

# A Centennial

THROUGH THE YEARS WITH THE MANY

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LED TO THE 100-YEAR SUCCESS OF THE

PERSONALITIES AND EVENTS THAT HAVE

# NICLE

AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

# 1911-2011

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## IN THE WORLD

1991



**Mikhail Gorbachev** resigned as president of the Soviet Union and Boris Yeltsin became the first elected president of the Russian Federation. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 3,000 for the first time ever. Exxon agreed to pay \$1 billion to clean up after the Alaskan oil spill of the Exxon Valdez. A 5,000-year-old frozen mummified corpse was discovered in the Austrian Alps.

1992

Great Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated. The second Disney theme park outside the U.S. opened in Paris and was named Disneyland Paris. More than 100 governments attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development opened in Rio de Janeiro. The European Union was created and laid the framework for closer monetary and economic cooperation.

## •1991•

The ASF celebrated the last five years of Nordic filmmaking with a Nordic Film Festival in New York City. Many directors, producers, and actors attended and participated. On opening night, Swedish cinematographer Sven Nykvist was presented with the Foundation's Cultural Award.

James L. Howard was elected Chairman of ASF's Board of Trustees.

Nearly 500 young Scandinavians and Americans—both professionals and students—participated in the Foundation's Training Program to learn new skills while living abroad.

## •1992•

This was a “good news, bad news” year for the Foundation's Fellowships and Grants Program, according to Board Chairman James L. Howard. The good news was that the ASF continued to receive a large number of top-quality applications and the people selected for awards were of highest caliber. The troublesome news was that the value of the endowment funds that provided the dollars for those awards continued to decline through inflation. Accordingly, the Foundation decided to establish a formal “Planned Giving Program” in hopes of attracting new funds for the educational exchange endowment.

Because of a perceived need to periodically re-examine the strength and vitality of Foundation programs, a Long-Range Planning Committee was established that would address present opportunities and future challenges.

## •1993•

The year's gala benefit dinner was an elegant but sporty affair. Cohosted by the ASF and the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, it became an American-Scandinavian salute to the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. CBS sportscaster Jim Nantz served as Master of Ceremonies and Gerhard Heiberg, President and CEO of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee, was the guest of honor. Almost 600 people attended the festivities.

An example of the ASF's ongoing reciprocal exchanges was the Volvo student program involving the Volvo GM Heavy Truck Corporation in the U.S. and Volvo Lastvagnar in Sweden. The program offered observation and homestays, and had 17 participants in this year.

While the ASF was located in a rental space as the plans to build its own cultural center moved forward, its sponsorship of Scandinavian programs increased. Included were a production of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music; a children's film festival at Lincoln Center; and a Nordic poetry festival at the Cooper Union in Manhattan.

## •1994•

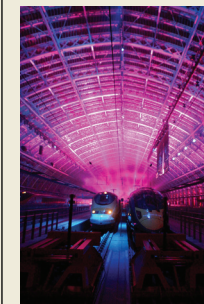
The ASF fellowships and grants were awarded to nearly 80 Scandinavians and Americans for professional or graduate study in fields as diverse as economics, film theory, environmental engineering, and archaeology. Awards were also made in support of 30 institutional and special projects across the U.S., including visits to the U.S. by choirs from Iceland and Finland, a photography exhibition in Seattle, a theater production in Iceland, and an exhibition of Swedish folk art in Santa Fe.

The 50th anniversary of the Republic of Iceland was the theme of the Foundation's 1994 gala dinner dance with Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland, as the guest of honor. She was presented with the ASF's Gold Medal, its highest honor, in recognition of her efforts “to increase international awareness and appreciation of Iceland and her dedication to the Icelandic people and culture.” In 1980, President Vigdís was the first woman in the world to be elected a constitutional head of state.

1993

South Africa's Nelson Mandela and F. W. De Klerk received the Nobel Peace Prize for anti-apartheid efforts. Top-ranked tennis star Monica Seles was stabbed in Hamburg but returned to tennis after two years. Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to pay income tax. New York's Trade Center was bombed, killing six and injuring hundreds.

1994



The “**Chunnel**” between England and France was officially opened, allowing train travel from London to Paris in three hours. Top U.S. figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was attacked with a crowbar a month before the winter Olympics. The car ferry MS Estonia, sailing from Estonia to Sweden, sank in the Baltic Sea, costing 852 lives. Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

1995

THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NYC



The World Trade Organization was established to set up rules for trade among nations. Its 150 members represent 95 percent of all global trade. A bomb exploded outside a federal building in Oklahoma City, claiming 168 victims including 19 children. Israel's Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. The online auction site **Ebay** was founded.

1996

THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NYC



**President Bill Clinton** was re-elected. N.A.S.A. scientists announced they had discovered evidence of fossil life on the planet Mars. A bomb exploded on a TWA flight from New York to Rome via Paris, killing all 230 people on board.

## •1995•

Albert R. Dowden, President and C.E.O. of Volvo North America, was elected Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and served through early 2000.

For the first time, the Foundation hosted a Christmas smörgåsbord in conjunction with its seventh annual Christmas shop. Over a three-day period more than 2,500 people visited the shop, which offered a large assortment of foods, ornaments, music, and gifts from the Nordic countries. In addition, 250 people partook of the sumptuous food prepared by Finnish chef Paavo Turtiainen.

The ASF supported a wide range of public programs, many of which were presented in New York in conjunction with important cultural organizations such as the Frick Collection, the National Academy of Design, and the Museum of American Folk Art.

## •1996•

Edward P. Gallagher was elected the 14th (and current) President of the ASF, succeeding Lena Björck Kaplan, who stepped down after serving seven years. Ms. Kaplan continues to be an active member of the Board of Trustees. President Gallagher previously served as Director of the National Academy of Design in New York.

During the year, Foundation membership reached a 10-year high. More than 4,000 households received membership benefits, accounting for as many as 7,000 ASF constituents nationwide.

On December 5, the Board of Trustees voted to acquire the site at on Park Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets in Manhattan where they would build Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America.

## •1997•

The year was one of intense activity on all fronts, according to Board Chairman Albert R. Dowden and President Edward P. Gallagher. The Foundation awarded over \$500,000 in fellowships and grants to 83 individual scholars and over \$150,000 in public program grants to 45 institutions. The training program made it possible for 433 young Scandinavians to obtain substantial professional experience in the U.S. and for 27 young Americans to gain similar experience in Scandinavia. The total number of participants in exchange-of-people programs since the establishment of the ASF exceeded 25,000.

Finland's President Martti Ahtisaari announced a Finnish Government grant of \$500,000 to ASF in support of Scandinavia House. This followed an announcement earlier in the year that the Icelandic government would contribute \$250,000 to the Foundation. Other Nordic governments subsequently made grants at the \$500,000 level, with an additional \$250,000 from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

A new endowment fund to provide fellowships for Swedish scholars and researchers in the U.S. was established with a grant from the Marcus and Amelia Wallenberg Memorial Fund.

## •1998•



The year's ASF Cultural Award went to **Princess Christina** of Sweden "in recognition of her dedicated efforts as a humanitarian and cultural patron"

and to Norway's **Thor Heyerdahl** for "a lifetime of exploration into questions of human heritage and the world environment." The ASF published a directory of all fellows since 1912.

1997



PHOTOFEST

Tony Blair became the youngest prime minister of Great Britain in 200 years. Tiger Woods, at 21, became the youngest-ever winner of the U.S. Masters golf tournament; he had a 12-stroke winning margin. Princess Diana was killed in a car crash. The first **Harry Potter** book was published. Hong Kong, with 150 years of British rule, was handed back to China. Mother Teresa died at the order she had founded in Calcutta, India. Scottish scientists successfully cloned a sheep from the cell of another adult sheep.

1998

Frank Sinatra, "Old Blue Eyes," died after a long illness. The U.S. and Great Britain launched a three-day attack on Iraq known as Operation Desert Fox. The European Court of Human Rights opened in Strasbourg. Apple launched the iMac. Pakistan tested five nuclear devices.

## 1999

Baseball great Joe DiMaggio, and one-time husband of Marilyn Monroe, died. Two teens killed 12 fellow students and one teacher in a shooting rampage at Columbine High School in Colorado. Eleven European countries replaced their national currencies with the newly created euro. Jordan's King Hussein died. NATO began a bombing campaign against Belgrade to end aggressive treatment of Albanians in Kosovo.

## 2000



The first crew reached the orbiting International Space Station. George W. Bush was elected U.S. President after a controversial vote count. **Vladimir Putin** was elected President of Russia. Scientists decoded the human genome in one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of all time. The supersonic aircraft Concorde crashed in France, killing 113.

## •1999•

The ASF web site was expanded to offer comprehensive information on the Fellowship and Grant Program as well as links to Scandinavian universities, Scandinavian studies programs in the U.S., and other institutions facilitating educational exchange.

A particular highlight of the year's annual dinner was the announcement by President Gallagher that the auditorium in the new Scandinavia House would be named in honor of the well-known Danish musician and entertainer Victor Borge, described as "one of the most celebrated and gifted Scandinavian-Americans of this century." During the festivities, Borge announced a \$1 million gift to Scandinavia House. At the gala dinner dance, Denmark's Queen Margrethe II, the guest of honor, said: "Scandinavia House will become an important instrument in the endeavors to maintain and increase the close cooperation between our countries and to strengthen the many personal ties that link us together."

## •2000•



Kristján T. Ragnarsson, M.D., was elected Chairman of the ASF's Board of Trustees, and presided over a number of Scandinavia House opening events.

Scandinavia House was officially inaugurated on October 16 in a ceremony held outside the building and across the southbound lane of Park Avenue. Earlier in the day, Victor Borge Hall was dedicated in the presence of Mr. Borge and dignitaries from the Nordic countries and the U.S.

The **Heimbold Family Children's Learning Center** at Scandinavia House was dedicated by Sweden's Queen Silvia and Crown Princess Victoria, after which the queen delivered a lecture on her work on behalf of the children of the world.

## •2001•

Programs at Scandinavia House included an exhibition of contemporary photography from Scandinavia, and the first of what became an annual presentation of new films from the Nordic countries as well as a lecture series on the sagas and on current issues in Scandinavia.

The Halldór Laxness Library in Scandinavia House was dedicated with a lecture and a dinner that benefited the Icelandic Cultural Fund.

The ASF 90th anniversary dinner honored the Nobel Foundation on its centenary and the Norwegian World War II resistance hero Gunnar Sønsteby.

The first two visiting lecturers arrived in the U.S. on a new program established to enable American universities and colleges to host senior scholars from Norway and Sweden in the areas of public policy, conflict resolution, health care, environmental studies, and multiculturalism.

## •2002•

The immediate after effects of the tragic events of 9/11 did not prevent the vast majority of 2001-02 Fellows from carrying out their programs without interruption, and, subsequently, application numbers rebounded significantly in the American program and most of the Scandinavia program.

Among special ASF events for the year were symposia devoted to the Icelandic Nobel laureate Halldór Laxness entitled *The Space Between Imagination and Intellect*, and to the Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl and the first Nordic Investment Bank Colloquium, Transatlantic Economic Partnerships: Nordic and American Perspectives.

A fascinating exhibition was devoted to early maps of the northern regions as well as maps and charts, all from the collection of William B. and Inger G. Ginsberg.

The year's gala dinner was held in the presence of Norway's King Harald V and Queen Sonja. The evening was a celebration of the bonds that had existed between Norway and the ASF for more than 90 years.

## 2001

Terrorists linked to Al-Qaeda hijacked four U.S. passenger planes and crashed them all. Two planes hit the Twin Towers in New York, which both fell within two hours, causing more than 3,000 deaths. Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, was launched. The World Trade Organization admitted the People's Republic of China. Same-sex marriages were legalized in the Netherlands. Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević surrendered to be tried for war crimes.

## 2002



Britain's **Queen Mother**, widow of King George VI, died in her sleep at the age of 101. Two of the world's most successful companies, Enron and WorldCom, collapsed, exposing a high level of fraud and corruption in their management. Thousands of investors lost a total of \$240 billion. A Senagalese ferry capsized with a loss of 1,863 lives. The U.S. Congress authorized the use of military force against Iraq.



**2003**

The Columbia space shuttle broke up on re-entry into the earth's atmosphere killing all seven crew members. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that laws against sodomy are unconstitutional. U.S., British, Polish and Australian troops invade Iraq. By December U.S. forces capture Saddam Hussein, who was subsequently tried and executed. Southeastern Iran was hit by a massive earthquake that killed 26,000 people.

**2004**

The Central Intelligence Agency admitted that there was no immediate threat from weapons of mass destruction before the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Ireland became the first country to ban smoking in all enclosed workplaces. George W. Bush was re-elected U.S. president. A massive tsunami killed more than 200,000 people in Southeast Asia. The social networking website Facebook was launched by Harvard University students.

**•2003•**

Christian R. Sonne was elected Chairman of ASF's Board. Sonne's father had served as Chairman from 1968-1970.

As a J-1 visa sponsor for its Exchange Visitor Program, the ASF began participation in SEVIS (Student Information and Exchange Visitor Information System) under the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigrant Services.

Exhibitions at Scandinavia House included *Jewish Life and Culture in Norway: Wergeland's Legacy* (which subsequently traveled to a number of venues in the U.S. and Canada); a presentation of traditional Swedish folk art; work by the ASF Fellows; and the *Snow Show/New York*, models for ice installation in northern Finland the following winter.

**•2004•**

Peter Wallenberg received the ASF Gold Medal in recognition of his many accomplishments, including major support of educational institutions in the U.S. Guests of honor at the gala dinner were Iceland's President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson and his wife Dorrit Moussaieff. Grímsson presented an award from the people of Iceland to then Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

An exhibition *Here's Looking at You, Kid* paid tribute to legendary Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman, and was complemented by a retrospective of Bergman's films. All four of Bergman's children participated in the opening night dinner, which included reminiscences by Liv Ullmann and Sidney Lumet, among others.

The ASF's public project grants provided support totaling more than \$200,000 for a broad range of programs, including the Concordia Language Villages in Minnesota, the Edvard Grieg Society in New York, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, the Royal Norwegian Opera Ballet School, and many other institutions.

**•2005•**

Fellowships and grants awarded in this year to individual students and scholars exceeded \$730,000. An additional \$250,000 was awarded in public project grants, bringing total awards to more than \$1 million for the first time in the ASF's history.

The ASF marked 100 years of Norway's independence with its Norway Centennial Ball, attended by King Harald V and Queen Sonja. The Foundation also presented NORGE: Contemporary Landscapes from the Collection of H.M. Queen Sonja of Norway; and another exhibition of Norwegian architecture; as well as an entire issue of the Scandinavian Review devoted to Norway.

**•2006•**

Bård E. Bunæs was elected Chairman of the ASF's Board of Trustees.

Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, a 40-year veteran of service to the Finnish government and the United Nations, who would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008, was awarded the Foundation's Gold Medal at a gala dinner in May. The award was presented by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell. Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia were guests of honor. At the same event, the ASF Distinguished Public Service Award was presented to Robin Chandler Duke, former American Ambassador to Norway, "for her work toward the betterment of humankind, her tireless efforts on behalf of women and children and her dedication to international exchange and understanding."

Exhibitions at Scandinavia House included contemporary photography from Denmark; wood in architecture from Finland; and *Edvard Munch: Symbolism in Print, Highlights from the Museum of Modern Art*. In conjunction with the latter, the ASF hosted a symposium on Munch that brought together the leading international experts on the artist.

**2005**

Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest storms in American history, caused massive damage and flooding in New Orleans and resulted in the loss of 1,836 lives. French surgeons performed the first human face transplant on a woman who had been mauled by her dog. England's Prince Charles married Camilla Perker Bowles. The Provisional Irish Republican Army formally ended its 36-year armed campaign against Britain.

**2006**

The planet Pluto was officially downgraded to the status of a dwarf planet. The U.N. sanctioned North Korea over its nuclear testing.

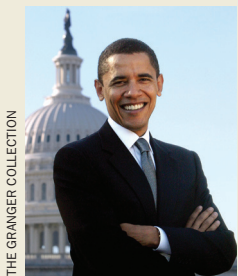
2007



THE GRANGER COLLECTION

A student at Virginia Tech killed a total of 32 students and professors in the deadliest shooting incident by a single gunman in U.S. history. **Gordon Brown** became Prime Minister of Great Britain. In a second assassination attempt within one year, Pakistan's former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was shot dead. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia.

2008



THE GRANGER COLLECTION

**Barack Obama** was elected President of the United States. He became the first African-American president just 45 years after racial segregation had come to an end. The world's largest particle accelerator was officially inaugurated near Geneva, Switzerland. The industrialized world entered an economic depression.

## •2007•

During the past two fiscal years (July 2005 to July 2007), Scandinavia House welcomed over 250,000 visitors, and more than 300 programs, exhibitions, concerts, lectures, symposia, classes, film showings, and workshops had taken place in America's Nordic Center. This intensity of ASF efforts to present Americans with an insight into Scandinavian life was deemed unequalled in its diversity. Programs in 2007 included exhibitions on Swedish silver and Norwegian painting; a children's installation based on the work of Tove Jansson and complemented by a lecture and film screening; a series of literary programs; a Grieg celebration with the Scandinavian Chamber Orchestra; and a series of summer jazz concerts.

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Finnish independence, Finland's President Tarja Halonen was guest of honor at the 2007 gala dinner at which the ASF's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ambassador Jan Eliasson, Special Envoy of the U.N. Secretary General for Darfur and former Foreign Minister of Sweden, and Norway's Jan Egeland, Special Advisor to the U.N. Secretary General for Conflict Resolution and former U.N. Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

## •2008•

The ASF internship and training program remained strong, despite the encroaching effects of the recession, with nearly 200 young Scandinavians participating each year in fields such as engineering, business, Web design and architecture. Along with 86 new Fellows (who received grants totaling over \$800,000), this brought the total number of participants in ASF exchange-of-people programs to more than 27,000 since its inception.

At the year's gala dinner, the ASF Gold Medal was presented to Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, who had served as Prime Minister of Norway and Director of the World Health Organization and to Finland's Jorma Ollila, Chairman of Nokia. The ASF Cultural Award was presented to Sweden's film director Lasse Hallström and his actress wife Lena Olin.

## •2009•

The ASF elected Co-Chairmen of the Board of Trustees for the first time. They were Richard E. Oldenburg and Bernt Reitan.

Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary were the guests of honor at the gala dinner at which ASF trustee Liv Ullmann served as master of ceremonies. William McCormick Blair, Jr. and his wife Catherine G. Blair received the ASF Award for Distinguished Public Service. The ASF Cultural Award was presented to Nikolaj Hübbe, the internationally acclaimed ballet dancer, teacher, and artistic director of the Royal Danish Ballet by Crown Princess Mary.

## •2010•

The Foundation began its Centennial celebrations in October with the gala dinner that also fêted the 10th anniversary of Scandinavia House. That month, the ASF opened the first of three Centennial exhibitions, *Nordic Models + Common Ground*, a look at art and design in the Nordic countries, curated by the architecture and design firm Snøhetta.

Other Scandinavia House programs this year included the annual presentation of new films from the Nordic countries followed by a Nordic crime film series; musical evenings with pianist Jeffrey Siegel; and the New York Scandia Symphony; as well as a new series, Out of Scandinavia: New Indie Music from the Nordics. Scandinavia House also added an ongoing theatrical component in its collaboration with the newly formed Scandinavian American Theater Company, which presented Strindberg's *Miss Julie* in May and began a series of staged readings by contemporary Nordic playwrights.

Two gala dinners were held this year. In April, honorees were Princess Benedikte of Denmark and Martin Segal, former Chairman of the Board of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, both of whom received the ASF Award for Distinguished Public Service, and Finnish soprano Karita Mattila, who received the ASF Cultural Award. Norway's Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit were guests of honor at the October dinner at which Barbro Osher received the ASF Award for Distinguished Public Service and Ólafur Eliasson received the ASF Cultural Award.

2009

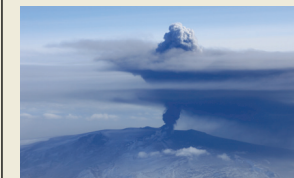


PHILIPPE PLUSSON/SIPA

**U.S. Airways Flight 1549**

made an emergency landing in the Hudson River in New York City shortly after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport. All passengers and crew survived. Same-sex marriage was legalized in Sweden. General Motors filed for bankruptcy, the fourth largest bankruptcy in U.S. history.

2010



PÓRÐIS HÖGNADÓTTIR

Thirty-three miners in a Chilean copper-gold mine were trapped 2,000 feet underground for 69 days following a mine cave-in. All were successfully rescued. A volcano beneath Iceland's **Eyjafjallajökull**, a glacier, erupted and caused serious air-traffic problems for weeks throughout western and northern Europe. WikiLeaks, a Web site dedicated to the public release of classified information, published more than 90,000 internal documents and communications pertaining to the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

2011



SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

Sweden's **Thomas Tranströmer**, writer, poet and translator, won the Nobel Prize for Literature. His poetry has been translated into 60 languages. Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was seriously wounded in an attempted suicide. An earthquake measuring 9.0 in magnitude struck 80 miles east of Sendai, Japan, triggering a tsunami that killed thousands of people. The event also caused the second largest nuclear accident in history. In two terror attacks in Norway a religious and right-wing fanatic bombed a government building in Oslo and shot scores of young people attending a camp rally on the island of Utøya north of the capital. Osama Bin Laden, suspected mastermind of the 9-11-01 attacks on New York's Twin Towers and Washington's Pentagon, was killed by U.S. Special Forces in Pakistan.

## •2011•

Queen Margrethe II of Denmark made her first visit to Scandinavia House for a reception in June.

Two additional Centennial exhibitions were offered in 2011: *North by New York: New Nordic Art* and *Luminous Modernism: Scandinavian Art Comes to America, 1912*. The former was an overview of contemporary art from each of the Nordic countries, including paintings sculpture, photography, graffiti, and multimedia works, curated by Robert Storr, dean of the Yale School of Art with Francesca Pietropaolo. The latter, with an opening date of October 25, 2011, revisits and updates the pioneering art exhibition of 1912, which introduced Scandinavian painters Edvard Munch and Vilhelm Hammarshøi, amongst others, to an American audience.

Another centennial highlight was the Curtis L. Carlson ASF Centennial Lecture Series, which presented three Nobel laureates. In April, former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari (Nobel Peace Prize 2008) spoke on peacekeeping and conflict resolution; in May, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan (Nobel Peace Prize 2001) delivered a talk on issues of peace and poverty. In October, Mr. Thorsten Wiesel (Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1981) spoke on science as an instrument of peace. Additional Centennial programs, some of which have yet to take place, are concerts, including the Musical Evenings with Northern Stars series and a literary series entitled Northern Influences: Americans Look at Great Nordic Writers."

*In the Spring 2011 issue of Scandinavian Review, we covered the origins and early years of the ASF, and in the Summer issue we examined the history from the years of World War II through 1990. The two most recent decades are covered below.*

# The Story of The American- Scandinavian Foundation

## 1991-2011

### *Two Decades of Change*

# F

OR THE AMERICAN-

Scandinavian Foundation, the 1990s began amid a spirit of anxiety, excitement and anticipation. Its home for close to four decades had been sold and the Foundation had moved into temporary quarters at 725 Park Avenue. But, above all, staff and members began to sense that the organization's long-standing dream of one day establishing a true Nordic Center in America was close at hand. Outgoing Board Chairman Øivind Lorentzen, Jr. had declared that over the past 80 years the Foundation had built an endowment of close to \$11 million in support of its educational exchange program and that, despite the difficult financial climate at the time, more than \$267,000 had been received in unrestricted support.

Inspired by the phenomenal success of the "Scandinavian Today" project, (a national celebration of Scandinavian culture in the early 1980s for which the ASF was the sponsoring organization) which demonstrated

## **The Foundation undertook a \$22 million capitol campaign for Scandinavia House.**

the significant size and strength of Americans' interest in Nordic culture, the Foundation placed a new emphasis on public programs — both in presentation and sponsorship.

In 1991, a Nordic Film Festival sponsored by ASF was held in New York celebrating the past five years of Nordic filmmaking. Six feature films and four shorts, representing all five Scandinavian countries, had their New York premieres. In addition eight of the finest Nordic films from the past, including two Oscar winners, were screened.

Another active year was registered in 1992, with 14 ASF events that reached an audience of close to 7,000 people. In 1993, the quality and uniqueness of the *Scandinavian Review*, the ASF's illustrated journal devoted to Scandinavian culture and thought, published continuously since 1913, won recognition from the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen in the form of a grant to support circulation of the journal to influential Americans, including members of the United States Congress and state governors.

Close to 100,000 people in New York, in 1994, participated in public programs and exhibitions either presented or funded by the ASF in cooperation with major New York institutions. Among them were *Hollywood on Ice: the Films of Sonja Henie* at the Museum of Modern Art, *The Golden Age of Danish Painting* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and *Stranger than Paradise: Contemporary Scandinavian Photography* at the International Center of Photography.

**W**HILE THE ASF CONTINUED DURING THE 1990S TO initiate and host special programs and activities designed for its members in the New York area, it also supported an unprecedented number of national projects. Public programming support on both the local and national levels provided an effective means of reaching new constituencies for the presentation of Nordic culture in the U.S.—for example, a Strindberg play in San Francisco; works of a Swedish sculptor in Provo, Utah; an exhibition of craft arts of Sweden in Coral Gables, Florida; and Danish poetry in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Midway into the decade, cultural presentations of the ASF were given new emphasis when the Trustees voted to purchase property that would become a permanent center—a venue for all forms of cultural and educational programming. On December 30, 1996, a landmark event in the history of the Foundation took place with the purchase of a property at

56–58 Park Avenue in New York City, soon to become Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America. Everyone connected with the ASF looked forward to an era in which the new headquarters would provide a setting for a wide variety of programs intended to further the Foundation's historic mission of building cultural and educational links between the U.S. and the five Nordic nations.

In the spring of 1997, Polshek Partners was selected to be the architectural firm for the new Scandinavia House, and a close working relationship developed between the architects and the ASF's Trustee Building Committee. The Foundation undertook a \$22 million capital campaign for Scandinavia House, which was scheduled to open in the year 2000. More than half the funding had already been achieved.

**T**HE FOLLOWING YEAR, MORE THAN \$447,000 IN fellowships and grants were awarded to 81 individuals, allowing them the opportunity to pursue their scholarly research or artistic development. Over \$153,000 in public program and arts grants were awarded to 46 institutions in the U.S. and Scandinavia. The ASF Training Program made it possible for 473 young Scandinavians and Americans to travel abroad to obtain substantial experience in fields ranging from law to agriculture.

On May 13, 1999, the ASF broke ground on Scandinavia House providing 28,000 square feet on eight floors. At the close of the millennium, more than \$19.8 million in gifts and pledges had been raised from many generous donors.

As the new century began, the ASF was deep in preparation for its own opening—Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America. Throughout the winter and spring, construction continued at a breakneck speed, with a deadline of October for the official dedication. In mid-summer, ASF staff moved into the new building from their temporary headquarters on East 65th Street, ending a transitional period of eleven years.

Starting October 16, 2000, a week-long series of inaugural festivities celebrated the formal opening of Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America. These included special previews of the new headquarters for ASF patrons and representatives of the Nordic diplomatic corps; the dedication of Victor Borge Hall with a formal ribbon-cutting on stage by Denmark's Princess Benedikte; and an impromptu speech by Borge himself.

The formal inauguration took place later that day in front of several thousand spectators gathered on Park Avenue outside of the new building. Traffic was temporarily halted to make room for a stage occupied by Edward P. Gallagher, President of The American-Scandinavian Foundation; Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf Queen Silvia, and Crown Princess Victoria;



Denmark's Princess Benedikte; Iceland's President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson; Finland's Minister of Foreign Trade Kimmo Sasi; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke; Dr. Kristján T. Ragnarsson, Chairman of ASF's Board of Trustees; and Christian R. Sonne, ASF's Deputy Chairman. President Gallagher's welcome was followed with remarks by Chairman Ragnarsson and King Carl XVI Gustaf, and a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton delivered by Ambassador Holbrooke. The U.S. Military Academy Band provided the music.

The inaugural exhibition at Scandinavia House was *Young Nordic Design: The Generation X*, presenting the work of 46 young designers, all under the age of 40, from all the Nordic countries. Organized by Design Forum Finland, in collaboration with the other Nordic design councils, the exhibition received an enthusiastic response and was subsequently shown in a number of galleries and museums around the globe. In a review

*One month later, the Foundation celebrated its 90th anniversary on October 9, 2011.*

of the exhibition Roberta Smith of *The New York Times*, wrote "It's new headquarters is a gift to the city. It promises to be a place where visitors can not only encounter the achievements of five different northern European cultures—through exhibitions, films, lectures, and a school program—but also inhabit them a little, too, simply by stepping through the front door." She added, "the building is infused with a sense of the balanced, domesticated, understated modernism whose familiarity attests to the influence that Scandinavian design has exerted on American taste since Aalto's time."

The first season at Scandinavia House was filled with film screenings, concerts, lectures, and children's activities. The second exhibition, opening in February of 2001, was *Faces and Figures: Contemporary Scandinavian Photography*.

The launch of Scandinavia House was not the only highlight of the new year. The 2000-01 academic year also saw the implementation of the Foundation's newest award program, The Visiting Lectureship Program, established in 1999, which enables American universities and colleges to host Norwegian and Swedish lecturers in the areas of public policy, conflict resolution, health care, environmental studies, and multiculturalism and allows them to teach as well and conduct research at U.S. institutions. The Foundation selected Notre Dame University's Joan B. Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies to host Dr. Peter Wallensteen, Dag Hammarskjöld Professor of Peace and Conflict Resolution at Uppsala University, as the first ASF visiting lecturer from Sweden. In addition,



**Former ASF President, Lena Björck Kaplan and Dr. Kristján T. Ragnarsson, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the time of the Scandinavia House inauguration.**

The University of Alaska/Fairbanks was chosen to host Dr. Willy Østreng, Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, as the first ASF visiting lecturer from Norway.

One year later, like all of New York City, indeed all the world, the ASF was profoundly affected by the events of 9/11. Because of the attack, the opening of the fall exhibition, *Between Space and Time: Contemporary Norwegian Sculpture and Installation* was delayed. Many of the artists in the exhibition had just arrived, and several were near enough to witness it and they recorded it in later work.

ONE MONTH LATER, THE FOUNDATION CELEBRATED ITS 90th anniversary on October 9, 2011, and took the occasion to honor the Nobel Foundation on its 100th anniversary. It also recognized the achievements of Gunnar Sønsteby, the Norwegian World War II resistance hero. Recalling the recent tragic 9/11 events in New York, and Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania, ASF Board Chairman Dr. Kristján T. Ragnarsson stated, "It is important to recognize and honor two organizations — the Nobel Foundation and the ASF — that have promoted understanding and peace among the people of the world— and an individual who has fought against injustice." In keeping, The American-Scandinavian

Foundation ASF bestowed medals on both Sønsteby and the Nobel Foundation.

The 2002 economic downturn and consequent effect on contributions and other income sources made it necessary for the Foundation to reduce its operating budget and enact some staff furloughs. Nonetheless, the level of program activity at Scandinavia House continued unabated, and the Fellowship Program awarded more than \$620,000 to Fellows. Significant effects from this downturn were found in the ASF Training Program, however, as the number of trainees declined in 2002.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, AN IMPROVED economic climate ushered in new growth at the ASF. In the ASF Annual Report covering the years July 2003 to June 2005, the new Board Chairman Christian R. Sonne and President Gallagher pointed out that the first five years since the opening of Scandinavia House had quickly made a mark on cultural life in New York City, welcoming more than 300,000 visitors. Moreover, it had hosted over 500 programs that included exhibitions, concerts, lectures, symposia, classes, film screenings, and workshops in the last two years alone. Among more than two dozen musical programs, the Foundation offered the Karelian Folk Festival (twice); the Scandinavian Chamber Orchestra (seven times); several piano recitals by Sweden's Per Tengstrand; an evening of music and comedy with Magnus Mårtensson; several jazz evenings; and an outstanding performance by the Young Danish Quartet; which received a brilliant review in *The New York Times*.

A popular new tradition of annual interactive installations saluting the best of Nordic children's literature was initiated in November 2003 with Pippi and Her Friends: A Celebration of Astrid Lindgren. For the seven subsequent years, the children's literature of each country would be the special focus of these unique environments.

By mid-decade, the Fellowship Program had resumed its growth, and in 2007, nearly \$750,000 was awarded to 82 Fellows. The preceding year, 2006, marked the sixth year of Scandinavia House, during which more than 150 programs were presented, including the enormously popular *Garbo's Garbos: Portraits from Her Private Collection*, which was complemented by a 14-film retrospective, including her first Swedish films. Two years earlier, Ingrid Bergman, another of Sweden's great contributions to the silver screen, was remembered with a two-part film retrospective and a charming exhibition of her memorabilia, *Here's Looking at You Kid*, organized by the Wesleyan University Film Archives.

Yet another legend of the Nordic stage was the focus of another exhibition, *Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition*, which opened in January

## **The Internet played an increasingly large role in the ASF's outreach efforts.**

2009, and included video performances and rare documentary material.

In the visual arts arena, the ever-increasing fascination with the work of Edvard Munch was furthered by a major exhibition of his work, supported by the ASF and presented at the Museum of Modern Art in winter/spring 2006. Scandinavia House presented its own exhibition in conjunction, *Edvard Munch: Symbolism in Print, Highlights from the Museum of Modern Art*.

Throughout the decade, the Internet played an increasingly large role in the ASF's outreach and communication efforts. By 2007, over 5,000 individuals were receiving online weekly bulletins from the ASF, a number that by 2010 had nearly doubled. At the same time, the ASF website, launched in 1997, was keeping a pace with the fast moving technological developments of the time.

A major and sustaining source of contributed funds that helped to defray the economic volatility of that decade were the ASF Gala dinners, which provided a unique opportunity to celebrate Nordic-American friendship and the achievements of the ASF. A number of dinners took place in the presence of ASF Patrons and were attended by major U.S. figures, including Senator Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and former Senator George Mitchell.

IN 2010, THE FOUNDATION HOSTED TWO GALA DINNERS. The first, on April 22, 2010, was marked by the sudden eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull. This prevented Princess Benedikte of Denmark from attending the event to receive the ASF Award for Distinguished Public Service. In addition, Finnish soprano Karita Matilla was prevented by illness from attending to accept the ASF Cultural Award. ASF Trustee Martin E. Segal, Chairman Emeritus of Lincoln Center, did attend and was presented the ASF Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Later the same year, on October 29, Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette Marit were the honored guests at the ASF Dinner, and awards were presented to ASF Trustee Barbro Osher and Icelandic/Danish artist Ólafur Eliasson.

This dinner ushered in the Centennial year of the ASF, and followed by one night the opening of the first Centennial exhibition, *Nordic Models + Common Ground: Art and Design Unfolded*. Curated by the Norwegian architectural firm Snøhetta, the exhibition echoed the premise of *Young Nordic Design* of 11 years earlier, featuring the work of 35 designers and

*But the driving motive for each of us was the same as it is for everyone in this room.*

artists. In April of 2011, this exhibition was followed by *North by New York: New Nordic Art*, curated by Robert Storr, Dean of the Yale School of Art, with Francesca Pietropaolo, which included a number of cutting-edge video pieces, as well as traditional painting and photographs.

The ASF Centennial was celebrated throughout the 12 months beginning in October 2010. Among the most memorable events was the dinner held on March 16 at Scandinavia House, attended by Trustees and long-time friends of the Foundation. Held on the precise day of 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the ASF, the dinner included remarks by several leading Trustees. Former Chairman Charles S. Haight, III, unable to attend, sent a statement, which eloquently reflected on the ASF Centennial:

*In making a proxy appearance before this distinguished assemblage, I speak for a constituency of three individuals named "Charles S. Haight" who had something to do with the ASF: my grandfather, my father, and myself. My grandfather was a Founding Trustee of the Foundation, a distinction that neither my father nor I can claim, but we were all in our times Trustees of the ASF, came to serve as President or Chairman of the Board, and were partners of the law firm then known as "Haight Gardner," whose core clients included Scandinavian shipowners and maritime insurers.*

*Given that professional connection for a Haight Gardner lawyer, involvement with the ASF may have been a natural extracurricular activity. But the driving motive for each of us was the same as it is for everyone in this room: a desire to serve the ASF in order to further the unique benefits the Foundation can confer upon the human spirit.*

*The human spirit, if left in isolation, hemmed in by domestic borders and local concerns, may shrivel, and produce people who know little and care less about the peoples of the world, their culture, aspirations, and concerns. Those afflicted by that narrowed spirit, when encountering persons or organizations from other countries, may regard them with ignorance and a self-centered distrust; be deaf and blind to the beauties of unfamiliar works of*

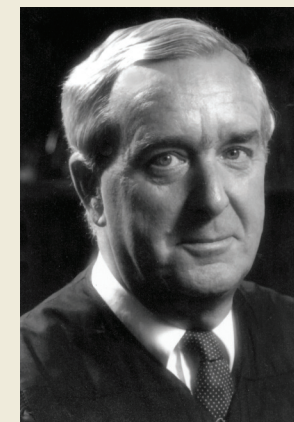
*art; and have a disinclination to know or work together with those from different nations.*

*That isolationist spirit is not appropriate to the people of America, a nation of immigrants, particularly in these challenging global times. The American-Scandinavian Foundation was founded 100 years ago to create and offer something better. Through its fund grants, fellowships, programs, concerts, exhibitions, publications, and other activities, now centered in this beautiful building, the Foundation brings the peoples of the pan-Scandinavian countries and the United States together, for professional and commercial work, academic research, enjoyment of the arts, companionship, and mutual discernment and understanding.*

*The ASF pursues these activities so that where there was ignorance, there may be understanding; where narrow self-interest, broader awareness and cooperation; where deafness or blindness to the beauty of art, hearing and sight; where constriction and meanness of spirit, expansion and generosity; where strangers, life-long friends.*

*These are noble goals whose pursuit has captured and sustained us all. I raise my glass in absentia, and my grandfather and father raise ghostly goblets, to The American-Scandinavian Foundation on its 100th birthday, and to all within this room for your essential and loving part in its accomplishments.*

*From the three Charles S. Hights: A TRIPLE SKAAL!*



Charles S. Haight, III



# The Foundation Exchange Programs



**American fellows in Denmark** in 1920-21 (l. To r.) S.M. Damon (Harvard), Jules Menken (Columbia), Helen Purdy (Barnard), G.A. Harrop (Johns Hopkins), Robert Hillyer (Harvard) and O.R. Sandström (University of Pennsylvania). Hillyer went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1934.

**M**ANY CONSIDER THE

American Scandinavian Foundation's programs, facilitating the exchange of scholars, researchers, interns, and trainees between the United States and the five Nordic nations to be the very core of the Foundation's mission—and rightly so. During the course of its first 100 years, the ASF has enabled nearly 30,000 Americans and Scandinavians—while thousands more were helped indirectly—to spend time immersed in a new society and culture while studying or working.

## *Fellowships & Grants*

**T**HROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THE ASF HAS SERVED ALL levels of scholarly endeavor, supporting Americans for study and research in the Nordic countries, and Scandinavians for study and research in the U.S. It all began in 1912 when the Foundation awarded its first fellowships in a program that over the next century would support the work of some 7,500 scholars, researchers and professionals in a diversity of areas ranging from medicine and the sciences, to economics and politics, to the arts and literature.

The first three recipients were all philologists. Martin Bronn Ruud went to Denmark where his research into Scandinavian languages and literature marked the first conspicuous step of an academic career that included a doctorate from the University of Chicago and numerous writings on such subjects as Danish views on Shakespeare. Herman Olson followed his studies in Swedish literature at Uppsala with books such as *The History of Religious Liberty in Europe and America*. Henning Larsen spent his fellowship in Oslo studying Old Norse and Germanic philology. He then returned to the U.S. and held a number of prestigious university posts, while compiling books on old Icelandic medical therapies and Teutonic mythology.

Also in that inaugural year, two recipients from Norway and one each from Sweden and Denmark pursued radically different paths during their time in the U.S. One attended Harvard to study the humanities, and ended up as headmaster of a school in Askim, Norway; a second enrolled at Columbia for a course labeled “domestic science” and returned to Oslo to spend her life teaching blind and deaf children; a third went to M.I.T. for advanced courses in naval architecture and took that knowledge back to Göteborg to teach the craft and technique of shipbuilding; and the fourth attended library school in Albany, as an early step toward becoming the director of Copenhagen's Museum of Decorative Art.

During the initial years, support for the Fellowship Program came from Foundation pioneer Niels Poulson's \$100,000 original bequest. The number of Fellows gradually increased, with 10 or more in each of the years leading up to the American involvement in World War I. The exchanges ceased for a year on account of the war and then returned with renewed vigor in 1919, after special pledges of funding over a five-year period were received from numerous donors on both sides of the Atlantic. As a result, 35 Fellows were appointed for the 1919-20 academic year. Noteworthy about this group was that it included 10 Americans who had applied to study some branch of science in Sweden, a country by then associated globally with the Nobel Prizes, particularly in chemistry and physics. This was the first year that the ASF sent



its first Fellow to Iceland, Kemp Malone, who became an eminent philologist.

**T**HE DECADE OF THE 1920s produced several grant recipients who would become internationally known in later years. In 1920, for instance, one of the six Fellows to Denmark was Robert Hillyer, the New Jersey-born poet who won the Pulitzer Prize for his verse in 1934. The 1923 recipients for Denmark included chemist Harold Urey, whose work on isotopes earned him a Nobel Prize the same year Hillyer received his Pulitzer. Denmark was a magnet in 1924 for historian Henry Steele Commager, most of whose 40 books and 700 essays dealt with aspects of the evolution of liberalism in the United States. Also in 1924, a grant was awarded to oceanographer Edward Smith for a stay in Norway; he gained fame during World War II as “Icebreaker” Smith, the Coast Guard admiral who led Greenland’s defenses against the Nazis. Another Fellow of the decade was sculptor Trygve Hammer, who used his grant in 1928 to explore the artistic traditions of his forebears in Norway. That same year, the first ASF Fellow was sent to Greenland.

The 1930s brought the first of ASF’s fellowship endowment funds. A contribution honoring late Foundation Vice-President and Trustee John Bergquist, made by his widow, targeted its income for Americans pursuing studies in the field of chemistry in Sweden. Today, the ASF manages more than 35 funds providing support for scholars and researchers to and from each of the Nordic countries. [See full list on pages 38 and 39.]

As the Fellowship Program grew, the interests of candidates broadened. While there was nothing especially unusual about candidates going to Sweden to study the works of Emanuel Swedenborg or to Denmark to reach original texts by Søren Kierkegaard, there was definitely a glimpse into the breadth of projects yet to come through the endeavors of an archeologist like Cyrus Gordon, who traveled to Stockholm in 1939 as part of a career of researching



**Kemp Malone**, the well-known etymologist and philologist and professor of English at Johns Hopkins University, became ASF’s first recipient of a fellowship to Iceland.



**Bertil Ohlin**, Swedish fellow to the United States in 1922, was an economist, a politician and formerly Sweden’s Secretary of Commerce, shared the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1977 for the “modern theory of the dynamics of trade.”

the duration of the war, and an Emergency Relief Fund was set up to help the Scandinavian Fellows from the classes of 1939 and 1940, who were stranded in the U.S. One of these, biochemist Henrik Dam from Denmark, received his 1943 Nobel Prize in Medicine in special ceremonies held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel hosted by the ASF for recipients living in the U.S.

**I**N 1944, EVEN BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR, THE Fellowship Program received its second endowment fund with a major contribution from ASF Treasurer Hans Christian Sonne that was earmarked for studies in Denmark and Norway. The following year, The King Haakon’s Birthday Fund, to support Norwegian students in the U.S., was presented to the ASF by the American Friends of Norway. When World War II ended in 1945, a return to normalcy was marked with the appointment of more than 100 fellows from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. ASF funding was supplemented by private donors, governments, the Foundation’s sister organizations, and university scholarships. The American side of the program also resumed with two Fellows in 1945 (one of these was economist and future *New York Times* columnist Leonard Silk) and more than 25 the next

dead and/or ancient languages. Gordon was one of the first of numerous awardees who used their fellowship for studying subjects dealing with another part of the world in which a U.S. or Scandinavian institution had a renowned collection or special expertise.

In 1940, the first seven Icelandic Fellows arrived to begin their studies in the U.S. At the same time, however, exchange with the other Nordic countries was curtailed and then stopped, when Denmark and Norway were invaded by the Nazis in April of that same year. At the time, there were 12 American Fellows studying abroad—four in the invaded nations and the other eight in Sweden—who managed to return to the U.S. via Germany and Italy or Russia and Japan. Awards for Scandinavians were suspended for

year. Their study or research visits covered everything from the physical sciences, medicine and sociology to architecture, art history and music. Among the Americans studying abroad during the first years after the war were Karl Rolvaag (Norway, 1947), the future governor of Minnesota and President Lyndon Johnson's U.S. ambassador to Iceland, and Glen Martin (Denmark, 1948), the globe-trotting philosopher who engaged various government leaders in his campaign to establish what he termed "a practical utopia." One of the first Europeans to come to the U.S. during that period was Erik Tuxen, the versatile Danish musician who conducted the Danish Radio's Symphony Orchestra, fronted a popular jazz band, and brought international attention to the neglected works of Carl Nielsen.

**B**Y MID-CENTURY, THE RELATIVELY MODEST EXCHANGE of seven scholars in 1912 had grown dramatically. There were 40 to 50 new Scandinavian fellows each year, and another 15 Americans. The program was also broadened to include Finland. As the ASF approached its 50th anniversary (and Finland's inclusion as a full partner in its work) a four-year grant was received from the Ford Foundation to support the exchange of young Finnish and American leaders. This included the participation of 50 Finns and 24 Americans.

During the 1950s, one developing area of fellowship support was in the arts. Coming to the U.S. from Norway, in 1952, were playwright Stein Bugge and actress Tore Segelcke. Peter Gardner, a folk singer who helped popularize coffee houses and who later became a psychiatrist, went to Sweden in 1957 on a fellowship as well. The Fellows from Finland included conductor Paavo Berglund, violinist Anja Ignatius, and the director of the Finnish National Theater, Arvi Kivimaa. But perhaps the most unusual initiative was that funded by Edgar Bergen, the ventriloquist, who sponsored the trips of three other Scandinavian comedians to study the idiosyncrasies of American humor. In 1952, the recipient was Denmark's Piet Hein, an all-around scientific and literary figure who became famous for the short aphoristic poems known as *gruks*; in 1954, Sweden's newspaper wit Lennart Nyblom (known to his readers as "Red Top"); and in 1957 the Norwegian illustrator Salo Grenning, who signed his pieces as "Pedro."

Whatever Hein, Nyblom, and Grenning reported back to their countries about the American sense of humor, their inclusion confirmed the comprehensiveness and creative breadth of the program that had characterized it from the start and that would continue to distinguish it into the 21st century. Researchers in neurological diseases, and workers in disaster relief, as well as, jewelry designers and scientists, architects and philosophers, business students and oceanographers have all received fellowship support. At times, the awards have also been a barometer of social priorities. Since the 1960s,

for instance, an increasing number of Scandinavians have studied in the U.S. to bolster their economic and business ambitions, while Americans since mid-century have examined the Nordic social welfare systems. One striking portent in 1962 was the selection from Norway of Lars Monrad-Krohn, the first student at the Norwegian Institute of Technology to devote his doctorate to a computer-related subject and, later, the founder of several database companies.

Immigration, ecology, international relations, genetics, public health and women's studies as concentrations have all reflected urgent concerns of recent decades. So have domestic violence, day care, and sports medicine. Between 1970 and 1982, special grants from the George C. Marshall Memorial Fund alone averaged an annual underwriting of 20 Fellows to Denmark, spanning every specialization from orthopedics and medieval studies to animal nutrition, criminal science, speech pathology, and nuclear physics.

**T**HE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUED TO GROW throughout the 1980s and serve the academic communities in the U.S. and the Nordic countries. New permanent fellowship funds continued to be received, most by bequest, including the largest of all, the Andrew E. and G. Norman Wigeland Fund to support Norwegians studying in the U.S. By the end of the decade, nearly \$500,000 in fellowships and grants were awarded each year. Distinguished Fellows from this period include Jan Egeland (Norway to the U.S., 1982) who devoted his life to humanitarian efforts, including serving as U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; award-winning screenwriter and film producer James Shamus (U.S. to Denmark, 1987); and Josiah McElheny (U.S. to Sweden, 1989 and 1997) who subsequently received a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship for his sculptural glassblowing.

Each year during the 1990s saw some 70 Scandinavians come to the U.S. with ASF fellowship support, while some 40 Americans were able to pursue study or research in Scandinavia. The subjects of their work continued to exemplify the diverse fields of study mentioned above. The fact that many recent and current ASF Fellows' projects are not solely confined to the study of Scandinavian or American culture speaks to the Foundation's ability to evolve and participate in a constantly changing global environment. And, more recently multiculturalism and environmental issues have become emerging subjects of studies for both Scandinavian and American Fellows.

During the first decade of the 21st century, another 750 individuals received fellowship and grant support from the ASF, with totaling funding exceeding \$6.5 million. Also nearly 20 American colleges and universities, including Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, and the Universities of Alaska, Massachusetts, and Washington, as well as Luther and Gustavus Adolphus Colleges,



were selected to host distinguished scholars from Norway and Sweden as participants in the new ASF Visiting Lecturer program.

The ASF believes that by supporting the exchange of people, it can enable them to see what is unique and valuable in another's culture and their own, while gaining valuable research or professional knowledge. In the century that followed the first seven awards, the ASF's Fellowship Program has grown dramatically. It has enjoyed good times and overcome unforeseen challenges, all the while never wavering from its commitment to educational exchange between the U.S. and the five Nordic countries at the highest level.

### *Interns & Trainees*

IN 1925, 14 YEARS AFTER ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE AMERICAN-Scandinavian Foundation underwrote its first group of exchange trainees from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Known as "Industrial Fellows," at the time, the nine who crossed the Atlantic to the U.S. that year had completed theoretical training in their home countries and sought practical experience with American firms in such diverse fields as engineering, banking, business, administration and manufacturing. Under the terms of the program, the Europeans were paid \$125 a month over a year-long stay. It was thought to be the first venture of its kind in international learning exchanges, so much so that the U.S. Bureau of Immigration had no precedent for what it ultimately authorized in the admission category of "student laborers." The program was so successful that within two years the U.S. was admitting 300 industrial fellows from various European countries, 36 of whom from Scandinavia. A year after that, in 1928, the first two Americans went in the opposite direction to gain practical experiences working in Sweden. Since then, the ebb and flow of the program has been conditioned by numerous factors, including war and peace, economic upturns and downturns, and changing areas of interest.

The promising start of the Industrial Fellow Program was seriously impeded by the Great Depression in the early 1930s, only to be brought to a virtual halt during World War II. At the war's conclusion efforts to rebuild, coupled with hopes of encouraging international peace and understanding, spurred a rekindling of exchange activity. In 1946 the U.S. Department of State instructed consular officers at American embassies in Scandinavia to authorize temporary visitor trainee visas for 276 young Scandinavians sponsored by the ASF for practical training in the U.S. between 1946 and 1948.

By the end of the decade, the Departments of State and Justice had approved the Exchange Visitor (J visa) Program to provide the exchange of people to the U.S. and to promote international understanding. The ASF became the first private-sector organization recognized by the State



**Swede Ragnar Berglund**, a trainee in advertising and publishing traveled across the U.S., meeting former President Truman along the way, and sent a letter of gratitude to the Foundation seven months into his American sojourn.

Department to conduct these "exchange-of-people" programs in 1949. In that year, 205 Scandinavians arrived in the U.S. to begin training assignments.

Also in 1949, the Foundation raised special funds totaling \$10,000 per year, for three years, to develop the training program so that ASF could respond to the huge increase in applicants from Scandinavia. From the beginning, most trainees arranged their own placements by directly contacting American firms. Cooperating offices in Scandinavia received and screened the applications and recommended them to the ASF, which then provided visa sponsorship through its newly designated Exchange Visitor Program. Among the arrivals in 1949 were 44 young Danish farmers in a newly created agricultural exchange program that the ASF arranged in cooperation with the U.S. Departments of State and Agriculture, and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. These young Danish farmers were popular among farm families in the Midwest, where they took part in one complete growing cycle from planting through harvest, receiving a thorough introduction to U.S. agricultural methods. The agricultural component of the training program continued for the next five decades. For many years the agricultural trainees made up 25-30 percent of the total trainee population.

During the 1950s, nearly 4,000 trainees from Scandinavia received ASF visa sponsorship. They were usually between the ages of 25 and 35 with several years of work experience in their home countries and a good working knowledge of English. In 1954, the ASF Training Program Committee, composed of leading American business executives and chaired by Arthur

K. Watson, president of IBM and an ASF trustee, was formed to serve as a sponsoring and advisory group, and the Foundation began to actively recruit training positions among U.S. firms. Participation reached a high in 1957 with 489 trainees.

**I**N THE SAME DECADE, THE ASF ENTERED INTO COOPERATIVE ventures with two new offices overseas. In 1953 it began a collaboration with the Swedish National Labor Market Board, and, in 1957, it helped develop a program for young Finns with start-up funding from organizations in Finland. Seven trainees from Finland came to the U.S. that year.

During the 1960s and 1970s, while Scandinavians continued to seek traineeships in shipping, retail, business administration, marketing, as well as agriculture and horticulture, there was an overall decline in the number of trainees, attributed in part to the successful rebuilding of West European business and industry and the opportunities that came with this redevelopment. Economic conditions, and the war in Vietnam which cast the U.S. and its foreign policy in an unpopular light abroad, were also factors.

The numbers of participants began to increase again in 1980, when a student group from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden asked the ASF to provide visa sponsorship for its student members for summer

### *Cooperating Organizations*

Since its earliest years, the ASF has collaborated with committees and organizations in the Nordic countries to select the highest quality candidates for its fellowship and training programs. In 1912, the first full year of the ASF, the Foreign Ministries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden assisted in the establishment of advisory committees to assist with Fellowships. Independent cooperating organizations were soon established: The Denmark-America Foundation in 1914, and The Sweden-America Foundation and The Norway-America Association, both in 1919. Similar organizations were subsequently formed in Iceland (The Icelandic-American Society) and Finland (The League of Finnish-American Societies) and all continue to collaborate with the ASF today.

On the internship/training program, the ASF also works closely with two government offices: The Center for International Mobility in Finland and the International Employment Office in Sweden.

positions with U.S. engineering firms that could be accredited toward their degrees. Until that time ASF had sponsored only young professionals who had already completed their studies, so this was a new venture, and led to increasing work with students in future years. The ASF agreed to provide sponsorship with the understanding that the Swedish National Labor Market Board would help develop similar positions for American students.

In 1982, the ASF began cooperation with the International Trainee Exchanges (ITE) of the Finnish Ministry of Labor, and began to work with a newly formed student group called FASTEC, composed of students from the five technical universities in Finland who sought training experience in the U.S. ITE agreed to develop similar positions for Americans, to make the exchange truly reciprocal.

**T**HE ASF WELCOMED 240 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, IN 1990, of which 85 percent were in the fields of agriculture, furniture sales and assembly, shipping and freight forwarding. Among the 176 summer student interns, there was a new group studying hotel and restaurant management. The student component of the program continued to grow: by 1992, students made up about 50 percent of the program, and by the end of the decade, 62 percent. And in 2007, the Department of State introduced a separate exchange visitor category, that of intern, for most of the student participants.

In 2000, the economy and the training were both in a dynamic phase, with 439 program participants. Emerging fields such as Web and video design joined more traditional ones such as engineering and architecture, and the number of student interns continued to increase. The years right after the September 11th attacks in New York City, and the 2008 recession brought numbers down, but by the end of the decade the program began to see steady growth again in the opportunities for participants.

Since ASF's training program was first launched in 1925, more than 17,000 young Scandinavian and American trainees and interns have benefited from on-the-job training abroad. The Foundation is very proud of its training and intern programs and the alumni of these programs, both Scandinavian and American, many of whom have gone on to establish their own businesses or to important professional positions in their home countries. In addition to practical experience they also took home with them an intimate knowledge of another culture, and personal and professional ties that would serve them in their future careers. The programs have contributed to an exchange of ideas and people that has helped foster ongoing friendships, goodwill and international understanding between the U.S. and Scandinavia.



## *ASF Fellowship and Grant Funds*

### **The John G. Bergquist Fund, 1939**

American students studying in Sweden, in the field of chemistry

### **The Carol and Hans Chr. Sonne Fund,**

**1944** Americans studying in Denmark or Norway

### **The King Haakon VII Fund, 1945**

Norwegian students studying in the U.S.

### **The Henrik Kauffmann Fund, 1955**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Denmark and the U.S.

### **The Crown Princess Märtha Friendship**

**Fund, 1956** Two-way educational exchange between Norway and the U.S.

### **The Haakon Styri Fund, 1956**

One Norwegian studying in the U.S. in the fields of natural science or engineering. Funding available for one American studying in Norway if funds allow.

### **The Håkon Björnström Steffansson Fund -**

**The Sweden-America Foundation, 1959** Swedish students studying in the U.S.

### **The Håkon Björnström Steffansson Fund,**

**Uppsala University, 1959** Swedish students matriculated at Uppsala University studying in the U.S.

### **The Bernadotte Fund, 1960**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Sweden and the U.S.

### **The Alice and Corrin Strong Fund,**

**1962** Two-way educational exchange between Norway and the U.S. in the fields of the visual arts, the performing arts and literature.

### **The Thord-Gray Memorial Fund, 1964**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Sweden and the U.S.

### **The Former Fellows Fund, 1965**

Americans studying in Scandinavia

**Thor Thors Memorial Fund, 1965** Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Iceland and the U.S.

### **The Finnish Fund, 1967**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Finland and the U.S.

### **The Helen Lee and Emil Lassen Fund,**

**1970** Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Denmark and the U.S.

### **The King Olav V Fund, 1972**

One Norwegian studying in the U.S. and one American studying in Norway.

### **The Hans K. Lorentzen Fund, 1974**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between all the Scandinavian countries and the U.S. with preference for candidates in the vocational and technical fields, and in the field of arts and crafts.

### **The Selma C. Swanson Fund, 1975**

Two-way educational exchange between Sweden and the U.S., alternating between countries on a yearly basis.

### **The Mathilde Aas Fund, 1977**

Norwegian students studying in the U.S.

### **The Andrew E. and G. Norman Wigeland**

**Fund, 1980** Norwegians studying in the U.S. and bringing lecturers, authors and artists from Norway to the U.S. for lecture tours and art exhibitions which are not specifically in conjunction with study at American universities.

### **The Charles K. Willey Fund, 1981**

To underwrite Icelandic students studying in the U.S., with preference given to candidates in engineering, the vocations, and the physical sciences.

### **The Carl G. and Rikke Fredriksen Barth**

**Fund, 1984** Two-way educational exchange between Scandinavia and the U.S., with preference given to candidates in engineering, mathematics, music or industrial management.

### **The Icelandic Crafts Fund, 1984**

Icelanders to the U.S. to study crafts

### **The Sven and Ingrid Bernhard Fund, 1988**

Americans studying in Scandinavia in the field of musical performance.

### **The New Sweden '88 Cultural and Educational Fund, 1988**

Projects in the New York area that celebrate Swedish heritage and/or help to further the understanding of Sweden in the U.S.

### **The Thor and Saimi Soderholm Fund, 1989**

Two-way educational exchange between Finland and the U.S.

### **The Leif and Inger Sjoberg Fund, 1993**

In support of the translation of poetry or literature into English

### **The Martha and Jack McFall Fund, 1995**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Finland and the U.S.

### **The Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Fund,**

**1997** Swedish students studying in the U.S.

### **The Sønsteby/Whist Fund, 1998**

Lectures at American universities on Norse history, with a special emphasis on World War II, by distinguished Norwegian historians

### **The Carl Olaf, Marie, and Katherine**

**Elizabeth Johnson Fellowship Fund, 2000** Norwegian students studying in the U.S.

### **The Amanda E. Roleson Fund, 2000**

American students studying in Denmark

### **The Sather Fund, 2001**

Norwegians studying in the U.S.

### **The Edith Coulter Fund, 2003**

Two-way educational and cultural exchange between Denmark and the U.S.

### **The Dr. Mary Jane Oestmann Fellowship Fund in the Sciences, 2006**

Scientific studies exchange

### **The Stolt-Nielsen Family Fund for Education, 2011**

Norwegians studying sciences in the U.S.

# The Nordic Center in America

“I BELIEVE THAT OUR OUTLOOK

for useful service and constructive work was never so full of promise. The most spectacular and, I think, also the most important single factor contributing to that bright outlook is the approaching completion of our splendid headquarters building. . . . I believe the decision of the trustees to seek really suitable and representative quarters has already begun to pay off. I sense a greatly stimulated interest on the part of the staff. I sense a greatly stimulated interest on the part of the trustees and of our other friends and supporters. We have today a building in which we can be proud to receive anyone, however distinguished, Scandinavian or American—one which is a beautiful and impressive demonstration of the Foundation’s ideals and which can—and will—be used to help realize those ideals.”

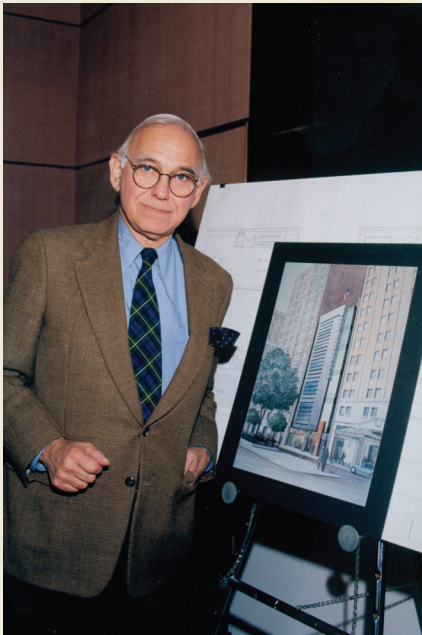
No, these are not the words of the Foundation’s current president, Edward P. Gallagher, expounding on the virtues and potential of the new Scandinavia House: The Nordic center in America, which now adorns New York’s Park Avenue. They were penned by an earlier ASF president, Lithgow Osborne, in the March, 1952, issue of *The American-Scandinavian Review*, and he was referring to the Foundation’s recent acquisition of the town house at 127 East 73rd Street, which would serve as ASF’s home for forty years.

Nevertheless, the visionary sentiment expressed at the time is remarkably appropriate to the present, and illustrates how long the yearning for greater

JONATHAN B. RAGLE







**Scandinavia House architect** James Stewart Polshek and an image of early construction.



space for Foundation activities has been with us. As the Foundation has grown and thrived, its needs have grown apace. New programs and activities have been initiated that require accommodating ever larger audiences—and seeking other, temporary, venues to satisfy these needs is both expensive and logistically complicated and time-consuming.

**T**HIS DESIRE, AND THE EVIDENT NEED FOR A NEW facility, gathered momentum in the late 1980s and 1990s following the experience of the hugely successful “Scandinavia Today” program, a national celebration of Scandinavian arts and culture. The public response to the celebration proved that there was an abiding American interest in Scandinavian culture, underscoring the need for a Nordic cultural center in the U.S.

In 1996, after the sale of the East 73rd Street building, the Foundation was able to purchase a site on Park Avenue between 37th and 38th streets, the former location of the German Democratic Republic’s Mission to the United Nations. The existing building was razed and the Foundation retained the award-winning architectural firm of Polshek Partnership to design a building in close cooperation with a committee of ASF’s Board. Plans for an eight-story, 28,000-square-foot building were released in 1998, and the



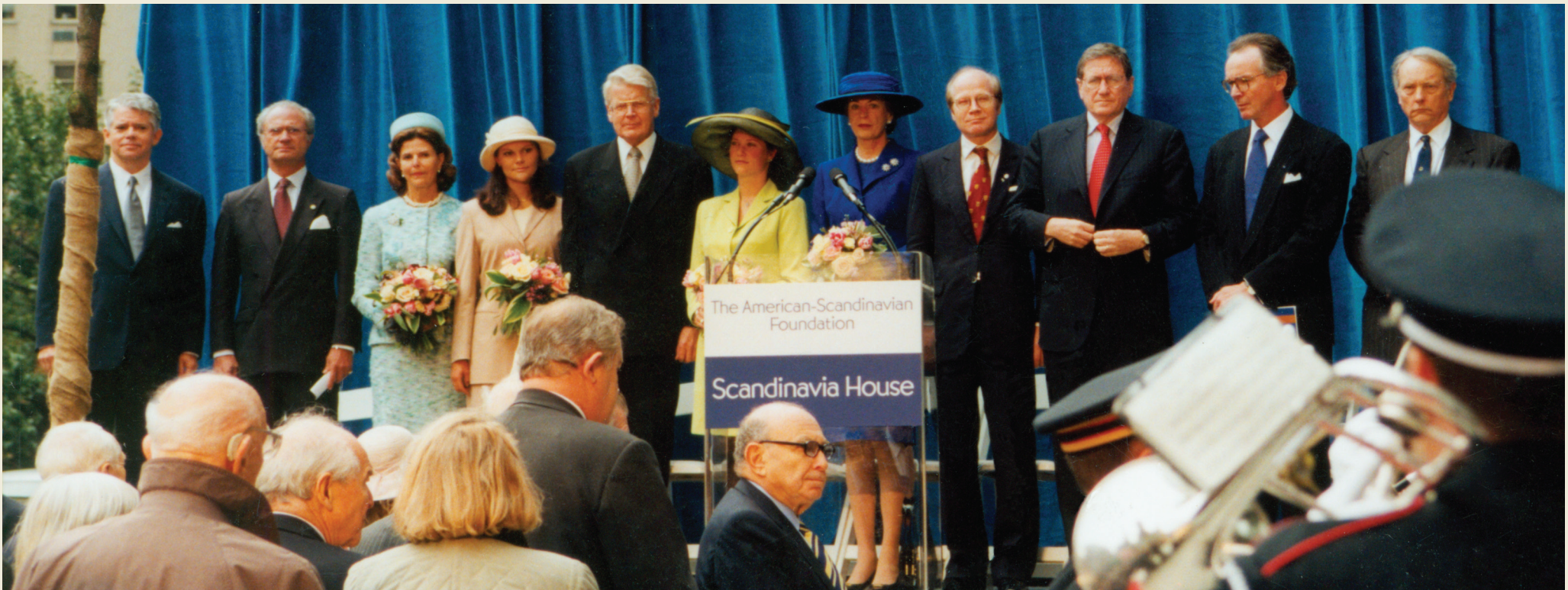
**At the groundbreaking ceremony in 1999**, from left: ASF President Edward P. Gallagher, Chairman of the Scandinavia House Committee John S. Russell, Chairman of the Board, Albert R. Dowden, and Christian R. Sonne, Chairman of the Building Committee.

following year ground was broken. This was the first time the Foundation would have a headquarters created precisely to its specific needs. In the latter half of 2000, the new building was completed and was officially inaugurated on October 16.

**T**HE GROUND FLOOR OF SCANDINAVIA HOUSE CONSISTS of a reception desk, gift shop, and a café operated in cooperation with Smörgås Chef Restaurant, which has become increasingly popular among non-Scandinavian diners as well. One flight below is Victor Borge Hall, a state-of-the-art, 168-seat auditorium with an ample stage, a large foyer, and ancillary off-stage room and storage space. The Hall, was generously funded with a \$ 1 million gift from the late Danish-American musician-comedian, after which it is named. Asked to select a particular seat that would forever bear his name and be clad in red (all other seats are blue), Borge didn’t hesitate to pick the outside seat on the left in the fifth row. “From here I get a good view of the keyboard,” he quipped, “and can always get to the rest room quickly.”

Borge Hall has no doubt held more people during its 10-year existence than any venue in ASF’s century-long history. It is the site of twice-weekly screenings of contemporary Nordic films and television dramas as well as





**At the dedication of Scandinavia House:** The Nordic Center in America from left: ASF President Edward P. Gallagher; Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden; H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden; H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland; H.H. Princess Märtha Louise of Norway; H.R.H. Princess Benedikte of Denmark; H.E.

Kimo Sassi, Minister of Foreign Trade of Finland; H.E. Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador to the United States; ASF Chairman of the Board Dr. Kristján T. Ragnarsson M.D.; and Mr. Christian R. Sonne, ASF Deputy Chairman.

frequent lectures, debates, symposia, and concerts throughout the non-summer months.

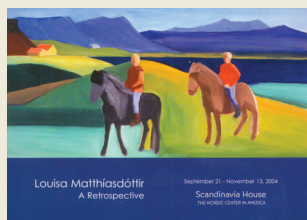
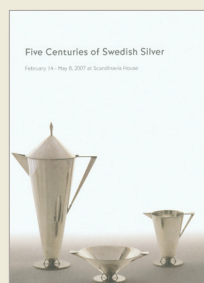
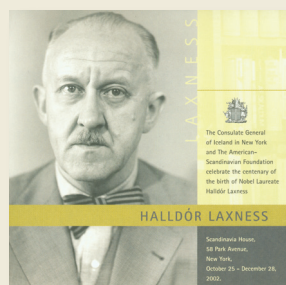
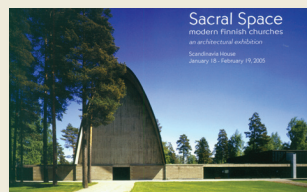
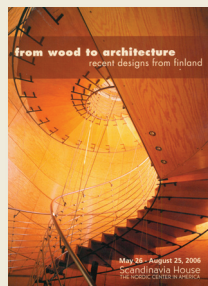
Volvo Hall, on the second floor, contains one large multi-purpose room that is used for programs, luncheons, dinners, and receptions. Adjoining Volvo Hall, to the rear of the building, outside the glass doors and windows, is the spacious Wallenius Terrace, a striking open-air space suitable for the many events held at ASF. The entire third floor is given over to a large-scale exhibition area that can be configured to one open column-free space as well as into smaller galleries. The fourth floor contains a research, non-lending library of Scandinavia-related fiction and non-fiction—all in English and a comprehensive selection of Scandinavian periodicals. The remaining majority of this floor houses the Heimbold Family Children's Learning Center replete with Scandinavian toys and Legos, books, costumes, and play spaces. The Center, made possible by donations Hon. Charles and Monika Heimbold has proven to be one of the most popular attractions at Scandinavia House and is

regularly filled with children enjoying its offerings. With additional support from Amb. and Mrs. Heimbold, the Children's Center was completely reimaged and refurbished during August and September of this year.

The top two floors of Scandinavia House contain the administrative offices and conference rooms. These two floors form the creative think—tanks and functional hubs of The American-Scandinavian Foundation.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WHEN SCANDINAVIA HOUSE was being conceived, it was the building's committee's wish to have as much of the interior spaces as possible open and accessible for the public's benefit; therefore, of the eight floors, all but two are open for visitors—to convene, educate, and entertain the growing American audiences that have clearly developed a strong affinity to Scandinavian life and culture. Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center, continues to fulfill ASF's mission with the highest quality programming, now and for generations to come.





## ASF Exhibitions at

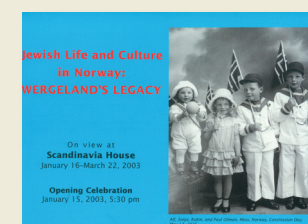
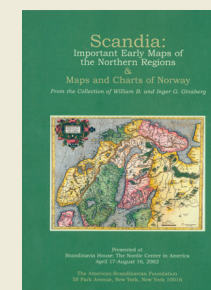
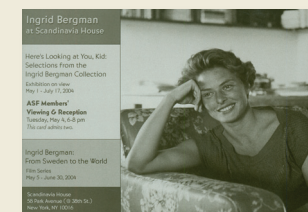
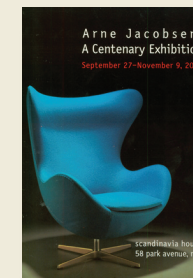
- 2000-01** Young Nordic Design: The Generation X
- 2001** Faces and Figures: Contemporary Scandinavian Photography
- 2001** Between Space and Time: Contemporary Norwegian Sculpture and Installation
- 2001-02** Strindberg and Photography
- 2002** Strictly Swedish: An Exhibition of Contemporary Design
- 2002** Scandia: Important Early Maps of the Northern Regions and Maps and Charts of Norway
- 2002** Arne Jacobsen: A Centennial Exhibition
- 2002** Norway / US | US / Iceland – Work by ASF Fellows
- 2002-03** Halldór Laxness: Bard of Fire and Ice: A Literary Exhibition
- 2003** Jewish Life and Culture in Norway: Wergeland's Legacy
- 2003** Angles on Scandinavia: Works of ASF Fellows
- 2003** Expression by Design: The Brilliance of Swedish Folk Painting from Dalarna and Småland
- 2003** Denmark, October 1943: The Rescue of the Jews from Annihilation
- 2003** The Snow Show | New York
- 2004** The Friendly Arctic: Vilhjálmur Stefánsson's Legacy and Vision
- 2004** Here's Looking at You, Kid: Selections from the Ingrid Bergman Collection
- 2004** Perspectives From the Far North: Sami Life and Culture
- 2004** Louisa Matthíasdóttir: A Retrospective
- 2005** Sacral Space: Modern Finnish Churches, An Architectural Exhibition
- 2002-05** Norge: Contemporary Landscapes from the Collection of Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway
- 2005** Breakable Art: Contemporary Glass and Ceramics from Norway
- 2005** Garbo's Garbos: Portraits from Her Private Collection

## Scandinavia House

- 2006** Edvard Munch: Symbolism in Print, Highlights from The Museum of Modern Art
- 2006** From Wood to Architecture: Recent Designs from Finland
- 2006** FOTO: New Photography From Denmark
- 2007** Five Centuries of Swedish Silver
- 2007** John Olav Riise: A Norwegian Modernist Rediscovered
- 2007** Andreas Feininger: Stockholm 1933-39
- 2008** Ars Fennica: Finnish Art Now
- 2008** From Another Shore: Recent Icelandic Art
- 2008-09** Sublime Nature: Romantic Paintings of the 19th Century, Norwegian and Swiss Landscapes from the Collection of Asbjørn Lunde
- 2009** Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition
- 2009** Northern (L)attitudes: Norwegian and American Contemporary Art
- 2009-10** Carl Frederik Hill: Swedish Visionary and Modernist, Drawings from the Malmö Art Museum
- 2010** SNØHETTA: architecture – landscape – interior
- 2010** Eco Chic: Towards Sustainable Swedish Fashion
- 2010-11** Nordic Models + Common Ground: Art and Design Unfolded
- 2011** North by New York: New Nordic Art
- 2011-12** Luminous Modernism: Scandinavian Art Comes to America, 1912

### CHILDREN'S INSTALLATIONS

- 2003-04** Pippi and Her Friends: A Celebration of Astrid Lindgren and Swedish Children's Literature
- 2004-05** A Celebration of Hans Christian Andersen
- 2005-06** Trolls & Billy Goats: Norwegian Folk and Fairy Tales
- 2006-07** The Moominvalley
- 2007-09** Myths and Magic of Iceland
- 2009-11** A Child's Adventure in the Swedish Countryside: A Storybook Installation



## *Highlights of the ASF Cultural and Educational Programs Presented at Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America, 2000-2011*

Over 1,500 film screenings, lectures, symposia, concerts, performances, and children's events have been produced and presented by the ASF at Scandinavia House since it opened in October 2000. All aspects of Nordic thought, artistic expression, and life have been touched on by these programs, which have been attended by hundreds of thousands of individuals. A few of the most popular of the programmatic formats and highlights of each are listed below.

### *Lectures & Symposia*

Individual lectures, lecture series, classes, and multi-speaker symposia and panels are frequently presented, many times in conjunction with other organizations. Highlights include:

**The Archaeology of the Norse North Atlantic: Major Topics and New Findings,** Thomas McGovern, Hunter College, and Sophia Perdikaris, Brooklyn College (November 13, 2000)

**Design Discussion: What is Scandinavian Design and is it still practiced by young designers?,** Panel (November 30, 2000)

**The Sagas of the Icelanders: A Living Tradition by Marianne Kalinke,** Marianne Kalinke, University of Illinois at Urbana (January 20, 2001)

**Sweden Today: From Welfare State to IT Society,** Lars Trägårdh, Barnard College (January 23, 2001)

**The Sagas and the Folklorist: Magic and Witchcraft in Medieval Scandinavia,** Stephen Mitchell, Harvard University (February 6, 2001)

**Entertaining Modernism: A Symposium on the Role of Cabaret (Strindberg),** Monica Strauss and William Everdell (February 22, 2001)

**Scandinavia on Stage,** Panel (April 19, 2001)

**Conflict Resolution Trends in the 21st Century,** Dr. Peter Wallensteen, Uppsala University (May 4, 2001)

**How Danish is Danish Art?: The Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., Annual Lecture on Danish Art,** Dr. Robert Rosenblum (October 25, 2001)

**Lecture Series: Dreams of a Summer Night: Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Art,** Therese Sjøvall, Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University (November 1, 2001)

**Nordic Heat: The Architecture of Snøhetta,** Craig Dykers, lead architect of Snøhetta (January 31, 2002)

**US-EU Economic Relations After the Introduction of the Euro,** Professor Niels Thygesen (April 3, 2002)

**Mapping the Scene: Antique Maps and the 21st-Century,** John Noble Wilford, senior science writer, *The New York Times* (April 20, 2002)

**The Space Between Imagination & Intellect: Halldór Laxness Symposium,** Panel (October 25, 2002)

**Arne Jacobsen Today: Panel Discussion,** Panel (October 31, 2002)

**Euro-Atlantic Relations Revisited: A Lecture,** Jukka Valtasaari, Finnish Ambassador to the US (March 4, 2003)

**Reconstruction in Iraq: The Postwar Roles of the UN, the US, and the Nordic Countries,** Panel of UN Ambassadors from Nordic countries (May 8, 2003)

**The Second Annual Nordic Investment Bank Colloquium: Security Policy & Economic Prosperity: The Relationship between the Enlarged European Union and the United States,** Panel (November 19, 2003)

**The Third Annual Nordic Investment Bank Colloquium: Europe's Northern Dimension: The Transatlantic Element,** Panel (February 16, 2005)

**Change and Continuity: The Enduring Modernity of Georg Jensen,** panel (September 29, 2005)

**The City of Peace: Explaining the Oslo Accords,** Daniel Heradstveit, Professor at Norway Institute of International Affairs (October 17, 2005)

**The United Nations Summit and Reform of the UN,** Panel (November 22, 2005)

**Scandinavia in World Politics,** Dr. Christine Ingebritsen, University of Washington (January 26, 2006)

**Munch, Ibsen, and the Norwegian Culture Wars,** Dr. Joan Templeton, President, Ibsen Society of America (March 14, 2006)

**Current Challenges and Future Prospects Confronted by Norway and Other Nations in the Arctic Polar Region,** Dr. Olav Orheim, Senior Adviser to the Norwegian Ministry of Environment and Executive Secretary for the International Polar Year Secretariat, Research Council of Norway (May 3, 2006)

**The Observation of Miss Julie: A Staged Reading & Panel Discussing,** Panel (October 2, 2006)

**Conversations with Contemporary Nordic Artists,** Katrin Sigurðardóttir and Gregory Volk (November 28, 2006)

**The Bournonville Tradition & The New York City Ballet,** Nikolaj Hübbe (March 9, 2007)

**Ecophilosophy in Norway: Its Development and Orientation,** Sven Arntzen, ASF Visiting Lecturer (March 10, 2008)

**Who Leads and Who Follows? Understanding the Dynamics of Scandinavian Environmental Politics,** Andrew Jamison, Professor at Aalborg University/Visiting Professor at Malmö University College (March 18, 2008)

## Lectures & Symposia continued . . .

**A Conversation with Per Olov Enquist,**  
Per Olov Enquist, writer, and Tiina Nunnally,  
translator (March 31, 2008)

**2008 Nordic Investment Bank Economic Colloquium: Climate Change: A Discussion of Environmental Issues from Business and Political Perspectives,** Panel  
(April 7, 2008)

**The Kautokeino Rebellion (Kautokeino-opprøret),** Nils Gaup,  
Norwegian director (April 28, 2008)

**Inhabiting Nature: Danish Artists and the Scandinavian Landscapes of the Nineteenth Century,** Patricia G. Berman,  
Professor of Art at Wellesley College  
(October 1, 2008)

**Living in the Northern Landscape: Archeology, History and Environmental Science,** Panel (October 24, 2008)

**Arctic Climate Change: A Lecture by Dr. Olav Orheim,** Dr. Olav Orheim  
(February 9, 2009)

**Sustainable Engineering & Danish Architecture,** Flemming Christensen  
(April 21, 2009)

**Sverre Fehn: The Pattern of Thoughts: Book Talk and Lecture by Per Olaf Fjeld,**  
Per Olaf Fjeld (September 21, 2009)

**Energy and Architecture: How Green is Green?,** Panel (November 16, 2009)

**Low Carbon Growth? Perspectives for the UN Conference on Climate Change,** Panel  
(November 23, 2009)

**The Viking in the Wheatfield: A Scientist's Struggle to Preserve the World's Harvest,**  
Susan Dworkin (March 16, 2010)

**The Annual Nordic Forum 2010: Investment Trends in a Challenging Economy,** George P. Carabaris,  
Henry E. Gooss, Paul Marcussen  
(September 14, 2010)

**Social Awareness & Sustainability,** Panel  
(November 10, 2010)

**Multicultural and Multilingual Identities in Contemporary Sweden,** Dr. Gunlög  
Sundberg (November 22, 2010)

**Northern Influences: Americans Look at Great Nordic Writers: Tove Jansson,**  
Conversation and Readings  
(March 21, 2011)

**Curtis L. Carlson ASF Centennial Lecture Series: Martti Ahtisaari, Former President of the Republic of Finland,** Martti Ahtisaari  
(April 11, 2011)

**Curtis L. Carlson ASF Centennial Lecture Series: Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations,** Kofi Annan  
(May 16, 2011)

**The 7th Annual PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature,** Various  
(April 25, 2011)

## Concerts & Musical Performances

From classical to jazz to indie music, all possible genres have been presented in Victor Borge Hall, Volvo Hall, and in more unconventional settings around the building. Performers come from the US and the Nordic countries. Highlights include:

**The Grieg Trio** (Norway, Winter 2001)

**Per Tengstrand,** piano (Sweden, Fall 2001)

**The Scandinavian Violin,** Omar Guey  
(Norway, Fall 2001)

**Octets by Denmark and Norway Masters,**  
Ole Bohn, violinist and others  
(Nordic, Winter 2001)

**Ingrid Emanuelsson and Beata Soderberg,**  
ASF Fellows Concert (Iceland, Spring 2002)

**Memorial Tribute to Victor Borge**  
(Denmark, Fall 2002)

**Sylvan Winds** (Nordic, Winter 2003)

**A Steinway Celebration,** Per Tengstrand  
and Shan-shan Sun (Sweden, Fall 2003)

**Lucia: A Tribute to the Nordic Night with the Scandinavian Chamber Orchestra**  
(Sweden, Winter 2003)

**Young Danish String Quartet**  
(Denmark, Summer 2004)

**Anne Øland,** piano (Denmark, Fall 2004)

**Moomin Music: A Family Concert with the Moomin Characters and Music**  
(Finland, Winter 2005)

**Nordic Nights: Summer Jazz @ Scandinavia House**  
(Nordic, Summer 2005)

**Academy Chamber Choir of Uppsala**  
(Sweden, Winter 2006)

**Young Danish String Quartet**  
(Denmark, Spring 2006)

**The Lee Trio** (Nordic, Fall 2006)

**"The Romantic Ballad and Song" presented by the Mannes College of Music** (USA, Winter 2009)

**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: An American Salute!**  
(USA, Winter 2009)

**In Honor of Victor Borge: With Per Tengstrand & Magnus Martensson**  
(Sweden, Winter 2009)

**A Musical Visit from Scandinavia: The Copenhagen Chamber Ensemble**  
(Denmark, Winter 2010)

**Spot on Royal Danish Academy of Music: A Centennial Tribute: Nielsen Winds**  
(Denmark, Winter 2011)



## Film Screenings

Film has been one of the most popular programmatic offerings at Scandinavia House. Between October 2000 and September 2011, there have been more than 700 screenings of films ranging from classics of early cinema to the most recent experimental films. Each winter and spring, a score of new films, with several from each country, are presented. Some of the most memorable film series include:

**Dogma and Beyond: Recent Films from Denmark** (Children's Programs) (Winter 2001)

**Films for Families and Children** (Fall 2001)  
*"Before The Shipping News"* – Lasse Hallström Film Festival (Winter 2002)

**Denmark: Jørgen Leth** (Fall 2002)

**Ingrid Bergman: From Sweden to the World** (Spring 2004)

**Funny Bones: Contemporary Scandinavian Comedies** (Fall 2004)

**Forever Garbo: A Retrospective** (Fall 2005)

**Nordic Noir: Crime Dramas from Sweden** (Summer 2006)

**Looking In/Looking Out: Documentaries from Scandinavia** (Fall 2006)

**Henning Mankell's Kurt Wallander Mysteries** (Winter 2007)

**Nordic Shorts: New Short Films from Finland & Sweden** (Fall 2007)

**A Celebration of Danish Cinema: Nordisk Film at 100** (Fall 2007)

**Nordic Shorts: New Short Films from Denmark, Norway, & Sweden** (Winter 2008)

**Best of Sámi Film Festival** (Summer 2008)

**Rural Route Film Festival** (September 2008)

**The Golden Age of Finnish Cinema** (November 2008)

**Nordic Noir: Varg Veum** (Summer 2009)

**Icelandic Film Retrospective** (Fall 2009)

**The Introspective Detective: Wallander Returns** (Winter 2010)

## Language Classes

Courses in the Nordic languages, at levels from introductory to advanced, are offered every fall and spring at Scandinavia House, in conjunction with New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. More than 2,400 students have enrolled to date.

## Children's Programs

In addition to enjoying the Heimbold Family Children's Learning Center, children and families have been offered more than 200 programs designed for young people. Since Scandinavia House opened, these have included monthly storytelling sessions with the Hans Christian Andersen Storytellers, and more recently monthly sing-a-long sessions. Highlights of other family programs include:

**Pocket Theater: "The World's Smallest Giant"** (Iceland, 2000)

**Linnea and Her Friends** (Sweden, 2001)

**Mapping Our Block, Our City, Our World: Volcanoes and Icebergs** (Nordic, 2002)

**Pinchcliffe Grand Prix** (Norway, 2002)

**Construction with Snow! Workshops for Children: A Home in the Woods** (Finland, 2003)

**A Family Lucia Celebration** (Sweden, 2003)

**Places, People, and Pets: Creative Workshops for Kids** (Nordic, 2004)

**Workshops for Toddlers** (2004)

**Moomin Music: A Family Concert with the Moomin Characters and their Music** (Finland, 2005)

**Viking Seafarers: The First Europeans to Journey to America** (Nordic, 2006)

**Danish Dancers from the New York City Ballet at Scandinavia House** (Denmark, 2006)

**Astrid Lindgren Family Concert with the Children's Choir of the Swedish Church** (Sweden, 2007)

**Skoppa & Skritla Find the Elves** (Iceland, 2007)

**Children's Music Workshop with the Maia String Quartet** (Nordic, 2008)

**The Story of the Blue Planet** (Norway, 2008)

**Will Steger Hosts an Ellesmere Island Expedition Workshop** (Norway, 2009)

**Kata the Caterpillar Screening and Art Activities** (Iceland, 2009)

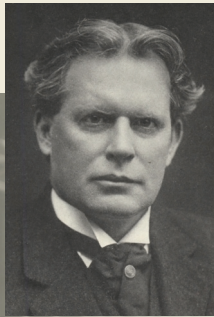
**Happy Fastelavn** (Denmark, 2010)

**A Swedish Children's Christmas Workshop** (Sweden, 2010)

**Nordic Models + Common Ground Children's Workshops: Open Spaces with Salvadori Educators** (Nordic, 2011)



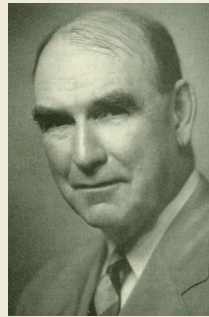
# Presidents of The American-



**Frederick Lynch**  
1911-1915



**William Henry Schofield**  
1916-1920



**Hamilton Holt**  
1921-1925



**Raymond Dennett**  
1956-1959



**C. Peter Strong**  
1962-1975



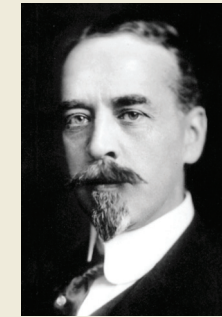
**Gene G. Gage**  
1975-1977

**Henry Goddard Leach**, The Grand Old Man of the ASF's first half-century, was a peripatetic and accomplished writer, editor, and lecturer who's name was virtually synonymous with the Foundation.

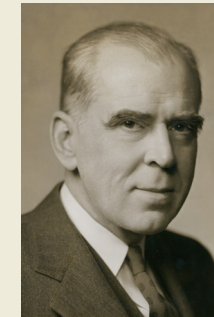
# Scandinavian Foundation



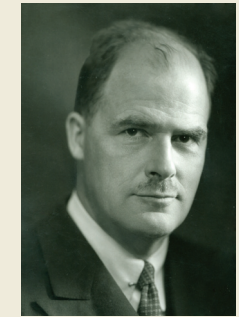
**Henry Goddard Leach**  
1926-1937  
1939-1946



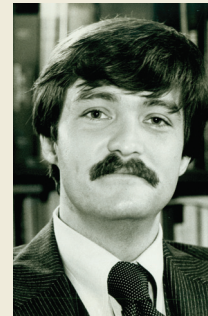
**Charles S. Haight**  
1938



**James Creese**  
1938



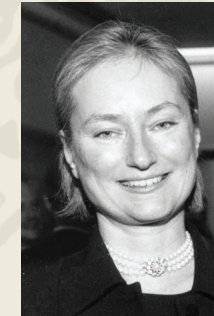
**Lithgow Osborne**  
1947-1955  
1960-1961



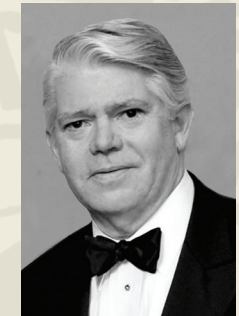
**David A. Swickard**  
1977-1982



**Patricia A. McFate**  
1982-1988



**Lena Björck Kaplan**  
1989-1996



**Edward P. Gallagher**  
1996-Present

# The ASF Today and Tomorrow



## *An interview with President Edward P. Gallagher*

EDITOR: *The American-Scandinavian Foundation can be proud of its performance and accomplishments during the past 100 years—enlightening audiences in all five Nordic nations and the United States about how their citizens think, live, and thrive while at the same time maintaining, administering, and funding programs that stimulate and facilitate the reciprocal exchange of professionals and students to work and study in another country. Can the Foundation's fellowship and training programs continue, even grow, in a rapidly changing world?*

EDWARD P. GALLAGHER: Yes, I think so. The need for international person-to-person exchange, both scholarly and professional, continues to be great, in spite of all the technological advances of recent years. The most powerful way to appreciate another society is to live within it. That said, as we pursue our mission to promote exchange, there are always financial challenges to be met—more intense now than they have been in quite a long time. Fortunately, we have an endowment that provides funds for our fellowship program and that will provide a certain bulwark and an ongoing source for the foreseeable future, while we continue to raise funds from new

sources. In addition, we are in the midst of a Centennial campaign, and we have had several very generous contributions funding new fellowships, which is just terrific. It's interesting to note that one of our greatest needs is to fund Americans going to Scandinavia.

*While everyone associated with the Foundation would agree that its performance and accomplishments to date have been commendable, wherein lie the areas for expansion and further growth?*

Well, I think that if we look at our current program, there's always room for expansion within the parameters of what is offered, while in terms of introducing new programs, we've explored a number of diverse areas. For instance, we need to expand our Visiting Lectures Program, to include Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. And, as I mentioned, we need to increase the number of Fellowships, we can offer to Americans, as well as training opportunities in Scandinavia.

We also can do more in terms of broadband communication, more in terms of getting our programs here at Scandinavia House out there on the Web, and into other forms of media so that they have greater visibility and accessibility, and larger audiences can share them.

On the other hand, we also need to underscore the opportunities that exist for face-to-face contact which is important in this age where so much is done remotely via the Internet. In that vein, there's also a new program which I conceived quite a while ago that we've been working on but that hasn't yet come to fruition in the United States. The idea is to introduce an ongoing series of colloquia and forums that would bring together people who are based here—mainly in the area of public service and NGOs—and have them dialogue about issues of common interest with their Scandinavian peers. We funded a similar program several years ago in Finland, which was extremely successful and provided great opportunities.

*You are quite fortunate in that during your tenure at the Foundation you have bridged the gap between two millennia, two centuries of ASF's existence, and two housing eras—a succession of homes that, however comfortable, have proved inadequate to the Foundation's tasks and aspirations. You now have a spacious new headquarters building enabling you to boast of being the true Nordic Center in America. How do you feel about that?*

I believe the Scandinavia House is a natural outgrowth of the aspirations of the Foundation, its trustees, and its constituents over the past 100 years.



I think if you go way back in the minutes of meetings, recorded in various publications of the Foundation, there was always the hope of having a larger-scale cultural center than had previously existed. Certainly the building on 73rd Street, which was the prior home of the Foundation, did have facilities for public programming, just not on the scale that many people felt was necessary. So I think it's a perfectly natural evolution and that we were very fortunate to be able to undertake this project at a time when the economy was strong, meaning from the mid-1990s to the year 2000—and when there was a kindred spirit and desire among those Scandinavians and Americans to forge ahead with this endeavor. I think the outpouring we had—we raised \$23 million in a relatively short period of time—was a strong testament to the belief and enthusiasm that people felt for this project.

*Do you feel that Scandinavian-Americans, as well as Scandinavians visiting this country, have grasped the significance of Scandinavia House and are pleased with its facilities and programs?*

I think that we have to remember that the Foundation since its inception was always very much directed towards reaching out to Americans, not just Scandinavian-Americans, but Americans from diverse backgrounds, and to making them more aware of the Nordic nations in all their rich complexity. Certainly, New Yorkers and Americans from all over have been very positive in their response to Scandinavia House. That said, I think that Scandinavian-Americans take a real pride in this House. In addition, I think it's always interesting to talk with Scandinavians visiting the city because when they come to New York they're not looking for things Scandinavian necessarily. They are really most interested in seeing American things. Those visitors that come here—and many do—however, are quite taken with the building. They often comment with some surprise about how Scandinavian it feels, how comfortable. That's a great testament, I think, to everybody who runs the House and to the team that designed it, overseen by the noted architect, James Polshek.

*The number and frequency of events, activities, and presentations at Scandinavia House is truly amazing. Do you think you can keep up this pace?*

I hope so. I think what we do here is all the result of a very energetic staff — young people who really are very committed and dedicated and have a lot of ideas. The diversity of programming, in a sense, reflects the great diversity of cultural and artistic expression found in the Nordic countries. The pace is

pretty hectic at times and the continuing flow of program ideas never stops, and we must work hard to have them realized. We'll keep at it as long as I'm around.

*Do you think there will come a time when we might look at Scandinavia House as maybe being a little outdated and in need of expansion?*

I think change is inevitable in all organizations, and expansion can be desirable. The world has already changed a good deal since Scandinavia House was first envisioned. I think one of the great things is to see the ways in which it has already adapted to the times. The type of music programming we're doing now, for example, was never imagined 10 or 12 years ago. And, we're doing more contemporary and almost avant-garde type of events, including video and installation works in some of our exhibitions. New forms of expression are part of the natural evolution of culture and therefore of any cultural institution.

*What can you say about the way in which the Foundation manages to fund its activities? How important is fundraising and how difficult is it?*

We almost always have to raise money to fund our programs. Fortunately, as I mentioned, we have funding in place for some of our fellowships and programs, but we always need to grow our funding base. It's crucial, not only for programs, but to cover operating costs. I think it's a uniquely American phenomenon, the emphasis that educational and cultural institutions must place on fundraising because we don't have the type of ongoing government support you find in places such as Scandinavia. And, the ASF receives only occasional financial aid from Scandinavian governments (though many people mistakenly think we receive substantial ongoing contributions).

Fundraising is always a challenge, but I think it is particularly difficult now. These are some of the toughest economic times we've had in the past couple of decades, especially for an organization such as ours, which is primarily dedicated to international education and cultural exchange. At the same time, the ASF is indeed very fortunate and grateful to have extremely generous trustees and others who really believe in our mission, but the challenges persist.



*Do you fundraise in the Scandinavian countries?*

Yes, we certainly fundraise in the Scandinavian countries where we have a number of very generous individual and foundation donors, but the environment there is very different. There isn't the widespread philanthropic tradition that exists in the United States where individuals benefit from tax deductions when they make a charitable gift to a not-for-profit organization. So I think that many of our Scandinavian friends and constituents are a little puzzled by the emphasis that Americans place on contributions, on fundraising, on the philanthropic endeavor.

*What are some of the other goals you would like to realize under your leadership that can be included in your legacy?*

Well, I think I would like the whole Foundation to continue to grow through increased international and cultural outreach programs, especially in the fields of visual art, music, film, and literature—in both physical and virtual arenas. If you look at the history of the past 100 years, there has been a consistency of dedication to a specific mission. It's a broad mission and different steps have been taken to realize it. The great thing about the ASF is that it is an organization that encompasses a large a variety of people and it represents the shared dreams and values of many individuals.

Of great importance as well is the challenge of preserving cultural identities and the traditions that distinguish us from one another in the face of globalization, immigration, and the rapid evolution of the technological world, which paradoxically enhances these differences as it sublimates them. In this vein, I think what distinguishes the Scandinavian approach to life is a strong dedication to the common good—to ethical behavior and cooperation, that manifests itself politically in a tendency toward consensual government. On the social level, it is reflected in a strikingly honorable society, in which people respect one another and make efforts to interact in a reasonable and moral way, to conserve the environment and to achieve common goals.

I think these qualities have been learned the hard way in the Nordic nations, through difficult historical and physical circumstances. To Americans, I hope the ASF can promote a certain Scandinavian ideal: the balance between respect for the individual and a desire to proceed as a community.



## ENTERTAIN IN MODERN ELEGANCE

Scandinavia House's Volvo Hall provides a dramatic backdrop for your corporate or private holiday party, board meeting, or wedding reception. Parties of up to 120 can be served seated meals and as many as 200 guests can be accommodated for cocktail receptions. Catering can be arranged through Smörgås Chef or another caterer of your choice.

Other facilities at Scandinavia House include Victor Borge Hall (a 168 seat auditorium) and smaller conference rooms for up to 26 guests.

Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America, 58 Park Avenue at 38th Street, New York, NY 10016. contact: Events Department, 212.779.3587 or [rentals@amscan.org](mailto:rentals@amscan.org)