



Midnight Sun



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Farewell from Kari

Dear fellow Scandinavians,

I can only boast 15 years of Club membership - many of you will have belonged to SCoR much longer than that. Now Michael and I are moving to Oslo, and I want to thank you all for sharing so many special experiences with me:

There have been cooking classes; Christmas baking; kransekake baking; craft workshops like Nordic knitting and rosemaling; stylish sit-down suppers – the Jewel in the Crown being SCoR’s 40th Anniversary Dinner; pot-luck meals; Christmas parties; winter -, spring -, Midsummer - and fall events; Spring Free From Racism presentations; Fishy Fridays.... I’m sure the list could be extended.

During my years of editing Midnight Sun, it was a pleasure to cooperate with four SCoR Presidents (John Edwardson, Kim Gillis, Pearl Baumgartner and Greg Swanson) and to receive feedback and contributions from so many of you.

I will cherish our shared memories. Keep our Club sailing!

- Kari Mitchell



Kari and Michael Mitchell hosted a goodbye party for Kari October 18, 2018, before her return to Norway.

Sign Up for 2019 SCoR Cycling Tour

Join the SCoR in 2019 as we explore the Åland Archipelago in Finland. We will be cycling and riding ferries as we travel from island to island. Our tour company, Västergård Outdoors, promises that most of the road surfaces are paved and the route is fairly flat. Västergård will book our

hotels (breakfast included), supply our bicycles, move our luggage every day and provide us with the directions to move from place to place. As for the cycling, you can cycle at your own pace. We are expecting to have about 10 to 15 cyclists.

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Donna Holbrow's Passion for Rosemaling

by Linda Robertson



An example of Donna's work.



Donna Holbrow (left) teaches members of SCoR in the 1990s.

It was on a holiday to Norway in 1982 that Donna Holbrow saw the room in a relative's home – walls and furniture – entirely decorated with rosemaling, an ancient and intricate style popular in the country. She was smitten.

"It was beautiful," she remembered.

About a year later when a class was offered by the Neil Balkwill Centre she couldn't wait to start. Along with her enthusiasm and a friend who was also interested in rosemaling, Holbrow began learning the brush strokes, the colour techniques and the different styles that originated from specific areas in Norway.

At first, she found the technique of applying light and dark colours with the same brush to be difficult and exacting. She had to learn the different brush strokes, which are based on the letters "s" and "c" and range from thick to thin.

"Rosemaling is quite sophisticated

with the rhythm, with the darks and lights, and the thins and thicks," she said.

The folk art goes back to the Vikings and was later influenced by baroque and rococo styles of mainland Europe. Although some rosemaling uses animals or people in its designs, traditionally it is a decorative art, not a story-telling one.

Once she learned the basics in Regina, she began reading and researching. That led her to take a class at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa, or as she called it "the rosemaling capital of North America."

"We painted from eight o'clock in the morning until 11 at night!"

Holbrow concentrated on two styles: Rogaland and Telemark. Telemark designs are usually flowers with long and tapered brush strokes on dark backgrounds. Rogaland uses more symmetrical designs.

She was attracted to the beauty of the art form but she also saw it as a way to preserve a tradition that

goes back to her ancestors. Both sets of her grandparents had been born in Norway, and the room she saw on her first visit there had been painted by a relative.

Holbrow found time to paint her pieces and sell them in art and crafts shows while working full time as a grade seven teacher.

Note from Donna's husband Mike: Donna was a member of the Scandinavian Club for many years. When the SCoR took part in Regina's Mosaic she was there demonstrating her art of rosemaling. Later she would travel to Saskatoon for their Folk Fest and demonstrate at the Norwegian Pavilion. Donna also taught rosemaling in her home. She passed away in February 2014.

(This article was reprinted from a 1990 article in the Regina Sun with permission from the Regina Leader Post.)

Memories of the Nordiske Folke Danseres

By Lois Gibson

In Scandinavia, folk dancing is an important part of the culture. The Nordiske Folke Danseres were formed for the enjoyment of dance as well as a way to preserve our culture. The group was inspired by a visit from the Swedish dancers from Umea, Sweden.

Carolyn Thauberger took on the role of instructor and Lois Gibson found a cassette tape and book “Dances from Norway,” by Daniel Beal, while attending Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa, to get the ball rolling. Carolyn started to attend dance workshops, traveling to Norway, Sweden and Denmark to learn more.

She had no trouble recruiting dancers from the Scandinavian Club. Others joined who were not club members. Core members included Carolyn, Lois, Bjorn Tokle, Glen Larson, Sharen and Helgi Goodman, and Alvina (Forsberg) Fabian. Carolyn also recruited many of her MENSA friends.

Sewing authentic costumes

Carolyn continually taught us new dances. We started with eight dances that Bodel (an instructor) taught us and progressed to over a hundred. We always had a new program for every Mosaic and Folk Fest. People came and went from the group. We even had an occupational therapist from Sweden join us for a year. Another year we were joined by an



Nordiske Folke Danseres at Mosaic. (Lois Gibson is on the right.)

exchange teacher from California.

Wardrobe was always a challenge. Some of the dancers wore authentic bunads. Copies were made for those who didn't have original costumes. Thanks to Carolyn's sewing talent, the dancers always had traditional outfits to wear during performances. I have lots of memories of last-minute nips and tucks: needles, thread and safety pins were always our traveling companions!

In the early years, well known dancers, including Daniel Beal and his wife, came to Regina to deliver workshops. Carolyn and the group also traveled to cities like Williston, North Dakota, Billings, Montana, and Calgary to participate in workshops.

There were many variations of

polkas, waltzes, and schottisches, along with some comedy dances that were always crowd pleasers.

The Nordiske Folke Danseres were faithful participants in Mosaic until the Scandinavian Club no longer had a pavilion. They performed in Saskatoon's Folk Fest for many years as well as at culture festivals in small Saskatchewan towns. They danced in major Regina events ranging from the Riders' half-time show to the Dragon Boat Festival.

It was a learning, growing experience with lots of fun times and fellowship. Carolyn spent so much time, giving so much of herself aiming for a polished performance. Without her, we wouldn't have lasted so long. I dedicate this article to her.

News Shorts

By Kari Mitchell

Iceland's and Norway's heated sidewalks



The largest cities in two of the world's three happiest countries, as ranked in the latest World Happiness Report published by the United Nations, have heated sidewalks.

In Reykjavik, Iceland, thermal energy harvested from hot springs is

used for snow melting. Hot water is pumped through tubes under many of the sidewalks. Meanwhile in Norway, Oslo uses electric heating elements embedded in sidewalks to melt snow.

Montreal's experiment with heated sidewalks at Place Vauquelin also used

electric elements. But the city had to replace the first elements it installed at Place Vauquelin after they failed to function properly.

The failure of that trial conducted in winter 2018, along with the escalating costs, were cited as the reasons Montreal has canceled plans to proceed with heated sidewalks.

This decision might not have improved Montreal's happiness quotient, seeing as the city frequently deals with freezing rain and ice-covered sidewalks.

Incidentally, Canada lags behind Iceland and Norway in the latest World Happiness Report.

Source: Montreal Gazette

Wildfires make environment key concern for Swedish voters

On September 25, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven lost the vote of no confidence against him and his cabinet after a September 9 general election where no party won a majority. As a result of the lost vote, a new Prime Minister and government will have to be selected. The Löfven cabinet will stay in power as a caretaker government until the Riksdag (Swedish parliament) has decided on a new government.

The environment was the second most important issue after immigration concerning voters leading up to Sweden's election as a result of the country's record heatwave, wildfires and drought this past summer.

Dozens of wildfires devastated the countryside from the south up to the Arctic Circle, as the country registered the hottest month of July in two centuries, with temperatures hovering around 30°C.



According to Swedish officials, around 25,000 hectares of forests burned this summer. The government has announced 1.2 billion kronor [SEK] in aid to help farmers hit hard by the drought.

An opinion poll showed that 16 percent of respondents saw the environment as the most important issue, replacing health care on 13 percent. Immigration is still the

most important issue for voters at 23 percent. For deputy prime minister Isabella Lövin, climate change and immigration can go hand in hand.

"If we don't do something about the climate threats then we're going to have hundreds of millions of refugees fleeing hurricanes, drought and crop failures," she told Expressen.

Source: thelocal.se

Norwegian explorer Amundsen's ship comes home



Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen famously beat Britain's Captain Robert Scott to the South Pole in 1911, becoming the first man to reach it. However, his later attempt for the North Pole was not as easy. The Maud, his ship for that trip, has finally come home.

The Maud spent years locked in Arctic ice – and when Amundsen ran into financial difficulties, he sold it off.

It became a floating warehouse and radio station under its new owners, before sinking near Cambridge Bay, Nunavut in the 1930s.

Raised from her watery grave in 2016, she has now been towed across the Atlantic to her Norwegian home in Vollen, Asker, near Oslo, 100 years after she left.

Source: skipsrevyen.no

Photo: jw-mrh skipsrevyen

Finnish kids learn Chinese

As more Finnish school kids begin learning foreign languages earlier, a handful of Helsinki youngsters have been given the chance to learn Chinese.

This school year thousands of Helsinki first graders have begun their school careers learning foreign languages. By the year 2020, all first graders will begin studies in foreign languages.

Seven-year-old Noel Fernando is one of the first graders who is learning a foreign language this year. He's among 11 other students at Helsinki's Itäkeskus primary school whose parents have decided their kids will learn Chinese. "When faced with such a great opportunity, of course we had to take it," says Noel's mother Maija Lepola.



Pirjo Harjanne, a professor of Foreign Language Education at Helsinki University, believes it is a good idea that kids begin learning new languages at an early stage.

First grader Noel has already got a jump on his studies, as he confidently proclaims ni hao, Chinese for "hello."

Source: Yle

Image: Elise Tykkyläinen

Danish farmers hit by drought

While many people in Denmark were grateful for the warm summer, farmers have suffered due to the long dry spell.

With the country's agricultural sector set to see losses amounting to millions of kroner, agricultural associations from across the country have had meetings to discuss the issue.

Minister for Food and the Environment Jakob Ellemann-Jensen is considering political relief to farmers threatened by drought-related losses. The Danish Agriculture & Food Council has called for support

in tackling the problem, which it has estimated to carry potential losses of 4.5 billion kroner to the sector.

Losses are related to early harvesting of crops and the poor overall harvest result.

Organic farmers have already received some assistance in the form of allowances for reducing roughage quotas without losing organic status in order to more easily feed livestock that normally eat grass.

Source: news.denmark@thelocal.com

Photo: Mads Claus Rasmussen

The Tin Fox

A prose poem by Byrna Barclay

Nils Piter was a maker of weather-vanes, birds of the forest
in feeding positions or taking flight, never roosters,
how he cursed those neck-peckers, fit only for plucking and boiling.
On odd days, he sketched and perfected the drawing of a red fox,
on even days, he worked at the cutting of tin, until he made something
more useful than a mere thing of beauty, until the box was ready
to give to his woman, she of hair coarse and red and eyes the colour of envy.

It looked like an ornamental red fox. When she lifted its head,
the tin box sprang open and there inside: her wedding ring
made of tin but so carefully cut, the exact fit for her finger, how did he know?
The diamond-size tin flower, each petal welded with love
enough to last forever.

Now the tin box belongs to their great-grandson.
The curve of its body holds chalks of every hue
and nibs as sharp as teeth. The head with long snout and ears
and a bushy tail create enough length and depth for pencil crayons.
Tin, it's only tin, but it might be silver. In its sheen
he can see his own face looking back at him,
his great-grandfather's pointy nose, cheeks whiskered white,
but he thinks he sees only the face of an angel.



Every day the same, always the same drawing,
the lines and cracks in the tips of his fingers deeply chalked
and strong with the colour of angels. He begins with the underpainting,
a pencil sketch of the head of the angel,
with long hair, large oval eyes, a sharp nose,
then carefully chooses the first colour from the box,
always black pastel chalk for window panes
that create the cross of a glass barrier
for the angel boy who never grew up, never
knew the love of a woman, what it is to work.
He's always shut out and looking in, forever
alone.

Award-winning Regina author Byrna Barclay wrote this prose poem about her great-grandfather in Norway. She has published several novels and has read from her work at SCoR events.

Reasons to Belong to SCoR!

Take a look at some of the great events organized by hard-working SCoR volunteers.



Rosemarying workshop with Saskatoon instructor Alice Barth October 19 and 20.



Fishy Fridays first Friday of the month are a great way to end the week.



Hardy souls braved the rain for the annual corn roast August 26.

Genealogy Workshop

Mavis de Bruin is planning a genealogy workshop this winter with a guest instructor. Stay tuned for more details in the next issue of the Midnight Sun and from the SCoR email. For more information, contact Mavis at mdebruin@sasktel.net or 306 789-0417.

COMING EVENTS

Fishy Friday

5:30 - 7 p.m.
November 2
Ricky's in Harbour Landing
4875 Harbour Landing Drive

Nordic Knitting

7-9 p.m.
Nov. 6 and Nov. 20
2600 Arens Road
Activity Room
(Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Push the top buzzer for the Activity Room.)

SCoR Christmas Party

3-6 p.m.
Sunday, December 2
Seniors Centre
2404 Elphinstone Street
Potluck and Santa Claus!

Learning to Make Lefse

Lyla Geis is hosting a lefse workshop for those wanting to learn to make it in early December. Contact her at 306 586-0406 for more information.

Members of the Board

President - Blair Hudyma
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Directors -

Mavis de Bruin
Kelly Nelson
Andrea Ashton
Lauren Carlson
Linda Wacker

(Cont'd from page 1)

As was the rule when SCoR cycled in Denmark, stopping any time for any reason is OK.

Our trip will begin on Monday July 29 in Turku, where we will be met by a representative from Västergård who will transport us to Nagu. The trip will include 6 days of cycling and 7 nights accommodations. We will follow Västergård's Mariehamn Trail. On Sunday, August 4, we will take the Viking line cruise ship to Turku and drop off our bikes. We overnight in Turku and there our trip ends.

In 2018, the cost for this trip was 795 Euros per person. This included, hotel accommodation (double occupancy) and breakfast, bike with helmet and panniers, storage of excess baggage, required

ferry tickets, and route guide with map. The cost in 2019 may be up to 7% more (about 850 Euros or about \$1,275 Canadian based on the exchange of about \$1.50 per Canadian dollar).

For more details on the trip please go to Västergård's website www.nagu.net/vastergard/cycling/ and see the details on their Mariehamn Trail. To date, Greg and Dianne Swanson and Andrea and Terry Ashton are booked for the trip. Our maximum size is 16 people. If you want to register, please contact Västergård to register and mention you are with SCoR. Note: travel to and from Finland is your responsibility.

Registration closes on November 30, 2018.

Notice to Midnight Sun Readers

Future issues of the Midnight Sun will be delivered to you electronically by email. If you are not yet on the SCoR email list, please contact scoreventsregina@gmail.com to get added to the list.

If you do not have access to email, please contact Pam Bristol at 306 569-9015 and she will arrange to get you a paper copy in the mail.

The SCoR board made this decision to save members money and in recognition that the number of members on the mailing list is declining. Most organizations are going in this direction to get information to their members faster and at lower cost. Thanks for your understanding.

Midnight Sun is edited by Pam Bristol (pam.bristol@sasktel.net) with design by Andrea Ashton. Contact Pam with story ideas. We are always looking for book and movie reviews.

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