

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

## Dance

**Members:** Lisa Brooks, Elaine Mathies, Harry Khamis, Larry Reinert.

In 2023 the Dance Committee organized the teaching for:

- 21 Fridays with in-person dancing and teaching.  
These Friday dances were zoomed, with a sustained number of attendees.
- 43 Wednesday classes at Phinney.  
5 new students attended regularly; 2 were Skandia members and 2 became Skandia members.
- The re-started Monday class near UW, with 10 classes in the fall.  
31 people in total attended some classes, including 11 young people and 7 additional non-Skandia people.

Three of the new Wednesday or Monday students attended one or more Friday dances.

- Stämman dance sessions.

## Music

**Members:** Co-chair Chris Dunkle, Co-chair Leslie Foley, Karen Goettling, Ellen Wijsman

The Music Committee's primary ongoing responsibilities are to ensure there is live music for each Friday night dance and that there is an opportunity for musicians to gather once a month to share tunes and enjoy playing music together. We also coordinate with other committees (Dance Committee, Events Committee) on Friday dances and special events. We thank them for their help and participation!

2023 Activities for the Music Committee:

**Music coordination for all 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday dances:** We have had an excellent mix of musicians this year, from solo performances and duos to large ensembles. We've had music from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland, played on fiddle, hardingfele, nyckelharpa, accordion, recorder, guitar, string bass, cittra and . . . bottle!

**Monthly virtual jam sessions:** Running since July 2020, these have attracted a steady group of participants nationally and internationally. While live events have reduced the number of people coming to Zoom jams, we continue to have a steady group of participants, averaging 15-20 people, attending from across the US, Canada, the UK, Denmark, and Sweden!

**Monthly live jam sessions:** In-person jams continued in 2023, and similarly have had a core of excited participants. The Music Committee is grateful to Bill and Gina Boyd for hosting the majority of jams!

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

**Annual Northwest Spelmansstämma:** At this year's Spelmansstämma, we hosted special guest music instructors Andrea Hoag and Loretta Kelley, who joined local musicians Anna Abraham (nyckelharpa) and Ellen Wijsman (beginner fiddle). They all taught great tunes and played lively music for the evening dance party! Our profound thanks go to Jim and Margaret Noyes, who continue to offer us the use of their very special property for our event.

**Skandia Ball music coordination:** This year's ball showcased the Danish ensemble Mads Hansens Kapel. But our own Bob Hamilton and Irene Myers led a spirited allspel to capture our local sounds.

**Looking ahead:** The Music Committee is delighted to announce that we will host a Zoom music workshop with Josefina Paulson, a stellar nyckelharpa player and teacher from Sweden. Look for details when we get closer to the event on Sunday, March 3.

## Events

**Members:** Martha Levenson, Sue Yule

The Events Committee opened the year with a January visit from Danish dance teacher Henrik fra Stevns, who came for Vinterdansen. This event focused on Danish dances, and though Henrik played accordion for some of his teaching, there were no music workshops. The event was in the black.

In September the Events Committee produced a fifth Friday dance, with hopes of continuing this into the future. Attendance was around 20 people, live music was provided, and it seemed that folks had a good time.

The largest event that the Events Committee worked on was bringing Mads Hansens Kapel (MHK) in October. This powerhouse Danish group taught dances at and provided music for the Skandia Ball on the third Friday of the month. Music workshops were also held, under the purview of the Music Committee. Prior to the Ball, MHK visited Poulsbo, where some good connections were made with dancers at the Sons of Norway there. Skandia stepped up to co-sponsor the Seattle Folklore Society's concert featuring MHK as well.

The planning is ongoing for 2024's Valdres Week, planned for the third week of January 2024. The events include dance classes, hardingfele workshops with a guest fiddler, and two evening dance parties.

The Events Committee wishes to thank the Board for its support, and the Music and Dance Committees for collaborating.

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

## Midsommarfest

**Members:** Elaine Everitt, Pat Pi

Rather than rehash all the newsletter articles with all the details, here are the significant highlights worthy of comment for the Annual Meeting.

First, some quantifiable pluses.

- Attendance was over 1500, closer to pre-Covid times. This was in spite of the new requirement for a Daily or Annual Discover Pass.
- The Kukka Kiosk (aka Flower Crown booth) sold a record-breaking 245 flower crown bases and 35 ready-made crowns.
- Making a QR code available as an alternative to using cash meant 35 people took advantage of it for flower crown purchases and making donations. That option brought in \$516 “event day” revenue at a cost of \$28.17 in fees.
- More performers. With 20 performer groups, we filled all but one performance slot with no repeats.
- Five new vendors. It was especially nice to have fresh coffee again AND it was available early on Sunday for those who were setting up.

Second, some major changes.

- Having a Daily or Annual Discover Pass was a requirement for everyone--including vendors, performers, and volunteers as well as guests. It also meant that Park staff were on site selling passes and organizing parking.
- Speaking of State Park support -- what a contrast to earlier days at the Park!
  - In 2015, Skandia wrote a check to State Parks for \$3,576.30 for use of the park space, parking cars on the grass, utilities, and chairs
  - In 2023, Skandia wrote a check to State Parks for \$208.51 AND they gave us a grant of \$2000. Not only that, they provided the stage--including putting it up and taking it down.
- Skandia’s Midsommarfest storage was consolidated early in the year from two storage lockers down to one small locker, cutting storage expenses by over \$400 per month.

Third, 2023 challenges.

- The necessity of using QR codes to order and pay for menu items from the food truck was unanticipated, leaving some attendees frustrated with their system and others pleasantly surprised at its efficiency.

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

- The biggest challenge was the number of volunteers available or should we say unavailable for a variety of reasons. Thankfully, those who were available really stepped up and worked together to make good things happen.
- Running out of ivy to go with all the gorgeous flowers. Typically, it's the other way around. Yet, thanks to extra efforts by Deb Kosche and Eglé Tschinkel soliciting donations prior to the event along with individual contributions, flowers were in good supply.
- We were unable to livestream the pole raising on the Midsommarfest website this year because we couldn't find the right provider to do it.

Finally, looking ahead to 2024.

- Having a dance surface is still on our wish list. The challenge has been dealing with the sloping, uneven ground, and our inability to modify that slope with any kind of backfill. The quest for a workable solution continues.
- Finding ways to honor Skandia's 75th Anniversary year at Midsommarfest 2024. We're going through boxes, files, and ... seeking to uncover precious Midsommarfest history that can be shared either at Midsommarfest or as part of the 75th Gala.

As always, Skandia's Midsommarfest could not happen without the combined efforts of all the donors, performers, vendors, and volunteers who make this such a special event! You can see all their names in the August, September, and October newsletters. Not knowing what unforeseen challenges might arise in 2024, please let us know soon whether or not you're available and willing to help by emailing [volunteer@skandia-folkdance.org](mailto:volunteer@skandia-folkdance.org) or leaving a message on the Skandia phone line 425-954-5262. Thanks!!

## Springdans Northwest

**Members:** Judy Patterson, Jerry Walsh, Kathi Ploeger, Don Meyers, Peter Michaelsen

Springdans Northwest celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a focus on dances from Eastern Dalarna, in Sweden. Music students and dancers alike enjoyed the sound of tradition bearers Anders Bjernulf and Johan Nylander. Stig and Helen Eriksson brought their usual delightful enthusiasm and informative instruction to the dance floor. In addition to the Dalarna dances, Stig and Helen introduced the '100-Års Hambon', which they devised in 2020 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Svenska Folkdansringen. It's a mixer with many interesting elements, and we hope to share this one with other Skandia dancers.

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

Attendance was low in this second post-pandemic year, with 82 registrants, 71 dancers and 11 musicians. Despite the low attendance, the event produced a small profit for the weekend.

Springdances 2024 will center on the popular Rørospols. The experienced and respected tradition bearers will teach the dance, offer tips on styling, and show how the dance varies with either older or more modern tunes. The music instructors are highly regarded for their expertise and share some of their vast repertoire of tunes with music students. Dancers will enjoy their powerful, energetic tunes during classes and evening dances.

The registration form is in the December newsletter and on the Skandia website. The prior Rørospols weekend had an all-time attendance, so camp is expected to fill rapidly. Registrants are accepted in order of postmark; interested parties should register as soon as possible.

Once again, the Art Hare Memorial Financial Needs Scholarship will be available. See the December newsletter for details.

Anyone who hasn't been to Springdances should consider attending. A multi-day concentration on dances which are frequently played at Skandia dances will enhance your knowledge and skills. Talk to someone on the committee or past attendees to see why they keep coming back year after year.

Note:

The current committee will be retiring after the 2024 Springdances event. A new committee has formed to take on the management of this event for 2025. They will be training/observing in preparation for that task. 2025 committee members: Lisa Brooks, Leslie Foster Foley, Karen Goettling, Elaine Mathies, Cindy Scheyer

## **Skandia Ball**

**Members:** Bob Hamilton, Judy Patterson, Pat Pi, Jerry Walsh

Reprinted from the December 2023 Skandia Newsletter:

### **We had a great Danish Ball!**

Thanks to many volunteers and five great Danish musicians, the Skandia Ball on the evening of October 20, 2023, was full of energy and fun—which is probably the definition of a Danish party!

With the great music of Mads Hansens Kapel (MHK) powering our feet, we danced the night away. Thanks to the artful decorations by Pat Pi, we were treated to a Copenhagen waterfront of row houses behind the band, and on one wall were Lego figures expertly decorated to match the band members—and we could easily tell which was which.

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

We started with a Grand March led by Jerry Walsh and Judy Patterson, with direction by Bob Hamilton. The music was a set of Sønnerho tunes—a stately and lively way to start the dance.

The first set was a mix of quadrille dances (ably taught by MHK) and lively gammaldans. Polskor folks were not forgotten, as the Allspel, led by Irene Myers and Bob Hamilton, played a selection of popular polskor and pols. The last set of the evening saw the return (triumphant, of course) of MHK for more dancing fun.

There were, as always, many volunteers who made this Skandia Ball possible. As mentioned, Pat Pi did the decorations. Martha Levenson put in the hours of work needed to get all the visa documentation done for Mads Hansens Kapel. Bob Hamilton and Irene Myers chose the Allspel tunes and led the rehearsal before the Ball, and, of course, the musicians in the Allspel made good on the promise of a great Allspel. Harry Khamis was an exemplary Master of Ceremonies, and Amy Ravenholt, aided by Isobel Wright, made her delicious pea soups (both vegan and omnivore!) and organized the snacks donated by generous Skandia dancers. Paul Everett received payments from partygoers with complete competence. We also had three members of our Basics Class attend. Deb and Ralph Kosche successfully wrangled past Skandia Presidents for a group photo by photographer Kurt Roper.

Thanks to all for making it a fun event, and we will see you soon!

—*Bob Hamilton and Jerry Walsh Co-chairs, Skandia Ball 2023*

## Skandia History

**Members:** Pat Pi, Trella Hastings, Elaine Mathies, Elaine Murakami, Elaine Everitt, Martin Ng, Kelly Britz, Irene Myers, Gordon Thomson, Chris Dunkle, Joe Van Wassenhove

Skandia's upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary prompted the formation of a history committee back in 2021. Since then, the team of volunteers has been:

- Planning (what to focus on and where to archive it),
- Inventorying what already exists (e.g., NNM collection)
- Soliciting and collecting materials (sorting through, digitizing some and figuring out how to organize so many documents, pictures and videos for future access),
- Conducting interviews

Our effort is ongoing so contact us at [joev@skandia-folkdance.org](mailto:joev@skandia-folkdance.org) if you have Skandia-related material you think we should look at or if you would like to be part of this exciting project.

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

**Members:** Bob Hamilton, Judy Patterson, Lisa Brooks, Cindy Scheyer, Pat Pi, Jerry Walsh

As reported last year, the 75th Gala date as Saturday Sept 21, 2024. The venue will be the Swedish Club.

The current plan is to have fika, socializing and a historical display and possibly a concert in the afternoon, then a catered dinner and dance in the evening. Work is currently underway to hire a caterer and finalize the menu.

There are several Skandia members working on various parts of the historical display. Please consider participating!

The Big News is that the award-winning Swedish folk music and dance ensemble *Klintetten* will be our Special Guests! They will be part of many events before, and after, the Gala.

Skandia's Northwest Spelmansstämma will be involved as well. Plans are to have Stämman the following day, Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at a venue TBD.

## Recognition

**Members:** Karen Goettling, Gina Boyd

The Recognition Committee was pleased to provide hand-written notes of gratitude to persons contributing to Skandia's welfare and progress.

We worked at the behest of various Skandia trustees, officers, standing committee heads, and ad hoc committee heads.

We solicited the general membership for nominations for the annual Skandia awards categories and presented nominations to the Board of Trustees for approval. We are grateful to Judy Patterson, Jerry Walsh, Kathi Ploeger, and Don Meyers for their careful work in the production of the certificates, cards, and pins that will be presented to the award winners at the annual meeting.

## Treasury Report - Fiscal Year

Submitted by Paul Everitt, Assistant Treasurer

8/1/22 - 7/31/23

Profit/(Loss)

# Skandia Committees – 2023 Reports

Categories	Revenue	Expense	P/(L)	Cash Balances	
<b>Grange Dances</b>	\$5,385.00	\$7,295.20	<b>\$1,910.20</b>	7/31/22	\$100,915.21
<b>PNA Classes</b>	\$2,377.00	\$4,690.00	<b>\$2,313.00</b>	8/31/22	\$99,447.67
<b>Workshops</b>	\$2,801.00	\$2,151.08	\$649.92	9/30/22	\$99,802.17
<b>Annual Events</b>				10/31/22	\$100,512.04
MSF	\$9,628.68	\$9,222.52	\$406.16	12/31/22	\$98,369.09
Skandia Ball			\$0.00	1/31/23	\$124,036.69
Springdans	\$35,106.01	\$33,937.76	\$1,168.25	2/28/23	\$125,792.65
Vinterdansen	\$576.00	\$526.48	\$49.52	3/31/23	\$126,789.65
<b>Memberships</b>	\$6,290.00	\$6,908.68	<b>\$618.68</b>	4/30/23	\$106,245.24
<b>75th Anniversary</b>		\$1,746.26	<b>\$1,746.26</b>	5/31/23	\$100,024.20
<b>Donations</b>	\$2,640.26	\$9.32	\$2,630.94	6/30/23	\$102,040.18
<b>Misc</b>	\$1,330.60	\$4.66	\$1,325.94	7/31/23	\$100,557.80
<b>Totals</b>	\$66,134.55	\$66,491.96	<b>\$357.41</b>	Net	<b>\$357.41</b>
<b>Balances 7/31/2023</b>					
BofA Checking	\$10,020.61				
Homestreet MM	\$43,120.79				
Homestreet Checking	\$6,672.12				
Homestreet C.D.	\$40,204.81				
PayPal	\$539.47				
<b>Total</b>	\$100,557.80				