

AVISA

Newsletter of Norwegian House Society



President's Message

Dear Members,

This year has been an exciting year for those of us in the greater Vancouver Norwegian community.

2025 marked 200 years of the first organized emigration of Norwegians to North America which was recognized with the Crossings 200 initiative and Norway House Society joined with the Icelandic House Society and the Scandinavian Cultural Society on Leif Erikson Day to celebrate the milestone. One of the highlights of the event was to hear the immigration stories of some of our members and their families. These stories which were shared have been recorded for posterity. I find the immigration stories fascinating as they are so varied – each journey is unique! If you do not know the details of your family members' immigration story, I encourage you to ask and write or record them to allow future generations to know of their family's journey.

Norway was also highlighted in the broader Vancouver community with the arrival of the 111 year old Norwegian Tall Ship, the Statsraad Lehmkuhl. It was a wonderful opportunity for the public, members of the Norwegian community and students from Crosstown Elementary School to be able to have a tour of the ship. Captain Marcus, the ship's crew and the members of the scientific team were gracious hosts. The school children received a talk from

the scientific team member on the ship giving them insights into the research the team is doing on the ship.

Senior staff members from the Norwegian Embassy in Canada were welcomed at the Scandinavian Centre while the Statsraad Lehmkuhl was in port. It was a pleasure to showcase the Centre, its activities and Norway House Society.

I wish to thank each of you who volunteer with Norway House Society -- it is the time you so willingly give and your effort which makes Norway House Society the success that it is.

I look forward to meeting all members at one of the many upcoming events.



I wish each of you and your families a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2026!

God jul og godt nytt år!

Hilsen,

Greta I. Reiten

Upcoming Events

You may find all events taking place at the Scandinavian Community Centre on the events calendar webpage: [Events Calendar](#)

Nov. 28 Torskeklubben Christmas Dinner

Dec. 12 Seniors Christmas Luncheon

Dec. 14 Norwegian Christmas Party

Dec. 22 Norwegian Christmas Service



SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

TURKEY DINNER



Friday, December 12th, 2025

12:00 Noon Cost \$30

[Click here to purchase your tickets online.](#)

For tickets, please contact:

Laura Olufsen 604-294-0749 or

email lauravolufsen2@gmail.com

Reply by Dec. 8th, earlier if possible

No tickets at the door

Norwegian Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14th

Time: 12:30 - 3:00 pm

Place: Scandinavian Community Centre

Light refreshments, coffee, tea and other beverages provided.

Santa will be there! (Parents are asked to provide a small Santa gift, worth \$25 or less, for each child they bring.)

Lots of fun for the kids:

- Face painter
- Balloon artist
- Crafts
- Games
- Sing around the Christmas tree
- SANTA



Norwegian Christmas Party Tickets:

\$20 per person ages 12-95

Free for children under 11 and anyone over 95

Tickets at the door \$25.

[Click here to purchase your tickets online](#)

Norsk Julegudsstjeneste Norwegian Christmas Service

December 22, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Held at the **Danish Lutheran Church**

6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby.

The sermon will be in English, various text readings in Norwegian.

Donations of Christmas baking appreciated for coffee after the service as we sing Carols round the Christmas tree.

For further info, please contact **Tine Moberg Parker** phone 778-772-1202

Sentimental Value

Congratulations to the five people who won a pair of passes to the Cineplex Cinema screening of Sentimental Value:

- Sonja Jacobsen
- Ruth Spence
- Gina Gustafson
- Andrea Hoff
- Thelma Nelson

There were 47 people who entered the draw!

Tusen takk, many thanks, to Cineplex for partnering with us for this giveaway.

The movie is in Norwegian, with English sub-titles. The reviews have been excellent. It is predicted to have five nominations for the 2026 Oscar Awards, including Best Picture!

[Click here to see the Official Trailer](#)



17 mai Constitution Celebration

Norwegian House Society held its annual Constitution Day celebration dinner at the Scandinavian Centre. There were 100 people in attendance; (the date fell on a Saturday of the long weekend), and they all enjoyed the evening with friends and families. The food was great as usual, with a lot of different items to choose from on the buffet.



Congratulations to the Bursary recipients

2025 Memorial Bursary Awards of \$1,000 each:

- Chester and Patricia Hansen Memorial Bursary - Josephine Sopotuk
- Egil Lorntzen Memorial Bursary - Ryan Walters
- Egil Lyngen Memorial Bursary - Melanie Roberts
- Erik Unheim Memorial Bursary - Anise Sverre
- John Sherman Memorial Bursary - Pearl Ingdal

- Marian Snowball Memorial Bursary - Mattias Moberg Parker
- NHS Memorial Bursary - Lauren Butterfield
- Olaf "Hall" Leiren Memorial Bursary - Anika Natalya Cunningham
- Sjur, Martine and Reidun Seim Bursary - Julianna Thauberger

Pictured left to right: Anne Haug accepting scholarship for her granddaughter, Anika Cunningham; Erica Leiren scholarship donor, David Moulton



Midsummer Festival Highlights

Many members of the Norwegian House Society volunteered on June 21 and 22 for the Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Centre.

The festival theme was Crossings 200. We displayed the Crossings 200 Exhibit created by The Norwegian Embassy in Canada, which was very well received by the visitors to our tent.

Once again, the Munin attracted a great deal of attention. Our Viking dress up and Photo Op was also very popular.

Poland was the guest country this year; and they put on a superb dance performance. It worked well with the guest country having their own tent area.

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers who ensured the festival was well run and fun for everyone.



Munin

If anyone can donate non-valuable 'viking' costumes - over-dresses, aprons, tunics, belts, capes, helmets, kid's plastic helmets or swords or shields that you want to get rid of - for the Munin Viking Ship photo opp at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival 2026, could you drop it off at the Scandinavian Centre?

Last year the Munin photo opportunity was super popular with event goers and it would be fantastic to have a bigger selection of outfits to offer guests!

We are also looking for creative volunteers wanting to help make new costumes over the next year. We would appreciate if sewers could search your fabric hoard for appropriate pieces of fabric you know you won't be using and can donate. Fabrics that look woven, or like leather or like boiled/felted wool. Trim that looks hand.made-ish. Inexpensive Viking looking buttons or belt buckles that can be incorporated for decorative detail.

We're looking forward to another great Midsummer Festival in 2026!

Photo from the July 2001 launch of Munin - with many people in Viking attire



Seterskveld Dinner

Norwegian House Society, in partnership with Sons of Norway Sleipner Lodge, hosted a Seterskveld dinner on October 15th at the Scandinavian Centre. We are pleased to report that over 60 people attended.

The meal included rommegrot, roast pork with potatoes with gravy and vegetables plus fruit and ice cream for dessert. The rommegrot was a crowd favorite and a big thank you to Ingeborg Bekken for sharing her recipe and expertise with us.

Many thanks to all the volunteers from both organizations who assisted in making this event a success.

Statsraad Lehmkuhl

The legendary Norwegian tall ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl and inspiring One Ocean Expedition welcomed several thousand people on October 19th. People toured the historic ship, met the captain, crew and science team, and so much more. People did not want to miss this rare chance to step aboard a piece of living history and be part of a global voyage for the ocean.

Norwegian House Society hosted a small reception at the Scandinavian Community Centre for the Embassy Staff from Ottawa and the Consulate staff in Vancouver.



Welcome to Norway Craft Fair



The Welcome to Norway Craft Fair held on November 2nd was well attended. Norwegian House Society had a table selling 50/50 Cash Raffle fundraiser for the Centre, as well as Tshirts, caps and waffle heart tote bags.

Online 50/50 Cash Raffle Fundraiser for the Scandinavian Community Centre

Funds raised by this raffle will support educational classes, building and utility costs, and community events.

Draw is on Friday December 19. Gaming License #162708



Please click this link to purchase your ticket:
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/scancentre>

Aaslaug Boulier

Submitted by Marian Toft

The difference dedicated volunteers make

None of us knew that many of the relationships formed in 1995, when NHS was established to complete the Norwegian community's purchase of our portion of what has become the Scandinavian Community Centre, would last us the rest of our lives. And just how many friendships we would make.

And we didn't know how dedicated and invaluable many of our volunteers would be - for these 30 years - raising money, raising awareness, promoting culture and history and raising community.

One of those volunteers is Aaslaug Boulier - one of the earliest donors and volunteers to join the project. Just 50 at the time, she has been unwavering in her commitment to creating a true Nordic community centre. While some of us have stepped away at times, she never has.

And with her artistic skills, design knowledge and understanding of how to connect people with their heritage, Aaslaug's impact has often been subtle - or not. And she has left a physical mark - often with paint - not just on walls.

To help make the Norway Room unique, she picked the colour scheme and added traditional Rosemalt detailing to the ceiling beams. And later to signage and displays around the Centre upon request.

Besides helping with fundraising, event planning, cleaning, decorating and painting everywhere in the Centre, Aaslaug has, over the years, been part of several SCCS Decorating Committees.

Significantly she has spent 17 years on the NHS Board of Directors - always there to remind others that the purpose of creating the Centre was to maintain a home for our community in Canada.

Aaslaug has been active in ensuring Midsummer displays meet the annual theme, adding photo-opp elements to the tent entrances, knowing what and where artifacts are, and making certain Norwegian history, arts and crafts are alive and accurate in displays. Norwegian display cabinet exhibits have often been in her hands - so it gets done.

To ensure authenticity and variety, as a Midsummer and craft fair vendor Aaslaug creates and sells artwork, Rosemalt items, amazing knitted items - always following trends in Norway and sharing them. In addition, she represents Norway in cultural events, including demonstrating and teaching Rosemaling.

For decades, Aaslaug, together with Kari Bratsberg has worked tirelessly to create, catalogue and maintain the Norwegian language library in the Norway Room, including asking people to pick up some of the latest books while in Norway to avoid the shipping costs. An active member of an all-nation Centre book clubs, she even follows the literary trends in all the Nordic nations.

Aaslaug looks after the details, not just the big projects, including helping ensure we always have a clean, tidy, decorated and updated Norway Room to enjoy.

She may be trying to reduce how many hours she volunteers in any given day, but she has energy and is a font of knowledge - and knows where a lot of our 'things' are - ready to talk to anyone who wants to be active in our volunteer/friend community. Moving ahead one day at a time, Aaslaug demonstrates how volunteerism adds up, makes a difference and makes us all happy.



Happy 80th Birthday Aaslaug!

Language Classes

We are delighted to announce the launch of a **new Children's Cultural Program** at the Scandinavian Centre!

- **Age Range:** Children aged 3–11 years.
- **First Term Dates:** January 10, February 7, and March 7, 2026.
- **Time:** 11:00 AM (Each session runs for one hour).
- **Cost:** We are pleased to offer participation in this inaugural term free of charge.

For registration or to request further information, please contact us at
NorwegianClassesSSC@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming your children!

The **adult only classes** (age 15 and over) take place one evening per week from 7-9 pm.

Taking language classes gives students a year's membership in the Norwegian House Society.

For additional information, **including details about January classes**, please visit our webpage: <https://scancentre.org/about/language-classes/norwegian/> or email NorwegianClassesSSC@gmail.com

Make Friends With Us

Did you know that Norwegian House Society is on Instagram? Follow us at @NorwegianHouseSociety to stay updated on upcoming events and for content and news about Norway.

Board of Directors 2025/2026

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