



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

January
NEWSLETTER
01/2018

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Number 428



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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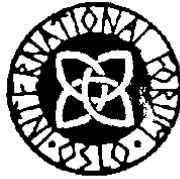
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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
February 22	Visit to Oslo Public Library (Deichman)	09:45	
February 27	Paul Gaugin and Edvard Munch	11:45	

From the President



Dear Members,

Welcome to a new year at International Forum. For some of us a new year means a new beginning, a 'clean slate to write on'. This may involve making ambitious resolutions such as starting a new diet, eating more vegetables, and exercising daily. It can entail making and fulfilling important promises to ourselves or to others, or exploring new possibilities or facing new challenges. Now, if only we can just stick to our well-intended plans...

International Forum has already made some excellent plans for its members. We have a host of interesting lectures lined up for our Monthly Meetings. To start our new year, we were so fortunate to have Marit Nybakk, former First Vice-President of the Norwegian Parliament, who talked about about the Norwegian electoral system (a fascinating topic). In addition, we shall be enjoying talks throughout the year from distinguished speakers who will discuss timely topics.

Our numerous Activities and Courses resume activities now: Cooking groups, Book groups, Indoor golf and language courses. Special art exhibitions and wonderful excursions are being planned as well. Keep your eyes open for the dates and times in the *Newsletter*, and don't forget to sign up!

Apropos signing up, **please try** our new StyreWeb system. Just follow the simple instructions given in the December *Newsletter*. StyreWeb will enable the office staff, the Treasurer and the Auditor, to improve the efficiency of registering your payments, etc. (If you wish, you can always sign up by email or by phone.)

We are preparing for one major event in February **2019**: the 40th anniversary of International Forum. Isn't that a long way off, you say? Believe it or not, it's just around the corner! A planning committee for this event has already been formed and the members are in the process of scouting for potential venues for the celebration. This will be a truly splendid occasion!

The Nomination Committee will soon begin considering new candidates for certain positions in IF for the year 2018 – 2019. I hope all of you will be eager and able to help in any way you can by volunteering a little of your time to our wonderful International Forum. I wish all of you a prosperous and joyful new year!

Sally Bergan, Acting President

THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee is now starting its work

The Nomination Committee is looking for members, who would like to take an active part in the running of the International Forum over a period of time. Please feel free to suggest yourself or submit the name of another member whom you think would be able to contribute in some way.

It doesn't necessarily take a lot of time to be a member of a committee, and it can be very rewarding. It is also a good way to learn more about the International Forum and to become better acquainted with other members.

The Nomination Committee prepares a list of nominees, which is submitted to the Board. Six weeks before the AGM, the list of all nominees will be published in the Newsletter. Members may then send the Board further proposals, which can be put on the final list for election at the AGM.

There is no vote by proxy at the AGM. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected.

Included in this *Newsletter* is a form for your proposals which we hope that you will fill out. Please return **as soon as possible** and **by March 1 at the latest** to the Leader of the Nomination Committee:

Do remember that your suggestions will form the basis of the Committee's proposals when members are nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting in 2018.

We cannot emphasise how much we look forward to receiving the names of as many nominees as possible.

Thank you!

The Nomination Committee:

Ellen Vollebæk (Leader)

Sigrid Langebrekke

Barbara Lee Ødegaard

PROPOSALS FOR NOMINATION

Proposals:

I (name) Tel:

Propose *myself and/or*:

..... Tel.:

for the position of *:

and

I propose: Tel.:

for the position of *:

**President, Board Member, Deputy, Committee leader, Committee member*

Please send this form to:

Ellen Vollebæk

COMING EVENTS MONTHLY MEETING

The Cuban Ambassador, H. E. Oscar de Los Reyes Ramos



H. E. the Cuban Ambassador to Norway will talk about the Cuban Literacy Campaign (Campaña Nacional de Alfabetización en Cuba), which was a year-long effort to abolish illiteracy in Cuba after the Cuban Revolution. The revolution began in July 1953, and continued sporadically until the rebels finally ousted President Batista on January 1, 1959, replacing his government with a revolutionary socialist state. The literacy campaign began on January 1 and ended on December 22, 1961, becoming the world's most ambitious and organised literacy campaign.

Before 1959 the official literacy rate for Cuba was between 60% and 76%, largely because of the lack of access to education in rural areas and a lack of teachers. As a result, the Cuban government of Fidel Castro sent *literacy brigades* out into the countryside to construct schools, train new educators, and teach the predominantly illiterate *guajiros* (peasants) to read and write. The campaign was a 'remarkable success', and by the end of the year, the national literacy rate was 96%.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **February 5** at **18:45** for (19:00)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to the Salvation Army (Frelsesarméen)

January 25 at 10:45

Members of the International Forum are welcome to visit the Temple Corps of the Salvation Army to hear about its work in Norway and abroad. At the headquarters, we shall learn more about the organisation, how it works and how it provides help for many different groups.

For more information, please see the December *Newsletter*.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **January 25** at 10:45

Tour of the Oslo Public Library (Deichmanske Bibliotek)



On Thursday, February 22, we shall meet at the Oslo Public Library (official name: *Deichmanske bibliotek*). This Library is the municipal library of Oslo and is the country's first and largest library. It employs over 300 people and has more than 20 branches throughout the city. Registered users may use the library every day from 07:00 to 23:00. It is possible to borrow and return books even when the library is not staffed.

The library's neoclassical main building is in the Hammersborg district. It was designed by Nils Reiersen and completed in 1933. It is often referred to in Norwegian as *trappehuset* ('the house of stairs'), because of its many stairways. In 2011, the building was damaged by the terrorist attack on the the government quarter. After the explosion, part of the entrance had to be demolished and all departments in the library were closed to the public for two months.

The library opened on January 12, 1785, following an endowment from Carl Deichman, who also bequeathed 7,000 books and 150 manuscripts, which formed the basis of the library's collection. From the start, the library was open to all citizens. At the time, most lending libraries charged a membership fee, making it impossible for poorer people to access them. The initial collection was largely made up of texts in German, French, Latin and Danish and was therefore mainly of interest to members of the educated upper classes.

The library has several specialised departments, such as a music department, a department for children and youth, a department for prison libraries and a library for patients at the Rikshospitalet. It previously also housed the Multilingual Library of Norway, which is now part of the National Library of Norway.

On March 20, 2018, we shall visit Lund Hagem Arkitekter AS, the company that won the design competition for the new Deichman's Library at Bjørvika. The new library building is scheduled to open in 2020. We plan on visiting the new library when it opens.

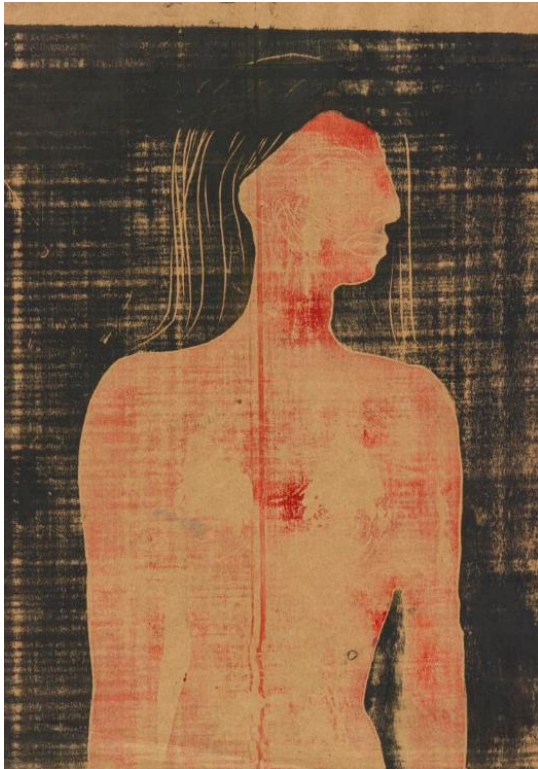
DATE/TIME: Thursday, **February 22**, at 09:45 (for 10:00)

FROM THE BOARD

A guided tour of the Royal Palace Gardens is planned for June 5, 2018.
More information will come in a couple of months. Please reserve the date!

ART COMMITTEE

With Eyes Closed: Gauguin and Munch The Munch Museum



By now, we are able find our way to the Munch Museum almost blindfolded, thanks to the wonderful exhibitions that the new director produces at regular intervals. This time, we will be opening our eyes to the companionship of Gauguin and Munch.

The Post-Impressionists and the Expressionists broke the confines of art by turning inwards in order to mirror the human predicament with all its *angst* and passion. Gauguin said that he always closed his eyes to see, whereas Munch said that he did not paint what exists, but what he saw. The inner vision reveals a controversial view of women full of love, jealousy and anxiety.

The exhibition shows a large number of graphic works, along with various paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and woodcarvings.

Open your eyes and find your way to this exhibition!

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 27, at 11:45 (for 12:00)

A C T I V I T I E S

Monthly Wednesday Bridge

The **first Wednesday bridge** in 2018 will take place on the **January 17** at 10:30

The February Bridge will take place on **February 14** at 10:30

Cooking Group I

The next cooking session will take place at Inge Pedersen's home.

Cooking Group II

The first gathering in 2018 will take place on Wednesday, **February 7** at 14:00

International Book Club II

The first gathering in 2018 will be on Thursday, **January 18**.

Photo Club

In January, IF member Sidsel Jakhelln Semb will teach us how to take better pictures. She asks you to bring along a couple of your own photos to the meeting – pictures that you are pleased with – and she will explain how to take even better ones! We shall meet at Kveldsro terrasse 8, 1368 Stabekk on **January 22** at 12:00.

R E P O R T S

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

This year's Christmas Meeting was held at Vinderen seniorsenter, like last year. Around 40 members had signed up. The atmosphere was joyous and convivial. The proceeds of the raffle will be donated to Kirkens Bymisjon i Oslo.

The food was again delicious and plentiful!

We were all extremely moved and touched by Siri's courageous presence.

Some ladies of the Forum Singers guided us through the carols and songs.



Siri Frigaard with the blue shawl





A big 'Thank you!' to the Monthly Meeting Committee for their 'effortless' running of the show!

Elizabeth Rasmussen

SPECIAL EVENTS

Christmas Lunch at Oslo Militære Samfund

Oslo Militære Samfund was a very successful choice for the 2017 Christmas Lunch. Our host Rolf Westad gave us all a real treat on this occasion.

First we had one hour of history, recapitulating Norwegian history with focus on Oslo Militære Samfund throughout the years and through the Society's very special and important role both in times of peace and war for all the branches of the Norwegian army and the King. The Norwegian Kings have been faithful members since 1905, when the country obtained full autonomy.

The lunch tables were nicely set with Christmas decorations. Before starting our meal, we all stood, raised our glasses, and joined in a toast to the King of Norway, which is a tradition before every meal in the house. We then had a wonderful tasty three-course lunch with two glasses of wine each.

The food was delicious, the atmosphere so calm, and the conversation went lively around the table.



Berit Lindstøm thanked Oslo Militære Samfund and the Special Events Committee for arranging the event. The Special Event and the 55 participants all thank Oslo Militære Samfund – especially Rolf Westad – for receiving us in this historical and beautiful house and for taking so good care of us all.

Wenche Mohr

A R O U N D O S L O
**Oslo City Walk: Historic River Walk
in English**

21 Jan 2018 14:00

Tickets NOK 200,-

The tour starts at the Oslo Visitor Centre, Jernbanetorget 1, 0154 Oslo

For tickets, please visit the Centre's website.

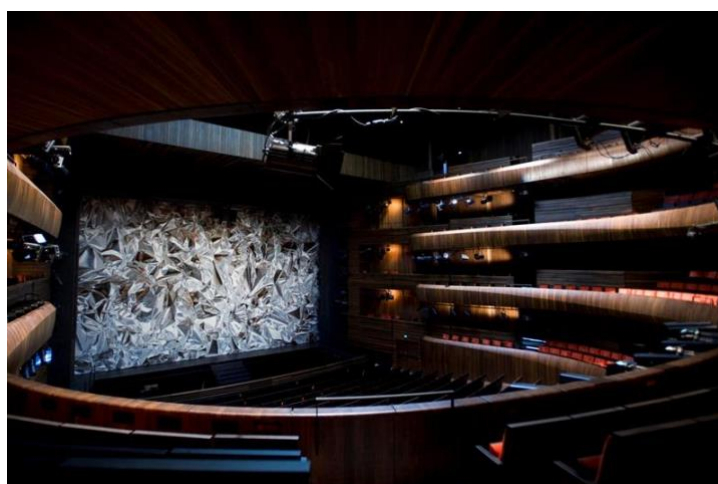


Guided Tour of the Opera in English

Thursday, February 1 at 13:00

Tickets NOK 80,-

For tickets, please visit the Opera's website



Issued by the Board of the International Forum

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