

SCANDINAVIAN  
**CONTACT**

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



(left to right) Erik S. Cook, Lisa Friis and John Razukas



Lars Nilsen with two good friends

## **TERRACE GARDEN PARTY GIVEN FOR POTENTIAL YOUNG MEMBERS**

Since our beautiful evening, Sept. 21, on the large terrace of Drs. Charles and Ellen Brush, several of our young guests have already sent in their membership dues. The Brushes provided us with the most ideal home-and-family kind of setting with which to welcome our guests.

A group of 40 young persons was welcomed by President Mari-Louise Hedlund, who thanked them for coming, saying that their presence expressed an interest in Nordic culture that hopefully would lead to their becoming members of the American Scandinavian Society. Rolf Stang, our Executive VP,

pointed out a mutual need to keep this important Scandinavian continuum going in New York. "We need your participation and we hope you will share your talents and ideas with us to make us more effective," he said. He was charming, funny, and very persuasive, closing with "By the end of the evening, we hope you will recognize a need in your lives for what we do and that you will join us in our efforts!"

These young people, so diversified in their interests and professions, were of the highest caliber. Delightful, talented, and intelligent. Commenting for them, Anita Alvin

Nilert thanked the Brushes and the Society on behalf of her fellow guests and mentioned some activities that would be of interest to them. —They have already taken the initiative! They want us to come to the stand they are organizing in the Society's name at the upcoming Marathon (Nov. 5) and cheer on the Scandinavian runners and pass them fruit drinks. *More on that later.*

Music, wonderful food and drinks, plus the usual warm-hearted hospitality, were supplied by members of the Program Committee. The Icelandic salmon was out of this world!

edda

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

When I was asked if I would accept the presidency of our Society, it came as a big surprise.

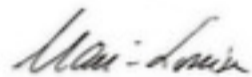
For me, a great honor. For 81 years our Society has prospered, continuously supporting and arranging Scandinavian cultural activities in the Metropolitan area and it has indeed enjoyed a prestigious status in the community.

What a challenge! Not only to nurture traditional events but also to possibly find new exciting projects.

Do I dare, I thought. Then, thinking about the many years I have enjoyed being a member, all the wonderful friendships I have made, how fun it has been to serve on the Board and various committees, I thought, why not go the full step out?

With the help of the fine people on the Board, all the dedicated committee chairpersons and their hardworking crews, and all you wonderful members, I am sure we can look forward to continuing our activities with great spirit and satisfaction through the next year!

Warm regards,



## Society Tradition Continues As we Welcome Two New Consuls General Nov. 14

The best way to get to know the new consuls general, Garth Castrén of Finland and John Bjørnebye of Norway, is to come and wish them well at the Explorers Club, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.

While Mr. Castrén is new to us as he comes to fill the post vacated by our dear friend Antti Lassila, who has moved on to Tripoli as Finnish ambassador to Tunisia, John Bjørnebye, on the other hand, returns to us an old friend. As Royal Embassy Information Service Officer in New York from '84-'86, he was very cooperative with us, always going out of his way to be helpful.

An invitation to this enjoyable reception will be coming to you soon. Be sure to respond right away; don't miss the chance to meet these two outstanding diplomats and to socialize with friends. A small donation of \$15 is asked for to cover expenses. See you there!

*program committee*

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## Repeat Visit to Barnes Museum Planned

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the destination of Society members is the remarkable Barnes Museum, a very special collection visited by special arrangement only.

We meet on 59th Street, by the Plaza Hotel, at 9 a.m. The cost is \$65, for a tour which includes lunch, plus a guide on the bus, as well as coffee and snacks. We return at 7 p.m.

Don't miss this uniquely interesting outing. Contact Hanne Heltai, at (914) 779-7925—Home, or (914) 273-8880—Business.

*program committee*

## Put The Christmas Ball On Your Calendar

The annual Christmas Dinner-Dance will take place on Dec. 9, at the Waldorf-Astoria, continuing with the tradition of having Walter Eriksson's Orchestra play. The cost will be \$135, which is the same price it has been for the past five years. It includes a cocktail reception, dinner w/wine, a gift for each person, and all attending the Ball are automatically eligible to win airline tickets to Scandinavia, donated by *FINNAIR*, *ICELANDAIR* and *SAS*.

The formal invitations will be mailed at the end of October. If you have friends that you would like to receive the invitation, please call Edda Magnusson or mail your list of names to her—10 Windsor Place, Montclair, NJ 07043.

The beautiful design work you will see on the invitations and at the Ball is done by a young Icelandic artist, Anna Gunnlaugsdottir, with Almenna Advertising Agency, in Reykjavik, Iceland.

*program committee*

## Enthusiastic Letters in Response to Spring Cultural Grants Party

The Annual General Meeting of the American Scandinavian Society which took place at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, May 18, was followed by our first-ever party to award the Cultural Grants given each year (see **CONTACT** Vol. 7, #3, June '89). In previous years, recipients were informed by letter.

Letters of thanks from the six recipients have praised both the grants program and the presentation ceremonies. In stating that "the official recognition, the substantial check, the press coverage, and the opportunity to meet Scandinavian cultural enthusiasts—in person—were all very much appreciated," these enthusiastic letters have confirmed the success of the event and endorsed the general consensus that it should become an annual event.

The generous coverage of these ceremonies by the ethnic press was the best ever, indicating to us from yet another source the importance of this kind of activity on the Society's agenda.

*rolf*

## Annual H.C. Andersen Ugly Duckling Party in Central Park

The sun came out brightly Saturday morning, the 23rd of Sept., and so did some 40 happy kids and their parents. It was time for the storytelling hour at the Hans Chr. Andersen statue in Central Park. —You may not know that this is an every-Saturday event, from early May 'til late September, at 11 a.m.

The Duckling's Birthday Party on the 23rd is sponsored by our



Happy children playing at the H.C. Andersen statue, with Harriet Nilsen, Program Committee Chairperson (left) and Elfi Alvin, Member of the Hans Chr. Andersen Storytelling Committee (right), behind statue, preparing 'saft och bulla.'



Hans Chr. Andersen and Ingrid Nilsen at the Annual Ugly Duckling Birthday Party, Sept. 23.

Society every September, and, as the tradition goes, we, with Elfi (Alvin) in the lead, tie colorful balloons around the neck of the Duckling at Andersen's feet. There were many familiar faces there and as always it was a very enjoyable event.

Watching happy youngsters' faces, as they are drawn into a well-told story is lots of fun.

Without fail, H.C. Andersen's wisdom comes down through 175 years to reach the hearts of young and old alike.

Little did the "ugly duckling" know when "he" began to write at the age of 14 that his stories would bring their messages and joy for generations to come.

The Nilsen family came with big smiles, sound equipment and 'saft och bulla'—a treat welcomed by the young crowd.

*bente*



Arts Committee Chairperson Elfi von Kantzow Alvin pictured with Ambassador John L. Loeb, at the Privatbanken Gallery, Manhattan.

*Photo: Henry Buhl*

## A.S.S. Organized Showing of Ambassador Loeb Collection

One of the outstanding Arts Committee events of the past season was the exhibit of Ambassador John L. Loeb's collection of contemporary Danish art.

Shown during the summer of '89 at Privatbanken Gallery, this private collection attracted visitors from far and wide.

*tordis*

## Make Your Membership Even More Interesting

Participate in one of the Society's committees:

### ARTS

Elfi Alvin (212) 348-0311

### AWARDS & HONORS

Rolf Stang (212) 877-8953

### CHRISTMAS JOURNAL

Robert Warner H (914) 634-6630  
B (212) 586-2000

### MEMBERSHIP

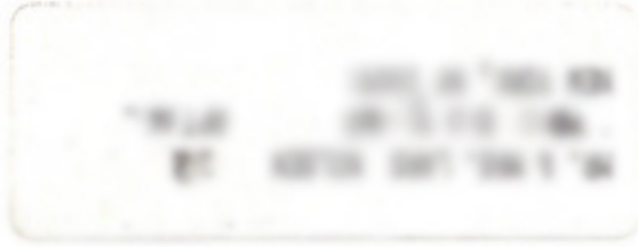
Ellen Brush (212) 737-6560

### PROGRAM

Harriet Nilsen (212) 861-9122

Call to inquire about any one of the above, you'll be glad you did.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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The American Scandinavian Society  
of New York, Inc.



**THE  
AMERICAN  
SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY  
OF  
NEW YORK, INC.**

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**New Member Update**

We are pleased to welcome these new members!

- BERIT SANDAAS BACH  
Scarsdale, NY
- MARIA BRUNESSON  
New York, NY
- IVAN J. COELHO  
New York, NY
- ERIK S. COOK  
Brooklyn, NY
- CHRISTINA R. HALL  
Bronxville, NY
- PATRICIA M. HALL  
New York, NY
- NILS CHRISTIAN HAUGESTAD  
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- IRWIN JACOBS  
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- SIGURDUR and GUDLAUG JONSSON  
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- ANITA FRIELE KOWARICK  
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- STEEN WEBER RASMUSSEN  
New York, NY

- LEENA SCUTT  
New York, NY
- ERICK R. STEEN  
New York, NY
- KARI RISTO WALDEN  
New York, NY

Please introduce yourselves as you meet these new members at Fall events!

*ellen*

**Special Thanks**

Just to fill you in, until this, our Fall **CONTACT** came out, a Calendar of Events for September was mailed out, thanks to our Corresponding Secretary Hanne Heltai.

We are still looking for an editor for the **CONTACT** newsletter. Any suggestions? In the meantime, Rolf Stang is pinch-hitting until we find someone.