

Curling Dinner

SCoR still has not received the information needed to prepare for this arrangement. We are working to possibly host a wine and cheese reception, and if it happens, the members will be advised either by an extra newsletter or by the phoning committee.

Midsummer Fest

Date chosen: **Sunday June 12th.** Details in *Midnight Sun* no. 2.

Upcoming Events

• Salmon Supper

Remember the big turnout last year? Don't miss this year's Salmon Supper on **Sunday February 6th** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3510 Queen Street.

Doors open at 5:00 supper is served at 5:30.

Tickets: Members \$25.00—non-members \$27.50
Students 12-17 years of age \$15.00—younger children **FREE.**

NB! Register by Sunday 30th!

• Spring Free From Racism

As *Midnight Sun* goes to print, the time for this year's event still has to be decided. Look for announcements in the local press or at <http://www.sffr.ca/homepage.html>

• Annual General Meeting 2011

Make sure to reserve **Monday April 11th.** At the AGM you can make your contribution and let your voice be heard on important matters concerning our club!
Venue: St Mark's Lutheran Church, 3510 Queen Street.

Midnight Sun Issue 01 January 2011

Quarterly Newsletter for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

2010-2011 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	John Edwardson	584-2246
PAST PRESIDENT	Laureen Smith	525-5183
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	Larry Bristol	586-1799
	Ken Trapp	789-3629



SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF REGINA
P.O.Box 37182, Regina, SK S4S 7K4

Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30
Single membership \$ 20
Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.

Remember to pay the SCoR 2011 membership fee! Payment by mail is accepted — or take advantage of the next members' event and pay there and then!

SCoR Website

<http://www.scandinavianclubregina.com/>

Contacts

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ISSUE

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Midnight Sun



John Nilson

- long time SCoR member, MLA for Regina Lakeview constituency for the New Democratic Party - has recently been appointed board member of NAHA — **Norwegian American Historical Association**, located at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. They have published nearly one hundred books; promoted Norwegian-American historical research and literary work; and helped develop archives. This program has attracted a membership of 2,000. It is the first time ever that a Canadian becomes a member of the board of this distinguished association.



This Issue Theme: Scandinavian Culture on the Prairies

Members' Matters	2, 5, 6
President's corner	3
Editorial	6
Theme articles	1, 4, 5, 6, 7
Scandinavian News	7, 3, 6
Upcoming Events	8

A Family's Culture Traditions

In 1936 Greta Lange's Grandmother Edith (Eriksson) Anderson came to Saskatchewan from the Åland Islands, a beautiful archipelago between Sweden and Finland. Politically Åland is an autonomous, Swedish-speaking region of Finland with its own flag. Edith settled in Shaunavon where Greta's mother Betty grew up and where the family is still farming. *Midnight Sun* has talked to Greta about Scandinavian culture here in Saskatchewan and in the Old Country.

"Our celebration of culture from the Old Countries tends to be ritualistic, connected to church holidays and other annual events" says Greta. — My family has kept close contact with cousins in Åland, but as older generations pass away, the time gap widens between those of us who live here and the society which our ancestors came from. It becomes necessary to make an effort to give our children some sense of a cultural identity — to give to them something that would otherwise be lost.

Greta and another Canadian girl went to Folkhögskola (Scandinavian exam-free post high school year) in Sigtuna, Sweden, and together they keep up some of the traditions around Midsommar and Jul (Christmas). Food like gravlax, sill (herring) and potatis are typical Midsummer dishes. Greta and her family have visited Åland on more than one occasion. The relatives there are cattle and potato farmers who love hunting for moose and deer. Greta mentions that during summer people eat outside as



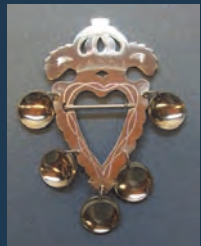
(Continued on page 6)

Happy New Year, Midnight Sun readers!

Car Rides For Members

The insurance company has advised that the annual insurance cost for SCoR organising car rides to membership events, would be \$169 per driver. Driver's abstract for each driver would need to be submitted. Based on these facts, the club executive cannot recommend SCoR coordination of rides, but will encourage club members to offer rides to their friends.

Solje raffle!



Don't forget!

Make sure you have the tickets you want before the draw for the Swedish Solje Raffle which will take place at the Salmon Supper on Sunday the 6th of February!

SCoR Fowl Supper 2010!



Top left: Swedish Honorary Consul Ronald E. Shirkey, Consulate Assistant Christina Andrei, SCoR President John Edwardson
 Top right: John and Joanne — quite the dancers!
 Bottom: Some of the **Band-Its** musicians

The pictures speak for themselves as a report from the Oct. 2010 Fowl Supper which was attended by 92 hungry members and guests — plus 30 **Band-Its** musicians! The meal was a traditional turkey dinner with the famous Austrian Club Apple Strudel for dessert! It was great to see people dancing!!



Christmas party

54 adults and 7 children attended the festive Potluck Christmas Party. The **Band-Its Quintet** played Christmas

music, Kjersten Hordern and her language class group led us with Christmas carols in Norwegian, and Gord Grant circled the children for a Christmas story. Santa Claus arrived to the tunes of *Here comes Santa Claus*, and children and adults alike were excited and clapping! The children all received gifts and sat on Santa's knee for pictures. The last big kid was yours truly who had been mysteriously set up to get a birthday present! When Santa parted, everyone filled their food plates and everyone feasted on a wide variety of Scandinavian dishes. Let's aim for even more people (particularly children) for next year's Christmas Party as we are on a growing trend !!
 (Pictures on page 6)

Larry Bristol

'- so much can be cultivated and enjoyed...!'

My parents were Norwegian Americans from Iowa and Minnesota. My father came to Canora as a land agent of the Scandinavian Canadian Land Co. who brought Scandinavian settlers to the Preeceville and Sturgis area. I heard the language and ate the Norwegian food there, and we were baptized in the North Prairie Church near Preeceville.

My parents spoke less of the language by the time I was born - only something they did not want to share. However we ate mush, flatbrød, yulekaka, lefsa, peppernuts, fattigman bakelse etc. We decorated our Xmas tree Xmas Eve afternoon, after the house



was thoroughly cleaned. After a pork dinner, we lit the candles on the tree and opened our presents. Our tree had decorations that we had cut and glued from a book. There were cones and squared baskets with handles with colorful elves on. There were hearts which we had interwoven out of silver or gold folded paper. A big elf sat cross-legged on the top of the tree. And of course flags hung from the top! People admired it, and we lit the candles whenever company came!

I sat on my dad's knee and he sang "Rea rea ranka, hesten heter Blanka", and a verse about red cheeks, etc. My mother had a sølje and did

blackwork embroidery. On the wall we had a felt wall hanging of a woman in long skirt on skis and one pole.

In Regina, I learned Norwegian at class, and then I was on the first executive of our newly founded club and went to Norway the next year.

Our club organized many classes: - I taught Wheat Weaving, Marie Stockton Norweave, Sig Hoff taught rosemaking, Lola Hoff cooking, Elsie Quick

Hardanger Embroidery. Later we participated in Mosaic made our foods under Margaret Julieson and displays under Gudrun Jonsson. Entertainment under Baldwin Julieson. We got to know our members much better. Carolyn Thauberger

formed a Scandinavian Dance group of about 10 dancers who practiced 2 hours weekly. She learned the dances and taught it to us the next week. We danced at events, wore our bunads and looked so good in them.

Through my interest in heritage, I have learned much about culture and genealogy, spending much time in genealogy rooms, using microfiche and micro film. Now these resources are accessible online.

Culture does not have to be learned as a child. As in my case, so much can be cultivated and enjoyed as an adult!!

Lois Lageson Gibson



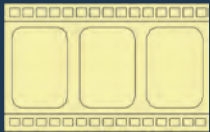
In this issue we have so much theme content that we can only bring "marginal news" - literally speaking.

Norway:

New aspect of Norwegian Culture...

Did you know that Norwegian Black Metal — this rather special form of rock music — is extremely popular among Italian young people? They enter university programs by the scores to learn the Norwegian language in order to understand the lyrics of the songs!!



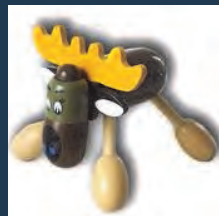


Picture credits

P.1: (Skier) Ida LeRuyet (John Nilson) Courtesy of NDP Caucus Office
 (Table) Greta Lange
 P.2: (Solje) Larry Bristol , (Band) John Edwardson, (remaining) Kari Mitchell
 P.3: (John Edwardson) Kari Mitchell
 (Björk) Borrowed from Björk website gallery
 P.4: (Rice pudding) Sunniva Rosseland
 P.6: (Åland) Greta Lange (Christmas party) John Edwardson
 P.7: (Rose painting) Kari Mitchell
 Other: Public Domain.

Sweden:

Looking for Swedish things and presents? An online store registered in Kungsbacka, Sweden, is taking care of that. Under the motto "Everything from cheese slicers to Pippi Longstocking", scandinavianstuff.com ships goods all over the world. Website: www.scandinavianstuff.com/en/



(Continued from page 1)

often as they can. In addition to the typical Midsummer food, champagne with strawberries in the glasses is popular for the celebration of the long days and short nights. "I love the Scandinavian glass and textile designs we see over there, she says. – That is a cultural development in the Old Country that we don't find here.

"Many of the traditions have survived longer in rural areas here in Canada" Greta says. – Often the immigrants came from farms in the Old Country, and the farming culture here on the Prairies has a sensibility similar to that in Scandinavia. It's easier to keep up the traditions in a farm surrounding. So

many of the cultural features we are keeping up are connected to the farm. It's different in cities, but the individual family cultures created by immigrants in the rural areas can still survive in an urban setting. Our Christmas traditions have always been connected with church here in Regina (Our Saviour's Lutheran Church). For Christmas Eve, typical foods on the table will be lutefisk, rosettbakkels and lefse made in the traditional way. "Many of my family's Christmas decorations came from Denmark and Sweden, and they add that authentic feeling to our celebration. It is nice to hold on to what feels like normal features of our ancestors' culture. We must not lose that."



Greta (right) and her family in Åland (flag above)



Christmas Party pictures:



Tyler and Auntie Kim



David meets Santa



When I look back on my early childhood, I remember the Christmas season as a very busy time, especially for my mother. She must have spent many a late night after putting her children to bed. I realize this because there were always new knitted mitts, socks and even sweaters for all of us under the tree. These were our gifts, with one or two store bought toys as well.

Then there was all the baking that had to be done. We all were able to help Mom with that. This is probably the reason that I love to bake Christmas cookies and lefse. Oh yes, then there was the "lutefisk". I can still remember the smell of the cod, soaking in the tub of lye on our back porch. Whenever it's mentioned, I am reminded of the hours it took us to skin that hard piece of board called lutefisk. We always had it for supper on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We had our turkey and ham as well. I think it would be criminal to force a young child to eat that without having an alternative meat dish. I am pretty sure that there are many that would agree with my statement. As I became

Editorial

Ask people for stories about their family's cultural traditions — and you get to know about all sorts of holiday celebrations, mostly about Christmas: food, decorations, and songs. The response to last issue's call for input on the matter has been most encouraging. Not only have members sent their written stories. *Midnight Sun* has been able to meet people in their environment, and many have commented positively about the newsletter.

It is interesting to learn what has been brought down through generations of

President's corner

Christmas Of Days Gone By

older, I did learn to enjoy a small amount on my plate.

Our home was always the place where the relatives would congregate for Christmas. Usually, one or two friends managed to join us for Christmas Eve supper, as well. Our home was always a gathering place for friends and family. Christmas was always a happy time. When supper was over, we all helped to tidy up the table and wash and dry the dishes.

My mother and her sister were pretty good singers, so we always sang Christmas carols as the dishes were being done. I have tried to keep some of our traditions. I enjoy baking Mom's Swedish cookies and lefse. Since Joanne and I have been married, I have learned to make her parents' style of lefse, which is different than my mother's. The lutefisk is gone, but the lefse, cookies and cakes still remain.

As this is the last year in my term as your president of the Club, I would like to say "takk" and wish you all "Godt Nyttår."

Hilsen fra John and Joanne

Contributing Members

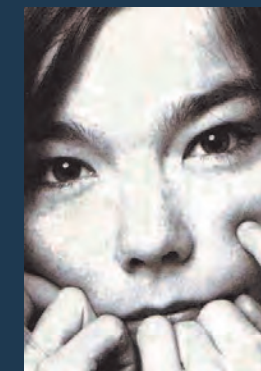
immigrant families. New Scandinavians arriving in the Prairies will recognize elements from our parents' and grandparents' traditions, more genuinely preserved in the New World. It is easy to see that they came out of a society less affluent than what we see today - food was simple, ornaments home made. We still find that in the Old Countries, but to most Scandinavians the holiday season these days is more of a consumer event.

We thank our active members for sharing the well of your traditions!

Iceland:

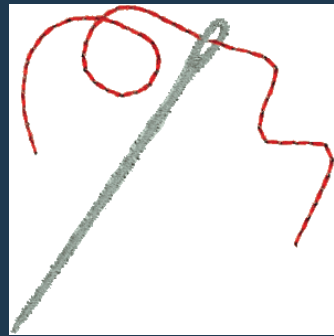
Björk

Icelandic renowned artist Björk Guðmundsdóttir has loaned her name to a private equity fund, established in co-operation with Audur Capital. Björk is an active supporter of entrepreneurship, creative thinking and increased diversity in Icelandic economy. The fund is intended for the development of small businesses with the objective of fueling the recovery of Icelandic economy. The goal is to raise \$ 13.2 mill. to invest in Icelandic companies with new and creative ideas. So far, they have reached 75% of that amount.



Björk has sold over 16 mill. albums worldwide. For her performance in Danish director Lars von Trier's movie *Dancer in the Dark*, she won the Best Actress Award at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival.





Ever since 1979, a group of ladies from the ScoR have met regularly in each other's homes for a bit of CCC (Crafts, Coffee and Communication). Instigated by Ulú Jónsson, they brought their knitting or embroidery (or none of the above) to the circle meetings in a tradition well known from the Old Countries: *Saumaklúbbur* in Iceland, *Syklubb* in Norway.

After all these years, Ulú, Marie Stockton, Sindy Saunderson, Lois Steen, Mildred Ihlen, Alice Siekawich, Lois Gibson and Edith Sharpe still meet over their crafts every other Wednesday, enjoying the delicacies of the coffee table at the hostess of the day.



Christmas Memories



My Dad was of Norwegian decent -- born in St Paul Minnesota. We always had rice porridge for supper on Christmas Eve as a Norwegian tradition.

One year Mom read that they put a date seed in the porridge and the one who got it would have good luck. Dad got the date seed that year and broke his false tooth. We all had a good laugh (Norwegian style) at his good luck!! Mom never put a date seed in the porridge again.



Rice porridge was made with milk and was very bland (no sugar). We ate it with butter, sprinkled cinnamon and sugar. Some of us added cream. My oldest sister loved this porridge, but some of us children didn't like it at all, and tried to camouflage it with the cinnamon and sugar etc. We were told that rice porridge was to soothe your stomach and prepare it for all the rich foods Christmas Day!

I don't know if it was a Scandinavian culture or just a Johnsen/Pierce one, but at Christmas just before going to bed, we all stood around the piano and sang Christmas carols. I have fond memories of this.

Judy Sanders

Swedish Traditions

I am a person who really enjoys celebrating any kind of holiday. Moving to Saskatchewan from Sweden has allowed me to double up and indulge in special days from both my new home and old. It appears as Swedish holidays show up on the calendar more frequent than Canadian ones because in addition to traditional Christian based ones, Swedes also celebrate days such as Waffle Day, Cinnamon Bun Day, Midsummer Eve, Crayfish Day, Fermented Herring Day and St. Lucia. I mean, any tasty morsel is sufficient reason to sit with friends and family to eat and celebrate.

In Sweden, like Canada, the food industry makes it convenient to create traditional holiday food. However, celebrating a Swedish tradition such as Christmas, in Canada, creates a challenge as the necessary ingredients; such as Glögg, cured ham, thin bread and saffron are rare if non-existent (turkeys find safe refuge in Sweden!). As an example, this year I figured out how to cure my own ham which is a 16 day process!

Although Waffle and Bun Days are often the punch line of my in-laws joking, they quite willingly partake in the eating and often it comes with inquisitive questions about the what, why and where concerning the day of celebration. Initially these were questions I couldn't answer but thanks to Wikipedia we all learned more about the Swedish holidays.

Ida LeRuyet

The Norwegian "Nisse"

Kaare Askildt of Preeceville has sent us this retrospect of the "Nisse" tradition in his home country.

The word "nisse" was introduced to the Norwegians in the 1500s when Norway was ruled by the Danes, before that he was called "gardvord", an old Norwegian word for "guardian of the farm". It's a mythical little person, no larger than a horse's head that lives in the barn. He is basically good, but he can also play pranks or do evil things when he is upset or mad. He helps out on the farm, and he tends to all the farm animals.



The nisse wears a red toque ('nisselue') with a grey lining, grey sweater and pants, and grey boots. During the day he turns his toque inside out, and the grey clothing then makes him invisible.

The farmer has to keep the nisse happy, otherwise he can do a lot of bad things for the farmer. In the old days during the day the happy nisse would lead the horses when the farmer was ploughing his fields, that way the furrows would be straight and even. If the nisse was upset, he could stop the horses or make them veer off course. When that happened the farmer knew he had to try and make the nisse happy again. Today, if the nisse is mad he might create a flat tire or drain the oil.

The nisse likes porridge and home

brewed beer once in a while. The porridge has to have a large piece of home churned rich butter in the middle, and some cinnamon and sugar sprinkled over it. One nisse did not find any butter on his porridge, so he killed his farmer's best milking cow. But when he got to the

bottom of the porridge bowl and found the butter there, he stole the neighbour's best milking cow to replace the one he killed. Another story tells of a farmer's horse that got a sharp stone

wedged solidly inside the hoof of one leg, causing the horse to limp. The farmer placed the horse in the barn, and went inside the house to get something to remove the stone with. By the time he got back into the barn, the nisse had removed the stone, and the horse was not limping anymore.

Norwegians celebrate Christmas Eve with a big meal of pork ribs or pork roast, potatoes, sweet and sour cabbage and always a delicious dessert of rice cream or cloudberry cream. On Christmas Eve a large bowl of porridge with churned butter and home brewed beer is taken out to the barn for the "nisse" to enjoy, some farmers will also leave leftovers from the dinner, so the "nisse" can help himself to a scrumptious meal after finishing his porridge.

Scandinavian Language Classes

Learning the language is a wonderful introduction to your heritage culture!

Last Fall we were fortunate to start an **Introduction to Norwegian Language** class taught by *Kjersten Hordern*. The classes will continue this year. Kjersten's love of the language is evident in her teaching style. The classes are focusing on basic grammar and pronunciation which we all know is the basis for any language. Kjersten also incorporates her personal experiences of living in Norway to her classes.

Classes run from 7:00 to 8:30 every second Monday night.

Kim Gillies

Mildred Ihlen is keeping up with her long-time running Norwegian Conversation Classes.

Interested in Scandinavian language classes? Contact SCOR!