

October 2007

Volume 2, Issue 9

The Midnight Sun

New "Taste of Scandinavia" Previewed at SAGA Dinner

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On Sunday, October 21, SAGA's Board of Directors and members of the Taste of Scandinavia committee gathered at Living Saviour Lutheran Church to unveil the new menu for ScanFest of the Carolina's food court, to compliment the already popular Café Scandinavia.



Attendees sampled a delicious array of traditional Scandinavian dishes, including Swedish meatballs with mashed potatoes and lingonberries, Danish hot dogs with all the fixings, pea soup, Jansson's Temptation, and a variety of salads and

bread. For dessert there were cinnamon rolls, spice cake, sugar cake, Danish butter cookies, and Swedish coffee.

All of the yummy dishes & pastries served at the preview dinner will be available at Taste of Scandinavia and Café Scandinavia at ScanFest of the Carolinas 2007.



ScanFest of the Carolinas 2007,

scheduled for **Saturday, November 3**, from **11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, will include entertainment, food and celebrations that represent the cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Please visit www.scandinavianconnection.org for more information.

We'll see you at **ScanFest!**

Calendar of Events

- ScanFest 2007!
Wachovia Atrium
301 S. Tryon Street
Saturday, November 3
11 am - 5 pm
- Bergen Philharmonic
Belk Theater
130 N. Tryon Street
Monday, November 19
8:00 pm
- Scandinavian Christmas Fair
State Fairgrounds
Raleigh, NC
Saturday, December 1
10 am - 6 pm



ScanFest T-shirts Available for Purchase!



Design on front of shirt

NEW! SAGA is now offering ScanFest 2007 T-shirts for purchase at the **low price of \$12 per shirt.**

T-shirts are a high-quality, heavyweight (6.1 oz) cotton. They are available in sizes Youth Small through Adult XL (XXL available for \$2 more).

Visit the Info/Welcome booth at ScanFest 2007 on Saturday, November 3, between the hours of 11 AM and 5 PM to pick up your 2007 souvenir T-shirt.



Visit us at: www.scandinavianconnection.org
presented by SAGA of the Carolinas, a non-profit organization

Design on back of shirt

Roundtrip Airfare from US to Scandinavia ONLY \$2 ?!?!

It is absolutely possible by purchasing raffle tickets at ScanFest 2007!

Icelandair, one of Europe's most progressive and dynamic airlines with 70 years' aviation experience, has joined ScanFest of the Carolinas to bring you the best festival in the metropolitan Charlotte area.

Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the festival.

Winners will be drawn every hour, with the **Grand Prize Drawing of 2 roundtrip tickets to Scandinavia**, a value of \$2500, being held at 4:30 pm. All winners must

be present to win! Chances will be sold for \$2 each, or 6 tickets for \$10.

As they say at Icelandair:

"Fly high with low fares to Scandinavia."

But wait, that's not all...

We have raffle prizes worth more than \$3,500, including various gift baskets, Janswede Clogs, and Swedish Crystal! Make sure you buy tickets on Saturday, November 3, at ScanFest of the Carolinas 2007.

ICELANDAIR



Have You Ever Wanted to be Pippi?

YOU can be Pippi, too! The **Look-Alike Contest on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at 12:30 PM** is open to all youth and no cost to enter. There will be three age groups: 2-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Prizes will be awarded in each age group for costume creativity and a Pippi-like personality would be appreciated!

Our judges for this year's competition are Emily Hudson (ScanFest's official Pippi), Jan Newton from the Charlotte Children's Theater, and Celeste Wren, a talent coach.

For more information, please contact **Signa Curry** at signa@scandinavianconnection.org

God Jul

You're invited to join **The Friends of Scandinavia** at their annual Christmas Party.

A chicken and beef buffet dinner with all the fixin's will be served including dessert & coffee. You may even find some glögg.

Place: Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

2701 Park Road
Charlotte NC

Time: 3:00 PM

Date: Saturday, December 1, 2007

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Reservations and advance payment are required.

Mail your checks made out to FOS to:

Anne Ovstegard
5224 Kirby Mews Court
Charlotte NC 28277

**Checks must be received by
November 26.**

Norway's Bergen Philharmonic to Perform in Charlotte

From The Mason Gazette:

This season, American audiences will have the opportunity to experience the renowned 242-year-old Norwegian Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra as it makes its first U.S. tour. Led by principal conductor Andrew Litton and featuring celebrated pianist André Watts, the orchestra will perform at Charlotte's Belk Theater on Monday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m.

Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg had close ties to the orchestra and served as artistic director during 1880-82. The Bergen Philharmonic frequently performs Grieg's compositions and recently recorded his complete orchestral works. For this performance, the orchestra will accompany Watts in Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor. Also included on the program is Knut Vaage's "Chatter" and Shostakovich's

monumental Symphony No. 5 and Festive Overture, Op. 96.

Since fall 2003, the orchestra has been under the direction of American conductor Andrew Litton, who also serves as artistic director with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra Summerfest. Litton, who has appeared as a guest conductor with more than 110 of the world's top orchestras and opera companies, is the first American to lead one of Europe's oldest orchestras.

At age 16, André Watts was selected by Leonard Bernstein to make his debut with the New York

Philharmonic on the televised "Young People's Concerts."

His career was truly launched two weeks later when the New York Philharmonic asked him to fill in for Glenn Gould. More than 45 years later, Watts is celebrated worldwide, performing with the world's great orchestras and selling out recitals and appearances at International festivals.



Renowned pianist André Watts will join the orchestra for the Belk Theater performance.

He has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and symphonies across the

United States. Watts has had numerous programs on PBS, the BBC and A&E; and his 1976 New York recital, on the program "Live from Lincoln Center," was the first full-length recital broadcast in the history of television. Watts was also nominated for an Emmy Award for his performance at the 38th Casals Festival in Puerto Rico and has numerous recordings on the Sony Classical label.

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We're on the Web!

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Mission Statement

SAGA of the Carolinas, a non-profit organization, is organized to promote cultural exchange between the United States and the Nordic Countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden; to preserve and enjoy the Scandinavian traditions, customs, history and cultural heritage; to increase understanding of the Nordic people and societies among Americans; and to provide a forum where people interested in Scandinavia can meet and enjoy Nordic culture and activities.

Calling all Scan-Am Groups!

If your group or organization would like to have your events or news included in the next issue of *The Midnight Sun*, please send your submission of 100-200 words to jenn@scandinavianconnection.org by Friday, November 16.

Sweden Top for Welcoming Migrants

From: BBC News

A study of how Europe integrates immigrants has exposed wide variations in the welcome foreign workers receive.

The European Union-backed research found Sweden doing the most to help migrants settle - and Latvia the least. Overall, EU nations are only doing half as much as they could, said researchers acting for a consortium of 25 organisations across Europe. The study of policies across the continent ranks countries on key factors affecting immigrants' lives. The Migration Integration Policy Index is produced by a consortium of European organisations, led by the British Council and the Migration Policy Group in Brussels. It measures policies to integrate an estimated 21 million migrants across 25 EU member states by using 140 indicators including:

- Immigrants' rights in the workplace
- The opportunities for permanent settlement
- Permission for family to join them
- Laws to combat racism and prejudice

The five states with the largest immigrant populations - the UK, Spain, Germany, Italy

and France all ranked in the top half of the table, with Italy coming out best. Between them, these five are thought to be home to at least half of all the migrants across the continent. But overall, the study found that only Sweden scored highly enough to be classed as a nation entirely favourable to promoting integration.

While many other states had policies the study said were laudable, each in turn appeared to fall down on at least one key area. Of all the states looked at, nine had policies classed as partially favourable, five were middling and 10 nations scored lower still.

Sweden scored 100% on the rights it gives to foreign workers and just missed out on the top rating for long-term residency laws. In contrast, researchers found Latvia restricts foreign workers' rights and gives immigrants little political say in the running of the country.

Researchers scored Sweden and Portugal highest on policies allowing migrants to bring in members of their family - but Austria, Denmark and Cyprus scored lowest.

Transparent system

Sweden was also judged best at giving migrants the right to stay for the long-term, by

having what researchers found to be a fair, simple and transparent system. The UK scored highly in this category and also in the related area of naturalisation - however it was criticised for a special law introduced to rescind nationality, a power used only once so far against a terrorism convict.

Ireland, in contrast, scored worst on long-term residence partly because researchers said migrants' rights to settle were discretionary and related to employment, rather than time spent in the country and links put down. Ireland's government is now one of many across Europe that is overhauling its migration policies in response to increased movement of people.

Countries to the east of the European Union scored worst in relation to policies allowing migrants to play a full role in local politics.

Reviews of anti-discrimination measures also produced a mixed picture. Despite strong legal guarantees written into its constitution and laws, Germany was dropped down the league table.

The index is being launched across Europe on Tuesday with individual countries being given separate briefings on the data in the coming months.