

# scandinavian heritage society of kentucky

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## 2010-2011 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Contact
10/22/2011, 6:30 p.m.	Fall Dinner	Spindletop Hall	Jenny Berens
12/4/2011, 3-5 p.m.	Lucia Rehearsal	Gethsemane Lutheran Church	Jenny Berens
12/10/2011, 7:00 p.m.	Lucia	Gethsemane Lutheran Church	Jenny Berens

## Fall Dinner at Spindletop

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, October 22 at 6:30 when the Harvest Dinner will take place at Spindletop Hall, 3414 Iron Works Pike, Lexington. Please mark this on your calendars! Cocktails will be at 6:30, followed by dinner at 7:00. Dinner is provided, but pre-dinner drinks are available for purchase.

Jenny Berens will be our speaker for this occasion. The program will be about Carl Milles, a Swedish sculptor.

If you would like to attend, payment is due by Thursday, September 29th! The cost is \$25 for paying members and \$30 for guests (non-members). Please send your checks before that date to this address:

Asmund Vego  
715 Franklin Ave  
Lexington, KY 40508

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Anne Keating ([a.keating@insightbb.com](mailto:a.keating@insightbb.com), 859- 269-8142) or Jenny Berens ([jenny.hilding@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.hilding@gmail.com)).

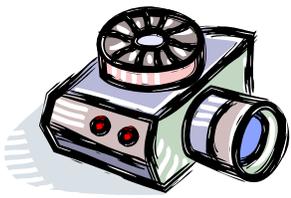


## Lucia

If you or your children would like to participate in our Lucia event, the first rehearsal is December 4 from 3-5 p.m. There will be a final rehearsal at 5:00 on the day of the event, December 10. Lucia is a lot of fun for everyone, so make arrangements to participate!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
2185 Garden Springs Drive  
Lexington, KY 40504

Jenny Berens organizes this event, so feel free to contact her if you have any questions.



Do you have an  
overhead  
projector  
(compatible with a  
laptop computer)  
that you can bring  
to our October  
event at  
Spindletop?

Please contact  
Jenny if you can  
help us out!



## Syttende Mai

It was an eventful spring for the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Kentucky. Syttende Mai festivities took place on May 14 at the picnic grounds at Calvary Baptist church. Twenty-two members and guests (including Toni and Don May and John H. Paulsen) attended on a pleasant spring day. Each brought a picnic supper. Mary Hedberg and Carrie Peters brought cupcakes and Marion Soule brought ice cream for all. Jenny Berens welcomed everyone and shared ideas for the year. Asmund Vego spoke about the 17th of May celebrations in Norway. Dick Mathy spoke to the group regarding Founders Day at McConnell Springs, the site where Lexington was founded; some members were able to attend on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

May 17 is Norwegian Constitution Day, the National Day of Norway, and celebrates the signing of the constitution of Norway, signed at Eidsvoll in 1814. Under the Constitution, Norway was declared to be an independent nation, and the state had its own parliament, judiciary and executive powers. Yet Norway remained united with Sweden in some respects, and it was not until 1905 that Swedish King Oscar II renounced any and all claims to the Norwegian throne. Prince Carl of Denmark, the second son of Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark was invited to become (and accepted following a Plebiscite of the people) King Haakon VII, King of Norway. He was married to Maude of Wales, the daughter of King Edward VII of Great Britain. Celebrations are non-military and mostly involve children's parades with flags and many wear traditional clothing (bunad). Everyone waves flags or wears red white and blue ribbons. **After the parade everyone stands to sing the national anthem, "Ja, vi elsker dette landet." (Yes, we love this land!) Good food follows. There are many celebrations outside of Norway.** Reportedly in Sweden, the parade in Stockholm from Engelbrektsplan ending at Skansen has more than 10,000 participants with a dedicated band, Det Norske Korps. In the US, there are celebrations in Washington state, and of course Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa as well as at the Epcot Norwegian Pavilion in Florida and in Brooklyn, New York.

## Sons of Norway

At the luncheon in May we asked Vera to tell us about the Boston Chapter of the Sons of Norway. The chapter, with over 300 members, is now celebrating its 40th anniversary! Except for summer months, SON meets once a month. Dues are \$55 with \$10 going to the local chapter. The usual order at meetings include a social hour, program and official business. Activities include, among others:

- Welcome back from summer Grill-out
- Fair in November when they hire vendors of Norwegian items to sell their wares with 20% of the proceeds going to the organization.
- Small group sessions on areas of interest, eg. cooking, and rosmalling.
- Speakers have included the Ambassador to Norway, a talk on Norwegian plants you can grown, and a talk on wood carving.
- The 17th of May celebration highlights collaboration between Norwegian and American businesses.
- There is a Sports and Recreation director who plans eg. Ski for Life, a benefit for the blind.

SON offer scholarships, and plan holiday events for children. At times they have a literary group or movies.

This may give our group some ideas for future developments. Thank you Vera!

Midsommar

On the clear lovely evening of June 25, Marie Hosie graciously hosted the society to celebrate Midsommar at her home. Marie's garden is beautiful and spacious, stretching back and around a stone terrace. The Soules and the Hedbergs worked their magic in assisting with preparations along with the Berens and others.

Magnus Geijer surprised the group with a gorgeous Midsommar pole which was thoroughly covered in greenery. With flowers added at Marie's house, it looked perfect. Magnus created a pole that can be put together and reused from year to year! (It was custom-built to fit into the trunk of his car!)



Thanks to all for helping my [Anne Keating] mother celebrate her 96th birthday that night. It was wonderful to hear the birthday songs in English and Swedish and Mother was touched. The food, as usual, was delicious. No matter the number of attendees, there is always a variety of favorite main dishes and desserts.

The Blomquists brought guests, Olli and Ulla Turii from Varisa, Finland, who added to the camaraderie.



Other News and Events

Meetings

The Board met on June 1, at the home of Anne Keating and we discussed plans for the upcoming year. We are fortunate to have input and support of officers and members new and old. We salute Bill and Mary Hedberg who have left the new officers with big shoes to fill.

Birthdays

Shirley Moser, our long-time Lucia organist, celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Shirley's new address is 702A Cimarron; Richmond, Ky. 40475.

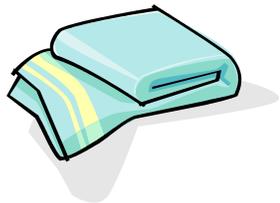


We'd love to share your news in our next newsletter!

Fill us in on what's new by calling Anne Keating at (859) 537-6942. Prefer email? Send your news to Kisha Geijer at [shsky@shsky.org](mailto:shsky@shsky.org).



## Memories of Gunvor and Lars LaCour



### Lost and Found

Marion Soule has a green bath towel that someone left at Lucia last year.

Is it yours? She would like to return it.

Please contact Marion at (859) 266-3448 if you're missing a towel!



On Sunday, May 22, around fifteen members went to the Crowne Plaza Hotel to have lunch with long-time members Geggy Ryen and Gunvor LaCour, who had returned to Lexington for a wedding. We were shocked to learn that Gunvor had passed away that morning! Geggy and her daughter Vera and Vera's husband, John Gregg, had driven down from Boston, picking up Gunvor along the way. All of the LaCours traveled to Lexington that weekend to celebrate the wedding of Rick's son Gunner Richard Doronville De La Cour Jr and Melanie Helene Price. It was a gala celebration and Gunvor joyfully participated in most of the festivities and enjoyed hearing about the reception which she missed. Our luncheon was poignant as we remembered Gunvor and celebrated our friendships with her and with each other. Vera, Geggy's daughter, shared with us the activities and goals of the Son's of Norway, which has a large, vibrant chapter in Boston. (See page 2.) The LaCours invited us to share in a memorial gathering at the hotel that evening. It was a heart-warming and remarkable occasion where we could share fond memories and visit with the family. We felt honored to be invited.



*Geggy Ryen has kindly provided the following recollections of her dear friends.*

**Gunvor Helene Tyge was born on March 17 (St Patrick's Day) in Stenlille on Sjaelland where she grew up, the oldest of six children with three brothers and two sisters. Her father owned, operated and taught in a private school in Stenlille. After Gunvor finished school, she went to Copenhagen where she worked and studied at a child clinic to learn to take care of babies and small children. While in Copenhagen, Gunvor met Lars' sister and was invited to their home, a beautiful sugarbeet and apple farm named Cypresssegaard, located on the island of Lolland, and there she met Lars. Shortly thereafter, Lars left for California to work about one year.**

When Lars returned to Denmark, he went to Copenhagen and looked up Gunvor. Three months later, they were married on January 2, 1950. Lars and Gunvor honeymooned in Norway in Gausdal, a narrow valley west of Gudbrandsdalen. After their honeymoon, Lars left right away for a job in Maryland, U.S.A.; it took almost three months before Gunvor could get the necessary papers and visa in order to join him at Rosecroft Stud. Gunvor helped in the stable at night watching mares ready to have foals.

Gunvor and Lars came to Kentucky in 1952 when Lars got a job as stable manager on Walnut Hall Farm. In 1953 Rick was born and that year my husband Kob and I met the three La Cours due to a sale of a "teaser" for a mare, and of course also because all of us were interested in meeting Scandinavians. We shared the desire and the sometimes difficult tasks of becoming American citizens. Kob became an "uncle" to Rick, thus started our lifelong friendship; we felt like each others' family.

As you know, Walnut Hall farm became The Kentucky Horse Park. Talks and plans for that were already starting in 1953. At the same time, Lars' father came to visit them and talked Lars into coming back to run Cypresssegaard. Lars' father was a widower and up in years. Lars had seven siblings, but was the only one with agricultural education. Gunvor and Lars packed up and left with Rick for Denmark.

Both happy things and unforeseen things happened that first year. The happy event was Anina's birth in 1954; the unforeseen event was that dividing the estate interests on the farm among the eight siblings did not leave enough land to run the farm profitably. So Lars and Gunvor decided to come back to America and start all over again.

Since Lars was an exceptional and knowledgeable horseman, he got a job at Stoner Creek Stud outside Paris, KY. where the La Cours lived about four years until they moved in 1959 to Clovelly Farms in Fayette County. There, Niels was born in 1960. (Editor's note: Lars was honored during his career with awards, including Horse Farm Manager of the year.)

**Naturally Gunvor's time centered around her three children, but, also being outgoing and hospitable,** Gunvor kept an open house for friends and visitors on the farm. Several times Gunvor acted as hostess when Robin Scully, the farm's owner, had dinner for his clients. Gunvor lived **an active life, with many women friends in Paris. She also joined the Lexington Women's club** and liked to do charity work within these groups. She had a warm heart, a good sense of humor, and treated people as equals, no matter where they were from or what they were doing. The Scandinavian Heritage Society, which Gunvor helped start, meant a lot to her; there, Gunvor found a connection with her roots. In later years, Gunvor took great pleasure in becoming a docent at the University of Kentucky Art Museum. Gunvor liked classical music and loved to watch ballet dancing.

Over the years we got together as much as time allowed. Gunvor was an excellent cook and holidays were festive get-together times. When the children were young, we owned a motorboat with a cabin for sleeping and we kept it on Herrington Lake. Later, Lars got a sailboat which he kept on Cave Run Lake. Lars was born with a love for sailing and Gunvor was his mate. Some winters we played bridge together, but Gunvor and I liked to chat too much, which annoyed our husbands. We shared the news of our families abroad and of course we shared the happenings of our own children. Good friendship is hard to describe, but one thing is sure—the good friendship that we had gave immeasurable value to our lives.

Gunvor and Lars lived on Clovelly for 50 years until they moved to their lake house outside Albany, New York in 2009. They had bought the house in 1999. Lars winterized it and it is a very charming home on the beautiful Lake Helderberg.

Gunvor and Lars celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 2, 2010 at their lake home. Lars died there in June 2010 and Gunvor stayed on with help from Anina and family until she passed away on May 22, 2011, in Lexington, Kentucky. Gunvor was very fond of the lake house, but her heart was always in Kentucky. We miss her.



We are so thankful to Geggy for sharing her recollections of very special people, Gunvor and Lars. We will always remember them with great affection and gratitude for their generosity and enthusiasm. They enjoyed life to the fullest and carried us along with them!

Gunvor and Lars were active in SHSKY from the beginning. Several members of a Swedish class at UK came up with the idea of a society: June Robertson, Alice Fortner and Jacque Folz. They put a notice in the newspaper and soon Gunvor and Geggy and Doris Vazmina helped to organize the group. Marie Hosie joined in around this time and has told me that Gunvor and Lars hosted the very first meeting, expecting a small number of people. One hundred twenty or more people arrived at Clovelly farm! The organization was off and running!

Gunvor was the consummate hostess, welcoming groups sometimes upon a moment's notice and making everyone feel like an honored guest. Surely it is actually true of Gunvor that she never met a stranger. The society frequently met at Clovelly horse farm in the charming rambling house that seemed to go on forever. The living room had a huge stone fireplace flanked by a sofa and arm chairs and countless family photos and treasures, including the French LaCour ancestor in full powdered wig. He had come to Denmark as a tutor and settled there.

We met there frequently to read Scandinavian literature, for Midsommar and for the 17th of May. Thoroughbreds grazed outside near a unique round stable that had stalls in a circle around an open area.

Gunvor was our Vice President for Programs and once invited the Danish Consul and his wife down from Chicago to address the group at Spindletop. They were happy to accept. SHSKY had a good speech and the consul and his wife enjoyed wonderful hospitality in the Bluegrass.

We will always remember Lars and Gunvor for their up-beat manner, their energy and enthusiasm. They had a gift for bringing people together.



Happy Birthday!

Our warmest  
congratulations to  
Geggy on the  
celebration of her  
90th birthday on  
August 23!

You may send your  
personal greetings to  
her at

[geggyr@gmail.com](mailto:geggyr@gmail.com).

We will be thinking  
about you and your  
family!



## Scandinavian Heritage Society of Kentucky



### In Memory

Allen Lake, a long-time member of our society, passed away on September 10. He was a retired professor of biological sciences at Morehead State University. Allen had a wealth of knowledge that he generously shared with us on numerous occasions. Our thoughts are with his wife, Betty, and the rest of the Lake family.



Some of us did not realize that Elizabeth Finkenstaedt passed away on November 7, 2009. Born in Rockfort, Illinois on August 13, 1930, Elizabeth earned a PhD from Harvard University in Anthropology. As an Egyptologist, Elizabeth travelled widely in the Mediterranean area. Elizabeth was predeceased by her parents and twin sister, but left two nieces and a nephew. Members will remember her quick wit.

We will miss our members who have passed away and remember them fondly.

### Lär Dig Svenska

#### **The Swedish "sch" Sound**

Did you know that the Swedes have many, many different ways to spell the sh-sound? However, all of these sh-sounds are not pronounced the same way and for some of them, you can figure out where a person is from by listening to which type of sound they make.

1. "sch" as in "dusch" (shower)
2. "ch" as in "chans" (chance)
3. "sj" as in "sjutton" (seventeen)
4. "stj" as in "stjärna" (star)
5. "skj" as in "skjuta" (shoot)
6. "sk" as in "sked" (spoon)
7. "kj" as in "kjol" (skirt)
8. "g" as in "generad" (embarrassed) or "giraff"
9. "ch" as in "champinjon" (mushroom)
10. "giö" as in "religiös" (religious)
11. "ti" as in "pretantiös" (pretentious)
12. "si" as in television, "rs" as in mars (March), and "ts" as in "hurts" (hutch)



Try this Swedish tongue twister on for fun:

*Sju sjösjuka sjömän sköttes av sju sköna sjuksköterskor på skeppet Shanghai.  
Seven seasick seamen were cared for by seven beautiful nurses on the ship 'Shanghai'.*

How many "sh" sounds did you find?



Our president, Jenny Berens, has kindly contributed this lesson for us Swedish students today. If you have a lesson to contribute in Swedish or another Scandinavian language, please email Kisha at [shsky@shsky.org](mailto:shsky@shsky.org). Thanks!