



INTERNATIONAL FORUM OSLO

NEWSLETTER

January 2022
Issue No. 471

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'Why Haven't you Noticed the 6th Extinction?'





INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

For the **February Newsletter** is **Thursday, January 13**. Please send your contribution to Elizabeth S. Rasmussen and to int.forum@online.no.

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



From the President

Dear Members,

Happy New Year!

These three words carry the hope that the New Year will bring happiness. Experience teaches us that every year brings its highs and lows, though some years stand out for the exceptionally good or bad things that happened.

We enter 2022 armed with vaccines, boosters and pills. We hope that the virus variants retreat, vaccine inequality ends, and the economy picks up. These are hopes. No one can be sure. Amidst the uncertainty, it is good to ‘renew’ because then we get the ability to choose what we want to ‘renew’, give it energy, freshness and purpose. We can make things happen instead of waiting for nice things to happen.

One way to ‘renew’ is connecting with one’s roots, remembering the foundation that anchors us and keeps us grounded. During the ‘window of normalcy’ that we had in 2021, we resumed all our activities and added a few more involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diplomatic Community. These are renewed versions of programmes that the Forum organized in the 1980s. Our members still fondly remember these events, learning about Chinese films and Indonesian textiles or participating in music concerts in different embassies. Strong relations with the CD community are our foundational goal.

Despite all the pandemic-related difficulties, we have been mindful of our three main pillars – Members, UD and CD. We recognize the importance of honouring our past, our roots, and our special identity. We are prepared for the future, not because we see the path that lies before us but because we remember the path that brought us here.

I wish you a year of happiness and ‘renewal’!

Regards,

Anita Pratap

President

COMING EVENTS

**THIS LECTURE WAS CANCELLED DUE TO THE CURRENT
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

REMINDER

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Kjell Magne Bondevik



Mr Bondevik is a Norwegian Lutheran Minister and well-known politician. As leader of the Christian Democratic Party, he served as the Prime Minister of Norway from 1997 to 2000, and from 2001 to 2005, making him, after former prime minister Erna Solberg, Norway's second-longest serving non-Labour Party prime minister since World War II.

Currently, Mr Bondevik is President of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Mr Bondevik will talk about the Centre and its mission.

DATE/TIME: **Monday, January 10** at 18:45 for (19:00)

SIGN UP: To **Laila Hægh** by email:

*For more information contact the International
Forum's Office*

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Dr Ross Wetherbee:

‘Why Haven’t you Noticed the 6th Extinction?’

February 7



The Monthly Meeting Committee is proud to invite Forum members and guests to a talk by Dr Ross Wetherby, researcher in ecology and natural resource management at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences at Ås outside Oslo. He has published extensively on the subject and has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF), a Master of Science in Ecology from the NMBU and the University Centre on Svalbard (UNIS). He finished his PhD dissertation in 2021: *Veteran oaks, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in southern Norway*.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **February 07** at 18:45 for (19:00)

SIGN UP: To the Office by email: int.forum@online.no as soon as possible and **no later than Tuesday, February 1**

PLACE: Vinderen Seniorsenter, Slemdalsveien 72, 0373 Oslo

PRICE: NOK 105.- **Please sign up before you pay.** Payment **preferably by bank transfer** to the Forum account: 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747. No cash will be handled at the venue. Please **state the event and your name** in the transaction (in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS).

TRANSPORT: T-Bane 1 to Vinderen. Pay parking until 20:00 in the adjoining area.

GUESTS: Guests are welcome if there is room.

No-shows will be charged.

For last minute cancellations, please call Laila Hægh,

SPECIAL EVENTS

TIMESCAPE 1600-1914

Bygdøy Folkemuseum

February 10



The Special Events Committee welcomes you to *Timescape 1600-1914* at Norsk Folkemuseum. Join us on a journey through time towards modern Norway. Meet merchants and public officials who constituted the Norwegian elite.

Trade, travel and family relations laid the foundation for international networks and cultural exchange. This world-wide interchange shaped daily life and culture in Norway.

The museum has been working on this wonderful exhibition for 10 years. Over 1500 items and 6 authentic interiors from the years between 1600 and 1914 are on display.



Our guide will take us around the exhibition and explain what brought about the changes to the Norwegian way of life during these three centuries. It will be

impossible to study everything in detail as we must follow the guide. We therefore recommend that you spend time at the museum after the tour.

The museum is open until 16:00, so it is possible to have lunch in the museum's café, and then go round again afterwards.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **February 10** at 11:45 (for 12:00).
Please be on time!

SIGN UP: Please sign up to Rosemary Hauge. *For more information contact the International Forum's Office*

PRICE: NOK 225,- This includes guiding and entrance fee. Payment preferably to the Forum bank account: 1600 40 36631, or by VIPPS to 591747. No cash will be handled at the venue. Please state the **event** and **your name** (in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS).

NOTE: Oslo guides are exempt from the entrance fee. Authorised Oslo guides signing up for this event therefore only pay NOK 105,- to International Forum. Your Oslo Guide authorisation must be presented at the ticket desk in the reception area.

PLACE: Norsk Folkemuseum, Museumsveien 10, Bygdøy, 0287 Oslo. We meet up in the reception area, to the left after passing through the main entrance.

TRANSPORT: **Bus no. 30** to Bygdøy is the easiest if you do not drive. It leaves from Nationaltheatret bus stop at 11:28, and stops just outside Norsk Folkemuseum at 11:40.

Car: Pay-parking just opposite the museum. NOTE: This car park is run by Oslo council and **only bank cards and coins** can be used for payment.

LUNCH: Lunch is available in the café at the museum.

Maximum number of participants is 20. Guests are welcome if space is available. Cancellations after the deadline and no-shows will be charged.

Visit to the Deichman Library

January 26



The Special Events Committee has the pleasure of inviting Forum members to a guided tour of the library.

Because many members did not get a place at the last tour in September 2020, we are arranging this new tour. Though this time the guide will be a library employer. The tour will last one hour.

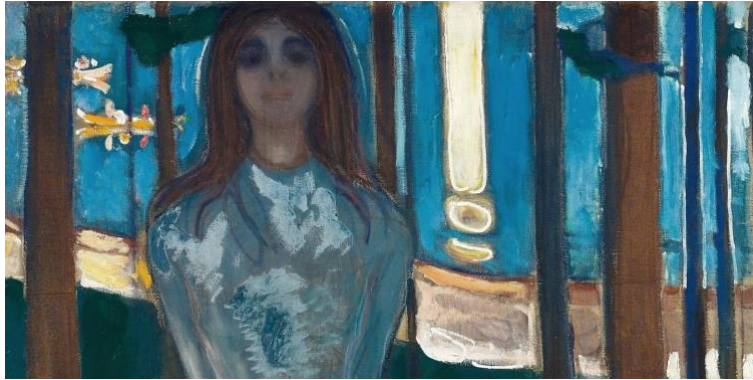
DATE/TIME: Wednesday, January 26, at 14:15 (for 14:30)

SIGN UP: To Åsny Wedege Walters by email.
For last-minute cancellations, please call Mona B. Reinboth
*For more information contact the International
Forum's Office*

ART COMMITTEE

REMINDER Edvard Munch Uendelig

January 13



We are all very excited to experience the new Munch Museum! At this exhibition, we shall be swept into Munch's world in a way that we have perhaps not seen before.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **January 13** at 10:15 for 10:30.

SIGN UP: To **Katarina Plavnikas** soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday, **January 5**. Please **sign up before you pay**. For more information, see the December *Newsletter*.

For more information contact the International Forum's Office

ART COMMITTEE

TBS Gallery

February 17



The Art Committee has the pleasure of inviting you on a guided tour at TBS Gallery. The gallery houses a permanent collection of Tore Bjørn Skjølsvik and shows a selection of sculptures, paintings and drawings by the 82-year-old artist. Recent works includes statues and intense portrayals of famous sport personalities, politicians and royalty. If we are lucky, we may be able to observe Skjølsvik at work in his studio.



The gallery opened in 2019 and is located on a property that includes a villa, a stable and a sculpture garden.

DATE/TIME: **February 17** at 11:45 (for 12:00)

SIGN UP: By email to the office, int.forum@online.no as soon as possible and no later than **February 10**. A confirmation email will be sent to the members with a copy to the **person** in charge of the event.

PLACE: Oscarsgate 23, 0352 Oslo

PRICE: NOK 155.- Preferably by bank payment to the Forum

Account: 1600 40 36631. If this is not possible, by VIPPS to 591747. No cash will be handled during the pandemic. In the transaction, please state **the event** and **your name** in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS.

TRANSPORT: Bus 21, trams 11 and 19 all stop on or near Bogstadveien. The gallery is on the corner of Bogstadveien and Oscarsgate. Maximum 15 participants. Guests are welcome if space available.

Cancellation after the deadline or other changes must be sent ASAP to **Bente Brandt**. *For more information contact the International Forum's Office*

No-shows will be charged.

DIPLOMATIC SALON

Why Edmund Burke is Still Relevant

January 25, 2022 at 16:00

Philosopher and statesman Edmund Burke was born almost 300 years ago, but his political thought still resonates around the world. Born in Ireland and a member of the British Parliament, he rejected American independence, but was sympathetic to the grievances of the colonies. He opposed the French revolution, slave trade and the British East India Company. Burke believed revolutions and imperialism had a way of unleashing monsters. History has proven him right... again and again.

Ambassador Hernández will share his insights on why today's global politics still make Burke relevant.

Remarks by H. E. **Keith McBean**, Ambassador of Ireland; H. E. **Ulises Canchola Gutiérrez**, Ambassador of Mexico; and Mr **José Juan López Portillo**, Counsellor at the Embassy of Mexico in charge of innovation and knowledge economy. He has written a paper on 'Why Read Edmund Burke Today?'



The event is fully booked. If you are confirmed and cannot attend, please email Anita Pratap so that those on the waiting list can be accommodated. If you have not yet paid NOK 95.-, please do so by January 10.

For more information, see the December *Newsletter*.

R E P O R T S

AMBASSADORS' BRIEFING

‘Priorities and Politics – Norway in the UN Security Council’

By

Merete Fjeld Brattested

Director General, Department for Multilateral Affairs
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The UN Security Council chamber: ‘the most important room in the world.’

Picture courtesy: Niels Nagelhus Schia, NUPI

Ahead of Norway taking the rotating presidency in the United Nations Security Council on January 1, 2022, Director General Merete Fjeld Brattested spoke at International Forum’s Ambassadors Briefing on the priorities and politics of Norway in the UN Security Council.

The situation in Syria, Afghanistan, Libya, Myanmar and Ethiopia tops Norway’s agenda during its presidency. Many consultations must be held behind closed doors in order to produce results, but we will also strive for open meetings, said Ms Brattested, a well-known official to the Ambassadors, having served as Chief of Protocol for seven years. Held at BI, the event was attended by the heads of 47 Missions, including 43 Ambassadors.

She expects both Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt to go to New York a few days each to chair Security Council meetings. Norway will put forth some novel issues on the agenda and invite representatives from civil society to brief the council on selected topics, including the rights of women in war and conflicts.



Director General Merete Fjeld Brattested

Politics

During the campaign period, some of the political parties in the Norwegian parliament were sceptical to Norway's membership of the Council for fear of being squeezed by the great powers. Quite the contrary, Ms Brattested said, Norway has very good working relations with all five permanent members of the Council.

'The UN Security Council has always been an arena for great power politics, rivalry and tensions, but despite this, Norway's experience is that the Council members are able to achieve compromise or resolutions on most issues. 'The dynamic is now more constructive and pragmatic than in past years,' she said.

Norway will use its experience in peace facilitation and organise a mini 'Oslo Forum' retreat session outside New York for all 15 permanent and non-permanent Council members to focus on preventing and peacefully resolving conflicts.

Priorities

Norway has a long foreign policy tradition of promoting multilateral cooperation, a rules-based international order, preventive diplomacy and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The **four main priorities** for the work in the Security Council are: peace diplomacy; women, peace and security; protection of civilians and climate

security. ‘When the mandate of a UN peace keeping operation is to be renewed, it is important for us to make sure that full, equal and meaningful participation of women should be reflected in the mandate. The decisions of the Security Council should have a direct impact and benefit the people concerned, Ms Brattested said.



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Merete Fjeld Brattested

Results

In July, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2585, authorising cross-border humanitarian assistance from Turkey into north-west Syria. The Resolution makes it possible for the UN and humanitarian organisations to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to over three million Syrians for one more year. She pointed out this was the first unanimous resolution in five years by the Security Council on Syria, showing how polarised the Syria-discussions on the Security Council have been.

Norway and Ireland cooperate sharing the *co-pen* lead on the Syria humanitarian file. The complex and challenging negotiations were helped by the US and Russia also conducting constructive talks on the text of the resolution. The Norwegian-Irish working method was keeping all members of the Council informed and included throughout the negotiation process. For both Norway and Ireland, it is important not to politicise humanitarian assistance.

Norway’s ‘co-pen’ partnership with Estonia on Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover demonstrated that it is possible for the Council to act decisively with one voice.

Another important result is the unanimous adoption in late October of resolution 2601 on the **Protection of Education in Conflict**. These negotiations led by Norway and Niger, were difficult because some council members were sceptical to adding new normative topics to the agenda that they see as expanding the definition of armed conflict and what constitutes a threat to

international peace and security. For Norway this topic is important. The council has, with this resolution, spoken to the fact that all children and students have the right to an education, even during war and conflict. ‘In order to re-build societies after conflict, education needs to happen during conflict or you risk losing a generation. As co-sponsors of this resolution, 99 countries signed,’ she said.

‘The long-term Permanent Five Members in the UN have systemic advantages over the short-term 10 Elected Members. Small countries have different expectations from the UN.’

Niels Nagelhus Schia ’



After Director General Bratt tested senior NUPI researcher Niels Nagelhus Schia spoke on consensus building in the UN. Words like *horseshoe* and *catwalk* are associated with good luck and fashion. But Schia used these words to explain how power is really exercised within the Security Council chamber, which was furnished by Norway and designed by leading Norwegian architect, Arnstein Rynning Arneberg. The chamber is easily identified by its famous central horseshoe-shaped table. A large mural by Norwegian artist, Per Lasson Krogh, symbolizing the promise of future peace and individual freedom, dominates the east wall.

The system is such that the Permanent Five, which Schia calls ‘Repeat Players’ have entrenched advantages as they know how to work the system and are long-term players with tremendous experience acquired over decades. He calls the elected members who have two-year terms – ‘one shotters’ – who lack these advantages because their tenure is short term. But, he says, the system is nuanced and offers opportunities for flexibility and creativity to further one’s agenda.

After the presentations, a lively discussion followed with ambassadors including Mexico’s and Egypt’s offering their nation’s visions and methodologies that differed from the industrialized west’s. The role of NGOs is considered inclusive in some countries, but in others it is seen as divisive, especially because some NGOs are foreign-funded. It was fascinating to listen to the differing points of view, almost resembling a mini-Security Council session.

Only the painting and the horseshoe table were missing!

Anita Pratap

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events visit to Norway Designs

On a bitterly cold winter morning in December, twenty Forum ladies met at the Norway Designs shop near the Nationaltheatret. We were warmly greeted by the shop manager, Mr Trond Kinn. Inside the shop, our eyes were automatically drawn towards the main attraction, the famous glass castle standing on a big round table laden with wonderful Christmas gifts.



Mr Kinn told us that Norway Designs will be moving in April 2022 to new premises in Lille Grensen, nearer the city centre. The present building is to be restored and used for other purposes.

Norway Designs was established by Per Tannum in 1957 with a vision of creating a centre for furniture, textiles and handicrafts of the best quality and design, all produced in Norway. He started his own furniture store in 1933, and in 1938, he opened Tannum Møbler in Stortingsgata 28 and worked to increase the export of Norwegian interior products. He arranged the trade exhibition 'Norway Designs for Living' in Chicago in 1951. This exhibition, and those following, gave rise to Norway Designs, a company that focuses on products with high quality, good functionality and modern design. This was Per Tannum's basic idea, which has been continued by the third generation of the family.

Not only Norwegian goods are represented at Norway Designs today. The swinging 60's marked a strong breakthrough for Scandinavian and Nordic design. Examples are Danish Arne Jacobsen's furniture inspired by Le Corbusier, and Finnish Marimekko's fabric with the famous Unikko pattern, a bold and bright poppy design. Jackie Kennedy fell for this fabric and had six dresses made of it! Norwegian Grete Prytz Kittelsen designed stylish products, for example the colourful enamelled bowls in the Stripes Collection by Cathrine Holm. All these products, and many more from that period, are still very popular today.

Mr Kinn told us about PLUS. In 1957, when the Norway Designs shop opened, PLUS, a centre for designers, was established in Fredrikstad's old town. From here they could present their designs straight from the drawing board to the manufacturers. Norway Designs sold a lot of their products. Much of Norwegian design history from 1958 to 1978 has originated from the designers at PLUS.



The Glass Castle



Mr Trond Kinn

On to the glass castle! The original one, from 1971, was designed at Fredrikstad. After 33 years, it had become very fragile and had to be replaced. The new castle has been in use for seventeen years. It was designed by Danish Tobias Møhl and made in Italy, where he worked. It took two years to design and two more to make. The spires have a variety of shapes, representing different religions; for example, a Christian church spire and the minaret of a mosque. The castle is illuminated from inside, giving it a fairy tale look.

As our visit came to an end, Mr Kinn had a surprise in store: a gift from Norway Designs for all the ladies in the group! The parcel contained a Georg Jensen keyring and a design shopping bag in textile. We thanked Mr Kinn for the interesting tour and presented him with a gift of wine.

Then we all had a good look around the shop, admiring the great variety of exquisitely designed products of very good quality! It is sad to think that this was the last time that we will see this beautiful Christmas exhibition in these premises. However, we are already looking forward to visiting the new Norway Designs shop next Christmas. Many thanks to the Special Events Committee for arranging this tour!

Rosemary Hauge

ART COMMITTEE

Report from Art Committee visit to Galleri Würth

Dieter Roth's Universe

The Artists' Books in the Würth Collection

We were eight members and two husbands who found our way to the little-known Würth collection at Gjelleråsen, not far from Lillestrøm. Reinhold Würth established the collection in Germany in 1970. The Würth Company is a world-wide supplier of precision tools. There are some 18,300 artworks in the collection that are spread over five museums in Germany and ten galleries in Europe.

Our guide, Bjarne Waage, was very happy to be employed here, not least because he wrote his master's on Wassily Kandinski, who together with Franz Marc introduced a new borderline between art and literature in the *The Blue Rider (1912)*. The Würth Collection has many works from this era.

We looked first at *Dieter Roth's Universe*. Roth was born in Hanover in 1930 and was sent to Switzerland in 1943. In 1957, he moved to Iceland with his Icelandic wife. He died in 1988. A rather unknown artist for us, but his teacher considered him a genius. His roots as an artist were in graphic art.



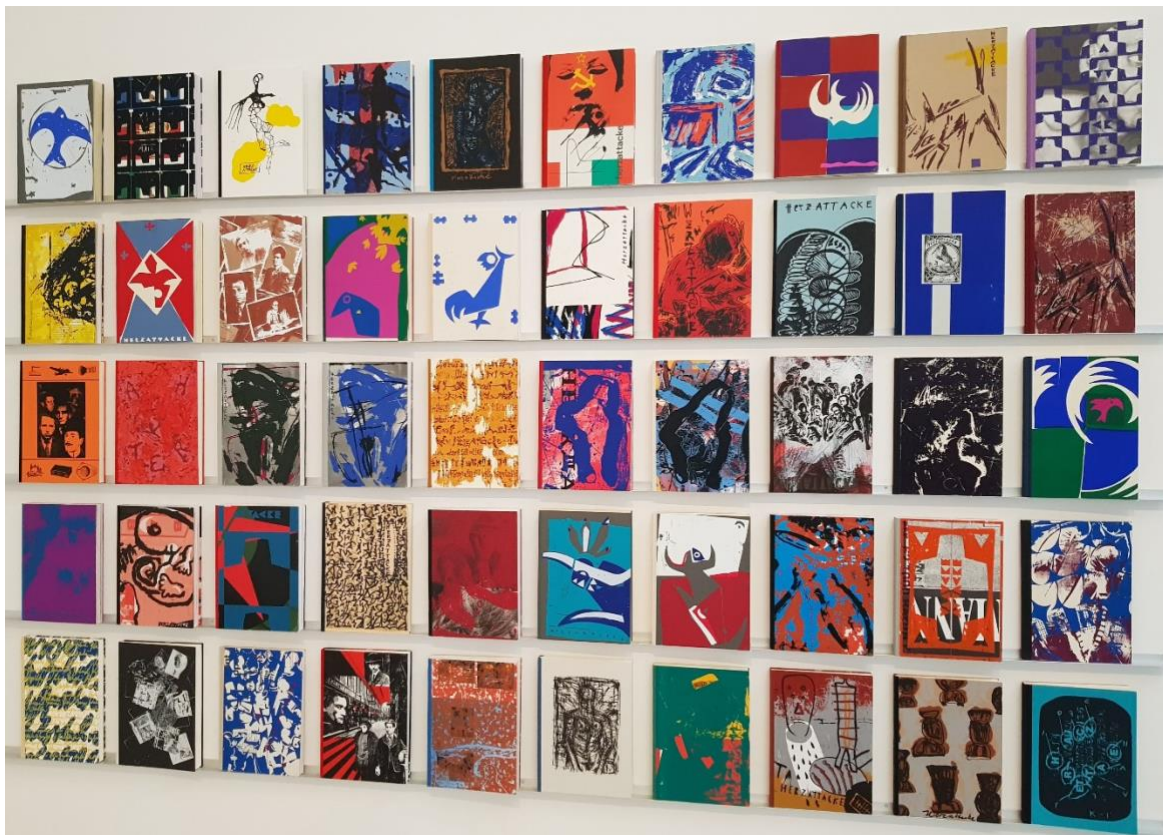
The series, *Surtsey*, portrays the appearance of a new volcanic island off the coast of Iceland and each print moves the subject towards mythic proportions. The island ends up on a Greek bowl of fire as an offering to the genius of God.

There was a growing dissolution of boundaries in the arts as of the 1960's and his cross-border works surprise and fascinate viewers to this day. He is probably most famous for the works that transgress all borders, leaving the viewer musing, or amused. Transience and change are inevitable when looking at works made of mayonnaise, chocolate, yoghurt, or cheese. Just to name a few.

His works were seen as outrageous and impossible to maintain. He took mundane objects through an endless creative machine and could have been as popular as Warhol if his works were more durable.

The second part of the exhibition showing *Artists' Books in the Würth Collection* was a very interesting surprise to us all. Artists' books represent a special sector in the art world and usually pop up individually in various exhibitions. Here, we saw a large collection of artists' books including works from *The Blue Rider*, Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Hans Arp, Gunter Grass, Jean-Paul Sartre and Herman de Vries, naming the most famous ones. Artists made books in which they experimented with printing techniques, paper, and the book production process, and created books and objects that are all original works.

Front covers of the magazine *Heart Attack* published in Germany in 1989 trumpets the upheavals of that year.



The sculpture of *Forbidden Books* is a strong symbol of the importance of freedom of speech.

I do not think that many of us look upon a book as a work of art belonging in the art world, but, of course, ever since monks illuminated books in the Middle Ages there have been books filled with original art. The Würth Collection has gathered many of these books and takes us on a journey of discovery through the art history of the last century.

Our thanks to Kerstin Petersen for taking us on this unusual trip!

Jane Steenbuch

Cooking Group I

At the super three-course lunch at Ellen's on November 23, the group decided to have a baking day at Laila's home in Høvik in December. Laila's kitchen is just right for a baking session and seven ladies were gathered with their different doughs for the different Christmas cookies. Great fun to bake cookies together with friends!



After a light lunch, served by Laila, we exchanged cookies and brought home more than what we came with.



The next cooking morning is hopefully going to take place at Anne-Grethe Skagestad's house at the end of January 2022. Because of the new corona restrictions, I will announce the date at the beginning of the New Year.

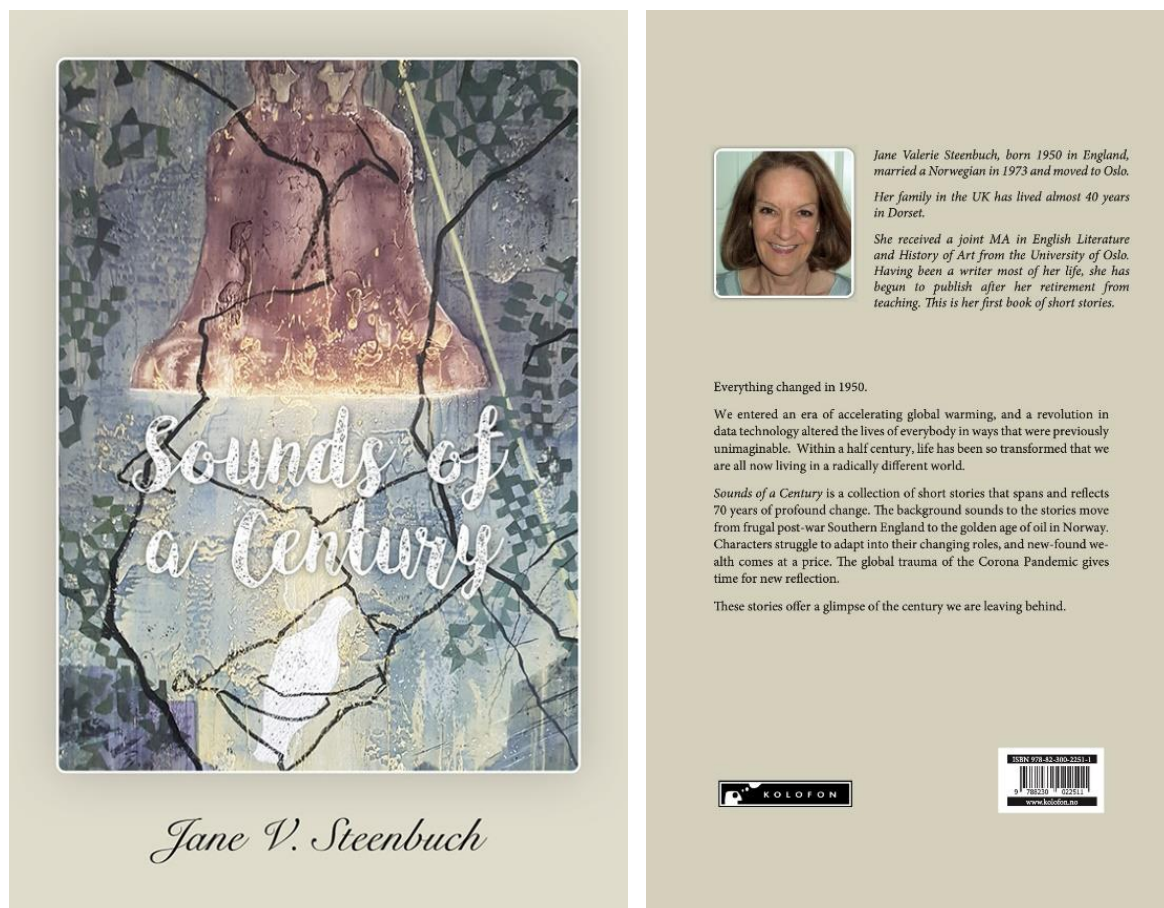
Thank you so much to all in the group for all the fun and the good friendship we share. I wish you all a healthy New Year!

My warmest regards, Liss Laan

BOOK PUBLICATION

By Forum member Jane Steenbuch: *Sounds of a Century*

The book has arrived! I was supposed to have a book launch at Deichman Bibliotek at Røa before Christmas, but the event was cancelled, just like everything else these days...



Those of you who have lived both in England and Norway will enjoy these stories. The book can be ordered at www.bokhandel.kolofon.no or directly from the author by email to Jane Steenbuch.

Happy New Year!
Jane Steenbuch

ACTIVITY GROUPS AND COURSES – SPRING 2022

All activities and courses will be organized in compliance with the applicable Corona restrictions. This means that all groups must ensure that the rules for social distancing and other Corona restrictions are followed. Leaders may limit the number of participants for certain groups and activities.

ACTIVITIES:

International Forum Activity Groups are formed when one member or a group of members get together and organise an activity. No payment is required, and the activities are open to all members depending on availability. Are you interested? See the contact information below.

If you are interested in an activity that is full, sign up anyway, as there may be cancellations. If you have problems joining an activity because it is full, please contact Gunnel Anita Solheim, as we might consider forming new groups.

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim,

ACTIVITY GROUPS

The Norwegian Conversation Group (norsk samtalegruppe).

This is a group of twenty ladies from India, Colombia, Indonesia, Russia, Peru, Germany, Canada, China, Taiwan, Hungary, and Norway. We meet once a month in each other's homes. The intention of the group is to practise speaking Norwegian in an informal setting and to share experiences and interests in our daily life. We have all levels of proficiency.

There is no homework, since the main point is to come together and have fun. The hostess decides if she wants to serve a light lunch or just coffee and biscuits (or cake) after the practice session. We usually meet on Fridays at 11:00. You are very welcome to join us once the restrictions to gatherings are eased!

The Norwegian conversation group plans to meet at a member's home at the end of January. **Should the Covid-19 regulations** restrict such gatherings by that time, we will of course cancel the meeting until further information.

Contact: Eva Øglænd or Mona Bækkelund Reinboth.

DRAMA READING GROUP

The drama readings are held once a month in a member's home. The plays chosen are both old and new. The dates for the readings are flexible and usually decided a month in advance depending on how many can attend on a certain date. A light lunch will be served between acts.

Due to the pandemic, the gatherings might be postponed. For information, please call Suzanne Garman-Vik.

Contact: Suzanne Garman-Vik,

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB I

The gatherings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, either on Zoom or, Corona permitting, in members' homes, in which case the hostess serves a light lunch. We read and discuss books, usually novels by international authors, chosen by the group.

The first meeting of the year 2022 is scheduled to take place on **January 19**. Whether this will be **on Zoom or at a member's home**, depends on how the **Covid-19 situation** develops.

The reading list:

January 19:	<i>Track Changes</i> by Sayed Kashwa
February 16:	<i>The Mercies</i> by Kieran Millwood Hargrave
March 16:	<i>More Than I Love My Life</i> by David Grossman
April 6 or 20:	<i>The Promise</i> by Damon Galgut

Contact: Dorota Steensland,

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB II

The same procedures as those of the International Book Club I. The gatherings take place once a month. We hope to continue to meet in 2022 as we did last autumn. If that is not possible, we will have to opt for zoom.

The reading list:

January 6:	<i>The Magic Mountain</i> by Thomas Mann
February 3:	<i>The Vanishing Half</i> by Brit Bennett
March 3:	<i>Hamnet</i> by Maggie O'Farrell
April 7:	<i>Cutting the Stone</i> by Abraham Vergese
May 5:	<i>Stoner</i> by John Williams
June 2:	<i>Afterlives</i> by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Contact: Signe Lise Howell.

COOKING GROUP I

Cooking Group 1 has been up and running for many years, I have notes dating back to 1996. Some of the ladies are still in our group. Since we are an international group, some are leaving and new are attending. As we rotate between each other's private homes there will be limited space most times.

Contact: Liss Laan.

MONDAY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

We usually play Bridge at Ris Church every Monday. The layout of the room we were given at Ris last autumn was not optimal for our type of activity. Also, we had to ensure compliance with the Covid-19 restrictions. In view of the current restrictions, we may have to rethink how we shall proceed in 2022. Please contact Kirsten Whist for more information.

Contact: Kirsten Whist.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY BRIDGE GROUP

We generally meet on the second or third Wednesday of the month, depending on the holidays. We are usually 8 or 12 players, on occasion 16. We play duplicate bridge and enjoy a light lunch afterwards.

The autumn gatherings were cancelled because of the Corona situation. Due to the new restrictions, and we have to decide when or if we are able to continue in January.

Contact: Ida Tschudi Heilemann.

PHOTO GROUP

We are amateur photographers. No qualifications are required other than being interested in learning about digital photography. The aim is to become a better photographer, learn how to master devices such as camera, telephone, computer, iPad, and be creative in for example Photo Books, make Greeting Cards, or post Instagram stories, among others. We have workshops 4-6 times a year. We also go on 'Outdoor Photo Safaris', an activity we started during the pandemic. If restrictions allow, we shall also have workshops at Gunnel Anita's home or at another member's home from 13:00 – 15:00. If not, we will use Zoom.

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim,

WALKING GROUP

Kerstin Pettersen will send an e-mail to the group members and inform them of the first walk of spring 2022. Walking is great exercise and fun for those who like the outdoors. If you are interested, please send Kerstin your mobile number and email address.

Contact: Kerstin Petersen, *For more information contact the International Forum's Office*

SWIMMING AT LYSEBU

The Danish Cultural Centre at Voksenkollen is for the time being closed due to the pandemic.

Later, when the Cultural Centre reopens, members of the International Forum will be most welcome to swim at Lysebu and only have to show their IF membership card at the front desk. The fee is NOK 100.- per visit. This is not a group activity as such, but IF members can use this great, newly renovated facility as a group or individually. Any questions?

Contact: Anita Solheim, email: *For more information contact the International Forum's Office*

COURSES

The courses are activities for which the participants pay a **fee** to the teacher.

All activities and courses will be organized in compliance with the applicable Corona restrictions. For information, please call the person arranging the course.

ENGLISH

Individual courses tailored to your needs. Refresher courses for conversation – all levels. There is no charge for preliminary test to determine your level of proficiency in English conversation or grammar before taking a course.

Contact: Soo Lan Höegh Henriksen M.C.S.D (Graduate of Liverpool University, Teachers College), *For more information contact the International Forum's Office*

TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN ROSE PAINTING

Rose painting ('rosemaling') is a traditional Norwegian folk art which goes back to the 1700s and which is still alive in many parts of the country. Morning and evening courses can be organized for large or small groups.

Contact: Vivian Grieg Teisner, *For more information
contact the International Forum's Office*

A R O U N D O S L O

Skating in Spikersuppa

Despite the Corona restrictions, there are still things to do for families with children or grandchildren, among others the skating rink in Spikersuppa, between the parliament and the National Theatre. This is a Corona-safe activity!



Access to the rink is free, and you can rent skates in the small adjoining pavilion. Renting a pair of skates costs NOK 150.- The rink is prepared every day between 09:00 and 10:00, and there is no access while the maintenance crew is at work.

Skating at Frogner Stadion

Entrance fee: Adults NOK 40.- and children NOK 15.-



This venue has a bandy rink and a trail for long-distance speed skating. You can also rent skates, bandy sticks and helmets. For more information:

<https://www.visitoslo.com/>



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Org.no: 994 566 806

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

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