

AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE
NORDIC COUNTRIES

ASA SPOTLIGHT

Letter from the Editor:

Hello, this is Anna writing! January is the third newsletter that I have edited for the American Scandinavian Association. As a newcomer to newsletter editing, I welcome information and resources that the membership would consider helpful for this project to thrive!

Ever since joining ASA's Nordic Language Meetups a year ago, I discovered a welcoming and thoughtful group as excited about Scandinavia as I was. While I practiced Swedish in the hopes of studying for my Master's degree there, I was also lucky enough to make lasting friendships and to meet mentors with a lot to offer.

Taking on Gerry Schueman's impressive mantle as editor has been daunting, yet rewarding in equal measure. I plan to include the ASA community in this newsletter, just as Gerry did. The start of that process will be an open call for "Letters to the Editor" for our February edition. Please tell me what lasting impact ASA had on your life and what you have gained by being a member. You can contact me to include your letter at strohmeyer@gmail.com by January 20th. I look forward to featuring your experiences in many newsletters to come!

Nordic Language Meetup Anniversary Party

Date: Saturday, January 18, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Address: St. John's Episcopal Church 6701 Wisconsin Ave. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

RSVP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45A5AA2EA2FF2-nordic>

ASA is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its Nordic Language Meetup group. Join us for a potluck and program with songs, games, folk costume fashion show, presentations, and a chance meet new and old members and speak the Nordic language of your choice.

Norwegian Language Class

Norwegian language classes are offered most Wednesday evenings at Norway House in Fairfax. Please visit NorwayDC.org for more details.

Email: amscaninfo@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ScandinavianDC/
Website: <https://scandinavian-dc.org>



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TALKS & CLASSES

Drott Lodge Meeting: Nordic Storyteller, Election of Officers and Budget Vote

Date: Sunday January 12 at 2:30 pm

Address: St. James' Episcopal Church Undercroft (Basement) of the Church Building, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, Maryland.

Members are urged to attend this enchanting and *important* January Meeting!

The meeting will open with professional storyteller Margaret Chatham, who will spin and weave classic Nordic tales. Margaret has more than 30 years of storytelling experience and her performance will be sure to entertain old and young alike, so bring your children and grandchildren! The performance will be followed by a business meeting in which we will elect new officers of the lodge and, very importantly, vote on Drott's budget for 2020, including the proposed cultural program budget. So, please come to the meeting, be entertained and lend your voice to the lodge's future!

Finnish Language School Association

Spring Session Dates: January 11 – April 25, Saturday mornings

Address: Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6201 Washington Blvd, Arlington, Virginia 22205-2034

Contact: Dale Milton (email: dmilton132@aol.com; phone: (703) 606-1883; inquires@finnschool.org or website: <http://finnschool.org>)

FLSA is dedicated to the teaching of the Finnish language and serves the local Finnish / Finnish-American community. It offers adult education classes for adults and young adults from beginner through advanced levels. The major emphasis of FLSA is practical Finnish. "Practical" means verbal communication. Classes also address simple reading and writing. Grammar is incorporated throughout, to assist in learning to use and understand Finnish.

Suomikoulu DC – Children's Finnish Language Classes

Dates: January 11th, January 25th, February 8th from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Address: Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Church, 6201 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA.

Contact: website at suomikouludc.org or Facebook: www.facebook.com/suomikouludc

Suomikoulu DC is a school for 3 to 13-year-old children that is working to preserve Finnish culture and language. Its work is supported by the Finnish government. The focus on teaching children to understand and speak Finnish.

Finland-U.S. Future Leaders Scholarship

Deadline for application and essay is January 15, 2020

Website: <https://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/scholarships/finland-us-future-leaders-scholarship/>

Contact: Madeline Keating at mkeating@afsusa.org or call 646-751-2235

Fifteen scholarships will be awarded to applicants and no previous language experience is required. Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with American Field Service staff. A selection committee of AFS staff and volunteers will review applications to select scholarship recipients. The scholarship includes round-trip airfare, lodging with a carefully selected host family, orientations and ongoing support throughout the program and enrichment leadership activities in Finland. There will also be joint activities with Finnish students, including a reception at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, DC.

To be eligible students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale; must be age 16-17 during the program (birth-dates must be between January 19, 2003 - June 19, 2004); must be U.S. citizens; students must reside within the Washington D.C. Metro area including Charles, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, and St. Mary's Counties (students from Hardy County in West Virginia are also eligible). Applicants are required to submit an essay responding to the question "How do I contribute to creating a better world?" and a host family letter. These essays should not exceed 500 words.



ARTS



“Allt för Sverige” a.k.a. Great Swedish Adventure

This Emmy-Award-Winning Swedish TV Show is Now Casting Americans With Swedish Ancestry! (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3043338/>)

Apply Here: www.greatswedishadventure.com

Deadline to Apply: January 25th, 2020

Contact: Meter Television LA producer Sofia Eng (phone: 310-500-8350; email: sofia.eng@meter.tv)

Meter Television are searching for Americans with Swedish ancestry for the Kristallen (Swedish Golden Globe) and Emmy Award winning reality TV show, *Great Swedish Adventure* is now casting for season 10. Looking for people 19-70 years old. Americans will travel to Sweden and compete in extreme cultural challenges to discover their rich and fascinating roots while trying to win the grand prize: meeting their Swedish relatives!

Book Launch: Novels by Swedish Writers Helena Thorfinn & Lo Dagerman

Date: Sunday, January 19th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Address: The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda, MD 20815

Cost: Free

RSVP: <https://www.writer.org/event/swedish/>

Contact: 301- 654 - 8664

Best-selling author Helena Thorfinn, *Before the River Takes Us*, and Lo Dagerman, translator and audiobook narrator of Stig Dagerman's classic *Wedding Worries*, discuss the two novels with Linda Zachrison, Cultural Counselor at the Embassy of Sweden.

The Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C.

Dates: Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30

Address: Highland View Elementary School; 9010 Providence Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Contact: Chris Kalke (phone: 301-864-1596, email: ckalke@verizon.net)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/nordicdancersdc/>

Come any Wednesday and learn traditional dances of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Norway, and Sweden. Music is provided by fiddler, Paul Carlson. Newcomers are welcome; no prior dance experience is necessary.

ARTS

Scandia DC Dance Group

Date: Saturday, January 18th from 7 to 10 pm
Address: Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio
(wood floor) at 15 Crescent Rd. 20770, MD
Cost: 10 USD
Contact: Linda Brooks (phone 202-333-2826, email: Linda@ScandiaDC.org, or website: ScandiaDC.org)

Linda Brooks and Pascal Peterson will teach Gammalpolska from Föllinge - a lively, fun dance from the northern part of Sweden - during this event. This month live fiddle music will feature Paul Carlson and the Scandia DC Spelmannslag. There may be some recorded music. No partners necessary.

Mid-Atlantic Norwegian Dancers Potluck

Date: Saturday, January 11th, 6:30 pm potluck, 8 pm dancing starts
Address: 3600 T St., NW, Wash DC 20007
Contact: Linda Brooks (phone 202-333-2826, email: Linda@ScandiaDC.org, or website: ScandiaDC.org)

Tasty potlucks, friendly company, transcendent music, and beautiful dancing. We share dance moves and sometimes have informal classes. Live Hardanger fiddle music by our fabulous local fiddler Loretta Kelley or a guest fiddler. When the fiddler takes a break, there's dessert and usually some Swedish music for dancing (often on a nyckelharpa). Please bring clean shoes to wear, good food to share, and bucks you can spare. No need to bring a partner: we mix, and some enjoy the challenge of switching gender so all can dance. Come dance, or just watch/listen if you prefer. "Newbies will be welcomed, encouraged, and assimilated." See you there!

Hambo DC Scandinavian Dance Classes

Dates: January 7th, 14th, 21st; Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Address: National Institutes of Health, Bldg. T39, 8740 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894
Cost: Free for newcomers, 5 USD for returning participants
Contact: Lynn Walker (phone: 301-834-4020, email: lisa@HamboDC.org, or website: <http://www.hambodc.org/>)

Beginners learn Hambo, Schottis, Waltz, Polka, and other couple turning dances. Some Hambo is done every time. Intermediate dancers learn Rørospols. Advanced dancers learn more Swedish dances and Norwegian dances, including polskas, springars, and requests. Singles, couples, beginners, and advanced dancers welcome. Come when you can; classes are all year and no registration is needed.



CHURCH SERVICES

Swedish Church Service

Date: January 12th from 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Address: Augustana Lutheran Church, New Hampshire Ave. & V St., NW Washington, DC

Contact: email washington@svenskakyrkan.se or go to www.svenskakyrkan.se/washingtondc

Alla Välkomna!



Finlandia Foundation "For the Youth by the Youth" Concert

Date: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Address: Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Church,
6201 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA.

Contact: Riikka Mohorn (email: VAFinnsSecretary@gmail.com)



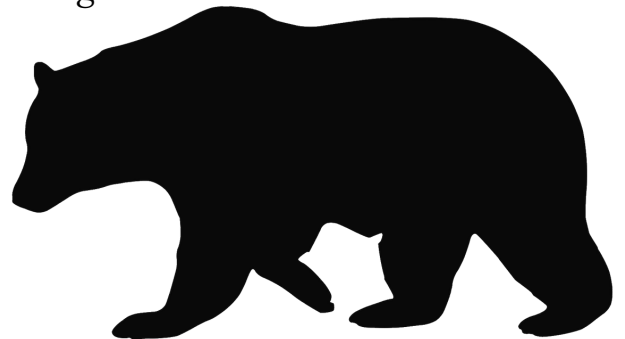
Norwegian Church Service

Date: January 12th at 2:30 pm

Address: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD.

Contact: Lasse Syversen (phone: 724-689-6704 or email at lsyversen@flagshiptrade.com)

Service conducted in Norwegian.



NEWS

New U.S. Ambassador to Sweden

Nov. 12th, 2019

The new U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Ken Howery was received by H.M. the King Carl XVI Gustaf to hand over his letter of credence from the President of the United States. Ken Howery is an entrepreneur and venture capitalist from Texas who co-founded PayPal.

Nestingen the Knight

Nov. 22nd, 2019

The University of Washington Professor Andrew Nestingen, Chair of Scandinavian Studies, has been awarded the prestigious honor – knighthood – for his accomplishments in promoting Finnish and Nordic values. While he was an exchange student to Finland 30 years ago, today he leads the department in academic research and the study of Nordic culture.

Copenhagen to Celebrate First Electric Buses

Dec. 4th, 2019; by Valmira Gjoni

December 8 will be a historic day for public transportation in Copenhagen, as the city's first electric buses hit the streets. The change on Sunday will see bus lines 2A and 18 switch from diesel to electric power and it is the first step towards Copenhagen's goal of having all buses run on sustainable energy by 2025. Source: The Copenhagen Post



Sanna Marin, 34, is Finland's New Prime Minister

Dec. 10th, 2019

Less than a month after her 34th birthday, Sanna Marin was chosen by her party, the Social Democrats, to replace Antti Rinne as prime minister. The other four parties in the government coalition all have women leaders: Katri Kulmuni of the Centre Party, Maria Ohisalo of the Greens, Li Andersson of the Left Alliance and Anna-Maja Henriksson of the Swedish People's Party. The first three are also less than 35 years old. Out of the 19 government ministers in the new cabinet, 12 are women. Marin is the youngest prime minister currently in office in the world and the youngest one in Finnish history. A record number of women won seats in the April 2019 parliamentary elections: 93, equaling 47 percent of the 200-person Parliament.

The previous high was 85, in 2011. Women hold 17 of the Green Party's 20 seats and 22 of the SDP's 40 seats. Source: ThisisFINLAND staff (<https://finland.fi/life-society/sanna-marin-34-finlands-new-prime-minister-heads-a-government-coalition-with-four-other-female/>)



Nothing to Snort at on Denmark

Dec. 10th, 2019; Summary by Marshall H. Cohen

Denmark has shown that pigs can be raised with reduced antimicrobial use without reducing productivity. The US pork producers remain unimpressed. Source: The New York Times.

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/06/health/pigs-antibiotics-denmark.html>)



Greta Thunberg is Time's 2019 Person of the Year

Dec. 11th, 2019

Greta Thunberg has rapidly become one of the world's most notable climate change activists. She started protesting alone outside the Swedish Parliament during school hours on Fridays in 2018 when she was 15. The teen held up the now-famous sign that reads "skolstrejk för klimatet," or "School strike for the climate."

Thus, the "Fridays For Future" movement was born as news of her activism spread across the globe and inspired others. Her solo protest eventually prompted millions of students in 150 countries to follow suit. At 16, Thunberg is Time's youngest Person of the Year choice.

(<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/greta-thunberg-time-s-2019-person-year-n1099396>)

