



# **INTERNATIONAL FORUM**

**OSLO, NORWAY**

**May**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**05/2018**

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**Number 432**



# INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Skagestad.  
**Treasurer** Vicky Alme  
**Auditor** Karin Skoglund  
**Website** [www.iforum.no](http://www.iforum.no)

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## Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
May 30	Forum Singers 20 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Concert	19:00	12
May 24	Architectural Walk: the Barcode	11:45	11
June 5	Royal Park and Picnic	09:45	8
June 11	Annual General Meeting	17:45	5
June 13	Spring Trip to Hadeland	08:15	9

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## From the President



Dear Members,

It's May, and May in Norway is a month consisting of a string of holidays that makes one wonder whether there are any work days in the month at all. Of all the holidays in May, the most honoured and esteemed is the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, or Constitution Day as it is called. It is a vibrant, joyous event, celebrated throughout Norway. On May 17, every city, town or village across the country adorns its streets with flags and flowers. Even before the 'big day', there is a stirring of excitement and anticipation permeating the air.

Marching bands of all ages are practicing their rhythmic musical scores. School children are preparing for the Children's Parade by practicing how to walk together in formation with their classmates. High school graduating students wearing their boiler suits are enjoying their last few days of fun and freedom before buckling down to their final exams. Those who have Norwegian national costumes are retrieving them from their dark closets, getting them ready, and hoping that their 'bunad' will still fit around their girth since the previous year. The national costumes, which are worn with pride, represent the distinctive costume traditions from different parts of the country.

It's a proud time for Norway and for all of us: On this day, we celebrate the nation's history, its liberty and democracy. It's a time to remind ourselves how fortunate we are to be living in such a beautiful country. Don't stay at home on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May – it's time to be out there and enjoy yourself! Go see the Children's Parade in town. Indulge in an ice-cream or two. Go out and be part of the festivities, whether you are in town or in your own local area. Wherever you are, you'll feel the euphoric spirit of the Constitution Day.

Have a wonderful one!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Bergan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally Bergan,  
Acting President

*Please remember that International Forum has its Annual General Meeting on June 11. Our trip and picnic to the Royal Park is on June 5.*

## FROM THE BOARD

# S O S

### **To all Forum members - your help is desperately needed!**

We are sorry to announce that both Vicky Alme and Gunvor Klaveness will be stepping down after the AGM in June. Thereafter the International Forum will be without a **Treasurer** and an **Office Coordinator**, unless two members come forward and are willing to help us out. These are two **key positions** for the running of our organisation and without someone to take over, it is unlikely that the Forum will be able to function at all!

The Board welcomes any suggestions which may lead to a solution of this problem. If you are able or can think of anyone who might be able to take on one of these jobs, please contact Sally Bergan as soon as possible for more information. Full introduction to the work involved will be provided and any necessary training or assistance will be given.

*International Forum needs your contribution. Thank you.*

Sally Bergan, Acting President

### **International Forum Website Editor Wanted!**

This would involve inserting the latest *Newsletter* and updating information about events and activities. The work can be done from home and should not take more than a few hours each month.

Some knowledge of how a website works would be helpful but not a necessity. However, experience from using a Mac or a PC is required, together with a competent level of written English. Instructions will be made available.

If you can help or know someone suitable, please contact:

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

## COMING EVENTS

### **The Annual General Meeting**

**Monday, June 11 at 17:45 for 18:00**

**Please note the time.**

A light buffet, wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting.

PLACE: Vinderen Seniorsenter, Slemdalsveien 72, 0373 Oslo

PRICE: **Free of charge**

**NB. The Annual General Meeting is for members only**

**The Board**

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome by the President
2. Approval of a member to take minutes of the meeting
3. Approval of two signatories to the minutes
4. Approval of four tellers
5. The Annual Report
6. The Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Fee
8. Proposal for an Amendment to the Statutes - § 2  
Membership
9. Elections
10. Other Business

***Please bring the Agenda, Nominations etc. with you, in addition to the Annual Report which has been sent separately.***

## BOARD EVENT

### The Royal Park Tour and Picnic



The Board is proud to announce a tour and picnic in the Royal Park (Slottsparken). This tour is an exclusive privilege granted to the International Forum and will take place on Tuesday, June 5. Our guide will be the Head Gardener Ms Ane Senstad Guldahl, and possibly her colleague, depending on the number of participants. Ane S. Guldahl is a botanist from the University of Oslo who has worked as head gardener at the Botanical Garden in Oslo and at Ringve Botanical Garden in Trondheim.

The tour will take place regardless of weather conditions. The participants are therefore advised to dress according to the weather conditions, and in particular have adequate, comfortable footwear. The planned picnic, however, is contingent on the weather.

Please bring something to sit on, as we will sit on the ground. The participants are expected to bring their own picnic lunch. Note: Alcohol and BBQ-ing are strictly forbidden.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **June 5** at **09:45** for 10:00 - 11:30

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Spring trip to Hadeland

June 13

The Special Events Committee invites you to join us on a day trip by bus to the Hadeland area, just north of Oslo. Hadeland has a lot to offer: beautiful countryside with big lakes and farmland, and a great many sites of interest both historical and cultural. We shall be taking you to three of these places.



First, we will visit Grinakervev (Grinaker weavers) established in 1989. Grinakervev, with its thirty looms, is charmingly situated in an old farm. Grinakervev weaves a variety of materials and is one of the few remaining workshops in Europe to continue the art of making damask. We shall be given a guided tour to see the weavers in action and visit the shop which sells a rich selection of their products: tablecloths and napkins, jackets and dresses, as well as traditional Norwegian garments such as the stripy shirts/jackets – the ‘busserull’ – ‘festdrakter’ (national costumes), and many other items.

Following this visit we shall drive to nearby Bergslia Gjestestuer to enjoy a delicious ‘lunch platter’, coffee or tea. After lunch, we board the bus again to drive to Granavollen, the historical centre of Hadeland, where we will visit the famous ‘Søsterkirkene’ (the Sister Churches), and ‘Glasslåven Kunstsenter’ (Glass Barn Art Centre).

The ancient ‘Royal Highway’ – the original main road to Bergen – and the pilgrim path to Nidaros in Trondheim all pass via Granavollen. The only remaining pair of ‘twin churches’ in Norway, the Sister Churches were built about 1100 A.D. They sit side by side on a small hill and can be seen from miles around. We shall be given a guided tour of the churches - one named after saint Mary (Mariakirken) and the other after Saint Nicholas (Nikolaikirken) - and learn their history and why they are called the Sister Churches.

Afterwards, we will walk over to a neighbouring building, a monumental old barn, for our last visit. This barn, built in the 1800s, has been restored and converted in accordance with ecologically sustainable principles and now houses ‘Glasslåven’ art centre, which opened in 2016. In the barn, there is an art gallery, and workshops for a variety of artists: glass, jewellery, fine arts, dance, music, authors...

We shall have a guided tour of the art centre and look at the summer exhibition, which this year features Liv Blåvarp's wonderful wooden jewellery; knives and cupboards made by her husband, Tore Gimle; caricature drawings, and items made by the artists in the barn's workshops. We will also have time to look around on our own.

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, **June 13 at 08:15** to approximately 17:30 or 18.00

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

## **ART COMMITTEE**

### **Architectural walk: The Barcode**

Thursday, **May 24 at 11:45** for 12:00

The Art Committee has the pleasure of inviting you for its spring architectural walk around Bjørvika and the Barcode. Completed in 2012, the Barcode is now an iconic architectural ensemble in Oslo. In the heart of the city, the Barcode is part of the vast urban development of Bjørvika, known as 'the Fjord City' alongside the Opera House, the Deichman Library, the new Munch Museum, and Sørenga residential pier. For details see the April *Newsletter*.

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Monthly Wednesday Bridge**

The last bridge before the summer will take place on Wednesday 23 of May at 10.30 at my home. Inger Støtvig

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

### **Cooking Group I**

A very big *thank you!* to Dulce for an interesting presentation of Brazilian dishes, we really learned a lot. We agreed we would not have a May cooking morning due to the many bank holidays.

Britt Brennhovd, who has a very charming cottage and garden at BLEIKØYA, one of the small islands in the inner part of the Oslo fjord, has again offered to welcome us to a prawn lunch in June. We hope for sunny summer weather.

If the weather forecast is pouring rain, the outing will be cancelled.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **June 14 at 11:45** at AKER BRYGGE for the ferry to BLEIKØYA



NB! NB! The ferry leaves at 12:00 sharp. Do not miss it, because the next ferry leave one hour later!

Wishing you a lovely Month of May!

Warm regards from Liss

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

## **Forum Singers 20<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Concert**

The Forum singers choir started up 20 years ago. We would like to invite you to our Jubilee Concert on Wednesday May 30 at 19:00 at Vestre Aker Menighetshus. As usual, we have a varied repertoire: a mixture of folk songs, jazz, pop and ballads, in several different languages. We also have some sing-alongs. Our conductor Eva Landro, who is a free-lance soloist, and also sings in “Det Norske Solistkor”, has been conducting us since 2016. Our excellent pianist, Margrete Moen Birkedal, will again accompany us. Both Eva and Margrete will be treating us to solos. After the concert, a tempting finger-food buffet with wine and beverages will be waiting for you to enjoy. All this for NOK 250.- (NOK 50.- for children).

The concert will be held at our favourite venue, Vestre Aker Menighetshus, a pleasant and cosy place with good acoustics. There is plenty of free parking on the church grounds, and the venue is easily accessible by public transport. So please do join us! Bring your friends and family for an enjoyable musical evening with delicious refreshments!

**DATE/TIME:      Wednesday **May 30** at **19:00****

**PLACE:**            Vestre Aker Menighetshus, Ullevålsveien 117 (in the grounds of Vestre Aker Kirke, immediately behind the church). See map.

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

# *R E P O R T S*

## **ART COMMITTEE**

### **Nesoddparken Art and Cultural Commercial Park**

Thursday 27 April

On a lovely spring day, a group of fourteen IF members met at the Nesodden Ferry at Aker Brygge to travel by sea to Nesoddparken. This centre, which has been operating since 2009, is home to over fifty very diversified artists who maintain studios, workshops and offices in a lovely, idyllic setting. In fact, Nesodden is the area with the most artists in Norway. Upon our arrival, we were met by our guide and artist, Randi Elmenhorst, who then led us through multiple corridors and different floors to peek into the working spaces of some of the artists. All were very welcoming and happy to show us their creations as well as explain the steps and procedures employed in their particular art form.



The first artist we met was Malin Redvall, who paints with watercolours. Malin showed us the methods, and some tricks(!), that she uses to produce her beautiful paintings of the seaside with particular attention to the seagulls and cranes that live in this setting. She explained that if you make a mistake with watercolours it's almost impossible to fix it. She employs an assortment of materials and techniques to create her flowing, soft representations of nature.

The next artist we visited was Marianne Framhus, who designs and produces luxury printed scarves made from natural fibres such as silk, wool and modal – a type of cellulose fibre from trees. Her designs are inspired by the Art Nouveau movement which emphasises the emotional aspect of art. She said she finds inspiration in the works of such artists as Toulouse-Lautrec, with his avant-garde approach to graphic design, and Alfons Mucha, as well as in the costumes of

actresses such as Sarah Bernhardt. Marianne's collection combines the flair of an old era with a current approach that creates modern and fresh pieces.

We then met Ruta Pakarklyte, who works with porcelain and ceramics to create sculptures made of assorted objects and tiles. Her pieces are complicated and intricate and, as she explained, are meant to make you feel uncomfortable.

Our guide, Randi Elmenhorst, showed us *her* studio where she works with a variety of materials, such as magazines, foil, paint, and liquid plastic to create one-of-a-kind bracelets, earrings, and necklaces, as well as larger pieces of art. Randi has produced pieces for the Opera and the National Museum. In these cases, she has styled her work to reflect and connect to what these establishments are presenting. For example, when *La Boheme* was performed at the Opera, Randi created a bracelet which represented this theme.

The last artist we visited was Iben Sandemose, who engraves both personalised as well as general art images on wine, champagne and other types of drinking glasses which are to be presented at special events and weddings.

Our group finished the tour in the small café, where – along with our coffee and tea – we enjoyed home-made waffles and apple cake. Nesoddparken is a celebration of creativity and a wonderful destination after a short and pleasant ferry trip from Aker Brygge.

Trudy Brand-Jacobsen

**Issued by the Board of the International Forum**

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The Editor and the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit all material.

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