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The Midnight Sun

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Calendar of Events

- February 4 (Saturday) Charlotte Checkers game, New Charlotte Arena (333 East Trade Street) 7pm
- February 19 (Sunday) SAGA Annual Meeting & Celebration -Living Saviour Lutheran Church (6817 Carmel Road) 3 pm
- ScanFest 2006! Location and Times TBD

Greetings & an Invitation from the President

My warm hello and Happy New Year wishes are not coming from the White House but from a Ranch Brick house here in Charlotte. I thought that it might be a good idea to share some facts about our SAGA. It is not a fairy tale, nor an ordinary cultural & ethnic organization. Instead, it is a nonprofit corporation without any members. Even Board of Directors and Officers are part of the group of volunteers who like to make Scandinavian customs and culture known here in Charlotte.

We are not giving lectures but we definitely prefer to have fun by organizing the annual ScanFest event where we can entertain and simultaneously educate the public. The only compensation for the time spent volunteering comes from the enjoyment of meeting people and bringing to Charlotte the best Scandinavia has to offer.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you, the reader, would like to join the SAGA people. We would like to have you with us in this service.

On Sunday, February 19, SAGA invites you to its General Annual Meeting in the Living Saviour Lutheran Church @ 3:00 PM. We will be celebrating SAGA's first year and the success of ScanFest 2005 with cake, coffee, and a presentation of our official ScanFest 2005 DVD. Actually, this will be a family event, and we hope that entire families can make it. Please RSVP to pir-sep@earthlink.net or 704-552-6067.

Welcome, on behalf of SAGA
Seppo Laaksonen, President

SAGA Goes to the Checkers!!

Do you enjoy a good game of hockey? Why not join other Scandinavian-Americans and their friends at a Charlotte Checkers game in the beautiful New Charlotte Arena on February 4?

The Checkers are having several exciting promotions at the game on February 4, including:

Youth Jersey Night presented by Circle K for the first 2000 kids aged 14 and under

"Pack the House Super Bowl Party Giveaway," which includes a foursome of golf from LastMinuteGolfer.com, one free month of cable service from Time Warner Cable, a Wing Party courtesy of Wild Wing Café, a 24" Sony Vega TV courtesy of Circle K, and a complimentary keg of beer (winner must be present on game night to claim prize)

Charity Case Post-Game Concert to benefit Grin Kids

SAGA has arranged for discounted ticket prices for this game! Attack Zone seats are available for only \$14 (regularly \$18), and Corner seats are available for only \$12 (regularly \$15).



To add to your savings, **SAGA is offering a group incentive** by sending you a refund in the amount of 1 ticket price for every 10th ticket purchased; in other words, if you BUY TEN, you will get ONE FREE through reimbursement. Just email your mailing information to Ulrika@ScandinavianConnection.org after you have purchased your

tickets, and SAGA will send you a check after verifying your purchase.

To purchase tickets, visit www.ScandinavianConnection.org and click on the link to the SAGA group ticket window, or call Ulrika at 704.763.9152 for additional assistance.

All proceeds from this fundraiser go directly toward ScanFest 2006 expenses. We all want ScanFest to be bigger and better this year, so bring your family and friends and join us at the game - we also challenge you to dress for the occasion with your country's colors, hockey jersey, flags, face paint etc!!

Let's have some fun while bringing together the Scandinavian-American community in the Carolinas!



Sogi with his cousin Ellin on his birthday in Öland

Fabulous Photos from our Friends

Many thanks to Alice and Sogi Soder of Flat Rock, NC, for sharing these fabulous photos with us! The photos were taken in July 2005 while they were visiting Öland, Sweden to celebrate Sogi's 80th birthday.



The beautiful Halltorps Gästgiveri in Öland

Malmö Reaches for the Sky

by Charles Ferro, freelance writer

Originally published by the Swedish Institute on 18 Nov 2005

The 54-story Turning Torso has opened its doors to tenants, offering them the height of luxury in the midst of southern Sweden. The building is a fitting symbol for Malmö, the most dynamic Swedish city in terms of growth, demographics and architecture.

A sculpture looming from the landscape, Turning Torso is the tallest building in Scandinavia and the second-highest residential structure in Europe (behind Triumph-Palace, Moscow). Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the 54-story building offers office space on floors 2-12, conference facilities with spectacular views on the top two floors, and 147 apartments of various sizes in between. All of the space has been rented.



Turning Torso, the highest building in Scandinavia, watches over Malmö. Photo: Pierre Mens © HSB Turning Torso.

Functional art

The inspiration for Turning Torso came from the marble sculpture *Twisting Torso*, also the work of Calatrava, and reflects the organic, made-for-people spirit that has gone into Malmö city planning. Göran Rosberg, head of information at the Malmö City Planning Office, says: "It's part of our plan for urban sustainability, a joint venture among the city, the university and the private sector."

Turning Torso consists of nine, five-story cubes – with intermediate floors in between – staggered so the structure seems to twist as the eye ascends. The top cube is at a 90-degree angle to the one at the base. The square segments are built around a spine-like circular core containing elevators that whisk you from the ground to the top in 38 seconds.

Classy, but not costly

Companies started moving into Turning

Torso at the end of October. A week later people began moving into their apartments, a process not expected to be completed until March 2006 with two tenants moving in per day. Anja Trägårdh, head of information at HSB Turning Torso, says: "We have a broad mix of people moving in, singles, couples, people in their twenties and thirties, empty nesters, couples with kids."

Apartments range from 45 square meters to 190 square meters. All have hardwood flooring, spacious kitchens and bathrooms, storage space, and come fully equipped with modern appliances – not to mention a view unmatched anywhere. The living space is exquisite, but residents get more than that. The 43rd floor boasts a gym, sauna and Jacuzzi, while the panorama room on the 49th floor makes a great place to host a cocktail party. A concierge is on hand around the clock should residents require anything, and there is a temperature-controlled wine cellar offering secure storage.

In short Turning Torso promises no-maintenance living in what might be called the Swedish city of the future. Maja Johans-

(Continued on page 4)

We Have a Winner!!

This month's winning recipe is a traditional stew, perfect for this time of year, submitted by Anna McGrath of Charlotte:

Salmon Stew, serves 4 people

1 lb. salmon filets
Coarse salt
Ground white pepper
2-3 tablespoons butter
1 medium size onion
1 cube fish bouillon
1 cup water
½ cup cream
2 medium size carrots, finely grated
1 lemon, juiced with the rind finely grated
1 small box of fresh dill
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar
Ground black pepper
Water and flour for thickening

-Prepare the salmon by removing the skin and cutting the filets into cubes. Salt the cubes with coarse salt and some ground white pepper. Let sit for a while.

-Melt butter in a large skillet.

-Add chopped onion, bouillon, water and cream, and bring to a boil.

-Add finely grated carrots, finely grated lemon peel and squeeze in lemon juice.

-Finely chop the dill and add it to the stew.

-Add the vinegar.

-Whisk together water and flour to a smooth paste, and add gradually to the stew to achieve desired thickness.

-Add the cubes of fish.

-Season the stew with ground black pepper.

-The salmon is cooked when it has a nice pink color and is starting to fall apart slightly.

Traditionally served with "pressed potatoes," made by forcing hot boiled potatoes through a potato ricer which makes for the lightest, most evenly-textured potatoes.

Anna says:

I was given the "Salmon Stew" recipe by my childhood friend and neighbor from Färjestaden, Öland, where I grew up. Eva can cook really delicious Swedish "husmanskost" (comfort food). I've never been really handy in the kitchen. In our household it's my American husband who cooks the food, and he also tackles Swedish



Anna and her husband, Leo, with their son, Killian

kitchen tasks - he is really good at rolling lussekatter (saffron Lucia buns)!!!

Anna has won two tickets to the February 4 Charlotte Checkers game and a new apron.

Congratulations, Anna!

If you have a yummy recipe you'd like to share, email it to

Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org

by February 17. You could win a copy of *Kitchen of Light* by Andreas Viestad and recipe cards!

Would you like to see your friends and family in The Midnight Sun? We would, too! Send your photo submissions to Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org by Friday, February 17.

Please Note:
All submissions become the property of SAGA and will be eligible for inclusion in all SAGA media. This means that we can share your submissions with other people on the Web, in print materials, and in other ways. So, send it in!
Thanks!

ScanFest 2006 in the Making...

I hope that all of you are as excited as the president of Carlsberg beer company about our Scandinavian festival! It took him less than 30 minutes to call me back after I had left him a message saying that I wanted to talk to him about our plans for ScanFest 2006; it took him less than that to email his district manager in Atlanta and ask him



to contact me to further discuss our plans.

I want you to be equally excited about our festival! This year we are dedicated to making ScanFest 2006 bigger and better. We will make sure the festival is educational and entertaining at the same time.

Our event will be different than any of

the other cultural festivals of Charlotte.

You can be part of this exciting time of growth! Be part of ScanFest, give us your view of the Nordic countries, show us the way of Scandinavia, so we can show Charlotte. To get involved with a planning committee, please contact Sanna Tucker by email at sanna@scandinavianconnection.org or call 704 846 9070.

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"Connecting Scandinavia and the Carolinas"

We're on the Web!

www.ScandinavianConnection.org



Mission Statement

SAGA of the Carolinas, a non-profit organization, is organized to promote cultural exchange between the United States and the Nordic Countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden; to preserve and enjoy the Scandinavian traditions, customs, history and cultural heritage; to increase understanding of the Nordic people and societies among Americans; and to provide a forum where people interested in Scandinavia can meet and enjoy Nordic culture and activities.

Calling all Scan-Am Groups!

If your group or organization would like to have your events or news included in the next issue of *The Midnight Sun*, please send your submission of 100-200 words to Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org by Friday, February 17.

Malmö Reaches for the Sky (con't from page 2)

son, 28, and Marcus Larsson, 32, say they have found their dream home. "As we enjoy sailing during our free time, we were looking for a special apartment with a great view of the sea. When we saw Turning Torso at sunset for the first time, we instantly knew it was the perfect place for us."

Rentals are a true bargain, considering Turning Torso is probably the most fashionable address in Sweden. Compared with other metropolitan areas in the world, the cost of living in Turning Torso is a steal. And it is fair to say that Malmö is part of a metropolitan region now that a bridge links the city to Copenhagen.

'Corridor of education'

Göran Rosberg at the Malmö City Planning Office says: "The city is interpreted by the university and everything about Malmö points toward the future." Just a few years ago, Lund University was the educational center of southern Sweden. Colleges affiliated with Lund have opened in Malmö and elements of the institution dot the city.

"Now there's a vibrant corridor of education extending from Lund, through Malmö and across the bridge into Denmark," Rosberg notes, along with the fact that it takes less than an hour to drive from one end of the corridor to the other.

What is more, medical, IT and other companies have been drawn to the area, creating further symbiosis between commerce and education.

Malmö may have a modest population of 270,000, but the extended area - called the Öresund Region - is home to 3.6 million people.

Pointing to the future

Turning Torso stands in Västra Hamnen (the Western Harbor), formerly an industrial area of the city. From the top of the building you now see nothing but stunning new architecture, which began with the *Bo01* housing

project a few years ago. Other projects - by a host of different architects - have either been built since then or will be. "The city wanted to point out architecture of quality," Rosberg says.

No matter where the shadow of Turning Torso is cast, it falls on attractive, sustainable buildings or a shoreline made for recreation. One of the buildings is a teachers' college. From there it's a short walk - through a delightful wooded park frequented by joggers, dog walkers and strollers, with a watercourse winding alongside footpaths - to

older Malmö.

The core of the city is a mix of old and new architecture, bustling pedestrian streets and squares filled with eateries. There are more than 164 nationalities living in Malmö and as you walk along you may hear the chatter of more than 100 languages. Most striking of all is how many young people there are, but it's hardly surprising: everything points to the future in Malmö.

**"Everything points
to the future in
Malmö"**