



Nordic News

240 Sparks Street, PO Box 55023, Ottawa, ON K1P 1A1

www.canadiannordicsociety.com

CNS 2014 Dates to Remember

Speakers' Events

Wednesday February 19, 2014

Luncheon Dates

Monday, February 3, 2014

CNS EVENTS

SPEAKER'S EVENTS

February Speaker

Wednesday February 19, 2014



Eccentric Angel: The Strange, Sad Life of Soren Kierkegaard

By Prof. Graeme Hunter, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Ottawa

“Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (b. 1813, d. 1855) was a profound and prolific writer in the Danish “golden age” of intellectual and artistic activity. His work crosses the boundaries of philosophy, theology, psychology, literary criticism, devotional literature and fiction.”
(from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

(Kierkegaard picture from Wikipedia)



“Philosophy is always born of love. But the eccentric Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard, loved so deeply and strangely that he begot a philosophy both deep and strange. I shall trace the tangled threads of love and philosophy through Kierkegaard’s troubled, tragicomic life” – Graeme Hunter.

Come and hear Prof. Hunter’s introduction to the life and thought of Søren Kierkegaard

Coffee will be available.

CNS LUNCHEONS

The following are the dates for the CNS luncheons (all are Mondays):

2014: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

As usual, reservations are not normally required.

The luncheons will be held at the Army Officers’ Mess, 149 Somerset Street W. (off Elgin), Ottawa, at noon.

Thanks to Bruce Miller and Lennart Nylund for arranging these luncheons for us. Please mark your calendars with these dates.

OTHER CNS INFORMATION

Nominating Committee

The Board will strike a Nomination Committee in advance of this year's elections. It will be headed by Lennard Sillanpää. If you are interested in standing for election to the Board of the Canadian Nordic Society please get in touch with Len.

Email: lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca
Tel: 613-837-1641

OTHER NORDIC EVENTS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Norwegian Folk Dance

In conjunction with the Celebration of the Bicentennial of the Norwegian Constitution, a traditional folk dance will be held February 15, 2014 at 450 Rideau Street. The invitation from the Royal Norwegian Embassy is attached, and registration by February 10, 2014 is required.

Bright Nights Festival

The Canadian Film Institute is holding its 2014 **Baltic-Nordic Bright Nights Film Festival** February 1 to February 12. Featured are the following:

Saturday February 1, 9:00 pm: Norway's Into the Dark

Wednesday February 5, 9:00 pm: Finland's My Stuff

Saturday February 8, 7:00 pm: Denmark's Moonrider

Saturday February 8, 9:00 pm: Iceland's The Deep

Wednesday February 12, 7:00 pm: Sweden's The Last Sentence

All films are being shown in the Auditorium of Library and Archives Canada, 195 Wellington St, Ottawa. The general admission is \$12. Descriptions of the films and other participating countries can be found at <http://www.cinemablographer.com/2014/01/bright-nights-film-festival-ottawa.html>

Carleton University Lecture Series

The lecture series, Who Were the Vikings by Dr. Teva Vidal, is being repeated in the Late Spring program of the Learning in Retirement Program of Carleton University, Tuesdays, April 8 to May 6, 2014. For more information visit <http://www1.carleton.ca/cie/learning-in-retirement/lecture-series/late-spring-session-2014/>

This series was quickly sold out when first presented last fall.

Recreation Video – Bergen

Doreen passed on the following:

There is a video of a re-creation of Bergen that members may find interesting:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/webtv/Se-Bergen-fra-1300-tallet-vokse-frem-7429493.html#.UtCQ7p5dXTo>

Thanks Doreen.

Danish Club

From Viking News circulated earlier this month:

Fastelavn – Mardi Gras for the Children

Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 14.00 (2:00 p.m.)

St. John's Lutheran Church Hall

272 Crichton Street, Ottawa

Lunch and a Movie

Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 12.30 (12:30 p.m.)

St. John's Lutheran Church Hall

272 Crichton Street, Ottawa

Queens's Birthday Party

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Danish Canadian Conference

May 22 – 25, 2014

The Westin Ottawa

11 Colonel

TVO's the Vikings

TVO, the Ontario TV education channel, has a 3 part series called "Vikings", the first of which aired Monday, January 27, at 10:00 pm, with the others scheduled for Monday February 3 and 10. The episodes are repeated at 12:30 am Friday morning, though they appear on TVO's schedule under Thursday.

BTW, the TVO monthly schedule is available as a .pdf that can be located by googling "TVO schedule", select TV Schedule and then select Download near the upper right-hand corner.

Thanks to Tim Mark's eagle eye.

Report on Recent Events

January Meeting: Report Origins of Norway's Constitution

The Norwegian Constitution turns 200 this year. In celebration of this important anniversary an evening of lectures and a reception was held Tuesday January 14, organized by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in conjunction with the Canadian Nordic Society, with around 120 guests in attendance.

January 14, 1814 is very significant in the history of modern Norway, being the date that the Treaty of Kiel was signed, ending the main bout of the wars that had ravaged Europe from the time of the French Revolution through the Napoleonic era. Authority over Norway was assigned to Sweden at this time.

Historian Mr. Donald E. Graves recounted the European history during this period, highlighting the origins of the wars, intrigues, coalitions (some 7 different ones), major events, and some personages. He even threw in information on the Canadian – US war of 1812, some of which was impacted by the end of hostilities in Europe, releasing Britain from her preoccupation with the continent to concentrate on the plight of her colony.

At the end of the Napoleonic wars The King of Denmark was sovereign over the country of Norway; and this sovereignty was changed to the King of Sweden (which had been allied with Great Britain in the last year of the war.) Napoleon was exiled to Elba (from which he returned in 1815 only to meet his Waterloo and ultimate re-exile on the Island of St. Helens.)

The Royal Norwegian Ambassador H.E. Mona Brøther described the development of the Norwegian Constitution. Following the Treaty of Kiel of January 1814, the Crown Prince of Denmark-Norway, Christian Frederik, the resident viceroy in Norway, founded a Norwegian independence movement. A national assembly at Eidsvoll was called with representatives elected by the congregations of the state church throughout Norway, and by military units. They convened at the Eidsvoll manor on 10 April. During five weeks of the spring of 1814, the constitution was written. The constitution was ratified by the assembly on 16 May, and signed the following day, the latter date now celebrated as the Norwegian Constitution Day.

The Norwegian Constitution was written using some elements from the American and French ones. While a monarchy was retained, an interesting element is that the sovereign was to be elected by the citizens of the country and to govern with the consent of the populace.

This constitution has continued with modifications, to this day and is the oldest European constitution in existence.



At the end of the lectures, George Hynnä, President of the Canadian Nordic Society presented H.E Mona Brøther and Donald Graves with a CNS mug, the traditional thank you gift of CNS. H.E. reciprocated by presenting George and Donald with traditional Norwegian wool hats.

Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner



The Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner of the Canadian Nordic Society was held November 16, 2012 at the Restaurant International, School of Hospitality and Tourism, Algonquin College, with over 70 members in attendance.

Attendees included H.E. Neils Boel Abrahamsen, Ambassador of Denmark, H.E. Thordur Óskarsson, Ambassador of Iceland, and H.E. Mona Elizabeth Brother, Royal Norwegian Ambassador. George Hynnä, current and also a past president, introduced the other past presidents including Lars Öhman (also honorary president of CNS), Ed Napke, Lennard Sillanpää, Leena Sillanpää, Per Talgoy, Ed Jull, Karin Birnbaum, Doreen Riedel. George mentioned that Jack Ives and Lars Öhman were founding members of CNS, back in 1963. Some spouses of past presidents and several past (and current) members of the executive were also in attendance.





Diner was exquisite – each plate was a work of art, prepared by 20 student chefs, served by others from the school. After coffee was served, all the staff paraded out to be thanked by the participants. One student gave a short outline of the nature of the school itself, and her interest in the event. It is a nice feeling to have enjoyed a wonderful meal and helped a new generation in the process.

On behalf of all attendees, Doreen Riedel thanked the organizers Bruce Miller, Lennart Nylund and Tullika Bens-Bruchner for an event to remember.

October Film Evening



The film **Spring of Joy (Glädjekällan)**, directed by Swedish director Richard Hobert, was shown at our October meeting. Centre stage to the film was an urn containing the ashes of a woman who enjoyed travelling. The husband was stay-at-home very traditional and serious Swede, who wished to lay to rest his wife at a beloved cottage. But his son, a rock star, had designs on the property to pay for his next album release and who had a rather eccentric young lady in tow. Of course there was immediate conflict between the old and the young, as they drove from his home to the cottage. The urn

underwent a comical series of near mishaps during the trip. But all wrapped up nicely and neatly in the end.

Britt Bengtsson, Information Officer at the Swedish Embassy, was on hand to introduce the film and to answer questions afterwards. Here is Britt after receiving the traditional CNS mug from Past President and Councillor Lennard Sillanpää, with Lennart Nylund (Treasurer) and George Hynnä (President) in the background.

EDITOR'S SECTION

Just a reminder that Saami National Day is Thursday February 6.

Nordic Factoid

Ice Skates



In case you missed Dave Brown's item in Saturday's Citizen, it is believed that ice skates were invented in Finland, variously dated to 3000, 1800 or 1000 BCE (depending on the source). The skates were animal leg bones, tied to one's footwear with laces through holes in either end. The bones were flattened and sharpened on the bottom to grip the ice. Because the bindings weren't very sturdy, skaters propelled themselves with a stick they pushed between their legs.

The first skate to use a metal blade was found in Scandinavia and was dated to 200 and was fitted with a thin strip of copper folded and attached to the underside of a leather shoe. The Dutch added steel blades in the 13th to 14th century.

No wonder the Finish Juniors took the gold this year.

With contributions from Wikipedia.

Electric Cars

Wikipedia reports that Norway accounted for 7% of world-wide sales of pure electric cars in 2012, fifth largest in the world after Japan, USA, China and France. This doesn't include hybrids.

NORDIC RESOURCES

Just a reminder that there is a list of Nordic Resources located on our website:

<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/resources.html>

including the Nordic Embassies, the Ottawa-based social organizations, and links to newspapers and museums in Nordic Countries. The list is on the Nordic Resources tab on the general web site, or use the link above.

MEMBERSHIP

The CNS membership year is from September 1 to August 31 which means that it is once again time to renew your membership for the 2013-2014 year. (The fiscal business year runs from April 1 to March 31, so that an audit can be completed in advance of the AGM in May). Our membership dues remain the same as they have been for a number of years: \$20.00 for an individual membership; \$30.00 for a family membership, \$15.00 for a student membership. Please fill in the form on the page below, enclose a cheque and mail it to our mail box indicated in our letterhead or give it to one of the Board Members listed below. Unfortunately, the form cannot be completed or submitted electronically.

It is the membership dues that enable us to have our Speakers' Series which has been one of the distinguishing aspects of the Canadian Nordic Society program since we were established in 1963. While we work in close co-operation with the five Nordic embassies situated in Ottawa, CNS does not receive any financial support from any embassy or other organization.

We depend on our membership to enable us to continue carrying out a program of activities that promote a better understanding of the societies and cultures of the Nordic countries.

Canadian Nordic Society Board Members – 2013-2014

President:	George Hynna	613-730-9074	george.hynna@gmail.com
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Councillor: and Past President	Lennard Sillanpää –	613-837-1641	lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca
Honorary President: Lars Öhman - Newsletter Editor (but not a board member:)	Peter Macnaughton	613-224-8527	peter.macnaughton@sympatico.ca

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Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (work): _____

Email: _____

Family Membership \$30, Individual Membership \$20, Student \$15

RECEIPT FROM CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY

Received From: _____

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Date Received: _____

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To celebrate the Bicentenary of the Norwegian Constitution

The Royal Norwegian Embassy

invites you to discover traditional

Norwegian Folk Dance



Come alone or bring your favorite dance partner!

15 February 2014
4:30-7:30 p.m.
450 Rideau Street

Register by 10 February
613-238-6571
emb.ottawa@mfa.no
Light refreshments provided.

1814-2014
BICENTENARY
NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION