



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE:

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

Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC, on:

Monday, February 23rd, 2015
at 7:00pm to:

- 1) Consider the reports of the Directors.
- 2) Consider the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st, 2014.
- 3) Elect directors, Group A.
- 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 2015.
By order of the Board of Directors for the Scandinavian Cultural Society.



Series: Life Cycles

The Last Hurrah

Robert J. Asgeirsson, 2007

Art & Photography Juried Show & Sale



Series: Life Cycles

"Good Luck!"

R.J. Asgeirsson, 2007

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Feb. 28th – March 1st, 2015

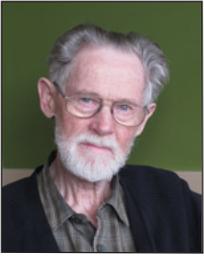
Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby

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President's Message:

by
Poul Erik Rasmussen

The Scandinavian Cultural Society has grown with a promising number of new members. The Nordic Design 2014: Mid-Century Modern event showed Nordic design in a quality display setting. John Stuart & Caroline Thauberger, with help from the board, made it all happen.

Nordic Spirit Heritage Festival 2014: The Home Front exhibition showed poignant photos and stories with passion and determination, documenting Nordic life during and after the War. Thanks to Carolyn Thauberger, Judith Anderson, and Gerri McDonald. In conjunction with the Cultural Weekend (SCCS) Sonja Busch helped facilitate a well-coordinated series of programs.

Leif Erikson Day explored the rigors of Leif's travels to North America. The Minister Counsellor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ottawa, summarized Norway's current economic achievements. Dr. Olivia Gunn discussed cultural aspects of birth in modern Norway. Norse explorers in northern Canada was presented by Elizabeth Ward (Director, Scandinavian Center at Pacific Lutheran University).

Our monthly genealogy sessions are now held in the Icelandic room.

Many thanks to: Vivian Blackwell for her creative years as Troll Garden facilitator; Hon. Consul John Peterson, and Richard Lee, Liberal MLA. Many thanks also to Nick Volkof; Helina Clement, FH; Gerri McDonald, IH; John Stuart, SH; Carolyn Thauberger, NH, and our honored guest speakers in 2014.

Valentine Concert

1:00 pm - Sunday Feb. 15th, 2015
Scandinavian Community Centre

By donation



With special guests
Poulsbo Youth Norwegian Folk Dancers
Local singers and musicians

Coffee

Info: cthauber12@gmail.com or
778 329-6964

Presented by
The Scandinavian Cultural Society

Thank you !

Newsletter Contributors:

Photographers: Arne Møller, Lars Larsen, Bent Ostergaard, Randall Peterman, Judith Anderson, Poul Erik Rasmussen, Robert Asgeirsson

Writers: Judith Anderson, Riaja Leskinin, Carolyn Thauberger, Poul Erik Rasmussen, Diane Rogers, Robert Asgeirsson

Editor & Publication: Robert Asgeirsson



Scandinavian Cultural Society is pleased to present:

*Nordic Spirit: 2015
"Scandinavian Midsummer Festival - 1986"*

*April 11th - 12th, 2015
11:00 am - 5:00 pm*

Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby

Nordic Spirit 2015: 1986 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

A 30 Year Anniversary

In 1984, Vancouver's Centennial Celebrations promotion department contacted all of our Scandinavian community and pulled together a Scandinavian Midsummer Festival committee for the year 1986. The main planning was done in 1985-86.

The celebration you experience today is quite similar to the first one held in Vanier Park. Each country had its own cultural tent and presented their own local and imported talent on a main stage. Craft sales and a huge food tent were well attended.

Funding came from several major sources such as a \$10,000 raffle prize donated by Ikea, and the installation of the main stage was jointly sponsored by Chevron and the city, I believe. The city picked up several other smaller costs like policing.

As a publicity stunt to get free advertising on the local TV News channels, we devised a Viking raid on Expo 86 with the cooperation and help of the Alberta and Norway pavilion staff. Michael Sjoblum and his local pals dressed in their finest Viking battle dress, rowed over to the Norway pavilion and did the deed. Bloodied men (movie blood paks) fell to the ground attempting to save their maidens. TV cameramen and photographers clicked away at the skirmish. The 6:00 pm TV news that night helped bring out a total of about 4,000 visitors that weekend.

You'll see our community members 30 years ago, all in pictures and story at this year's display. This festival was the founding event of our society as we know it today.

by Robert Asgeirsson

A review of our 2014 cultural programs:



Arne Møller & Lars Larsen admire a restored Nimbus motorcycle from Denmark.



Finnish function, simplicity and colour.



A Norwegian ship captain's cozy den.

Nordic Design 2014: *Mid-Century Modern* – February 21st–23rd

Our first *Scandinavian Nordic Design Show* displayed and transformed the centre's common meeting area into an unexpected world of color.

The industries of each Nordic country have grown and now peaked to present unimaginably beautiful objects on display. The main hall looked much like a museum and we want to thank John Stuart, retired museum curator, and Caroline Thauberg, who worked tirelessly to get the show on the road with the help of SCS Board Members and numerous representatives from all our five Nordic Houses.

Since the 1940s, modern Nordic design has influenced the design industry throughout the world. But today, Scandinavian designers are producing decidedly retro-industrial furniture, glass, jewellery and textiles. It has brought about an undeniably practical and sought-after look of freshness that was previously displayed in Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish designs.

One could not but welcome Iceland House with her variability in art. And both the most modern and the

traditional displays offered colourful rich flavours in texture and style, leaving one wanting to learn more of their heritage and history.

Alvar Aalto, the most sophisticated and well-known Finnish architect and designer, preferred metal and wood to other media. In 1939, Aalto used bent plywood on the walls of the pavilion for the New York World's Fair. His sophisticated sense of design was noticed and he became recognized as a gifted and skilful designer.

The SCS is grateful to have support from all attendees and dignitaries. We extend a special thank you to Honorary Consul John Petersen and Mr. Richard Lee, Liberal MLA for Burnaby North.

We also want to thank:

Nick Volkof; Helina Clement, Finland House; Gerry McDonald, Iceland House; John Stuart, Swedish House; Carolyn Thauberg, Norwegian House.

by Riaja Leskinen

art, history, film, music, dance & literature



A display of printed stories about the experiences of the Scandinavian people in WWII.



Kosti Uusikartano waited at the window every day for his soldier father to return.

Nordic Spirit 2014: *The Home Front* – April 12th–13th

“Nordic Spirit 2014: The Home Front” recorded and shared the home-life experiences of Scandinavian people during and just after World War II.

Carolyn Thauberger and Judith Anderson collected stories and images from local community members about their own lives, or their parents’ lives, at home during the conflict.

During the Nordic Spirit show, April 12 and 13, 2014, we displayed abridged written versions of the stories with images, and some of the stories were presented in a dramatic reading. The full recordings and binders with printouts of the exhibition are archived at SCS Storage Locker in the Centre.

Civilians of the Nordic countries experienced the war in dramatically different ways, and their stories were informative, touching, tragic, and humorous.

In our sample, a youthful point of view often made the stories especially poignant.

Young Tor Olufsen was terrified by the sound of the air raid siren on coastal Norway, but he knew just where

to hide in the dark basement.

Aage Karlsen of Fredrikstad followed German soldiers to collect cigarette butts so he could resell the tobacco for food money.

Borghild Tyssedal described how kids made wire radios from sewing bobs after the Germans confiscated private sets.

In Denmark, Niels Andersen’s parents met on a Vandrekklub outing, despite strict segregation of the youthful hikers by sex. Love will find a way!

And in Finland, little Kosti Uusikartano waited every day for his soldier dad—and then didn’t recognize him when he returned, wounded and limping.

The Nordic Spirit 2014 stories demonstrate how people responded to years of hardship with determination, creativity, practical skills, and passionate caring. This project has been an inspiration for both organizers & audience. It will provide a valuable historical record for the future.

by Judith Anderson, Carolyn Thauberger



Røros Rendezvous Report 30 April 2014

On April 30, 2014 the Scandinavian Dancers celebrated the end of the dance season with a Norwegian candlelight cabaret evening at the Scandinavian Centre.

Over coffee and refreshments, we enjoyed a video of the irresistible traditional band Småviltlaget, playing at the Røros Martnan Festival.

Those guys (yes, they're all guys; the band's name means "Small Game Band") gave us a plenty of opportunity to practice and perfect Røros pols!

In between video segments we danced to Norwegian and other favourites on CD.

The Scandinavian Dancers thank Gammel Dansk band and the Scandinavian Cultural Society for generously supporting this event.

by Judith Anderson



The Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver present



Fantastic Fanø!

An Evening of Danish Folk Music and Dancing
featuring

Peter Uhrbrand (fiddle)

and

Ole Mouritzen (accordion)

Wednesday, 28 May, 2014

At the Scandinavian Community Centre

6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC

Concert begins 7:30 pm

Dance floor opens 8:30 pm, cabaret seating for non-dancers

Coffee and refreshments

Admission by donation

Peter Uhrbrand and Ole Mouritzen

are outstanding exponents of music from Fanø.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful tradition with you!

We thank the Scandinavian Cultural Society and the Danish Canadian Community Centre for support.

The Danish Folk Musicians **Peter Uhrbrand** (fiddle) and **Ole Mouritzen** (accordion) are outstanding exponents of music from the tiny island of Fanø, off the southwestern coast of Denmark. The Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver, with sponsorship from the Scandinavian Cultural Society, were pleased to host a cabaret and dance evening on 28 May, 2014 featuring Uhrbrand and Mouritzen at the Scandinavian Community Centre.

The visiting musicians played a short concert and then launched into music for dancing. This event was a special treat for the audience and dancers. Fanø's music and dance traditions are a unique blend of very old dances and unforgettable tunes based on seafaring music brought home by sailors, traders, and fishermen. In addition, on 27 May, Uhrbrand and Mouritzen presented a workshop of Fanø music for local musicians.

by Judith Anderson



Leif Erikson Day Celebrations



Tobias F. Svenningsen, Minister Counsellor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ottawa.



Leif Erikson pageant players



Replicas of Norse Artifacts

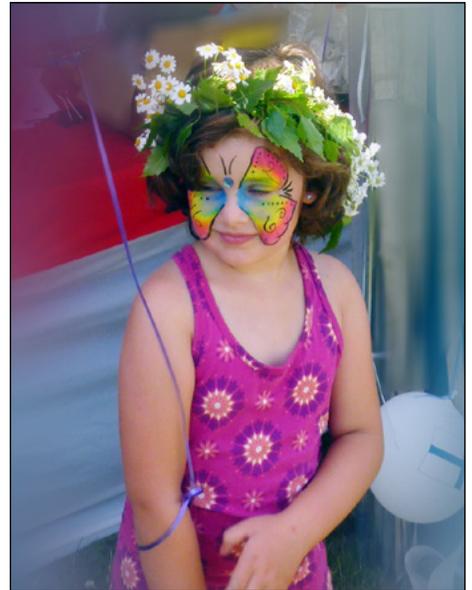
The second annual Leif Erikson Festival, 4-5 October, 2014, included displays, photos, talks, children's activities, movies, crafts, and food. The featured country this year was Norway, and organizer Carolyn Thauberger collaborated with Norwegian House Society, Sons of Norway, and Norlandslaget to produce the multi-faceted event.

The main presentations began with a pageant depicting Leif Erikson's travels to North America, enthusiastically portrayed by the children's language class of Norwegian House Society. Dr. Olivia Gunn (Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Washington) then discussed cultural aspects of birth in modern Norway. The featured speaker, Tobias F. Svenningsen (Minister Counsellor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ottawa), explained that Norway's economic achievements are attributable to two surprising factors: (1) the high participation of women in the workforce, and (2) the oil industry's technology sector, which is even more profitable than the sale of oil itself. On Saturday evening Dr. Elizabeth Ward (Director, Scandinavian Cultural Center at Pacific Lutheran University) discussed the most recent archaeological evidence concerning the presence of medieval Norse explorers in northern Canada. The medieval theme was enhanced by Carolyn's replica Norse artifacts.

On both days, the festival offered Norwegian cultural workshops. Attendees enjoyed 3 films: *Frozen* (a Norwegian-inspired children's story), *North of the Sun* (Norwegians overwintering on an Arctic beach), and *Under the Clouds of War: Growing up in Occupied Denmark & Norway* (produced by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle).

by Judith Anderson, Carolyn Thauberger

Midsummer Moments



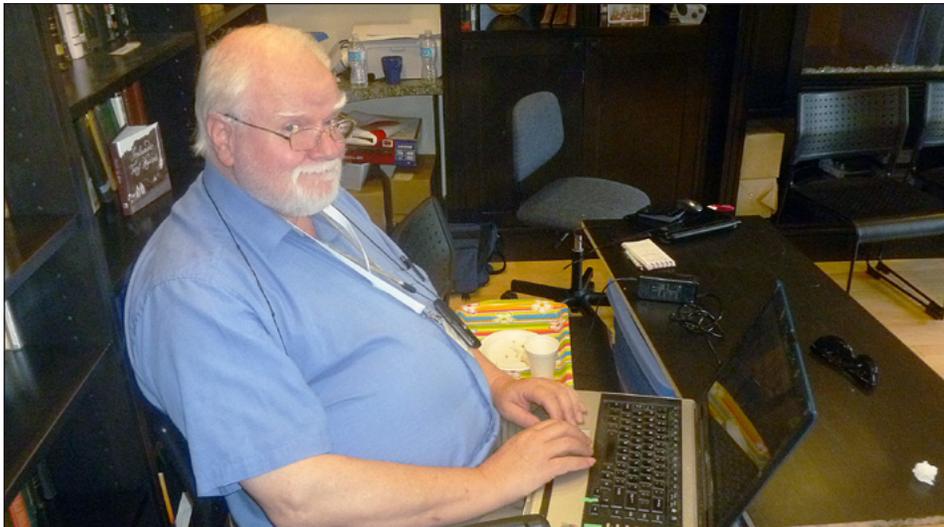
Scandinavian
COMMUNITY CENTRE

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A photograph showing the interior of the Scandinavian Community Centre, featuring a large dining area with many tables set with white tablecloths and chairs. The room has a high ceiling and large windows.

Scandinavian Cultural Society - Genealogy Group



Experienced genealogists work on their laptops accessing internet databases. John Stuart is seen here doing some online research.



Our signage at the Midsummer Festival helped the curious to find our displays.

The Genealogy Group welcomes new members and visitors – anyone with an interest in Nordic family history. We meet most months at the Scandinavian Centre and attend events. In 2014, we set up in the Icelandic Room at the Midsummer Festival and had lots of visitors.

We share research advice, and offer assistance both to beginners and other researchers searching for family in North America and Nordic countries. In co-operation with the British Columbia Genealogical Society, we have some unique resources available, and now the BC vital statistics information that the Icelandic Room holds.

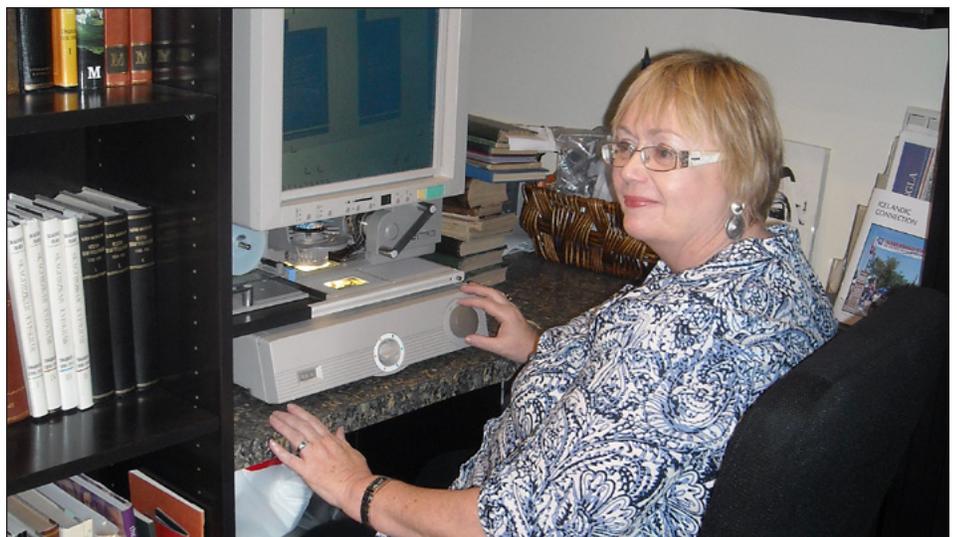
We usually have several people with expertise available at Genealogy Group meetings including: Henning Faurshou, Arne Møller, and Poul Erik Rasmussen for Denmark, Marne Ingvaldson for Norway, Diane Rogers for Sweden and North America, Gerri McDonald for Iceland and Allan Ailo for Finland.

The Genealogy Group meets again on Saturday, January 17, 2015.

Visitors are always welcome !



Diane Rogers and Cathy Magee (on the right) host the genealogical displays. On the left and centre are stands of reference booklets on how to trace one's ancestry.



Gerri McDonald, genealogist, is seen operating a state-of-the-art Microfiche reader now located in the newly developed Icelandic Room at the Centre.



Membership 2015 Campaign

Dear Friends.

A few years back, a long time member of the Scandinavian Cultural Society suggested, that we set a goal of signing up at least 60 members. I am pleased to note that we have exceeded that goal. thanks to all who supported us in 2014 and we hope that we can count on you again in 2015.

Scandinavian Cultural Society will continue to organize cultural events for the members and the general public to enjoy. We now have three main cultural events each year. The Leif Erickson Day in October is now a regular part of our cultural programs. This time it will be in cooperation with the Danish organizations.

The Art and Photography Show and Sale will be back at the end of February.

The Nordic Spirit Heritage Images festival in April will feature a look back at our first Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in 1986. Our society grew out of this founding event.

Our monthly Genealogy sessions are now held in the Iceland Room, where we have access to their microfilm reader and the Icelanders collection of BC Vital Statistics microfilms.

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, Festivals Burnaby, and others.

Poul Erik Rasmussen

President



	Scandinavian Cultural Society 6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9	Membership - 2015
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