

SCANDINAVIAN LIVING CENTER +

SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER & LIBRARY

NEWS+EVENTS

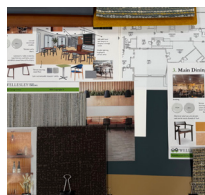
FALL 2025



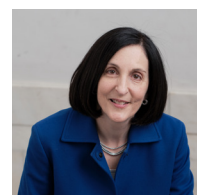
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A Message from Joe Carella



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to express my decades-long gratitude to be part of a community that created and built the Scandinavian Living Center and the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library. Our collective success was achieved through generous donors and volunteers. As we move forward, we continue to make improvements with the help of that same kind of generosity.

I am happy to share that our “BHAG moment” (big hairy audacious goals) discussed in previous newsletters, is turning into a great accomplishment. **Renovations scheduled to be completed late next year are a year ahead of schedule** due to a few extremely generous donors. The extra good news is that moving the completion date to this year means that we will also save thousands of dollars.

Through this renovation period, Alie French, our Director of Operations, has spearheaded the effort to organize and oversee all the new improvements. Her

vision and her tenacity bode well for our future. I am so grateful for her leadership, and I hope you will soon come to visit and see the result of her outstanding work.

Because of the generous capital support from many in our amazing community, we are ready to embark on the most vital element of our audacious goals: **securing the future for the next generation by enhancing our special endowment funds.** Every donation into the **Subsidy Fund**, the **Friendship Fund**, and the **Cultural Fund** will continue to grow while a percentage of their annual earnings will be used for future financial assistance for residents and programs for the Greater Boston community. **This will strengthen everything we do in the years to come.** See pages 6-8 for more info about the funds and the impact you can have.

After more than thirty years at the Center, I have been asked what I think my legacy will be. Beyond hoping that the SLC family feels as well cared for as

“I ask you to help me build a legacy we can all be proud of. Please contribute to our endowment funds so your gifts this year can grow to help countless others in the future.”

my own, my legacy will always be rooted in looking to the future and empowering the next generation to thrive. Have I, have we, done enough to secure the future for generations to come?

I ask you to help me build a legacy we can all be proud of. Please contribute to our endowment funds so your gifts this year can grow to help countless others in the future. Together, let us make our audacious goal a reality and create a healthy and empowering legacy for the future.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Joe Carella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' and 'C'.

Joe Carella
Executive Director
Scandinavian Charitable Society of
Greater Boston

A Message from Alie French



With Thanksgiving almost upon us, I want to add my list of thanks to everyone involved with our SLC renovation project. First, to our designers, architects, and builders—Wellesley Design Consultants, BWA Architecture, and Comeau & Kelly Construction. I think that you will see the quality of their work and commitment every time you visit. Additionally, our Maintenance and Housekeeping crew, who helped keep everything running as smoothly as possible all throughout our summer of...creative disruption! Also, none of this would have been possible without the leadership of one of our Building Committee members, Garth Johnson, who put countless hours into these projects. And finally—and most importantly—to our residents, who navigated new walking-traffic patterns, sealed off rooms, and plenty of noisy days. We are so grateful for their patience and good humor (which continues to this day) while we were working hard to make their home a nicer place to live, as quickly as possible.

Think of it. For anyone who has lived through a home renovation and seen your family juggle their routines around floor sanding and new bathroom installations—well, we were trying to accomplish that in a home for 40! Our appreciation to and for our residents will, I hope, be expressed for generations in the form of new finishes and furnishings to be enjoyed by all.

INTERNATIONAL ELDERCARE PROVIDERS VISIT SLC

We were honored to welcome eldercare providers from Australia and the United Kingdom to the Scandinavian Living Center. While in Boston attending an international conference for aging service providers, they took the opportunity to visit our community. During their visit, they were eager to learn about our community-centered model and gathered insights and ideas to incorporate into their own work. Our new friends were excited to see how SLC has brought care and community together in a seamless environment which encourages residents to live rich, connected lives.



Building the Future of Nordic Culture in New England

Dear Friends,

When you walk through our doors—whether it's for a film screening, a concert, a lecture, or a cup of coffee in the Kaffestugan—you help keep Nordic culture alive and thriving right here in Newton.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library has been part of this community since the **1980s**, when it began humbly in the **carriage house at the back of the property**. What started as a small gathering place for those wishing to celebrate and preserve their Scandinavian roots has grown into a vibrant cultural hub where

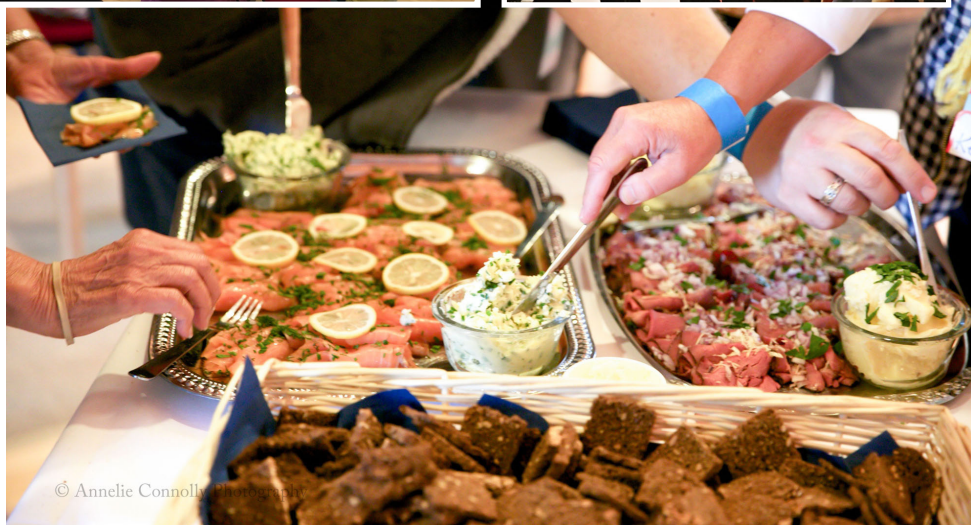
people from all backgrounds come to explore the art, language, and traditions of the Nordic region.

Today, we have an extraordinary opportunity to ensure that this work continues for generations to come. We are embarking on an ambitious goal: to build a **\$1 million endowment, the Scandinavian Cultural Fund**.

This fund will help secure our future—providing the steady income needed to sustain our programs, care for our facility, and fairly compensate the talented artists, speakers, and staff who bring our mission to life. Like many cultural

organizations, we face ongoing expenses that are often invisible to those who attend our events:

- **Film screening rights** that allow us to share Nordic cinema on the big screen.
- **Performance fees and travel costs** for the musicians, dancers, and lecturers who bring our stages to life.
- **Supplies, marketing, and equipment** that keep our programs accessible and engaging.
- And, most importantly, the **salaries of our small but dedicated team** who plan, promote, and produce



How You Can Help

Join the Founders of the Scandinavian Cultural Fund. Help us reach our goal of establishing a \$1 million endowment that will sustain our programs and operations for years to come. Your contribution—no matter the size—builds a permanent foundation for Nordic culture in New England.

Ways to Give:

- Make a one-time or recurring gift to the Scandinavian Cultural Fund
- Consider a planned or legacy gift to ensure your support continues into the future

To learn more or make a contribution, visit www.scandicenter.org/donate or contact Kerry Lavin at kerry@scandicenter.org

“Every concert, every film, every waffle shared at the Kaffestugan reminds me how deeply this place matters. Together, we can ensure it thrives well into the future.”

every event, exhibition, and community partnership.

An endowment of this size will generate annual income that helps cover these essential costs—allowing us to focus less on immediate fundraising and more on creating experiences that connect, educate, and inspire. It will give us the freedom to dream bigger: to bring new artists from Scandinavia, expand our educational programs,

and welcome even more visitors into the Nordic Hall.

The **Scandinavian Cultural Fund** will be a living legacy—one that honors the foresight of those who established this organization in the 1980s and the generosity of those who sustain it today. Every gift, large or small, is an investment in the long-term health of our Center and the preservation of the Nordic spirit in New England.

We invite you to be part of this next chapter. Together, we can ensure that the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library continues to be a place where stories are shared, art is celebrated, and community is built—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Kerry Lavin
Executive Director
Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library



**General
SCC&L
Support**



**Founder's
Circle
Page**



**Become a
member
today**

SCC&L MEMBERSHIP TYPES

SINGLE \$75
PLUS \$125

FAMILY \$150
STUDENT \$40 (full time students)

Sign up at www.scandicenter.org



FOLLOW US @SCANDICENTER

Subscribe to our email list for monthly updates on upcoming events at www.scandicenter.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

01.17.25



A COURSE IN NORSE
PAGANISM WITH
BEHZAD “BEAR”
BAKHSHANDEH

02.28.26



SCREENING OF
LEWERENTZ DIVINE
DARKNESS WITH
FILMMAKER SVEN BLUME

Opportunities to Support Our Work

Dear Donors, Friends, and Families of the SLC and the SCC&L,

The great writer E.B. White is as admired for his children's books (*Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*) as he is for his essays (from "Here is New York" to "Once More to the Lake"), to name a few of each. One of his wry observations strikes me as perfect in this season of thanks-giving.

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

To improve the world *and* enjoy the world: that's the definition of philanthropy!

It took me a while to really understand this, but now it's exactly how I see how closely related the act of giving and the feeling of joy are to each other. Let's talk about joy. The joy of family. The joy of community. The joy of accomplishment. The joy of making some sort of difference in the world...philanthropy.

We just experienced the joy of philanthropy firsthand when Joe got the confirmation that we were receiving

How to Create a Win-Win Legacy

Here's a simple example.

Say you donate **\$10,000** to the Subsidy Fund. And let's say the fund earns 10% (or \$1,000 on your specific gift) in the first year. Following our fund guidelines, that means that \$750 of those earnings can be distributed to support those in need of financial assistance, and \$250 will get reinvested back into the Subsidy Fund. So, after a year, your gift is actually worth **\$10,250**. And even without considering the benefits of compounding interest, in four years your original gift of **\$10,000** becomes more like **\$11,000**! And all the while it generates \$750 or more for

subsidies every year for life and grows bigger itself every year.

It's a win-win situation in the best sense and a bona fide legacy builder. Imagine if 50 of our 1,800 donors and close friends were able to donate \$10,000 to, say, our Subsidy Fund? That would mean an additional \$37,500 in scholarship funds to residents in need after just one year! And that original collective \$500,000 contribution would amount to \$600,000 or more in four years.

These are just examples of how meaningful your support can be—today and for many, many

tomorrows. Please think about all the ways you might pull together a gift of significance. And look at the available naming opportunities (on pages 7-8) because they can apply to major gifts to any of the endowment funds. It would be our honor.

Are you able to consider—through appreciated stocks and IRA distributions, perhaps (lots of good tax advantages there)—a gift of \$100,000 over four years? You could put your name on, say, the Meditation Chapel for a generation. And the impact of your generosity on the lives of residents and the community at large would last forever.

the largest single gift in our history to see us through the first two phases of our capital campaign. Our gratitude was surpassed only by the joy and satisfaction coming from the donor.

So let's spread that joy to all of you reading this newsletter. As we ask you to help us build up our special endowment funds, we're creating legacy building for all! The idea is, a significant gift to any one of these cause-directed funds is a real investment in the future. And leaves you—and us—a real legacy.

Please give some thought to assembling an ambitious gift, look over the Naming Opportunities page, and talk with Joe and me about how you might find joy by expressing yourself philanthropically.

Thank you!



Richard Teller, Director of Philanthropy



Interested in learning more or donating today? Please scan the QR code to the left!

Fund the Future Campaign Naming Opportunities

*Donors will be gratefully recognized for their transformational gifts by adding their names—or the names of loved ones or inspirational figures they choose to honor—to the name of the space they support. **These can also be applied to major gifts to the endowment funds.***

Nordic Hall \$1,000,000—Can include naming the Scandinavian Cultural Fund with the same or an additional name of your choice.

Scandinavian Library \$500,000

Veranda \$400,000—CLAIMED in honor of Suzanne and Albert Frederick, Jr.

Main Dining Room \$250,000

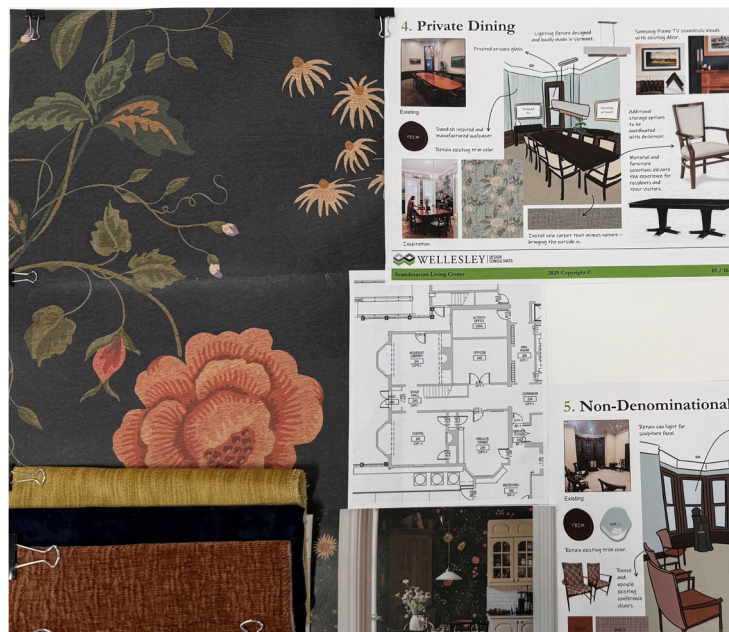
Kaffestugan (Coffee House) \$250,000—CLAIMED

Lobby \$250,000

Nordic Hall Gallery \$250,000

Courtyard \$150,000

Front Lawn \$100,000



Welcome Desk \$100,000—CLAIMED in honor of Eva and David Bergesen

Presidents Room \$100,000

Meditation Chapel \$100,000

Continued on next page

FUND THE FUTURE

Continued from previous page

Resident Care Center \$100,000

Kaffestugan Patio \$50,000

Fitness Center \$50,000

Apartments \$50,000 each— 1 of 17 CLAIMED

Resident Garden \$25,000

Trees \$10,000 each

Outdoor Benches \$5,000 each—5 of 12 CLAIMED

Nordic Hall Chairs \$1,000 each (100 available)

Endowment funds to support programs, services, and subsidies for the next generation:

Dr. Erling and Inger Johansen Subsidy Fund
\$483,000 TO RAISE

Suzanne and Albert Frederick Jr. Friendship Fund \$838,000 TO RAISE

Scandinavian Cultural Fund
\$895,000 TO RAISE



All gifts of \$5,000 and above will be permanently listed on our video kiosk in the lobby.

Remember . . .

The Johansen Subsidy Fund

provides direct financial assistance to residents in their times of need.

The Subsidy Fund provides confidential and ongoing financial assistance to those residents who continue to benefit from our assisted living community but no longer have sufficient resources. The Scandinavian Living Center is committed to ensuring that all residents will be able to remain at the Center even if they become unable to pay the full monthly fee. Proceeds from the Subsidy Fund provide essential resources to help us fulfill this promise. **We have \$483,000 to raise to reach our goal of \$1,000,000.**

The Frederick Friendship Fund

helps to keep creative programs,

social activities, and special guest visits available to the entire community.

The Friendship Fund provides extra capacity to bring in special guests and performances that welcome neighboring communities and residents alike and help us achieve one of our core goals: to fight isolation and loneliness. Proceeds from the Fund enhance our ability to provide resources for the entire community to come together, interact, and experience arts, culture, and entertainment together. **We have \$838,000 to raise to reach our goal of \$1,000,000.**

The Scandinavian Cultural Fund

helps ensure the future of Scandinavian arts, culture, and community in New England.

The Scandinavian Cultural Fund provides lasting support for the programs, exhibitions, and events that make the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library a vibrant home for Nordic culture. Like other dedicated endowment funds, gifts to the Cultural Fund are invested to generate annual income—sustaining our work today and preserving our mission for generations to come. Your contribution, of any size, strengthens this foundation of cultural exchange, creativity, and connection. Together, we can ensure that Scandinavian heritage continues to inspire, educate, and bring people together for years to come. **We have \$895,000 to raise to reach our goal of \$1,000,000.**

A Time for Thanks-giving

Thank you for your generous support of the **FUND THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN**, launched in 2019 as a comprehensive effort to serve all the activities and the long-term capital projects of the **Scandinavian Living Center** and the **Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library**. The Campaign provides an opportunity to both gather and acknowledge the continuing support of our most loyal donors as it includes gifts for facilities as well as our long-standing endowment funds:

Dr. Erling and Inger Johansen Subsidy Fund, providing critical support to residents if they become unable to afford their monthly fees.

\$400,000+

Estate of Win I. Barnard
Suzanne and Albert R. Frederick Jr. *

\$100,000-\$399,999

Charles H. Farnsworth Charitable Trust

\$40,000-\$99,999

Anonymous *
Eva R. Bergesen 2011 Revocable Trust *
Artie and Sigurour Helgason *
Robert J. Mullen Charitable Trust
Leonard and Florence L. Wilson

\$25,000-\$39,999

Estate of John R. Elander
Terje and Brigitte Korsnes *
Nordic Group *
Eleanor O. Soorian estate
The Village Bank *

\$15,000-\$24,999

Carl and Susan Carlsen
Drapkin Family
Jacob Friis and Hyun-A Park
Estate of Eliot I. Leaf
Dr. Alan Sooho
Sharyn Sooho *

\$10,000-\$14,999

C. William and Alice D. Bergquist
Linzee Coolidge
Estate of Kirsten M. McKim

Suzanne and Albert Frederick Jr. Friendship Fund, to support resident and community programs, including classes, trips, lectures, and performances.

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous (2) *
Bay State Federal Savings
Charitable Foundation
Joe Carella and Carole Lacy-Carella *
Frances Dragon
Tryggve Fossum *
Joyce D. Haglund
Bruce and Gardi Hauck
Lynn A. Haugen
Garth Johnson
Luana Marie Josvold *
Harriet Laing
Frederick R. and Deborah N. Molander
Gregg C. and Stacy Molander
Liz Sooho Peirce
Karl and Elin Proppe
RSM Boston Foundation in honor of
Brendan Romans
Kristine A. Soorian
Peter Vatne

\$2,500-\$4,999

Walter V. Anderson Foundation
Anonymous
Beaumont Financial's Richard D. Wilson
Community Response Gift Fund in
honor of Terje Korsnes
Victoria and John Danberg
Robert J. and Margaret B. Ellertsen
Tonje C. Gulbrandsen *
George Martins
Norumbega Lodge 506, Sons of Norway
Brian T. Sciera
Karen Soorian and Arthur Nevins *

Scandinavian Cultural Fund, to support the programs and activities of the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library.

SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association)*
Per Olov Wahlstrom *
Anita and Augustus White *

\$1,000-\$2,499

David Alexander
Anne-Reet Annunziata *
Dana Berg and Robert Minturn
Steven Borgesen
Stig and Donna Bergquist
Astrid and Geoffrey Carliner *
Gabrielle Clemens
Embrace Home Care and
Health Services
Flansburgh Architects
Elaine Floren Trust
Gam and Van't Hul Charitable Trust
Alexander Garthwaite *
David Gordon
Richard Harmon
Kirsten Holst
William N. Keto
Lise Lange and Myles Striar *
William R. Leitch *
Franklin B. Mead III
Drs. Kathy and Philip Millstein
Karen and Larry Nichols
Ginga Sewerin-Olsson*
John E. and Penelope A. Pearson
Christine Peterson *
Thomas and Margaret Rogers
Rotary Club of Newton *
Jos and Pia Scheffelaar *
Allen Steere
Elsa Wormald

This list reflects cumulative gifts totaling \$1,000 and greater from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2025. We are so grateful for the many other gifts received in support of Fund the Future and will list them on the SLC website. Donors marked with an asterisk (*) have made gifts to the Cultural Center & Library since 2024. Thank you!

Welcome to Our New Residents



CAROLE BERNEY

calls herself curious about the world, and enjoys using her creative skills in writing, music, photography, and theater. Born

in Connecticut to a Norwegian American family, teen-aged Carole became an accomplished pianist. As an adult she taught English in high school and at Northeastern University.



CHUCK BERNEY

(Carole's husband) was born in Walla Walla, Washington. Chuck played sousaphone in high school. He attended college briefly before

being drafted into the Army and sent to Germany. Chuck has always enjoyed theater and met Carole when she was casting a musical version of Alice in Wonderland. They settled in Watertown, where they raised their two children.



ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

describes her childhood home as full of joy. Like most residents of her Nova Scotia community,

Elizabeth's parents were Scots, and she grew up in a culture of singing, dancing, storytelling and, most importantly, hospitality. She loves to travel and appreciates history. Her nursing career took her to places throughout Canada and Europe, and eventually to Boston.



SAVERIA D'ANGELO

understands the importance of a welcoming smile. Born in Settignano, Italy, Saveria

moved to Massachusetts at age nine and recalls the friendship that classmates and neighbors offered as she transitioned to life in the United States. After graduating from Newton High School, Saveria attended Emerson College and enjoyed her career with the National Park Service. Some cherished memories include skiing in Colorado and eating seafood in Naples.



MICHAEL PARSONS

thanks his wonderful parents, siblings, and the many other people

who supported his upbringing. Mike feels the SLC is "like a family" too. He enjoys singing, and his collection of vintage recording equipment includes a prized karaoke machine. He also is a rock fan, with attendance at the 1966 Suffolk Downs Beatles concert and Woodstock in 1969 to prove it! A Boston native, Mike has been a board member of Action for Boston Community Development and a member of Brighton Allston Historical Society.



Since her birth during an April blizzard, **HOPE RAYMOND** has maintained an adventurous life.

As a young child of Russian and Ukrainian heritage, she lived in a culturally diverse North Philadelphia community. After attending nursing school, Hope enjoyed a 45-year nursing career. She is an honorary board member of the Cancer Support Community of Greater Philadelphia and funds its Tom McDermitt Fund named for her longtime partner who died in 2024. Hope rode a Harley Davidson for years, collects old tools and natural objects, and has welcomed numerous rescue dogs and cats into her home.



JOHN REED

proudly claims both Yankee and Swedish heritage. He graduated from Augustana College in

Rock Island, IL with a degree in geography. He was recruited by the US Navy Intelligence Service and had a 21-year career as a Navy intelligence officer followed by fulfilling employment in banking and insurance. John and his wife Jean enjoyed a "very good family life" with their four children. Appreciating his Nordic heritage, John moved to the SLC to be close to family who live in Newton.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller



Sworn into office on January 1, 2018, as the first female Mayor in Newton's history, Ruthanne Fuller's love for the City of Newton comes through loud and clear when she speaks about her two terms in office.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Mayor Fuller graduated from Brown University and Harvard Business School. She moved to Newton over 25 years ago with her husband Joe, where she raised three sons. She served as a Ward 7 City Councilor-at-Large from 2010 to 2018, then successfully ran for mayor.

Over the years, she faced many unexpected challenges such as the pandemic, the George Floyd racial reckoning, the teacher's strike, and the war in the Middle East which propagated harsh rhetoric here in Newton. By listening to her constituents and thinking about what was best for the community as a whole, she provided strong leadership, empathy and vision that earned her great respect. Some of her signature accomplishments include adding more diverse and affordable housing; providing more

“... the Scandinavian Living Center “is a special place that crosses the borders and boundaries of age”

educational opportunities such as full-day kindergarten; addressing the climate crisis locally; preserving open spaces, including Webster Woods; making Newton a more walkable city; creating programs for families struggling financially; improving emergency services; investing in paving roads and bike lanes; and supporting elder programs and services.

She is excited to announce the grand opening of the Cooper Center for Active Living on Friday, December 5, a cutting-edge center which will be used by the entire Newton community for activities such as pickleball,

basketball, art, culinary programs, lectures, and movies. Much like the philosophy of the Scandinavian Living Center's community-centered living, the Cooper Center will enable everyone to enjoy an intergenerational experience in a modern space with a full-size gym, walking track, multi-purpose room, full kitchen, and a rooftop deck. The residents of the SLC can look forward to enjoying its many amenities.

Several years ago, in an interview with Erika Tarantal for Chronicle, Mayor Fuller remarked that the Scandinavian Living Center “is a special place that crosses the borders and boundaries of age” and that people from all over Newton come here all the time to enjoy its many offerings. She also mentioned to Joe Carella, Executive Director, that the design and philosophy of the new Cooper Center would integrate the idea of community-centered living with its emphasis on connecting people of all ages.

Mayor Fuller's term is up January 1, 2026. In addition to enjoying her four grandchildren, she expects she will stay involved in public service in some capacity. We hope so! And we agree with her vision of Newton as “one of the greatest places in the world” to live, raise a family, and retire.

Celebrating the Memory of our Friends

KARL BYSTROM
ANITA LORRAINE
EEVA-LIISA GEHRING

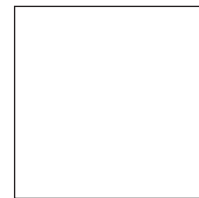


SCANDINAVIAN
LIVING CENTER



CULTURAL CENTER
& LIBRARY

206 Waltham Street
West Newton, MA 02465



Lucia, Queen of Light

A CONCERT
CELEBRATING SAINT
LUCIA!

Sunday, December 14th at 6pm | \$20; \$10 for members

Merulae, a Boston-based Swedish vocal group, will bring music of Lucia and Christmas, singing traditional and new songs.



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