



INTERNATIONAL FORUM
OSLO, NORWAY

August
NEWSLETTER
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Number 434



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
September 3	Monthly Meeting	19:00	TBA

From the President



Dear Members,

‘Anywhere but here!’ That is what I used to say to myself when a wet, soggy Norwegian summer rolled around, and there was no hope in sight of shedding my rubber boots and oilskin raincoat. It was my dire need for sunshine and vitamin D that made me think I needed a trip to a southern climate straight away. Yes, I could absolutely imagine endless sunny days, palm trees, and cool, refreshing ocean breezes.

Well, right now I can’t imagine being anywhere else but *here* at home in Oslo. These phenomenal ‘summer days’ in May-June remind me of the weather I took for granted as a child in California, along with sandy beaches, freshly squeezed orange juice, and swimming pools. How fortunate we are to experience these warm, comforting summer days, with extended daylight late into the evenings. As they say in a Norwegian song, ‘You must not sleep away a summer night.’ So, enjoy these exceptional summer days and evenings for as long as they last, and have a perfectly wonderful summer!

As this is the end of our International Forum year before summer, I would like to thank everyone who has given time and energy into making International Forum the vigorous, varied and extraordinary organisation it is. The list of members who have volunteered is long, too long to fit on this page, but you know who you are. Your sense of voluntarism has made a difference for all of us and it is very, very much appreciated. I thank you all for your significant contributions. I also wish to thank those of you who have participated in our activities, events, courses and excursions throughout the year. Your enthusiasm keeps our International Forum flourishing and vibrant.

I look forward to seeing you all again in September for a new and exciting year. Don’t forget, we celebrate our 40th anniversary in February 2019!

Best regards,

Sally Bergan,
Acting President

FROM THE OFFICE

If you have changed your address, telephone number or email address, please send an email to int.forum@online.no or a letter to the Office.

The International Forum Office staff will resume activity on August 13, 2018.



Membership Fee for 2018 – 2019

The Membership Fee is NOK **500,-** for full members and NOK 200,- for overseas or associate members.

Renewing Your Membership

- If you are moving abroad, and would like to keep in contact with us by becoming an Overseas Member,
- If you have thought of giving up your membership because you are no longer taking part in any of the Forum activities, but still want to keep in contact with us, there is now the possibility of signing up as an Associate member,
- For overseas or associate members – please indicate your membership **category**. As soon as we have received your payment, we will send you your new membership card.

Information about the membership payment procedure will be posted in the *August Newsletter*.

If, for some reason, **you do not want to continue** your membership, please send an email to int.forum@online.no or a letter to the Office **before August 31**.

We will then take you off our lists and stop sending you the *Newsletter*.

We thank you for your co-operation.

The Office



A BRIEF HISTORY OF OPEN DOOR

The idea of Open Door was started in 1980 by the President of International Women's Association (IWC) Stockholm, Mrs. Elisabeth Sammann, while travelling abroad with her husband, a Rotarian. She was so impressed with the hospitality extended to him by fellow Rotarians in foreign cities, that she thought that an equivalent system could help members of International Women's Associations have a similar reciprocity, by 'opening their doors to each other' when moving to or visiting a city or town abroad.

IWC Stockholm supported her idea and appointed her Coordinator of International Relations – and Open Door was born. Mrs Sammann started with a register of nine Women's Associations that agreed to appoint an International Coordinator to welcome IWC women as guests to their clubs' monthly meetings and other club activities, as well as occasionally exchanging Club Newsletters and correspondence. At the end of 1983, her register had grown to a total of eighteen associations.

1. Open Door is a network of non-political, non-religious and non-commercial International Women's Associations whose membership is open to all nationalities, and which offers inter-club contact and communication.
2. Open Door enables members of affiliated associations to have guest status at monthly meetings. It provides an opportunity for club members moving to or visiting another country to find a group of internationally-minded women and to join or visit their Club.
3. When a club member visits or moves to a city or town where an affiliated association exists, she will be required to present her membership card or an introduction letter from her association to the membership officer or to the international coordinator of the affiliated association.
4. Membership in an affiliated association is not automatic. Each association is autonomous, and membership is governed by its statutes and legal rules.

5. Advice and support is available from the Chairman of Open Door to new associations writing their statutes, as well as establishing their organization.
6. The Open Door Directory gives details of registered associations and is used by the International Coordinator to provide members of an association with the name, address and telephone number only, of the contact person of an affiliated association.

The information contained in the Directory is confidential and must therefore not be disclosed for commercial or any other purposes.

An increasing number of women are on the move either through their own career or with husbands whose professions are taking them to places far away from their home countries. In many cases, these women have to come to terms with giving up professional careers, leaving family and friends behind, being faced with a foreign language, and learning to live in a new culture.

All this can be daunting, but the immediate contact with women in similar situations, provided by International Women's Associations that open their doors, can make the transfer easier. The variety of activities and the possibility of forming new friendships can be a most exciting and stimulating experience. For these reasons the inter-club network is of great value.

The Open Door system is a way to help women who are moving internationally by providing contact with a network of women of different nationalities, thereby promoting mutual understanding, furthering cultural exchanges and cultivating friendship; all of which can lead to a richer and broader understanding of other nations and cultures.

Today – in fifty countries – there are more than seventy-nine International Women's Associations which ‘open their doors’ to members of sister associations.

If you are leaving the country and wonder if there is an International Women’s Club where you are going, please contact me for more information.

Please note that from August 2018, Ms *Ellen Vollebæk* will be in charge of International Relations.

Your truly,

Sigrid Langebrekke
International Coordinator



Annual General Meeting of the International Forum MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the International Forum was held on Monday, June 11, 2018, at Vinderen Seniorcenter, Oslo.

Forty-five Forum members attended the meeting.

1-9

10. Other Business

Concerning the 40th Anniversary on February 12, 2019, Sally asked how many would be interested in attending this event. Most members raised their hands.

Sally thanked the leaders and members of all the committees. She also thanked the Nomination Committee for their hard work; the Dispatch Team – Elspeth Walseth, Patricia Blackwell, Elisabeth Bennett, Susan Hahla, Kerstin Petersen, Mona Reinboth, Mette Svadberg and Wenche Undrum; the Editorial team – Elizabeth S. Rasmussen, Elspeth Walseth and Patricia Blackwell; the Office Team – Gunvor Klavenes, Kirsten Wensell, Sigrid Langebrekke, Lydia Afolabi, and Lillan Akcora

She welcomed Anne-Sofie Trosdahl-Oraug to the Office Team; Ellen Vollebæk as the contact person with Open Door, and also thanked Berit Lindstrøm, who has agreed to act as contact person with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Anita Solheim agreed to look into the updating of the IF web site, with the help of Rita Aars Nicolaisen.

Sally then presented wine and flowers to Sigrid Langbrekke, thanking her for her hard work in the Office, and as CD and “Open door” contact. It has been very beneficial to have her special knowledge and network.

She also thanked Gunvor Klaveness (who was not present) for her efficiency as office leader and her hard work to update the office routines. She will receive a gift later.

She then expressed her gratitude to Vicky Alme for serving as Treasurer for 13 years. Vicky has indeed been a pillar: reliable, honest and straight from the heart. In wishing her all the best, Sally presented flowers and a ‘small package.’

Finally, Sally thanked Karin Skoglund for 17 years of excellent service to the Forum. Karin has been an inspiration. Her ability to embrace and put into practice the latest technology, has been outstanding, particularly in view of the fact that she will be celebrating her 90th birthday in only a few weeks.

Anita Pratap then thanked Sally Bergan for her excellent work as acting President.

Sally closed the proceedings by thanking everyone for coming and inviting them to a delicious buffet with wine.

Oslo, June 15, 2018

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Kirsten Roan Chryssanthakis



COMING EVENTS

PHOTO CLUB

First workshop will be on **August 27** from 12 to 15 at Anita Solheim's home.

We will edit digital images (cropping, enhancing, etc.), be it on the phone or on a computer. We will also look at how to send pictures by e-mail, and how to determine size and resolution, etc. If you have questions regarding digital photography, or if you have knowledge and tips to share, just come along. New members and "drop-ins" are welcome.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Cooking Group I

What an outing to Bleikøya in rain and wind! The ferry from Rådhusbrygga took us safely to Bleikøya where Britt was waiting in her yellow raincoat. Six members walked up to the very charming cottage where we were greeted with a lovely summer drink. The menu was traditional prawns and home-made cupcakes.

We are going to start the Autumn meetings at Eva Ziegler's home.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **September 11** at 12:30 Liss Lan

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Monthly Meeting

The September Monthly Meeting will be announced in the August *Newsletter*.**R**

REPORTS

May Monthly Meeting

Our speaker at the May Monthly Meeting was Mr Steinar R. Paulsen and his subject was Norwegian Defence and Security. Mr Paulsen has had a career in the Royal Norwegian Navy and been Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Allied & Norwegian Defence Forces, North Norway. After leaving the Navy, he pursued a business career in Saudi Arabia and South East Asia working with Norwegian companies. At present, one of his main projects is ‘Aldrimer’ (www.aldrimer.no), a project that monitors the build-up of Norway’s defence forces related to the country’s commitments to NATO.



Mr Paulsen began his talk with a historic overview over Norway as a nation, a nation worthy of defending, as he put it. He pointed out how our democratic and judicial institutions have roots in the old ‘Thing’ or assembly (Gulating from 930) and in the laws of Magnus Lagabøter, written down in the 13th century and applicable to the whole country. As for our newer history, Mr Paulsen warned against a naïve belief that Norway is able to ‘save the world’, or ‘save the climate’, etc. He pointed out several threats to our culture and to our nation, including uncontrolled immigration and cultural clashes.





In the event of war, Norway would be very dependent on NATO for its defence, Mr Paulsen said. Moreover, as Norway's task is to defend its borders until allied help arrives and to facilitate the arrival of allied forces, it is important that our military system is adequately organised and equipped for these responsibilities. Here, insufficient funding for our military defence concerns Mr Paulsen, who finds Norwegian politicians too vague about the goal of contributing 2 % of our gross national product to NATO by 2024. In Mr Paulsen's opinion, the USA and the UK are of decisive importance to the defence of the Northern Flank (the area between Greenland, Iceland, UK and Norway), and he would like to see a strengthening of this region. Mr Paulsen then discussed in some detail the defence strategies he deemed necessary.

The audience had several interesting contributions and questions regarding the importance of the USA in contrast to the European NATO member states. One of our members also very eloquently defended the necessity of facilitating cultural understanding.

In all, it was a thought-provoking lecture, and we thank Mr Paulsen for his presentation and the audience for their participation.

Gunnel Anita Solheim

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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