

SPRING 2024

AVISA

Newsletter of Norwegian House Society



President's Message

Dear members,

It is wonderful that the various Norwegian groups in North America have such talented instructors that are willing to take the time (many taking holidays to participate at cultural camps) to share their skills which is helping in having the various art forms passed down to the new and younger generations. NHS is so fortunate to have a number of accomplished members that have knowledge in many of traditional Norwegian arts and crafts.

The theme for the Midsummer Festival this year is Folk Art and Costumes. I am looking forward to NHS and the local Sons of Norway Lodges showcasing the beautiful, traditional Norwegian arts and crafts at the festival. We will be welcoming Ukraine as the guest country at the Midsummer Festival this year -- and maybe we will be lucky enough to see some Ukrainian folk art on display!

To the outgoing Directors of NHS, Irvina, Leslie and Aaslaug I thank you for your contributions. I would like to give a special thank you to Aaslaug Boulrier for the notable contributions she has made as a Board Member over the many years that she served as a Board Member. Her contributions have been extensive and that although she is taking a break from being on the Board, I know that we will still see her continuing to volunteer for NHS.

I look forward to continuing in my role in President of NHS this year and continuing to contribute to this organization in the spirit of the early members of NHS. Please feel free to reach out to me via telephone or email.

I look forward to connecting with you at the upcoming NHS and Scandinavian Centre events.

Best regards,

Greta Reiten

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Midsummer Festival Returns June 22-23



This year's event will feature cultural displays, musical and dance performances, arts & crafts for kids, a hobby horse race and the ever-popular wife carrying contest. Come enjoy Scandinavian culinary delights and shop at the Midsummer Marketplace featuring over fifty vendors and kiosks.

Gates are open on 10am-10pm on Saturday, June 22nd, and 10am-4pm on Sunday June 23rd.

Tickets are available for purchase at the gate.

For more information, visit:

scandinavianmidsummerfestival.com

Upcoming Events

There are several events that take place at the Scandinavian Community Centre every month. Please go to the following webpage to get the most up to date information and details:

<https://scancentre.org/events-calendar/>

Here are some highlights:

May 10 - Scandinavian Seniors Luncheon (held 2nd Friday of every month, except July & August)

May 11 - Spring Clean-up Day

May 12 - Nordic Bake Sale

May 18 - Munin Viking Ship Event

May 30 - Torskeklubben

June 8 - Garden Clean-up Day

June 22 & 23 - Midsummer Festival

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17. Mai Celebration Dinner

BUFFET DINNER | DANCE & CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH, 2024

*Doors & Bar at 6pm; Dinner at 7pm;
Dancing at 9pm*

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE

6540 Thomas St, Burnaby BC

TICKETS

\$50 for adults;

\$20 for children 16 and under

BUNADS ARE ENCOURAGED!

SCAN HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS:



FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT:

*Anne Haug (604-943-0340)
or annehaug1029@gmail.com*

[https://revenue-can.keela.co/
17th-mai-dinner-and-dance](https://revenue-can.keela.co/17th-mai-dinner-and-dance)



Bursaries



The Norwegian House Society has \$1000 memorial bursaries to award each year. For details, please go to our webpage: <https://scancentre.org/norway/scholarships/>

- The Norwegian House Society (NHS) Memorial Bursary
- Olaf Hall Leiren Memorial Bursary
- Marian Snowball Memorial
- Egil Lorntzen Memorial Bursary
- Egil Lyngen Memorial Bursary
- Chester and Patricia Hansen Memorial Bursary
- Erik Unheim Memorial Bursary
- Sjur, Martine and Reidun Seim Bursary
- John Sherman Memorial Bursary

Language Classes

Adult (age 15 and over) our next session for complete beginners (Beginner I) will start in September 2024. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for this class, please email **NorwegianClassesSCC@gmail.com** with your name and telephone number. All interested students will be invited in August 2024 to register for Beginner I.

If you have prior Norwegian language experience and would like to register for Intermediate or Advanced classes, please email **NorwegianClassesSCC@gmail.com**. In your email, please tell us your current level of Norwegian. One of our instructors will arrange a short telephone chat with you to help ensure you start in the right class.



The classes take place one evening per week from 7-9 pm. Classes focus on speaking, listening, reading, and writing, along with discussion of Norwegian life, culture, and history. The aim is to move students from complete beginner to fluency. Taking language classes gives students a year's membership in the Norwegian House Society and is a gateway to the many cultural offerings at the Centre. For additional information or to register, please contact: **norwegianclassesscc@gmail.com**.

The Munin Has Landed

You are invited!! Saturday, May 18, 2024

The 'Munin has Landed' family Viking ship event at the Scandinavian Community Centre!

The Viking Ship Munin has been relocated from the parking lot onto a gravel & timber pad built by volunteers in the south-east corner of the grass field where she will be a working exhibit.

"This ship is our gift to the community of a journey into history."
We said that at the July 2001 launch and it remains our commitment.

Munin gave the volunteer builders and supporters, and the thousands who sailed on her over 15 years, a living history experience-- let our heritage events continue!

During Midsummer Festival, be sure to include a visit to the Munin Viking Ship to learn more about it and get your picture taken.

The Viking Ship Munin was named after one of the two ravens, Hugin & Munin, that sat on the shoulders of the Norse god Odin. Munin represents memory.

A half size, scaled replica of the 9th century Norwegian Gokstad Viking Ship, the Munin was built in 2000/2001 by the BC Viking Ship Project, a committee of Norwegian House Society (NHS) at the Scandinavian Community Centre, in Burnaby, BC.

The Munin was built in just 10 months by volunteers representing many ethnic groups as a community project. Funding through donations, supplies and materials came from societies, individuals and businesses. Current funding is provided by NHS to be repaid through fundraising.

This longship is clinker built with Douglas Fir planks, copper rivets and cotton and pine-tar caulking and powered by 14 oars and a 400' square sail. LOA: 40' Beam: 9'6" Draft: 20"

Munin is a cultural symbol for the Nordic people. With the discovery of Norse ruins in Newfoundland, and the validation of the Viking Sagas as historical accounts rather than legends, an historical link between Canada and the Nordic nations of at least 1000 years has been established. In 2023 UNESCO added Nordic "clinker boats" to its list of traditions that represent the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden jointly sought the UNESCO designation.



Vivian Bates Celebrates 100 at SCC

Vivian has been a long time member of the Scandinavian Centre and an even longer member of Varden Lodge Sons of Norway. She joined S.O.N. as a teenager and is probably the only member to reach the 80 year membership mark. (We had to make up a certificate as S.O.N. didn't have any 80 year membership pins.)

This very special event was hosted by Varden Lodge, Sons of Norway because Vivian is their longest living member. Most of Vivian's family were in attendance (4 generations including her younger sister Helen Mosdell), two of Vivian's former foster children, Patrick and David Nash, as well as Varden Lodge members, Norwegian House Society and Scandinavian House Society members, Sons of Norway dignitaries (including District 7 President Gloria Benazic, her husband Cal, and International Chair Ron Stubbings), the President of S.C.C.S. David Moulton and Nordlandslaget President Laura Oulafsen with her husband Tor.



Vivian was honoured by all the dignitaries present as well as family members, and Vivian took the mic to give us some of her history. She has had a very interesting life! One fact we cannot leave out is her award from the King of Norway for her work on the Normanna Board of Director as it transitioned from a private facility to a government care home.



Vivian was showered with gifts and flowers and applause for her years of volunteer work.

(You may have encountered Vivian and her sister Helen at the Tumbola booth at Midsummer.) Vivian embodies the true spirit of a volunteer and has been seen at every Midsummer and other local event over the many years that she has been part of S.C.C.! She is nothing short of incredible and deserves all the praise she received!

Susan Strang, President of Varden Lodge

In Memory

Norwegian House Society honours our cherished members who we have lost in 2023:

Elizabeth Iversen Sept. 14, 1941 – March 20, 2023

Anne Hansen March 28, 1931 – March 27, 2023

Phyllis Frostad April 3, 1939 – July 12, 2023

Evy Birkeland Nov. 30, 1936 – Oct. 22, 2023

Jon Ronnekleiv June 7, 1929 – Oct. 30, 2023

Margaret Kirsebom Sept. 24, 1932 – Nov. 1, 2023

Eileen Ohrling November 8, 1930 – Dec 6, 2023

Thank You, Donors

As a registered charitable organization, Norwegian House Society is able to continue its programs and services thanks to countless volunteer hours and donations from members like you.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors in 2023: Anders Ourom; Anne Hansen; Bent Nielsen; David Moulton; Dolores Fossum; Ed Wahl; Erica Leiren; Greta Reiten; Helen Mosdell; Linda Jorgensen; Lorna Scobbie; Marian Toft; Marsha Unheim; Vivian Bates; William Emerslund

A special thank you to the Gjesdal family, for their generous donation to the new playground.

Tusen takk!

Board of Directors 2024/2025

Executive Officers

President- Greta Reiten 604.661.9239 greiten@rbs.ca

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New or Renew Membership

Memberships can be securely renewed online at www.scancentre.org/norway or by scanning this code with your smartphone:



If you prefer to send a cheque, send mail to: Norwegian House Society
6540 Thomas St
Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

Language Instructor Needed

Norwegian House Society is seeking a Norwegian teacher for adult language classes starting September 2024 for 2 to 4 hours per week. Classes are held on weeknights from September to June from beginner to advanced.

If you have good interpersonal skills and are keen to share your knowledge of Norwegian vocabulary, grammar and culture, please contact norwegianhouseclassescc@gmail.com. This is a paid position.

Have A Green Thumb?

NHS is searching for volunteers to help care for our memorial garden at the Scandinavian Centre this year. Tasks involve planting, weeding and watering a small garden plot.

If you are handy with pruning shears and a watering can and have a few hours to spare, we'd love to hear from you!

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.





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