



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

**December
NEWSLETTER
12/2017**

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Number 427



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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
January 8	Monthly Meeting - Marit Nybakk	18:45	5
January 11	Marina Abramovic at Henie-Onstad	11:45	7
January 25	Visit to the Salvation Army	10:45	6

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:

From the President



Dear Members,

As I look out my window I think about how a good dusting of snow can create a magical landscape – a dreamland. It comes with a promise of a soft, clean white downy blanket that conceals and protects the earth. Despite the cold and relative inconvenience new fallen snow can bring, it also brightens the short days of winter, invigorates the senses and awakens the childlike wonder in us. We all fall under the spell of new snow – that special gift of winter we anticipate each year.

The sight of snow gently falling can also create a sense of inner peace. Whether we get the gift of an abundant snowfall this winter or we don't, I wish you all a joyous holiday season – a magical dreamland full of brightness that provides you with a sense of inner peace and happiness.

As Acting President, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks to all those who have worked so diligently to keep the IF an effective, dynamic and vibrant organisation: the Office Administrator and the Office Team, the Editor and Editorial team, the Dispatch team, the Treasurer, the Auditor, the Executive Committee leaders and their teams and, of course, the Board. Your work is very much appreciated!

Finally, it's you, our members, who have participated in the various activities, exhibitions, excursions and events throughout the year, from Munch to the Marathon. Many thanks to you all for your great interest and enthusiasm.

Happy Holidays!

Sally Bergan

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Bergan".

Acting President

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I am happy to tell you that I feel considerably better. I still have a way to go before I am able to come home, but I have started to meet with friends and participate in arrangements outside the hospital. By the time that you get this *Newsletter*, many of you will have seen me at the Christmas meeting!

‘The art of living is to make a bad thing into a good thing.’ -- Mao Tse-Tung

Best regards,
Siri Frigaard

FROM THE OFFICE

How to Sign up for an Event in StyreWeb

Migrating to a new data syst/software will simplify the administrative process at the Office and enable our members to interact directly with the new system, StyreWeb.

When you sign up for a meeting or event please following the procedure:

Type the link into your internet browser and wait for the StyreWeb page to come up. You will now see the event that you may sign up for.

- Click **Next** at the bottom right corner of the screen. The event will then be reposted.
- Click **Next** at the bottom right corner of the screen to proceed to the next page.
- Do **not** enter your name or membership number. Just enter your **mobile** number in the box marked for this.
- Then click **Send Code**. Stay on the page.
- A **verification code** will be sent to your mobile phone.
- Enter the **verification code** in the verification code box.
- Then click **Verify**.
- Your contact information will appear on the screen. Click **Next**.
- You are now registered, and StyreWeb will be updated automatically.
- A **receipt** will be sent to your e-mail. Open your email and click on the ‘Åpne deltakerbevis’ link.

For those who find it easier to interact personally with the Office, please email or call us to sign up, and we will update StyreWeb accordingly.

COMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

Marit Nybakk on the Norwegian Election System



Marit Nybakk is a Norwegian politician, a former First Vice-President of the Norwegian Parliament.

A pragmatic social democrat, she became a Member of Parliament in 1986 as the substitute for Gro Harlem Brundtland when the latter became Prime Minister.

She did not stand for re-election in 2017. At that point she was both Norway's longest-serving Member of Parliament and the longest-serving woman of all time. Ms Nybakk served as President of the Nordic Council for the 2013 term.

Ms Nybakk has been one of the Labour Party's principal politicians in foreign and defence affairs since the 1990s and has been her party's spokesperson on defence. She was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence between 2001 and 2005 and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs between 2005 and 2009. She is a former leader of the Socialist Group in the Nato Parliamentary Assembly.

She will talk about the Norwegian election system.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **January 8** at **18:45** for (19:00)

For more information, please contact IF Office.

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.

The Salvation Army is a worldwide organisation founded in 1865 in London by Catherine and William Booth. It has a military structure and organisation and aims to bring salvation to the poor, destitute and hungry by caring for the *whole* human being – for their physical and spiritual needs: *Soup, Soap, and Salvation*. The title of the international leader is ‘General’.

The first Norwegian Salvation Army unit was established in Oslo in 1888. The Territorial Headquarters for the Salvation Army in Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Norway is located right here in Oslo.



Their Christmas tree at the University Square is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. The Salvation Army encourages people to leave gifts under the tree and money in the traditional red Christmas kettle.

The Army's thrift store, known as Fretex, is a second-hand store where street people and people with different needs get job training and where the public can hand in or buy clothes and furniture, among other things.

At the headquarters, we shall learn more about the organisation, how it works

ART COMMITTEE

Marina Abramovic at the Henie-Onstad Museum

January 11, 2018



Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter opens the doors to Abramovic's critically acclaimed retrospective museum exhibition, *The Cleaner*. This exhibition first opened at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm in spring 2017 and will travel to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen next spring.

This will be the most extensive presentation of Marina Abramovic's works in Norway ever. 'We are very proud to take this exhibition to Norway,' says Director

Tone Hansen at Henie Onstad Kunstsenter.

In line with Henie Onstad Kunstsenter's history, the exhibition will present several of Abramovic's performances throughout her artistic career. More than 120 works from five decades are on display. This is a unique opportunity to connect with Marina Abramovic and her artwork.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **January 11** at 11:45 for 12:00

For more information, please contact IF Office.

ACTIVITIES

Cooking Group I



A very special cooking morning took place at Birgitt's home. She presented traditional Danish recipes and Soen Eng presented us with a traditional Indonesian dish. What a joint venture and a wonderful pre-Christmas meeting!

A big thank you to all of our members for the fun we have and of course the many good recipes throughout the year. Wishing you a Merry Holiday Season and a wonderful 2018!

Liss R. Laan

For more information, please contact IF Office.

Cooking Group II



Many thanks to Rita who held the November gathering. As usual, it was teamwork in the kitchen. The first gathering in 2018 will take place on Wednesday, **February 7** at **14:00** at the home of Anita Solheim.

For more information, please contact IF Office.

International Book Club II



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

For more information, please contact IF Office.

Photo Club



In January, we are fortunate enough to have a professional photographer coming to our workshop. 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!

For more information, please contact IF Office.

REPORTS

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING Dr. Marit Melhuus on Assisted Fertilisation



Dr. Marit Melhuus is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo. Her talk on the Norwegian Biotechnology Act was very interesting. Norway has one of the most restrictive laws in Europe (along with Italy and Germany) when it comes to this field. The law forbids both egg donation and surrogacy; and sperm donation was permitted with known donor sperm only in 2003. This legislation is based on the precautionary principle in health care: better safe than sorry.

With her anthropological background, Dr. Melhuus has studied how cultural values and practices related to kinship, parenthood and marriage have influenced the lawmakers' decisions in regulating which reproductive technologies should be available in Norway. The law, Dr. Melhuus points out, addresses values tied to the creation of families and the tension between biological origin and social belonging. By regulating the access to reproductive technologies, the state also influences the developments in science and technology in this field. A restrictive law can – to a certain extent – give rise to 'fertility tourism', meaning that individuals may look for help in other countries.

Couples who bypass the law by seeking assisted conception abroad might run into legal difficulties pertaining to parenthood, mainly because of the way the father and mother of a child are defined in Norwegian law. When it comes to the notion of parenthood, Norwegian men and women are not treated equally. A couple can travel abroad to have a donor egg which will be fertilized with the husband's or a donor's sperm, and then implanted into the woman's uterus. Coming back to Norway and giving birth, she will then be considered being the mother of the child.



According to Norwegian law, the woman who gives birth to a child is automatically considered the child's mother. If, for example, a woman's egg is fertilized with her husband's sperm and implanted in a surrogate mother, the surrogate mother will be considered to be the mother

according to the current legislation (because she gave birth) and the husband will be considered the biological father (because his sperm was used). The woman who provided the egg (the true biological mother) has no status as mother. The egg donor could – nevertheless – adopt the child later.

Dr. Melhuus described the legislative processes and how they mirror the socio-cultural process. ‘Laws can be viewed as a system of cultural meanings,’ she said. In Norway, biological relatedness is privileged. At the same time, however, there is acceptance for social parenthood. New technology and public acceptance of these technologies will continue to influence the legislative processes to come.

Very interesting, indeed!

Anita Solheim

ART COMMITTEE
Marit Roland and Rina Charlott Lindgren

Variations in Folds



This small exhibit has a BIG message... There is so much to study, to see and to ponder upon!

The Gallery has a tale to tell, too. It was first the fire station of the old Fornebu Airport: so very small and so very basic...

Marit had two installations.

I became more and more fascinated by the folds and by the transformation of each fold. White against white against white ... not white at all!

Paper – made from trees after all – made into rolls that fall into new shapes, becomes recreated, taking back Nature and thus becoming *ART*.



The exhibition was well set up by the curator, who brought us more food for thought, things to ponder and reflect upon. Rina Charlott had blackened the paper with graphite and then, amongst her folds, had added some surprises for us to think about. She used very special frames that also became part of the art work.

I give thanks to Forum Friends New and Old and to the Art Committee fellows!

Elizabeth Bøhn

FROM THE BOARD



The Board Members and Deputies 2017 – 2018

Wish you all the best for the coming festive season!

AROUND OSLO

Toboggan at Frognerseteren



Monday – Friday: 10:00 – 21:00

Saturday: 09:00 – 21:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 18:00

Oslo's most popular toboggan run starts at Frognerseteren and ends at Midtstuen metro station. At the end of a run, you can take a 16-minute metro ride back up to Frognerseteren for another go.

Korktrekkeren (the ‘Corkscrew’) is 2,000 metres long, and the elevation drop is 255 metres. One non-stop ride takes 8–10 minutes.

Note: Korktrekkeren is of course only open when there is enough snow in the area. The trail needs approximately 12 inches of snow.

Sled and equipment rental

Sled riding in Korktrekkeren is free, but sled rental costs NOK 100–150 per day. You can also bring your own sled.

Get some fresh air during the holidays!

Issued by the Board of the International Forum

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