

The Midnight Sun

Join Us at ScanFest 2007!

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Vikings, ScanDans, Taste of Scandinavia, Café Scandinavia, Pippi Longstocking, Little Mermaid and much more will fill Wachovia

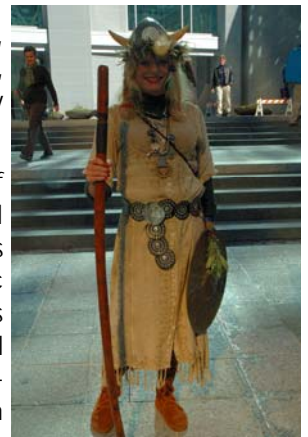
Atrium in Charlotte's Uptown this fall. The whole place will once again be transformed into a microcosm of Scandinavia at its best during an all-day celebration of the Nordic Countries.



ScanFest of the Carolinas 2007, scheduled for Saturday, November 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., will include entertainment, food and celebrations that represent the cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The colorful day of flags, anthems, Old World costumes and music

includes special attractions such as a bustling Scandinavian Marketplace, Viking Village, and a delicious array of Nordic delicacies.



Please visit www.scandinavianconnection.org for more information.

We'll see you at ScanFest!

Calendar of Events

- Scandinavian Festival
Oglethorpe University
4484 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30319
Saturday, October 13
10 am - 6 pm
- Nordic Golf Classic
Regent Park Golf Club
5055 Regent Parkway
Fort Mill, SC 29715
Saturday, October 20
8:30 am
- ScanFest 2007!
Wachovia Atrium
301 S. Tryon Street
Saturday, November 3
11 am - 5 pm

Roundtrip Airfare from US to Scandinavia ONLY \$2 ?!?!

It is absolutely possible by purchasing raffle tickets at ScanFest 2007!

ICELANDAIR



Raffle tickets will be sold throughout

the festival. Winners will be drawn every hour, with the **Grand Prize Drawing of 2 roundtrip tickets to Scandinavia**, a value of \$2500, being held at 4:30 pm. All winners must be present to win! Chances will be sold for \$2 each, or 6 tickets for \$10.

As they say at Icelandair:

"Fly high with low fares to Scandinavia."

But wait, that's not all...

We have raffle prizes worth more than \$3,500, including various gift baskets, Janswede Clogs, and Swedish Crystal! Make sure you buy tickets on Saturday, November 3, at ScanFest of the Carolinas 2007.

Have You Ever Wanted to be Pippi?

Spend a day the Pippi Way! Scamp, scalawag or scapegrace - it can be hard to tell with Sweden's beloved Pippi Långstrump - that's Longstocking to us! Outrageous and uproarious, she's the 12-year-old girl with the bright red braids, one up and one down. Her papa is a pirate and her mama is in heaven. She has a horse who does the dishes and a monkey named Mr. Nilsson who is her best friend. She lives by herself in an amazing house called Villa Villekulla. She's the strongest girl in the world and can lift her



horse, Lilla Gubben, over her head. She plays tricks but is never mean. She laughs out loud but cries at night. She is the contradiction in all of us. And most of all, she's great fun!

YOU can be Pippi too - the **Look-Alike Contest** on **Saturday, November 3, 2007** at **12.30 PM** is open to all youth. Prizes will be awarded for costume creativity and a Pippi-like personality would be appreciated!

Our judges for this year's competition are Emily Hudson (ScanFest's official Pippi), Jan Newton from the Charlotte Children's Theater, and Celeste Wren, a talent coach.

For more information, please contact Signa Curry at signa@scandinavianconnection.org

Marriage rule helps young people put education first

A rule setting a minimum age for the immigration of foreign spouses has led to more Danes with immigrant backgrounds completing their education

More young people with immigrant backgrounds are completing an education, thanks in part to an immigration regulation aimed at preventing forced marriages.

The trend is especially apparent amongst young men. Figures from the Danish Institute of Governmental Research (AKF) showed that 20 percent fewer men with an immigrant background dropped their studies in 2004 compared with 2001.

Overall, the study showed that marriages between Danish residents and foreigners result in a 17 percent greater chance of not completing an education.

The '24-year rule' requires Danish residents and their foreign spouses both be 24 before they may seek residency in Denmark. The rule was enacted primarily as a way to prevent forced marriages between Danish citizens of immigrant background and foreigners, but it also sought to get young people to finish their educations before marrying.

Helena Skyt Nielsen from AKF said that the 24-year rule successfully helps integration through education.

Bertil Haarder, the education minister, agreed and said he was pleased with the development.

'I wouldn't call the statistic an added bonus, though. I'd call it the top prize,' he told public broadcaster DR. 'The goal of the 24-year rule was precisely that - to ensure that the young people would get an education before they got married.'

Souvenir ScanFest of the Carolinas T-shirts Available!

NEW! SAGA is now offering souvenir **ScanFest T-shirts** for purchase at the **advance price of \$10 per shirt**. If you wish to place an order, please email info@scandinavianconnection.org and indicate the quantity and size(s) that you wish to order.



T-shirts will be available for pick-up during ScanFest on November 3, 2007. Payment for advance orders is due by October 10. **T-shirts will be sold at ScanFest, but to receive the advance price of \$10 you must order before October 10!** Please make all checks payable to SAGA, and mail to: SAGA c/o Sanna Tucker, 4064 Ancestry Circle, Weddington, NC 28104.

ScanFest of the Carolinas Needs YOU!

Volunteers are still needed for ScanFest 2007 - Please sign up by October 7!

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's only annual celebration of Scandinavian food & culture will be held on **Saturday, November 3, 11am-5pm**, at the Wachovia Atrium. ScanFest of the Carolinas would not be possible without the generous help of amazing volunteers, and you are hereby invited to help make this year's festival come to life! From one year to the next, ScanFest is presented to an ever-growing public with much appreciated help from our volunteers. No job is a small job when it comes to making sure everyone has a wonderful experience. As a non-profit organization, SAGA is very grateful



for the contributions made by all our volunteers each and every year, and knows that we could not present the festival without everyone's hard work and dedication.

There are MANY different types of jobs

for which we need volunteers, such as:

- Café/Food Court
- Children's Activities
- Cultural Exhibits
- Festival Setup and Breakdown
- Entrance Greeters
- Host/Hostess & VIP
- Info/Welcome Table
- Movie Room
- Pippi Look-Alike Contest
- Raffle/Silent Auction
- Volunteer Station
- Walking Billboard

If you would like to volunteer at ScanFest 2007, please complete an online volunteer application by [visiting www.scandinavianconnection.org](http://www.scandinavianconnection.org) and click on "SCANFEST VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP". **Please note that the deadline has been extended until October 7.**

All volunteers who work **2 shifts (or more)** will receive a t-shirt, lanyard, beverages & snacks, plus free parking in the Two Wachovia Center Parking deck.

For more info on volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinators Ulrika Pettersson ulrika@scandinavianconnection.org and Andreas Johansson andreas@scandinavianconnection.org

Thank you for your time and support!

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~ Elizabeth Andrew

SAGA Thanks Our Supporters!

PATRONS OF THE FESTIVAL

As of September 23, 2007

Titanium Level - \$2500



Platinum Level - \$1000



Gold Level - \$750
University Volvo

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DSV

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Finland again among least corrupt countries from Helsingin Sanomat

It is that time of year again, when Finland's perceived incorruptibility gets a new coat of varnish. According to the 2007 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released on Wednesday by the Berlin-based NGO Transparency International (TI), the three least corrupt countries in the world are Finland, Denmark, and New Zealand. On a scale of zero to ten, Denmark, Finland, and New Zealand are all rated at 9.4.

At the other end of the scale are Myanmar and Somalia with a score of 1.4. At the same time, Russia was rated at 2.3, meaning that the border between Finland and Russia is arguably the world's most abrupt in terms of bribery and corruption.

Transparency International notes that corruption in Finland's eastern neighbour "runs rampant". The CPI indicates that in terms of corruption the rift between Finland and Russia is apparently more insurmountable than the one between the United States and Mexico.

Finnish officials, together with their Danish and New Zealander counterparts have been found to take fewer bribes

than their colleagues in many other countries. The same countries have in fact headed the Corruption Perceptions Index for years.

Although Finland was again deemed to be one of the least-corrupt countries, Transparency International said that the country's record has been somewhat blemished as a consequence of some bribery scandals that have surfaced in recent years. Actually, publicity can have an effect on the results, as perceived corruption levels are assessed primarily by business executives in the countries concerned. The interviewees themselves do not necessarily have any experience of their own with respect to bribery.

All Nordic countries were among the top ten least-corrupt nations based on the latest Index, which ranks 180 countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians in each country. Sweden was in the joint fourth place, while Russia was down in 143rd. Among the larger countries, the USA occupied 20th place, while the UK was 12th, Germany was 16th and France 19th.

The 2007 Corruption Perceptions Index confirmed that a strong correlation between corruption and poverty continues to be evident. Forty per cent of those scoring below three, indicating that corruption is perceived as rampant, are classified by the World Bank as low income countries. The 2007 Corruption

Perceptions Index looks at perceptions of public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories. It scores countries on a scale from zero to ten, with zero indicating high levels of perceived corruption and ten indicating low levels of perceived corruption.

The Index is a handy yardstick, but has occasionally been criticised for concentrating on the corruption of state and local officials. European countries like Finland, with highly transparent societies, do not leave much room for corruption among officialdom. Public tenders, public access to documents, and other features of the administrative process make the routine buying-off of officials almost impossible. However, the lists might look rather different if business-to-business corruption were to be assayed. At least the scores would decline from the lofty levels of 9.4 on a scale of ten.

An example of the anomalies that exist in such surveys comes in the case of Germany, which continued to score well on the Corruption Perception Index, in spite of the extremely large and well-documented Siemens corruption scandal. Other European cases include the massive fines levied for running price-fixing cartels, either in the elevator business or among allegedly competing airlines. These corrupt practices apparently do not show up in the tables: rottenness in the business culture is not manifested in the TI indices.

Would you like to see your friends and family in *The Midnight Sun*? We would, too! Send your photo or recipe submissions to Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org by October 19.

Viking Queen Exhumed to Solve Mystery

From: Reuters

Archaeologists exhumed the body of a Viking queen on Monday, hoping to solve a riddle about whether a woman buried with her 1,200 years ago was a servant killed to be a companion into the afterlife.

On Sept 10, archaeologists at the Oseberg mound in southern Norway dig up a coffin containing the remains of a Viking queen and another woman in an attempt to solve a mystery surrounding their relationship.

As a less gruesome alternative, the two women in the grass-covered Oseberg mound in south Norway might be a royal mother and daughter who died of the same disease and were buried together in 834.

"We will do DNA tests to try to find out. I don't know of any Viking skeletons that have been analyzed as we plan to do," Egil Mikkelsen, director of Oslo's Museum of Cultural History, told Reuters at the graveside.

As rain pelted down, four men lifted an aluminum coffin containing the bones of two women after digging a 1.5 meter (5 ft) deep hole in the mound where the women were originally buried in a spectacular Viking longboat.

The women and the 22-metre (70 ft) longboat, with its curling oak prow still intact, were unearthed in 1904 in the 5-metre high mound, surrounded by cornfields, in one of the archaeological sensations of the 20th century.

A Publication of SAGA of the Carolinas, a non-profit organization

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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, October 19.

Viking Queen Exhumed to Solve Mystery *(con't)*

The longboat, known as the Oseberg ship, is in a museum in Oslo but the bones were reburied in 1948 and have since lain undisturbed. About 200 people, including schoolchildren, watched the exhumation.

"We don't know who the women were," Mikkelsen said, adding that DNA tests could tell if they were related. "DNA analysis could prove if they were mother and daughter," he said.

"But I have always thought of them as the queen and her maid," he added. If the two women had widely differing DNA it could be a sign that the second woman was a servant.



DECAPITATED

A servant might have been the victim of a ritual killing, perhaps her throat slit to accompany her queen to an afterlife in Valhalla. In one Danish Viking grave, for instance, an old man lying by a younger man had been decapitated.

And new chemical analysis of bones can also tell what people ate. In Viking times meat, such as elk, was prized while poorer people ate fish.

"If they were mother and daughter they would probably have had the same food. If one woman was a maid they would have had different diets," Mikkelsen said.

The aluminum coffin will be driven to Oslo and opened for analyses, likely to last a year.

The archaeologists placed a Norwegian 20 crown coin – dated 2007 and with a picture of the prow of the Oseberg ship on one side – in the sarcophagus to show any future generations when the grave had been disturbed.

Among those at the graveside was a man dressed as a Viking with a sword hanging from his belt. "This is an experience you get once in a lifetime," said Leszek Gardela, 23, a Polish student of archaeology.



Mikkelsen said he saw no ethical objections to opening the grave, partly because the two were buried so long ago and no one even knew their names.