for organizing the show, with help from Leena Kelly in the SCS office. Vancouver Technical High School generously supplied the display boards. We are grateful to the BC Gaming Commission and the Danish Canadian Community Centre for supporting this event.
The first five Nordic Spirit exhibitions (2007 – 2011) focused on the lives of Nordic immigrants who came to British Columbia before 1950. In Nordic Spirit Festival 2013: To Canada with Hope, we broadened the scope with photos and stories from local families whose immigrant members arrived anywhere in North America, as late as 1960. Many people who hadn't been included in previous shows contributed fascinating material for this exhibition at the Scandinavian Centre, April 13 - 14, 2013.

A number of dedicated people organized and produced the national segments of the exhibition, all with invaluable support from their respective communities. Heading up the efforts were:

- Finland -- Diane Kilback
- Sweden -- Agneta Einegel
- Norway -- Carolyn Thauberger and Judith Anderson
- Denmark -- Poul Erik Rasmussen
- Iceland -- Robert Asgeirsson

The photos and layouts were beautifully edited and produced by Monica Weston (Norway, Sweden, Finland) and Robert Asgeirsson (Iceland, Denmark).

The Nordic Spirit Festival 2013 also offered several entertaining and enlightening presentations. We were privileged to present, from the Viking re-enactment group Reik Felag:

- Jeremy Smith -- Norse Mythology & Nordic Values
- Sheila Wright (songstress with lyre) -- Scandinavian Medieval Ballads. She also graced the opening reception.
- Terry Karlsen (shipwright) -- Norse Ship Building
- Christina Reid (Swedish archaeologist & Collections Manager of the MSA Museum, Abbotsford) -- Viking Archaeology

Other presentations included:

- John Stuart -- Nordic Design: Collectibles
- Poul-Erik Rasmussen -- Albert Schweitzer in Africa

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the show!

Funding for the event was generously provided by Festivals Burnaby, BC Gaming Commission, and The Danish Canadian Community Centre.
Visiting Scandinavian folk musicians teach

We sometimes forget that Scandinavian culture lives on among the numerous descendants of Scandinavian immigrants in North America. A case in point, “West Norway” (a.k.a. the USA) is the home of the Norwegian-American trio “Vestafor”.

Supported by the Scandinavian Cultural Society and Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada, the Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver hosted Vestafor for the weekend of November 2–3, 2013, at the Scandinavian Community Centre.

Vestafor presented a day-long dance workshop on the Saturday, featuring dances from the West Coast of Norway. The teaching included historical and social context, which added interest. In the evening, Vestafor presented a festive public performance. The trio played a variety of instruments, including mouth harp, harpeleik, Hardanger fiddle, regular fiddle, torader accordion, selje fløyte, and key fiddle. In addition, they demonstrated dances from various regions of Norway showing how they differed stylistically & musically.

The evening ended with our local musicians joining Vestafor to accompany enthusiastic dancing. On Sunday, the visitors taught a number of dance tunes to local musicians.
An evening of Danish Folk Music and Dance  
with  
Kristian Bugge  
and  
Mette Kathrine Jensen  

Enjoy a mini-concert of Danish folk music, followed by more music for dancing!

Kristian Bugge and Mette Kathrine Jensen traveled on the same school bus for most of their school years and never knew they shared a passion for Danish folk music until they met at the Carl Nielsen Music Academy. “Hey, you’re the one from the bus!” was the delighted greeting that began a long and fruitful musical partnership.

Kristian and Mette are outstanding exponents of Danish folk music. Playing old favourites with irresistible spirit, they also carefully research and revive tunes and local traditions that have been in danger of disappearing. Supported by the SCS and the Danish-Canadian Community Centre, the Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver hosted the pair from Dec. 3 – 4, 2013, at the “Centre”.

On the 3rd, Kristian and Mette gave a workshop that was received with great enthusiasm. On Dec. 4th, they played a lively mini-concert and dance evening. Kristian and Mette presented folk music from various parts of Denmark, along with funny and interesting stories.

After the concert portion of the evening, the musicians played for dancing while non-dancing audience members continued to listen over coffee and snacks.
On Saturday, 5 October 2013, the Scandinavian Cultural Society and the Icelandic Canadian Club of BC celebrated the opening of the Iceland room at the Scandinavian Centre. This event coincided with the first annual Leif Erikson Day, especially appropriate since Leif Erikson was an Icelander.

The purpose of Leif Erikson Day is to honour Leif Erikson, the spirit of discovery that he embodied, and the contributions to Canada by people of Nordic heritage. The program captured all these intentions. Iceland: Blue and Green, a slide show by Randall Peterman, was followed by a message from Peter Julian, MP, who has long promoted Leif Erikson Day as a federal holiday. Marian Toft presented Leif Erikson’s saga.

The Icelandic community was welcomed by two distinguished presentations: Iceland – Land of Fire and Ice, by Consul General Heather Alda Ireland, and Iceland today, Current Issues and Challenges, by Ambassador Hjalmar Hannesson. Norm Eyford concluded with Making connections through Art and Travel, a presentation about his travels in Iceland and the collection of art by Icelandic students that he brought back. The beautiful paintings, showing how the young people see their homeland, were on exhibit in the Iceland room.

After the Iceland room was officially opened, attendees enjoyed viewing the room and the art, while in the hall, they watched DVDs about Iceland’s landscape and geothermal resources, along with additional slide shows by Randall Peterman and Norm Eyford.

Leif Erikson Day was very successful and we plan to make this an annual celebration, inviting guest speakers to focus on current issues of a different country each year.
In Memoriam

Inge Paquette

Inge was a founding member of the original 1986 Midsummer Festival Committee which later became the Scandinavian Cultural Society. She was a rock solid, very competent founding board member, serving as Secretary over our formative years.

She also served faithfully on boards of various Danish societies that included: Dania Home, Danish House Society, Danish Community Centre and the national Danish Canadian (museum) Society.

Inge passed away on November 3rd, 2013 after making substantial contributions to many Danish organizations and our own SCS.

Kirsten Pelck Hansen

Kirsten was a member of, and valuable volunteer with, the Scandinavian Cultural Society for many years. She was active with our society throughout the early 2000s, serving on the Board in 2007.

She moved out of town for several years and was re-elected to the Board in 2013. Kirsten worked especially hard on the annual art show and was nicknamed “Organizer Extraordinaire”.

We are saddened by her untimely death on 7 November 2013, and miss her cheerful, calm presence.

Scandinavian Community Centre

The perfect place for your wedding, conference, workshop or private party!

604-294-2777
The **Genealogy Group** welcomes new members and visitors with an interest in Nordic family history. The group meets most months at the Scandinavian Centre and attends events. In 2013 these included the Midsummer Festival and the European Festival.

We share research information, and offer advice and research help for beginners, and assistance with research ‘brick walls’ in both North America and Nordic countries. In co-operation with the British Columbia Genealogical Society, we have some unique resources available. A BCGS member is now indexing early records (1892 on) for the First Scandinavian Lutheran Congregation of Vancouver (First Lutheran Church, Vancouver), for instance, and the BCGS Library has subscription websites and databases and genealogical journals for Nordic research.

Usually there are several people with expertise available at Genealogy Group meetings, including Henning Faurschou, Arne Møller, and Poul Erik Rasmussen for Denmark, Marnie Ingvaldson for Norway, Diane Rogers for Sweden and North America, and Gerri McDonald for Iceland and for next year, Allan Ailo for Finland.

This year, Marnie has been assisting people researching their Eidsvoll Assembly ancestors in preparation for the celebration of Norway’s independence, May 2014.

The Genealogy Group meets again on Saturday, January 18, 2014.

Visitors are always welcome.
Dear friends,

It was encouraging to see that many signed up for family memberships in 2013 by adding a name of a family member.

Our Scandinavian Cultural Society will continue to organize cultural events for its members and the general public to enjoy.

In our two main events there will be changes from last year’s programs. Instead of the Art Show at the end of February, we will have a Nordic Design Show. For the artists there will again be an opportunity to display your work in 2015 when the Art and Photography Show will be back.

The Heritage Festival in April will be combined with the Scandinavian Centre Heritage Weekend. Through displays and presentations, we will highlight how the people of the Nordic Countries coped with the rationing and difficulties in the post-war era during the fourties and fifties.

In our monthly Genealogy Sessions, the Icelanders will have their micro-fiche reader set up, allowing access not only to Icelandic genealogy but also to BC Vital Statistic on microfilm.

Additional workshops, talks, music programs and performances will be scheduled as opportunities and finances allow. Please check our website www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org

All of these cultural activities are costly, therefore we appreciate your support as well as the support of our sponsors: the BC Gaming Commission, the Danish Canadian Community Centre, and others.

Poul Erik Rasmussen
President

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Membership - 2014

Single Dues: $15.00
Family: $20.00

Can you help us by volunteering as:

- Board Member
- Event Organizer
- Event Worker
Troll Garden at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival 2013

**SCS Events Calendar - 2014**

- Jan. 18th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Jan. 27th, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.
- Feb. 15th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Feb. 22nd - 23rd, Nordic Design Festival.
- Feb. 24th, 19:00 ..... AGM and Meeting.
- Mar. 15th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Mar. 31st, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.
- Apr. 12th - 13th, Nordic Spirit Heritage Festival.
- Apr. 26th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Apr. 28th, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.
- May 17th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- May 26th, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.
- May 28th, 19:30 ..... Danish folk music concert, co-sponsored with Scand. Dancers.
- Sept. 20th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Sept. 29th, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.
- Oct. 4th, Leif Erickson Day.
- Oct. 25th, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Oct. 27th, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.
- Nov. 22nd, 13:00 ..... Genealogy Session.
- Nov. 24th, 19:00 ..... Monthly SCS Meeting.

Dates could be changed and other events could be re-scheduled. Please check the Scandinavian Centre flyer and our websites. Or call 604-294-2777 for confirmation.

www.scandinaviancentre.org
www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org

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