

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE



(l-r): H.E. Kimmo Sasi, Minister of Foreign Trade of Finland; H.R.H. Princess Märtha Louise of Norway; H.R.H. Princess Benedikte of Denmark; Ms. Dorit Moussaief and H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland; H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden; H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden; H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden; and Edward P. Gallagher, President of the ASF

The eagerly-anticipated opening of Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America was marked by a week of inaugural festivities that attracted enthusiastic crowds and much positive media attention. More than 5,000 people attended the opening ceremonies, receptions, and other events celebrating the realization of a dream long cherished by Americans and Scandinavians alike.

The celebration began on Monday, October 16, 2000, with special previews of Scandinavia House during the afternoon and evening for Scandinavia House donors,

ASF Trustees, Nordic and Nordic-American press, members of the official Nordic delegations, and representatives of the Nordic Embassies, Consulates, Information Services, and Tourist Boards.

The formal inauguration on Tuesday, October 17, 2000, took place in the presence of ASF Patrons and Patrons' Representatives, including H.R.H. Princess Benedikte of Denmark; H.E. Kimmo Sasi, Minister of Foreign Trade of Finland; H. E. Ólafur

*Vice Chairman of the ASF
Board of Trustees and
Chairman of the Scandinavia
House Committee Christian R.
Sonne, Trustee Tor Arneberg,
Trustee Bård Bunaes, Jean
Arneberg and President
Gallagher*



OPENING EVENTS

Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland; H.R.H. Princes Märtha Louise of Norway; Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden; and H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. In addition, other notables attending the ceremonies were Mærsk McKinney-Møller and H.E. Richard Holbrook, U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

The festivities began with a special preview of Scandinavia House for ASF Patrons and Patrons' Representatives. The special preview tours were followed by the Dedication of Victor Borge Hall. H.R.H. Princess Benedikte of Denmark cut the red ribbon on the stage, after which an impromptu speech by Mr. Borge demonstrated the late Danish-American entertainer's characteristic grace and wit.

At noon, the ASF Patrons and Patrons' Representatives joined several thousand spectators gathered on Park Avenue in front of Scandinavia House for the official dedication ceremony, which



Chairman of the ASF Board of Trustees Kristján T. Ragnarsson and Hrafnhildur Ragnarsson with Mr. Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller

included music performed by the

U.S. Military Academy Band and Presentation of the Colors by the U.S. Military Academy Color Guard. ASF President Edward P. Gallagher's welcome was followed by remarks by ASF Chairman, Kristján T. Ragnarsson, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, and Ambassador Holbrooke, who de-

livered a message from President Bill Clinton. King Carl XVI Gustaf noted that Americans have positive associations with Nordic culture. "Scandinavia House will give the Scandinavian countries the opportunity to showcase the best of what they have to offer. Our American friends find it an



The late Victor Borge and H.M. Queen Silvia in Volvo Hall

Mr. Borge, H.R.H. Princess Benedikte and President Gallagher cut the ribbon at the Dedication of Borge Hall.



H.M. Queen Silvia and Trustee Monika Heimbold at the Dedication of the Heimbold Family Children's Learning Center. Her Majesty presented the First Annual Volvo Lecture and spoke about the World Childhood Foundation.



Olivia, Victor Jacob and Louise Holten in national dress at the Dedication

open window to a creative, dynamic, and interesting world—so far from home, and yet so near.”

At a special luncheon for Trustees, dignitaries, and major donors to Scandinavia House immediately following the dedication ceremony, special recognition was given to John S. Russell, Jr., Chair of the Scandinavia House Committee from 1996-1999, and to Christian R. Sonne, Chair of the Scandinavia House Building Sub-Committee from 1996-1999 and Chair of the Scandinavia House Committee from 1999-2000.

Throughout the week there were activities for ASF members, including tours and receptions. Capping off the celebrations were the dedication of the Heimbold Family Children's Learning Center and the First Annual Volvo Lecture. Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, accompanied by H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria, officially dedicated the children's center, after which she delivered the First Annual Volvo Lecture about her work on behalf of the world's children.

Scandinavia House would not have been possible without the generous outpouring of financial support from the many individuals, corporations, and foundations in the United States and the Nordic countries. More than 350 donors to the Campaign for Scandinavia House have made contributions of all sizes, bringing the total donated as of June 30, 2001, to nearly \$23 million. The

ASF is deeply grateful to each and every one of them for their support. Their names appear on page 21.

In addition, the ASF extends its appreciation to the Governments of Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, and to Denmark—the Danish Export Promotion Board, for their support of Scandinavia House. And a special thank you to the Nordic Council of Ministers, which provided generous pioneering support to the project.



Trustee Inger Gundersen Ginsberg, Trustee Inger Tallaksen, and Toril Kreken at a donors reception