

**F**inland **I**celand **N**orway **D**enmark **S**weden  
**NEWSLETTER** of the  
 Scandinavian Heritage Society of Kentucky, Inc.

**SUMMER 2006 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Occasion</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
May 13	17 mai Celebration	Veteran's Park (Shelter #4)	Bill Hedberg (859-272-0640)
June 24	Midsommar	The Hosie Home	Marie Hosie (859- 231-8317)
October 14	Fall Banquet	Spindletop Hall	Anne Keating (859-269-8142)
December 9	Lucia Fest	Gethsemane Lutheran Church	Hege Ravidal (859-276-1661)



**Inside this issue:**

– Activity Schedule	1
– Syttende Mai	
– Alice Fortner Remembered	2
– Memory of Earle Johnson	
Spring Things in Review	3
– Herregårdseplekake	4
– SHSK to go Digital	
– Literary Group News	
– Membership Form	

**Syttende Mai Celebration—HURRA!!!**

Norway's syttende mai celebrations are comparable (sort of...) to the July 4 activities of the United States. In both cases, recognition of independence serves as the foundation. Norwegian Independence from Sweden is much more recent than America's separation from British rule (101 years compared to 230), but an important difference is that Norway had battled for independence since at least the 1200s, when Germany controlled the economy. Since that time Sweden and especially Denmark had exerted dominance. Observance of Syttende Mai (also known as National Day) remains a very important occasion in Norway. Parades and celebrations abound with everyone participating, and the day is particularly special for school children, who become the center of nearly all of the local parades. And the moral of this story is...?

**SHSK Officers**

**President**

Bill Hedberg (859) 272-0640  
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**Vice President**

Magnus Geijer

**Secretary**

Jenny Berens

**Treasurer**

Jan Lindskog

**Mailing**

Marian Soule

**Archivist**

Craig Olson

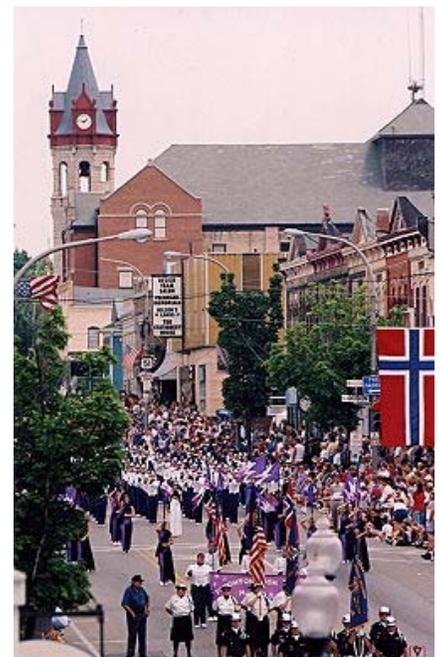
**Newsletter Editor**

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 (geg173@uky.edu)

Please join us for *this year's*  
**17 mai festivities**, brought to you by  
 your friendly neighborhood  
 Scandinavian Heritage Society!

**May 13, 2006, at 5:00PM**  
**Veteran's Park, Shelter #4**

The park is just off Tates Creek Rd (outside of Man-o-War) on Clearwater and then Southpoint Drives in Lexington. Look for the ball fields and the Scandinavian flags. Please bring a picnic supper for you and yours.





## ***Alice Fortner: The Passing of a Legend***

The picture on the left is of Alice with our treasurer, Jan Lindskog. I chose this picture for two reasons. First, it's simply a good picture, eh? Well framed... nice smiles... it pretty much shows two happy people. But more important is that it suggests the sort of person Alice was—eternally positive and supportive, and always at her best with others. As she often said in reference to her many friends and rich life, “I’ve been *so lucky!*”

**A**lice Fortner died on February 22 of this year, comfortably, rather suddenly, but not unexpectedly. Born in 1918 in Manhattan, NY, the only child of Swedish-speaking Finnish immigrant parents, she was raised with a deep appreciation of Scandinavian culture and customs. She married Henry, and over the course of 50 years together they would lay claim to 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Alice was a co-founder of the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Kentucky and for decades she graced our events with a tradition of spirit and cheer. Increasing frailty did little to slow Alice down; she continued traveling to visit family and participating in a wide variety of social organizations. She proudly donated her exceptionally sharp brain to the University of Kentucky’s Alzheimer’s Research Center, and she lived to the end in the Lexington home that she made with her late husband. Alice, her children (Pamela, Steven, David, and Douglas), and the Scandinavian Heritage Society encourage memorial contributions to a favorite charity or to Hunter Presbyterian Church of Lexington, Kentucky. Alice will remain an important part of our lives, especially just before eating when she would traditionally intone:

*“I Jesu namn, till bords vi går,  
Välsigna Gud, den mat vi får.”*

Simple words from a small person with a huge spirit. She will be missed.

## ***In Memory of Earle E. Johnson, Sr.***

**W**e are also saddened by the passing of Earle Johnson, at his home in Lexington, on April 14, 2006. Earle and his wife Shirley, of 53 years, were long time members of the Scandinavian Heritage Society, and particularly enjoyed the Christmas season with our Lucia festival. Earle was born in 1928, of Swedish descent, in Brockton, Massachusetts, and went on to earn his degree in engineering from Northeastern University in Boston. His education led him through a fruitful career of 40 years with Texas Instruments and 28 years of life in Kentucky. An avid gardener who enjoyed singing, he was an active church member and served on numerous church committees. Shirley and Earle together passed their legacy on to five children (Robin, Scott, Sherrie, Earle Jr., and Joy), to 13 grandchildren, and to their great-grandson, Andrew. Memorial gifts may be given to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 2312 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40507.

## Spring Things in Review

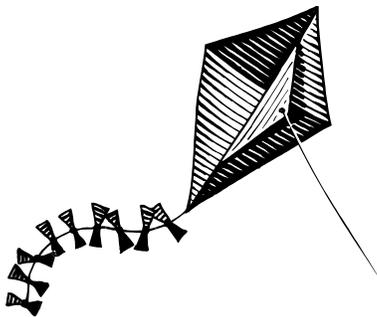
### *Laskiainen, 2006*

The instrumental duo of Albert Lehtikoinen and Alan Beucher (on mandolin and guitar) provided wonderful music before and during what was probably the best attended Laskiainen supper ever. And what a supper it was, with at least 5 different sumptuous varieties of pea soup accompanied by a spread of additional culinary items that ensured a well-fed and well-entertained crowd. Many thanks to Eric Iversen for organizing a stellar event, and especially for securing the talents of "Al and Al" for us. And thanks also go to Bill Hedberg for serving, with his usual aplomb, as master of ceremonies.



### *Georgetown Kite and Culture Festival*

For the second time we set up our SHSK booth at the Georgetown Kite and Culture Festival held April 22-23 at the Cardome outside Georgetown. Jenny Berens made the arrangements, and several members brought things Scandinavian to show off. The weather was perfect for the event.



The picture shows Harold Carter demonstrating the fine art of traditional Scandinavian heart basket-weaving to a young visitor to our booth. The kids loved this activity last year, and it was obviously equally successful this time around.

Thank you to all volunteers who brought things to show and gave of their time to keep the booth well staffed.



### *Annual Business Meeting*

Our Annual Business Meeting and potluck extraordinaire (they all are...) was held Sunday, April 8th at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Dates were set for some of our annual events (see page 1). A gift to Hunter Presbyterian Church in the memory of Alice Fortner was approved; \$200 from the treasury and any other contributions will go to the church library, and a label will be placed inside each book stating it is a gift from SHSK in memory of Alice.

A slate of candidates for offices for the 2006-2007 year was offered and voted on, and lists as follows:

**President—Bill Hedberg (continues)**

**Vice-president—Magnus Geijer (new)**

**Secretary—Jenny Berens (continues)**

**Treasurer— Jan Lindskog (continues)**

Board members include Tom Josephson (1st term, replacing Kenneth Hansson), Glenn Blomquist (2nd term), and Anne Keating (2nd term).

Other appointed positions remain unchanged: Marian Soule, mailing/press relations; Craig Olson, archivist; and John Watkins, newsletter editor. The unofficial position called "membership" (#1 recruiter...) held by Alice Fortner for many years remains vacant. Her shoes are hard, indeed, to fill.

**Herregårdseplekake (Norwegian Manor House Apple Pie)**

*Hege Ravdal*

Norway was a country full of peasants at one time, governed for hundreds of years by foreign aristocrats. I think we tried to make up for it by giving many of our favorite goodies “royal” names! Here’s a recipe for a moist, delicious deep dish apple pie with a crispy praline topping.

**Pastry:** 3/4 cup butter, 1 1/4 cups flour, 1/4 tsp salt, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 egg, 2 tbsp cream.

**Filling:** 2 lbs apples, 3/8 cup sugar, 1/4 cup raisins, 1 oz. almonds (scalded and chopped)

**Almond topping:** 2 1/2 oz. butter, 3/8 cup sugar, 1 oz. almonds (scalded and finely chopped)

Make the pastry first and roll the dough out 1/8” thick. Butter a 9” round cake pan w/ removable rim. Cut out two pastry circles to fit the pan, placing one on the bottom and reserving one for the top. Press the leftover pastry around the inside of the pan. Peel and core apples, and cut them into thin slices. Layer in the pan with sugar, raisins, and almonds. Place the second pastry circle on top and press it tightly against the sides. Prick the pastry with fork or tester. Mix the ingredients for the topping to a light, porous mass and spread on top. Place on aluminum foil (it leaks butter and liquid!) in a 350 ° oven and bake for about 1 hour. Serve lukewarm or cold with whipped cream. **It’s NAM-NAM, as we say!**

**SHSK to go Digital!**

The near future will find SHSK on-line! That’s right, folks. Very soon we will be offering our very own web site that will contain at least event announcements, informational web links, current and past newsletters, and (maybe?) even photo galleries. *YOUR IDEAS FOR CONTENT ARE GRATEFULLY REQUESTED!* Many thanks to Kish and Magnus Geijer for taking on this ambitious but valuable project!

**The Erling Eng Literary Group on temporary hiatus**



Kenneth Hansson, who has led the literary group since Erling Eng passed away, has since moved to La Grange, KY, and will not continue to lead meetings. The last meeting was held at Gunvor and Lars LaCour’s on April 9th, and no meeting has been scheduled for May. The group usually hibernates during summer, and future dates will be determined. We extend a thank you to Ken for keeping us together and reading as long as he did!

**Membership and Charitable Contribution Form**

**Dues:**

Individual (\$20/person) = \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$25/family) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Name/Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution:**

Please accept my gift of.. \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** = \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

News and Information for the newsletter?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to SHSK, and send this form to: Jan Lindskog, 1083 Meridian Court, Lexington, KY 40504.*

*The best freedom is that of the spirit!*