



SKANDIA

NEWSLETTER

Seattle, Washington

The Voice of SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY

April 2009

Board musings

Do you remember the survey that the Skandia Board asked members to take last fall? An impressive 109 people responded. For those of you who missed it, Community Consulting Partnership (CCP) helped us develop and conduct a survey to determine our demographics, levels of participation, member perceptions of our purpose, and recommendations about what is good and what needs to be improved. The board met recently with the CCP consultants to review what you had to say and to determine how your responses might lead to productive change.

I was particularly interested in the “appreciative inquiry” process CCP used to focus on themes and critical questions. Two prominent themes caught the Board’s attention. The first is that Skandia could go a long way to make newcomers (and others) feel more welcome. The second is the need to balance the interests of different constituencies within Skandia: newcomers; membership core; dancers; musicians; the over 40; the under 40 (Hi, Ingrid! Hi, Anna!)—you get the picture. Appreciative inquiry addresses themes by asking challenging questions, such as: When do I feel most welcome? When do we as an organization do a good job of welcoming? The answers to these questions—and the suggestions you proposed in the survey—will help us identify actions we can take to improve not only how we welcome others, but also how we balance diverse interests.

A second tool that CCP introduced was a way to evaluate challenges by defining them as “technical problems” or “adaptive challenges.” Technical problems are easy to define and address, like making people feel welcome by greeting them, checking in with them later, letting them know we hope they will come back. These are all simple things in themselves, and if we make an effort to practice reaching out to people we don’t know, we can make an immediate difference. Adaptive challenges, by contrast, are not easily solved, they are ongoing systemic issues that need to be revisited and solutions renegotiated over time. An example of an adaptive approach to the welcoming theme is the decision of the Board to explore a fourth standing committee to focus on Skandia membership, to maintain the database; to develop a list of volunteer opportunities, and more. This committee could be instrumental in developing a more integrated response to the question of welcoming.

Our need to balance the interests of different groups within Skandia is never going to be put to rest in the sense that you can’t make everybody happy all the time; this survey theme is by definition an adaptive challenge. While we can’t create a permanent solution to this challenge, we can develop strategies that will help us address it. Dances, for example, could be hosted by a board member or other MC and structured in ways that help newcomers know what to expect, that there are refreshments downstairs, that there are ways they can help, that we hope they will come back. A “committee of committees” (music, dance, events, membership) could meet occasionally to improve coordination and communication among the four groups.

The Board will be reflecting on the results of the CCP survey for some time to come. Do you have something to say? We’re listening.

—Karen Michaelsen

Seattle Barneleikarringen Celebrates 25 Years

Barneleikarringen started while Leif Erikson Lodge was meeting at the Nordic Heritage Museum on 5 January 1984. On Tuesday, 14 April, from 6:30–9:30 p.m., we will celebrate this anniversary.

Members of Leikarringen were instructors. Eva Martinsen Farstad Malczewski started the children's dance group with her children Erik and Kristi, the grandchildren of Monrad Farstad and Karen Martinsen. There were many children of Leikarringen members attending, so Eva got help from Linelle Reinholdtsen, Lillie Milatchkov, and Mike Schuh. Later on, Obert and Marietta Ronnestad and Bergljot Roswick started instructing. Obert and Marietta continue it

(Continued on page 3)

April Skandia events

Basics: Wednesdays, **1–29 April**, 7:30–9 p.m.

Beyond Basics: Thursdays, **2–30 April**, 7:30–9 p.m.

First Friday Dance, 3 April at Cedar Valley Grange.
Class at 7:30; dance, 8:30–11 p.m.

Third Friday, 17 April—NO DANCE, since so many Skandia members will be at Springdans.

See p 5 for **driving directions** to regular events.

Dances:

Unless otherwise noted, all dances take place at **Cedar Valley Grange**, 20526-52nd Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Skandia members, \$7; nonmembers, \$10. Class, 7:30–8:30; dance 8:30–11 p.m.

First Friday Dance, 3 April

Chase away those April showers on the dance floor 3 April at the First Friday Dance. The evening opens at 7:30 p.m., with Kathi Ploeger and Don Meyers teaching Finnskogs pols. At 8:30, the dance opens with a set from SUS, sure to raise your spirits. Bill Boyd brings a hardingfele set, with an assortment of Norwegian tunes. MC Not Square takes the floor for a long set of polskor and more, including tunes for Finnskogs pols (the dance being taught that evening). Join us for the only local dance in April—remember there is no third Friday dance!

—Martha Levenson

No Third Friday Dance in April!

Each year, Springdances organizers sit down with the conference coordinator at Seabeck Conference Center to establish the dates for the following year's workshop. The first priority is to avoid the 3rd Friday weekend. However, it is not always possible to accomplish that goal, given the number of returning Seabeck users that are being scheduled. When Springdances occurs on a Third Friday weekend, attendance at the regular Skandia dances plummets. (The last two years this happened, attendance was 7–9 people.) Unfortunately, 2009 is one of those years with a conflict. Consequently, the Board has decided to cancel the Third Friday dance in April. So, join in the dance on April 3 and mark your calendar for the next dance on May Day.

—Kathi Ploeger

Scandinavian Basics—learn to hambo!

Learn and improve your hambo dance skills. You will learn the basics of the beautiful Swedish dance known as the hambo, starting with the first class. Along the way, you will also learn snoa and schottis while practicing partnering and establishing a common balance in couple turning dances. We are inviting the contra dancers from Friday night in the lower building to join us on Wednesdays to learn these wonderful Scandinavian dances. Experienced hambo dancers are welcome to attend, too. No partner required. Smooth-soled shoes recommended.

When: Wednesdays, 1–29 April (5 classes) 7:30–9 p.m.
Where: Room 2, upper bldg, Phinney Neighborhood Ctr
Cost: Members, \$25/series; nonmembers, \$35/series
Minimum class size: 8. Teachers: Frank Brown and Elaine Murakami. See you there!

—Frank Brown



Kathi's corner

Polska och Bakmes från Transtrand



(W. Dalarna, Sweden)

Jerry Walsh and Judy Patterson taught this dance at the Dalarna dance workshop in March.

Försteg L (1), R (3)

Bakmes (CCW) L (2), R (3)

Försteg Step on 1 and 3, starting on outside foot

Polska (CW) M: L (1), R (2), both (3)
W: R (1), L (2&), R (3), L (3&)

Note that M must be across in front of W on (1), so she can step with her R foot.

Excerpted from the publication Kathi's Cues, © 1998. Please note that these cues are intended to be a reminder to those who have learned the dance, not a complete description of the dance.

—Kathi Ploeger

Beyond Basics classes

The next Beyond Basics five-week session will emphasize Norwegian dances. Rørospols, one of the most frequently played dances at Skandia events, will be taught, along with its polka relative, Bussarul. The teachers will be Larry Reinert and Karlyn Tomta, both of whom especially enjoy doing Norwegian dances. Other dances that are planned are various reinlanders and a Norwegian version of snoa called Flaks. If there are enough people to make a set, Feiar fra Sandsvær might also make an appearance.

Come and join the fun starting 2 April and continuing through the 30th.

When: Thursdays, 2–30 April (5 classes) 7:30–9 p.m.

Where: Room 2, upper bldg, Phinney Neighborhood Ctr

Costs: Members, \$6/night or \$25/series; nonmembers, \$8/night or \$35/series

Minimum class size: 8

—Larry Reinert

Welcome to new members:

Niko Culevski

Annie Fortnum

Jim Pauley

Carol and Geoff Rasp

Aline and Neal Ruud

(Continued from page 1)

today with the assistance of Lori Elken and Noel Wannebo. In 1998, the Ronnestads were chosen as Honorary Marshals for the 17th of May parade for their devotion to teaching children Norwegian folk dances. The original group's children are now grown, and we hope they will attend the event and bring their families. Currently, the group has many young members and their parents attending classes.

Long-time Barneleikarringen member Ingrid Hamberg returns from Norway for a few weeks for this and other events. When Ingrid was three or four, she saw Barneleikarringen in the 17th of May parade. Dancing was what she really wanted to do! At Bergljot Roswick's memorial this past fall, Ingrid described how important both Bergljot's instruction and inspiration were to Ingrid while she was growing up in this Norwegian-American community. Now, many years later, Ingrid has devoted much of her life to learning Norwegian songs, music, and dance. She recently received an Astrid G. Cates Scholarship from the Sons of Norway Foundation to study in Norway.

For years, the group met on Thursdays at the Nordic Heritage Museum and was sponsored by the Museum, Daughters of Norway, Leif Erikson Lodge, and Leikarringen. A few years ago, they started meeting on Tuesday nights, and Leikarringen welcomed them back to the lodge hall. Now Leikarringen again helps with the teaching. The groups perform together several times a year.

If you have a young family or were a member of Barneleikarringen at any time during the last 25 years, we hope you will join us for an evening of Norwegian folk dancing and singing. Please pass this information on to anyone you might know who was in Barneleikarringen.

Barneleikarringen invites young people to learn Nordic dancing. Classes are at Leif Erikson Lodge, 2245 NW 57th Street, Seattle, each Tuesday from 6:30–7:30 p.m. through the middle of June. Fall practice begins the second Tuesday in September. Classes are conducted by Obert & Marietta Rønnestad, with Noel Wannebo and Lori Elken. Penny Curtis is our accordionist. A donation of \$5 per family per month is suggested. Please contact Marietta or Obert at (425) 392-5806 or oronnestad@msn.com. for details.

Students and parents learn fun folk dances from each of the five Nordic countries. We emphasize basic cultural aspects of these countries as well as music and dance steps.

—Christine Anderson

6 May—Time to dance!

Mark your calendar now and plan to join in the fun on Wednesday, 6 May in Room 2 at the Phinney Neighborhood Center. This dance is an opportunity to meet old friends, as well as to greet and welcome the newest students in Skandia's classes.

—Kathi Ploeger

Honoring Kaare Erga



Many benefactors have celebrated the life of Kaare Erga by contributing to Skandia Folkdance Society. We've received a total of \$2,393.00.

Thank you to all who helped with and attended the memorial dance, many who traveled long distances to be with us. To you who contributed in Kaare's memory, we promise to use your funds wisely.

Sincerely,

Jim Peterson, President

Classified ad

Östlind & Almqvist pump organ, made in Sweden. Light antique brown in color. Played by Forsmark Tre in the 70's. It has 4+ octaves and 6 stops. We need to downsize! (206) 232-1912, mullensd@clearwire.net, or trella@clearwire.net.

Future events

- 5/3 (Bellingham) **Scandinavian Dance**, 2–5 p.m., Norway Hall, 1419 N Forest St, Bellingham. Fun & easy dances will be included. Info: tayolson@earthlink.net or (360) 734-2516.
- 5/3 **Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series** (Sweden): Romance of Strings. **5 p.m.** (Note time change!) Gennady Filimonov, Artur Girskey, Heather Bentley, and Rajan Krishnaswami, and guest Mara Gearman, violist. The program includes Oscar Byström's *String Quartet in C minor & Intermezzo* and Johan Lindegren's *String Quintet in F major for String Quartet and Viola*. Tickets: (206) 789-5707 x10. Concert with Smörgåsbord: NHM members, \$40; nonmembers, \$45. Concert only, \$25. Info: www.nordicmuseum.org.
- 6/7 (Bellingham) **Scandinavian Dance**, 2–5 p.m., Norway Hall, 1419 N Forest St, Bellingham. Fun & easy dances will be included. Info: tayolson@earthlink.net or (360) 734-2516.
- 6/7 **Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series** (Finland): Finally Finnish! 4 p.m. Janne Mertanen, international award-winning pianist from Finland. The program will include virtuosic works of Sibelius, Chopin, and Schubert. Tickets: (206) 789-5707 x10. Concert with Smörgåsbord: NHM members, \$40; nonmembers, \$45. Concert only, \$25. Info: www.nordicmuseum.org.

April 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 (Seattle) Skandia Basics. 7:30–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	2 (Seattle) Skandia Beyond Basics. 7:30–9 p.m.	3 (CVG, Lynnwood) Skandia 1st Friday dance; 7:30 (class); dance, 8:30–11 p.m.	4 (Bainbridge Is- land) Dance, 7–10 p.m.
5 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Scandiavian dance, 2–5 p.m.	6 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	7	8 (Seattle) Skandia Basics. 7:30–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	9 (Seattle) Skandia Beyond Basics. 7:30–9 p.m.	10	11
12 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	13 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	14	15 (Seattle) Skandia Basics. 7:30–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	16 (Seattle) Skandia Beyond Basics. 7:30–9 p.m.	17 NO THIRD FRIDAY SKANDIA DANCE Springdans NW	18 Springdans NW
19 Springdans NW (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	20 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	21	22 (Seattle) Skandia Basics. 7:30–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	23 (Seattle) Skandia Beyond Basics. 7:30–9 p.m.	24 (Seattle) SCC Scandinavian Folk Dance, 7:30 p.m.	25 (Tacoma) Tacoma Mountaineers, 6 p.m. potluck, followed by a dance
26 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	27 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	28	29 (Seattle) Skandia Basics. 7:30–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	30 (Seattle) Skandia Beyond Basics. 7:30–9 p.m.		

April events

Sundays (Port Angeles) Regular Sunday dance.

Scandinavian and ballroom dancing Sundays, 7–9 p.m. Scandia Hall at 131 W 5th St., Port Angeles, WA. Donations taken at the door. Info: Sandy or Paul, (360) 457-7035, or email Paul at penga@olypen.com.

Mondays (Burlington) Nordic Dancers of Skagit/

Whatcom. Scandinavian dancing. Burlington Lutheran Church, 134 E Victoria Ave. Basics, 7–7:45 p.m.; Intermediate, 8–9 p.m.; requests; 9–9:15 p.m., \$2. Partners not required. Smooth-soled shoes recommended. Bob & Carol Olson and Jo Miller instructing. Contact: tayolson@earthlink.net.

Mondays (Poulsbo) Nordic dancing with instruction,

7 p.m., Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St. Partners not required. \$2. Info: Fred at (206) 780-8036 or Stan at (360) 779-2450.

Wednesdays (Bellingham) Scandinavian dancing, Sons of Norway.

Norway Hall, 1419 N. Forest St. Easy

dances, 6:45–7:55 p.m. Couple turning dances, 8:05–9:15 p.m. \$2 donation. All welcome; partners not required. Smooth-soled shoes recommended. Bob & Carol Olson instructing. Info: tayolson@earthlink.net.

Wednesdays (Burnaby, B.C.) Weekly teaching and

request dancing to recorded music at the Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas St. 7:30–10 p.m., \$5, 14 January–6 May. Second Wednesdays are Live Music Nights at an alternate location; check www.vcn.bc.ca/scandi for the venue. Info: Wendy Cutler, (604) 685-7405 or wcutler@telus.net.

4/4

(Bainbridge Island) Nordleik will be the featured band at the First Saturday Dance at Island Center Hall on Bainbridge Island. This will be a **CD release event** for Nordleik (a.k.a. Country Capers)—Jane Landstra, Ken Embry, and Dave Denz—so do come to enjoy their music and support the CD release. The evening will include everything from gammaldans to springars and “a

few Celtic surprises.” Potluck dinner at 6 p.m.; dance from 7–10 p.m. \$7; \$3.50 for 18 and under. Info: Art, (206) 706-9780 or Jessie, (206) 842-4055. As always; carpool.

4/5 (Bellingham) Scandinavian Dance, 2–5 p.m., Norway Hall, 1419 N Forest St, Bellingham. Live music by Seattle’s Skandia Kapell. Fun & easy dances will be included. Info: tayolson@earthlink.net or (360) 734-2516.

4/5 (Seattle) Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series (Denmark): Splendor in Brass, by Seattle Chamber Brass. 4 p.m. Toby Penk, trumpet; Joshua Gailey, trumpet; Josiah Boothby, French horn; Daniel Rossi, trombone and Jonathan Hill, tuba. The program will include works by Danish composers. Carl Nielsen’s *Små Præludier*; Mogens Andre-sens’ *Three Norwegian Dances for Brass Quintet*; Axel Jørgensen’s *Brass Quintet*; Dietrich Buxtehude’s *Praeludium in D Minor*, and a host of brassy, toe-tapping favorites complete the mix! Tickets: (206) 789-5707 x10. One concert (includes Smörgåsbord): museum members, \$40; nonmembers, \$45. Concert only (no Smörgåsbord), \$25. Info: www.nordicmuseum.org.

4/10 (Seattle) Norwegian Contra Dances. Feiar fra Sandsvær and Sekstur II fra Namdalen are two dances that use the same traditional concepts as a contradance to produce a different result. If you’ve danced schottische and waltz, you’ve already learned the steps; if you haven’t, the steps can be faked. Larry Reinert teaches. Old-time dances from Scandinavia like schottische, hambo, & snoa, along with some simple mixer dances. 8 p.m., Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Ave. \$8; less for SCC members. Info: pat@folk dancing.com.

4/18 (Seattle) Norwegian Pancake Breakfast, 8:30–noon, Leif Erikson Hall, 2245 NW 57th. Norwegian pan-cakes with lingonberries, ham, scrambled eggs, orange juice or apple juice with milk, tea, or coffee. \$7; kids 12 and under, \$3.50. Entertainment, and kids’ activities at the craft table.

4/24 (Seattle) Scandinavian Folk Dance with Folk Voice Band. Lively Scandinavian dancing to the live music of Folk Voice. The band strikes up at 8 p.m. Expect waltzes, hambos, and more. Swedish Cultural Ctr., 1920 Dexter Ave. North. \$9; less for SCC members. Info: pat@folk dancing.com. (No free lesson before this month’s dance.)

4/25 (Tacoma) The Tacoma Mountaineers Folk Dance at Normanna Hall, 15th and Martin Luther King Way in Tacoma. Starting at 8 p.m., Nordic Exposure will play a variety of Scandinavian dances. Suggested donation: \$10. Directions to Normanna Hall (1106 S. 15th St.): From I-5, take exit 132, follow Highway 16 and take the Sprague St. exit. Follow Sprague to 15th and turn right until you come to the hall. Parking is available in the lot across the street.

Skandia Newsletter

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Editor: Kathy D. Bruni; **Subscriptions:** Don Meyers & Kathi Ploeger; **Distribution:** Toni Randall, Yolanda Gordon, Hank Pettit

Address newsletter items to:

Kathy D. Bruni, Editor

14805 NE 177th St

Woodinville, WA 98072-6223

(425) 485-1638

Email: **editor@csedl.org**

Address member information and requests to:

Skandia Membership Committee

P.O. Box 17123

Seattle, WA 98127-0823

Email: **membership@svikt.com**

Skandia Folkdance Society Board of Trustees: President, Jim Peterson; Vice President, Brita Butler-Wall; Treasurer, Karen Michaelsen; Secretary, Pat Pi; trustees Kathi Ploeger, Virginia Stout, Karlyn Tomta.

Send items for the *Other events* column to: **editor@csedl.org**, or mail (typed only) to **Kathy D. Bruni, Skandia Newsletter, 14805 NE 177th St., Woodinville, WA 98072-6223**. Items for the **May** issue must arrive by **10 April**. Please include date, time, cost, location, contact phone number, and/or email address. Priority is given to local Scandinavian dance and music events.

Directions to regular Skandia events

Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle: from I-5 northbound or southbound, take exit 172 (N 85th St/ Aurora Ave); drive west on N 85th about a mile; turn south onto Greenwood and go south 1 mile; turn left at 67th (where Greenwood doglegs east and becomes Phinney); go half a block downhill to the lower parking lot. Room 2 is in the main building, next to the upper parking lot.

Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52nd Ave W, Lynnwood: from I-5 north- or southbound, take exit 179; turn east on 220th St. Go half a mile to the stop sign at 52nd St.; turn left and go a short mile to the hall (on your left). **Dances on first and third Fridays of every month.**

Newsletter advertising policy

1. Skandia will not accept paid advertisements for the newsletter.
2. Announcements of activities and events congruent with Skandia’s educational and cultural foci will be accepted on a space-available basis, unless they conflict with scheduled Skandia events. Exceptions can be made for the inclusion in the monthly calendar listing.
3. Classified advertisements from Skandia Folkdance Society members for non-commercial purposes will be accepted for free on a space-available basis. An example of “non-commercial” would be a member trying to sell a pair of dance shoes that no longer fits.
4. Any exceptions to these policies have to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY

Membership registration and change form

Today's date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

- To report a membership problem, check here and describe problem on back of this form or on separate page.
- New member(s) (first time only).
- Renew membership(s) (including expired or inactive memberships).
 - There have been NO CHANGES in my ADDRESS or PHONE NUMBER since my last renewal.
 - Shown below are CHANGES that have occurred in my ADDRESS or PHONE NUMBER since my last renewal.
- I do NOT want a newsletter mailed to me. **Check this box if you view the newsletter at Skandia-folkdance.org.**

Number, Street, Unit: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: Area code, Home, Work: _____
Email address: _____

Mail, with your check or money order for \$25 per person (\$15 for high school or college students, ages 13–25) made out to SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY, to:

Skandia Membership Committee
Post Office Box 17123
Seattle, WA 98127-0823

- Please mail me my membership card in the ENCLOSED SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE.
- I will request my card from a cashier at a Skandia class or event.