



SKANDIA

NEWSLETTER

Seattle, Washington

The Voice of SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY

May 2009

Board musings

By now, I hope you've read Karen Michaelsen's great April article about the high level of survey participation and her overview of the results.

On the "welcoming environment" front, the Board is moving ahead with important work to create a more consistent experience for members from the moment they join Skandia. Toward that goal, we recently voted to establish—for an initial one-year period—an ad hoc Membership Committee, charged with:

- Recruiting and retaining new members
- Increasing the satisfaction and involvement of current members
- Distributing volunteer efforts more broadly throughout our membership

If you are experienced with similar endeavors or simply a creative thinker who's interested in making a difference in Skandia, please consider joining this committee. To be on the committee, please contact Board member Virginia Stout at Virginias@skandia-folkdance.org.

As I think about the feedback we got from the survey, I find the comments that Skandia can be "unfriendly" puzzling. In my six years as a member, people have been kind, cordial, helpful, open to getting to know me, and willing to help me learn to dance.

My experiences are a direct reflection of my expectations. If I headed for a dance with the thought that I'd spend every minute on the dance floor, I'd surely be disappointed. However, when I look forward to two or three lovely dances and listening to an evening of fabulous music, I can leave every get together feeling satisfied.

We hope that your "Skandia time" is rewarding and fulfilling. If not, the following questions are some food for thought:

- Do you expect...
 - ...to dance every dance?
 - ...people to engage you whenever you sit out a dance?
 - ...to hear great music?
 - ...to have a great time no matter what?
 - ...that people will be friendly or welcoming?
- What does friendly mean to you?
- How are you friendly towards others?

Skandia can't be everything to everyone but we are a community of caring individuals who share a common

bond. We need to give ourselves and others permission to be human. That may mean that at times we're outgoing and on other occasions introspective. The latter does not mean we're unfriendly.

My personal message to the membership is that we do not operate in a vacuum and the Board takes your comments seriously. We are exploring ways to improve member experience but we can't succeed without you. Nonetheless, there is a limit to what we have the power to change. That brings us back to expectations. What are your expectations of the Board? What are your expectations of yourself as a Skandia member welcoming newcomers? *Remember, Skandia is only as friendly as each of us makes it.*

We are listening!

—Karlyn Tomta

Nordic American voices: an oral history initiative

The Nordic Heritage Museum announces the launch of a new and ambitious effort to record the life histories of Nordic immigrants and their descendants in the Pacific Northwest. The Nordic American Voices project will be a multi-year effort to collect, preserve, and share history "from the ground up." Eric Nelson, the Museum's Executive Director, invites broad community participation in this initiative.

A fifteen-member Steering Committee chaired by Gordon Strand will guide the project, with the professional guidance of the Museum's Chief Curator Janet Rauscher. The steering committee is composed of representatives from each of the five major Nordic immigrant groups. Volunteer

(Continued on page 3)

May Skandia events

First Friday Dance, 1 May at Cedar Valley Grange.

Class at 7:30; dance, 8:30–11 p.m.

Spring Mixer, 6 May, Phinney Center, 7:30–9 p.m.

Third Friday, 15 May at Cedar Valley Grange. Class at 7:30; dance, 8:30–11 p.m.

Fifth Friday, 29 May at Epiphany Chapel. Dance, 8–11 p.m.

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, 1 May

The 1st of May brings more than baskets of flowers and May poles. Come and dance now to the musicians of the future—Lilla Spelmanslag, aptly led by Martha Levenson—then to the great music of First Class, fast becoming a favorite of the bygde crowd, led by Peter Michaelsen. Peter has also promised to play a few Norwegian springleiks, which should especially delight those who went to the Boulder workshops recently. There might be a third group on board as well, but word from them at press time is still pending. Dance instruction from 7:30 to 8:30 will be by Elaine Mathies and Tom Berglund, who plan to take you to Hälsingland, Sweden, the focus of Springdans this year. Come see what they have in store for you.

—Trella Hastings

Third Friday Dance, 15 May

May 15 brings the ever popular Skandia Kapell, with their delightful variety of just about everything gammal, and then some. At 7:30, Bev and Milt Anderson will teach Slängpolska från Småland, so you don't want to miss this one. Start off the merry month of May with some merry dancing!

—Trella Hastings

Fifth Friday Dance, 29 May

On fifth Fridays, some of Skandia's best dancers and musicians gather at Seattle's Epiphany Episcopal church to explore the rich local traditions of Scandinavia. We focus on "bygdedans" (village dance): the forms of music and dance that developed and survived over centuries in isolated valleys and communities—dances with names like polska, pols, springar, or springleik.

On 29 May, we'll start at 8 p.m. with the duo "Skolkis"—that's Vicki Watt-Warshaw and Martha Levenson. (Ask them what the name means!) Also on the bill: Norwegian hardanger fiddle music (springars, mostly), the SUS singers, and Peter & Anita (fiddle, piano, and voice). Pivot your way to Paradise!

—Peter Michaelsen

Classified ads

Östlind & Almquist 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.

Need men's Scandinavian dance shoes, size 8 1/2. Contact Phil Ages, (206) 368-9720.



Kathi's corner Finnskogspols



This popular lively dance was taught by Kathi Ploeger and Don Meyers at the 3 April dance.

Music: 3/4 time with long 1st and short 3rd beat

Step: **Basic:** Outside foot (1), inside (2), short outside (3); repeat on opposite foot.

Fast turn:

M: R (1), L (2). R beside L (3)

W: L (1), R toward M (2), L sole behind R (&), R toward M (3)

Parts: Basic step, can gate slightly, turning out when outside foot steps on (1), turning in when inside foot steps on (1). W turns under CCW, basic step

Lausdans—separate from partner, basic step, M backwards, W forward, slight gating, end with clap(s)

Slow turn CW, shoulder-waist hold, basic step

Fast turn

Character: Lively, svikt on all three beats, long 1, short 3.

During second figure, especially, there are other variations, such as pancake turns, M around W.

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

Spring into summer, 6 May

Celebrate spring and look forward to summer at a special event on 6 May! Beginners and more experienced dancers will enjoy the enticing mix of couple dances, figure dances, and mixers, led by Master of Ceremonies Art Hare. It's sure to bring a smile!

When: Wednesday, 6 May, 7:30–9 p.m.

Where: Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 1, upper building

Cost: \$6; free for those who paid for the full April Basics or Beyond Basics series

What to bring? Dance shoes, friends, family and goodies to share.

—Kathi Ploeger

Welcome to new members:

Ken Bartanen

Greg Kimberly

Skandia & Katrilli's St. Urho celebration

Hail to Ralph and Deb Kosche, the saintly new Urho and Urhoiina! After a lively competition at Skandia and Katrilli's St. Urho celebration at Cedar Valley Grange on 20 March, the judges unanimously decided that Ralph and Deb could best debilitate hungry grasshoppers.



Ralph and Deb Kosche, Urho and Urhoiina for 2009, in full regalia

Deb gave a fierce chant that would definitely propel grasshoppers from any vineyard, Finnish or not. Ralph used the purple and green pom poms to demonstrate that a St. Urho had to be creative in fighting the voracious and vociferous insects from decimating the succulent Finnish grapes.



JoAnne Rudo dusts those pesky grasshoppers away.

Folk Voice was in top form with their lively and fun music. In honor of the 70th birthday of Katrilli member Yura Sihon, Greek music was played and the Grange was filled with lines of Skandia attendees dancing to melodic melodies. Since Greece is just south of Finland, the line dances went quite well with the jenkas, hambos, and waltzes.

Skolkis, composed of the talented Martha Levenson and Vickie Watt Warshaw, provided music

during intermission. Their music added to the friendly ambiance while people enjoyed the table laden with an array of tempting food provided by Katrilli.

Unwanted door prizes were once again awarded. Congratulations to all those who won and now have the dilemma of not knowing what to do with them. Pat Pi won the only wanted door prize—a special bottle of vintage St. Urho wine. I suspect that she will know what to do with her prize.



Pat Pi with St. Urho's vintage wine

So we all can rest for another year. The new saintly couple will assuredly take their duties seriously and keep the Finnish vineyards safe from marauding hordes of pesky grasshopper!

—JoAnne Hardt Rudo

(Continued from page 1)

interviewers will play a crucial role in the project's success.

The Nordic American Voices project will thrive with the assistance of many volunteers. A training session for those who wish to commit to the project as volunteer interviewers is planned for Saturday, 2 May, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Individuals interested in participating in this exciting project can contact Janet Rauscher at janetr@nordicmuseum.org or 206-789-5707, ext. 35.

The Nordic American Voices Steering Committee also seeks the community's assistance in identifying interview participants. Please consider nominating individuals by completing the brief questionnaire available online at www.nordicmuseum.org or at the Museum.

—Sarah Lansberry

*Marketing and Special Events Assistant
sarahl@nordicmuseum.org or (206) 789-5707 x 32*

Future events

- 6/5 (Seattle) Nordic Night at Safeco Field.** Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners, 7:10 p.m. Reserved view seats, \$11 (normally, \$20). Tickets at www.mariners.com/nordic. Deadline for ordering: 3 June at 5 p.m.
- 6/7 (Bellingham) Scandinavian Dance,** 2–5 p.m., Norway Hall, 1419 N Forest St, Bellingham. Live music by Takk for Dansen & North Star Fiddlers. Fun & easy dances will be included. Info: tayolson@earthlink.net or (360) 734-2516.
- 6/7 (Seattle) 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.
- 6/26–28 (Corbett, OR) 2009 Danish Cultural Conference.** Info: www.northwestdanishfoundation.org/about-our-foundation/programs/danish-cultural-conference/dcc or Erik D. Laursen at EDL6@ix.netcom.com or (206) 816.4579.
- 7/15–19 (Spain) 23rd World Congress on Dance Research** and 18th General Assembly of the CID, Malaga, Spain. Info: Tel. (30) 210 324 4395 & 210 324 6188; www.cid-unesco.org; president@cid-unesco.org
- 7/16–19 (Wisconsin) Annual Workshop of the The Hardanger Fiddle Association of America,** Folklore Village, Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Teachers: Hardanger fiddle—Hauk Buen, Kenneth de Gala, Andrea Een, Rachel Nesvig; dance—Olav Sem; Seljefløte—Toby Weinberg. Info: www.hfaa.org/workshops/2009/index.html.

May 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 (CVG, Lynnwood) Skandia 1st Friday dance; 7:30 (class); dance, 8:30–11 p.m.	2 (Bainbridge Is- land) Dance, 7–10 p.m.
3 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m. (Bellingham) Scandinavian dance, 2–5 p.m.	4 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	5	6 (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	7	8	9
10 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	11 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	12	13 (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	14	15 (CVG, Lynnwood) Skandia 3rd Friday dance; 7:30 (class); dance, 8:30–11 p.m.	16
17 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	18 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	19	20 (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	21	22	23
24 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	25 (Poulsbo) Dance, Sons of Norway, 7 p.m. (Burlington) Nordic Dancers, 7–9 p.m.	26	27 (Bellingham) Dance, 6:45–9:15 (Burnaby) Dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	28	29 (Epiphany Chapel, Seattle) Skandia 5th Friday dance, 8–11 p.m. (Seattle) Zwie- facher Dance, 7:30 p.m.	30
31 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.						

May 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@olympen.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.

- 5/3 (Bellingham) Scandinavian Dance**, 2–5 p.m., Norway Hall, 1419 N Forest St, Bellingham. Live music by Takk for Dansen & North Star Fiddlers. Fun & easy dances will be included. Info: tayolson@earthlink.net or (360) 734-2516.
- 5/3 (Seattle) 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.
- 5/9 (Portland) Bondpolska Fr. Viksta & Mellparing Workshop**. 1–5 p.m. Registration at 12:45 p.m. Teachers Judy Patterson and Jerry Walsh, accompanied by fiddler Bart Brashers (all from Seattle), will teach Swedish dances. Bart Brashers will play for the workshop. Early registration is encouraged. Dance, 8–11 p.m., with music by Bart Brashers & Mädd Fiddle. Workshop & dance, \$30. Workshop only, \$25. Dance only, \$10. Friendship Masonic Center, 5626 N.E. Alameda St. (near 57th & N.E. Sandy Blvd.), Portland, OR. Info: (503) 230-0999 or allen_paulson@yahoo.com. Make checks to Allen Paulson, 4855 SE Lincoln St., Portland OR 97215.
- 5/2–25 (Seattle) NW Folklife Festival**, Seattle Center. Info: www.nwfolklife.org.
- 5/29 (Seattle) Zwiefacher Dance**. About two-thirds of the dances will be old-time dances like waltz and polka. Live music for the evening provided by Chris Barnes and Kris Johansson. They strike up the band at 8 p.m. Patrick McMonagle teaches a dance lesson at 7:30. Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter North. \$8; discount for Swedish Club members. Info: pat@folk dancing.com.

Directions to Epiphany Chapel

From Highway 520, take the Montlake exit, cross 24th Street to Lake Washington Blvd, and drive through the Arboretum. Cross Madison at the light and continue to 32nd Ave (marked by a yellow fire light). Turn right on 32nd; go down the hill past Martin Luther King, Jr. School, and up the other side. At the "Do Not Enter" sign, take a sharp left turn uphill onto East Denny Way. At the top of the hill (34th Ave), bear left. The church is on the right side of Denny between 37th and 38th Avenues; the address is 1805 38th Ave. The dance hall is on the second floor. Take the walkway past the church parking lot, and go to the second building on your left.

Skandia Newsletter

Published by Skandia Folkdance Society

P.O. Box 17123

Seattle, WA 98127-0823

(206) 784-7470

www.skandia-folkdance.org

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Skandia Folkdance Society Board of Trustees: President, Jim Peterson; Vice President, Brita Butler-Wall; Treasurer, Karen Michaelsen; Secretary, Pat Pi; trustees Judy Patteson, 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 **June** issue must arrive by **10 May**. 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

- Skandia will not accept paid advertisements for the newsletter.
- 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.
- 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.
- Any exceptions to these policies have to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Newsletter publication
SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY
Post Office Box 17123
Seattle, WA 98127-0823

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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.