

# SCANDINAVIAN CLUB/SOUTHEAST VALLEY



Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Norway

Sweden

December 2014

Email: [scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com](mailto:scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com) On the internet at: [www.tiny.cc/scanclubsev](http://www.tiny.cc/scanclubsev)

President-  
Bob Sjolin  
Vice President-  
Vacant  
Past President-  
Nancy Espy-Martin  
Treasurer-  
Jerry Johnson  
Asst. Treasurer-  
Ken Nelson  
Secretary-  
Carol Knudson  
Two year term board mem-  
bers:  
Darlene Knipping / Sue Jordan exp. 03-2015  
Jerry Christenson / Lydia Larson exp. 03-2016

## From President Bob at Christmas

As we approach the Christmas season we count all our blessings. Among those besides relatives and family are our friends. Friends are an enjoyable part of life, even more valuable as we age. In our Scandinavian Club, in all our clubs and organizations we treasure those people that help us get more out of each day, month and year. We have friends that go back to our high school days; we still are able to interact with them. Personally, my family still enjoys going back to Kansas City and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin each year.

Our Scandinavian Club with its entertainment, programs and members are seeking to validate our heritage. Many of you have traveled overseas to see for yourselves those relatives, those important churches, homes, etc. At this time we also look to our club leadership to keep the Club vibrant and healthy. In that vein let each of our members consider being an asset to the Club. Whether you help with writing articles about your heritage, serving on the Board, setting up or decorating tables - any of the above; that dedication and service is why the Club is vibrant after 32 years.

Gud Jul and have a wonderful New Year.

The following committees have been staffed by the president:

Membership-  
Carol Jacobsen  
Historian-  
Gordon Roen  
Table setup/coordinator-  
Sue Jordan  
Newsletter Publisher-  
Lyle Replogle  
Photographer-  
Lyle Replogle  
Publicity-  
Jerry Christenson

### 50/50 DRAWING

To assist the club in our program selections and plan for some Scandinavian outreach we will have a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

### SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

**November 16**  
**Scandinavian Dancers**

**December 14**  
**Chordaires Show Chorus of Sun Lakes**

**January 18**  
**Scandinavian Exchange Students**

**February 15**  
**Annual Heritage Dinner**  
**Norwegian Consulate /Scandinavian artifact display**

**March 15**  
**Silvia Jorgensen and Carl Nyberg**  
**Flag presentation and music**

### More about our Club

<http://scandinavianclubsev.wordpress.com>

Find previous newsletters, contact information of officers and committees, photos from past meetings and more.

## NOVEMBER 2014 PHOTOS

The evening got off with a great start during the Social Hour. Once again, the pickled herring and cheese were a big hit.



We heard Ruth Pedersen's story of her Scandinavian heritage and her family history of settling in North Dakota.



The Scandinavian Dancers showed us how to do it and then we joined in and danced with them.



Click here to [watch a video](#) of the dancers on you tube. You can also enter the following on you tube:  
<http://youtu.be/tCQjDXDObM0>

## A NEW MEMBER WITH A NEW BOOK

Jerry Letnes, a winter resident in the Oakwood community of Sun Lakes for the past 10 years and longtime resident of Issaquah, Washington has just published a book that chronicles his life and life of his family in both Norway and the United States. The book, "Diamond in the Rough" will be of particular interest to people of Scandinavian heritage and to anyone who from the Midwest including the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Jerry grew up on a potato farm in the Red River Valley of North Dakota. He served four years in the United States Navy aboard a destroyer. He then graduated from North Dakota State University with BSEE and MSEE degrees. Later, he received a MBA from Seattle University. His newly published book is now available for purchase on <http://www.amazon.com> In the search bar, type (diamond in the rough Jerry Letnes). Jerry is also the brother of Janet Martin who has published several books including "Growing up Lutheran" and "Lutheran Church Basement Women".

### **Book Description:**

Every one of us has a story to tell that begs to be told, enjoyed, and preserved. In this book, Jerry Letnes traces his family name and ancestral roots to Norway. Treasured family stories from his immediate family, siblings, parents, grandparents, and ancestors in Norway dating back to the early 1800's are shared. The book includes three appendices. The first is a story of his paternal grandmother's grandfather who practiced medicine north of Trondheim, Norway starting in 1806.

The second is a story of his paternal grandfather's grandfather and father who built a small sailing ship called a jekta and hauled freight up and down the coast of Norway from the Lofoten Islands to Bergen in the early to mid-1800's.

The third is a story of his maternal great grandfather who was a cottager near Arendahl, Norway and his wife's family who farmed this area for hundreds of years. There are many stories in the book that tell of Letnes's travels and visits to Norway dating to the early 1960's

Letnes also tells of his life growing up on a farm in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and uses a series of short stories to capture the environment, culture and traditions of the 1940's and 1950's in rural America. This was a time when the local community was separated by different ethnic roots, religion, culture and customs and immigrants were just starting to become amalgamated as Americans. Letnes tells of his family dynamics, dreams, aspirations, joys, amusements, prejudices and sorrows during this time of transition.

Like the story told by Constantine Cafaly in his epic poem "Ithaca", this book is a moving story of one person's journey through life with all the adventure, pleasant surprises, love, humor, challenges, soul searching and beauty along the way.

Jerry will be at a side table with his book during the social hour. You can take this opportunity to learn more from Jerry about how he came to write his book.

While very few of us would take on the task of writing a book, many of our members have some wonderful stories to tell of their Scandinavian heritage. Do you have a story you could share with us? Send it to: [scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com](mailto:scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com)

## Søren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher

Søren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher who lived from 1813 to 1855, is often considered the "father of [existentialism](#)." He wrote on the nature and existence of human beings, considering as Percy does, the question of who we are and why we are here. A devout Christian, SK also extensively considers faith and the individual's relationship with God. Kierkegaard the author employed "irony" to get his points across - using narrators of many different pseudonyms with diverse personalities, and both fiction and non-fiction formats, to accomplish his goal of conveying his thoughts without teaching or preaching. His thoughts anticipated those of other pivotal thinkers of this time and beyond, including Jean-Paul Sartre and Sigmund Freud. Many of Freud's ideas such as the "pleasure principle," the "death drive," and the reason man "sins" echo Kierkegaard's philosophy.

### The Three Stages

Kierkegaard's great question was always "What ought I do?" His most famous answer to the question turns on a three-fold distinction of stages on life's way.

The first stage is the aesthetic, the quest for sensual and intellectual pleasure. This eventually leads to boredom and then suicide, however, so there is an impulse to move to a form of life in which there is a conception of oughtness.

The second stage is thus the moral in which we freely align ourselves with the moral law, determined to be good. Hegel tried to synthesize the moral life and the aesthetic life but this is actually the highest form of aestheticism. Kierkegaard argued that a jump is involved in moving from one to the other and that we must simply choose.

The third stage is the religious in which we must be open to a teleological suspension of the ethical. In the religious life, divine command is paramount and true love for God is expressed in the willingness to set aside

moral habits and respond to the divine command.

### Kierkegaard and St. Olaf College

One of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges, St. Olaf College offers a distinctive education grounded in academic rigor, residential learning, global engagement, and a vibrant Lutheran faith tradition. Now in its second century, St. Olaf College remains dedicated to the high standards set by its Norwegian immigrant founders

The Howard V. and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library began as the private collection of its founders who used it to support their work translating the writings of Søren Kierkegaard from Danish into English. In 1976, the [Hong's](#) gave the Library to St. Olaf College with the understanding that it would exist as a study and publication center, a place where students and scholars of varied experience could come and have access to materials in an environment enhancing their intellectual work. The sixth floor of Holland Hall was the first home of the Library at St. Olaf. In 1992, the collection moved to its present location in the Special Collections area of the original Rolvaag Memorial Library building which was renovated for use by the Hong Kierkegaard Library.

### Materials published before 1856

**Pre-1856:** An important part of the collection is a replication of Kierkegaard's personal library, based on contemporary records, which consists mainly of Danish and German editions read by Kierkegaard. Titles are also included which Kierkegaard might have seen or owned before his death in 1855 (Pre-1856 indicates this section).

Much more information at:

<http://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/>