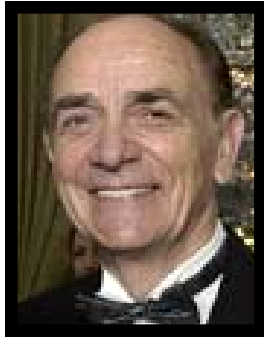


Takk for alt

Norwegian Community Bids Farewell to Dagfinn Gunnarshaug



Dagfinn Gunnarshaug
(1933-2009)

**Honorary Vice Consul of Norway,
SACHF Vice-president, Community Friend**

After a brave and lengthy battle against cancer, Dagfinn Gunnarshaug died in his Westlake Village home on July 18, surrounded by his family. Scores of leaders and members of the Norwegian-American community, as well as representatives of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, paid their respects to Dagfinn at a memorial service Aug. 2 at Westlake Lutheran Church in Westlake Village. He was a vital part of the Norwegian-American community, and of the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation.

(See article p. 6)

American Scandinavian Foundation - Thousand Oaks Merges with SACHF

Lecture Series to continue

This spring, ASF Thousand Oaks members voted overwhelmingly to merge with SACHF, thus in a way completing the circle they began in 1987 when ASF-TO, along with CLU and SAHAC (Swedish American Historical Association of California), co-founded the Scandinavian Cultural Center at CLU, which later was incorporated as the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation.

The acclaimed ASF lecture program at CLU will continue as the SACHF Scandinavian Lecture Series.

Siri Eliason, former ASF-TO president and a member of the SACHF Board, says the combined wider membership will strengthen SACHF. Both groups share the mission of preserving and promoting Scandinavian heritage.

(See article on page 3)

FESTIVAL FOCUSES ON (VIKING) (GRAND) KIDS



Xander, Linnea and Skye Samuels don Viking attire at the 2009 Scandinavian Festival, while Morfar Allan Carlson held court at the SACHF information booth.

inside

- ◆ SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL Photo Round-up p 4
- ◆ The story behind the ASF-TO/SACHF Merger p 3
- ◆ Hall of Fame Honoree Otto Heino Memorialized p 5
- ◆ SACHF Annual Business Meeting Coming Up p 3
- ◆ LIBRARY named for Aina Abrahamson p 6



MESSAGE FROM SACHF PRESIDENT **Glenn Braaten**

PASSAGES: Of mergers, journeys and departures

As you will read in an article in this newsletter, ASF-TO has recently merged with SACHF. I would first like to welcome all ASF-TO members into our SACHF membership. This merger will definitely make us a larger and more viable organization.

Second, I would like to thank the ASF-TO Executive Committee for being instrumental in bringing this merger about. Thanks to **Siri Eliason, Anita Londgren, Margaret Miller, Lucy Peterson, Arline Eiler and Pat Sladek**.

The Lecture Series that ASF-TO has organized in the past will live on as the Scandinavian Lecture Series, as a special committee of SACHF. The first of the new season of Lecture Series will be featured in this newsletter.

Dick and Anita Londgren have taken a much deserved break from their duties at the Scandinavian Center during the Months of June, July and August. Part of their time off has been spent traveling in Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

Successful Summer

While Dick and Anita were away, we kept the Scandinavian Center open each Wednesday during the summer months. Good conversation, coffee and cookies were enjoyed by attendees.

Thanks to the following SACHF Board members and regular members to make this possible. The SACHF Board members included: **Leonard Smith, Larry Johnson, Allan Carlson, Siri Eliason, Howard Rockstad, Einar Hovind, Pat Sladek** and **Judith Vinje**. SACHF members helping out included: **Diane Seal, Vibbs Clausen** and **Sandee Kane**. Sandee filled in nearly all of the Wednesdays. Thanks to all for keeping the Scandinavian Center alive during the summer.

We look forward to gearing up after the summer vacation time with the continued operation of the Scandinavian Center, Museum, Library and Brown Bag Lunches, the Scandinavian Lecture Series, the Nordic Spirit Symposium in February and the Scandinavian Festival on April 17 & 18, 2010.

Farewell to Dag

I will close with an expression of sympathy to the **Dagfinn Gunnarshaug family** on his passing. Dag served as vice president of SACHF for the past four years. He also served on the planning committee for the Nordic Spirit Symposium for a number of years, and was a member of the Stave Church Committee at CLU. Dag was our direct link to all things associated with Norway. We will miss him as will the greater Los Angeles Scandinavian American community as he served so well as honorary Vice Consul of Norway. ♦

Mark your calendar...

SACHF Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 25, 2009
Potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m.
followed by election of SACHF Board
Members and dedication of the
Scandinavian Library Collection in
honor of Aina Abrahamson.

SCANDINAVIAN LECTURE SERIES

Sunday Sept. 27 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m.
Nelson Room

11th Annual
**NORDIC SPIRIT
SYMPOSIUM**
Feb. 5-6, 2010

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL
APRIL 17-18, 2010

The Nordic Spirit Newsletter is a publication of
THE SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL & HISTORICAL FOUNDATION INC.
Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University
26 Faculty Road Thousand Oaks CA 91360

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ASF-TO and SACHF MERGER

SCANDINAVIAN LECTURE SERIES STARTS ANEW

LEGACY OF THE HARDANGER FIDDLE

**Nelson Room
Sunday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.**

An ornately decorated Norwegian instrument with hidden strings and haunting sounds, the Hardanger fiddle's history is entwined with superstition and Edward Grieg's musical compositions.

Sandy Homb will tell about the origin, its music, and similarities/contrasts with the classic violin, as well as performing some music on her own Hardanger fiddle. Joy Brooks' late mother, Mildred Schnathorst, gave an antique Hardanger fiddle to the Scandinavian Center several years ago. In Mildred's memory, Joy will relate the background for that gift.

A "Norwegian by marriage," Sandy bought her fiddle in 2000 in Norway, joined the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America and learned to play this unique instrument by attending many workshops. Today she performs for various Scandinavian groups. In addition, she plays the viola and has been playing chamber music for more than 40 years.

The Schnathorst Hardanger Fiddle is on display in the museum portion of the Scandinavian Center, where refreshments following the program will be offered.

Admission is free. Sponsored by the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation, and the Music Department. For more information, please contact Anita Londgren at (805) 241-1051. ♦



*19th century Hardanger Fiddle
donated by Mildred Schnathorst*

Coming Together with a Common Goal

BY SIRI ELIASON

During this past year the Board of ASF/TO has been in negotiation with the Board of the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation to merge with SACHF in order to meld into a stronger local organization. This was no easy decision, since ASF was originally founded in 1975, but it was ultimately seen as the best solution for the continuation of a program that promotes Scandinavian culture and traditions. During all these years ASF brought highly popular educational programs to its members as well as presented an annual Outstanding Scandinavian American Award.

SACHF was formed in 1987 and the primary task at that time was to preserve books and artifacts as part of an effort to promote the Scandinavian heritage in Southwestern United States.

Over the years, SACHF has steadily expanded its purpose and mission to include maintenance of the Scandinavian Center (through CLU) with its library and museum at the intersection of Mountclef and Faculty Road; the Nordic Spirit Symposium in February and the Scandinavian Festival in April on the CLU campus. In addition, SACHF has initiated a Hall of Fame honoring distinguished Scandinavians.

It became more and more apparent that these two organizations should join forces since their respective members are already working together in creating awareness of the Scandinavian roots in this region. A proposal to this effect was put forward by the Board of ASF and after a proper procedure this merger took place officially on May 31, the last day of the ASF fiscal year.

In the future, the ASF programs will be called the Scandinavian Lecture Series – and part of the old board will continue to function as the fourth program committee under the SACHF umbrella. The lectures will continue to take place in the Nelson Room on the CLU campus and the reception following the presentations will be at the Scandinavian Center, a short block away.

Current membership in ASF (June 1 – May 31) will be transferred to this new combined organization and will be effective through December 2009. Honorary and Life memberships will also transfer. In January 2010 new dues for single members will be \$35, and \$50 for a family.

Program committees for the various activities are already at work planning for the coming season, and we all look forward with great anticipation to yet another successful year in bringing a touch of Scandinavia to Southern California. ♦



Yoikers delight



Flower girls



The Ravens Viking Encampment

Vendors galore



Jerry Miller, Eric Berg and Rueben Perttula on the Main Stage



Photos by J.G. Vinje

snapshots from the 2009 **Scandinavian Festival**

All the family fun and celebration of the Scandinavian culture, lore, music, folk arts, food and organizations

coming again.... April 17-18 2010



SCANDINAVIAN BOOK COLLECTION NAMED FOR AINA ABRHAMSON

The library of the Scandinavian Center has officially been named in memory of the late Aina Abrahamson by the Board of Regents of California Lutheran University.

The proclamation declared that "Whereas the late Aina Abrahamson was the first California Lutheran University librarian and served the University for 20 years in that position, and whereas for 25 years Aina Abrahamson was instrumental in the acquisition, preservation and cataloging of the Scandinavian Book Collection at the California Lutheran University Scandinavian Center," that the collection be named in memory of Aina "for her many years of work, service and commitment to the acquisition and preservation of the collection."

Aina passed away in 2008 at the age of 93. As a founding member of SACHF, she took over the task of supervising the acquisitions in the Scandinavian Cultural Center, managing the collections of books and artifacts for several years.♦

PASSING OF MASTER CRAFTSMAN OTTO HEINO

2004 Scandinavian American Hall of Fame in California Inductee

Otto Heino, the California ceramicist who developed a yellow glaze so prized by collectors they gladly paid as much as \$25,000 for a single piece, died in July in a Ventura hospital. He had been inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame in California, a SACHF project, in October, 2004.

The fifth of 12 children born in New Hampshire to Finnish immigrants, Heino served as a fighter plane crew chief and B-17 waist gunner during World War II. The Army suggested he change his given name from "Aho" to the more Germanic "Otto" because the resistance was considered more likely to rescue Americans of German descent.

After the war, Heino's interest in ceramics inspired him to take a class in the subject. Vivika, who had studied with glaze master Glen Lukens, was the teacher. When Vivika accepted a teaching job at the USC, the couple left New Hampshire and headed west. Their studio, The Pottery, in Ojai became a center for their craft.

Otto perfected the high-temperature butter-yellow glaze inspired by an ancient Chinese version that artists in Asia had long sought to reproduce.

In 1978, Heino's work earned the gold medal at the Sixth Biennial International de Ceramique in Vallauris, France. He also received a Diplôme D' Honeur from the International Academy of Ceramics in Cannes in 1955.

He and Vivika exhibited at the Picasso Museum in France, the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the American Craft Museum in New York and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

A public "Celebration of Life" honoring Heino was held August 22 at the Ojai Playhouse Theatre. ♦



Otto Heino holds up a pot made with his prized yellow glaze at his Ojai studio. Right, Howard Rockstad, SACHF past-president, with Heino, holding a pot that now is now in his own personal collection.



Dag was honorary Vice Consul of Norway in Los Angeles since his appointment in 2001, and was president of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce of Southern California for close to 15 years. He also served as vice-president of the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation Board of Directors. Dag was, indeed, active throughout the Norwegian and Norwegian-American community.

Born in Haugesund, his father was an electrical engineer, but his grandfather had a small boat and shipped herring to many ports. After attending the University of Minnesota, Dagfinn returned to Norway and started working in shipping.

He came to New York in 1968 to start a shipping company, and moved to California 25 years ago where he built his business into a 27-ship operation.

DAGFINN GUNNARSHAUG SERVED NORWAY, NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

In 1983, he sold his shipping business and started Norscan Trading Group, consulting in ocean shipping as well as export-import, trading several Scandinavian items which are marketed all over the world.

Dagfinn was a pillar of the Norwegian-American community in Southern California where he tirelessly worked to promote business and cultural/student exchanges.

As Vice-Consul, he was always ready to assist Norwegians in need. When an organization asked him to speak or to assist, he never refused. He always tried to find ways to fund programs and events that benefited Norway. As a person of immense optimism and can-do spirit., Dagfinn will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations in Dagfinn's memory be given to the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation (SACHF). Donations may be mailed to Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation, 60 W. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. ♦

'Dag was our direct link to all things associated with Norway.'

— Glenn Braaten, SACHF President

As Vice-Consul, he was always ready to assist Norwegians in need. When

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES CONTINUES

The **Brown-Bag Lunch Series** features a speaker, film or discussion every Wednesday noon (except holidays) at the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University, 26 Faculty Road, Thousand Oaks, California. The public is invited. Admission is free and so are the coffee and cookies. Want to offer a presentation about a Scandinavian-related topic? Contact Richard or Anita Londgren at KronaPress@verizon.net or at (805) 241-1051.

CHECK IT OUT!!

www.scandinaviancenter.org

Nordic Spirit Newsletter, SACHF and Scandinavian Center info is on-line!



NOVEMBER SCANDINAVIAN LECTURE

Swedish Business Secrets

2 p.m. Nov. 15

Lars and Lana Lundin will share insights and experiences within the Swedish corporate world at the November 15 Scandinavian Lecture beginning at 2 p.m. in the Nelson Room. Swedish native Lars retired from Volvo Corporation in 2007. American-born Lana, who has lived more than 20 years fulltime in Sweden, conducted business communication seminars, language training and cultural consulting in Sweden. Admission is free. Post-lecture refreshments will be available at the Scandinavian Center. Sponsored by the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation, and the CLU School of Business. ♦

MEMBERSHIP KEEPS HERITAGE ALIVE

A message from Allan Carlson, SACHF membership

Friends and Members of SACHF:

We hope that you're as pleased and excited as we are to see how SACHF and the Scandinavian Center are developing and growing. It wouldn't have happened **without support like yours and the devoted and untiring work of enthusiastic volunteers.**

As you know, the new and improved version of the **Scandinavian Festival** was held **April 18-19, 2009**. How popular this event has become for young and old! Imagine – **an affordable family outing** – full of fun for all, yet only \$5 general admission for adults and free for children under 12.

Perfect for these cost-conscious times, yet there's more than ever to see. More successful than ever, there's a new spirit, thanks to co-managers **Eric Berg** and **Lana Lundin** and all their volunteers. But thanks, too, for the important gifts from individuals, firms and organizations throughout the Scandinavian community.

There are improved terms under which we occupy the **Scandinavian Center** at 26 Faculty Road. Some office space in the Center is shared with CLU. Once again, contributions from donors and CLU appreciation of our mission brought about an excellent outcome.



The end result is that the spacious three-car garage has been converted, finished, and lighted, and now provides suitable space for our varied displays and valued library and numerous continuing events. And we have two added buildings on the grounds, including Torsten Hus and Habitat House.

By now you also know that **Nordic Spirit Symposium 2009** was the most successful ever. Visitors who came from far and wide throughout the region and other states have been full of praise for this latest program of fascinating speakers and entertainers! Work is already underway for 2010 on the action-packed, globe-encompassing topic of Nordic explorers.

Clearly, if we want the Scandinavian heritage to be preserved in the Pacific Southwest, it is the whole Scandinavian community together with active and dedicated SACHF members and volunteers as well as sponsoring lodges who must choose to make our heritage come alive. ♦

**YES, I WANT TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE
HERE'S MY RENEWAL for 2009 (or 2010 for early birds)**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Individual Member	\$35
Household Member	\$50
Sponsor (Org.)	\$75
Patron	\$500
Lifetime	\$1,000

**Please make checks payable to SACHF or Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation and mail to:
C. Allan Carlson, 4949 Tyrone Ave, #7C, Sherman Oaks, CA, 91423**

Many thanks!

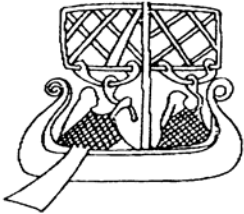




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The Scandinavian Center at CLU . . .
for you
your family
and all
Scandinavian Americans**

**SACHF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Oct. 25
and dedication of Aina Abrahamson Library**

SCANDINAVIAN LECTURE SERIES Sept. 27

NORDIC SPIRIT SYMPOSIUM Feb 6-7, 2010