ENJOY OUR DESIGN HERITAGE

Newsletter 2016

www.scandinaviansociety.org

The AGM of the Scandinavian Cultural Society will be held at the Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC, on Monday February 29, 2016 at 7:00pm to:

1) Consider the reports of the directors

2) Consider the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31st, 2015

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 individual members

Dues may be paid at or prior to the meeting

Dated January 20, 2016. By order of the Board of the Scandinavian Cultural Society.

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The Scandinavian Cultural Society presents
Nordic Spirit Design
Textile and Costume
February 27 & 28, 2016
11 to 4
Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street
Burnaby

Opening Reception & Concert
Saturday 11:30

Fashion Show
Saturday evening 7pm
By donation

Displays of modern and heritage fashions and fabrics

Craft Demonstrations & Workshops

Fashion Show

Information at:
www.scandinaviancentre.org
For information or to lend your fashions and fabric crafts
cthauer12@gmail.com
778-228-2334

Supported by
BC Gaming Commission,
Danish Canadian
Community Association

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Thank you
Newsletter Contributors

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ENJOY OUR DESIGN HERITAGE
In 2015 we celebrated our 30th year as an organization. We began in 1985 offering a midsummer festival and preparing Scandinavian displays for the 1986 BC Centennial. In 2015, the 60 members of the Scandinavian Cultural Society organized many cultural events across various areas of Nordic endeavour. These included arts and crafts, history and politics, literature and thought, and music and dance. We hope you have enjoyed not only 2015 but the past 30 years of events we organized for you.

We are grateful for the $9500 in direct financial support we received from BC Gaming Commission, the Danish Canadian Community Centre, and the City of Burnaby through festivalsburnaby. Partnerships help us maximize our funds and encourage community connections. When you get an opportunity, please tell our funders how their contributions have benefited you.

I want to thank our members and especially those of you who help on our Board. We appreciate your tireless creative work in suggesting and developing program ideas and the many, many hours you spend in putting your ideas into action.

I also thank the SCCS Board and you, our community, for your continuing support, your constant volunteer help, and for your attendance at our events. You make our programs successful. It has been a pleasure to organize events for you in 2015.

Please join the Scandinavian Cultural Society and/or make a donation to us. We enclose a membership form for your convenience. Membership is a direct financial support through fees and donations, but it also indicates to our funders that we have a strong member base and are worthy of support. Enjoy our 2016 events.

The Scandinavian Cultural Society’s show *Nordic Spirit Design: Textile and Costume* February 27-28 will display both handcrafted and machine made fabrics and new and heritage clothing made or designed by people of Nordic countries. Nordic textile designs are famous. Patterns are usually simple and often use just two colours. Beautiful heritage folk costumes are still worn but modern Nordic clothing styles are now in fashion everywhere. Our show is a chance to learn about and be proud of our beautiful Nordic designs.

Each country will have a section for display. We include folk costumes, shoes and jewellery, rugs, tapestries, felt or fur, embroidery or crochet. We hope to have a collection of folk costume hats. Fabrics and clothes will be hung; small or valuable items go into safe glass display cases.

We also want to borrow YOU. Wear something old or new, designed in a Nordic country and walk in our Saturday evening fashion show. Bring anything of interest: a folk costume, a wedding dress, sweater, styles for teens, babies or children, street clothes, guys in skiing, fishing, or oil rig clothes. Think *Helli Hansen* or *H and M*. Someone find Norwegian curling pants! You don’t have to have the whole outfit; pieces will do. We hope Kosti Uusikartano brings his tall Finnish boots with curled up toes that his father made from a cow on his farm. And we want Santa from the Finnish Christmas party to bring his reindeer boots. We will admire whatever you share.

We also need people to demonstrate fabric or clothing making or decorating techniques and for talks every afternoon. Knitting and weaving, tapestry and embroidery, all have special techniques. Viking people didn’t knit, but Reik Felag folks may show us other Old Norse fabric crafts.

Check our Centre website for information and updates. Offer to help. Plan to come. Enjoy our shared design heritage in textile and costume.
For more than two decades the Scandinavian Cultural Society has been offering artists, artisans, and lately photographers, an opportunity to show and sell their works. We arrange this show because we want to see how Scandinavian heritage and themes may be expressed in modern Canadian creative work. We are proud of our artists and enjoy seeing their products. Our second purpose is to offer our artists an opportunity to display and sell their work. For many of them it is a chance to showcase their talent to an audience that admires and purchases their work year after year. For others it is a first step in moving into the professional or semi-professional arena. We are pleased to help.

The Opening Reception is always a major event with perhaps 80 people attending. There were opening remarks, dignitary greetings, introduction of featured artist, a lively folk-orchestra concert by Sammenspil, and free coffee and snacks. Something for each of you.

This year we featured Chris Ostenstad, a Burnaby photographer. She has a Norwegian heritage and is an active member of our Scandinavian community. You may have seen her dancing in fishnet tights on our Midsummer stage, helping to organize an event, playing folk music, or learning to speak Norwegian. She has run a confectionery business for a number of years. When ever does she find time for her camera?

Sonja Busch has been organizing the Art Show for a number of years. We appreciate her hard work. What seems difficult for us—organizing papers, finding volunteers, scheduling, fielding emergencies—it all seems easy and even RELAXING for her. Good work Sonja. Great work.

Historic Photo Event Cancelled

Regrettably, we are short of volunteers this winter and we have had to cancel Scandinavian Communities planned for the 9th and 10th of April 2016. It would have been our tenth historic photo event featuring heritage images and information gathered from our local Centre community.

We had planned to focus on communities. Scandinavian immigrants often gathered in small settlements where they could work and socialize together and help each other in a new land. These communities are fascinating. Sointula is one example but there are many. A settlement we planned to feature was Matsqui Village, now part of Abbotsford. This Swedish/Norwegian community had recently been researched by archaeologist and historian Christina Reid from the MSA Museum in Abbotsford. She had information and had gathered heritage photos to share with us. We will find another opportunity to hear from her. The SCS will instead focus our energies on our February Design Show.

Previous heritage image shows may still be seen. Several are either purchased or loaned to Scandinavian rest homes such as Icelandic Harbour or the new Swedish Canadian Rest Home where they hang in the halls. With Finnish Manor sold, we have had to remove our photos from there. Others are in storage. Frames from these are rotated in our Centre upper foyer and loaned to various celebrations such as the recent Leif Erikson Day Festival featuring Denmark or national events held locally.

You may purchase prints of unframed panels from most past shows. See Poul Erik Rasmussen: sonofrasmus@shaw.ca

"Kjosfossen at Flåm "
Photo by Chris Ostenstad

Chris Ostenstad looking artistic
Leif Eriksson Day Festival 2015: Denmark, October 3 and 4, focused on past and present achievements by Danes in BC and in Denmark. It was a pleasure to organize this event with our partner, Danish House, and with Ed Kuhlman, President. Together we selected events that might interest people across Scandinavian interests.

We learned Danish history with Vikings to Today by Scott Larsen and current affairs from Ann-Britt Everett. We investigated heritage preservation with Gordon Petersen, Steve Morck, Svend Nielsen, and Ed Kuhlman from the Danish National Museum and its board. They showed us their facility and talked of its plans for a virtual museum. We saw their Viking replica boat, Freydis Joanna, ‘sailing’ from Roskilde, Denmark, where archaeologists found the original ship, to Vancouver and on to the museum in Alberta. Vikings are out there! Tom Gooden, of the Burnaby Heritage Village Museum told us how to preserve family heritage artefacts. Tiina Taylor led a workshop on Danish open face sandwich making. The tone of our festival was enhanced by an opening slide show on Denmark and Greenland by John Stuart and folk music by Scandi Lyst.

The festival was an opportunity to connect with both former and newly-appointed Honorary Consuls for Denmark in BC/Yukon. John (Jens) Petersen, retiring, was presented with a gift from the Danish community for his years of support. Our new Honorary Consul, Ann-Britt Everett, was welcomed. She is a lively person, already active in our Centre community. Next year we hope to focus on Sweden or Finland.

To honour Leif Erikson
To praise the contributions to Canada of people of Nordic descent
To promote the spirit of discovery

Gordon Petersen, Steve Morck, and Ed Kuhlman (with Carolyn Thauberger from SCS), described their National Danish Museum established on the location of an early Danish settlement in Alberta. The museum has a replica Viking ship built in Roskilde, and a Danish restaurant, and a program of special events such as Viking Days with a Viking encampment, and they plan to add a virtual museum. We will all be able to see.
The SCS, in co-operation with the BC Genealogical Society, holds genealogy sessions once a month. We assist people in researching their family history in the Nordic countries. We have ‘country specialists’ who guide people on research materials and on how to go about researching. We may also help with language translation. There are many sites making scanned original documents available, an invaluable resource. At one time you needed to travel thousands of miles to access these sources.

We offer various kinds of support. Typically, people have a lot of family information but they don't necessarily know the details or the actual connections. We can help them to focus their information and to clarify who that person was they used to go to visit in their childhood. The genealogy group also offers guidance with artefacts. People may find things after the death of an elder. This Midsummer, someone brought in a small collection of Icelandic national costumes from the early to mid 1800s. We were able to identify the age and style of costume and provide some history as to who the original owners may have been. Sometimes people want information on specific family members to write biographies to accompany artefacts for museums or archives. The group also helps prospective travelers identify the places where their ancestors lived. While planning a trip to the country their family came from, it becomes much more meaningful when the places they are connected to are known.

It is rewarding to our country experts to know they are a help to people who want to know more about who they are based on their family history. They are pleased to be able to help people be more than a tourist when they visit their familial homeland.

Gerri MacDonald

The SCS is often asked to represent the Scandinavian Community Centre or to present its own interests to the public. We try to bring a fiddler, a folk costume, or a craft demo to create a lively and interactive display.

One of the times we participated this year was at Langara College in Vancouver during their International Week. Poul Erik Rasmussen, John Stuart, Gerri MacDonald, and Rikke Rytter shared a table together with Diane Rogers from the BC Genealogy Society. Our members talked about the Centre and about our own SCS efforts to celebrate the heritage of Canadians of Nordic descent, in addition to demonstrating how to search for genealogical information. Audience attention improved considerably when Alan Ailo from the BC Heraldic Society joined us and set up next door. Now we know who to sit beside next time we are invited out.

Poul Erik Rasmussen and John Stuart enlighten the crowd at Langara College International Day. Outreach events such as this benefit the Centre and the SCS. Time and energy are well invested in such events.

Tom Gooden from Burnaby Village Museum talked at Leif Erikson Day on preserving family heritage items. Newspaper clippings crumble; keep an electronic copy. Get photos out of albums with lift and paste pages. Their plastic pulls off the photo. Take a new photo through the plastic overlay.
Valentine Concert with Poulsbo Leikarringen

The Leikarringen Youth Folk Dancers from the Sons of Norway Lodge at Poulsbo, Washington, offered to perform for us February 15, so we organized a concert around their dancing. We invited great Centre entertainers from a variety of Nordic backgrounds and stacked them all together. It made a beautiful afternoon of Valentine fun. All of our generous entertainers performed free.

Finnish accordionist Hannu Lambert started off with some finger-flying tunes. No wonder he wins awards. In marched the colourful young dancers from Poulsbo Lutheran high school. These young dancers are particularly good with specialty dances. They danced. They fought. They picked up the girls and flew them through the air. It was high excitement for an hour but they ran off after the coffee to dance again at Normana rest home.

Nordic Bleu, a subset of Runeburg Chorus, presented several heartfelt ‘Songs of Romance’. Janet Mowatt is the director and pianist and Kaoru Henry, the soprano soloist. Tenor Yasuhi Ishimura volunteers regularly around the Centre and so does Diane Kilback, alto. She works on our SCS Board, as well as on many other Centre organizations. Bruce Norman, bass, sang with the Sons of Norway choir for many years. They sounded wonderful. Then Kyosti Sutela, accompanied by Hannu Lambert, sang a few love songs in his huge romantic voice. Ed Wahl, one of the Centre’s favourite Country & Western singers, ended our program. He and his band “Off The Wahl” are often featured in shows around BC. This time he came alone and did all my favourite music: classic country, bluegrass, traditional local folksongs about BC loggers and fishermen, and cowboy music. We all danced inside our shoes.

All of these fine entertainers spoke to our hearts. Peter Kirsebom gave me a

Leikarringen guys kick a hat to compete for attention instead of fighting with swords like in the old days. Just as exciting: not as much blood.

Constant SCS supporters: Vancouver Spelmanslag above, MLA Richard Lee, Poul Erik, MLA Raj Chouhan, MP Peter Julian, Heather Ireland, below.

photos above and below: Arne Moller

SCS Trolls Infest Midsummer

Every Midsummer the SCS sets up a Garden of 250 miniature trolls in the woods behind our Centre. We want our youngest members to enjoy themselves, and our trolls are very popular. That foresty troll haugen is filled with tiny people dressing and undressing trolls and bathing them in the mud pool. Or they may be blowing bubbles, listening to books, or working hard on puzzles. Our long time SCS member, Vivian Blackwell, is no longer able to control wild trolls, so this year Randi Nielsen took over that frazzling job. We are very grateful. Trolls get into a lot of trouble during the day and the problem doubles at night. Matthew Andresen from the Norwegian children’s language class came to help this year, and he was able to keep them under control. Thank you Randi and Matthew. When not dancing in the moonlight, our trolls hide out in the Centre attic. Watch out up there.

Tell Poul Erik you will help herd trolls: sonofrasmus@shaw.ca
Dance with Us

The SCS provided funding to support a workshop and dance evening on 7 November presented by the Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver. Years ago, Laine Ruus, the instructor from Toronto, had been one of the first leaders for the group. As always, her instruction was inspiring, and encouraged many happy memories.

Over thirty people came to learn and enjoy traditional Danish dances. Laine presented repertoire from the island of Ærø, a special delight. The dancers were excited to learn two new Ærø minuets.

Gammel Dansk played for the workshop. The beautiful minuet tunes from the historic notebooks of Rasmus Storm were a treat. It was a fine day of immersion in Danish culture!  By Judith Anderson

The Importance of an Artist’s Wife

Rikke Rytter and John Stuart presented an evening of two Scandinavian favourites—Danish open face sandwiches, and Carl Larsson’s paintings of his home in Sweden.

We began with the sandwiches created by Rikke and her daughter Nina. Then John discussed the artist, Carl Larsson, and the important role his wife played in his paintings.

Carl Larsson was a rather obscure Swedish artist until 1909 when a German publisher, Karl Robert Langwiesche, printed Carl’s watercolours in a book entitled Das Haus in der Sonne (The House in the Sun). It sold 40,000 copies in three months. The images immortalized Swedish home life with Carl’s eight children and many friends, employees and neighbours.

In his lifetime Carl was the focus of attention, but today attention is also paid to the contributions to his work of Karin, his wife. An artist herself, she was expressing her own considerable talent in an exploration of colour in her family clothing and home.

Colour was a critical ingredient in Carl’s painting: the brightness of summer at ploughing, the hot sun at the swimming hole, studying by candle light, the warm glow of the kitchen. Much of the play of light and colour came from Karin. It was she who dressed the family to shell peas (see painting at the left), she who chose the household textiles and she who carefully tended the flowers that transformed many scenes. Much of the appeal of Carl’s painting comes from his wife Karin’s strong colour choices.

Many thanks to all who created this informative and delicious event and special thanks to all those who came and made the evening worthwhile. Rikke and John are looking forward to putting on a similar event soon.

By John Stuart and Rikke Rytter

Our Nordic Spirit Festival in 2015 celebrated the first years of our organization in a large photo display coordinated by Robert Asgeirsson. Just before 1986, over thirty Scandinavian groups banded together to put on a Midsummer Festival honoring Vancouver’s 1986 Centennial. People worked together to create an event that celebrated each of their cultural backgrounds. Tor Skjelvik, Vancouver Architect, illustrated the “Dream” project brochure which helped define the festival and secure the Vanier Park site. Construction supervisor Per Gjerde built the site. Arad Nobell, Festival President and Program Coordinator was significant in getting our granite Rune Stone from Sweden. He, and Swedish Consul General, Ulf Walden, brought over Swedish film actress Bibi Anderson and pop singer Titti Sjoblom. Susan Jensen coordinated Viking costumes and Village.

Robert Asgeirsson, Public Relations and Promotion, made a video, and covered the Viking ‘Raid’ on Expo. Tulle Marcussen organized Arts and Crafts, and Irene Olljum, the children’s programs. Fund Raising was lead by Linda Asgeirsson. This group established the Scandinavian Cultural Society as an organization where Nordic countries worked together to set events of interest to them all. The SCS has followed that pattern for 30 years. We thank those whose foresight and creativity established our society.

Danish open face sandwich: a slice of rye bread buttered to the edge, a leaf of lettuce, a selection of cheese, egg, fish, or roasted meat, garnish.

Don’t let Poul Erik have all the fun. Join us and support Nordic Culture for another 30 years.

Photo: B Ostergaard
Scandinavian Cultural Society
6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

NAME: _________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________
CITY, PROVINCE: _________________________________________________
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We appreciate the cooperation and support of organizations at the Scandinavian Community Centre, and acknowledge the assistance of the Province of British Columbia, the City of Burnaby, the Danish Canadian Community Centre Society, Burnaby Arts Council, and our Members.

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Membership - 2015
Single Dues: $15.00
Family: $20.00

Can you help us by volunteering as:
☐ Board Member
☐ Event Organizer
☐ Event Worker

Scandinavian Cultural Society
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

Jan. 16th, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Jan. 25th, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
Feb. 20th, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Feb. 27th and 28th, Nordic Spirit Design Show.
Feb. 29th, 7:00 pm SCS AGM and Meeting.
Mar. 19th, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Mar. 29th, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
Apr. 16th, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Apr. 25th, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
May 21st, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
May 30th, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
Jun 18th and 19, Scandinavian Midsummer:
Troll Garden and Genealogy Booth.
Sep. 17th, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Sep. 26th, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
Oct. 1st and 2nd, Leif Erickson Festival.
Oct. 22nd, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Oct. 31st, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
Nov. 26th, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
Nov. 28th, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.

Please note that some dates could be changed
Please call 604-294-2777 for confirmation.
www.scandinaviancentre.org
www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org