



VOLUME XXXIII
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2010-2011 Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Contact
2/25/2012, 6-9 p.m.	Laskiainen	Beaumont Presbyterian Church	Eric and Libby Iversen
April 2012—To Be Announced	Annual Business Meeting	To Be Announced	Jenny Berens

Lucia 2011

The Luciafest, on December 10, 2011, brought our members together for a joyful event despite the challenges of uncertain weather and other unexpected events. We missed our director, Jenny Berens, who was ill, and who asked us to carry on. This year, our cast of young people took charge and made the event their own. We had a gifted crew of enthusiastic performers who made sure everyone could hear them and have as much fun as they did. Thanks go to everyone for their wonderful participation:

DI RECTOR	Jenny Berens
NARRATOR	Magnus Geijer
ORGANIST	Annette Mathy
LUCIA	Alexa Witt (USA)
PARTICIPANTS	Emma Sophia Pousette (Sweden)
	Layla Angeles-Plakosh (USA)
	Hanna Lake-Bullock (Sweden)
	Jordan Anderson (Sweden)
	Jorge Cepeda (USA)
	Thomas Ehrenborg (Sweden)
	Ryan Cooley (Norway)
	Clayton Anderson (Sweden)
	Theodore Ehrenborg (Sweden)
	Adrian Finley (Norway)
Lukas Lake-Bullock (Sweden)	
Christian Pousette (Sweden)	
ADULT CHOIR	Stephanie Cooley
	Richard Ehrenborg
	Anne Finley
	Anne Keating
	Margaret Readdy
	Kristan Lenning
	Debbie DiBeneditto
Charissa DiBeneditto	

Thanks also to Dan and Jan Lindskog for making the Glögg, to Marion and John Soule for setting up the tables and chairs and generally organizing the dining room, to Marie Hosie for lovely decorations and to all who brought wonderful food, and to all who helped with cleaning up and putting tables and chairs away later. There are many parts to bringing this event about, but the magic makes it happen each year!

2011 Fall Dinner at Spindletop

On a sunny warm October 22, 2011, we met at Spindletop Hall for the Fall Harvest Dinner. Jenny Berens, our president, spoke on Carl Milles, a Swedish sculptor who created many beautiful sculptures in this country as well as abroad.. His work is soaring, heroic and uplifting, especially remarkable, Jenny told us, in light of a harsh upbringing. His works in the US include, among others: *The Meeting of the Waters*, in St. Louis; *The Hand of God*, in Detroit, *Indian God of Peace*, in St. Paul, Minn, *Sunday Morning*, in Ann Arbor, Mi, and others in Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Minneapolis, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. His work was bold in depicting the human body, and due to American sensibilities in the 1930s, he had a permanent fig leaf creator on retainer!



The Land of the Midnight Sun

We had the opportunity to help sponsor a concert of music from *The Land of the Midnight Sun* by the Lexington Chamber Chorale on February 11, 2012, at 7:30 pm conducted by Gary Graden, from Stockholm, Sweden, at Central Baptist Church.

Land of the Midnight Sun: Journey with us through the rich history of Scandinavian music as we welcome prestigious guest conductor Gary Graden from Stockholm. Experience a new repertoire for the Chorale than ranges from traditional folk songs to gorgeous contemporary sonorities, highlighted in improvisational choral singing guided skillfully by Mr. Graden. Come along as we expand our musical horizons and learn from this internationally recognized conductor of award-winning choirs. Let the fascinating sounds of music from the Land of the Midnight Sun brighten your winter.

The concert was wonderful and we were glad for the opportunity to enjoy this special Scandinavian concert.

Laskiainen 2012

Laskiainen will be on February 25 from 6 to 9 pm at Beaumont Presbyterian Church, 1070 Lane Allen, Lexington 40504, hosted by Eric and Libby Iverson.

Eric has this to say about this year's Laskiainen experience:

With stories remembered, heard, told, acted out and sung, we celebrate Laskiainen together. "Moomin Valley", "Kalevala", and "Tales from a Finnish Tupa" evoke our own stories. It is a good way to share a winter evening with The Scandinavian Heritage Society of Kentucky.

Welcome! And bring your story to tell.

A story I have in mind to bring is "Timo and the Princess Vendla" told in Tales from a Finnish Tupa. It is a Princess Bride kind of story. A shepherd boy wins the hand of a beautiful princess, with the help of his forest creature friends. Each table will become the voice of one of Timo's friends, (like their mascot call), to assist Timo in his quest.

And, the fortune cookie summary: "Sometimes it is a unique voice from an unexpected source that has its charm upon the hearers."

Sounds like a fun event!

Remember that Laskiainen is a potluck supper, and traditionally pea soup is served. Now is the perfect opportunity to fine-tune your pea soup recipes! For anyone wishing to enter our contest, there will be prizes for the best yellow pea soup, the best green pea soup, the most unusual soup. These prizes will make you laugh and no one goes home without a prize.

For those of you without signature split pea soup recipes, here are a few suggestions to get you started:

<http://www.food.com/recipe/hernekeitto-finnish-split-pea-soup-235225>

<http://scandinavianfood.about.com/od/souprecipes/r/peasouprecipe.htm>

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/dave-lieberman/split-pea-soup-with-ham-hocks-recipe/index.html>

<http://southernfood.about.com/od/crockpotsoup/r/bl17c5.htm>

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/split-pea-and-ham-soup-i/>

There may be a few of us out there who hope that there's a selection of other Scandinavian dishes besides pea soup available. If soup isn't your thing, bring another of your favorite dishes to share!

Nordic Observations

We invite travelers to and from the Nordic countries to share their observations. How do people shop, eat, entertain, celebrate differently? For example, when I visited my relatives in Sweden one summer, I noticed that we had most meals outside on the patio, even breakfast, and also coffee and something delicious to go with it at various times during the day whether at home or on a visit. (Why are there no flies in Sweden, I wondered?) There was always a table cloth and tiny cups (espresso size).

When we went on a picnic, my cousin's wife took a loaf of delicious bread, and put a filing on each slice, making huge stack to put in a container. At the picnic, each slice was peeled off and presented around, one by one. We also treated ourselves once in Copenhagen to smorrebrod, elegant open faced sandwiches, little works of art almost too attractive to eat! When hard-boiled eggs were handed out at our picnic, I cracked the shell on a nearby rock, peeled and began to eat it. Then I noticed that everyone else had lopped off the top of his or her egg and had proceeded to eat it with a tiny spoon! I bought tiny spoons to bring home.

Skol etiquette is another topic which I enjoyed learning about, but I invite my colleagues to explain it properly sometime.

The Moomins

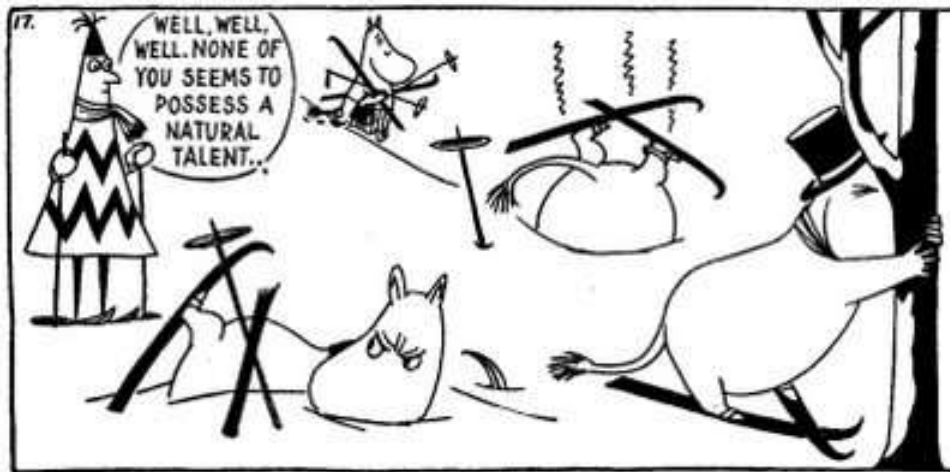
By Jenny Berens

Since we in SHSKY are celebrating our Finnish heritage together in February, I thought that I would share some great Finnish literature with you; the stories about the Moomins written and illustrated by Tove Jansson.

Tove Jansson was born in the Swedish-speaking minority in Helsinki, Finland in 1914. She was a talented story-teller, illustrator, and comic-strip artist, an inheritance from her mother, Signe Hammarsten-Jansson, who was a professional illustrator. Tove **helped her mother and learned a lot that way. Tove's first published work** was printed as a seven-part series in a magazine when she was only fifteen years old. This first assignment was followed by decades of illustrations, political caricatures, comic strips, and front covers. Tove especially enjoyed drawing caricatures of Hitler and Stalin for the political publications. It was around this time, in 1943, that Tove started to sign her illustrations with a small figure that later came to evolve into Moomin.



With an imagination that is unsurpassed by few, Tove created the Moomins, a family of hippopotamus-like figures who are living peacefully with a vast collection of colorful and unique creatures in the Moomin Valley. The family was first introduced to Finland in the political magazine *Ny Tid* in 1947, since she was friends **and later also engaged to, the magazine's editor Atos Wirtanen.** Under the influence of Wirtanen's interest in philosophy, the **Moomin stories have many deeper layers.** The comic strips' first appearance to a big audience was in the popular London newspaper *The Evening News* (with 12 million readers) in 1954. Tove drew and wrote all the strips in Swedish, while her brother, Lars Jansson, translated them into English. Tove Jansson drew 21 long Moomin stories from 1954 to 1959. In 1959, Lars Jansson took over more of the work-load until 1961, when he took over the job completely. Tove gave the strip up because the daily work of a comic artist did not leave her time to write books and paint, but Lars continued to generate the comic until 1975.



Later on, during a long travel in 1970, Tove started to aim her stories more towards an adult audience instead of writing for children only and thus left the Moomins behind. Although she became known first and foremost as an author, Tove Jansson considered her careers as author and painter to be of equal importance. She painted her whole life, changing style from the classical impressionism of her youth to the highly abstract modernist style of her later years. She displayed a number of artworks in exhibitions during the 1930s and early 1940s, and held five solo exhibitions between 1960 and 1970.

Tove also created a series of commissioned murals and public works throughout her career, which may still be viewed in their original locations.

In addition to providing the illustrations for her own Moomin books, Tove also illustrated Swedish translations of classics such as J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*¹ and Lewis Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

The Moomins

By Jenny Berens



Tove's Moomin stories can be sorted into the fairly narrow category of literature that is equally stimulating to children as they are to adults, which makes them ideal as books to read in a group. The stories are centered around the very loving and adventurous Moomin family, where the sometimes slow story tempo seemingly is sped up as a function of the beautiful and sometimes scary illustrations.

Many of the stories are quite philosophical and would also serve well as a basis for deeper discussions. An example of such a story is *The Story of The Invisible Child* (one of the short stories in *Tales from the Moomin Valley*, 1962, originally *Det osynliga barnet och andra berättelser*). In this story the Moomin family gets to take care of a young girl that has such bad self-esteem that she has become invisible. The girl gradually becomes more and more visible, thanks to the love and care from the Moomin-Mom.

To give you a taste of the tone in the Moomin books, here is an excerpt from the *Invisible Child*:

"You all know, don't you, that if people are frightened very often, they sometimes become invisible," Too-ticky said and swallowed a small egg mushroom that looked like a little snowball. "Well. This Ninny was frightened the wrong way by a lady who had taken care of her without really liking her. I've met this lady, and she was horrid. Not the angry sort, you know, which would have been understandable. No, she was the icily ironical kind."

"What's 'ironical'?" Moomintroll asked.

"Well, imagine that you slip on a rotten mushroom and sit down on the basket of newly picked ones," Too-ticky said. "The natural thing for your mother would be to be angry. But no, she isn't. Instead she says, very coldly: 'I understand that's your idea of a graceful dance, but I'd thank you not to do it in people's food.' Something like that."

"How unpleasant," Moomintroll said.

"Yes, isn't it," replied Too-ticky. "This was the way this lady used to talk. She was ironic all day long every day, and finally the kid started to turn pale and fade around the edges, and less and less was seen of her. Last Friday one couldn't catch sight of her at all. The lady gave her away to me and said she really couldn't take care of relatives she couldn't even see."

"And what did you do to the lady?" My asked with bulging eyes. "Did you bash her head?"

"That's of no use with the ironic sort," Too-ticky said. "I took Ninny home with me, of course. And now I've brought her here for you to make her visible again."



The Moomins (continued)

By Jenny Berens

I think that Charlotte Boulay explains the Moomin concept perfectly in her on-line review (10.19.2008, <http://fictionwritersreview.com/>): **"Most children's books manage to impart some kind of message; the measure of any book is how well it manages to make you forget that there is any message in it. In Jansson's world the message is always subordinate to the sheer energy of the plot, but certain ideas gradually become clear: that some people are lonely, and that if you are kind to them they will be less so; that authority figures are often not to be trusted, but that they are cruel or bossy out of loneliness themselves. Some creatures here take on our own neuroses: they cry that the sky is falling, they are a little mean or scary, they get anxious and worried and lost, but others prove that nothing truly horrible ever comes to pass if you keep calm, although a little civil disobedience isn't out of place either. The theme of loneliness often returns, usually precipitated by the atmosphere of the natural world. There is plenty of action, but characters also often have to go off and sit by themselves and think, whether to pout or reflect or figure out how they feel.**



This is a major reason children (and adults) should read these books today: in a contemporary time where there is always something to do, often a rather shallow electronic distraction, Jansson shows that quietly sitting and thinking by yourself is a valuable activity. She also shows that almost everyone is lonely from time to time, and that while community can be an antidote to loneliness, we can also learn from solitude. **Being happy all the time shouldn't be our goal."**

Among many prestigious awards that Tove got can be mentioned the Hans Christian Andersen Award (gold medal, 1966), The Selma Lagerlöf Prize (1992), The American-Scandinavian Foundation Honorary Cultural Award (1996) and the WSOY Literary Foundation Award (1999).

Tove Jansson passed away in 2001, but she left behind a treasure that generations all over the world have and will enjoy together. **Tove's books have been translated into 33 languages. After the *Kalevala* and books by Mika Waltari, they are the most widely translated works of Finnish literature** There are nine Moomin novels, five picture books (my favorites are *The Book about Moomin, Mymble and Little My* 1952 (originally *Hur gick det sen?*) and *Who Will Comfort Toffle?* from 1960 (originally: *Vem ska trösta knyttet?*)) and years of comic-strips published in a collection of seven books (five are translated to English). If you need even more Moomin experiences, there are no less than eight different TV series to choose from, two Moomin theme parks (located in Finland and in Japan) and if you happen to travel through Tampere in Finland, you can visit the Moomin museum.

If you don't know what to give your children or grandchildren for birthdays or holidays, the stories about the Moomins are sure to be much appreciated, both by you and the young ones in your life.

Montreal Snow Village

The Finns have helped to design and construct a snow village in Montreal, Canada which you can see on the web at www.snowvillagecanada.com. From January to March you can visit the hotel to dine or stay overnight.

I was lucky to visit the snow village in Montreal recently. It is a large structure of igloos connected by tunnels around a square. The entry and bedrooms off of the snow corridors are quite large, with ceilings at least 20 feet tall in the center, I would estimate. There are carvings throughout: a beautiful frieze at the entry, one of the city with its bridges, and ice sculptures in the rooms, either "easy chairs," or life-size sculptures, like a circus theme in one room with a clown and a seal with a ball on his nose. The beds, covered with furs, have ice headboards and footboards, many of which are carved in patterns of sunbursts, waves or other motifs. One elegant room had small trees behind the headboard, and 6 or 8 alcoves with large multicolored bouquets of flowers behind sheets of ice. Along with hallways and in footboards or headboards of the beds, there are tiny lights in blue or red that cast a soft glow. The chapel is a separate building with ice pews and gothic windows, still under construction. I made my way to the restaurant and bar, where a gigantic elephant carving towers. Coffee and other drinks keep you warm. Out of the wind, it really was very pleasant. The village will be open until March. There is the hope that a chain of such hotels may develop around the world. Where do you think the next one will be?



Contributions

We'd love to share your news in our next newsletter! We welcome any of your notable events, stories about your experiences with Scandinavian culture, explanations of Scandinavian customs or other topics related to our society.

Fill us in on what's new by calling Anne Keating at (859) 537-6942, or email Kisha at shsky@shsky.org.

Photos of past events would also be welcome for inclusion in future newsletters. (Please send these by email to Kisha at shsky@shsky.org).

Thanks!

SCANDINAVIAN
HERITAGE SOCIETY OF
KENTUCKY



Happy New Year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GOTT NYTT AR!

GODT NYTT AR!

GODT NYTAR!

ONNELLI STA UUTTA VUOTTA!

GLEOI LEGT NYTT AR!

To all the members and friends of the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Kentucky! We have lots to celebrate and we look forward to a year full of fellowship and interesting programs.

Finnish Practice

Since this issue is all about Finland, here are a few common expressions that you may want to try out at Laskiainen!



Hello	Hei or Moi (both informal)
How are you?	Mitä kuuluu?
How are you?	Mitä Teille kuuluu? (formal, or to a group)
My name is...	Minun nimeni on
What is your name?	Mikä nimesi on?
Pleased to meet you	Hauska tavata
Good day	Hyvää Päivää (or just Päivää)
Good evening	Hyvää iltaa
Good morning	Hyvää huomenta
Goodbye	Näkemiin
Bye (informal/ slang)	Heippa, hei hei, heido moikka, moido!
Yes	Kyllä
No	Ei
Thank you	Kiitos
You are welcome	Ei kestä
Excuse me	Anteeksi
Green pea soup	Vihreä Hernekeitto
Yellow pea soup	Keltainen Hernekeitto
Soup's on!	Keiton Yllä!

We would love to see other languages here, if you would like to contribute a piece of your heritage to this newsletter! Please email Kisha at shsky@shsky.org with your contributions!