Norwegian House Society’s AVISA

President’s Message

I hope you all enjoyed your Summer either by travelling to visit family, by exploring new parts of the world, or by welcoming visitors and acting as tour guides here at home as Laura & I did. The only time we seem to visit the many interesting sights here in BC is when we are touring our visitors around. Whether its by gondola ride up Grouse Mountain to enjoy the logging show or a trip to downtown Vancouver to visit the Vancouver Police Museum and the Vancouver Art Gallery .... take time to be a tourist in your own town this Fall.

We are very excited to have Guro Von Germenten, a young accordionist on her first North American tour, performing here in concert on September 21st. Prior to her concert at the Scandinavian Centre, she will perform in Vancouver at the Accordion-Noir Festival and at several places on Vancouver Island.

September 9th will see our Norwegian conversation group, Kaffestue, re-start their weekly gatherings on Sundays in the Norway Room over coffee. Beginners are always welcome to come along and practise. Drop by with your Norwegian company or to take out a Library book or two. Come occasionally or come weekly and speak Norsk!

Lots of happenings at the Scandinavian Centre .... Whether you want to learn to speak Norwegian, learn to folk dance, enjoy Norwegian cuisine & music, research your Roots, make Lefse, or visit with other Scandinavian seniors $5+ over lunch .... You will find that and much more at the Scandinavian Centre. Don’t forget that our Viking Ship Munin sails weekends year-round, weather and volunteer crew permitting. Must book ahead. See page 3 for booking details.

Best regards, Ter Olden

September 21st, Friday
7 p.m.
for a
CONCERT by GURO VON GERMENTEN

Tickets: $15;
Students/children: $10
Available from the Scandinavian Centre
Office (Correct change please)
or from Sonja Busch 604 522 4567
sonjabusch@hotmail.com

This exciting young Norwegian Accordion Noir musician has played extensively in Norway & Germany and we are fortunate that she is available to us on her first North American tour,
Copies of her latest CD will be available at this concert

She has been invited to perform at the 5th annual Accordion Noir Festival in Vancouver,
She has recorded several albums, performs in both English & Norwegian and is well known in Europe having performed extensively in Norway and Germany
You can learn more about her at www.vongermeten.no

Couples Dance Skills for Beginners
By the Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver
At the Scandinavian Centre

9 weeks of lessons $50
Includes DVD of basic dances & Dance Club membership
(No classes 2nd Wednesday of each month)

Couples & Singles welcome
Featuring: * polka * waltz * schottis & Scandinavian specialties: * snot * hambro * polska
Low heeled, smooth soled shoes recommended

Contact: Judith Anderson 604 526 4722
judithanderson@shaw.ca

The Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver offer fun, friendly couple dancing for all ages. Both couples and singles welcome. We enjoy the music and folk dances (set dances and couple dances) of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway & Sweden.

Season begins Wednesday, Sept 5th and goes September to April.
Meet at the Scandinavian Centre except for the second Wednesday of each month ...
check website for alternate Hall location.
www.vcn.bc.ca/scandi

Scandi Dance Club Membership fee includes all regular dance evenings; or pay drop-in fee $5.

You don’t have to be Scandinavian to dance with us!
SCANDINAVIANS 55+

Join us for
monthly luncheons at 12 noon
September 14—October 12—November 09

Come and socialize
with your fellow Scandinavians.

There is a fee of $3 if you bring a plate of sandwiches,
cakes or cookies to share
OR $8 if you prefer not to bring food.

Suggestions for entertainers
are always welcome ...
Contact: Tor Olufsen 604 294 0749

ROGALAND LADY’S BUNAD
FOR SALE
$2000 or offers
Contact Marg Kirsebom for more info
604 535 4985
kirsebom@shaw.ca

KAFFESTUEN
Snakker du Norsk?

Everyone is welcome for coffee & cookies
Learning Norwegian? Come along and practice
Have company from Norway? Bring them along
Emigrated from Norway? Come & speak Norsk

Sundays at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Norway Room
Come any time during the two hours
Topics are many & varied
Start time will change to 2 p.m. later in the Fall

For more info or to confirm dates, stat holidays, time change date
phone Eva Lindzen 604 581 3376
Or Judith Anderson 604 536 4722

Want email reminders
& notification of changes to schedule?
Email to elindzen@shaw.ca
Sponsored by Norwegian House Society: No charge

ADULT NORWEGIAN
LANGUAGE CLASSES

Beginners class starts Thursday, September 27th
X 10 weeks
Advanced Level class may to be offered
If sufficient students register

For information or to register
After Sept 16th contact: Tor Olufsen tolufsen@shaw.ca
604 294 0749
Before Sept 16th contact: Sonja Busch 604 522 4567

Cost is $150 Plus cost of the textbook
which will last you for several years of classes

BOOKS * BOOKS * BOOKS

In the Scandinavian Centre's English language library upstairs you will find a wide selection of new fiction and non-fiction books to borrow. Just fill out the card inside the cover and drop it in the small basket provided on the bookshelf. You may keep books out for a month.

For mystery fans there are novels by Jo Nesbo, Stieg Larsson, Yrsa Sigurdardottir, Helene Tursten and others. All the books upstairs are by Nordic authors and have been translated into English, or are books about Scandinavia. With new books arriving every week you are sure to find something of interest.

I recently borrowed a biography of Fridtjof Nansen, NANSEN, written by Roland Huntford. This biography is described as remarkable and Nansen was indeed a remarkable man. He is described as being a Renaissance man born out of his time, a pioneer in oceanography and skiing, one of the founders of neurology, an artist, historian and diplomat. The father of modern polar exploration.

In the Norway Room, you will find fiction & non-fiction books in Norwegian. Included are children's books which are great practise for those students learning to read Norwegian. The sign-out book sits on the counter.

CHILDRENS' NORWEGIAN
LANGUAGE CLASSES

If you are interested in starting a Norwegian kids language class at the Scandinavian Centre
Please contact Sonja Busch ph: 604 522 4567
sonjabusch@hotmail.com

NORWEGIAN KNITTING
& HARDANGERSOM

Classes are on hold for now due to illness in
Bea's family. We hope to resume in the new year
Check next AVISA for update.

Thanks to our excellent and patient
teacher, Bea Jacobsen,
these classes are very popular
**Seterskveld**

Friday, October 26th

Cocktail hour: 6 p.m.
Pork Roast Dinner: 7 p.m.
Followed by dancing to live band
It will be lively
It will be tasty
It will be fun
Feast on rommegrot; pickled herring; pork roast with crackle; surkaal & more

**Tickets:**
- Adults $25 pp
- Children 15 & under $10 pp

Book early: pick up tickets by Oct 20th
From Marsha Unheim 604 929 3972
Or Borghild Tyssedal 604 985 3315
Or the Scandinavian Centre office (correct change please)

*Join us for a living history experience year-round aboard BC’s own wooden Viking Ship Munin.*

**Location:** Heritage Harbour, Vancouver Maritime Museum, English Bay in Vancouver! [www.vikingship.ca](http://www.vikingship.ca)

Reserve seats for a 2 hour outing, most weekends. **You must book ahead.**

**To book:**
contact Waldemar Jonsson at 604.435.0296 or vikingship.ca@gmail.com

Maximum 10 guests per sailing with 3 volunteer crew. Large groups can be broken into consecutive sailings. Book for one person, your family, company or friend group, tourists welcome.

Sailing donations help cover our $10,000 annual expenses for insurance, harbour fees and maintenance. Tax receipts are happily issued yearly.

*Munin* is powered by six or more rowers on oars and a 400 sq.ft. sail. When you book your outing, please let us know how many people in your group are physically able to row.

Sailings are wind and weather dependent & the captain makes the final decision. The Maritime Museum or Granville Island make excellent plans on a rainy or gusty day.

*Munin* is a 40 ft 1/2-scale replica of the Gokstad, a 9th century Norwegian Viking ship. Launched in 2001, this clinker-built longship was built by volunteers at the Scandinavian Centre. View photos of the construction at [www.digitalnorseman.com](http://www.digitalnorseman.com).

Volunteers are welcome either as regular or occasional crew for those who want to spend more time on the water, or to help with maintenance and repairs.

You can also have fun dressing up as a Viking and acting as a host on board at the Wooden Boat Festival or at display booths for various events.

And join in on regular fundraising events held at the Scandinavian Community Centre. For Info contact Marian Toft at toft2@telus.net

Welcome Aboard! 

*Fair winds, Marian Hammond*

[www.scandinaviancentre.org/munin](http://www.scandinaviancentre.org/munin)
17th May 2012 Celebration

Over 130 guests enjoyed an entertaining speech of the day given by Terje Haukas, who is an associate professor in Civil Engineering at UBC. He is shown here with his wife Adriana. They have joined Norwegian House Society as Life Members.

The Norwegian House Society's Scholarship committee awarded two worthy candidates with bursaries at the dinner.

**Jonah Goksøy Wiig** was awarded the $1000 John Sherman Bursary. He will be studying at Toneheim Folkehøyskole near Hamar, Norway, for the 2012/2013 term, where he will broaden his Norwegian cultural knowledge as well as his Norwegian language skills. Jonah's main interest is music. He has played with North Vancouver School District Honour Band and recently performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

**Colby Harris** was awarded the $1000 Egil Lorentzen Bursary. He is studying at the University of BC in Vancouver. Active in sports and university activities, he has an interest in reading, music, English, law, writing and his Norwegian heritage. Among his many goals is to visit his relatives in Bergen and Stavanger.

Norwegian House Society extends best wishes to both candidates for their future success. We hope to see them at our next 17th May dinner where they can share some of their education adventures.

Honorary Norwegian Consul Stein Gudmundseth and wife, Carol, were among the honoured guests for 17th May celebrations.

The gathering was both colourful and interesting. Thank-you to the ladies who came dressed in their Bunads representing many different areas of Norway.

Tusen Takk to Marsha Unheim and her committee, Solvi Stokhol and Berit Sverre for organizing such an enjoyable 17th May celebration for Norwegian House Society. Because of their hard work behind the scenes, the rest of us were able to relax and celebrate with friends and family. They are pictured here with Norwegian House Society President, Tor Olufsen.
ICELAND

As seen through the camera lens of Norwegian House members, Randall Peterman and Judith Anderson. They recently enjoyed a holiday in the unique and fascinating country of Iceland and recommend it highly. Check out Icelandair from Seattle to Norway, they have been offering a stopover in Iceland for up to 7 days at no additional airfare.

Waterfalls and Geysers, Barren landscapes and lava flows; Icelandic horses with their unique gait .... You will find all this and more in Iceland.

With a population of just over 300,000, of whom 60% live in Reykjavik, it is not difficult to find peaceful countryside.

Remember to bring sturdy walking shoes or boots for hiking in the countryside and your bathing suit to take a dip in the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa.

You can rent a car or travel by public bus. Choose from a variety of day tours, book a Super Jeep Guided Tour or a Self-Drive package.

Be as organized or as independent as you like.

FUN FACTS

- Iceland boasts the world’s highest literacy rate at 99.9%
- Iceland has the oldest parliament established in 930
- Reykjavik is the world’s northernmost capital
- Iceland has the largest glacier in Europe

With 85% of Reykjavik’s energy supplied by clean and sustainable resources such as geothermal power, Reykjavik is considered the cleanest capital in the world

More Info:
www.icelandair.com
www.icelandtouristboard.com

NHS Welcomes Carolyn Thauberger to the Board of Directors

Carolyn is new to the Norwegian House Society Board though she has been a member of the House for almost 10 years. She will be one of our representatives on the Scandinavian Community Centre Board holding the position of Vice-President for 2012-13.

Carolyn is from a Norwegian community in Saskatchewan. She taught elementary and high school in Regina and raised her family of four children there. She has just completed her PhD in Education at UBC. She has always led an active volunteer life working in Saskatchewan on various local and provincial sports and cultural committees and Boards and helping to organize such things as the Saskatchewan Science Centre.

In Burnaby, Carolyn continues her volunteer habit as a regular supporter of our Scandinavian Community Centre. Together with the members of the Scandinavian Cultural Society she helps organize their art, literature, and photo shows, as well as concerts, talks, and workshops. She also helps with our Centre plant sale and sometimes is an emcee for events such as the Midsummer Festival. Giving her a microphone is not perfectly safe, however, as she often reports “true” stories about folks around the Centre. Tor Olufsen is still trying to explain to his wife some of her reports of his activities!

Carolyn dances and performs with the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Vancouver. She belongs to SON Sleipner Lodge, Norwegian House Society and Reik Fela, the Norwegian Recreation Society. In any remaining spare time, that is, when she is not dancing, at a meeting, or pretending to be a Viking, Carolyn teaches school in Burnaby.
THE SCANDINAVIAN
MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Our annual Midsummer festival was held in June with the theme, SCANDINAVIA and SPORTS. Many thanks to all the volunteers … without you we would not have our favourite festival!

Heavy rain on Friday and again on Saturday evening made for some muddy areas but our hardy volunteers did their best by filling the worst areas with sand and lying some plywood down. Our volunteers and attendees were all amazingly good humoured about the weather … they are used to living in BC.

The inside cafeteria was busier than last year on Saturday as the weather sent more attendees indoors to eat. The food committee and their volunteers were busy as usual. The Salmon Bbq, Waffle booth and Hotdog stand volunteers all provided outdoor food options throughout the festival.

The entertainment committee organized excellent performers for us to enjoy both on the outdoor stage, inside the food hall and in the Beer garden. Due to the heavy rain that started at 5 pm on Saturday the hotdog stand closed early at 7:30 pm and the evening band was moved indoors to the lounge which made for a warm & cozy atmosphere.

The House Societies produced interesting cultural displays with the Sports theme in mind. Our Deli and the wide variety of vendors in each country tent tempted us to shop.

The Vikings of the Reik Felag Norse Recreation Society set up their popular & educational village encampment and also led the children on “raids” of the country tents for candy.

Can you serve as a NHS representative on the Midsummer festival planning committee?? Co-ordinators for the various areas need to be in place soon. Meetings will begin in the fall to organize for 2013 and are held once a month. Call Sonja 604 522 4567 to offer your help.

NORSE CULTURE RECREATION SOCIETY: REIK FELAG

Step back through time into the Dark Ages. Reik Felag is a group of enthusiastic history buffs who bring the Viking Age into the present with engaging and interactive living history portrayals. Non-profit, non-denominational and non-political, the group is composed of men, women and children. They depict the Norse culture through costumes, crafts, and first-person interactive recreational events.

The members draw on archeological, literary and historical sources in their endeavour to create an authentic Viking era experience.

Their Viking Village at the annual Scandinavian Midsummer festival is a real crowd-pleaser and has grown from two tents to twelve. Visitors step back in time and visit a Viking encampment where a wide range of historically accurate activities are taking place.

Most meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Scandinavian Centre. (check if a stat holiday) www.reikfelag.ca

Mark December 15th on your calendar and watch for details on this Reik Felag event at the Scandinavian Centre. It sold out last year so book early.

Ulf Haraldsen (Doug Erickson)

Support Norwegian Cultural Activities

By donating or by making bequests to the Norwegian House Society you support its cultural and educational activities and also contribute to the operation of the Scandinavian Community Centre

Norwegian House Society is a registered non-profit charitable society. Tax receipts will be issued for donations

Interested in attending future classes on:
Rosemaling
Making Norwegian Fish Cakes or Raspeballer
Making Potato Leffe, Fattigman, Rosettes.
Preparing Openfaced sandwiches.

Other suggestions? Let us know your interests.

EUROPEAN FESTIVAL 2012

Thank-you to all the Norwegian volunteers who set-up & manned our Cultural display booth at the festival on the last Saturday of May. Many others volunteered at the Gate, Kids Area, Raffle booth etc.

This was our first year at Swangard Stadium, Central Park, Burnaby so it was quite a challenge for the organizing committee to determine the best onsite locations with all the logistics of the location of electrical outlets and water, fire lanes to keep open etc. Some choices worked better than others and the committee will be meeting in the Fall to plan a new layout for 2013. More training and supervision of volunteers is needed. Swangard staff were in charge of garbage duty and washrooms and discovered that 8000 people can fill garbage cans quickly.

We were fortunate with the weather and had one of the first warm and sunny days of the year. With approximately 8000 attendees, it looks like we broke even and did not have to dip into our reserve funds. We had more sponsors and Grants than ever before thanks to the efforts of Marika who worked as our Event planner and several of the Committee members with contacts. Thank-you to Poul Erik Rasmussen who helped with completing Grant applications.

Twenty-eight European countries had cultural displays, sixteen had food booths, others participated with Marketplace booths and many sent performers to provide all day onstage entertainment.

A much expanded Kids Zone was possible at this larger location. We were able to offer lots of free activities sponsored by VanCity: mini-golf, soccer speed kick, bouncy castle, arts & crafts, a puppet show & a childrens theatre troupe performing the Princess & the Pea. The popular Climbing Wall was sponsored by the Swiss Consulate. It was great to see this area crowded with families.

Other sponsors included Festivals Burnaby, Burnaby News Leader, City of Burnaby, ScotiaBank, Tourism Burnaby, Stromer, CTV, G & F Financial, Impark, Turkish Canadian Society.

We will have new photos soon on our website www.eurofestbcsociety.com

Also check out the winners of our first Photo Contest
Visit Norwegian House Society’s
Annual Christmas Bake Sale Table
At the
Welcome to Norway Craft Fair
Sunday, November 4th
12 noon to 4 p.m.
To donate traditional Norwegian baked goods or
other Christmas baked items
Contact: Lil Wick 604 325 3966
Or Marg Kirsebom 604 535 4985
This year’s proceeds will be donated to the
Hannah’s Heroes Foundation
which fundraises for the
Child & Family Research Institute
at BC Childrens Hospital.
This Institute carries out pioneering research to help
find a cure for pediatric brain tumors.
See more info at
www.hannahsheroes.com

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRS
At the Scandinavian Community Centre
Welcome to Norway Craft Fair
Sunday, November 4th
12 noon to 4 p.m.
Table rentals contacts: Cathy Gulgiemucci 604 526 0435 or
e-mail Cathie Naske at hatzic6@live.ca
Nordic Craft Fair
Sunday, November 11th
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Table rentals contact: Tina Praegel 778 866 7078
tinapraegel@shaw.ca
Registration deadline Oct 15th
Swedish Christmas Market
Saturday & Sunday, November 17 & 18
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Table rentals contact: Asa eidelof 604 988 9882
eidelofasa@hotmail.com
Scandinavian Craft Fair
Sunday, November 25th
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Table Rentals contact: scandicraftfair@gmail.com
Organized by Finnish Folk Dance group: Purpurit

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
To volunteer for Norwegian House Society at various
cultural events...
Contact: Marian Toft mtoft@telus.net 604 522 8182
Or Sonja Busch 604 522 4567
sonabusch@hotmail.com
Or the chairperson for the particular event.
• Seterkylved on October 26, 2012
• Welcome to Norway Craft Fair on Nov 4, 2012
NHS Bake table, Membership table or Munin Viking ship table
• Nordic Craft Fair on Nov 11 For NHS Membership table
Or Munin Viking ship table
• Norwegian Family Christmas on December 12, 2012
• Raspeball dinner on February 10, 2013
• Nordic Art Show Feb 23 & 24, 2013
• Emigrant Photo Exhibit April 13 & 14, 2013
• Munin Viking Ship Pork Dinner on April 19, 2013
• 17th May Dinner 2013
• European Festival May 25, 2013
• Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 22 & 23, 2013
*****
Norway Room
If you can come once a month or once every other month
to clean and tidy the room, we can use your help
Contact: Aaslaug Boulier Ph.604 929 3826 aaslaug@telus.net
*****
Join The Tuesday Gang
Come in on a Tuesday morning to make repairs and look after some
upkeep at the Scandinavian Centre
Contact the office 604 294 2777 for more info
Or drop in at 10 a.m. Tuesdays

DROP-IN GENEALOGY ADVICE
By the Scandinavian Cultural Society
& BC Genealogy Society
Specifically on the Nordic countries.
Don’t know where to begin?
Need help with the next step?
Regular Help sessions are held at the Scandinavian Centre
approx one Saturday a month, September thru June
Contact: Poul Erik Rasmussen
sonofrasmus@shaw.ca tel: 604 526 1233

Fall 2012 dates:
September 15th; October 20th; November 24th
At 1 pm
If you are just starting out, try to gather together
all the information you have
with Names, dates, places etc, to bring with you.
We will get you started.
Or, for those who are further ahead, come out
and share your experiences with us
and maybe pick up some additional information about access
to records from our experts.
Maybe you need some help with translation
of the Scandinavian languages in the records?
Canada-Norway Agreement Signed

In Ottawa, on June 20, 2012, the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Her Excellency Else Vea, Eikeland, Norway’s Ambassador to Canada signed a revised Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Norway.

“Our government is committed to ensuring retirement security for Canadians whether here or abroad, and I am pleased that we are announcing increased benefits to both Canadians and Norwegians,” said Minister Finley. “This Agreement represents yet another step forward in strengthening the relationship and cooperation between our two countries.

As a result of the Agreement, more than 1000 Canadian residents of Norwegian descent will receive an increased pension from Norway. An Agreement first came into force in 1990. This revised social security agreement will result in added benefits to both countries.

The Agreement will enter into force once both countries have completed the approval procedures specified in their respective legislation. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was been asked to forward the revised Agreement to the Storting as soon as possible for implementation.

Else Vea has lobbied both governments for many years on behalf of Norwegians living in Canada to have this Agreement regarding pensions from Norway revised and implemented. Thank you Else for your many hours of work which has at last garnered a positive result. An international social security agreement provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to eligible individuals who have lived or worked in another country. Or to the surviving spouse, common-law partner or children of eligible individuals who have lived or worked in another country. To date, Canada has concluded 53 international security agreements which are in force.

Norwegian House Society

Annual Memberships

Annual Memberships are for the calendar year, and are renewed each January 1st.

Individual: $25

Family (parents & live-in children up to age 18 yrs): $40

Life Membership

A one-time payment: Individual $225; or Family $360

Membership Secretary: Anne Haug 604 943,0340

Application form available online

www.scandinaviancentre.org

Please mail membership payments to:

Norwegian House Society, 6540 Thomas Street, Bby B.C. V5B 4P9

Include your email address to receive notices between quarterly AVISA issues

Norwegian House Society

Board of Directors 2012-13

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Lauren Wick ph.604 325 3966 all.wick@shaw.ca

Representatives on the Scandinavian Community Centre Board of Directors:

Tor Olufsen; Per Gjerde; Carolyn Thauberger

Alternates: Anne Haug; Aaslaug Boulier

Norwegian House Society

*** Email: norwegian.house@live.com ***

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www.scandinaviancentre.org

AvisA deadline for next quarterly issue: 10 November 2012

Email Editor: sonjabusch@hotmail.com or phone 604 522 4567 with contributions of photos or articles