



**INTERNATIONAL FORUM**  
**OSLO, NORWAY**

**May**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**05/2020**

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**Number 454**



## INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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<b>Activities</b>	Anita Solheim

### Forum Diary

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Page</i>
June 08	Annual General Meeting		<i>Electronically</i>

### THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

For the **June Newsletter** is Wednesday, **May 28**. Please send your contribution to Elizabeth S. Rasmussen and to [int.forum@online.no](mailto:int.forum@online.no).

## From the President



Dear Members,

We are in an unprecedented, unpredictable situation. The world-wide disruption caused by the corona-virus pandemic has impacted the Forum too, with the cancellation of all our events and activities. It has also disrupted our AGM process. For the first time in the Forum's history, we cannot conduct a physical AGM. An internet video AGM is doable, but will be challenging for some of our members. So, the Board decided to conduct the process electronically via email. Details are provided inside.

The Forum has robust procedures to conduct an AGM efficiently. But when we must adapt and introduce a new mechanism, there are issues, consequences and disadvantages to anticipate and minimize. The AGM preparations had to be done without physical meetings. Online video conferencing has helped tremendously, but is no substitute for physical meetings.

The electronic AGM is made possible due to the flexibility and hard work of our team. Patricia Blackwell strengthened the process with her institutional experience. Elspeth Walseth, Dorota Steensland and Elizabeth Rasmussen were pillars of support. Ellen Vollebæk started early and has done a fantastic job as the Nomination Committee leader. An important part of this AGM is thanking our outgoing office bearers for their outstanding contributions and welcoming their excellent successors. This will be done at our first physical assembly.

The new, electronic process is far from perfect, but we have tried to be true to the spirit of our statutes and AGM guidelines. The most important part is to include as many members as possible. We have also reached out to those without email.

Each and every member is the Forum's precious asset. The Forum is what connects us all. It's comforting to remember this, especially in this time of disconnection.

Best Regards,

Anita Pratap  
President

*C O M I N G   E V E N T S*  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday, June 08**

The Annual General Meeting cannot be held at Vinderen Seniorsenter as usual because of current restrictions. However, with the help of you, our members, the Board proposes to conduct it using email.

The Agenda, list of proposals from the Nomination Committee, the proposals and appointments made by the Board are included in this *May Newsletter* (pages 4 – 6). The Annual Report 2019 – 2020, the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report will be sent concurrently in a separate email.

**Please read through these documents. It is important that we hear from you whether or not you approve of the points on the Agenda.** Just send an email marked AGM to [int.forum@online.no](mailto:int.forum@online.no) with one of the following texts, before **May 25**.

- I :    I approve the proposals made in all 9 items on the Agenda
- II :   I approve the proposals made in all 9 items on the Agenda, apart from item x, which I think .....

**NB: The Annual General Meeting is for full members only**

**The Board**



## Farewell from the Forum Singers

The Forum Singers are sad to announce that the choir is closing down. Our present conductor Eva Landro has been offered a position with the professional Edvard Grieg choir in Bergen, starting May 2020. The choir feels that the time has come to ‘call it a day’.

A little bit about the choir’s history: The first Forum choir was started by Margaret Wold, one of the four founders of International Forum. However, after some years it ceased to exist. And in 1998, there was no choir. Jean Brøvig, Forum member, started recruiting members for a new choir, and in the autumn of 1998, the present choir was formed. Our first conductor was Tove Alice Rossow, Forum member and professional pianist, singer and teacher at the Barratt Due Institute of Music.



Holmenkollen Chapel in December 2019



Spring Concert 2019

Our concerts have had varied repertoires; folk songs, pop, jazz, musicals, and classic pieces in different languages. We have put on concerts twice a year, at Christmas and in the spring, always with refreshments and a social gathering afterwards. The choir has given its members a lot of pleasure, and our audiences have always seemed to enjoy the concerts.

Thank you for coming!

*Rosemary Hauge*  
Member of the Forum Singers



## INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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

Date: May 15, 2020