



Scandinavian Cultural Society Newsletter 2021

www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org

The AGM of the
Scandinavian Cultural Society
will be held on Zoom,
Monday, 22 February 2021, 7 pm

Agenda

- 1) Consider the directors' reports
- 2) Consider Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st, 2020
- 3) Elect directors, Group A
- 4) Transact such other Business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Dues will be waived for the year 2021.

Attendance at this Annual General Meeting is open to all group and individual members. Email invitations including the Zoom link will be sent out before the meeting. Please contact Ed Kuhlman if you would like to attend.

Dated 22 January 2021

By order of the Board of Directors
of the Scandinavian Cultural Society.

*Thank you
Newsletter Contributors*

Photographs: Arne Møller,
Bent Østergaard, Carolyn
Thauberger

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Carolyn Thauberger,
Judith Anderson

Editor & Publication:
Judith Anderson
judithanderson@shaw.ca



President's Message
Ed Kuhlman

Well, we have finally been able to turn the page on a very difficult year. At the Annual General Meeting in February 2020, I was honoured with election to the position of President. I was excited about the year ahead and about all of the wonderful exhibits and shows planned for the year. Instead the pandemic arrived and prevented us from hosting any events.

This year brings hope that with a successful vaccination program, restrictions may be lifted enough for us to seriously consider hosting events beginning in the Fall.

There will be no Midsummer Festival this year and we have so far been forced to cancel the Art and Photography Show. Plans for the next Nordic Spirit Exhibit are currently on hold, but the hope is that we may be able to present the exhibit in the fall, so please stay tuned for further updates by visiting the Scandinavian Centre website.

The one event which is definitely going ahead is the 2021 Annual General Meeting to be held as a Zoom Meeting on February 22nd. If you would like to attend the Zoom AGM and have not received an email notice about it, please contact me at kuhlman@shaw.ca to receive the Zoom link and instructions.

In light of our inability due to the pandemic to present events and exhibits for our members' enjoyment, your Board of Directors feels that it is only appropriate that all memberships should be free for the calendar year 2021. In lieu of dues donations are always appreciated.

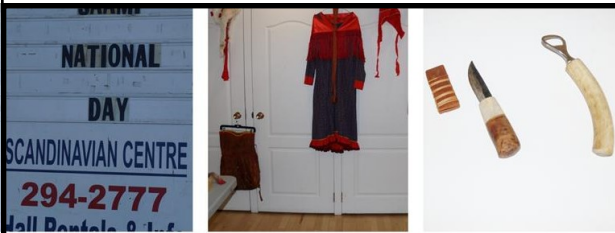
Please stay safe and continue to support the Scandinavian Cultural Society. Your Board of Directors will continue to make plans to present you with first class Scandinavian events and exhibits at the first available opportunity.

Hoping to see you soon at the Centre,

Ed Kuhlman, President, Scandinavian Cultural Society



Sámi National Day 2020



The Sámi, indigenous people of northern Scandinavia and Russia, are famous for their long and successful adaptation to life in a harsh environment, for the power and beauty of their decorative arts, and for their generally peaceful interactions. Our Sámi Day National Day event was planned to celebrate Sámi culture and raise awareness of the local Sámi Interest Group. We didn't know it at the time, but our festive celebration on Saturday February 1, 2020 was the Cultural Society's only live event before the pandemic shutdown.



The daytime program included two films. *Laila* (1926) provided a rare view of Sámi life in the 1920s. *The White Reindeer* (1951) was based on a Sámi folktale in which a girl persuades a Shaman to place her under a spell that will make her more attractive — but the plan backfires.

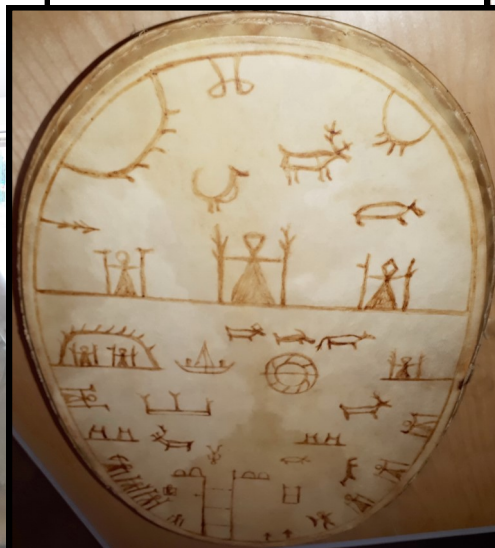


The Scandinavian Centre lounge was transformed into a Sámi campsite, featuring a full-sized lavvu for visitors to explore and enjoy. The artefacts and furnishings were

generously provided by Karen Sorensen and Carolyn Thauberger. They included invitingly soft reindeer skins and hand-carved utensils and tools of birch and other wood. The oval Sámi shamanic drum, made of reindeer hide on a wooden frame, is decorated with symbols of nature, reindeer, birds, and traditional activities and beliefs.



Photos:
Above—Bent Østergaard
Below — Arne Møller



Sámi National Day 2020

Sámi National Day finished off with a festive dinner, the menu mostly traditional Sámi food. Unfortunately reindeer meat was not available this year, but bison proved to be a popular substitute. The delicious menu also included baked salmon, Sámi buns, and blueberry cake.



Elle Sina Sorensen was the featured dinner speaker. Trained in Indigenous Studies at Tacoma’s Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Saskatchewan, she explained how the Alta Dam issue drew attention and ongoing support for Norwegian Sámi people. There is much to learn from Sámi experience about ways to address Indigenous and environmental issues here.

We ended the program singing the Sámi anthem.

Thanks to Carolyn Thauberger and all the volunteers who contributed to the Sámi National Day event!

Photos:
 Bison— Bent Østergaard
 Dinner plates — Arne Møller
 Elle Sina Sorensen — Arne Møller

Nordic Spirit Festival 2021 —Scandinavian Immigrant Women

Our 2020 Nordic Spirit heritage photo show "Scandinavian Immigrant Women" will celebrate female lives and achievements. Originally scheduled for April 2020, it had to be postponed owing to the pandemic. We hope to mount the show in the **fall of 2021** at the Scandinavian Community Centre. "Scandinavian Immigrant Women" will continue the Cultural Society's Nordic Spirit series featuring heritage photos and stories.

In the meantime, you can still contribute your family's story! We invite members of our local community to contribute photos, recollections, and family stories about Nordic women who faced the challenge and adventure of a new life in North America. We're focusing on the period up to 1970.

Please talk with the women in your family and gather stories of their worst and best times, the ridiculous, dangerous, or otherwise remarkable experiences. How hard did they work? How did they relax? How much trouble did they have keeping you alive? Every immigrant woman lived through drama of one kind or another. It is up to us to record, share, and enjoy their stories.

Other ways you can contribute to this exciting show:

Tell us about someone who might give a short presentation.

Tell us about women whose stories might be of interest.

Volunteer to help with developing the exhibit or at the event itself.

To volunteer or share
photos and stories:
judithanderson@shaw.ca

“Too Many Grandkids!” — A sample story

Anna Louisa Christophersen Jerdee (1851–1912) looks like she's seen enough grandchildren, thank you very much, having borne 12 children of her own.

However, despite her dour expression, Anna Louisa was a good-humoured woman who loved to sing Norwegian folk ballads and always made time for the kids in her life. Perhaps she remembered her own difficult youth, working in the spinning mills of Oslo's Nydalen district from the age of 8. After surviving the 6-week Atlantic crossing under sail at age 18, she taught herself English by reading *The Youth's Companion*. Star Prairie, Wisconsin, 1907.



And now, the grandkids just kept on coming, 30 in all. Daughter Anna Louise Jerdee Anderson (1882–1970) keeps her son Hank amused and out of his grandma's hair. Wisconsin, 1919.

Photos: Judith Anderson family collection

SCS/BCGS Genealogy on Zoom

The Scandinavian Genealogy Group welcomes new members and visitors with an interest in Nordic family history. Although we were only able to meet briefly in person during 2020, we moved online and have been meeting on Zoom regularly. We miss being at the Centre, and attending events, but we've continued our genealogy research and welcomed new members in 2020.

At meetings we share research information, discuss our research interests and questions, and offer advice and research help to beginners at meetings and via e-mail for queries about both North America and Nordic countries. In co-operation with the British Columbia Genealogical Society and the Scandinavian Cultural Society, we offer unique resources.

Members often work on their own research projects. One recently is researching the farm his family lived on in Norway; another is looking for details of her grandmother's life, and one was given a mostly Swedish family postcard collection found in an attic to preserve and research.

The Genealogy Group continues our meetings in 2021, usually the second Saturday of the month from 1-3 pm Pacific time.

The February meeting will be Feb 13th online.

Visitors are always welcome.

Diane Rogers, BCGS

Contact: Poul Erik Rasmussen -- sonofrasmus@shaw.ca

Swedish postcard, "Vår fana." ('Our Flag') lyrics by Carl Gustav Boberg. Mailed to Östersund, Sweden in 1906. Private collection.



Greetings from Saskatchewan!

Carolyn Thauberger, seen here with her "Covid haircut", has been a mainstay of the Scandinavian Cultural Society for many years, our event organizer *extraordinaire* and hard-working treasurer. She has returned to her hometown of Dubuc, Saskatchewan and sends us glimpses of prairie life. In amongst the idyllic photos of gardening, wildlife, and grandkids, she has also included a few samples of prairie weather, just in case anyone should be tempted to visit! The icy mess (below right) is Carolyn's verdant garden after the sprinkler was left on all night.



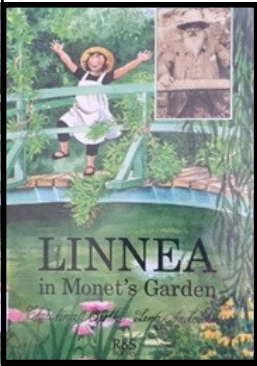
The Esterhazy apartment building (right) was struck by lightning. Note the destroyed roof and black blast down the side. The occupants escaped, some in their pajamas.



We miss you, Carolyn!

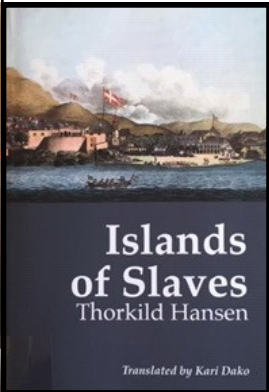
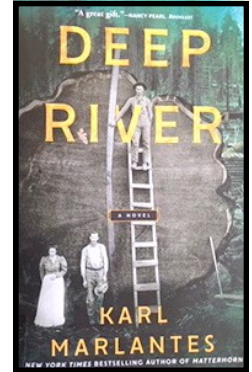


Pandemic Pastimes — Books, books, books!



The Scandinavian Community Library is a wonderful resource, especially appreciated during the pandemic! For each of our Cultural Society events over the years, volunteer librarian Pia Christensen has organized a display table of relevant books, encouraging interested visitors to find out more. Thank you, Pia!

English Language Collection. The English language collection is on the second floor, off the mezzanine. This Library has about 2800 English translations of Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic literature, with Faroese, Greenlandic, and Sámi works translated as well. You'll find books on many Scandinavian subjects -- arts and crafts, folk culture, music, cookery, biography, history, social conditions in the Scandinavian countries, and of course, the Vikings. Another focus is Scandinavians in Canada, with an emphasis on British Columbia. The Library includes children's and young adult material, both fiction and non-fiction. There is a small collection of feature films and documentary films on DVD.



All these items are listed in the library catalogue, which you can consult online or on the Library's computer. *Online link to the catalog: <https://scancentre.org/about/library/>*

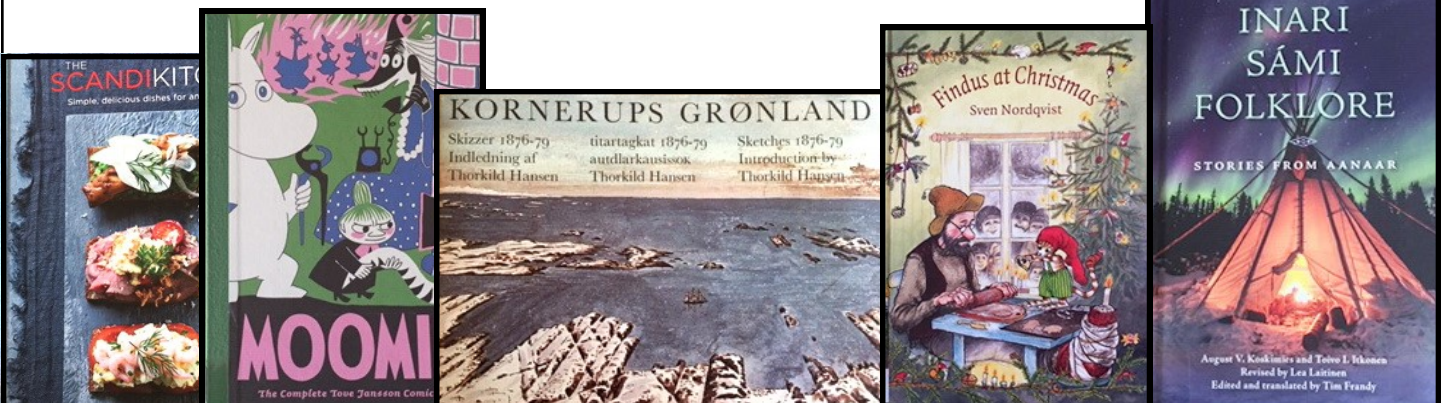
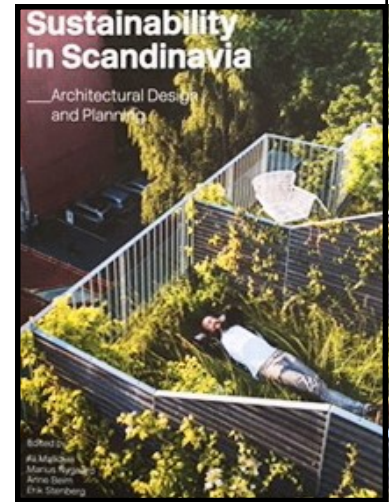
You may also discuss your reading interests via email with librarian Pia Christensen. *Contact Pia: library@scancentre.org.*

Library access. Are you having difficulty accessing the Scandinavian Centre Library at this time? The Library is accessible during the Scandinavian Centre's office hours, which are limited to weekday afternoons during the pandemic period, and may vary. Check with the office – *info@scancentre.org* to confirm opening hours. Pia is in the

Library most Tuesday afternoons, or you may contact her by email to confirm her availability. Books can also be returned via the return slot by the library door.

House collections. There are five other libraries, featuring books in Scandinavian languages, each located in the appropriate country's room at the Scandinavian Centre. The Danish language collection is now included in the Library catalogue.

Happy Reading!



Pandemic Pastimes — Sámi Recipes!

Contributed by Carolyn Thauberger



Gahkko
(Sámi panbuns)
Double Recipe
(60 small panbuns)

4 c warm water
Scant 1/2 c melted butter
4/5 c Lyle's Golden Syrup (no substitute)
Scant 2 T salt
1-2 t anise (optional)
2 T fast rising yeast
8 – 9 c flour

Stir ingredients together adding only 2c flour. Add the yeast with the flour to prevent lumps. Beat until glossy.
Add remaining flour, beating extensively until elastic. Dough will still be very sticky.
Knead, though beating will have already developed the gluten.
Let rise double. Punch down.
Make golf ball sized balls and flatten on greased parchment paper on cookie sheets.
Rise til double. Prick 3 times with a fork either before or after rising.
Bake in oven 350°F until golden. Baking time depends on size of buns. Or bake buns on a griddle, turning once when bottom begins to brown. Griddle baking over a campfire is the very best!
Serve when fresh with butter, cheese, soups, or lingonberry jam.

Finnebøf
Karen Sørensen's recipe

butter
1/2 c onions
1 1/2 lbs reindeer. While partially frozen cut in 1-inch pieces, 1/8 inch thick
1 1/2 c sliced mushrooms
3 slices geitøst (brown goat cheese)
1/2 c cream
1/2 c sour cream
salt/pepper
crushed juniper berries

This popular traditional dish is also called
Poronkärstys (Finnish)
Renskav (Swedish)
Finnbiff (Norwegian)
Báistebeidus (Sámi)



Melt butter. Add onions and soften. Add reindeer and brown with heat moderate. Add mushrooms and cook a little, then add remaining ingredients. Cover and continue to cook on low, stirring occasionally. Uncover and reduce gravy or add more cream or sour cream to make more gravy.

Serve with Lingonberry sauce (Lingonberry jam from IKEA, warmed with a little water added to thin)

Swedish/Finnish/Sámi Cake
4 -6 c. sliced apples mixed with 1 T lemon juice OR
4 -6 c. blueberries tossed with 1 T flour & 2 T sugar
(Carolyn uses larger amount of fruit.)
1 T sugar
1 t. ground cinnamon
3/4 c. melted butter
1 c. sugar
1 c. flour
1 large egg
1/2 c. walnuts or 1/2 c. pecans, chopped



Mix apple slices with lemon juice OR Toss berries with flour & sugar (so they are not too juicy). Fill a greased 2-quart casserole, pie plate, or 8 inch square dish.
Sprinkle fruit with 1 T sugar and cinnamon.

Mix together melted butter, sugar, flour, egg, and nuts to form a doughy batter.
Smooth batter on top of fruit. Holes fill in during baking.
Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour at 350°F. or until top is golden.
Cool 15 minutes in pan on rack. Serve warm or at room temperature, with ice cream or whipped cream.

Carolyn's comments: The photo on a Sámi Siida restaurant website looks just like my apple cake recipe. I substituted blueberries and it worked perfectly.

Recipe — <http://www.food.com/258860>

Scandinavian Cultural Society

6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, PROVINCE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Membership - 2021

Dues are waived for 2021—
Donations are always welcome!

Help us by volunteering as:

- Board Member
- Event Organizer
- Event Worker

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, Burnaby Arts Council, and our members and friends. Thank you.



Scandinavian Cultural Society CONTACTS 2021

Scandinavian Cultural Society CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

Executive

President: Ed Kuhlman

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Vice President: Poul Erik Rasmussen

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Treasurer: *Position vacant*

Secretary: Dianne Kilback

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Directors

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Arne Moller

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Maria Lakes

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Steen Larsen

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Bent Østergaard

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Webmaster: Judith Anderson

604-526-4722 judithanderson@shaw.ca

Bookkeeper: Riitta Huttunen

604-941-0760 riittahu@gmail.com

Genealogy: Poul Erik Rasmussen

Genealogy: Diane Rogers

diane_rogers@shaw.ca

23 January, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

25 January, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

20 February, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

22 February, 7:00 pm, AGM

20 March, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

29 March, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

17 April, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

26 April, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

15 May, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

31 May, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

18 September, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

27 September, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

23 October, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

25 October, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

27 November, 1:00 pm, Genealogy Session

29 November, 7:00 pm, SCS Meeting

During pandemic restrictions, most meetings will be conducted on Zoom.

Nordic Spirit Festival and other events may be scheduled as conditions permit.

Dates may change — to confirm:

www.scancentre.org

www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org

