

SCANDINAVIAN LIVING CENTER +

SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER & LIBRARY

NEWS + EVENTS

SPRING 2026



A FRESH CHAPTER
Opening Doors & Building
the Future Together
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A Message from Joe Carella



Looking Beyond our Time

If you believe in having genuine, organic connection with others, then you believe in community. That belief has always been at the heart of community-centered living at the SLC, where we nurture meaningful, sometimes even magical, connections that enrich our lives every day.

Recently I shared with the Board that after 35 years I plan to wind down my tenure at this extraordinary community. It is a moment of reflection on both what we've built together and the responsibility we share to carry this vision forward. When we invest in community, we send a powerful message to future generations about what truly matters.

Since the opening of the Scandinavian Living Center in 2001, our collective dream has been clear; to create something lasting that would improve life for those who follow us. That dream endures, but it depends on us taking the proper responsibility to sustain it and ensure that it continues to grow.

Three special endowment funds are central to that legacy:

The **Johansen Subsidy Fund**, supporting those in need.

The **Frederick Friendship Fund**, strengthening connections with the broader community by bringing everyone together at the SLC.

The **Cultural Fund**, ensuring the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library continues to inspire, educate, and entertain.

We are working toward a goal of \$1 million for each of these permanently restricted funds. A gift to these funds is not just a donation but an investment that will grow over time while providing significant ongoing support for generations to come.

At the same time, we are seeing the future take shape before our eyes. The renovations of our

common areas were completed months ahead of schedule, led by the next generation of SLC leadership. Watching them step forward has been inspiring and reassuring: the future of this community is in good hands. We recently celebrated this milestone together at our May 6th open house, a wonderful reminder of what's possible when a community comes together. (See page 10.)

I'll close with a thought that feels especially meaningful, from the conservationist and activist Terry Tempest Williams: "The eyes of the future are looking at us, and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time."

Let us answer that call. Let's invest in the future we believe in. So those who follow us inherit something strong, vibrant, and lasting.

Because this isn't just something to do—it's the right thing to do.

With boundless hope and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Carella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J".

Joe Carella
Executive Director
Scandinavian Charitable Society of
Greater Boston

Vicki Danberg



Congratulations to Vicki Danberg on becoming the newly elected board president of the Scandinavian Charitable Society of Greater Boston. She steps into her role with much appreciation for the beautifully renovated spaces at the Scandinavian Living Center that emphasize its warmth and modern feel while still preserving its century-old commitment to eldercare and community connections.

Vicki is not new to our community, having recently retired after 11 terms as Ward 6 Newton City Councilor. A resident of Newton since 1977, she was first elected to the Board of Aldermen in 2003 which later became the City Council. As her last term came to an end, she sent a heartfelt message to her constituents expressing her gratitude for their past support: "It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to represent you for twenty-two years on the Newton City Council.

Over these years, your trust,

support, and honest feedback have shaped my understanding of our community and helped me grow not only as a public servant but as a person. Thank you for the encouragement, the conversations and the willingness to partner in shaping a better Newton."

During her tenure, Vicki had many notable achievements, including improving winter sidewalk snow removal, improving infrastructure, ensuring the public safety of all residents, expanding affordable housing opportunities, combatting

global climate change, and increasing renewable energy in Newton. She led Newton's effort to ban polystyrene items, single-use plastic bags and "nip" (miniature) bottles.

Vicki is a founding board member of the Newton Cultural Alliance (NCA), dedicated to promoting, enhancing and sustaining arts and culture in Newton. She met Joe Carella, a fellow NCA board member, during its formation in the 1990s and, with her Finnish roots, they formed a natural allegiance. The NCA had a big influence on the formation of the Scandinavian Cultural Center as well.

Vicki co-founded the Newton History Museum's Historic House

Tours, operated as an Overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, chaired numerous capital campaigns, and raised funds for many local cultural organizations. With an MBA in finance and management from Simmons University, she works alongside her husband, Dr. John Ficarelli, a pediatric dentist, to improve dental services for children in Latin America. Together, they founded a children's dental clinic in Mexico and facilitated the donations of medical and dental equipment to hospitals and clinics throughout

Since touring the SLC with board president Erling Johansen in early 2003, I have been impressed with this wonderful facility for its warmth and caring atmosphere ...

the world. Vicki and John have three adult children, Andrew, Alexander and Meredith, and two grandchildren.

In addition to championing the vision of the Scandinavian Living Center's community centered living, Vicki adds: "Since touring the SLC with board president Erling Johansen in early 2003, I have been impressed with this wonderful facility for its warmth and caring atmosphere and its strong emphasis on connecting with the community, in keeping with the Scandinavian style of caring for its elders. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to serve as your next president. I look forward to working with Joe and his very talented and dedicated staff."

Happenings at the Cultural Center & Library

There's a real shift happening right now—people are actively looking for what's being called third spaces. Not home, not work—but places where they can connect, slow down, and feel part of something.

And along with that, there's this pull toward more 'retro' experiences—things that feel real, in-person, a little more human.

That's exactly what we offer here.

We're not just a library or an event space—we're a cultural home. And that's something people feel the moment they walk in.

So I just want to emphasize that a big part of our work is how people are welcomed. Every single person who comes through our doors should feel like they belong here.

No matter their connection to Scandinavia—or if they have none at all. No matter the language.

We never want someone to feel like an outsider in a space that's meant to invite them in.

Sometimes it's the smallest things—a smile, helping someone find their way, offering a little context—that make the biggest difference.

So just keep that in mind as we move through our days. Every interaction matters.

We've built something really special here—and people are looking for exactly this kind of space right now. We just have to meet them there."



Kerry
Executive Director, Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library



When you settle into a seat in the Nordic Hall, that sense of anticipation you feel is more than the moment — it's decades of music, film, conversation, and community layered into one beloved space.

Now, we're inviting you to make that connection permanent. By naming a seat in the Nordic Hall, you help build our endowment — ensuring that this room continues to welcome audiences, artists, residents, and ideas for generations to come. Endowment support allows us to care for the hall, maintain its character, and keep Nordic arts and culture vibrant and accessible well into the future. When you name a seat, you can enshrine your name, the name of a loved one, or maybe a meaningful date on a small plaque. It's a simple gesture that becomes part of the fabric of Nordic Hall — a quiet, lasting way to say this place matters to me. Every time the lights dim and the room fills, your seat will be there — holding space for stories yet to be told.

Ready to take a seat in Nordic Hall history?

Welcome to Caroline



Caroline Doyle is the new Events and Marketing Coordinator at the SCC&L. She was born and raised in southern Maine and received a bachelor's degree from Bennington College in Cultural Studies & Languages and Visual Arts. With her family, she has taken many trips to Iceland, visiting Grundarfjörður, Selfoss, and the Westman Islands. She loved the stunning landscapes and rich culture she experienced there, from watching orcas leap out of the ocean and riding Icelandic ponies, to trying out fermented shark meat and spending hours in local cafés. This past summer, she visited a friend in Oslo and Kristiansand, Norway, and enjoyed the museums (especially Kristiansand's Kunstsilo!), delicious seafood and pastries, and swimming in the fjords. Working at the SCC&L is a dream come true for Caroline, and she feels inspired by the people she meets here, from the people who have been coming for decades to the ones who just stopped in for the first time out of curiosity.



Scandinavian Cultural Endowment



Membership



Chair Campaign



SCC&L MEMBERSHIP TYPES

SINGLE \$75
PLUS \$125

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

Sign up at www.scandicenter.org



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

BERSERK: A VIKING FESTIVAL FOR ALL AGES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

11AM-2PM | TICKETS ON SALE NOW



Welcome to Our New Residents



PAULA NAYLOR

Paula Naylor has pleasant memories of growing up in West Springfield, Massachusetts nurtured by her large extended family and adventurous neighborhood friends.

Always knowing she'd become a professional nurse, Paula graduated from Boston Children's Hospital School of Nursing. Paula then pursued a nursing career in which she focused her energy and advanced education on promoting community health in a variety of locations- Colorado, Hawaii, and San Francisco among them.

As both nurse and tourist, Paula has travelled extensively. Her visits to England, Scotland, and Africa are especially memorable.



HOWARD KNUTTGEN

Howard Knuttgen was educated at Springfield College (B.S. 1952), the Pennsylvania State University (M.S. 1953), the Ohio State University (Ph.D. 1959), and the University of Copenhagen (Fulbright Scholar 1959-1961). He subsequently held faculty appointments at Boston University, Pennsylvania State University, and Harvard University Medical School. His research has centered on human performance and sports medicine. A Fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine since 1961, he served as President 1973-74. He also served as Secretary General of the Fédération Internationale de Médecine du Sport (FIMS) 1994-1998 and as Coordinator of Scientific Publications for the IOC Medical Commission 1996-2016.



BOB WULFF

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Bob Wulff moved to Newton, Massachusetts at the age of three. A teen-aged "reading fanatic", young Bob was interested in politics and gladly held campaign signs for public office candidates.

Bob graduated from Colgate University, served in the United States Navy, earned his law degree, and enjoyed a legal career at New England Power Company - a firm incorporated into National Grid's network.

Bob appreciates living in Newton close to his children and extended family.

Celebrating the Memory of our Friends

ELIZABETH CUSACK | GUNDULA SUNDGREN



LENA OLSSON-NOONAN

Lena Olsson-Noonan grew up in Stockholm, Sweden's Ekhagen (Oak Tree) neighborhood. This area of Stockholm was an ideal place for Lena and her friends to ski, skate, explore the woods, and engage in a wide variety of childhood adventures. Lena recalls neighborhood families enjoying their bond as a cohesive community.

Lena worked at the Brigham Hospital and later established the physical therapy site at NE Rehabilitation Center. After several years, Lena established her own practice: Millbrook Physical Therapy in Arlington, MA. While in Massachusetts, Lena joined Boston's chapter of the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) and credits SWEA members, and Boston's medical community, for welcoming her to the United States, helping her feel at home, and supporting her professional and personal well-being.

Lena considers herself fortunate to have known and treated many athletes from Boston's professional sports community. She is most grateful for the ongoing love and support of her daughter, grandchildren, family, and friends.

Around Our Neighborhood

A sampling of programs and activities shared by residents and community members almost every day of the week.



Clockwise from top left: Residents and Family at SLC Holiday Party, Cinco De Mayo Celebration Luncheon, Tower Hill Botanic Garden Orchid Exhibit, SLC staff dressed up for Halloween, Poetry Writing Workshop

In Appreciation

Is it spring yet? Well, yes! And the season is full of fresh air, fresh paint and finishes, fresh ideas, and new residents. What it all points to is progress. What it all benefits is our extraordinary community. And what it all inspires is enormous gratitude.

As we shared in last winter's newsletter, the generosity of our donors, families, and friends enabled us to accomplish two phases of our Fund the Future Campaign ahead of schedule—and under budget.

We're excited to be in the midst of building our three special endowment programs to assure a robust legacy for future generations—so that the Scandinavian Living Center and the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library will always have impact and resonance. And we are thrilled to welcome everyone to see our new spaces and experience all our cultural and community programs.

Everything that is blossoming this spring is due in great measure to the readers of this newsletter, our dedicated family of supporters and allies who always come through for us. Case in point: since we last shared our Fund the Future Campaign list, **33% of our donors have increased their giving to push them up into a higher category.** This is the kind of commitment that has allowed us to complete so many capital improvements and put more than \$250,000 into our three endowments.

This is why we are so grateful. And so pleased to be sharing our progress to inspire enthusiasm for our continuing endowment-building efforts and capital projects on the horizon. We've recently launched a seat-naming campaign to benefit the Scandinavian Cultural Endowment and are already at 10% percent of our goal to name 100 Nordic Hall seats at \$1,000 each. And there are many naming opportunities still available, whether you support a capital project or an endowment. So please feel free to contact me or Joe to discuss what might be right for you.

We are building a strong and dynamic future, and we appreciate every major donor, foundation grant, corporate sponsorship, and gifts of every size from residents, their families, and the community at large. Every gift makes a difference—just as every day the SLC and the SCC&L make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Thank you for your partnership and your profound generosity!



Richard Teller, Director of Philanthropy

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



For your convenience, we continue to upload the latest news on our website at www.slcenter.org/news-media/. We also try to include the latest updates in our email blasts and on our Social Media pages!



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Thank you for your continued support of the Fund the Future Campaign

Launched in 2019 to support the programs, special projects, and long-term endowment goals of the Scandinavian Living Center and the Scandinavian Cultural Center & Library, the Campaign provides a means to assemble and acknowledge the generous support of our most loyal donors. Naming opportunities are available for gifts toward capital projects as well as our critical endowment funds:

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

\$500,000+

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

\$100,000-\$499,999

Eva R. Bergesen 2011 Revocable Trust *
Charles H. Farnsworth Charitable Trust

\$40,000-\$99,999

Anonymous *
Artie and Sigurour Helgason *
Terje and Brigitte Korsnes *
Robert J. Mullen Charitable Trust
Nordic Group *
The Village Bank *
Leonard and Florence L. Wilson

\$25,000-\$39,999

Estate of John R. Elander
Estate of Eleanor O. Soorian

\$15,000-\$24,999

Joe Carella and Carole Lacy-Carella *
Carl and Susan Carlsen
Victoria and John Danberg
Drapkin Family
Trygve Fossum *
Jacob Friis and Hyun-A Park
Estate of Eliot I. Leaf
Frederick R. and Deborah N. Molander
Dr. Alan Sooho
Sharyn Sooho *

\$10,000-\$14,999

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

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

\$5,000-\$9,999

Walter V. Anderson Foundation
Anonymous (2) *
Bay State Federal Savings
Charitable Foundation
Beauport Financial's Richard D. Wilson
Community Response Gift Fund
in honor of Terje Korsnes
Bergquist Family
John Childs
Frances Dragon
Robert J. and Margaret B. Ellertsen
Joyce D. Haglund
Bruce and Gardi Hauck *
Lynn A. Haugen
Garth Johnson
Luana Marie Josvold *
Harriet Laing
Franklin B. Mead III
Gregg C. and Stacy Molander
Janet Nyberg Paraschos *
Liz Sooho Peirce
Karl and Elin Proppe
RSM Boston Foundation in honor of
Brendan Romans
Kristine A. Soorian
SWEA *
Peter Vatne

\$2,500-\$4,999

Martina David-Ault
Joshua Gam and Marya Van't Hul
Charitable Trust
Richard Harmon
Norumbega Lodge 506, Sons of
Norway
Jos and Pia Scheffelaar *
Brian T. Sciera

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

Arthur Nevins and Karen Soorian *
Per Olov Wahlstrom *
Anita and Augustus White *

\$1,000-\$2,499

David Alexander
Anne-Reet Annunziata *
Automatic Laundry
Dana Berg and Robert Minturn
Stig and Donna Bergquist
Steven Borgesen
Astrid and Geoffrey Carliner *
Gabrielle Clemens
Embrace Home Health Care Services
Flansburgh Architects
Elaine Floren Trust
Alexander Garthwaite *
David Gordon
Monica Greye *
Kirsten Holst
Sandra A. Johnson *
William N. Keto
Lise Lange and Myles Striar *
William R. Leitch *
George Martin
Drs. Kathy and Philip Millstein
Sayuri Miyamoto *
Ginga Sewerin-Olsson *
Newton Rotary *
Karen and Larry Nichols
John E. and Penelope A. Pearson
Christine Peterson *
Thomas and Margaret Rogers
John and Janice Schwartz
Allen Steere
Henrik Totterman *
Cynthia Walsh
Elsa Wormald

This list reflects cumulative gifts totaling \$1,000 and greater from October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2026. We are grateful for the many other gifts to Fund the Future and will list them on the SLC website.

* Donors marked with an asterisk have also made gifts to the Cultural Center & Library since 2024. Thank you all for your generous support.

A Fresh Chapter: Opening Doors & Building the Future Together

On May 6, we were happy to welcome donors, friends, and families to see—and thank them for—all the renovations they were instrumental in helping us accomplish. After a warm open house with food and drinks and entertainment by the singing group Northbound, guests were treated to rousing remarks on building a secure and vibrant future by SLC Executive Director Joe Carella, SCC&L Executive Director Kerry Lavin, Immediate Past SLC Board President Cindy Walsh, and Incoming SLC Board President Vicki Danberg.



Clockwise from top left: SCC&L Executive Director Kerry Lavin; SLC Executive Director Joe Carella; the three Joes: Joe Prestejohn of Cabot's Ice Cream, SLC's Joe Carella, and Joe De Vito, CEO at The Village Bank; the refreshed Wilson Family Resident Study; past SCC&L Board President (and former Honorary Consul for Norway) greeting Gardi Hauk and Karen Soorian; outgoing SLC Board President Cindy Walsh; SCC&L Board President Pia Scheffelaar and SLC Board Member Fran Dragon; part of the new Living Room; a portrait of former Board President John Elander painted by his granddaughter Irene Hastings; guests viewing the current exhibit of the Newton Art Association 2026 New Members Show; the redesigned President's Room.

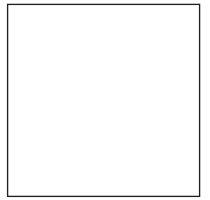




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206 Waltham Street
West Newton, MA 02465



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

The Ice Cream Social, our biggest community event of the year, is coming soon. Gather your friends, family, and neighbors and get ready for a sweet day of fun, connection, and celebration.

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17, 2026

Time: 2pm-4pm



OPEN HOUSES

Join us at the Scandinavian Living Center for one of our upcoming open houses, held on select Saturdays from 1pm-3 pm.

Take a tour of the building, learn about our community-centered living model and experience what makes us unique.

June 13

July 18

August 22

September 19

October 24

November 21