

News from the Sami Cultural Center of North America

Spring/Gidda 2015



Spring and Summer Events...

Saturdays at the Sami Cultural Center

Programs are free and everyone is welcome.

Saturday, April 11

10 - noon – Project Time — a volunteer work session
noon - 1 p.m. - Pot Luck Lunch and Social
1 p.m. – showing of the movie *Suddenly Sami (Min mors hemmelighet)* by Sami Norwegian film maker Ellen-Astri Lundby

Suddenly Sami is a personal film about identity. During the director's childhood and youth in Oslo, her mother never told her about her indigenous Sami background in the Arctic area of Norway. Why didn't she? And how can the director suddenly become Sami in the middle of life?



The movie is 58 minutes in Norwegian with English sub-titles.

Saturday, April 18

10 - noon – Project Time — a volunteer work session
noon - 1 p.m. - Pot Luck Lunch and Social
1 p.m. – showing of the movie *Solveig: The Life and Artwork of Solveig Arneng Johnson*
with special guest - film maker Kiersten Chase

This beautiful film features Duluth's own Sami artist, Solveig Arneng Johnson, telling the touching story of her childhood in Norway, her marriage to Rudy Johnson and moving to the U.S., and her life as an artist.



Saturday, May 9

noon - 1 p.m. - Pot Luck Lunch and Social
1 p.m. - A Visit with Sami Storyteller ~ Singer/Songwriter **Stina Fagertun**



Stina will be with us to share lively tales of Sápmi from her collection of ancient stories and legends. She is a frequent performer on stages around the world where she celebrates the people and magical landscapes of her native Norway.

Student Movie Premier at UMD

Obbasa Ain Gállit ~ We Continue

Sunday, April 26, 3:00 p.m.

Kathryn A. Martin Library
University of Minnesota Duluth

Students from the student run non-profit Extending the Link of the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University did research and filming in the U.S. (including at the Sami Cultural Center) before traveling to Sápmi to film there. We hope you can join us as they present their film and a panel discussion on contemporary Sami life.

A reception follows and the public is invited.



Hjemkomst Festival



The Sami Cultural Center will be represented at the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Moorhead, MN on June 26-27. Board members

Cari Mayo, Nathan Muus, and Marlene Wisuri will be presenting programs and helping to staff a Sami camp. The Erika Larsen photography exhibit *Sámi: Walking with Reindeer* will be sponsored by the Sami Cultural Center at the Spirit Room Gallery in Fargo, ND, June 23 - August 22, 2015.

Stop by the Sami Cultural Center's table at the **Discover History Fair on Friday, May 8, 3 - 7 p.m.** at the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (the Depot), 506 West Michigan Street, Duluth, MN. The event is sponsored by the St. Louis County Historical Society and the Northland History Coalition—it's free and open to the public with snacks by Duluth Grill.

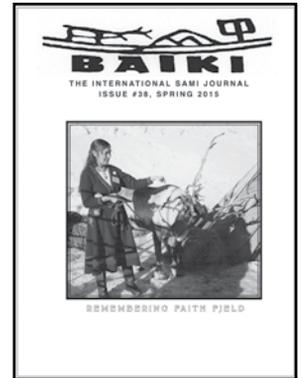




Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Faith Fjeld (1935-2014)

A gathering to remember and honor long-time *Báiki: The International Sami Journal* editor and Sami Cultural Center founding board member, Faith Fjeld, will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The event will start with a pot luck supper at 5:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Square (Park Point) Community Center, 3026 Minnesota Avenue, Duluth, MN, followed by a time of sharing our remembrances of Faith. Please bring your favorite “Faith” story or photo to share. A memorial edition of *Báiki* will be published and available at the gathering. For more information, please contact the Sami Center or call Marlene at 218/525-3924.

Faith’s obituary and life story can be found at <http://www.baiki.org/content/FaithFjeld.htm>.



FEBRUARY 6 ~ SAMI DAY AT THE CENTER



Nathan Kesti and Cedar were interviewed by journalist Berit Solveig Gaup of NRK Norway during her visit to the Sami Center on Sami Day.

We celebrated Sami Day on February 6th with a well attended Open House. Sami Day commemorates the February 6, 1917, General Meeting of Sami in Trondheim, Norway—the beginning of Sami unity. Our special guests were Berit Solveig Gaup and Vanja Ulfsnes of NRK Norway broadcasting.



Berit remembered this reindeer bell band, which came to the Sami Center as part of the *Sami Reindeer People of Alaska* exhibit and once belonged to her relatives in Alaska.

AND ON THE WEST COAST...

Center Board member Nathan Muus and others from *Báiki* and the California Sámi Searvi are participating in the annual Scandinavian Festival on the campus of California Lutheran University at Thousand Oaks, CA, on April 18-19. Nathan will present a musical program with yoiking and special guest Stina Fagertun. Nani Löfström is giving a lecture on Sami *duodji*. A Sami camp will be set up on the beautiful grounds of the University.



Proper storage of donated items is a priority at the Center as work continues to catalog and place items in archival materials. Funding for archival materials has been received from the Finlandia Foundation National. Since the Sami Cultural Center is operating as an entirely volunteer organization, if you would like to volunteer to help with the collection or other activities, please contact the Center. There are many immediate and future volunteer opportunities. If you would like to participate in the exciting work of the Center, call 218/525-4757.

VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEES NEEDED ~

- ☛ STAFFING FOR OUR OPEN HOURS
- ☛ FUND RAISING: researching available funding sources, grant writing, mailings, and donor solicitation
- ☛ WEBSITE: helping develop content and maintain the SCCNA website
- ☛ LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES ORGANIZATION: helping to organize and record the library and collections
- ☛ CARPENTRY: building display panels and cases
- ☛ HOSPITALITY: hosting visiting culture bearers and other guests. This is a special need this summer as a number of out-of-town guests will be needing housing.

The Sami Cultural Center and *Báiki* are very grateful to generous individual donors and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation for ongoing support and encouragement.

SAMI CULTURAL CENTER LEARNING/DISCUSSION SESSIONS

January and February saw the Sami Center buzzing with activity as a series of classes presented information about Sami history, culture, and identity. Marlene Wisuri, Mel Mattson, and Mary Lukkarila joined forces to facilitate sessions on...



January 24 - An introduction to Sami history and culture

January 31 - Sami duodji (handicrafts) - Useful things made beautiful

February 14 - The North American Sami reawakening

February 21 - Sami identity, genealogy, and DNA.

The response was enthusiastic with each session filled to capacity and extra sessions added. The addition of the new room to the Center will allow accommodations for more people in the future. We'll plan to run another series of classes next fall.



Mary Lukkarila assisted participants with genealogy questions.

Jesse Gram talked about Sami duodji with Mel Mattson.



THE SAMI CENTER WELCOMES VISITORS

Quite a number of people have visited the Center from the Duluth area, Michigan, Wisconsin, Canada, and other parts of Minnesota, as well as visitors from Norway. We do have open hours on Tuesdays from 3 - 7 p.m. and are open at other times by appointment. Call 218/525-3924 or email samicenterna@gmail.com.



Taqralik Partridge and Nina Segalowitz, both from Canada, paid a delightful visit on March 20. They are active in performing and preserving the Inuit tradition of throat singing and shared their skills with a early morning group at the Center.



Professor Hilary Virtanen brought Finlandia University students and faculty (and the college mascot) for a visit on February 20. They viewed the presentation on the North American Sami Reawakening and browsed the library collection during their visit.

THE CENTER IS EXPANDING!!

As a result of our successful (crowded) classes and the availability of an additional room adjacent to our current space, the Center has expanded and now has a dedicated classroom/meeting room/project room. There is also a kitchen available for our use. Our Sami visitors suggested we name the new space *Loaidu* or “the space to be in the *lavvu*.”

In an effort to raise some funds to furnish the new room we’re inviting you to ~

Pull Up a Chair

and help furnish the new classroom at the Sami Cultural Center of North America by sponsoring the purchase of a chair. Only \$20.00 per chair and your contribution is tax deductible.

◆◆ Sponsors will be recognized. ◆◆

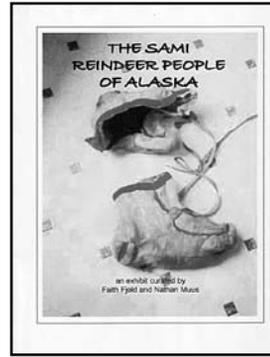
Checks should be made out to Sami Cultural Center
4915 East Superior Street, Suite 205
Duluth, MN 55804

✿ ✿ Other items needed for the new room ✿ ✿

- A projector & screen
- Media cart
- Folding table
- Sewing machine & supplies
- Display cases
- Exhibit panels



AVAILABLE AT THE CENTER



A 54-page exhibit catalog by Faith Fjeld and Nathan Muus features a history of the Alaska Reindeer Project, historic photographs and stories from the exhibit, a list of Reindeer Project families, and an extensive

bibliography. The catalog is available from the Center at a cost of \$10 plus \$4 S & H for 1 copy, \$2 for each additional copy. MN residents add 69¢ tax per copy. Canadian orders are US \$10 plus US \$5 shipping. European orders are US \$20 including shipping.

Also see Sami flags, pins, and bumper stickers for sale at the Center.

Like us on Facebook at Sami Cultural Center of North America! Current news, photos, and updates can be found there.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Center is open on Tuesdays 3 - 7 p.m. or by appointment at other times. (Use the Pitt Street entrance when visiting the Center.)

Sami Cultural Center of North America
4915 East Superior Street, Suite 205
Duluth, MN 55804
email: samicenterna@gmail.com
phone: 218/525-4757

There are no membership fees, but your tax deductible and much appreciated gift to the Sami Cultural Center of North America will help fund the work of the Center.

Here is my gift of _____ to help with the work of the SCCNA.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

My gift is in honor of: _____

My gift is in memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgment of this gift to:

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Please send your contribution to ~
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Duluth, MN 55804

My employer will match this gift. Enclosed is the company’s matching gift form.

I prefer not to receive an appreciation award.

On-line donations can be made using this link: <https://givemn.org/donate?s=sami+Cultural+Center+of+North+America>