

American-Scandinavian  
Foundation Gala

# Celebrate 25 Years of Scandinavia House!

Thursday, May 7, 2026

HONORING

Barbro Osher  
ASF Gold Medal

Edward P. Gallagher  
ASF Niels Poulson Award



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## **EVENING PROGRAM**

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

**Dr. Terje Z. Lande**

Chairman, American-Scandinavian Foundation

### **SCANDINAVIA HOUSE: A VIDEO INTRODUCTION**

### **SCANDINAVIA HOUSE: AN APPRECIATION**

**Peg Breen**

President, New York Landmarks Conservancy

### **BREAK FOR APPETIZERS**

### **A HISTORY OF SCANDINAVIA HOUSE: DREAM TO REALITY**

**Lena Björck Kaplan**

ASF Trustee

### **ASF GOLD MEDAL AWARD**

**Barbro Osher, ASF Trustee**

Introduced by **Lena Björck Kaplan**

Presented by **Dr. Terje Z. Lande**

### **DINNER SERVED**

### **ASF NIELS POULSON AWARD**

**Edward P Gallagher, ASF President**

Introduced by **ASF Trustees Kristján T. Ragnarsson, MD and**

**Dr. Patricia G. Berman**

Presented by **Dr. Terje Z. Lande**

### **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

**Anna Thompson, Soprano**

ASF 2026 Birgit Nilsson Award and 2026 Grand Finalist Winner,  
The Eric and Dominique Laffont Metropolitan Opera Competition

Accompanied by **Dr. Adam Nielsen**

Introduced by ASF Trustee **Carol E. Domina**

### **REMARKS**

ASF Trustee **Kristina Kittilsen**

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Dr. Terje Z. Lande**

### **DANCING**

**DJ Johnny Dynell**



## THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

This year, the American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) celebrates the 25th Anniversary of Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America

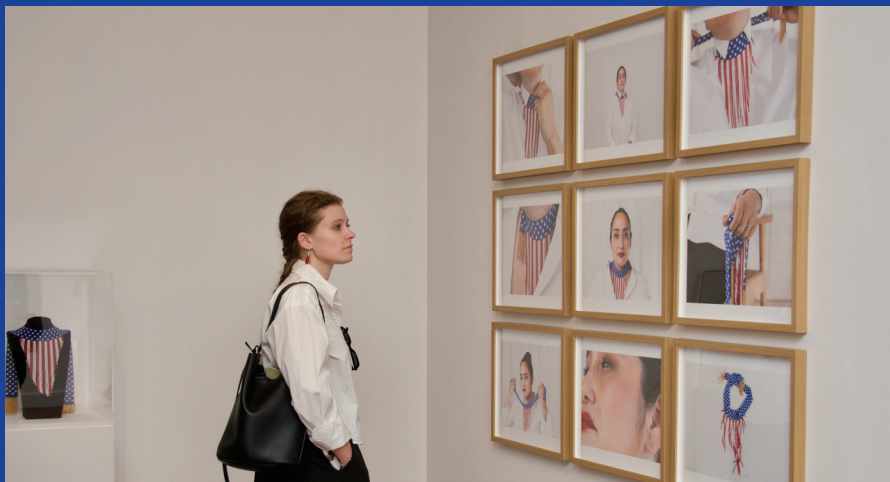
In the early 1990s, ASF's Board of Trustees had a bold vision: to create a permanent home for ASF that would stand as a lasting manifestation of the close bonds that have long existed between the U.S. and the Nordic nations. Designed by the internationally renowned Polshek Partnership Architects (now Ennead Architects), Scandinavia House opened in October 2000 and has since welcomed more than three million visitors.





In recognition of this important milestone, we celebrate Scandinavia House tonight at our annual Spring Gala Dinner. We have also organized special programs highlighting our history including two major exhibitions; screening and talks on critically acclaimed Nordic cinema; lectures, symposia and concerts with notable Nordic cultural figures, and family workshops and programs.

For a quarter of a century, Scandinavia House has provided a comprehensive platform for ongoing international exchange between the United States and the Nordic countries. At a time when international understanding and exchange are challenged, the mission of ASF to reaffirm the ties that link our countries is more important than ever before. Thank you for your ongoing support of this critical work.





## ASF Neils Poulson Award Edward P. Gallagher

**Edward Gallagher** has served as President of the American-Scandinavian Foundation since November 1996.

Working closely with ASF Trustees, he also oversaw the planning, funding, construction and opening of Scandinavia House, to widespread acclaim. Roberta Smith, writing for *The New York Times*, described Scandinavia House as “a gift to the city.”

Under Mr. Gallagher’s leadership during the past 25 years, Scandinavia House has presented more than 3,000 cultural and educational programs, including memorable exhibitions, film screenings, concerts, lectures, language classes, and children’s activities at the singular Heimbold Children’s Playing and Learning Center.

During the same period, the ASF Fellowship and Grant program has expanded considerably, introducing a number of new initiatives, including the Folk Art Fellowship and Grant Program. Throughout his tenure, he has served as Publisher of the *Scandinavian Review*.

Mr. Gallagher’s career in cultural management and programming has spanned more than fifty years, with positions at the National Endowment for the Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, and the Museum of Modern Art. Immediately prior to his arrival at ASF, he served as Director of the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts, one of the oldest arts institutions in the United States.

Among many other honors, Mr. Gallagher was named a Commander of the Royal Order of the Polar Star by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, and he was appointed Knight First Class of the Royal Order of Merit by H.M. King Harald V of Norway. Upon his retirement, Mr. Gallagher will assume the title of President Emeritus.



## ASF Gold Medal Honoree Barbro Osher

**Barbro Osher** is a diplomat, philanthropist and patron of the arts who has generously supported innumerable educational, cultural, medical and artistic institutions throughout the United States and Sweden for decades.

President of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and Chair of the Bernard Osher Foundation, she has been an Executive Trustee of the American-Scandinavian Foundation since 1997. Her steadfast, generous support of ASF over the past 30 years has empowered preservation and expansion of Scandinavian culture and values. She also established the Young Artists Performance Fund at ASF in 2000 and has provided major program and capital grants in the years since.

In addition to her many grants to ASF/Scandinavia House, Mrs. Osher has provided transformative support to Scandinavian-American cultural organizations including the National Nordic Museum in Seattle, the American-Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, and the Swedish-American Historical Museum in Philadelphia, as well as colleges and universities with Scandinavian Studies programs.

Barbro Osher served as Honorary Consul General for Sweden in Los Angeles and from 1995-1998, and in San Francisco from 1999–2024.

Recognizing her extraordinary efforts, Mrs. Osher was awarded the Swedish Royal Medal and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Medal of Merit. Most recently, in 2025 she received the Grand Prize of the Swedish Academy, its highest award. She has received honorary doctorates from the University of Gothenburg (2006) and Karolinska Institute in Sweden (2010).



**Peg Breen** is the President of The New York Landmarks Conservancy, one of the oldest and largest preservation organizations in the United States. The State Department has sent her abroad several times to speak about preservation in St. Petersburg, Russia, Vancouver, Canada and Tbilisi, Georgia. She also keynoted an international preservation conference in Havana. She has received medals from The Holland Society and The Foreign Policy Association, the latter for cultural diplomacy. She is a member of the Advisory Council of The National Institute of Social Sciences. She joined the Landmarks Conservancy after a career in public television and New York City Government.



**Anna Thompson** is currently a Resident Artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts. Being of Danish heritage, is honored to be the recipient of the **2026 Birgit Nilsson Award** as a Grand Finals Winner of The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. She has also been recognized with the Top Prize in the Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition, a George & Nora London Foundation Award, a Sullivan Foundation Award, and 3rd Place at the Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition. She holds a M.M. from Rice University and a B.M. from the Eastman School of Music. Next season, she joins the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at The Metropolitan Opera. Her recent roles include Countess Madeleine (*Capriccio*), Countess Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Alcina (*Alcina*), Marie Antoinette (*The Ghosts of Versailles*), Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*), and Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*). In concert, she recently made her Carnegie Hall debut with the American Symphony Orchestra (*Niagara Symphony*) and debuted with the Bard Music Festival (*Mariken de Nimègue*).



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honors

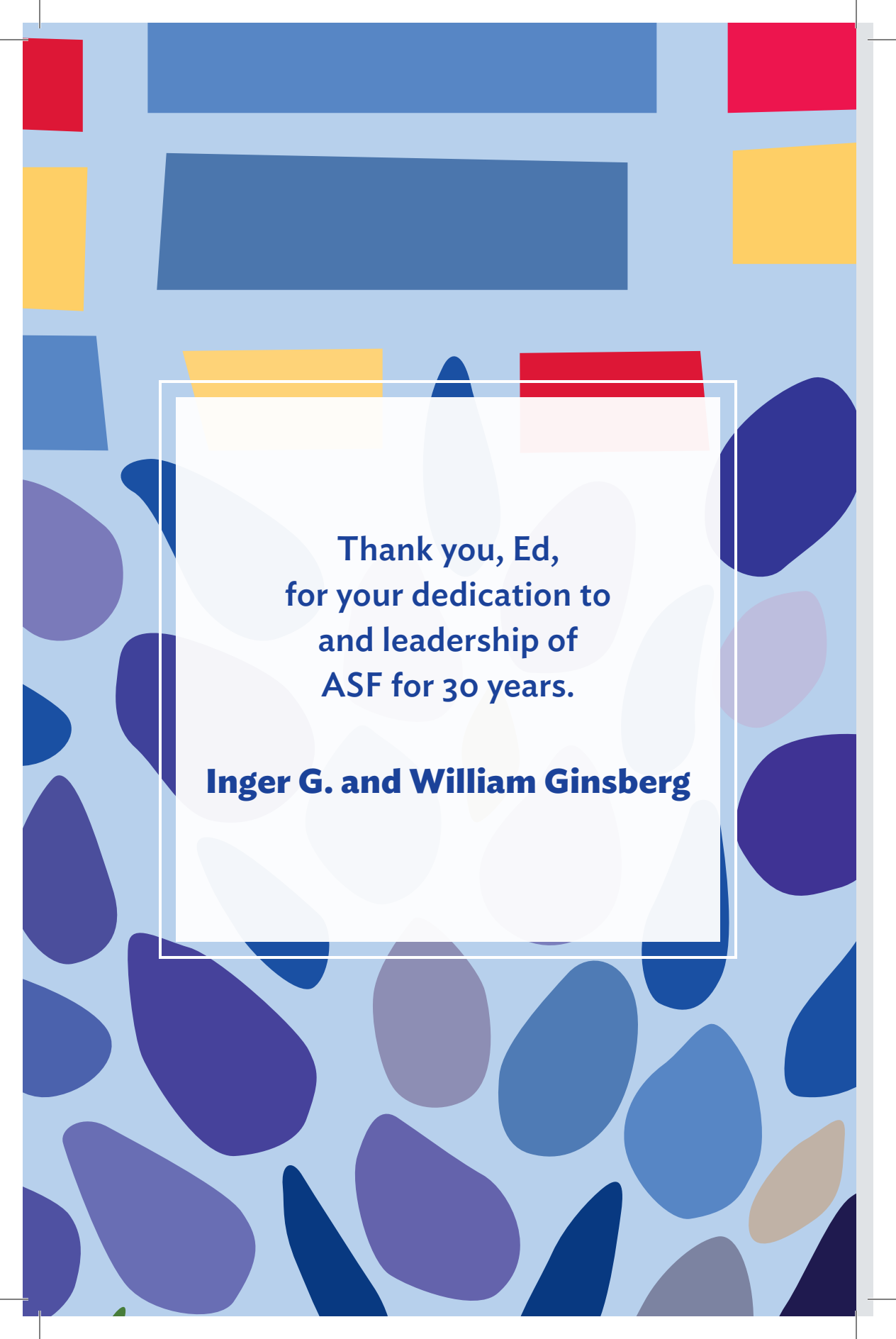
**Barbro Osher**

recipient of the  
ASF Gold Medal

**Edward P. Gallagher**

recipient of the  
ASF Niels Poulson Award

and the many  
contributions of  
The American-Scandinavian  
Foundation



Thank you, Ed,  
for your dedication to  
and leadership of  
ASF for 30 years.

**Inger G. and William Ginsberg**

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Victor Borge Hall at Scandinavia House

We extend our heartfelt congratulations  
to the American-Scandinavian Foundation  
on this extraordinary milestone of  
25 remarkable years at Scandinavia House.

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With special appreciation and  
warmest congratulations  
to retiring  
**President Ed Gallagher,**  
whose leadership and dedication  
have left a lasting legacy.

*from*  
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**Bård and Barbara Bunaes**  
celebrate  
**Ed Gallagher's**  
30 years of  
imaginative leadership as  
CEO of ASF  
and salute his devoted team.

In recognition of Ed's dedicated  
service, we are establishing the  
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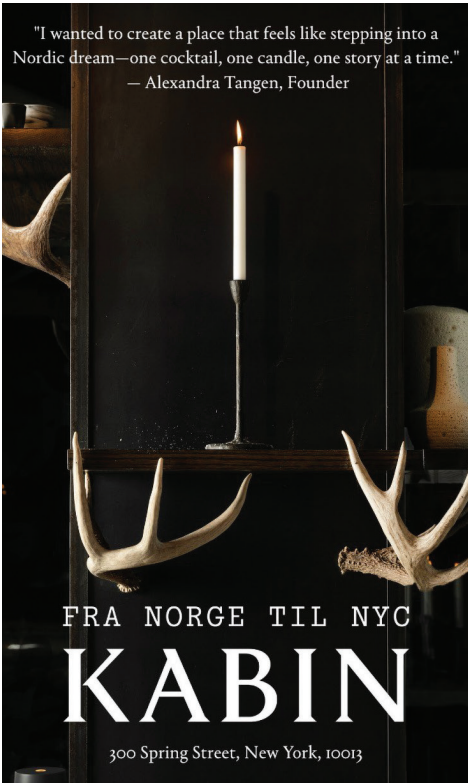
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MEYER-  
KNUTSEN**



**til** Edward Gallagher, Barbro Osher  
**og** The American-Scandinavian Foundation

"I wanted to create a place that feels like stepping into a Nordic dream—one cocktail, one candle, one story at a time."  
— Alexandra Tangen, Founder



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**THANKS FOR THE  
MEMORIES  
INGER M. TALLAKSEN**

Happy 25th Anniversary to  
Scandinavia House

and  
Congratulations to the  
Honorees  
Barbro Osher and  
Edward Gallagher

## **THE NEW NORDIC FEMALE BUSINESS NETWORK**

Launched in 2025, connecting Nordic women in New York  
across industries, creativity, and experiences.

A curated and open-minded, invitation-only network focused  
on building meaningful connections, supporting development,  
and creating new opportunities.

**Join us for a gathering this May.**

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Request access: [astrid.dyson@gmail.com](mailto:astrid.dyson@gmail.com)

Instagram: [@nordicfemalebusinessnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/nordicfemalebusinessnetwork)

LinkedIn: The Nordic Female Business Network in NYC

Dear Ed,

My warmest congratulations as you celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Scandinavia House. I am so very sorry I cannot be there in person to join in the festivities.

Scandinavia House really is a great achievement, you and your fellow trustees should take great pride in building it and sustaining it for a quarter of a century, as a dynamic, thriving center for people, art and thought. I have had many memorable moments in programs and at parties at Scandinavia House and I look forward to many more!

Skål!

—Liv Ullmann



Congratulations on  
25 years of  
Scandinavia House!

Thank you to all those  
who made the dream  
come alive!

Looking forward to  
the next 25!

**TERJE LANDE &  
MARY ZAMORE**

The Family and Friends  
of Edward Gallagher

Celebrate 25 Years of  
**SCANDINAVIA HOUSE**

And Congratulate  
Honorees

**BARBRO OSHER  
AND  
EDWARD GALLAGHER**

“My mom was Ingrid Bergman. She was an orphan, so I learned about my Swedish roots not from grandparents, aunts and uncles but from her and... ED GALLAGHER!!!! Living in New York my reference to my roots was (and is) SCANDINAVIA HOUSE. Ed has involved me in several initiatives that spanned from a wonderful exhibition about my mother to a program about the wool from Faroe Islands. I am immensely thankful to Ed that has led this institution which such glee, excitement, and wisdom.”

—Isabella Rossellini



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With appreciation for  
ASF Trustee Barbro Osher  
and best wishes  
in retirement to  
Edward Gallagher,  
ASF President.

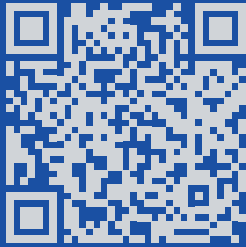
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Inside Voices

Outside Light



Perspectives on  
West Nordic Art



Scandinavia House Gallery  
April 18th - June 20th, 2026

Morten Andenæs, *Sol*, 2025, Courtesy of the artist and Galleri Riis, Oslo; Inuk Silis Høegh, *The Green Land*, 2021, Courtesy Inuk Silis Høegh - In collaboration with Jacob Kirkegaard

**American-Scandinavian Foundation would like to extend a special thank you to the follow for their partnership in making the 2026 Spring Gala a success:**

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