



NCC Newsletter

What you missed at our last meeting and what's coming up!

Notes from our November 12th, 2020 meeting



Our November speaker was

Professor Ann-Charlotte "Lotta" Gavel-Adams

of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington.

NCC Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2020.

Submitted by Daniel Nye, Co-Secretary

President Debbi Larson convened the Third Virtual Meeting of the 2020-2021 Season, on line, again live from the Norwegian Commercial Club "Studio" at Leif Erikson Lodge in Ballard. Debbi began by marking the passing in August of Mr. Leland R. Roseberg, member since 1996. She called for a moment of reverent silence, ended by the ringing of the Club's traditional Ship's Bell. Rest in Peace, Leland.

Debbi next welcomed all members present on line and reminded everyone that this meeting and the First and Second Virtual Meetings will remain available for subsequent viewing on line on the [NCC YouTube Channel](#). You can invite guests to view the meetings (*Doug Warne, ever the tech pioneer, had done exactly that for this meeting, by inviting a friend from Portland to listen in. Well done, Doug!*) As of the writing of these minutes over 50 members had already viewed the November 12th meeting online. Please note that online you will be able to see and hear the remarks and slide show that accompanied the delightful presentation on Nordic Trolls, which is also summarized below.

Debbi then proceeded to club announcements, reminding Members that she will be glad to include any announcements from Members of Club-related matters at future meetings. Just call or send your announcement to Debbi's attention.

Debbi's first announcement was a sad one: Fishermen's Night, which is for many the highlight of the entire NCC Year, will have to be rescheduled this year due to COVID risks. The Fisheries Committee hopes to be able to hold the event hopefully in May of 2021. Watch for details.

Debbi next encouraged Members to donate shelf-stable food items to the Ballard Alliance Food Drive currently underway. Members can drop off donated items to Mountain Pacific Bank, next to Leif Erikson Lodge. Items donated will benefit Ballard Food Bank. Debbi recommended donating to opportunity in the thankful season to benefit our community at a time of great need. Thank you.

Debbi next introduced Treasurer Cory Nelson, who reported that renewals have been streaming in, and thanked all those members who are NOT on Julenissen's naughty list of those who have not yet paid! For those still needing to renew, please note that it is also possible to pay one's dues on line now at the updated website. All you need is your index finger to fill out the required information and a credit card, and you're done! And no nasty note from Santa. For details, see the email in your inbox from Deane Motis dated October 19th, showing you how to access and use the updated website.

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Having concluded the business portion of the Meeting, Debbi then introduced Vice President Erik Pihl, who introduced our speaker for the evening, Professor Ann-Charlotte "Lotta" Gavel-Adams, of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington. Lotta's lively and beautifully illustrated presentation told the history of trolls, those unique and revered beings that for centuries have been an intrinsic, whimsical part of Nordic folklore and culture. They have since become known worldwide and, decades ago now, also found their way to Ballard, where one pops up magically every time NCC meets as a thank you gift for our speaker: a unique and delightful tradition, just like NCC itself.

So it was a perfect idea to have Lotta Gavel-Adams come tell us tales of trolls. Lotta introduced her program with Norwegian artist Theodore Kittelsen's iconic troll portrait known as Forest Troll, which depicts an entire Norwegian mountaintop coming alive as a giant troll, including a blindingly bright spot in its upper reaches that could be just the sun reflecting on a mountain lake, or could be a troll's eye.

In a delightful conclusion to her presentation, Lotta then traced the trails of trolls from their dark, scary and often moralistic Norwegian origins into a wider world, beginning with John Bauer's Danish depictions of trolls, to those of Walter Stenstroem in Sweden, and more recently, Tove Jansson's "Moomin Trolls." Moomin Trolls, as depicted by Jansson in stories and illustrations, are more recognizably human in character and more hippo-like in appearance, and have achieved immensely popularity in Europe and Asia.



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Don't miss our next virtual meeting January 28th, 2021!

Have a safe & happy holiday season!

Debbi Larson ◊ President

Erik Pihl ◊ Vice-President

