

**FREE
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ONE!**

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

Scandinavian Heritage News

Winter 2018



Reindeer racing. There are an estimated 55,000 Sami in Norway, and 220,000 reindeer. For full article, see Page 8. Credit Nadia Shira Cohen for The New York Times

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President's Message

It is with a heavy heart that I write this newsletter, as one of our dear board members has passed away: Bob Whetter. However, the term board member does not come close to summing up Bob. He was a man who was extremely dedicated to the Scandinavian Heritage Park. So much so, that he often referred to the park as "his park." He would make regular trips up to the park even at 11:00 in the evening, he would say "I'm just making sure nothing is going on in my park!" Bob loved the park and no matter what time of day or night, you would be sure to find him working alongside his friend John Sinn. They were always busy working on projects in the park. His service to the park and organization has been appreciated and will be dearly missed, thank you Bob for all you have given. Our condolences to his wife, Linda and family.

The park had an influx of people visiting recently, as the Gol Stave Church was featured on the Taube Museum's parade of homes tour on Dec 1st. The church is typically closed for the season, however we were happy to be a part of this event and have the chance to show off our beautiful church and park to visitors. The event was made possible by my daughter, Stephany Saunders and her husband Cody. They are the owners of SLS Design Group, LLC and they sponsored the



event. As if our great church could be any more spectacular, they turned the interior of the church in to a magical Christmas scene decorated in Scandinavian style with natural wood ornaments and fresh, live trees and garland. The night was made even more magical by mother nature: all of the trees in the park were flocked in heavy white snow and ice and looked beautiful! Thank you to the Taube Museum for hosting this event and having us be a part of it, and also to Stephany and Cody Saunders for all of your hard work.

We have a couple of dedicated board members who have resigned: Lois Mattson and Judge Nels Olsson. Lois Mattson has been with us

PRESIDENT: Cont. On Page 6



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Winter 2018 Calendar

- December 25 — Christmas
- January 1 — New Years Day
- January — Høstfest announces more entertainers
- January 26 — 10 a.m, SHA Annual Meeting, Sons of Norway room
- March — Sons of Norway Klubb Dinner
- April — Sons of Norway Spring Bazaar



Photo by Amanda Punt

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

SPONSOR

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- One Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

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Christmas Traditions in Sweden

Holiday still is one of the most celebrated days of the year

By Ila Lovdahl

Swedish Heritage Society - NWND

Christmas in Sweden is the most important festivity of the year.

Sankta Lucia's Day on December 13 is the arrival of the Christmas Season. St. Lucy was a third-century martyr in Italy who brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs. To see in the dark, she wore a candle-lit crown on her head. The Swedes celebrate this day in homes, schools, and towns. The oldest girl in the family rises on December 13th to make saffron buns, dons a white dress with a red sash (symbols of the Christian white baptismal robe and the blood of her martyrdom), and delivers a tray of coffee and sweet buns to her parents in bed. Often a school or town will have a pageant to tell the story of Sankta Lucia's bravery. This tradition is also celebrated in our Swedish organizations and Swedish churches in the United States.

Many Swedes believe — mistakenly — that their legal right of access in the countryside allows them to fell a tree from anywhere in the woods with an axe, a buck-saw, or, as in western Värmland, with a shotgun. Blasting away at your Christmas tree actually sounds like good fun, but it might disturb the local wildlife. There is some belief that the consumption

of glögg (warm mulled wine) has something to do with it.

The Swedish Christmas tree is not brought into the home until one or two days before Christmas. Many straw ornaments and lights are placed on the tree along with the impish tomte (elves) and a patriotic string of the blue and yellow Swedish flags.



At three p.m. on Christmas Eve almost everyone in Sweden stops to watch an American television show, "From All of Us to All of You", which is a Disney show featuring Donald Duck. Once when yours truly had a Swedish teenage girl visiting at Christmas, she was lonesome for the tradition of watching the Donald Duck cartoon. We rented a video at a local rental shop in Minot and that helped her not to be lonesome for her home.

A table full of special



Christmas food is served before any presents are opened. This meal is called Christmas Julbord — (Christmas table) comparable to the term Smörgasbord in other Scandinavian countries. From late November until Christmas most Swedish restaurants serve the Julbord or buffet. You will find an endless array of delicacies including pickled herring, knäckebröd (rye crisp bread), risengrönsgröt (rice pudding with toasted almonds), gravlax (dill-cured salmon), ham, meatballs, and beetroot salad. A dessert like pepparkakor (ginger cookies)

may be served with glögg or strong black coffee.

Children must wait until dark and after they have eaten to open any presents on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day may be a time for church, friends, food, fun, and relaxation. Trees and decorations are not taken down until January 13th which is St. Knut's Day. This is the 20th day after Christmas.

GOD JUL—Good Yule— (Merry Christmas) OCH GOTT NYTT AR—and Got Nitt Or— (Happy New Year).

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT AR!

Dakota Finnish Society holds "Little Christmas"

The Dakota Finnish Society had the Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration on December 1, 2018, in the lower level of the Visitors Center. It wasn't as well attended as previous years but there were 50 people there who had braved the icy roads and the dense fog. A complimentary dinner was served to all attending. Attendees were from Rolla, Bismarck, Burlington, Surrey, Hansboro, Bottineau, Wing, Belcourt, Berthold, Stanley, Velva and Minot, North Dakota. Music was provided by John Halone and David Selenius of Bottineau and Belcourt. One college scholarship of \$500 was presented to Jordyn Richter of Minot. The other donations of \$500 each were presented to Salvation Army, Homeless Coalition, Metigoshe Ministries, Rolla Park District and Domestic Violence. Bruce Carlson had the sauna heated and some indulged in that treat also. Recognition was also made of the members that have passed on in the current year—they are Leila Peterson, Bruce Lorenz and Howard Carlson. Comments were also made that day by David Reiten, President of Norsk Høstfest.



▲ Joey Nesdahl, Metigoshe Ministries; Jordyn Richter, scholarship recipient; Captain Debbie Stahl, Salvation Army; Jill McDonald, Domestic Violence Crisis Center; Mac McLeod, Homeless Coalition; Art Tuomala, Rolla City Park

SHA Donations

We are grateful for all the donations received, and the memory for which they are honoring.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

■ Christine Huesers, given by Anna Marie Huesers, Cheryl & Reid Hegland
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and Linda Basler, Jacky Jo Smith, Benjamin Berg

■ Ronald "Skip" Krause given by Norsk Høstfest, Myron & Marion Anderson

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■ Given by Adelaide Johnson, Doris Slaaten

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■ Jerrel Storrud

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PRESIDENT: From Page 2

since the day we started. She has given countless hours of her time to our organization and we are all very grateful. Thank you Lois, you will be missed. Also, Judge Nels Olson resigned after many years of serving on our board. Our organization would not be what it is today without the selfless dedication of these wonderful people. Thank you both for all of your time and service, please come back and visit us often. Speaking of resignation, I will be resigning as president. I have been honored to have served as your president for these past 11 years. This organization is so dear to my heart, as it was to my late husband Dr. Myron Peterson as well. As I reflect on this past year, I am saddened by all whom we have lost, but I am also optimistic for all that is still to come. Our park is a treasure and continues to touch more peoples' lives daily. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!





A college scholarship of \$500 was presented to Jordyn Richter at the Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration on December 1, 2018. She is the daughter of Linda Richter, member of the Dakota Finnish Society. Jordyn is a graduate of Our Redeemer's Christian School and is currently a Junior at Minot State University. Her studies are in elementary education.



The Danes met for their monthly meeting. We had a potluck of Danish food for the Christmas meeting: aebleskiver (Danish round pancakes) with jelly, pickled herring, rice pudding with cinnamon, and apple cake. In attendance (and pictured left to right) were Dorothy Kruse, John Sinn, Mavis and Lauren Larson, Glenn and Kelly Klebe, Lillian Vannett, and Mara Hintz. Not pictured Tessa Nesheim.

Høstfest announces first two entertainment acts; goes on sale

Norsk Høstfest, which typically announces lineup in spring, has announced the first two of eight Great Hall of the Vikings shows for 2019 with tickets already on sale.

This year's Høstfest will feature ventriloquist and celebrity impressionist Terry Fator, and international Irish entertainer Daniel O'Donnell.

North America's largest Scandinavian festival begins Tuesday evening, Sept. 24, 2019, with the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame honoree banquet and RV Pre-Party. A new change for 2019 is opening hours. Festival doors will open at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday-Saturday, (Sept 25-28, 2019) with access to everything the festival offers: food, shopping and entertainment.

In addition to Great Hall of the Vikings concert lineup, Høstfest typically features more than 100 free-stage

daily concerts and shows throughout the festival. Free Stage entertainment will be announced on the hostfest.com website as entertainment is booked.

The purchase of any concert ticket includes complimentary general admission to the festival. Tickets can be ordered online at hostfest.com, by calling (701) 852-2368, or in person at 1020 S. Broadway, Minot ND 58701.

Terry Fator

1 pm, Saturday, September 28

Terry Fator is a singer, comedian, ventriloquist and celebrity impressionist who burst onto the national scene after winning "America's Got Talent" in 2007 (despite the fact Winston said he won it for Terry). A native of Texas, Terry spent over 20 years on the road performing at everything from schools to county fairs before becoming a Vegas headliner.

DANIEL O'DONNELL

7 pm, Wednesday, September 25

It's no surprise that Daniel O'Donnell is one of the best loved artists of our time, both at home and abroad.

He has had a remarkable career. He is the only artist in the world to score a hit in the UK album charts every year since 1988, an unprecedented and unbroken 30-year span and in doing so, he has outshone everyone from Michael Jackson and Madonna to U2 and the Rolling Stones. He accomplished this with his latest album 'Christmas With Daniel O'Donnell', released in November 2017.

In total, Daniel has now reached the UK Artist Albums Chart with more than 38 albums and has now amassed 32 Top 30 albums over the course of his career. Daniel has also achieved eight No. 1 hits in the UK music video/DVD charts over that period.

Where Reindeer Are a Way of Life

The indigenous Sami people have fought for generations to preserve their identity. The latest battles are against Norway's limits on reindeer herds.

Photographs and Text
by Nadia Shira Cohen
New York Times

KAUTOKEINO, Norway — Reindeer herding is not a job for many Sami, an indigenous people of fewer than 140,000 who inhabit mostly the northern reaches of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia. It is a way of life.

Jovsset Ante Sara, a boyish-looking 26-year-old, knows his section of the tundra as if it were a city grid, every hill and valley familiar, the land acquired over generations through the meticulous work of his ancestors.

He can tell his reindeer from any others by their unique earmark. And he and his family need them to live and preserve their claim to the land as well as their traditions.

That's why, Mr. Sara says, he has refused to abide by Norwegian laws, passed more than a decade ago, that limit the size of reindeer herds. The measure was taken, the government says, to prevent overgrazing.

Mr. Sara's herd was capped at 75. So every year, if the herd grows, he must pare it down. At least, those are the rules. He has refused to cull his 350 to 400 reindeer, and took the government to court.

"I sued because I could not accept to see my culture die," he said.

He lost his case before the Supreme Court and has accumulated fines of \$60,000, with the threat of losing his land hanging over him.

The government has given him to the end of this year to comply or he will begin to accumulate additional fines, and eventually could lose his



▲ Jovsset Ante Sara feeding his reindeer. He has refused to abide by his herd quota, and took the government to court. Credit Nadia Shira Cohen for The New York Times

reindeer. The case is just one of the many battles the Sami of Norway have fought over a long history with the government to preserve their culture and way of life.

The Sami were colonized by Christian missionaries, forced to abandon their shamanistic ways and assimilate. Grim tales of Sami children being sent to boarding schools and studied by anthropologists in dehumanizing ways remain a stain on the history of the Nordic nations.

Today the Sami of Norway number about 55,000, with 10 percent directly involved in reindeer herding. The reindeer population in Norway is estimated at 220,000. Herders earn a living by selling reindeer for meat as well as for their hides.

"When we kill the reindeer, we use every part of the animal," Mr. Sara said.

The skins are transformed into mittens and slipper-like shoes that curl up at the tip. The meat is sold on a wide scale across Norway and also exported. Antlers are pulverized into an aphrodisiac sold on the Chinese market.

The Norwegian government has been trying to erase the errors of the past, and so today, the Sami have their own university, schools that teach the Sami language, and even their own Parliament, if largely symbolic.

Kautokeino is in Finnmark county in Norway, considered the heart of Sapmi, or "the land of Sami." At an Easter festival this year, young people beat on drums while listening to traditional Sami yoiking, a guttural call that was forbidden during colonization. They wore traditional

SAMI: Cont. On Page 9

SAMI: From Page 9

clothing known as Gakti, and sipped on Red Bull and beer.

Elle Márjá Eira, 34, is a reindeer herder, singer, filmmaker and mother of two. She can recall tales of forced assimilation.

Although many older Sami have maintained a Christian faith, Ms. Eira is part of a younger generation who have actively opposed discrimination and industrial projects, which the Sami see as a constant threat to their way of life.

Her father, Per Henrik Eira, 56, together with his fellow herders, recently sued a government energy project led by Statnett, the government-owned electric company, which they say is threatening to overtake a large portion of their summer grazing lands.

He and his neighbors lost the case. Statnett says its project does not threaten Sami culture.

Ms. Eira disagrees.

"When we lose this pasture," she said, "we will need to find another place to calve, a place which is not occupied with other herds. By pushing us into smaller areas, they are forcing us into conflicts with each other."

She and other Sami voice similar arguments against the laws limiting the size of herds.

"The problem is that the government doesn't say exactly who has to kill their reindeer," Ms. Eira said. "It just leaves it up to the family."

She continued: "Even my 15-year-old daughter has her own reindeer. We all do. My father has decided that he will pare down the herd starting only from his reindeer, to avoid conflicts."

Many Sami reindeer herders see the quotas as an effort by the government to limit their livelihood so it can use the land for industrial projects.



▲ Elle Márjá Eira, right, and her daughter Thea, dressed in traditional Sami clothing. Credit Nadia Shira Cohen for *The New York Times*

Ninety-five percent of the land in Finnmark county is owned by the state, although Sami reindeer herders, who hold legal grazing rights, use much of it.

For decades, the Norwegian government has designated reindeer herding as an exclusively Sami activity, providing herding licenses tied to ancestral lands.

The regulations limiting herd sizes were passed in 2007, forcing Sami to eliminate 30 percent of their reindeer at the time.

Mr. Sara said the limits have been devastating. If he obeyed the limit, he said, he would make only \$4,700 to \$6,000 a year.

"Clearly it's not possible to make a living as the job has become quite expensive, requiring snowmobiles and all the equipment that goes along with that," he said.

The law also states that any herders who are no longer profitable can lose their license. But that is not all Mr. Sara said he would lose.

"I would lose everything my ancestors worked their entire lives to create for us today," he said. "I will lose the land."

To call attention to her brother's case, his sister, Maret Anne, an artist, piled 200 heads of freshly slaughtered reindeer onto the snow-covered lawn of the courthouse in Tana in 2014. She topped off the grisly pyramid with a Norwegian flag. Mr. Sara won, twice, in local and regional courts.

Last fall, when he stood before the Norwegian Supreme Court, his sister strung a curtain of 400 reindeer skulls in front of the country's Parliament.

Mr. Sara and his lawyer, Trond Pedersen Biti, have taken their case to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva.

"It's my only option," he said.

Others are more fatalistic, like Mr. Eira, who sued to try to block the Statnett project, and lost. His 18-year-old son, Per John, is following in his father's footsteps, training to be a reindeer herder.

"If I lose this case, I won't have the courage to face my son," he told the court, "because I will be forced to tell him that there is no future for us."

A version of this article appears in print on Dec. 16, 2018, on Page A6 of the New York edition with the headline: The Hinterlands Where Reindeer Are a Way of Life.

A Nordic Celebration

Ten strange things you didn't know about the Scandinavian Christmas

By Fodors

#1 CHRISTMAS STARTS EARLY

In most Nordic countries, the weeks-long Christmas celebration kicks off on December 13th. This tradition of starting early, particularly strong in Sweden, is also observed in Norway, Finland, and Denmark. Called Saint Lucia Day in honor of a 4th-century martyr from Syracuse, the day begins with young girls wearing a wreath of long white candles on their heads (nowadays, the candles are safely made with plastic) and treating the rest of the family to special saffron-flavored lussekater buns.

In Iceland, the festivities start even earlier—on the first Advent Sunday. That's when the decades-old annual lighting of the Oslo Christmas tree, gifted to the city of Reykjavík by its Norwegian neighbor, occurs at Austurvöllur Square. The long-awaited event gathers thousands, but it is particularly anticipated by families with small children.

#2. IT LASTS 13 DAYS

It is not uncommon in the Nordics to get two weeks—from December 24 to January 6—off from work for Christmas. Across the region, festivities last all the way to January 6, the day of the Epiphany, also called the Day of The Three Kings. The day is celebrated across the Christian world as the time when the three Magi came bearing gifts to visit baby Jesus, but in the Nordics, it marks the end of Christmas celebrations. In many homes, the Christmas tree is kept until then to keep the spirit going.

#3. GIFTS COME EARLY

In just about every Nordic culture, a mythical creature starts visiting homes twelve days before Christmas. At bedtime, children leave slippers on a window sill in anticipation of gifts from the nightly visitor. In the morning, the slippers of those deemed well-behaved will be laden with small toys, candy, or



▲ *The Yule Goat has taken many shapes from being the goat of Thor, to being a devilish character punishing people for unclean houses to becoming a bearer of gifts.*

cookies. Called Nisse in Norway and Denmark and Tomte in Sweden, the good-humored gnome with a long white beard and a pointed red knitted cap is mostly benevolent but can cause mischief if an opportunity presents itself. Still, it is a Christmas favorite (visit Tomtar & Troll in Gamla Stan, Stockholm to get immersed in the world of tomte, handmade in all shapes and forms by local artists Maija Tahko and Kicki Flodén).

Icelandic children get visits by the 13 Yule Lads. Each of the lads has a peculiar trait: Skyrgámur (Skyr-Gobbler) likes to feast on Icelandic skyr (yogurt) while Bjúgnakrækir (Sausage-Swiper) is known for stealing holiday sausages.

#4. NOT ALL HELPERS ARE NICE

Children in Iceland are wary of Grýla, a two-horned mountain ogress with hooves instead of feet, an enormous nose, and a face covered in warts. She comes down from her mountain abode at Christmas, sneaking around towns and villages while looking for extra naughty children to cook in her cast-iron kettle. Grýla also happens to be the mom of the 13 Yule Lads, who report on

the unlucky candidates ahead of time. Interested in meeting the lovely Grýla in person? Check out her statue in the Troll Garden by Fossatún, a 16 room hotel and guesthouse near the namesake waterfall about 80 kilometers north of Reykjavík.

#5. BEWARE OF THE GOAT

The Nordic Christmas Goat has lived through several transformations, but its origins purportedly trace back to Thor, the Norse god of thunder, and his two chariot-pulling goats. Over time, the goats of Thor have morphed into a devilish character wreaking havoc on villages across Scandinavia and punishing people whose homes weren't clean and orderly in time for the holidays. Later still, the Christmas Goat lightened up, became a jolly prankster, and even started bringing Christmas gifts centuries before the emergence of Santa Claus. So strong is the tradition that in Finland, Santa is still called by his pagan name Joulupukki (Yule goat).

But the Swedish town of Gävle takes home the "goat honors." Every year since

NORDIC: Cont. On Page 11

NORDIC: From Page 10

1966, a large Yulbocken statue has been erected in the town's main square for the purpose of subsequent incineration. The wretched goat has become a world-famous attraction, warranting the creation of its own Twitter handle and a live webcam broadcast..

#6. STRAW ORNAMENTS

Christmas trees in the Nordics are decorated with small ornaments made out of straw. The roots of this peculiar tradition go back to The Remembrance of Birds, a custom particularly strong in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. After the fall harvest, farmers used to leave the finest bundle of wheat outside their porches for birds to feast on during winter. Called julenek in Norway and julkärve in Sweden, the offering aimed to distract the birds from the invaluable reserves of grain stored for the season while reminding people that sharing is caring. In Denmark and Norway, this attitude also extended to household and wild beasts who received extra food at Christmas.

#7. CHRISTMAS EVE IS KING

Vikings believed that a new day begins when the sun goes down on the previous day. This belief could have influenced the Nordic tradition to celebrate on Christmas Eve. After the Christmas tree has been decorated and all the evil spirits, pranksters, and goats have been warded off, it's time to gather the family around, serve the tradition-

al Christmas dinner (with plenty of Christmas ham, pork sausages, and liver pâtés), await the visit from Tomte and Nisse (who later turned into Saint Nick), and finally open gifts.

Christmas Day is usually reserved for visiting family and the day after, called Boxing Day in honor of an old tradition to put holiday alms into boxes for those-less-than-fortunate, is spent visiting friends.

#8. SAUNA TIME

In Finland, the afternoon of December 24th is reserved for a visit to the special Christmas sauna, 'joulusauna'. It's no wonder: saunas in Finland have been around for at least 10,000 years and are deeply entrenched into the ethos. After the cleansing session, families start preparing for Christmas Eve dinner. A cup of porridge or another treat from the holiday table is brought back to the sauna as an offering for saunatonntu, the sauna elf that is believed to protect the sauna and its visitors from fire and harmful smoke.

Ready for the ultimate Finnish experience? In Central Finland—sometimes referred to as the Sauna Region—you can enjoy a sauna onboard a houseboat while visiting Jyväskylä, then dip into the nearby frozen lake, Jyväsjärvi, at your own risk.


#9. HIGH ON GLÖGG

Mulled wine, or glühwein, is a popular holiday drink throughout Europe. The Nordic version called glögg is often made with cardamom, clove, and

cinnamon, and strengthened by brandy, sweet vermouth, bourbon, vodka, or aquavit—pretty much any strong liquor on hand in the household. To stave off evil spirits running amok in winter and to help fight the incredibly cold temperatures, glögg is the drink of choice throughout the month of December. In Sweden, family and friends often gather for glöggfika, which involves—you guessed it—glögg and holiday gingerbread pastries.

#10. FEAST FEAST AND MORE FEAST

Depending on which corner of the Nordic region you'll find yourself on Christmas Eve, your holiday dinner table may feature ribbe pork belly in Norway, pork roast or roasted goose and spicy red cabbage in Denmark, Christmas ham and pickled herring in mustard and sour cream in Sweden, grouse with berries in Iceland, and roast ham with pork feet and ear jelly in Finland. The abundance of meat on the Nordic Christmas table harkens back to the time when limited preservation methods were available to farmers. The livestock slaughtered at the end of the harvest season had to be eaten by January, turning this period into a grandiose feast during which people ate better than they would at any other time of the year. Today, generous servings of glögg throughout the meal, followed by Christmas rice pudding and dancing around the tree ensure that hygge (a Danish term for feeling cozy and warm) will last until warmer days.



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THANKS TO HER

Continuing from the fall issue: Expedia's online portrait gallery celebrates 20 powerful Nordic women who improved the lives of others through their accomplishments. With Nordic countries topping the rankings in terms of gender equality, we wanted to thank the women who helped get us there. Full gallery can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2JjD8qT>

Lucina Hagman

A politician, educator and women's rights advocate, Hagman (1853-1946) believed girls and boys should be able to study as equals, in the same classroom. As the head teacher of the first Finnish-speaking mixed school in 1899, Hagman wanted to close the education gap between the sexes. Active in multiple NGOs, Hagman also fought to equalize the gender pay gap, and give women greater access to what had traditionally been male-dominated professions.

Katti Anker Møller

Møller (1868-1945) championed the interests of children born out of wedlock, co-producing the Castberg laws which gave illegitimate children full rights of inheritance and the option to take their father's surname. Also interested in 'woman's right to decide over her own body', Møller stood firm in the face of strong opposition, and campaigned to introduce birth control and reproductive rights in Norway.

Tine Bryld (1939-2011)

was a prominent social worker and activist in Denmark. Bryld is known for her decades of work helping young people via her radio program, Tværs. Hundreds of young people believed Bryld to be the only one they could turn to with their problems, whether it was to discuss heartbreak, rape, or abuse. Following an unplanned pregnancy and illegal abortion at 20 years old, Bryld fought for reproductive rights in Denmark, contributing to the legalization of abortion in 1973.



Fredrika Bremer

As the namesake of the first women's rights organization in Sweden, Bremer (1801-1865) may be the most important pioneer in the movement. Taking a realist approach in her dark novel *Hertha*, she depicted the everyday struggles of women of her time. This included women's treatment as second class citizens, and the particular impotence of unmarried women. This polemic book contributed to a new law allowing unmarried women a legal majority at 25, and ignited the feminist movement in Sweden.



Selma Lagerlöf

As the first female writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Lagerlöf (1891-1940) is celebrated for her "lofty idealism, vivid imagination and spiritual perception that characterize her writings". Her recognition was preceded by a heated debate within the Swedish Academy, as some felt the award should only be given to men. Lagerlöf went on to become the first female member of the Swedish academy, and used her position to fight anti-Semitism, and advocate for women's rights.



Grete Olsen

Olsen (1912 - 2010) is celebrated for introducing a surgical method to fight melanoma which reduced the mortality rate of cancer patients by 40%. What makes her achievement all the more impressive is the opposition Olsen faced from male peers in Denmark. Plastic surgery did not exist as a respected specialty, so Olsen traveled illegally to England to study under Harold Gillies, who performed groundbreaking surgeries on burn victims during World War II.

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Gina Krog

Krog (1847-1916) was a pioneering feminist who lead several campaigns fighting for women's right to vote and to access education. Like many writers in her time, Krog wrote articles under a male pseudonym, and used her platform to campaign for equality. She co-founded a number of women's rights organizations including the Norwegian Association for Women's Rights, which campaigns to improve women's socio-economic and political status.



Armi Ratia (1912-1979)

As the founder of the design house Marimekko, Ratia challenged an otherwise male-dominated industry and provided a platform for female designers in Finland. The modern designs became popular amongst international celebrities such as Jacqueline Kennedy, who posed in a Marimekko dress on the cover of Sports Illustrated. A true start-up success, Ratia went on to inspire many other Finnish entrepreneurs to seek growth abroad.



Grete Waitz

Waitz (1953-2011) serves as an inspiration both as an athlete, and for her dedication to charity work. The nine-time winner of New York Marathon worked closely with Care International and International Special Olympics. Plus, as a cancer sufferer herself, Waitz was determined to accelerate research and provide support to others. To this end she convinced her sponsor, Adidas, to donate 5% of the profits on their Waitz collection to her own charity "Active against cancer".

Minot Area Council of the Arts

Minot Area Council of the Arts, also known as, MACA, is a local non-profit working to bring more art into Minot. Art is not just drawing or painting, but it is also music, writing, theater, and more. Art is how someone expresses themselves.

MACA is an umbrella organization over all of the art programs in Minot and their job is to promote art. They provide programs such as Arts in the Park (which takes place every summer in Oak Park), Artists in the Schools, and the Minot Street Art Movement.

Justin Anderson, the Executive Director of the Minot Area Council of the Arts. As the sole staff member, he works hard to promote the art in Minot. As Anderson said, "Minot has a lot of things to offer and a lot of things going on, people just need to know about it."

Arts in the Park goes on every summer in Oak Park. There is live music from local artists every week throughout the season. The Artists in the Schools program is an educational program that brings hands-on arts lessons, performances, and cultural heritage activities to schools and individual classrooms. Lastly, the Minot Street Art Movement works to promote walkability, urban vitality, and access to public art in Downtown Minot.

A short-term goal MACA is working towards is getting the word out about the events they have and boost public knowledge about MACA. Art in communities boosts the overall quality of life and provides the opportunity for people of all ages to express themselves. MACA is working towards great things, and you need to keep your eye out for local art events in the future.



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