

**TAKE  
ONE!**

*Published in the interest of  
North Americans of Scandinavian descent*

# Scandinavian Heritage News

March 2016



▲ During the Easter long weekend the Sami in Kautokeino, Northern Norway, hold their annual Sami Easter Festival. The festival is a showcase of Sami life and includes the Sami Music Festival, the World Reindeer Racing championships and the Sami Film Festival.

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## President's Message

What happened to the North Dakota winters?? It has been an amazing winter season—more like spring. And now that the calendar spring is soon upon us, be sure to mark your calendars for the SHA Annual Banquet and Silent Auction on April 2, 2016, at the Grand Hotel. There is more information on the banquet ad in this newsletter. George Officer and Curt Medalen have already gathered many great items for the silent auction. The Grand Hotel always does an excellent job of taking care of our banquet needs. Liz Gjellstad and Doris Slaaten are once again the co-chairs for this event. Others assisting are Adelaide Johnson and Lois Matson.

We did celebrate two birthdays this winter—John Sinn turned 95 on January 20 and George Officer was 96 on February 5. These two “youngsters” just keep on going—what an inspiration they are. Both have volunteered countless years for this park as well as other civic events.

The busy season will soon be here—we already have 10 weddings booked for the Gol Stave Church and 6 outdoor



weddings are booked. Several have already made reservations for picnics, reunions, etc. Six guided tours are already booked and at Hostfest time, there will be more tours booked. Many schools

also bring children here for tours

Volunteers will be needed again for the summer season of May 17 through October 1, 2016. If you have already volunteered in the past, you will more than likely be called again. We do need people to volunteer for the evenings as well as there are so many people here in the evenings. Please call our office at 852-9161 to volunteer. Many thanks to those of you who have faithfully volunteered throughout the years.

Also remember the sponsors of this newsletter and thank them for their participation in this way. Without them, we could not have this newsletter.

Happy spring and summer!!

— **Gail Peterson, SHA President**

# Spring 2016 Calendar

- **March 16: St. Urho's Day**
- **March 19: Sons of Norway bazaar**, 9 am to 2 pm, Thor's Lodge
- **March 21: Potet Klubb Dinner**, \$12, 6:30 pm, First Lutheran Parish Hall
- **April 2: SHA Banquet**, \$30, 5:30 pm, Grand Hotel
- **April 16, Swedish Society meeting**, 2 pm
- **May 17, Norsk Høstfest** tickets go on sale, 8 a.m.
- **May 17: Syttende Mai**
- **June 6, Swedish Flag Day**



**Catch us on Facebook!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ScandHeritPark/>

## Scandinavian Heritage News

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1020 S. Broadway • PO Box 862  
Minot ND 58702  
(701) 852-9161

Newsletter Committee  
Loris Matson, Chair; Al Larson

Please submit articles to [scandha@srt.com](mailto:scandha@srt.com)

## Scandinavian Heritage Association

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[scandinavianheritage.org](http://scandinavianheritage.org)

### 2016 OFFICERS

Gail Peterson	<i>President</i>
Curt Medalen	<i>President</i>
Marion Anderson	<i>Secretary</i>
Sue Weston	<i>Treasurer</i>

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Gail Peterson	Sue Weston
Adelaide Johnson	

*Three-year terms ending January 2018*

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*Three-year terms ending January 2017*

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## SHA Newsletter Report

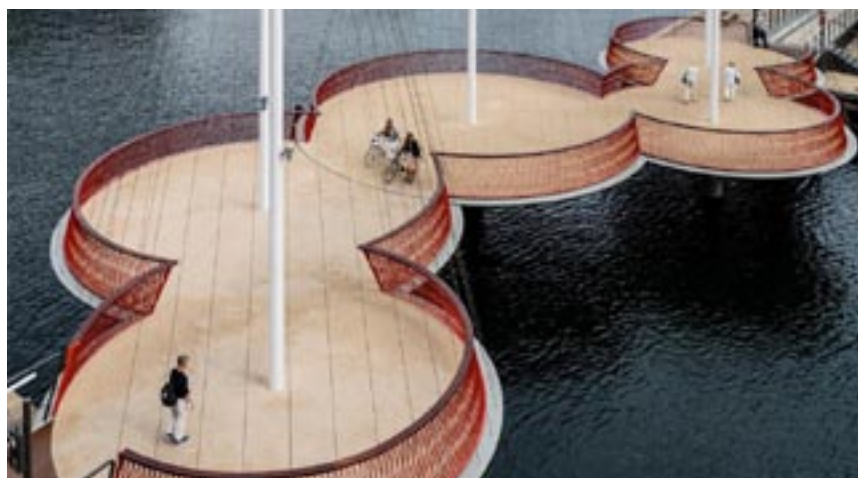
The Scandinavian Heritage Association newsletter was published in March, June, September, and December. Al Larson is the publisher. Our editor, JoAnn Winistorfer passed away in early 2015. We miss her very much but are thankful for the many years she gave us as the editor.

The newsletter always includes a message from our SHA President Gail Peterson, our Office Manager Marion Anderson, Calendar of Events, articles from our Danish, Finnish, Swedish and Sons of Norway societies. Pictures and articles of events in the park are included. A membership application is included as we always welcome new members. It is a colorful, interesting, and informative newsletter with many articles of interest.

The newsletter is mailed to SHA members, donors and advertisers. About 750 copies are run off so there are extra copies for the office and advertisers. The December 31, 2015, Financial Report recorded expenses of \$7,184.75 for publishing the newsletter and advertising income of \$7,150.00.

We encourage our members to support our sponsors and to thank them for their support.

— **Lois Matson,**  
**Newsletter Committee**



## Copenhagen's "Circle Bridge" a hit

The bridge that has no corners opened fall 2015 and is already a hit among Copenhagengers as well as visitors. With some 5,000 daily users, Olafur Eliasson's Circle Bridge brings new life to Copenhagen's popular waterfront. A donation from the Nordea Foundation, the 40-metre bridge consists of five circles of varying sizes which span a gap in Copenhagen's harbor front.

According to Eliasson, who was born in Copenhagen but spent much of his childhood in Iceland,

the bridge's circles and masts were designed to awaken memories of Copenhagen's maritime past.

Most bridges connect Point A to B in the shortest amount of space and time. But according to Eliasson, he deliberately created a zig-zag route on the Circle Bridge that forces pedestrians and cyclists to slow down, hesitate and engage in what he calls "bodily thought" – which is basically artist talk for taking a breather.

# 2016 Scandinavian Heritage

## Association Banquet

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

The Grand Hotel • Minot, ND

\$30 / person

**RSVP BY MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016**

Call (701) 852-9161 to request reserved seating for a table of 8

### Banquet Schedule

- 5:30 pm - Social hour & Silent Auction
- 6:30 pm - Dinner (Vegetarian dinner upon request)
- Entertainment
- Guest speaker

### BANQUET ORDER FORM

I would like to attend the 2016 SHA Banquet / Silent Auction. I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$30 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s). Please mail my tickets to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail order form to: Scandinavian Heritage Assn., PO Box 862, Minot ND 58702 or stop by SHA Office



**T**he Høstfest-Heritage Foundation recognizes how important it is for each of us to help the next generation appreciate our heritage. We also understand that transferring the values necessary for the vision and building of the Scandinavian Heritage Park is as important as transferring our lifetime accumulation of assets to the next generation. This is the lead in to a series of articles that will help you explore the question “What is the legacy you wish to leave?” And the follow-up question “How can I make my legacy a reality?”

Legacy is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “*something (for example memories or knowledge) transmitted by or received from a predecessor or from the past.*” For the members and friends of the Scandinavian Heritage Association “legacy” is probably best defined as a question “how is my belief, work in building and appreciation of the Park going to be continued for the next generation - for my grandchildren and their children?”

In 2015, the Scandinavian Heritage Association wisely invested more than \$34,000 to stain the Gol Stave Church. This action will protect and preserve the Church for a minimum of 5 to 8 years. That is a significant time during which thousands of visitors will have the opportunity to visit an iconic piece of Scandinavian history and heritage. But what they will really experience is the personal dedication and commitment it took to not only visualize the Park as significant to the preservation of

heritage but the necessity and strength to act on that vision.

#### **WHAT YOU LEAVE BEHIND**

So, back to our question “What is the legacy you wish to leave?” For members of the Scandinavian Heritage Association you may wish to consider:

Should my time and energy given to the success of the Park end when I am no longer able to volunteer and attend meetings?

How will my commitment to the creation and mission of the Park remain important to my family – my grandchildren, their children and their children’s children?

If I don’t act to preserve my legacy, why should I expect others to do so?

For our visitors, we ask that you simply consider the impact the Scandinavian Heritage Park had on you. And how a part of your legacy may be that others have the same opportunity to appreciate not only the Park’s buildings and statues but also the essence of a people and their heritage!

Once you take a few moments to reflect, ask yourself “if my heritage and legacy is important, how can I ensure its future?” Here are some considerations:

■ Join the Scandinavian Heritage Association at a membership level impactful of your belief in our mission. If already a member consider increasing your membership level.

■ Make an outright charitable gift to the Høstfest-Heritage Foundation designated for one of the Scandinavian Heritage Association or Norsk Høstfest restricted funds. To learn more visit

[www.hostfestheritage.org](http://www.hostfestheritage.org).

■ Consider a planned charitable gift to the Høstfest-Heritage Foundation designated for the Scandinavian Heritage Association General Endowment or the John and Olive Sinn Park Maintenance Endowment both permanent endowments of the Høstfest-Heritage Foundation. To learn more about planned gifts visit [www.hhflegacy.org](http://www.hhflegacy.org).

If you are looking for a way to leave a lasting legacy, it is easier than you might think. The permanent funds are in place which will permit us to continue the mission of the Scandinavian Heritage Association and our wonderful Scandinavian Heritage Park. Through our Planned Giving Resource Center, Høstfest-Heritage Foundation can assist you in addressing your legacy planning goals and the role planned charitable gifts can play in realizing your legacy. Everyone has the capacity to make an impactful gift. A gift important to our mission. But more important to the fulfillment of YOUR LEGACY!

The Høstfest-Heritage Foundation would like to acknowledge George and Jeanice Officer for their generous 2015 year-end gift to the HHF – Scandinavian Heritage Association General Fund in memory Chet and Joy Reiten, Jim and Florence Johnson, Ed and Leona Larson and in honor of Lawrence Thompson and Jim Maragos.

## SHA Memorial Gifts

### UNDESIGNATED GIFT

Gate City Bank

### JOHN & OLIVE SINN ENDOWMENT FOR PARK MAINTENANCE MEMORIAL

■ Honor of John Sinn, *Given by Dakota Finnish Society*

### JOHN & OLIVE SINN ENDOWMENT FOR PARK MAINTENANCE MEMORIAL

■ Richard Johnson, *Given by Carroll & Noreen Erickson*

■ Carroll Larson, *Given by Carroll & Noreen Erickson*

■ Diana Schempp, *Given by Carroll & Noreen Erickson*

### HERITAGE HOUSE MEMORIALS

■ JoAnn Winistorfer, *Given by Jeanne McNea*

■ Willis Smith, *Given by John Sinn*

■ Alfred (Fred) Anderson, *Given by John Sinn*

■ Alfred (Fred) Anderson, *Given by Sue & Scott Weston*

### HERITAGE HOUSE HONORARIUMS

■ George Officer's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, *Given by Jeanice Officer*

■ Jeanice Officer, *Given by Marian Bergan*

## Use a will to create your legacy

The Høstfest-Heritage Foundation endowments for the Scandinavian Heritage Association and our Park represent great opportunities for your legacy to continue. As easy way to ensure your legacy is through your will. A charitable bequest, a gift made through your will can benefit you and those causes most important to you, like your church and the Park. Here are some of the benefits:

■ A bequest is flexible – A gift today through a provision in your will can be changed anytime in the future.

■ A bequest can be large or small — A gift in your will doesn't impact your lifestyle today and may not adversely affect your family tomorrow.

■ A bequest allows you to benefit from your assets (home, stocks, IRA, etc.) during your lifetime — the gift is made when you pass away.

■ A bequest provision is afford-

able.

■ A bequest may result in estate tax savings —preserving more of your estate for family.

■ The probate process is made easier and less expensive because your intentions are clear, administrative burdens and possible disagreements among family and friends can be avoided.

■ Bottom line, you write your legacy and story as you wish to be remembered.

HFF is willing to discuss your goals and if appropriate how a planned charitable gift, like a charitable bequest may help you realize your goals.

HFF's Planned Giving Resource Center is a great place to get started. You can learn more by visiting [hfflegacy.org](http://hfflegacy.org), email [rhougehff@srt.com](mailto:rhougehff@srt.com), or call Ritchie Houge (701) 852-1027 or (218) 766-5796.

## Join the Scandinavian Heritage Association today!

Join us in preserving the values and traditions of our proud heritage. Established 1988, the park is the only one in the world representing all five Scandinavian countries and hosts thousands of visitors each year from around the world.

As a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Association, you help support:

- Interpretive Tours of the Park
- The Heritage House Museum
- Local School Field Trips
- "Midsommer Natt" Celebration
- The on-going preservation and promotion of the Scandinavian traditions, positive

values and ethics

- And much more!

Memberships start at \$35 and includes many benefits. Please call (701) 852-9161 or stop by our office to become a member!

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#### SUSTAINING

\$35.00 per year will receive the SHA Membership Package, which includes:

- Membership Card good for 10% off Scandinavian Gift Shop items
- Membership Pin (initial membership)
- The Scandinavian Heritage News, official newsletter of Scandinavian Heritage Association

- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events

- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window sticker

#### SPONSOR

\$100.00-\$499.00 per year will receive the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in the Newsletter (1 issue)
- One Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

#### BENEFACTOR

\$500 and above per year will receive the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in the Newsletter (1 issue)
- Two Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet



## SHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Sustaining Member    Sponsor Member    Benefactor Member

**PAYMENT**    Check    MC    Visa    Discover    Am. Exp.

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to SHA, PO Box 862, Minot ND 58702

# Appreciating Swedish Heritage

By Lucille Loftesnes

The history of our Swedish ancestors growing grains and providing for their families' clothing needs from flax they raised, has become very interesting to me. I hope for the same from the readers of this article. My interest with this particular skill, and I must call it an art, also, has been generated by my farm life in America, being a seamstress, and having Swedish immigrant grandparents. The farm I have lived on and earned a livelihood from, raised flax. Most recently, it was grown organically and marketed to customers who used it for health reasons. Using linen fabric over the years and hearing Margit's story, has often made me more appreciative of its origin.

Years ago, I became acquainted with Margit who came to America from Sweden in the early 1900s, as a young woman. This is her story of her family growing and using the flax in Sweden.

The crop was planted by the women who broadcasted the seed which had been saved from the previous year's crop. When it was harvest time for the flax, the tasks were to remove the



fiber from the straw, spin it into linen thread, weave the thread into cloth, dye the cloth and for Margit's family, make dresses for a family of eight girls. This was done along with the many menial tasks of maintaining a household.

To have a crop of flax with a designated area to be used for clothing, was necessary come harvest time. In a corner of the flax field, the women would find enough unharvested grain to give them straw for making linen thread. The hackling (beating the fiber from inside the straw stem) was a process which required a strong board with a large nail in one end. The straw had to be moist for this to happen. Scutching (separating the chaff from the linen fiber) came next. Several strands of this fiber were

wrapped together and taken to the spinning wheel. There the weaver, generally a woman, would gently handle these strands as they became a thread wound on a spool for weaving into linen fabric. This fiber is very strong and made wonderfully beautiful linen thread.

Imagine the task of making enough fine cloth to supply a linen dress for each daughter in a family of eight girls! Then include what was needed for the table cloths and towels that were also made this way.

Margit and her sisters had one dress a year, given to each at Christmas. The tradition, as she told me, was for the girls to be blindfolded and when they opened their eyes to the dress which had been placed in each one's open arms, they saw for the first time what each one had for her very special garment.

For "old time's sake", let's continue to appreciate what ancestors from Sweden have given us as stories of their traditions, and an appreciation for the energy it took them to be the strong people they are.

## Across Oceans, Across Time ...

By Emil Andy Dwehus

Grandson, Dannebrog, NE

Before hospitals and maternity wards were widespread, children were born at home, brought into the world by midwives. Often these were neighborhood "grannies" experienced with the process of childbirth, but sometimes the person on the receiving end was a professionally trained birth attendant, or jordemoder. In Denmark these women — often referred to as "madam" — were allowed to hang out a shingle to advertise their craft like other skilled tradespeople and were respected members of the communities in which they lived.

One of several Danish jordemoder known to have immigrated to America in the 19th century was Maren Kirstine

Nielsen Andersen, a native of Thisted County, who received a diploma from the Department of Midwifery at the University of Copenhagen on June 30, 1879. After practicing in Denmark for 3 years, Maren Kirstine immigrated to Omaha, NE, where she worked for two years before being invited to settle in the heavy Danish community of Nysted, Nebraska. Arriving there in July 1884, over the course of the following 38 years she delivered 1040 babies in Nysted and surrounding communities before her retirement in October 1922. When called out on a confinement case Maren would either drive out by horse and buggy or by bobsled (usually a lumber wagon converted with runners) when winter snows were too deep, to deliver the baby, cook the

meals and care for mother and child until a hired girl or other help could be found. For over two decades her standard fee for these services was \$5; a fee raised to \$8-10 only in 1908. In 1917, her records recorded her largest fee ever — \$30 — for delivering her own grandchild.

After several years in Nysted, Maren sent for her two children by a previous marriage in Denmark, Oline K and Niels C. Olesen, who resided with her for several years. Oline married and produced six children, all delivered by her mother. In Nysted, Maren also found a second spouse, local farmer Jens Andersen. They lived together until Jen's death in 1920. Maren died in 1929; both are buried in the Nysted Cemetery in Howard County, Nebraska.



■ The world's largest population of arctic reindeer herders can be found in Norway!

■ The most popular souvenir in Sweden is the commonly seen "moose-crossing" warning sign along roads in Sweden. Swedes replace thousands of these traffic signs each year.

■ Norway is just a little bit larger than the US state New Mexico and two thirds of Norway are mountain regions.

■ While Finland is called "The Land of the 1,000 lakes", the country has more than 188,000 lakes with 98,000 islands!

■ In Finland, pregnant women get a starter kit to help them out with initial baby cost.

■ Now known world-wide, the inventors of LEGO® toys got started in Billund, Denmark in 1932 manufacturing not LEGO® blocks but stepladders! Billund is now the home of Legoland Theme Park.

■ During Easter in Sweden, which is a well-known holiday here, children dress up and go from home to home asking for candy, similar to Halloween!

■ Sweden is known for innovation and inventions. It is the country that first offered the perfected zipper, the marine propeller, the fridge, the heart pace maker and even created your computer mouse. Not to forget the much-loved discount furniture retailer IKEA and fashion from H&M.

■ Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, has

sidewalks that are heated by geothermal heat in the winter. Maybe this takes care of snow-shoveling...

■ In Denmark, a flag is flown outside when it's someone's birthday. If you're not married when you turn 30, you will get a pepper shaker as a gift and men are called a Pepperman (in Danish: "pebersvend") while females will be a Peppermaid ("pebermø").

■ In Norway's dark winter during the Polar Nights, the sun is up for only 3 hours a day in some parts (and in others, doesn't come up at all), a phenomena which is said to affect and slow pregnancies of Norwegian women. On the other hand, the NRK reports that there are more births in Norway in April than in any other month - apart from the town of Bodø, where the majority of births are in October and November!

■ In Finland, your traffic ticket depends on how much you earn in a year. The richer you are, the more you pay for speeding.

■ Denmark's birthrate hit a 27 year low, so it recently reacted with a "Do It For Denmark" campaign that encouraged citizens to "save Denmark with a romantic city holiday". Basically, if the Denmark couple could prove they conceived while on vacation, their next 3 years of baby supplies are covered by Denmark. Don't believe us? Check it out for yourself at [doitfordenmark.com](http://doitfordenmark.com).

## The new King of the Nordics

Justin Cremer

*The Local*

Copenhagen and Stockholm have long had a friendly rivalry over which city can rightfully lay claim to the title of the "Capital of Scandinavia," but a new report from the Nordic Center for Spatial Development (Nordregio) says they are both wrong. The true capital is Oslo.

For the first time ever, Nordregio's report included a Regional Potential Index that compared the performance of 74 administrative regions in the Nordic countries. Taking into consideration the regions' key economic, demographic, and employment indicators, the report concluded that the Oslo region was the top performer. Following Oslo were the Greater Copenhagen Region (Hovedstaden) and Stockholm.

The Nordregio report found that all regions in Denmark, Norway, and Iceland have increased in population, while the populations of Sweden and Finland increased in urban areas and further decreased in the countries' less populated areas.



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## Arne & Carlos to teach classes in Minot

Internationally-known artists Arne Nerjordet and Carlos Zachrisson will be gracing Minot with their talent. The Scandinavians will be teaching knitting and needle work classes each morning at Høstfest University, held Sept. 28-Oct.

Arne and Zachrisson are highly regarded designers, textile artists and authors. They are best known for their craft books and their original, colourful and visually striking designs. Their work is highly influenced by their Scandinavian background and their everyday life in rural Norway. They work under their artist name ARNE & CARLOS, which they established in 2002.

In 2010, ARNE & CARLOS' first craft book, *Julekuler* (55 Christmas Balls to Knit) became an immediate Norwegian best-seller and consequently went on to become a best selling book in North America, Europe and Asia. Today, ARNE & CARLOS have published 7 books, which are enjoyed by people from all over the world. Their books are available in Norwegian as well as English, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.



ARNE & CARLOS' work is on permanent display in two museums in Oslo, Norway: The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design and the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History. They have also been on display at The Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark and The Gwangju Museum of Modern Art in South Korea. In 2012, to mark ARNE & CARLOS' 10th anniversary, The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design curated and produced a solo exhibition of the duos' work. The exhibition was later shown in museums and art galleries all across Norway for 3 consecutive years.

The two Scandinavian designers have collaborated with many prestigious international brands, including high-end Japanese fashion label Comme des Garçons. Today they design for and work closely with Rowan, Shachenmayr and Regia yarns.

ARNE & CARLOS' creative base is located 170 kilometres north of Oslo, Norway in the mountainous region known as Valdres. Between the lake and the mountains, visitors will find a disused railway station that has been converted into their own eclectic design studio and home. In this idyllic location Arne Nerjordet and Carlos Zachrisson absorb the rich traditions of Scandinavian arts and crafts while adding their own personal inspirations.

ARNE & CARLOS will be teaching four different classes at Norsk Høstfest will run from 9 am to 12 pm, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. Full class listings can be found at [hostfest.com/ku](http://hostfest.com/ku). Class sizes are limited and pre-registration is required. Cost to enroll in the 3-hour class is \$75. Registration begins May 17, 2016 by calling Norsk Høstfest at (701) 852-2368 or online at [hostfest.com/ku](http://hostfest.com/ku).

## Smiley face? Finland gets creative emojis

Finland has rolled out images of a couple in a sauna, an old Nokia phone and a heavy



metal music fan as part of a set of national emojis, or symbols, to be used in digital communication.

Billing the use of national symbols for themed emojis as a world first, the government plans to publish the full set of 30 in December – for anyone in the world to download – on its promotional website.

"The Finland emojis were designed with a tongue in cheek approach, but I hope that they will tell the world not only about our special features but also something about our strengths," said Petra Theman, director for public diplomacy at the foreign ministry.

One of the first emojis to be released is called the headbanger, which pays tribute to the Finnish love of heavy metal. The text beside it reads: "It is dark in Finland and so is the music. There's a small headbanger living inside of each Finn."

Another emoji, of a man and a woman in a sauna, has the explanatory text: "The Sauna. Doesn't need introducing. Sauna is as Finnish as it gets. Naked."

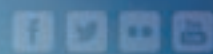
Emojis, originally used by Japanese mobile operators, have become increasingly popular after inclusions on Apple and Google smartphones.

Nokia, also represented by one of the first emojis, was once the global handset market leader. But it failed to compete in the smartphone market, eventually selling its phone business to Microsoft last year.

— The Guardian







# Norsk Høstfest

PURE SCANDIMONIUM!



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SARA EVANS



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TOMMY JAMES & THE SHONDELLS



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Norsk Høstfest is fjordified with fun and Nordic culture. Don't miss all the shows, cuisine, handcrafts, shopping and surprises!



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# A Nation on a First Name Basis



By Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir  
*icenews.is*

It is worth mentioning that if you look up a name in the phone book in Iceland you look by first name. The whole culture is on a first name basis. Students call teachers by first names, subordinates call bosses by first name and so on and so forth, everything is by first name. It is a name system that makes it harder for good ol' European hierarchy to flourish in the country. In fact, by tradition there are no proper last names in Iceland. There are only first names, and then the person simply is the son or daughter of their father and more recently also their mother. This is the patronymic naming system and the growing matronymic naming system of Iceland. A last name refers to immediate father or mother rather than family history although that does also exist, but almost marginally. A growing trend is to give a child a last name referring to both parents, for example the current mayor of Reykjavík is named Dagur Bergþóruson Eggertsson (Dagur son of Bergþóra son of Eggert) Dagur means Day by the way. That's another thing worth mentioning, first names almost always have an existing meaning in the language.

## THE EXAMPLE OF JÓN

Lets take an example of a humble Jón, his father's name is Ari and his mother's name is Anna. When Jón was born he had no name, he was simply registered by default Drengur (boy) Ara-

son. After his birth his parents had time to decide on a name and register it. His last name could become either Arason (son of Ari) or Önnuson (son of Anna), but by default it goes to the father unless otherwise registered. Lets say they were a fairly alternative family and they decided refer to his mother when naming him so he becomes Jón Önnuson. Icelandic first names follow the grammatical rules of nouns; they change by gender and case system hence turning the daughter of Anna into Önnudóttir. Anna, his mother, however is also someone's daughter, so she will have her father's first name in her last name, lets say his name is Geir, so her full name is Anna Geirsdóttir, Anna the daughter of Geir (this become relevant later).

When Jón is blessed with a child later in his life, he stays true to his alternative family and decides for a very unusual name for his child. Then he must submit the name to Mannanafnanefnd, the Name Committee, they must review it, and until they validate it, the child is simply registered as Boy or Girl Jónsson or -daughter: Stúlka (girl) Jónssdóttir or Drengur (boy) Jónsson. Lets say Jón has a daughter, Stúlka Jónsdóttir and the name committee does not approve

the unusual name her father applied for. The verdict might come after years of debate with the committee, even the name in the girl's passport is written Stúlka Jónsdóttir. Jón finally surrenders, he is no longer venturous in his name giving and decides to name is daughter after his beloved mother, another common practice in Iceland. Her name then becomes Anna Jónsdóttir and she must reapply for a passport.

## ANNA THE DAUGHTER OF JÓN, THE SON OF ANNA, THE DAUGHTER OF GEIR ETC.

When Anna Jónsdóttir turns 80 years old, hopefully after a fruitful and inspired life, she has a big anniversary and they might write about her in the birthday column in the newspapers. Older generation Icelanders read this column, it tells us about her life, to whom she married, who are her children etc. And we can read her name generations back. Anna Jónsdóttir, Önnuson, Geirsdóttir, and so on and so forth first name by first name – To complicated? Ok lets just stop at two generations.

*This article originally appeared in the January 29, 2016 issue of IceNews, News from the Nordics.*

# A Nod to a Great Pair of Park Volunteers

By John E. Sinn  
*Park Volunteer*

Many times we fail to acknowledge certain people who unselfishly donate so much time to our projects in the Scandinavian Heritage Association Park. I feel it is very imperative to do so. We must extend a big and hearty "thank you" to a great pair of volunteers, Carroll and Noreen Erickson.

Carroll, who was a former Minot Chief of Police, former Minot Mayor and also a Ward County Commissioner, found time over many years to

come and work on projects in the park which was often serious manual labor.

Additionally, Carroll took care of recruiting advertisers for our quarterly newsletter. His wife, Noreen, came often as well to work on several park projects — including painting and gradening. Noreen even furnished her homemade pastries on a daily basis for the coffee breaks of the volunteers working in the park — a treat which



was deeply appreciated and truly missed! The time and costs of producing the patries were entirely covered by her generosity.

In 2014, Carroll and Noreen relocated to their new, warm-climate address in Stuart, Florida. During the past summer (2015), they returned to Minot on vacation to visit family and friends. During this period, they again joined us the park to assist on work projects! Their willing

spirit and dedication to work on park projects, plus baking and furnishing pastries is indeed appreciated. I have to ask, how many people would do this? We were so fortunate to have their able help over the past many years!

We all miss you both, Carroll and Noreen. Our many thanks for all you both contributed to make our park beautiful - it is an asset to Minot. We wish you both the best in your new home!

## Concordia College cuts Scandinavian Program

By Molly Jones  
*Norwegian American Weekly*

Following a rich history of Norwegian education and heritage, Concordia College has decided to discontinue the Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies Program.

The administration of the Lutheran liberal arts college, located in Moorhead, Minn., announced the decision on January 29. The program changes affect several other departments as well, including Classical Studies, Classics, Latin, Latin Education, French, French Education, German, Health, and Humanities majors.

While the programs are now closed to new students, the announcement states that students already enrolled in these majors will be assisted in finishing their coursework, through courses by arrangement, independent studies, or substitution of requirements.



Minors will still be available in Classics, French, and German, but minors in Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies have also been cut.

Therefore, no Scandinavian Studies classes will be offered after the spring of 2017, when Dr. Milda Halvorson, the Director of the Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies Program, leaves the college.

Concordia states that the program cuts were made as part of a \$2.7 million target in cost savings and new revenue generation. The review was led by the Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs, along with division chairs, the Dean of the Offutt School of Business,

and key faculty members.

"These decisions align budgets and staffing with the majors for which there is the most evidence of demand from current and future students," the school wrote on their website.

According to the announcement, programs with decreasing rates of enrollment were reviewed, and student/faculty ratio and average class size were taken into consideration to determine which programs would be discontinued.

"It is sad a moment in the history of the college," said Dr. Halvorson, emphasizing Concordia's beginnings as an institution founded by Norwegian settlers and its century-long history of promoting Norwegian language education.

"I hope that it would be introduced back in the near future," she added.

*This article originally appeared in the Feb. 19, 2016, issue of the Norwegian American Weekly.*

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway News

By Julianne Bonner

President Thor Lodge 4-067, Sons of Norway

Greeting from Sons of Norway.

The current membership total for Thor Lodge is 498 at last count.

Our officers are Julianne Bonner, President; Mike Axness, Vice-President; Martha Elliott, Secretary; Joan Varty, Financial Secretary; Delane Disrud, Treasurer; Rachel Axness, Foundation Director; Ginny Lee and Leann Mellum, Cultural Directors; Kari Mahle, Dee Fuchs, Kecia Fagerland, Social Directors; Elaine Solheim, Sunshine; and Leann Mellum and Ritch Houge, Editors of Thor Hammer. We also have too many other people that are officers that help make our lodge a success to list. We will elect new officers the end of 2016.

Martha Elliott is finishing up her last

term as "District IV" president. We have our District IV convention in June in Helena, MT. Our International Convention will be in August in Tacoma, WA. We will then have new officers for the district and international Sons of Norway.

In 2015 we had our Potet Klubb, Trollfjorden Norwegian Camp at Lake Metigoshe, our booth at the Høstfest, a picnic at Rice Lake at Martha and Craig Elliott's cabin where everyone had a good time visiting, eating, and playing bingo plus our Christmas on the Prairie. We also had our Memorial Service and spent time just getting together with programs and visiting at our socials. We also tried having our social on a Sunday afternoon to see if that would work with people. We have several that don't like to drive at night. We did that in October and November. We also had our Syt-

tende Mai banquet at the Holiday Inn in May and our Yule Fest at the Grand in December. Not often we can say we had snow in May but this time May 17, 2015 we did.

**Upcoming:** On March 21, 2016, we will have our Potet Klubb at the First Lutheran Parish Hall. We will start serving at 6:30. This is open to anyone who likes to eat Klubb not just Sons of Norway members. Cost: \$12.

Our business meeting is the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 and our social is usually the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30. Come see us if you'd like to join our lodge, talk to a member or simply vist [www.sofn.org](http://www.sofn.org) to sign up.



Find us on Facebook!

"Sons of Norway - Thor Lodge 4-067 - Minot, ND"

Souris Valley Danish Society News

By Dorothy Kruse

President Souris Valley Danish Society

What would happen without volunteers? Many of our members are actively involved as volunteers in the Scandinavian Heritage Park, various roles at Høstfest, individual churches, Salvation Army and serve on various organizations and committees. Our most active member in the SHA Park is John Sinn, who has contributed many hours using his knowledge and expertise in the upkeep of the Park. He does everything from cleaning, painting, installing, repairing, planting and snow removal. Thanks to all for the many hours of dedi-

cated service.

Our annual Christmas part at Homesteaders was very enjoyable with new member, Mara, singing the Danish table prayer and answering many questions.

Officers for the coming year are Dorothy Kruse, President; Janie Plummer, Vice-president; Lillian Vannett, Treasurer; and Pam Orth, Secretary.

Interesting facts about Denmark as reported in the June issue of the Scandinavian Heritage News:

- Denmark is reported to be the happiest country in the world.
- In Denmark, it rains or snows every second day. On Average, Denmark has 171 days with precipitation of more

than 0.004 inches. In 2009, Denmark had 184 days of precipitation.

■ Denmark has more than twice the amount of bicycles (4.2 million) than cars (1.8 million). Copenhageners pedal more than 1.13 million km on their bicycles each day.

■ Denmark actually has a place to surf called Cold Hawaii, and it is one of the best beaches in Scandinavia for surfing.

The Souris Valley Danish Society meets quarterly on the 2nd Monday at noon in the Edgewood Vista Fireside Bistro. The next meeting will be March 14.

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SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS

## Heritage House Artifacts Committee News

By Lois Matson

The Heritage House Artifacts Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 am. We do not meet in the winter and also if there is no pertinent activity or items to review.

We are looking for more members for this committee. We would like 2 members from each of the Scandinavian countries. We are also in need of a chairperson. Please consider helping on this committee. Contact the SHA office if you have any questions—852-9161.

We are getting more visitors in our Heritage House. The handicapped ramp and walkway along with the addition of the memorial or commemorative bricks next to the walkway have made it more accessible and part of the park tour. Stop and read the bricks that are

in place and if you wish to buy a brick, please contact the SHA office.

We are looking for more volunteers for the Heritage House. The house cannot be open if there isn't someone in the house. It is fun and interesting to talk to the visitors as you greet them and answer the questions they have. Many of the visitors are from out of state.

If you take an item it can be "gifted" or on "loan". The committee decides if we can find a place to display the item or if we just do not have use for the item. We do encourage new items so we can change or add to a display. This past year we received many Icelandic clothing items from the Brown family.

We receive many books. We do not

**WANTED:  
VOLUNTEERS**

The Heritage House is in need of volunteers due to increased traffic flow. If you wish to help, please call (701) 852-9161

have space or a library for books. We have given books to the Sons of Norway Book Club. If they do not have room for them they can sell books at their spring and fall sale. The Heritage House is very small so there is not room to display a lot of artifacts.

We have many old and interesting items in the Heritage House so if you haven't stopped in please make a tour of the House and think about joining our committee or volunteering for the summer months. The volunteer hours are 3 ½ hours each and we would like to be able to keep the buildings open in the evenings but thus far we do not have enough volunteers.

## Dakota Finnish Society News

Bruce Carlson was once again in charge of the bonfire for Midsummer Night on June 19, 2015. He also had the sauna hot for anyone who wanted to participate. The weather was rather rainy that evening which dampened some of the activities for the evening. Other society members participated in placing all of the flags that decorate the park and also removed them and stored them away for the next celebration.

Our participation in the Norsk Hostfest with our food booth was a successful event. We served mojakka (Finnish beef stew), breads, Lappi cheese, pulla (Finnish sweet bread) and bread pudding with rum sauce. The vegetables (except for the potatoes) were all prepared by Finnish Society members and friends.

We were able to use a food workplace at Marketplace in the evenings. The largest share of the vegetables were donated by Spartan Nash. Thanks to Marketplace and Spartan Nash for their cooperation and assistance—much appreciated. The potatoes were peeled and cut by Gail Peterson and her family. Many, many thanks to them!! Also, many thanks to all the volunteers that worked in the booth.

On December 12, 2015, we hosted the fifteenth annual "Pikkujoulu" (Little Christmas) celebration at the SHA Center. Approximately 75 people attended. All non-Finn and Finn volunteers who helped at the Hostfest were invited. Music that day was provided by Carl Kannianen and the DoReMi singers from Edison Elementary. Many door prizes were also given



▲ The DoReMi choir from Edison Elementary performs during Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas).

▶ Bruce Carlson (left) and Marion Anderson present John Sinn a donation to the John & Olive Sinn Endowment Fund at Scandinavian Heritage.



out compliments of Phyllis Gordon. Everyone went home with a door prize. The complimentary meal of pot roast and ham was catered by Homesteaders.

Donations from the Finnish Society in 2015 are as follows:

- \$50.00 Judy Maki (memorial for Ernest Maki)
- \$250.00 Oak Valley Lutheran Church, Velva (use of kitchen

for preparing meat)

- \$250.00 Wounded Warrior Project
- \$250.00 Salvation Army
- \$250.00 Great Plains Food Bank
- \$250.00 Scandinavian Heritage John & Olive Sinn Endowment Fund in honor of John Sinn
- \$ 65.00 Thor Lodge, Sons of Norway (use of supplies & equipment on 12/12/2015)
- \$100.00 DoReMi Singers Edison Elementary School

## Swedish Heritage Society of NWND News

By Bev Jensen

Secretary Swedish Heritage Society of NWND

The Society presently has a membership of 45. In addition, guests regularly attend our meetings to enjoy their Scandinavian heritage. There are four society meetings or adventures scheduled during the year. Members also participate in the Midsummer Celebration, Norsk Høstfest and Scandinavian Heritage Association's Annual Banquet. We have not forgotten the heritage shared at the Swedish Zion Lutheran Stone Church in Carbury, ND.

In January, we elected the 2016 officers: Gerri Larson, President; Mavis Larson, Vice President; Bev Jensen, Secretary; Lois Matson, Treasurer; Mavis Larson, Decorations; Eldora Eliason, Refreshments; and club members will participate in being Scandinavian Heritage News Reporters.

Minot Police Officer, Margie Zietz,

was our guest speaker for January. Her topic was "Safety Tips and Awareness." She has worked for 30 years in law enforcement and is looking forward to her upcoming retirement.

April: A program was presented by a representative of the 4herND program. This is a program started by Windie Lazenko to alert and educate our communities to the activity of sex trafficking. Shelter and assistance is available for the victims.

June: Sweden's Flag Day is observed in the SHA Park. Weather conditions in 2015 did not permit the display of flags as in past years. However, a potluck meal was enjoyed in the shelter that evening.

September: A business meeting consisted of reviewing the events we have participated in this year. Suggestions were shared for increasing membership. We were invited to attend a Swedish music concert at the Swedish Zion Lutheran Stone Church in Carbury, ND.

December: No meeting.

## History of Norsk Høstfest

Norsk Høstfest was founded in 1978 by the late Chester Reiten and a group of friends who shared his interest in celebrating their Nordic heritage. In 1984, The Scandinavian American Hall of Fame was established as a signature event at Høstfest to honor those of Scandinavian descent in North America who have achieved success.

While the festival has grown to become the largest Scandinavian festival in North America, there are other entities in Minot, ND, that has sprouted from the same interest of preserving heritage and celebrating Nordic culture.

Norsk Høstfest is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established to preserve, improve and share Scandinavian culture, heritage and educational programs. Program focus areas include Høstfest in the Schools, Scandinavian Youth Camp, the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame, Skien-Minot sister city relationship, and Norsk Høstfest.

To support Høstfest and its mission, please contact the Høstfest-Heritage Foundation at (701) 852-1027 or rhougehfh@sr.com.


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# New Products in the Gift Shop

## Upcoming Events in Minot

### March

- 03/01 North Dakota State Fair Concert  
Tickets go on Sale
- 03/04 Doubt by John Patrick Shanley  
(Mouse River Players)
- 03/05 Minot Association of Builders  
Home & Garden Show
- 03/06 Minot Flea Market
- 03/11- 3/13 KX Sports Show

### April

- 04/02 20th Annual Minot FFA Alumni  
Auction
- 04/22-04/24 iMagicon
- 04/22 11th Annual Swing Into Spring  
Concert & Dance
- 04/23 Minot Symphony Orchestra
- 04/30 Walk MS: Sanford Health Minot  
Walk

### May

- 05/07 Mother's Day Celebration and  
Craft Show
- 05/07 Minot Flea Market
- 05/08 Mothers Day Buffet

To view all events happening in Minot, visit our website at [www.VisitMinot.org/calendar](http://www.VisitMinot.org/calendar) for the most up to date information about events in the area.



The gift shop within the Scandinavian Heritage Building features North Dakota products, Scandinavian Heritage Association goods, and Norsk Høstfest merchandise. The gift shop has many local North Dakota products such as apparel and souvenirs. If you are looking for that special gift, you can find it within our retail shop. The gift shop recently added some new products!



### Silverware Jewelry

Visit Minot was excited to add a new line of jewelry to the gift shop during the month of February. Each piece is unique, the style and look is unforgettable and the jewelry weight is impressive. The line features necklaces, bracelets, earrings and a variety of distinctive novelties such as a keyring purse hook! These silver pieces are only available in the Visit Minot gift shop and are a beautiful gift for that special someone.



### Buffalo Creek Bodyworks

The Buffalo Creek Bodyworks products line is 100% natural and has been hand milked and hand crafted locally since 2012. Goat's milk scented lotion, and scented bar soaps feel luxurious on the skin. The Buffalo Creek Bodyworks chapstick has



been infused with essential oils left lips feeling moist and smooth.

# Scandinavian Heritage Association


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