



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

**October
NEWSLETTER
10/2017**

2	Forum Diary
3	President's Page
4	From the Board
4	Membership Fee
5	Coming Events
8	Activities
10	Reports
18	Winter Time

Number 45



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

P.O. Box 1505 Vika, 0117 Oslo, Norway

Org.nr. 994 566 806

Visiting address

Telephone

Office email

Office hours

Office Administrator

Office Team

Treasurer

Auditor

Website

Arbins gt. 2, Victoria Passasjen, 5th floor

22 83 62 90

int.forum@online.no

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 - 12

Gunvor Klaveness

Lillan Akcora, Sigrid Langebrekke,

Kirsten Wensell

Vicky Alme

Karin Skoglund

www.iforum.no

Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
November 6	Dr. Marit Melhuus on Egg Donation	18:45	5
November 16	Marit Roland at Bærum Kunsthall, Fornebu	11:45	7
November 29	Christmas Lunch at Oslo Military Society	11:15	6
December 11	Christmas Meeting	18:45	8

From the President



Dear Members,

WOW is all I can say! International Forum members have just proven themselves to be formidable contenders on the running course! I congratulate all of those who participated in the Oslo Marathon's 10-km race, as part of the 'Ambassadors for Peace' team. What personal and collective challenges you have made! And what results!

A very special thank you goes to Anita Pratap, who through her work with the Corps Diplomatique did a great job in coordinating this event for our members. Well done Anita! Also, a big thank you goes to the Ambassadors who participated, and were kind enough to allow our IF members to join them. Thank you all! Team spirit, personal endurance, set goals, and a sense of just having fun were clearly evident in this Oslo event. I hope that this can be a yearly tradition for IF members. Maybe we will have even more participants next year... ?

Apropos participation, I hope that by now you have joined at least one Activity Group this autumn, or have signed up for one of our trips to an art exhibition or an excursion. We also have a host of inspiring speakers at our Monthly Meetings, so please come and enjoy everything IF has to offer!

Finally I am happy to tell you that our President is gradually recovering from her illness and she asked me to pass on the following message:

'My warmest greetings to all IF members. I am still alive and kicking and I'm planning to stay alive and kick for some time yet.' Siri Frigaard

Finally,

Best regards,

Sally Bergan
Acting President

F R O M T H E B O A R D

New Treasurer Needed

At the next AGM in June 2018, our Treasurer, Vicky Alme, will step down. International Forum is therefore looking for someone who is willing to take over her position from next summer. However, it would be helpful if a candidate is available before then, as this will allow time for Vicky to explain the accounting system and to go through the other tasks that the Treasurer performs. These include:

- a) a weekly follow up of the Forum's income and payments, registering these in our book-keeping system (Admin 123)
- b) a monthly summary (from Admin 123), with a monthly résumé for the Board, in agreement with the accountant/auditor
- c) a presentation of points of interest in the monthly account at the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- d) the preparation and submission of the Treasurer's Report at the Annual General Meeting

We are looking for someone who has good general computer skills, some idea of book-keeping and likes working with numbers. If you are able to help us with this key post or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Acting President Sally Bergan
- Treasurer Vicky Alme



Membership Fee - A last Reminder

To those members who have **NOT** yet paid the membership fee for 2017 – 2018, this is a last written reminder to do so.

We must regretfully inform you that if we do not hear from you within the next few days, you will no longer receive the Newsletter and your membership of International Forum will come to an end. (Statutes § 2.2)

If you wish to avoid this, please make your payment immediately to bank account no.: The fee is **NOK 500,-** for full members and **NOK 200,-** for overseas or associate members.

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Dr. Marit Melhuus on Egg Donation and the Biotechnology Law



Dr. Marit Melhuus is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo. She has worked in Argentina and Mexico, and published extensively on issues concerning development, economic anthropology, gender, and morality. During recent years, her research has focused on the meanings of kinship, biotechnology and legislative processes in Norway, in a comparative perspective.

She has recently participated in two major collaborative research projects: The transnational flow of concepts and substances (financed by the Norwegian Research Council) and The Public Understanding of Genetics (financed by the EU). Publications from these projects cover topics such as kinship, problems of conception, reproductive technologies, and legal anthropology.

Dr. Melhuus has been Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Oslo, Head of Department and also a member of the University Board. She will talk about the ethical and legal implications of egg donation.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **November 6** at **18:45** for (19:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Welcome to Christmas Lunch at Oslo Military Society Assembly Rooms and Conference Centre



Oslo Militære Samfund is a Norwegian society of military commissioned officers. It publishes a journal which focuses on information about and awareness of matters relating to the Norwegian military forces. The society arranges speeches, lectures and discussions.

Situated in Kvadraturen, close to the city centre, the Society's own building was designed by the famous architect Wilhelm von Hanno and built in 1878. It is now amongst Oslo's more stylish conference centres and assembly rooms. Both the Swedish and the Norwegian Kings have always been faithful members of the Society. The present King and the Queen are Honorary Members.

Today, the building is the most fantastic venue and is not exclusively reserved for officers. The halls can be rented by anyone who would like something special – and the Special Event Group wants something very special!

On arrival at 11:30, we shall first have a guided tour of the historical rooms – a tour through history with our host and restaurant manager Rolf Wenstad. We shall see portraits dating back to the 1600s, military tabs, banners and weapon collections.

The guided tour starts at 11:30. After our guided tour, we will be served a three-course meal, consisting of Jerusalem artichoke soup, Provençale beef tenderloin, apple cake with ice cream. This will be accompanied by two glasses of wine and coffee. Owing to the busy pre-Christmas season, we shall have to leave the premises by 15:00.

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, **November 29** at 11:15. *For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

ART COMMITTEE



The Art Committee invites you to a visit to the Bærum Kunsthall to see the works of Marit Roland. Marit is an exciting and accomplished artist who has become well known with her paper drawings, and her incredible installations. This is paper folding or drawing in a different way. At Blaafarveværket, she has had an exhibition all summer. Now she will be

at Fornebu. Here the artist will tell us more about herself and her work.

Afterwards, we will be able to visit some of the other artist studios where she is well known. You might enjoy her excellent videos as well.

TIME/DATE: Thursday, **November 16** at 11:45

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

This year, the Christmas meeting has been scheduled for **December 11** instead of the first Monday of the month. More information in the November *Newsletter*. Please reserve the date!

A C T I V I T I E S

International Book Club I

In **October**, we are reading *The Handmaid's Tale* by the Canadian author Margaret Atwood. In **November**, we shall read *Sky Burial* by Xue Xinran.

Contact Marit Wright.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

International Book Club II

So far this year, we have read the following books: *All the Lights We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr; *Just Kids* by Patti Smith; *Days of Abandonment* by Elena Ferrante; and *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery.

The October club will be on October 19 at Irina's. We shall discuss *Beauty is a Wound* by Eka Kurniawan. On November 23, we shall meet at Soo Eng's and discuss *The Way to Paradise* by Varga Llosa.

For more information, please contact Signe Lise Howell.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Cooking Group I

We had a wonderful start at Ruth's. We really enjoyed the Italian food. A big *thanks!* to our hostess.

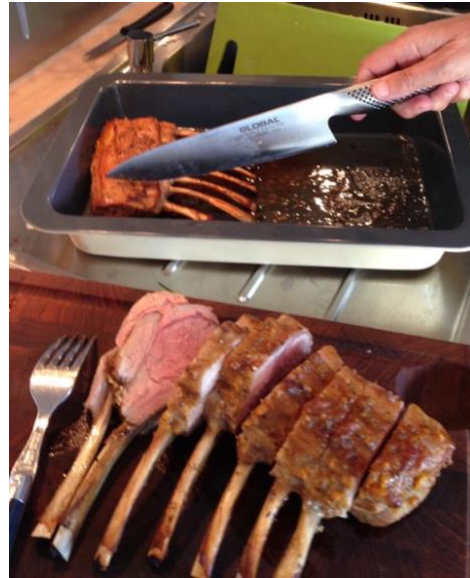


The next meeting will take place at Trine Westborg's home.

Liss Laan

Cooking Group II

We thank Gerd Berit Lavik for housing the group at her home in September. The meal consisted of rack of lamb with red wine sauce, baked root vegetables, and mashed potatoes. It was a joint venture in which we all participated. One of us was the sauce master, another the vegetable cook, and the hostess roasted the rack of lamb to perfection! The result was superb and we all had lots of fun!



Please contact Gerd Berit if you would like to join us! The next meeting will be on **November 8** at 14:00 at the home of Rita Aars-Nicolaysen. Gerd Berit

October Monthly Bridge

The October Bridge will take place on Wednesday, **October 18** at 10:30. Inger Støtvig is the hostess.

Inger Støtvig

R E P O R T S

OSLO MARATHON: AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE

‘It Was Such Fun!’

That was the unanimous reaction of the members of the ‘Ambassadors of Peace\ Team after they completed the 10 km run in the Oslo Marathon. It was the first time the International Forum organised this Team and it turned out to be a fantastic event, with even the weather turning from beastly to beautiful, a perfect mild and sunny day, encouraging us all in our worthy endeavour.

Says Canadian Ambassador Artur Wilczynski, ‘What a wonderful opportunity to get together with other diplomatic and international friends here in Oslo to

promote such a great issue – Ambassadors for Peace. The Marathon brought us together – young and young at heart – to show that fitness and diplomacy do go hand in hand.’ Observes James DeHart, the US Head of Mission: ‘We enjoyed taking part in the 10-km run honouring Grete Waitz, the great Norwegian runner, in support of peace.’

The Ambassador of Ireland, Karl Gardner, was the top runner of our team clocking in at 46m 58s, closely followed by the Ambassador of Canada, Artur Wilcynski at 48m 34s. Their achievement is truly impressive, given that the winner of the 10-km run, who did it in 30 minutes, is only about 25 years old. Nearly 16,000 people participated in the different categories of the Oslo Marathon. Men outperformed women in our team. The US Head of Mission, James DeHart, and Croatian Ambassador Hrvoje Marusic did the circuit in just one hour. Among the women, the Ambassador of Serbia, Suzanna Prodanovic, was the fastest at 1h 9m, followed by Philippines Chargé d’Affaires Maria Algabre at 1h 11m.



The runners before start

In a sentiment shared by all Ambassadors, Serbian Ambassador Prodanovic observes ‘Running for world peace is a noble cause to which we have dedicated our professional lives, so it was not difficult to motivate us to demonstrate our strong beliefs in the victory of global peace in spite of all challenges, in such an amusing and wonderful manner like running a 10-km race.’ Diplomatic spouses Maeve, Jelena and Lisa – representing Ireland, Croatia and the United States respectively – finished together in 1h 15m. Among our Forum Members, Sissel Lindeman was the fastest at 1h 19m. As for the rest of us, we did it in... *never mind!* The important thing is that all of us completed the race well before the 1h 45m deadline.



The Grand Finale was the arrival at the finishing line of the South African Ambassador Queen Anne Zondo, who is also the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. The moment was immortalised on the billboards. Says Ambassador Zondo, ‘It was a fantastic event. I will remember this wonderful day for the rest of my life.’

While the Canadian and Irish Ambassadors are regular joggers, most of us aren’t. But as Ambassador Prodanovic notes ‘We all share the value of the famous De Couberten’s slogan - *It is important to participate.*’ A few Forum members were participating in the Oslo Marathon for the first time. Says Mona Reinboth “It was a fantastic event, we had nice-

looking T-shirts, lively atmosphere among our group; it was very inspiring to try this out.’

A few had trained more vigorously than others, especially Soo Lan Høegh Henrichsen (*previous page*) who showed amazing determination. Some of us had only one goal – not to drop dead like the original marathoner Pheidippides, who in 490 BC collapsed after running to Athens!



Team members at the finishing line with the Marathon medals

So it’s no wonder that there was such jubilation when we met each other at the finish line. It was a triumphant moment, a mood of celebration, each one of us glowing with a tremendous sense of achievement. ‘Tusen tusen takk. It was the best of memories,’ says Nancy Rosignol, Ambassador of Belgium. The Forum’s Marathon Team was born out of an effort by the departing Ambassador of Iraq, Sundus Ali, who organised a peace run for Iraq in last year’s marathon. I took the idea forward by creating the “Ambassadors for Peace” Team with the Oslo

Marathon organisers. After all, with the Nobel Peace Prize, Oslo is the peace capital of the world, global peace is a paramount issue, and Ambassadors are dedicated to peace. Supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Forum – with its foundational commitment to peace and connecting cultures – was the natural platform for the Team.

All Team participants are very appreciative of this programme says Croatian Ambassador Marusic. ‘This was real fun and I hope we can start planning next year's 20-km run.’ He is joking of course. Twenty kilometres? Doubtful. But 10 km for sure! Most of us are inclined to agree with USA’s James DeHart, who says with his characteristic humour: ‘I learned that 10k is the absolute farthest I can run. Good thing it wasn’t 11 km!’



The star runners Ambassadors of Ireland and Canada (in the maple-leaf baseball cap)



The initiative was enthusiastically approved by the Forum’s Board. There were hiccups, but persistence did pay off. Thanks to lead marathon manager Julie’s amazing support, patience and dedication, the team formation, registration and participation took place without any glitches. Thanks again to the creative and diligent Louise, who helped me design our Team T-shirt! The Ambassadors of Hungary, Morocco, Thailand and United Kingdom, who were enthusiastic Team supporters, had to opt out at the last minute for reasons ranging from travel to injury. Despite that, our “Ambassadors for Peace Team” comprised a rainbow coalition of Heads of Mission representing multiple continents – America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

H.E. Ms Ali and Ms. Zondo

A great *Thank you!* for the enthusiasm of the Ambassadors and our IF runners; we plan to make this an annual event!

Supports Dean of Ambassadors, Zondo: “I hope even more Ambassadors join next year's marathon. The world may seem divided and conflict-ridden at times, but there is so much more that unites us than divides us. Sport can be a universal language, a bridge builder. Together we must strive for a peaceful, sustainable planet.”

Anita Pratap

MONTHLY MEETING

Per Egil Hegge on the peculiarity of the Norwegian Soul

On the first Monday of October, an almost fully packed hall listened to Per Egil Hegge talk about the peculiarities of the Norwegian soul, or typical ‘Norwegianness’, as he called it. Norwegians are a bit of a mystery to foreigners living among us; they are outright baffled by some of the things we do and say.

He drew lines to the folk tales and to children’s literature. Especially the infamously lazy Ash Lad, who always seem to succeed, despite his nonchalant attitude. The Ash Lad spends all day picking through the ashes for want of something more useful to do. He is a far cry from the industrious but disowned Cinderella, who toils and toils to no avail, and who needs the interference of a good fairy to get on in life.

The less than assiduous Ash Lad seems destined for triumph no matter what. According to Mr. Hegge, this reflects the idea of entitlement that seems to permeate Norwegian society. Even if you don’t work, you will be rewarded... The Ash Lad, the boy from nowhere, is typical of the Norwegian mentality and the sense of social opportunity. The Ash Lad ends up with the princess and a great deal of wealth. All of this without really putting in a day of hard work...



Mr. Per Egil Hegge with Ruth Klungsøyr and Sally Bergan

Mr. Hegge talked about the Norwegian obsession with snow and skiing, and how mastering skiing and winter is important for anyone who wants to become

integrated into Norwegian society. Even the royals needed to conform to the favourite pastime of skiing.

Throughout Mr. Hegge's speech, Forum members were laughing and giggling, apparently recognising many of the features described by Mr. Hegge, who also touched upon the dissolution of the union with Sweden and the modern oil adventure.

A very pleasant evening, indeed!

Elizabeth Rasmussen

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Aas Gaard and Raasjøen Hunting Lodge

On a rather gloomy September morning, a group of forty-six Forum members and guests boarded the bus at Frognerparken. Our destination was Aas Gaard in Hakadal. On the way up, it poured with rain so we could hardly see, but Committee member Rosemary Hauge tried to point out places of interest along our route. We cheered ourselves up by singing 'Kjerringa med staven' – a folk song from Hakadal.

When we arrived at Aas Gaard, the rain had almost stopped and the rest of the day was fine. The owners of Aas Gaard, the golf course and the surrounding estate, Thomas N. Fearnley and his wife Sissel, were there to greet us as we dismounted from the bus.



Our hostess and host



The Manor House

Our first stop was the '19th hole' – the café used by the golfers. This building was originally a carpenters' shed. Here we enjoyed a most welcome cup of coffee and fresh homemade Viennese pastries while Thomas Fearnley talked to us about his property: Jørgen Young bought the estate in 1860 and Thomas is

the fifth generation of the Young-Fearnley family. He and his wife took over the estate in 1974. Their two sons are also involved in the running of the business.

After the coffee break, Thomas Fearnley and Sissel joined us on the bus for the twenty kilometre drive to Raasjøen Jaktslott, their hunting lodge, approximately 500 metres above sea level. The woodland countryside, dotted with small lakes, was beautiful with autumn colours. Our driver, Jan, expertly manoeuvred our large bus along this forest road with its partly muddy surface, sharp bends and steep hills. Even Thomas was impressed by his driving skills.

On the way, Thomas told us some more about Raasjøen. The forest comprises sixty thousand decares of land. It has belonged to Aas Gaard since 1768. Various activities in the forest provide sources of income – timber, fishing in the lakes, hunting – especially for elk – and the renting of Raasjøen Jaktslott for events. One of the waterfalls was a source of hydro-electric power for the estate. Thomas also told us how, under the Second World War, this area was a centre for the underground movement. His own grandmother was active and Raasjøen Jaktslott was a meeting place for leaders of the resistance movement.



Upon arrival at Raasjøen, we admired the hunting lodge with its surrounding buildings, which had various functions: Stables, slaughterhouse, garage, accommodation for the staff, etc. – handsome buildings in dark brown wood with red and blue details. The architects Morgenstjerne and Eide designed the lodge, which was completed in 1916, and Thomas' grandparents lived there until 1925, when they moved to Aas Gaard.

We went inside and were overwhelmed by the richly decorated interior full of antique furniture and artefacts in Norwegian 'country/farm' style. Thomas pointed out items of special interest and then we wandered round the lodge, went upstairs, marvelling at the bedrooms where the beds and walls were all decorated with 'marbled' paintwork.

Raasjøen Jaktslott has received many prominent persons throughout its history, including royalty. It has also been the venue for other 'happenings'. The well-known film 'Bør Børson' was filmed here. Actor Rolf Wesenlund had the main part and Thomas Fearnley was an extra. Raasjøen Jaktslott also featured in the

NRK television series 'Herskapelig' ('Stylish') with Toppen Bech as host of the programme. See: <https://tv.nrk.no/serie/herskapelig/fuha63000898/16-01-1999>

One of the most important events of the year, during the years 1945 to 1962, was the annual gathering of celebrities, artists, poets, and authors for a 'cultural week' at Raasjøen. Famous names are Prins Eugen, Henrik Sørensen, Harald Kihle, Willy Middelfart, author Pär Lagerquist, who wrote *Barrabas* here, to mention but a few.

Afterwards we went for a short walk accompanied by Sissel Fearnley, who pointed out Raasjøstua which is open in the winter for cross country skiers. Here, one can buy refreshments, for example, hot dogs made with the famous Raasjøen elk sausage. Raasjøen Jaktslott may be hired for events at which Sissel herself is a very active hostess.



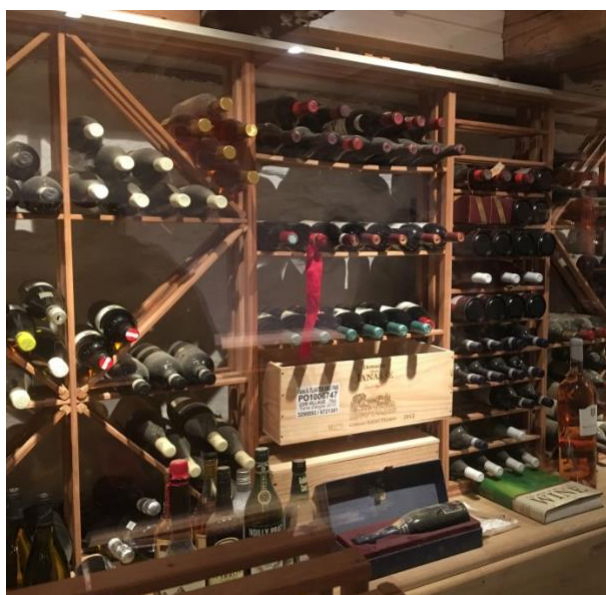
Then it was time for lunch and we drove back to Aas Gaard. The speciality of the house was waiting for us: hot elk sausage with fried potatoes and salad. Delicious! While we were eating, Thomas told us a bit about the manor house, Aas Gaard. This manor, dating back to the 1770s, was originally built in 'stave construction' (as in 'stave church'). However, Jørgen Young had it pulled down around 1890 and rebuilt a house in Italianate style by architect Harald Olsen.

After lunch we went inside the manor, which is the home of Thomas and Sissel Fearnley. Imagine living in such wonderful surroundings: every wall covered in paintings by famous artists, many by the family artist Thomas Fearnley, (1802 – 1842), beautiful antique furniture and artefacts, and a magnificent view to the Romerike hills and Varingskollen. It has to be admitted that a section of the building has been modernised, including an up-to-date kitchen! Thomas, who was an only child, told stories from his childhood at Aas Gaard. For example, under the Second World War, when Thomas was nine years old, he and his family went to live at Raasjøen for some years while Aas Gaard was occupied by the Germans. Thomas and Sissel showed us around the house, including the well-stocked wine cellar!

Thomas told us about the paintings, portraits and the interiors, and items such as the bust of Fritjof Nansen, who was a regular visitor. The 'Young-Fearnley

crowd' was made up of many prominent persons who spent time at Aas Gaard: royalty, artists, scientists, explorers – the celebrities of the day. Before we left the manor, Astri Sunde of the Special Events Committee, who had organised this visit, thanked our hosts with a bottle of real champagne!

No Forum bus trip is complete without an opportunity to shop, and we made our way to the pro shop which sells golf and sports items. A lot of the goods were on sale, which was popular. Thomas Fearnley introduced us to his younger son, Arnstein, who is the Course Manager of Aas Gaard Golfpark with its 18-hole course.



The Wine Cellar and a Collection of Antique Glass

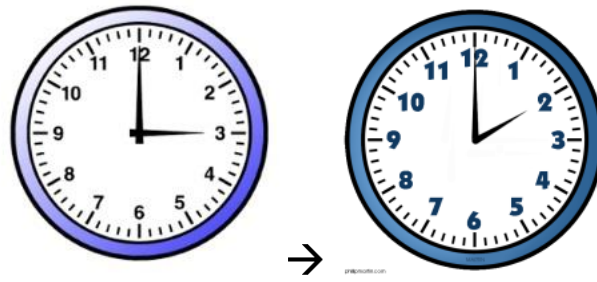
Then it was time to leave and Thomas and Sissel waved us goodbye. We could see that there was a lot of work involved in keeping Aas Gaard and Raasjøen up to scratch, but the Fearnley family are doing a good job.

On our way home, Wenche Mohr, leader of the Special Events Committee, thanked everyone for a lovely day; the Committee members for their work and for the home-baked buns that we had enjoyed on the bus; and Jan, for excellent driving. We all went home with wonderful memories of Aas Gaard and Raasjøen, both very special places.

Rosemary Hauge

Winter Time

Summer is now definitely over and winter time starts on October 28
Please put your watch **back one hour** between 02:00 and 03:00.



Issued by the Board of the International Forum

Dispatch:	Dispatch team
Editor and Layout:	Elizabeth Rasmussen and Editorial Team
Editorial Team:	Elspeth Walseth and Patricia Blackwell
Acting President:	Sally Bergan

The Editor and the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit all material.
Printed by Utenriksdepartementets Hustrykkeri.
October 19, 2017