



SKANDIA

NEWSLETTER

Seattle, Washington

The Voice of SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY

December 2015

Board musings: Riding our bicycles to Springdans, rain or shine

For years, my wife and I postponed attending Springdans. I had yet to master so many dancing skills that surely I was not ready for a long, intense weekend of dancing with experts from Scandinavia! But then, when I joined the Skandia Board, kind teachers took me in hand and strongly encouraged me to attend Springdans. They said it would be challenging, but that it would also be an unforgettable experience.

They were right. My wife and I marveled at the natural beauty of Seabeck when we arrived: the Hood Canal glimmered just across the road from the expansive grounds where we would spend the long weekend dancing. The welcome was warm, with all the details of room assignments organized to the smallest detail, thanks to amazing Skandia volunteers. We met dancers from all over the place: California, Oregon, Washington, D.C., Quebec, and many other places—even Sweden. And we danced a lot! I had never danced so much in my life. All the music for every single moment of dancing was live, and I enjoyed chatting with the musicians over beer when I gave my feet a short rest from a few of the dances in the evening.

The good memories of that weekend remain with us. We returned home with new acquaintances, some CDs, and (in my case) the boon of greater confidence in my still-very-imperfect dance skills. If you have never been to Springdans, let me encourage you not to think twice: just go!

For 2016 we have a new exciting plan involving Springdans: if you see us sopping wet as we arrive, it is because we will have bicycled there from the ferry landing in Bremerton. Our clothes may arrive wrinkled, and we may get caught in springtime showers, but we expect to arrive with smiles on our faces, ready to lace up those dancing shoes!

—*Avilio Moreno Villamediana*



Springdans Scholarship for 2016; apply before February 15

The Springdans committee is pleased to announce a scholarship for 2016 Springdans Northwest. The scholarship covers full tuition (including room and board), video recording, t-shirt, and Friday dinner.

Applicants must be current Skandia members living in Western Washington. Scholarship is based on financial need, so it offers a great opportunity to dancers and/or musicians who are thinking about Springdans but don't feel they can afford it. Prior recipients are welcome to apply.

The donor has requested to remain anonymous. In order to maintain the confidentiality of all parties, applicants should not discuss their application or their intent to apply with anyone outside the Springdans committee.

Interested dancers and/or musicians should send a short note with reasons they should be considered for the scholarship. This submission must be received by February 15, 2015. Send via email to springdans2016@svikt.com or surface mail to Springdans Scholarship c/o Ploeger-Meyers, 7016 17th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117-5550.

Note: Because admission is based on postmark of registration, scholarship applicants should submit a registration form as soon as possible to reserve a spot.

To our benefactor, thank you!

—*Kathi Ploeger, Don Meyers, Jerry Walsh,
Judy Patterson, Peter Michaelsen*
Springdans Northwest Committee

December Skandia events

Jullekstuga and First Friday Dance, December 4,
Cedar Valley Grange. Mix and mingle, 7:30 p.m.; dance,
8:30–11 p.m.

Skandia Jam, December 5, 9:30 a.m.–12 noon.

Third Friday Dance, December 18, Cedar Valley
Grange. Class, 7:30 p.m.; dance, 8:30–11 p.m.

See p5 for **driving directions** to regular events.

Upcoming Skandia dances:

Unless otherwise noted, all dances take place at **Cedar Valley Grange**, 20526 - 52nd Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Skandia members, \$10; nonmembers, \$15; kids, free. Class, 7:30–8:30; dance, 8:30–11 p.m.

December 4, come dance at Jullekstuga, and attend the Annual Meeting

Friday, December 4, starts with mix and mingle time. Arrive for coffee and treats at 7:30 p.m., then head for the dance floor at 8 p.m., when Seattle Skandia Spelmanslag will take center stage.

We'll dance until 9:15, then break for a brief Annual Meeting (until 9:45 p.m.).

The meeting, although short, will be packed with information about the state of Skandia and the many activities completed this year and planned for the future.

You'll hear from the outgoing President and committee chairs about the organization's accomplishments, challenges, and financial picture. You'll also have a chance to vote for trustee candidates. Dancing with the Spelmanslag will continue from 9:45 to 11 p.m.

Remember, there will be no teaching before the dance. See you at the Grange!

Kind bakers, thanks for bringing yummy treats!

—*Judy Patterson*

Third Friday Dance, December 18

Join Elaine Mathies and Larry Reinert to brush up on Bodapolska before the Third Friday dance party in December. Learn why this dance is a favorite with dancers and musicians alike. Live music for dancing begins at 8:30 p.m. with the Seattle Lilla Spelmanslag. Later, Skandia Kapell takes the stage. There will be plenty of great music and dancing, with something for everyone. Come out for the last dance this calendar year; we look forward to seeing you!

—*Martha Levenson*



Skandia music jam

It's the last jam of 2015! Whether you crave a great schottis, a pulsing pols, a sweet waltz, or maybe even some lovely carols, you can find it all on Saturday, December 5. Hosted by Mary Douglas, the jam starts at 9:30 a.m. and continues until noon. You'll find us at 12016 6th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177. Need directions? Call Mary at (206) 755-3170.

—*Martha Levenson*

Welcome new members:

Gunnel Clark
John Parejko

Welcome back to:

Norma Jean Sands

Eastside dance class

Eastside dance interest? Spread the word! Skandia's next eastside Beginning Scandinavian Folk Dance class starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, at the Peter Kirk Center in Kirkland. This class is sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Service. Advance registration is required; call (425) 587-2226 to register. This is a beautiful site with a lovely dance floor.) Maybe give good friends Christmas scholarships?

Eastside news: Skandia is scheduling more classes in the spring and summer in Kirkland, including a 4-week family dance class before Midsommarfest and a Beginning Scandinavian class right after Midsommarfest. Larry will teach a three-week pols session in August. All are at the Peter Kirk Center in downtown Kirkland. Exact dates and costs available for spring and summer classes in a month or two.

The Beginning session last October was cancelled, due to not enough folks registering for the class...not enough, but, sadly, *almost* enough.

—*Patrick McMonagle*



Donation made in memory of Ernie Pi

Skandia wishes to express its gratefulness to the Gammel Dansk folkdance band from Vancouver, B.C. for their generous donation in memory of Skandia's recently deceased Life Member, Ernie Pi. Thank you, Gammel Dansk.

Save the date for Vinterdans!

It's happening the First Friday in February 2016, which is February 5, and will feature a special Swedish guest. There will also be a music workshop on Saturday, February 6. Add it to your calendars now!

—*Martha Levenson*

Skandia Board nominee list grows!

In last month's newsletter we profiled new Skandia Board candidates Elaine Murakami and Pat Pi, who are joining Board incumbents Mike Hart and Avilio Moreno Villamediana on the December 4th ballot.

I am delighted to announce that joining the group of nominees for this year's Board elections is long-time Skandia member, musician, dancer, and outstanding Skandia volunteer Penny Curtis!

When someone asks Penny Curtis what she does, she always says "I play accordion with the Scandinavians!" and not what she does for a living. Not only is Penny a musician, she is also a dancer, a Skandia volunteer, and an active teacher and supporter of the next generation of Scandinavian dancers and musicians. Dancing has been a part of Penny's life for as long as she can remember. As a child, she and her brothers would dance to just about anything.

Penny's first Scandinavian music was an old book of waltzes she found after her husband gave her her first accordion. Early on, Penny was invited to play with the Tanhuajat dance group, where she was introduced to Scandinavian dance and music. She played with them far and wide, from the Finn Fest in the tiny but lovely town of Naselle, Washington, to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Finn Fest. Penny has danced with both Katrilli and Nordiska in years past. Today, she plays with several local music groups, including being a musician for Barneleikarringen of Greater Seattle, where she is also one of the group's coordinators.

Penny is one of the many critical volunteers that make Skandia's Midsommarfest happen every year. She coordinates all aspects of the vendor booths, as well as the event's food services—and if you've ever had to deal with the county health department, you understand her role perfectly. Penny says, "Midsommarfest was, and remains, my most favorite thing to do ever!" When asked what she is most proud of, it's being able to dance and play music with people who are so dedicated to something that fills their hearts.

Adding Penny to the ballot makes five wonderful candidates for the five open positions we have on the Skandia Board for 2016. After the elections are recorded at our December 4th Annual Meeting and Jullekstuga, these five will join the remaining Trustees—Sal Gordon, Patrick McMonagle, and Amy Ravenholt—to be your 2016 Skandia Board of Trustees. And, please remember to vote using the ballot in this month's newsletter; our bylaws require that we formally hear from at least 10% of the membership, so please vote!

—Kelly Britz

For the Election Committee



Kathi's corner



Firtur fra Varde Vardeegnen, Denmark

This lively Danish dance was taught by Elaine Murakami and Frank Brown before the November 20 dance. Find it again on an upcoming program.

- Formation: Sets of 2 couples; couple facing couple, W on R of partner.
- Basket: M hold hands behind W's backs, W's hands on M's shoulder. Buzz 16 steps CW.
- Ladies cross: Chassé* walk walk
- Men cross: Chassé walk walk
- Repeat Ladies cross, Men cross.
- Clap once, chain 16 walking steps, three times around the set.
- Partners pivot, polka or promenade to find a new couple.
- Repeat the entire sequence.
- * Chassé: step-close-step

—Kathi Ploeger

Future events

- 1/8 (Seattle) Dance party with the talented fiddler Bruce Sagan!** 8–10:30 p.m.; requested donation: \$10. Walsh and Patterson dance hall in North Beach (N. of Ballard, W. of Crown Hill). Skandia members and friends welcome. Call (206) 784-8959 to RSVP and get driving directions.
- 1/14–2/11, 2016 (Kirkland) Skandia Basics on Thursdays in Kirkland.** 7:30 p.m., Peter Kirk Center. Call (425) 587-2226 to register.
- 1/6–2/10, 2016 (Seattle) Skandia Basics** with Jerry Walsh & Judy Patterson.
- 1/24 (Mt. Vernon) VASA Mount Vernon, 4th Sunday dance.** Live music by the Sømmenspil Folk Dance Band of Vancouver, B.C. More info later.
- 2/25–3/24 2016 (Kirkland) Skandia Basics on Thursdays in Kirkland.** 7:30 p.m., Peter Kirk Center. Call (425) 587-2226 to register.
- 2/5–6, 2016 (Lynnwood) Vinterdans,** Cedar Valley Grange. Details TBA.
- 5/13–16, 2016 Springdans Northwest.** (Change of date for 2016 only.)

December 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 (Seattle) Skandia Basics, 7:30–9 p.m. (Burnaby, B.C.) Scandinavian	3	4 (CVG, Lynnwood) Skandia 1st Friday dance. Class, dance, 7:30–11 p.m.	5 (Seattle) Skandia Jam, 9:30–noon
6 (Seattle) Swedish pancake breakfast, 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	7 (Poulsbo) Scandinavian dance, 7–9 p.m. (Portland) Norsk Runddansere, 7:30–8:30 p.m.	8	9 (Burnaby, B.C.) Scandinavian dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	10	11	12
13 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	14 (Poulsbo) Scandinavian dance, 7–9 p.m. (Portland) Norsk Runddansere, 7:30–8:30 p.m.	15	16 (Burnaby, B.C.) Scandinavian dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	17	18 (CVG, Lynnwood) Skandia 3rd Friday dance. Class, dance, 7:30–11 p.m.	19
20 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	21 (Poulsbo) Scandinavian dance, 7–9 p.m. (Portland) Norsk Runddansere, 7:30–8:30 p.m.	22	23 (Burnaby, B.C.) Scandinavian dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	24	26	26 (Tacoma) Scandinavian Dance, 7–10:30 p.m.
27 (Port Angeles) Dance, 7–9 p.m.	28 (Poulsbo) Scandinavian dance, 7–9 p.m. (Portland) Norsk Runddansere, 7:30–8:30 p.m.	29	30 (Burnaby, B.C.) Scandinavian dance, 7:30–10 p.m.	31		

December events

Sundays (Port Angeles) Regular Sunday dance.

Scandinavian and ballroom dancing Sundays, 7–9 p.m. Scandia Hall at 131 W 5th St., Port Angeles, WA. Donations taken at the door. Info: Sandy or Paul, (360) 457-7035 or penga@olyphen.com.

Mondays (Poulsbo) Scandinavian dance instruction, 7–9 p.m., at the Sons of Norway Hall, 18891 Front Street. Partners not required. Monetary donations joyfully accepted. Other December Monday events include the Lucia party, 6 p.m. on the 14th; and the party dance, 7 p.m. on the 21st. Bring a treat to share, your dance shoes, and your enthusiasm. Info: Laurel at (360) 876-8907 or Julie at (360) 394-9698.

Mondays (Portland) Norske Runddansere Scandinavian Folkdance. We dance and teach couple and circle dances and lively mixers from all five Scandinavian countries. We meet at Scandinavian Heritage Foundation's Nordia House at 8800 SW Oleson Rd., Portland, OR 97223. Regular admission is \$4; first dance free, and free for students; \$50 for

annual membership. Everyone is welcome! Please bring separate indoor dancing shoes. Lessons every Monday, 7:30–8:30 p.m., fall–spring. Open request dance year-round. Info: Newgards, (503) 636–7509 or vj_newgard@yahoo.com. Website: www.norskerunddansere.org

Wednesdays, (Burnaby, B.C.) Scandinavian dance.

Weekly teaching & request dancing to recorded music from September through April, with time off around Christmas. Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas St., 7:30–10 p.m., \$8. Second Wednesdays are live music nights at an alternate location; see www.vcn.bc.ca/scandi for the venue and details. Info: Judith, (604) 526-4722 or judithanderson@shaw.ca.

12/5

(Bothell) 2015 Annual Lutefisk and Meatball

Dinner, 12 noon–6 p.m. The dinner includes lutefisk, meatballs, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, lefse and ice cream and cookies. Free parking. Reservations not required. \$23; children 12 years and under, \$8;

children under age 5, free. Bothell Sons of Norway, 23905 Bothell-Everett Hwy, Bothell WA. Info: (425) 485-9085 or www.bothellsonsofnorway.org.

- 12/6 (Seattle) Swedish pancake breakfast.** Live music, dancing, and authentic Swedish pancakes, with ham, lingonberries, and all the fixin's. Music by Richard Svensson & Bjarne Jacobsen, Seattle Scandia Spelmanslag, and Smilin' Scandinavians. \$9; SCC members, \$7; children ages 5–12, \$5. 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Ave N.
- 12/8 (Bellingham) Sibelius 150th Anniversary Concert,** 7 p.m. \$20; students and children, \$10. Mt. Baker Theatre, 104 Commercial St., Bellingham. Info: (360) 734-6080 or www.mountbakertheatre.com.
- 12/11 (Seattle) Live music Marissa and Kris and Scandinavian dances** at the Swedish Cultural Center, 1920 Dexter Ave N., 8–10:30 p.m. \$10; less for Swedish Club members.
- 12/12–13 (Portland) Norske Runddansere's 27th Annual Snoball.** (Overnight stay optional.) Scandinavian folk dancing, with music by Skolkis. At Mazama Lodge on Mount Hood, Oregon. Catered dinner at 5 p.m.; dancing starting at 7:30 p.m. \$40 for dinner and dance (\$85 if staying overnight). Last day to register: December 9. Norske Runddansere, Leikarringen, and Mazama members save \$5. Info: norskerunddansere.org, or Veronika Newgard at (503) 636-7509 or vj_newgard@yahoo.com.
- 12/13 (Seattle) Traditional Lucia service,** Sunday evening at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2400 NW 85th St, Seattle. Live music and dancing after the service. Call (206) 783-7900 for exact times.
- 12/19 (Bothell) Sons of Norway dance.** Music by Sylvia (Ya Sure Ya Betcha Band), 7–10 p.m. Sons of Norway, 23905 Bothell-Everett Hwy, Bothell. Info: Ken & Freda Howard, (425) 672-4508.
- 12/26 (Tacoma) Scandinavian Dance** with Sons of Norway, 7–10:30 p.m. Music by Sprita Ut, featuring nyckelharpa and fiddle. Learn or review snoa with Don Meyers and Kathi Ploeger at 7 p.m. Dance, 8–10:30 p.m. Scandinavian couple dances. Circle and mixer dances reviewed. No partner needed. Normanna Hall, 1106 S. 15th St. (corner of 15th and M L King St. Tacoma). \$10 for adults. \$7 for Sons of Norway Lodge #2 members. \$5 for non-dancers. Students and children, free. Info: (253) 759-3731 or karengoettling@gmail.com.



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Skandia Folkdance Society Board of Trustees: President, Kelly Britz; Vice President, Patrick McMonagle; Treasurer, Sal Gordon; Secretary, Karen Goettling; Trustees, Mike Hart, Amy Ravenholt, Avilio Moreno Villamediana, & Jerry Walsh.

Send items for the *Other events* column to:

skandia.editor@gmail.com, or mail (typed only) to **Kathy D. Bruni, Skandia Newsletter, 14805 NE 177th St., Woodinville, WA 98072-6223**. Items for the **January** issue must arrive by **December 10**. Please include date, time, cost, location, contact phone number, and email address. Priority is given to local Scandinavian dance and music events.

Directions to regular Skandia events

Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle: from I-5 northbound or southbound, take exit 172 (N 85th St/ Aurora Ave); drive west on N 85th about a mile; turn south onto Greenwood and go south 1 mile; turn left at 67th (where Greenwood doglegs east and becomes Phinney); go half a block downhill to the lower parking lot. Room 2 is in the main building, next to the upper parking lot.

Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52nd Ave W, Lynnwood: from I-5 north- or southbound, take exit 179; turn east on 220th St. Go half a mile to the stop sign at 52nd St.; turn left and go a short mile to the hall (on your left). **Dances on first and third Fridays of every month.**

Newsletter advertising policy

1. Skandia will not accept paid advertisements for the newsletter.
2. Announcements of activities and events congruent with Skandia's educational and cultural foci will be accepted on a space-available basis, unless they conflict with scheduled Skandia events. Exceptions can be made for the inclusion in the monthly calendar listing.
3. Classified advertisements from Skandia Folkdance Society members for non-commercial purposes will be accepted for free on a space-available basis. An example of "non-commercial" would be a member trying to sell a pair of dance shoes that no longer fits.
4. Any exceptions to these policies have to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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Address Service Requested

Check your ZIP!

Please check the ZIP code on your address label. If it has changed, please email membership@svikt.com or call Don or Kathi at (206) 789-2678. This will help Skandia comply with postal regulations.

SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY

Membership registration and change form

Today's date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

- To report a membership problem, check here and describe problem on back of this form or on separate page.
- New member(s) (first time only).
- Renew membership(s) (including expired or inactive memberships).
 - There have been NO CHANGES in my ADDRESS or PHONE NUMBER since my last renewal.
 - Shown below are CHANGES that have occurred in my ADDRESS or PHONE NUMBER since my last renewal.
- I do NOT want a newsletter mailed to me. **Check this box if you view the newsletter at Skandia-folkdance.org.***

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Phone: Area code, Home, Work: _____
Email address: _____

Mail, with your check or money order for \$40 per person (*\$30 if you elect to read the newsletter online at www.skandia-folkdance.org/newsletter.html) made out to SKANDIA FOLKDANCE SOCIETY, to:

Skandia Membership Committee
Post Office Box 17123
Seattle, WA 98127-0823

- Please mail me my membership card in the ENCLOSED SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE.
- I will request my card from a cashier at a Skandia class or event.