



INTERNATIONAL FORUM OSLO

NEWSLETTER

August 2022
Issue No. 477

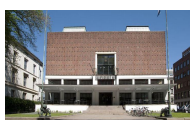
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Autumn Art Exhibition: Kunstneres Hus,
September 30





INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Monthly Meetings Signe Howell

Special Events Mona B. Reinboth

Art Jane Steenbuch

Activities Anita Solheim



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

For the **September Newsletter** is **August 15**. 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,

Welcome Back!

I hope summer has relaxed and refreshed you, filled you with warmth and well-being. Summer is that special time when laziness becomes respectable, when the dress code is bare-feet, and when we have nothing to do and all day to do it in.

To crash-land into reality: raise your hand if you have not had Covid so far! For two and a half years, my hand was up. Not anymore. In July, I got Covid. So did visitors and friends in Norway and several European countries. It seemed to be a pandemic of epic proportions. Yet everyone – residents, travellers, authorities – took it all in stride. No big deal. No shock. No sympathy. Oh hum... next topic.

So, I will touch upon other topics. Planning and preparations are in full swing for Arendalsuka in mid-August. This year promises to be the biggest ever. In Oslo, we have focused on internal administrative matters. As with other organisations similar to ours, we plan to automate – the best we can. We have made arrangements to send you membership fee invoice with KID number. When your payments are in, you can access your membership cards. These new methods and tools make it possible to easily identify payments and get membership cards, which have been time-consuming in the past.

Come September, we start the autumn season to have fun and gain insights from an interesting range of events, lectures, outings and activities arranged by our wonderful committee leaders. As Roman statesman Cicero said 2,100 years ago ‘We must not only obtain wisdom. We must enjoy her’.

See you at our events!

Warm Regards

Anita Pratap

President

FROM THE BOARD

The Grethe Frydenlund Award

A tribute to Patricia Blackwell



On February 12, 1979, Grethe Frydenlund (wife of the then Norwegian Foreign Minister) and eleven CD and FO wives invited CD, FO and International Club ladies in Oslo to a meeting at the Foreign Office cafeteria to discuss the need for an organisation to encourage activities of interest to foreign and Norwegian spouses. The response was overwhelming (60 were expected and 200 accepted) and the venue for the meeting was changed twice. An eager and excited participant was Patricia, whose friends were mostly the wives of her Norwegian husband's colleagues. She became an enthusiastic

member, and in *Newsletter* No. 5, dated May 30, 1979, we read that she is both Secretary and member of the Executive Committee!

Patricia Ann Blackwell was born and grew up in South Derbyshire in England, where she attended the local Grammar School. Her great love of music was awakened when she was 11 and at a school music appreciation class heard the 2nd movement of Beethoven's 7th Symphony. This was the first record she bought (after saving up her pocket money), vinyl in those days. Studies, dancing classes, Gilbert and Sullivan, and netball were part of life as a teenager.

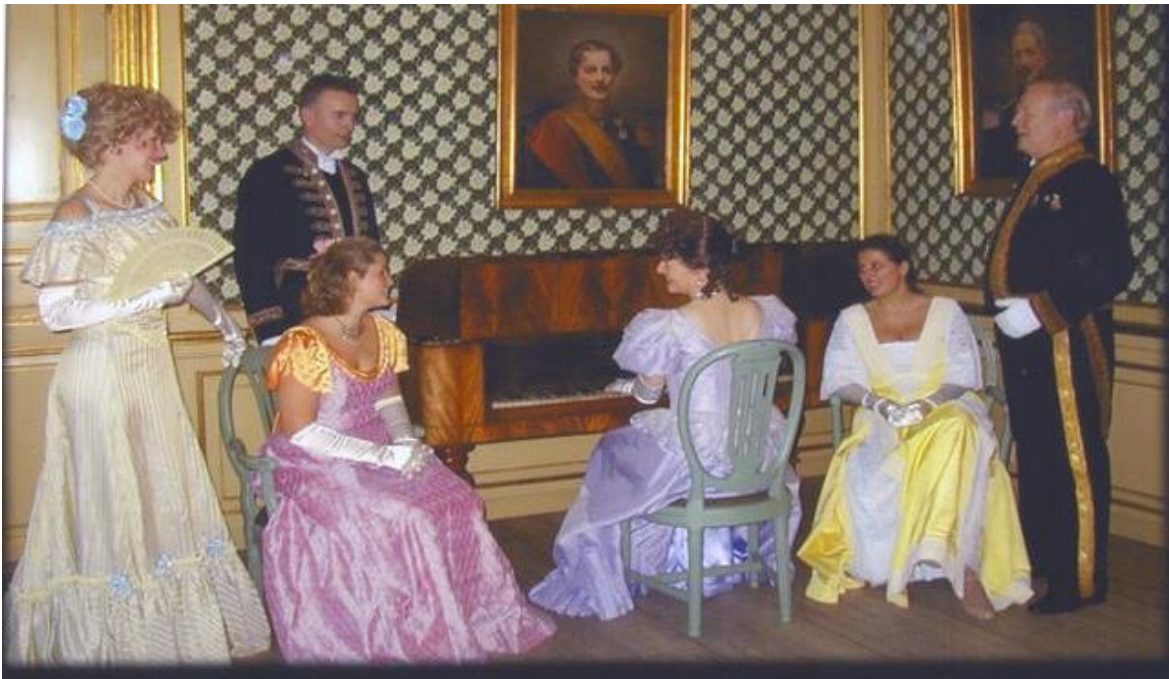
Patricia graduated in Maths from Leeds University. In her student days she continued her enjoyment of dancing and joined a Scottish Country Dancing group. Her love of dancing would stay with her all her life and always gives her great pleasure.



Scottish country dancing

Road signs saying 'To the North' had always fascinated Patricia. So she decided to go to Norway for two years. She met her husband and luckily for International Forum did not return to England. She worked at Official Statistics Norway (SSB), as Secretary to the Egyptian Ambassador, and at Norsk Data.

In the autumn of 1980, she joined the Fjord Frolickers Square Dance Club. This resulted in travels to Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Britain and was a source of much pleasure for more than 40 years.



In 1993, she enrolled in a course arranged by Akershus Slotts Venner in Historical Dancing. This was a wonderful experience – dancing at Akershus Castle in costumes from the times of Margrete I, Christian IV and the early 1900s.

And not to forget – Patricia has also done a course in belly dancing!

And Patricia has been a very active member and has also served as president of ‘Munnskjenkene’ wine club and has enjoyed meetings in Norway and many trips abroad, visiting vineyards and meeting the growers.



At belly-dancing lesson



Visiting Louis Jadot in Burgundy

Her great love of music is in many ways fulfilled by concerts and the ‘Met’ Operas at Gimle cinema. And *Yes*, Patricia has been at the Met in New York, where she heard Joan Sutherland sing the role of Violetta in Verdi’s *La Traviata*.

Patricia remembers the wonderful, almost adventurous spirit of the first Forum years. Committee meetings were held in member’s homes, *Newsletters* were typed in kitchens and sent out by post. There was a great need for such an organisation among many female spouses of CDs, NATO personnel, oil executives, and so on.

Many different groups and committees were formed. Neighbourhood contacts arranged lunches and were always available to answer questions, such as ‘What is a plumber called in Norwegian?’

Grethe Frydenlund was the first President and an inspiration to all. She was always full of ideas, warm, friendly.



Elizabeth Bøhn, Grethe Frydenlund and Patricia Blackwell were all present at the first meeting

In the over 43 years she has been a member of International Forum, Patricia has held many positions: Membership Secretary, Board Member, Editor, Editorial proof-reader, Advisor to the Board, and member of several ad hoc Committees revising the Statutes and the Guidelines. We are so extremely grateful to her for her commitment over all these years and for always sharing her considerable knowledge of International Forum.

Patricia Blackwell is indeed a very worthy recipient of the Grethe Frydenlund Award. She says 'It is a great honour to receive the award in the name of such a wonderful lady!'

Elspeth K. Walseth

COMING EVENTS

ARENDALSUKA



GLOBAL OUTLOOK

August 15 from 12:00 to 14:00 at Arendal Kulturhus

2020s: A Transformative Decade?

Keynote Speakers

Ms **Anniken Huitfeldt**, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. **Kevin Rudd**, Former Prime Minister of Australia

Ms **Ayaan Adam**, Senior Director of Africa Finance Corporation

Panellists

Mr **Svein Tore Holsether**, President and CEO of Yara International

Mr **Nick Butler**, Professor, King's College, London

Ms **Ylva Lindberg**, Vice President, Norfund

Moderator: **Anita Pratap**

AMBASSADORS ROUNDTABLE

August 16 from 09:00 to 11:00 at Gamle Rådhus, Arendal

De-globalisation

A stocktaking of where we are headed: isolation, regionalisation or continued global integration

Keynote Speakers:

H. E. **Amr Ahmed Ramadan**, Ambassador of Egypt

H. E. **Nicolas de la Grandville**, Ambassador of the European Union

H.E. **Deirdre Kent**, Ambassador of Canada

H. E. **Kerin Ayyalaraju**, Ambassador of Australia to Denmark, Norway and Iceland

Moderator: **Anita Pratap**

For more information: [Arendalsuka 2022 - Welcome to Arendalsuka](#)

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

September 5

Pathologist Eystein Hoddevik

On viruses and pandemics



The Monthly Meeting Committee is proud to announce the speaker for September, Dr Eystein Hoddevik, who is pathologist working at the University Hospital of Oslo. He holds a PhD in molecular biology and neuroscience. Dr Hoddevik has lived abroad – in France, Scotland, Germany and Sweden – and has experience from the Navy, emergency wards, and internal medicine. He will speak on viruses and pandemics.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **September 5** at 18:45 for (19:00)

SIGN UP: To Signe Howell as soon as possible and **no later than** Wednesday, **August 31**.

PLACE: Vinderen Seniorsenter, Slemdalsveien 72, 0373 Oslo

PRICE: NOK 105.- **Please sign up before you pay.** Please make your 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 in the adjoining area until 20:00.

GUESTS: Guests are welcome if there is room.

No-shows will be charged.

For last minute cancellations, please call Signe Howell on mob.: 415 04 678

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to the Farm of the Royal Estate at Bygdøy

Tuesday, **September 13**



The Special Events Committee is pleased to invite our members on a tour of the farm at the Royal Estate at Bygdøy. As we walk around the farm, our guide Mari Bjørnsrud Gabrielsen will tell us about its history and daily operation.

Since medieval times, the estate has mainly been a royal residence, but it was also a monastic estate owned by the Cistercians at Hovedøya. In modern times, the farm has been both a public park and a test farm specializing in organic husbandry and milk production. It also provides information about modern agricultural techniques and cultural and natural history.

There are horses, sheep, pigs, hens, cows and rabbits in the visitors' centre. The Bygdøy Royal Estate operates a pony riding school for children.

The barn houses 60 dairy cows. The organic milk produced is delivered to the dairy cooperative TINE. The farm is Oslo's largest milk producer and is run by Norsk Folkemuseum.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **September 13**, at 10:45 (for 11:00)

SIGN UP: By email to the Mona Reinboth as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday, **September 6**.

PRICE: NOK 115,- to be paid preferably to the Forum bank account: 1600.40.36631 or Vipps to 591747. Please state **your name, date and name of the event** in the transaction.

Maximum participants: 30

PLACE: Bygdøyveien 62, 0287 Oslo

TRANSPORT: Free parking at the farm
Bus nr 30 from the Nathionalteatret to the bus stop at the farm.

GUESTS: Guests are welcome if there is room. Members have priority.
For questions or last minutes cancellation please contact
Mona Bækkelund Reinboth.
No-shows and cancellations after the deadline will be charged.

Mona Reinboth

ART COMMITTEE

Autumn Exhibition at Kunstnernes Hus

September 30



The 134th Annual Autumn Exhibition is organised by the Association of Norwegian Visual Artists at their exhibition hall. All artists living in Norway, as well as those living abroad, may apply to participate in this popular event. The primary prerequisite is that the works must be new; i.e. created within the last two years. All applicants are evaluated by a National Jury, comprised of contemporary artists. The selected art works are all for sale.

For over 130 years, this yearly exhibition has been a showroom for contemporary artists and art trends. It has been a source of extensive artistic discussion and has often displayed experimental, provocative and controversial works that more traditional galleries and museums might have rejected. Unusual

content and alternative creative techniques and materials present the viewer with new challenges and thought-provoking experiences. The works of art may surprise, irritate, or please you, but they will always capture your attention.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **September 20**, 13:45 (for 14:00)

SIGN UP: To Trudy Brand-Jacobsen as soon as possible and no later than Monday, **September 12**.

PRICE: Entrance fee is NOK 80.- to be paid individually at the ticket counter at the Art Museum. NOK 100.- for the Guide should be paid to International Forum's Bank Account 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747.

Please state **your name** and the **event** in the transaction (in the KID-number box for bank payment and in the dialogue box for VIPPS) as soon as your registration has been confirmed.

PLACE: Kunstnernes Hus, Wergelandsveien 17

LUNCH: Lofthus Samvirkelag café (which opens at 11:00) in the foyer of Kunstnernes Hus, has an extensive pizza menu and simple lunch options and drinks. It has been called Oslo's best! To book a table call, tel.: 22 60 06 66, or email: wergelandsveien@lofthussamvirkelag.no.

TRANSPORT: Trams 11, 17 and 18 to Holbergs Plass. Trains and T-bane to Nationaltheatret (a short walk to the Museum)

Parking: In case of special needs, spaces behind Kunstnernes Hus are available. Contact the reception upon arrival to obtain a parking ticket.

Maximum participants: 25

Guests are welcome if space is available. Members will have priority. If overbooked, a waiting list will be set up.

For last-minute cancellations, please call Trudy Brand-Jacobsen, mob.: 480 65 455

No-shows and cancellations after the deadline will be charged.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to the Norwegian Meteorological Institute



Tuesday, October 11

We are all interested in the weather! It is very often a topic of conversation, something we all talk about. The Special Events Committee invites you to join us on a visit to the Meteorological Institute at the University of Oslo in order to learn a bit more about ‘weather’.

Meteorologists from the institute will be our guides. We will be shown around the forecast room, have a look at the observation instruments in the park outside, and visit the ‘Tall Hall’: the data centre, also known as the ‘Data Hall’. This very special building opened in 2011, and was the first building in Norway made of low-carbon concrete. It was designed by Pir II Architects, with focus on climate efficiency.

After the tour, lunch is available for those who wish to join us in Frederikke, the main student canteen. The lunch will be ordered in advance and will consist of two half-rolls, one with brie and bacon, and the other with egg and tomato, and coffee/tea. Cakes may be bought separately.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **October 11** at **10:15** (for 10:45)

SIGN UP: To Rosemary Hauge no later than **October 3**.

PLACE: Meteorologisk Institutt, Henrik Mohns plass 1, 0313 Oslo.

- MEET UP:** We meet up in the reception area in the main building which is just a few minutes' walk from Forskningsparken T-bane station or the tram station (same junction). From the T-bane station, you can see the back of the Institute, a tall brick building with antennae on the roof.
- PRICE:** NOK 35,- for gifts for the guides. The lunch is NOK 108,-
If you want both, please pay NOK 143,- in advance, preferably to the Forum bank account: 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747. Please **state the event and your name** (and **lunch** if applicable) on your payment. No cash will be handled at the venue.
- TRANSPORT:** Public transport is strongly recommended.
T-bane (Metro) to Forskningsparken station. Lines **4 to Vestli**, **5 to Sognsvann**, or **5 Ringen via Majorstuen/Storo** all stop at Forskningsparken.
Trams 17 and 18 stop at Forskningsparken (underneath the T-bane station).
Car: Not recommended. The parking area for guests at Meteorologisk Institutt is very limited and might be full when we arrive. If you need to park there you must get a parking permission ticket in the reception.
Maximum number of participants is 30.
Guests are welcome if space available.
For questions or last-minute cancellations please contact Rosemary Hauge. Cancellations after the deadline and no-shows will be charged.

ACTIVITY GROUPS AND COURSES – AUTUMN 2022

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 a new group.

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

The Norwegian Conversation Group (norsk samtalegruppe).

This is a group of twenty ladies from Japan, India, Colombia, Russia, Peru, Canada, Taiwan, Hungary, and Norway. New members to International Forum are welcome. The gatherings will start in September. 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.

The date of the first meeting will be announced.

Contact: Eva Øglænd or Mona Bækkelund Reinboth,

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB I

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

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.

Contact: Heidi Høivik.

DRAMA READING GROUP

The drama readings are normally held once a month in a member's home. Due to the pandemic and personal issues, the meetings have been very limited in the last couple of years. The plays chosen are both old and new, and are from all around the world. The readings are in English. 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 after the reading. I am hoping our first reading this year will be on Thursday, September 15 at 11:30 (for 12:00).

Contact: Suzanne Garman-Vik.

COOKING GROUP I

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

Contact: Liss Laan.

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.

Contact: Ida Tschudi Heilemann.

MONDAY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

We usually play Bridge every Monday. The gatherings take place in members' homes. Please contact Kirsten Whist for more information.

Contact: Kirsten Whist.

PHOTO GROUP

This is a group of amateur photographers. No qualifications are required other than wanting to learn more 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. We usually have workshops at Gunnel Anita's home or at another member's home from 13:00 – 15:00.

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 autumn 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.

SWIMMING AT LYSEBU

International Forum members will be most welcome to swim at Lysebu – the Danish Cultural Centre at Voksenkollen. Members only have to show their IF membership card at the front desk. The fee is NOK 100.- per visit. IF members can use this great, newly renovated facility as a group or individually. Any questions?

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim.

COURSES

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



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.

R E P O R T S



Annual General Meeting of the International Forum MINUTES

The 2022 **Annual General Meeting** of the International Forum was held on Thursday, June 9, at Vinderen Seniorsenter, Oslo.

The Board was represented by

Board members: President Anita Pratap, Sissel Lindeman, Gülhan Çorman, Heba Mamish, Wenche Mohr

Deputy Board Members: Elizabeth Groth Kolby and Jessie Sandosham

Fifty-five Forum members attended the meeting.

1. President Anita Pratap welcomed the members and thanked them for attending. This was an evening of celebration as it was three years since we all physically met for an International Forum AGM.

The AGM would be led by Patricia Blackwell

2. The undersigned, Elspeth Walseth, was approved to take the **minutes**.
3. Rosemary Hauge and Mette Svadberg were approved as **signatories** of the minutes.
4. Bente Brandt, Kerstin Petersen and Wenche Undrum were approved as **tellers**.
5. There were no comments to the **Annual Report 2021 - 2022**, which was then approved by acclamation.
6. There were four questions from members regarding **The Treasurer's Annual Report**. These were satisfactorily answered. The Treasurer's report was then approved by acclamation.
7. **The Auditor's Report** was approved by acclamation.
8. The Board proposed that the **Membership Fee** should remain at NOK 500. This was approved by acclamation.

9. Elections 2022-2023. The members proposed by the Nomination Committee for the Board, Deputies to the Board and Committee Leaders were presented.

All were elected by acclamation to the following positions:

Corps Diplomatique - **CD**, Foreign Office - **FO**, General Membership - **GM**

Board 2022 - 2023:

President: Anita Pratap	IND	FO
Sissel Lindeman	NOR	FO
Gülhan Çorman	TUR	CD
Heba Mamish	EGY	CD
Wenche Mohr	NOR	GM
Elizabeth Rasmussen	NOR	GM

Deputies:

Elizabeth Groth Kolby	NOR	FO
Lien Nguyen	VNM	CD
Jessie Sandosham	CAN	GM

Activities & Courses:

Leader: G. Anita Solheim	NOR	GM
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Art Committee:

Leader: Jane Steenbuch	GBR	GM
Deputy leader: Kerstin Petersen	SWE	GM

Monthly Meeting Committee

Leader: Signe Howell	NOR	GM
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Special Events Committee:

Leader: Mona Reinboth	NOR	GM
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Nomination Committee

The members proposed by the Board for the Nomination Committee were elected by acclamation:

Leader: Ellen Sofie Aa. Vollebæk	NOR	FO
Vicky Alme	GBR	GM
Bente Brandt	NOR	GM

The AGM gave approval by acclamation of the Board's appointments of Treasurer, Auditor, Secretary and Editor:

Treasurer:	Anne-Lise Fasteland		Non-member
Auditor:	Verena Krienke	DEU	GM
Secretary:	Elsbeth Walseth	GBR	GM
Editor:	Elizabeth S. Rasmussen	NOR	GM

Office Coordinator: *To be decided*

Committee leaders and members 2022 – 2023:

Art Committee:

Leader: Jane Steenbuch	GBR	GM
Deputy leader: Kerstin Petersen	SWE	GM
Trudy Brand-Jacobsen	CAN	GM
Bente Brandt	NOR	GM
Josephine Kamsvåg	NOR	FO
Rosalie Løvda	USA	GM
Katarina Plavnik	SWE	GM
Inger M Ræder	NOR	FO
Bente Skarsgård	NOR	GM

Monthly Meeting Committee :

Leader: Signe Howell	NOR	GM
Elin Theodora Alfredsdottir	ISL	GM
Heidi von Weltzien Høivik	DEU	GM
Blanca Løvdal	COL	GM
Inge Pedersen	DNK	GM
Helene Pillgram-Larsen	NOR	GM
G. Anita Solheim	NOR	GM

Special Events Committee:

Leader: Mona B. Reinboth	NOR	GM
Rosemary Hauge	GBR	GM
Hildur M. Haugen	NOR	GM
Sonia Mykletun	NOR	FO
Sigrid Riddervold	NOR	GM
Pernille Stavseth	NOR	GM
Åsny Wedege Walters	NOR	GM

10. Other Business

Presentations

President Anita Pratap explained that as this was the first physical AGM in three years there were two awards to be presented this evening and also gifts for members who have completed their terms.

- a) The Board has decided to rename the Member of the Year Award to the Grethe Frydenlund Award. Grethe was our first President and Founder.

The **Award for 2021** was given to **Gunnel Anita Solheim**.

Board member Sissel Lindeman thanked Gunnel Anita for all she has contributed to International Forum and pointed out her technical and cultural skills. She has led Committees and Groups, creates videos and has always shown a great willingness to help.

Gunnel Anita was presented with a gold Forum brooch by President Anita.

In her thanks, G. Anita expressed her gratitude for all the enjoyable years in International Forum with many friends – and challenges.

The **Award for 2022** was given to **Patricia Blackwell**.

Board member Wenche Mohr thanked Patricia, who has been a member since the first meeting in 1979. She has been Membership Secretary, Member, Deputy and Advisor to the Board, Editor and as Wenche said – A Knowledge Bank for IF.

Patricia was presented with a gold Forum brooch by President Anita.

In her thanks, Patricia said it was an honour to receive the Award in the name of Grete Frydenlund, who had been a true inspiration and a great pleasure to work with.

- b) President Anita Pratap then informed us that the Board had decided to give members who were finishing their terms, a lasting gift to remind them of the Forum. Member and renowned ceramicist Victoria Berge has designed blue ceramic bowls for us and said it was a privilege to do this.

Presentations were made to:

Board members:	Anne Grethe Skagestad Heidi von Weltzien Høivik
Deputy Board member:	Signe Howell
Office coordinator:	Dorota Steensland
Committee Leaders:	Bee Ellingsen Berit Lindstrøm Laila Hægh Ruth Klungsøyr

Finally, Anita thanked Laila, Berit and members of the Monthly Meeting Committee for arranging this excellent, well organised AGM.

We were then invited to a buffet supper to relax, catch up with friends and enjoy each other's company.

Oslo, June 9, 2022

Elspeth K. F. Walseth

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Rosemary Hauge

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Mette Svadberg





Pictures by Kumiko Larsen and Shanthi Nagothu

ART COMMITTEE

Synnøve Anker Aurdal at the Astrup Fearnley museum

The Art Committee organised a visit on May 31 to the exhibition of the well-known Norwegian textile artist Synnøve Anker Aurdal (1903 - 2000) at the Astrup Fearnley Museum.

Thirteen ladies participated and our guide was Marianne Reve.

The exhibition includes the Museum's own works by Aurdal as well as pieces from various private collections around Norway. It shows the complete spectrum of Synnøve Anker Aurdal's works, from the early 1940s until the end of the 1990s.

Aurdal is one of the most important textile artists in Norway. She went from being a conventional textile artist to becoming a modern visual artist, using different materials as her medium. She broke with conventions and combined traditional handicraft techniques and modern forms of expression and managed to elevated the concept of applied arts to the level of other forms of visual arts.

Lack of material after World War II forced her to be creative. She used untraditional materials such as copper threads, glass fibre, nylon, polyester and metal chains. A mixture of the non-glossy wool and the shiny metals achieved a special shine in her works of art, e.g. *The Sun*, or *Silver Earth* (below).



At the end of the 50s, she started using artificial colours, making many of her art works extremely colourful, and she was appropriately named a 'colourist'.

Many of her works, which at the time were very innovative and pioneering, are still very relevant today. Synnøve Anker Aurdal was politically and socially

engaged, something that can be seen in many of her works of art, e.g. *Enda flere byråkrater* (Even more bureaucrats) and 'October Gossip'. Her dedication to the struggle for women's rights can be seen in *From Dark to Light*.



Even more bureaucrats

Poetry was always an inspiration to Aurdal and she often incorporated lyrical pieces in her tapestries. The Astrup Fearnley Museum therefore – as a supplement to the exhibition – has invited young contemporary poets to contribute newly composed poetry inspired by Synnøve Anker Aurdal's works.

For those of you who missed our event, we highly recommend a visit to this exhibition, which will be on display until September 4, 2022.

Kerstin Petersen and Inger Melhuus Ræder

IMPRESSIONS OF NORWAY

‘There is no such thing as bad weather!’

A farewell recollection by Portugal’s outgoing Deputy Chief of Mission

Mr Pinto da Rocha Duarte



One of the things that surprised me most during the two and half years of pandemic in Norway was the high level of compliance with public health advisories. People complied even when the guidelines were not mandatory. In addition, the health authorities invited residents to exercise and walk outside in order to protect their physical and mental health. A remarkable approach that proved to be quite successful.

The pandemic forced us to adapt the way we live, work, network, travel, enjoy life and move ahead. And move ahead we did, together, supported by a sound vaccination program that restored freedom to both citizens and businesses.

After four wonderful years, our posting in Oslo has come to an end and the road forward leads to Beijing where I shall begin my new assignment as DCM at the Portuguese Embassy.

The simplest advice is often the most useful. Allow me to encourage those of you who stay on in Oslo to get out there and enjoy the city as much as you can.

Relish in the city's beauty and human scale, its colours, the surrounding hills and the fjord, irrespective of the season. And remember the golden rule:

‘There is no such thing as bad weather! Just bad clothes. And bad shoes.’



So, enjoy the rain and the sunshine, the long bright summer days and the beautiful autumn light, the Norwegian nature and life in Oslo!

We learned as a family in Oslo how crucial it is to enjoy outdoor activities, no matter the meteorological conditions or the season. A new approach to the outdoors that I intend to keep up. It gave me the opportunity for nature walks and was the perfect excuse for taking pictures around the city, Oslomarka and beyond.



Various glimpses of Oslo

Munch?



Enjoying the Blue Light



Winter, spring, summer or fall... much to do outdoors, provided you dress for the occasion.

So, 'Goodbye' to Oslo and to all the friends we leave behind. We are taking with us fond memories of the culture and the language and the spectacular beauty of the Norwegian landscapes. Oslo was always a city where we felt at home and welcome, and we hope the same will happen in Beijing.

A R O U N D O S L O



Sing-Along Cruise in the Ford with Picnic Basket

Duration: 3 hours

Wednesday evenings at 19:00 through August



Take a sing-along cruise in the Oslo fjord and get to know like-minded locals or travellers with troubadour music.

Enjoy a picnic basket of tapas and be enchanted by the blues and greens of the fjord.

Picnic basket: NOK 595 per person. Drinks may be purchased in the bar.

Departure from the City Hall Pier 2 (by the sail ships).

For more information: [Oslo: Sing-Along Cruise with Picnic Basket | GetYourGuide](#)



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