Scandinavian Folk Dancing

Tuesdays, Oct. 9 - Nov. 13, 7 pm

Instruction will focus on:
- 7-7:30 basic dances such as schottisch, polka and mixers
- 7:30-8 intermediate dances such as waltz, pols and hambo
- 8-8:30 bygdedans (native Norwegian dances) such as springleik

Everyone is welcome, no partner is necessary, leather-soled shoes are recommended. Parking is available behind the Lodge. Suggested donation is $4. Please contact Linda Gunn at lindagunn@rio.com if you have any questions.

Sons of Norway Lodge
1836 Alder St, Eugene

Endowment Fund Established!

A $5,000 donation from Bard and Mary Grinnell Bunaes gave the Friends the $25,000 minimum needed to establish the Scandinavian Languages Instructional Endowment. The purpose of this fund is to support instruction in the Scandinavian languages, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish, at the University of Oregon. With two tenured professors, Ellen Rees and Michael Stern, chiefly responsible for courses in Scandinavian literature and culture, the Scandinavian program relies on instructors to teach many of the introductory language courses. Interest from the endowment will help fund the salaries for these instructors.

The Friends truly appreciate the efforts of John Manotti from the UO Development Office and Ellen Rees in obtaining the contribution from Bard and Mary Grinnell Bunaes. We are also thankful for the very generous donations from our own members that made it possible for us to establish the endowment fund.

The Friends’ fundraising efforts continue. Ultimately we need a $350,000 endowment fund that can fully support one Scandinavian language instructor annually. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Scandinavian Languages Instructional Endowment in 2007. Tusen Takk!
I hope that you enjoyed our annual midsummer picnic at Alton Baker Park. I missed the picnic this year, because I was on a textile tour to Norway and Sweden sponsored by Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American museum in Decorah, Iowa (http://vesterheim.org/).

The Vesterheim organizers did a tremendous job of scheduling visits to factories, artists’ workshops, museums, as well as talks by experts. Some of the highlights were: the studio of Norwegian indigo dyer Axel Becker near Trondheim, the Överhogdal tapestries that are on display at the Jämtland County Museum, and a presentation by Swedish designer Elsebeth Lavold on Viking Knits.

Discovered in 1910, the Överhogdal tapestries were the most intriguing textiles of the tour. Motifs depicting animals, humans, boats, buildings, and trees were woven in brightly colored woolen yarn on a natural linen ground cloth. Carbon dating indicated that these textiles were created sometime during 800 and 1100 A.D., i.e. during the Viking period. They were woven using a technique known as “snare weave” or soumak, probably on upright, warp-weighted looms. The wool yarn was dyed with vegetable dyes: red, blue, and yellow from the madder root, woad, and weld, respectively. The story of the Överhogdal tapestries has been interpreted in a number of ways: the conversion of Härjedalen to Christianity, the final scene from the Volsunge Saga, and Ragnorök in Christian symbolism. For more information, see http://www.overhogdal.se/english.htm -- or visit the Jämtland County Museum.

Before I close, I would like to welcome Camilla Mortensen as our newsletter editor. We will feature Camilla in a future issue of the newsletter.

I would also like to thank Linda Gunn for her many years of service to FSS. She is retiring from her position as FSS secretary/newsletter proofreader/picnic coordinator/etc. to pursue her musical interests. She is teaching a folk dancing class at the Sons of Norway Sonja Lodge on Tuesday evenings @ 7 pm. Please join us as we learn the waltz, hambo and spingleik with Linda Gunn and fiddler David Elliker-Vägsberg. It’s a lot of fun and great exercise! — Kathie Lindlan
**Scandinavian Faculty Update**

Michael Stern has achieved tenure in the Department of German and Scandinavian, earning him the title of associate professor and time to work on his intellectual studies. He will spend his sabbatical writing his second book, *The Singing Socrates*, which will address Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche’s readings of the Greek philosopher Socrates.

Michael came to Scandinavian studies by way of a stint as a furniture maker in Sweden. There he learned Swedish and became intrigued that studying 19th century Scandinavia could shed light on current conflicts. “Human identity is fluid,” he says, to study these philosophers “reflects on our world now.”

This book follows closely on the heels of his forthcoming *Nietzsche’s Ocean, Strindberg’s Open Sea*. This work deals with the two one-time atheists who were fascinated by religion. It centers on Nietzsche’s encounter with August Strindberg, an encounter Stern describes as “marginalized in intellectual history.” The book will be published by Berliner Beiträge zur Skandinavistik, a publisher which is associated with Humboldt University in Berlin. It will be in press by the end of the year, Michael says.

Michael doesn’t limit his writing to scholarly output; he is also at work on a novel and creates poetry books with his wife Sarah Grew. Michael writes the poetry while Sarah creates images and makes the books themselves. Sarah is an artist who works in mixed media painting. One of Sarah’s recent projects is a social and natural history of Eugene composed of 63 panels, some paintings, some archival photographs, in Crescent Village in Northeast Eugene.

Michael and Sarah are also kept busy by a son, Yasha, and their recent family addition — a Husky/Golden Retriever puppy named Paco.

**New Board Member**

Friends of Scandinavian welcomes a new board member! Line Mørkbak, a native of Denmark, has been living in Eugene for the last two years, with her husband and daughter. Line is a cross-cultural trainer and consultant with her business *Crossing*. Through her business she teaches others to “merge into another culture easily,” she says.

One of the reasons she became a Friends board member was because she found it “pretty unusual after moving so far” to find a group “keeping the language and culture alive.”

“Being from a very small country,” she says, “knowing someone is interested in your tiny little corner of the world, it’s beautiful.” Denmark is the smallest of the Scandinavian countries; its landmass could fit inside the state of Maine.

As a board member Line looks forward to throwing energy into fundraising and outreach, and bringing in visiting speakers. Velkommen!

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**Fall 2007 Scandinavian Courses**

- **SCAN 250** Scandinavian Fantasies: Masks and Ecstatic Experience
  Prof. Michael Stern

- **SCAN 354** Genres of Scandinavian Literature: Hamlet, Peer Gynt and the Stranger
  Prof. Michael Stern

- **NORW 101** First-year Norwegian
  Prof. Ellen Rees

- **DANE 101** First-year Danish
  Anina Rosenbaum (GTF)

- **DANE 201** Second-year Danish
  Kim Moeller Mikkelsen (GTF)

- **SWED 201** Second-year Swedish
  Minna Pavulans (Instructor)

- **FINN 201** Second-year Finnish
  Sanna Ala-Kortesmaa (GTF)

- **SCAN 199** Conversation
  Camilla Mortensen (Instructor)

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Did you know . . . December 6th marks the 90th anniversary of Finnish Independence?
Friends Membership Renewal Form

Please continue your support of Scandinavian Studies at the UO. Nonprofit contributions are tax-deductible.

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