



Midnight Sun



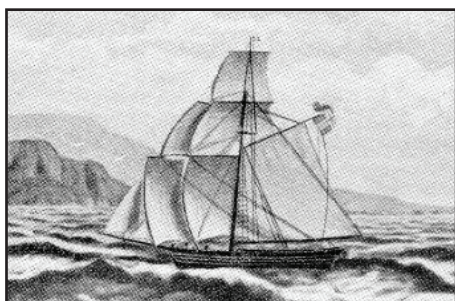
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CROSSINGS 2025

by Linda Wacker



*The Norwegian ship Restauration
Image from Wikimedia Commons*

On July 4, 1825, in Stavanger, Norway, 52 Norwegians set sail for New York. This was the first organized migration from Norway to North America. They travelled on a ship called Restauration, a sailing vessel about 54 ft. by 16 ft. When it arrived in New York, the ship was confiscated as it had too many passengers on board.

According to Liv Marit Haakenstad, there were 4 major waves of migration: 1866 - 1873, 1880 - 1893, 1900 - 1914, and 1920 - 1929. In total about 900,000 people left Norway, hoping for a better life in North America. Several factors caused

people to leave Norway: the 1840 crop failures, in the 1860s, cheap grain was imported from foreign countries, and in the 1880s, agricultural machines made people redundant. (Liv Marit Haakenstad, *A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration*, (Amazon.com., 2023) p. 31).

Next year, July 4, 2025, will be 200 years since the Restauration set sail. We are hoping to celebrate this milestone and welcome your ideas. Please let us know if you are interested in working on a planning committee to commemorate this event. To assist with planning and to provide information, a website has been developed at: <https://crossings.norwegianamerican.com/>



We are wondering if people would share pictures of family trunks that made the voyage to North America from their Nordic country. By way of example, I recently learned that my niece has a trunk that crossed the ocean from Norway to New York in 1861. This trunk belonged to my great grandparents who migrated from Lisledal, Norway in 1861 – the year the Civil War started. My grandfather, Charlie, was born in Minnesota in 1868 and with my grandmother, migrated to Canada in 1904, somehow bringing the trunk with them. They were able to take the Soo Line Railway as far as Flaxton, North Dakota where the rail line ended. The railway was not completed until 1906 but somehow the family and their possessions were transported to their homestead at Torquay, SK.



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Iceland - Land of Fire and Ice

by Linda Wacker



*Volcano eruption north of Grindavík sometime after midnight on 19th of December.
Photo from Almannavarnadeild ríkislögreglustjóra [Permission info](#)*

For the past 6 months, we have been watching, with the help of YouTube, the powers of nature on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula. It is apparent why Iceland is referred to as "The Land of Ice and Fire". The town of Grindavík was evacuated on November 10th, 2023, when an alarming number of earthquakes occurred along with suspicions that there was a magma chamber filling under the town. It was hoped that the 3800 residents would be able to return once the earthquakes subsided but in mid-December a strong eruption began nearby in the Sundhnúks crater area, north of Grindavík. This lasted 3 days and while Grindavík was spared, large

cracks and crevasses appeared in the town. A man, working to repair a crevasse disappeared. The repair work was halted as it was assessed as too dangerous. Work was done to successfully build a wall to protect Grindavík and the neighboring power station from the possible lava flow, but none the less, a fissure opened up on January 14th in the town and 3 homes were destroyed.

Hopes of returning have been dashed. A process has been put in place to buy out homeowners, paying them 95% of the assessed value as assessed by fire insurance. The residents are now scattered around the island. They have lost their homes and community.

It is hard to imagine the stress and grief that these residents have experienced since the earth opened in Grindavík, making it too dangerous to live there.

According to Wikipedia, Grindavík was built on lava flow created from the Sundhnúks crater chain's eruptions, 2350 years ago. Iceland has experienced numerous earthquakes and volcanic activity due to being situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates meet. The Reykjanes Peninsula's volcanic activity has been fairly inactive for about 800 years. Now that it has awoken, individual volcanic cones can persist for 10 to 20 years. The current cycle is expected to last until 2300 – 2400.

In 2021 the 4th eruption period in Iceland's history began. The recent activity has occurred near the Blue Lagoon, the Power House and Grindavík – a thriving community with several billion dollars of investment. One can only hope that the elves, trolls and volcanologists can do their magic and prevent further devastation as much as possible. The word from the Icelanders is "to hope for the best and plan for the worst".



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Fishy Friday's

MAY

Where: Lakeshore Restaurant

When: Friday, May 3 at Noon

JUNE

Where: Western Pizza South

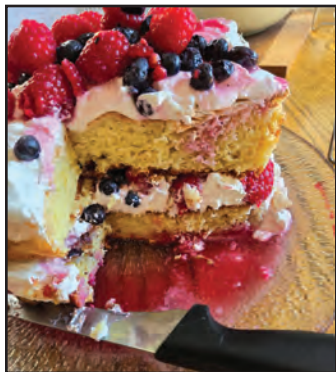
When: Friday June 7 at 5:30 p.m.

SCOR Midsummer Fest

**Saturday, June 22 - 5:30 - 9:30
p.m. See page 6 for details**

Brita Kakku, a Finnish Summer Cake

by Brenda Niskala



This cake received top scores from my daughter and granddaughter: “best cake I’ve ever tasted!”. “It’s pretty good, and not too sweet,” said my friend over tea.

It’s easy to make, and meant to be a bit messy. Enjoy.

3 large eggs, separated
1/2 tsp salt, divided
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar, divided
1 tsp vanilla extract

6 tbsps unsalted butter, softened
Finely grated zest of a lemon
3/4 cup milk (I used almond milk)
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tps baking powder

1 basket strawberries, halved or sliced or 2 baskets raspberries or 1 cup blueberries
Juice of half a lemon
2 tbsps granulated sugar, divided
1 cup 33% cream
2 tbsps sour cream (or plain yogurt)
1 tsp vanilla

350°F oven

Line the bottom and sides of a 9×13-inch cake pan with parchment

the meringue: Beat the egg whites with 1/4 teaspoon salt until they begin to thicken. Add 3/4 cup sugar, a little at a time. Add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Whip the mixture

until the egg whites are glossy, and stiff peaks form.

The cake: In a second bowl, beat the butter with the remaining 3/4 cup sugar, remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt, and lemon zest until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks and beat to combine. Sprinkle baking powder onto the batter, and beat. Add the milk and beat to combine; the batter will curdle until you add the flour and beat until smooth.

Bake: Spoon the cake batter into the cake pan and spread into a thin, even layer. Gently spread the meringue over the cake batter. Bake for 20 minutes, or until dark golden brown, or test with a toothpick. The cake might need 5 to 10 minutes longer to set.

Cool cake in pan, then use the parchment to lift it onto a rack to cool completely.

While it’s cooling, combine the berries, 1 tablespoon of the sugar, and lemon juice and set aside for a few minutes. Combine the heavy cream, sour cream, remaining 1 tablespoon sugar, and vanilla in a large, clean bowl, and beat mixture until soft peaks form.

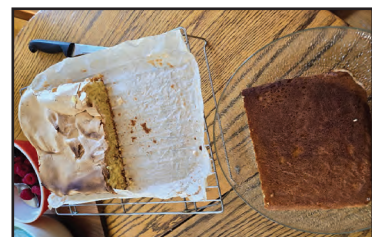
assembly: Cut the cooled cake in half. Transfer the first half onto a plate. I put the meringue side down but either way works. Swirl the top of it with half the whipped cream, then half the berries. Place the second half of the cake on top of the berries and finish with remaining cream and berries. Drizzle any extra juices from the bowl over the cake.

serve: Store the cake in the fridge. Serves 8.

Leftovers keep in the fridge for 4 days.

Recipe can be doubled.

Try it. It’s good.



2023 Christmas Potluck



The Scandinavian Club of Regina held its 2023 Potluck supper on Sunday, December 10 at Speers Family Centre in Regina.

The event was well attended and there was an abundance of delicious food for everyone to share. Needless to say, no one went home hungry.

This year while Santa didn't make an appearance, thanks to Sophie Rheault for helping by handing out Christmas goodies to the little ones who were in attendance.

Thanks also to Greg and Dianne Swanson for leading us all in a few Christmas songs which helped to remind us all of the wonderful season we were celebrating.

And last, but not least, we thank Speers Funeral Chapel for allowing us to use this beautiful facility for our annual Christmas event and for the staff who came to assist us in our cleanup.



Spring Annual General Meeting

The Scandinavian Club of Regina's AGM was held on April 12, 2024 at the Western Pizza in South Regina. The meeting was held immediately following the monthly Fishy Friday.

The AGM had a great attendance with 24 turning out to enjoy a delicious dessert and coffee or tea.

The new board of directors was introduced and for the first time in a few years the board is complete with all positions filled.

The Scandinavian Club of Regina appreciates and wishes to thank the the board members for agreeing to donate their time and energies in taking on their respective positions. They wouldn't exist without your hard work.

The Board also wishes to thank the general members of



SCOR members come out to enjoy some coffee, dessert, and the Annual General Meeting

the Scandinavian Club for their continuing support through the years.

This year the board has some great events in store, including a Summer Solstice on June 22, a Fall Festival event and of course the monthly Fishy Friday's and Christmas Potluck will continue as always.

As the new board gathers together at the end of April to begin planning their yearly events, who knows what new and exciting things they may have in store for us. Remember to check your emails for upcoming event reminders and then **mark your calendars** and come and join in the fun!



Scandinavian Club of Regina Board Members 2024-2025

Front row (l-r) Linda Wacker (Past President), Kelly Nelson (Membership), Heather Robison (Secretary), Susan Bjordalen (President), Darlene Harrison (Vice-President), Dianne Swanson (Financial)

Back row (l-r) Steven Beck (Website / Secretary), Ingrid Van Dusen (Director)

Missing: Pam Bristol (Secretary)

Movie Reviews

The Abyss On Netflix

Movie Review by Andrea Ashton

Recently I took the opportunity to watch a new Netflix movie from Sweden called *The Abyss* (*Avgrunden*).

The story, which was inspired by true life events that happened in the mining town of Kiruna Sweden, was an interesting watch. The iron ore mine in Kiruna is the largest and most modern iron ore mine in the world and has been in operation since 1900.

The opening scene of the movie prefaced the movie with a video of a real-life massive sinkhole that occurred in 1961 in the middle of the night at Idkerberget in Dalarna County, Sweden. Then, on May 18, 2020, an earthquake of approximate 4.8 on the Richter scale occurred in Kiruna which was triggered by the mining operations at LKAB's iron ore mine in Kiruna. All of this makes for a great story about a "what if - worst case scenario" of a mining town that has overextended its luck. "The Abyss" is such a story.

The movie centers around fictional characters Frigga Vibenius, who is head of security for the mine, her ex-husband Tage who is head of operations

for the same mine, Dabir who is a firefighter and Frigga's love interest and Mica and Simon who are Frigga and Tage's children.

Frigga's entire life has centred around the mine, like her late father who also worked at the mine. Frigga is dealing with the everyday dangers of her job and trying to keep the town safe. Add to the mix, she is trying to extricate herself from her ex-husband who is still in love with her. Tensions begin to mount when Frigga's love interest Dabir enters the picture. Tensions continue to mount when Frigga and Tage's son Simon goes missing - but this is just the beginning.

Soon the mine begins having major issues due to the tremors the area is experiencing – leaving the mine at risk of collapsing. When Frigga discovers a massive sink hole under the town that threatens to destroy it, the rush is on to find Simon and to evacuate the town before it is devoured by the sinkhole.

The movie itself is great at building tension and watching events unfold was an experience that found me chewing off a number of my fingernails! Unfortunately, the performances of the main characters I found stiff. The connection between Frigga and her ex lacked believability and the relationship between Frigga and Dabir lacked a spark. Perhaps



the story would have been better suited to a Limited Series where they could have better developed the characters.

While *The Abyss* is fictional (except for the opening videos explaining the events of 1961 and 2020), it is true that the actual town of Kiruna is currently being moved to another location because the danger there from the mine is very real. A plan began back in 2004 to move the city 4 km east of its current location and the move has been a slow process. The hope is to have the entire town moved by 2035.

Watching events unfold in Grindavik, Iceland and seeing what is happening in Kiruna, Sweden I found myself wondering "What would we do if the worst-case scenario happened here?"



Book Review

“Stolen”

by Ann-Helén Laestadius

Book Review by Brenda Niskala

Stolen follows a young Sami girl who loses her first reindeer to poachers, keeps secret what she knows about that theft, and ten years later, as a young woman, finds the strength to step forward and set things right. The novel takes place in a village in Sweden, north of the Arctic circle. Three languages and cultures co-exist in the region, uneasily.

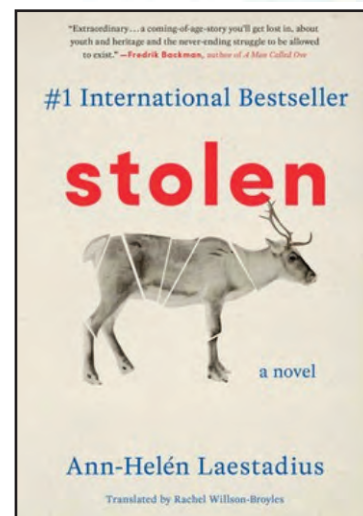
The young narrator skis to the herd enclosure one morning, where she witnesses a thief killing her reindeer. He indicates he will kill her if she tells. The first Part of the novel deals with the torment this nine-year old suffers as she must lie to protect herself and her family from the men who, everyone knows, are killing the herd, selling the meat, and, more and more, are harming the animals in cruel and bloody ways. She has secretly kept the ear of her murdered reindeer, marked with a notch in the ear as her own, a talisman for her throughout the novel. Her personal trauma is echoed by the struggles in her community.

The Sami people there once had their children taken away, forced to attend Nomad School. The narrator’s grandmother carries

the scars of being separated from home and family as a child. That practise has ended, but the Sami and Swedish students still have separate schools, right next door to each other. There is fighting in the school yard, name calling, and unfair discipline. The Sami people’s values are radically different from the town people, and yet when a townie marries a Sami person and tries to fit in, she is harshly judged.

In the changing times, the narrator must also struggle to take her place as a woman in a man’s world, and a leader in a communal society, where being quoted by the press, or featured in a photograph is not appropriate without the approval of the council.

There is much for a Canadian reader to relate to, and some things that are shocking. The laws allow the killing, mutilation, even torture of the reindeer to go unpunished. By Part 2, there are over one hundred incidents in this small community over the decade, and not one found ‘sufficient evidence’ to proceed with a charge. Poaching and rustling are crimes we take very seriously in Canadian cattle country, but although it’s clear the Sami people own and mark their reindeer, and that these animals form the Sami people’s primary livelihood and cultural core, the reindeer are not considered commercially significant enough by the Swedish



law-makers to warrant legal attention. However, when people start being attacked, the police find sufficient workforce to investigate.

Nothing is straight forward in this novel, and no one is without the ability to surprise. Several of the characters suffer from trauma as a result of the ongoing assault on their community and way of life, and there is loss of human life as a result.

Stolen is available from the Regina Public Library in audio and ebook (Libby) and print. As the Sami language is Fenno-Ugric, I thought I’d recognize more, with my rudimentary knowledge of Finnish, but it really is its own language, and in this case, may have borrowed more from the Swedish speakers of the village. The use of the various languages makes the novel’s world experience very rich.

Stolen, the movie, was released on Netflix April 12 2024 in Canada. The film is billed as a revenge thriller, and the trailers use Swedish, Finnish, and Sami languages. The reviews are good so far. I’ll need to subscribe to Netflix. Again.

SCOR Midsummer Fest

Celebrate Midsummer at the Lady Slipper Courtyard in Wascana Park

In Scandinavian countries, Midsummer or Summer Solstice is a celebration that welcomes summer following the cold winter months. This year the Scandinavian Board is planning an event to celebrate the longest day of the year.

Please join us in welcoming the Summer Solstice on **Saturday**,

June 22, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We will gather together to celebrate in a beautiful setting that includes an indoor facility and a private secluded outdoor garden.

Supper will be catered by Schmitty's and will include a meat option and sides. For dessert, we ask that our members provide Scandinavian treats.

Our entertainment for the evening will be Rob Young, a Regina musician, who we are sure

you will enjoy as he sings us into summer.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate our heritage, our community and the warm summer days ahead.

An email will be sent to you in the future with more information about this event. For now, mark your calendar and begin the countdown to Midsummer!



Dorothy Carlson



Dorothy June Carlson of Regina, Saskatchewan passed away peacefully on January 25,

In Memoriam

2024, at the age of 92 years. She is predeceased by parents Bower and Clara Sheasby; father-in-law Fred Carlson; mother-in-law Edith Carlson; brothers Dan, Raymond, and Ralph Sheasby; sister-in-law Valerie (Caron) Patterson; brother-in-law Jack Wedge; and daughter Leanne Carlson.

Dorothy is survived by her loving husband Charles Carlson; daughter Carla (Lyle) Drew of Regina; children Garrett, Bryce, and Wyatt; son Wayne (Gail) Carlson of Regina; children Bryan, Carissa, and Nathan; son Rob Carlson of Calgary; sisters-in-law Dot Sheasby,



Betty Wedge, Shirley (Spud) Stewart; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dorothy developed many close friendships. She was a strong and active supporter of her extended family, her community, and particularly her church. Dorothy was a kind, generous, and welcoming person whose door was always open for a visit and a meal. Dorothy will be greatly missed and remembered fondly by family and friends.

A Memorial Service was held at Speers Funeral Chapel in Regina, SK on Saturday, February 3, 2024.



The Scandinavian Club of Regina's newsletter *Midnight Sun* is published three times per year.

The editors of this publication are comprised of a committee. If you have any ideas or stories you would like to share with us please contact us at scoreventsregina@gmail.com

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