



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

June
NEWSLETTER
06/2016

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Number 411



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
September 5	Iori Roberts – The Vikings in England	19:00	August NL

LAST MINUTE UNAVOIDABLE CANCELLATION

To avoid unnecessary delays at events due to waiting for members who do not turn up, please telephone the contact person directly:

Committee leaders:

ART COMMITTEE	Bee Ellingsen	mob. 907 33 874
MONTHLY MEETINGS	Laila Hægh	mob. 957 54 282
	Ruth Klungsøyr	mob. 411 43 039
SPECIAL EVENTS	Wenche Mohr	mob. 901 14 259

From the President



Dear members,

The time has come for me to step down!

I must admit that writing my very last President's page for the *Newsletter* leaves me with a lot of strange feelings. These four years have passed so quickly, and I am endlessly grateful for all the good will and support shown to me by the members. **YOU ARE THE BEST!**

When I started, it certainly was *learning by doing*, and I know I made some mistakes. But given a little guidance, one does learn to navigate. And I extend my thanks to all my helping hands.

The International Forum is a great organisation and deserves a long and prosperous life. So let us make an effort to keep it going!

Now that another Forum year has come to an end, the AGM is behind us, and a long, hopefully warm, summer lies in front of us, let us all take the opportunity to recharge our batteries. Come rain or shine, there is wine to enjoy, ice-cream to consume, mountains to climb, and oceans to swim. Or maybe you would prefer a little "big city" shopping?

Whatever you choose, I wish you all a wonderful summer, enjoy life!

Warm regards, and a big thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Berit Lindstrøm". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Berit Lindstrøm
President

F R O M T H E O F F I C E

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.

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,

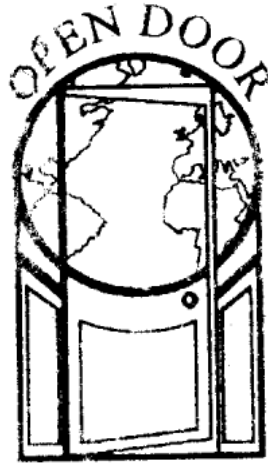
Please send an email to int.forum@online.no or a letter to the Office **before August 31**. You will then continue to receive the *Newsletter* as you have done before and will be welcome as a guest at arrangements when there is room.

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*.

Membership Fee for 2016 – 2017 season

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

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.

Sigrid Langebrette
International Coordinator



Annual General Meeting of the International Forum MINUTES

1. **Other Business:** Patricia Blackwell presented the beta version of the Forum's new website, which is taking shape. Members may already try out this version at www.iforum.no.

President Berit Lindstrøm thanked all the members of the Board and expressed her gratitude for their devotion and support. She expressed her special thanks to Viebecke Vraalsen, Patricia Blackwell, Elisabeth Bennett, Anita Solheim, Dagmar Berg – who is leaving Norway and who will be greatly missed – Elizabeth Rasmussen, Vicky Alme, Karin Skoglund, and Elspeth Walseth, who all received a Forum bowl or vase. Inger Ræder and Kirsten Wensell were absent but will receive their gift in the coming week.

Berit also thanked Elisabeth Ising Torgersen, Sally Bergan, Bianca Novello, Wenche Mohr, Elizabeth Rasmussen, Lillan Akcora, Gunvor Klaveness, and Kirsten Wensell, as well as Rosemary Hauge, Wenche Undrum, Elspeth Walseth and Patricia Blackwell for their valuable work for the Forum and for their willingness to continue to serve the association and presented them all with a gorgeous rose.

Elisabeth Ising Torgersen, on behalf of the Board, presented Berit with a special piece of jewellery, called 'Cosmos', designed by Master Goldsmith, Øyvind Modahl and made by Donna Holdroyd, thanking her for the four years that she has been a most dedicated and committed President.

Siri Frigaard, the President elect, then took the microphone, asking for the members' support, conceding that it was a somewhat daunting task that she was taking on.

Sally Bergan gave the President a magnificent bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her personal strength and engagement.

Elizabeth Rasmussen, also gave Berit a small personal gift before thanking the Ladies of the Monthly Meeting Committee and presenting each with a gift.

Berit then rounded off the meeting and wished us all a lovely summer holiday.

Oslo, June 6, 2016

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Elizabeth S. Rasmussen

.....
Elspeth Walseth

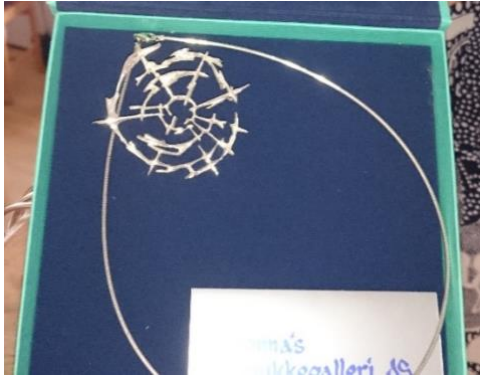
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Mona Reinboth



Berit and Patricia Blackwell



Berit and Dagmar Berg



Elisabeth I. Torgersen and Viebecke Vraalsen presenting Berit with a gift from the International Forum

After the meeting, we all enjoyed a buffet, with wine and drinks and lovely cakes made by the Ladies of the Monthly Meeting Committee.

As I leave the Monthly Meeting Committee, I wish to thank the Ladies for their wonderful spirit, efficient team work, and never-wavering support! Our brainstorming sessions for monthly speakers have always yielded lots of good names and possibilities. I am happy to say that very few proposed speakers have declined our request.

Thank you all so much!

Elizabeth S. Rasmussen

Criteria for Honorary Membership

Introduction:

The purpose of the International Forum having Honorary Membership is to provide a way of paying tribute and acknowledgement to someone who has given an exceptional, significant and distinctive contribution, far and above what may be reasonably expected, to the running of the organisation, in accordance with its aims.

§ 1 When and why

Honorary Membership may be awarded in appreciation of outstanding service to the International Forum in accordance with the aims, to a member or to a person outside the organisation.

For example, this may be

- having given really exceptional and significant service over a shorter period.
- having made a contribution of particular significance to the running and/or furtherance of the International Forum (e.g. by keeping the organisation going; by looking ahead; by taking necessary action in time; by creating good relations).
- giving long, exceptional and dedicated service which has also benefited the organisation. For example: members who have taken care of the International Forum's history and who have significantly contributed to continuity in the running of the organisation.

§ 2 Members Suitable for Nomination

- Members who are proposed must also have held one or several positions in the International Forum, e.g. Committee leader, committee member, or having a specific administrative task, etc.
- Members are NOT eligible if they are currently a member of the Board or the Executive Committee or if they have held such a position within the last two years.

§ 3 Nomination Procedure

According to the Statutes of the International Forum § 3.3 e), the Board recommends nominees for approval at the Annual General Meeting. However, in theory, any member may propose a possible nominee. (See Statutes § 3.2 and § 5.4.)

- All proposals should be submitted to the Board using the designated Nomination Form.
- The reasons for proposing the nominee should be given as fully as possible, in addition to a record of all activities related to the International Forum, including dates and any offices which the member has held.
- The Nomination Form should be signed by two full members.
- The completed form should be sent to The Board, c/o The President at least three months before the Annual General Meeting.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the International Forum Office.

§ 4 What does Honorary Membership mean for the recipient?

In addition to the formal presentation at the Annual General Meeting, an Honorary Member

- receives the IF brooch in gold
- receives membership for life
- receives the monthly Newsletter as long as desired
- may attend the Monthly Meetings free of charge

An honorary member retains all the rights of a full member.

Approved by the Board on Monday 14 April 2016

NB! The Criteria, Nomination Forms and copy of relevant statutes are available at the Office.

R E P O R T S

The Art Committee Vestfossen Art Laboratory

We were a small, but keen group that met at Vestfossen Kunst-laboratorium on a glorious Tuesday, May 10.



Our guide, Fritz Henrik Frølich, greeted us with a challenge and a statement: ‘I expect to learn something from you too.’ His way of explaining the often difficult world of conceptual and modern art was so right and refreshing. It gave us all both freedom and responsibility. He said, ‘there is no wrong way to look at art.’

At the same time, he gave us clues to how to look and think. I think we all thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Instead of trying to convey my interpretation of some of the pieces, I urge you to go and see for yourselves. And be surprised.

Bente Brandt

The Forum Singers’ Spring Concert

Spring had certainly sprung when the Forum Singers held their annual concert. This year, they were back at Vestre Aker Menighetshus and were able to entertain us with a very varied repertoire, with lots of lovely solos! And they had of course included the always popular sing-along.

The new conductor, Eva Landro, did a wonderful solo, as did the new pianist Margrete Moen Birkedal. The choir was also accompanied by their usual pianist Synnøve Lockert.

The concert was followed by a very nice drinks reception. Well done, and ‘Thank you for the music.’

Berit Lindstrøm

Issued by the Board of the International Forum

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President:	Berit Lindstrøm

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