

SCANDINAVIAN  
**CONTACT**

Newsletter of the American Scandinavian Society of New York, Inc.



Alvilde Hannevold, Michael Carey, Juni Dahr

Photo: John Magnusson

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Did you enjoy the champagne which was served at the reception for Juni Dahr after her one woman performance of Joan of Arc? Did you marvel at her explanation of her long term plans for creating additional plays to inform the public about other women who made history? If not, we both missed something. The Society missed your company and your contribution to the festive nature of the evening.

How did you enjoy the paintings by Christine Hauvonen? They were nostalgic and tranquil and beautiful. And Ms. Hauvonen was at the opening to share her thoughts and your impressions.

As always, we were graced with the good company of some of our Honorary Members and their spouses. Mrs. Marianne Faxen and Mr. and Mrs. Lassila were still there when I arrived long after the party began. Their presence and the presence of the other members of the Scandinavian consular corps at most of the Society's events is always deeply appreciated.

So where's the annual membership dues bill for 1988? We're not really trying to heighten the suspense, and we can't afford not to charge for membership. Actually, our supply of membership applications is exhausted, and we have taken the occasion as an opportunity to redesign our membership pamphlet to serve as a brief and appealing description of the Society for prospective as well as established members. We hope its design will make each of you proud and give it to a friend whom you would like to join the Society. Look for it in your mail within the next month.

## JUNI DAHR AS JOAN OF ARC

After more than 500 years Joan of Arc came to life through talented Juni Dahr. Within a few minutes Ms. Dahr had the audience in the palm of her hand as she switched her role from Joan to the judge, to the audience, and then back to Joan again. It was an hour filled with emotions as she moved back and forth on the stage. Every movement, every nuance was well thought out as the story of Joan of Arc unfolded in front of the mesmerized audience.

When director John Morrow, an established writer and director of the New York avant-garde theatre scene, offered Juni Dahr to perform in whatever she chose to do, she immediately said Joan of Arc. She represents a type of woman Juni Dahr finds interesting. An independent woman who will go through fire for her own beliefs. She had been interested in Joan of Arc for quite some time and had wanted the answer to such questions as what Joan of Arc is today, and how would we rec-

ognize her in modern life. Ms. Dahr wanted to discover and show a woman that was so consumed by fire that she was more than willing to sacrifice her life for her belief. "I want people to see the human side of Joan of Arc," Ms. Dahr said after the performance.

In her research she found an impressive amount of material on Joan of Arc. It was difficult to choose, but the words that were used throughout the performance were taken from the dialogue from her trial of heresy and witchcraft.

This is the oldest form of storytelling there is, with only the performer and the words coming to the audience through vision and images, and the only prop used is a chair. To add drama to the show, Norwegian composer and jazz-flutist Ida Heidel accompanied Ms. Dahr.

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JUNI DAHR *continued from cover*

When Juni Dahr returns to Norway this month it is to get ready for the Bergen International Festival in May where she will perform the same role. She has also been invited to the New York International Festival for the Arts in June, and she plans to return to New York again in the fall.

Her background is impressive. She has not only been a leading actress at the National Theater in Bergen and performed the leading roles in many of the great classics, but she has also starred in Norwegian film and television productions. In 1986 she was invited by ASF to study film and television at N.Y.U., and acting with Shelly Winters at the Actor's Studio.

At the champagne reception following the performance, the audience was standing in line to talk and to congratulate the actress on an excellent performance.



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*continued from cover*

Don't forget to save a date in your busy schedule for one or more of the exciting events which are planned in the Spring.

*Michael Q. Carey*

### Correction

Aslaug Lande was omitted in our last Newsletter as a supporter of the Society.



### President of Iceland, Vigdis Finnbogadottir Opened Scandinavian Craft Today

Over 500 people were in attendance when President Finnbogadottir officially opened the exhibit. It is a survey of current craft trends in the five Scandinavian countries. And there are 180 pieces ranging from tableware, bound books, accessories and sculptures by thirty-five artists. If you have not seen it, it is well worth taking a look at. It will be at the American Craft Museum, 40 West 53rd Street until April 24th.

### ASF 1988 Translation Prize

The ASF Translation Prize will be awarded by the American-Scandinavian Foundation for the best translation of poetry, fiction, drama or literary or literary prose written by a Scandinavian author born after 1888. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, and publication of an excerpt in an issue of the Scandinavian Review, as well as a commemorative bronze medallion.

The deadline for submission of entries is June 1, 1988. For rules and instructions contact: Translation Prize, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 127 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021.

### New Book on Nordic Art

Nordisk Gullalderkunst (Art from the Nordic Golden Age), is a lavishly illustrated volume showing some of the finest works of Nordic artists between 1880-1910. It is published by the Norwegian publishing house J.M. Stenersen in Oslo.

### Past President of the New York Chapter; REINO AARNIO: In Memoriam.

The sun was shrouded on that wintry day When Reino Aarnio was laid to rest. As mourners gathered for his funeral, An organist played music that Rei loved. A pastor's words of prayer and comfort followed. Speaking then, I gave this eulogy:

*The Lord in His vast wisdom grants to some A greater talent to perceive, express, Above all to imagine for their fellow Men a soaring beauty in the arts. So did the Lord for Reino Aarnio, To whom we've come to bid farewell, a warm And gentle man with twinkling eye, a smile And chuckle from the heart. We grieve, of course, That he has left our midst — and yet rejoice As we reflect how fortunate we were That we could share his life. The buildings he Designed, the young he taught, his paintings and The songs he sang, his effort to advance The culture of his native Finland and Its ties to his adopted land — these all Attest to his great range. But still ahead Of all such legacies, there is, for me, The mem'ry of the love and pride he felt For family members, and of theirs for him. The memories come flooding in. Of Reino Proudly sitting in a concert hall A-listening to the singing of his wife. Of social evenings ending with duets, Melodic thank-yous from the Aarnios. Of Rei and Sylvia starring on the stage In Finnish-language operetta classics. And of Rei, so proud and happy, when, As captain of his boyhood dream, his sailboat, Yes, his very own, he'd take his guest On waters where no cares could follow. Rei, God bless him was by far the youngest man Of seventy-five that I have ever known. On that, I'm sure, he'd comment, "But, of course."*

My eulogy for Reino ended thus, And, as I turned to leave, his grandson Matthew Came with hand outstretched to voice his thanks. He said my words were beautiful, but thought That I could well have added one more point. And what was that? Then with a dignity Far more mature than his eleven years, The grandson said of Reino Aarnio: "He lived his life to make others happy."

*Werner Wiskari*

## Vikings Invade Explorers Club

More than 100 would-be archaeologists packed the Explorers Club February 17th to hear Dr. Tom McGovern's slide saga of "life on the world's rim", 15 years of digs in West Greenland and the North Atlantic. Mrs. Nilsen presented the speaker with an Orrefors bowl from the Program Committee and the crowd adjourned to the paneled library for refreshments under the watchful eyes of the resident polar bear.

A popular and prolific author, lecturer and Assistant Professor at Hunter, Dr. McGovern has traced these hardy Norse pioneers as they constructed farms and elegant churches, depending upon herding and hunting for their living in this harsh environment where farming was difficult. Each summer the famous Nordestur hunters sailed up the west coast, bringing back ivory and bear skins (a polar bear for a Bishop once!) to exchange with the Norwegian Kingdom for metal, timber and luxuries.

For hundreds of years they prospered, but finally disappeared. The coming of "the little ice-age" blocked the seas, troubles in the Homeland and the growth of the Hansa led to isolation. Boat-building timber, turf and pasturage ran out. Rigorous religious and political traditions prevented mixing and learning from the Eskimos (witchcraft!). Finally they seem to have starved and died, cooped up in their stone and turf houses in the bitter wintertime, eating the last of their beloved cattle and perhaps even their huge deerhounds, a sturdy, stubborn breed.

*Ellen Sparry Brush*

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## The Villadsens Leave New York

When the Danish Consul General Villads Villadsen and his wife Birgit left New York at the end of February, it was with good wishes from their many friends here. We are sure their stay in Denmark will be a good one. We hope it won't be too long before we see them again.



*Marianne Faxen, Christine Hauvonen and Mr. Hauvonen*

Photo: Ib Alvin

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## Christine Hauvonen Opens at Privatbanken Gallery

The art opening was well attended, and it was clear that this exhibit was a favorite.

Ms. Hauvonen's serene paintings capture the mood of the quintessential Scandinavian landscape. She uses strong broad brushstrokes and muted colors to distill the essence of the nordic environment. She paints melting ice on shimmering lakes, and silent expanses of snow framed by forests.

Ms. Hauvonen has a unique ability to convey the enduring peacefulness of endless Scandinavian landscape.

The artist was born in Finland of Swedish-Danish parentage and studied at the Academie Julian and Beaux Art in Paris as well as at the Art Industrial School for Women in Copenhagen and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Finland. She has exhibited extensively in Scandinavia and the United States, including at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. Her paintings are in private collections all over Europe and West Africa where she lived from 1982-1983.

*Eli von Kantzow Alvin*

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## For the Stamp Collector

Anyone interested in Finnish stamps can get more information through the Finland Stamp Agency in North America. One Unicover Center, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0017. Tel: 800-821-3232.

## A Festival of Norwegian Music



*Celeste Holm and Wesley Addey*

*Edda Magnusson and Polly Holliday*



Photos: John Magnusson

After a short welcome and introduction the guests enjoyed a musical evening by such well known musicians as Kjell Andreassen, Margaret Astrup, Virginia Brewer, May Ann Brown, Richard Gordon-Borg, Norma French, Karen Holvik, and Rolf Kristian Stang who also directed the program. After the performance there was a reception which included herring and cheese from Norway. In attendance were also Celeste Holm and Wesley Addey and Polly Holliday. It was a well attended evening that was enjoyed by everyone.

*Edda Magnusson*

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## The Olympics

Congratulations to the athletes who participated in the 1988 Olympic Games in Calgary, Alberta. Scandinavia received a total of 18 medals this year.



### **Magnus Magnusson Lectures on the Icelandic Sagas**

The Society is pleased to have Mr. Magnusson come to New York and speak on this interesting subject. While still an Icelandic citizen he lives in Scotland, and it is hard to say whether he is most known for his writing or TV shows. He has been the Quizmaster of BBC1's popular program Mastermind since 1972. He has been working on and is responsible for several programs in Great Britain. In 1973 he made the first TV series about the history and archaeology of China after the Cultural Revolution. His series Vikings in 1980 was shown in many countries, including USA. On radio he presented a highly acclaimed series on the history of Ireland. In 1974 he won the Scottish Television Personality of the Year Award and in 1985 the Iceland Media Award.

He has published and translated scores of books.

Magnus Magnusson is a Knight Commander of the Order of the Falcon, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977.

Mr. Magnusson will speak at the Explorers Club, 40 E 72nd Street on April 26 at 7:00 PM. A reception will follow. Price per person \$15.00 (201)744-8165.

### **The Sagas of the Viking Kings**

The book is considered a newly created national treasure. This is a new English translation of the 1988 Norwegian edition. The book is destined to be a collectors item, and the first edition is limited to only 2000 copies. It is published by the Norwegian publishing house J.M. Stenersen in Oslo.



*"Now, therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1988 as National Year of Friendship with Finland. I call upon all Americans to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.*

Watch for events that commemorate this celebration throughout 1988.

#### **March 8 - April 10**

Contemporary Finnish Prints Exhibition by Nine Finnish artists. University Gallery, State University of NY, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY. (518)442-4035.

#### **March 16 - May 6**

Finnish Graphics Exhibition by five artists at the American-Scandinavian Foundation, 127 East 73rd St. NY. (212)879-9779.

#### **March 19 - May 15**

A presentation of Finnish modern design at The Katonah Gallery, 28 Bedford Rd. Katonah, NY. (914)232-9555.

#### **April 8 - 8:00 PM**

Finnish National Ballet  
Somerset Country College North Branch, NJ

#### **April 9 - 2:00 PM**

Finnish National Ballet  
Colden Center for Performing Arts. Flushing, NY.

#### **April 10 - 12-2 PM**

Sunday Brunch Lecture Reflections of Finland.  
Marlene Ekola Gerberick, pianist. Members \$15, non-members \$20. The Katonah Gallery.

#### **April 13**

The historical commemoration of the landing of the first Finnish and

Swedish settlers in Wilmington, DE. Contact: Embassy of Finland. (202)363-2430.

#### **April 21 - 1:15 PM**

Role of the Kalevala in Finnish Culture. Dr. Aili Flint, Columbia University. Refreshments. Members \$8., non-members \$10. The Katonah Gallery.

#### **April 24 - 3:00 PM**

The Manhattan String Quartet. Music by Sibelius, Haydn and Debussy. \$20. Tickets from (914)232-5035 only.

#### **April 28 - 1:15 PM**

Scandinavia, Living Design. Elizabeth Gaynor, author. Refreshment. Members \$8., non-members \$10. The Katonah Gallery.

#### **May 5,6 and 7**

Martti Talvela Bass. Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, NY.

#### **May 7 - 10 AM - 4 PM**

Finnish Community Festival. A festival of dancing, music, craft demonstrations, storytelling, traditional foods. The Katonah Gallery.

#### **May 20**

Kaija Saariaho, Composer. Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, NY. Contact Consulate General of Finland (212)832-6550.

#### **July 8 - 10**

FinnFest USA. Contact: FinnFest USA 1988. 1752 Dixie Line Rd. Newark, DE 19711.

### **New Sweden 350th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Available**

The Swedish Cultural Committee of Nebraska presents the medallion. To order mail \$4.50 (check or money order) to Swedish Cultural Committee, P.O. Box 34614, Omaha, NE 68134 (cost includes postage and handling).



Whereas, in 1638, the Kingdom of Sweden sent two ships, Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip, to establish a colony in what is now the United States...be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, That 1988 is designated the "Year of New Sweden."

On Friday, April 15, the Swedish Royal Couple, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will make a majestic entry into New York by sailing up the East River. At South Street Seaport they will be met by Major Edward Koch. While the Royal Couple is in New York there will be a grand gala concert at Carnegie Hall as a tribute to Birgit Nilsson and Swedish vocalist. They will also open two major New Sweden '88 exhibitions.

#### March 3 - June 7

The Triumph of Simplicity: 350 Years of Swedish Silver  
Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 East 91st St. (212)860-6898

#### March 28 - April 20

Lennart Nilsson photo exhibition "The Landscape Within Us."  
New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 53rd Street, New York (212) 348-0133 or (212)838-0230

#### March 31 - May 7

Thomas Dellert will present his collages of Strindberg and other personalities at Privatbanken Gallery, 20 West 55th Street. (212)348-0133

#### April 6 - April 27

Rolf Sinnemark and Paul Hoff - Swedish Porcelain Designers.  
The contemporary Porcelain Gallery, 105 Sullivan Street, Soho (212)219-2172

#### April 15-17 and 22-24

"Anna the Gypsy Swede-The Tale of an Emigrant" A one woman performance by Viveca Lindfors.  
Gene Frankel Theatre, 24 Bond Street (212)777-1710

#### April 22-May 31

Siri Berg Paintings  
Carol Hasto Gallery 530 West 23rd Street. (212)966-3063.

#### April 23

Dinner Dance sponsored by the Vasa Order of America  
Andres Caceres, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. For info:(516) 868-7290.

### ...A Few More Dates

#### April 13 - 8 PM

The Vinland Duo  
Virginia Brewer, Mary Ann Brown and Christine Schadeberg. An evening of Danish music at the Danish Seamen's Church, 102 Willow St. Brooklyn, (212) 865-8497 or (718) 975-0042. Admission free.

#### April 26 - 7 PM

Magnus Magnusson speaks on the Icelandic Sagas at the Explorer's Club, 40 E 72 St. (201)744-8165. \$15.

#### May 17

Danish Posters from 1915-1938  
open at Privatbanken Gallery, 20 W. 55th St. NY.

### Artifacts needed for Ellis Island

If you have any items suited for the Ellis Island Museum, please write as soon as possible to: The Registrar, MetaForm/Rathe/D&P, 15 East 26th Street, NY, NY 10010. The museum is specifically looking for objects brought from the old country and photographs and objects pertaining to Ellis Island staff members.

### Scandinavia Well Presented in the National Capital Area

There is a keen Scandinavian awareness and favorable exposure of the Five Nordic countries in Washington D.C. and the area of the National Capital. The base of these activities is the American Scandinavian Association, a local non profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia.

The ASA, as it is popularly known, is the successor of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Its pronounced goals are to promote cultural exchange between the United States and Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

ASA draws on cultural, professional, educational and diplomatic resources of the U.S. Capital to provide ten stimulating monthly meetings, including a Christmas Santa Lucia Fest and a Midsummer Picnic. ASA publishes a monthly newsletter with a calendar of various activities of Nordic societies.

The ASA also arranges and underwrites placement of the "Scandinavian Review", quarterly journal of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, in some 20 college and public libraries in the Baltimore-Washington area.

Two groups affiliated with ASA are Nordic Dancers and the Scandinavian Literature Group. John Willoughby is President of ASA, Erland Magnusson is V.P. and Gladys Hedstrom is Secretary.

Ivar Gudmundsson

### Norwegian 17th of May Parade

The parade has become famous and well attended by all ethnic groups in the Bay Ridge area of Brooklyn. This year the Norwegian Constitution Day Parade will take place on Sunday, May 15th. It starts at 5th Ave. and 9th St. at 1:00 pm and ends up in Leif Erikson's Park on 67th St. From there, dignitaries will watch the parade. This year's speaker is Gunnar Jerman from the EPCOT Center in Florida. Members of the Oslo mounted police force will be leading the parade. If you haven't seen it yet, it is well-worth taking a look at.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

245 East 49th St., New York, N.Y. 10017

The American Scandinavian Society  
of New York, Inc.



**THE AMERICAN  
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***In Scandinavia this Summer***

Hans Christian Andersen's hometown, Odense, celebrates its 1,000th Birthday this year. It will be celebrated throughout 1988 and will include music and theater programs. And there will be a tall ship parade too.

**Reykjavik Arts Festival June 4-19.**

Among attractions scheduled are shows of paintings and sculptures by Icelanders, a Nordic art exhibit and there will be lots of music.

**Oslo International Summer School**

will hold its 42nd session, teaching Norwegian to foreigners, from June 25 through August 5. The fee is \$1,775 covering board, room and a weekend excursion. Contact JoAnn Kleber, Oslo International Summer School, c/o St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057. Tel: (507)663-3269.

**Scholarships are available to Americans for advanced or specialized stud-**

ies in Norway on the subjects of emigration history and relations between the United States and Norway. For application forms write to Emigration Fund, Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2720 34th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Tel. (202)333-6000.

**The 15th Annual Seminar on the Finnish Language and culture is from July 4-**

22. Seminar fee is USD 360. A limited number of travel grants are available. Finland Society, P.O. Box 213. SF-00171 Helsinki, Finland. Tel. (90)634713.

***Norwegian Pavilion***

The pavilion will open at EPCOT Center in less than three months, and those who are able should try to make it to Orlando, Florida on June 3rd. The undertaking by the Norwegian government to build the pavilion is already expected to be a great success.