

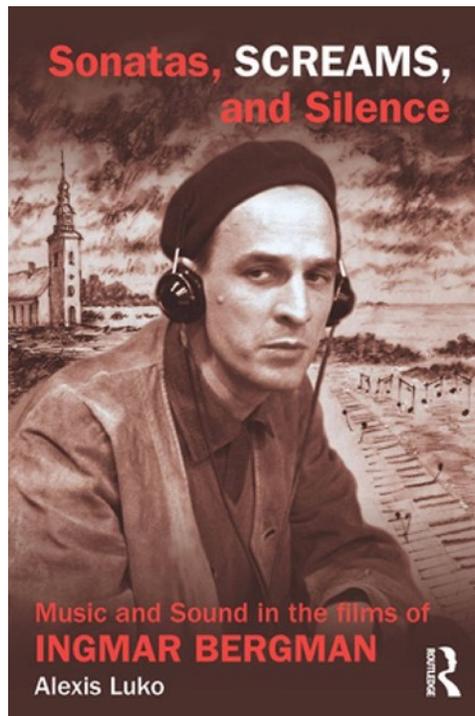


# Nordic News

240 Sparks Street, PO Box 55023, Ottawa, ON K1P 1A1

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**Nov. 20 Distinguished Speakers Event**  
**“Music in the films of Ingmar Bergman,” by author Dr. Alexis Luko**



Dr. Alexis Luko is an Associate Professor of Music in the School for Studies of Art and Culture and College of Humanities at Carleton University. She is the author of "Music and Sound in the Films of Ingmar Bergman." Her talk will be about her research on music in Bergman's films. To get the most out of her presentation, she suggests you may wish to watch the following films ahead of time:

- Smiles of a Summer Night,
- Persona,
- Hour of the Wolf,
- Autumn Sonata, and
- Saraband.

The event takes place at 7:30 PM at the Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street West. Free for CNS members. \$5 for non-members.

## Nordic Book Exchange at Speaker Evenings

Do you have books in the Nordic languages, or English translations of Nordic books, that you would like to get rid of? If you think other members might enjoy them, bring them along to our Distinguished Speakers Evenings. Please bring no more than five books each time. If nobody takes them, we ask that you bring them back home with you. It will be interesting to see how this goes on our next Distinguished Speakers Evening on Wednesday, November 20 (see above)!

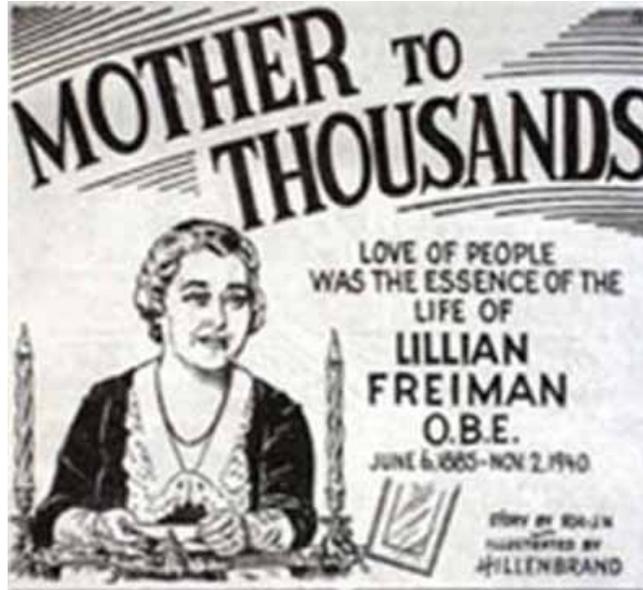
## Reserve Now for Our Christmas Lunch on December 2!



We are so pleased to invite CNS members and their guests to our popular annual Christmas lunch on Monday, December 2, at noon at the Army Officers' Mess at 149 Somerset Street West. You will be served a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings in the main dining room for \$21.50 including tax. And we are fortunate to once again have our Vice-president Trygve Ringereide organizing the Nordic sing-along!

You must make a **reservation** by **November 28** if you wish to attend this lunch. You can reserve in person with our Treasurer Lenny Nylund at any of the CNS functions in November or you can contact him either by email at [treasurer@canadiannordicsociety.com](mailto:treasurer@canadiannordicsociety.com) or by phone at 613-829-8602. No advance payment is required. Simply pay at the bar on December 2 as for our regular lunches. Please be sure to leave your tip at the table rather than at the bar so the servers will receive them.

## The Poppy Lady of 149 Somerset Street West



*Lillian Bilsky Freiman from Comic strip  
\*THIS WEEK IN HISTORY\**

The Canadian Nordic Society is very fortunate to have been able to enjoy the use of the beautiful building at 149 Somerset Street West in Ottawa for our lunches and meetings for many years, and we certainly hope to continue to do so for many more! The building became the Army Officers' Mess in 1957. It was in 1913 that A.J. Freiman, department store owner and a leader in the Jewish community, and his wife Lillian Bilsky Freiman, built onto the older 1891 property and made it their home.

Lillian Bilsky Freiman was born in 1885 in Mattawa, Ontario to a Jewish family of Russian-Lithuanian descent. She married A. J. Freiman in 1903 and their three children were born between 1906 and 1912. When World War I broke out, Lillian Bilsky Freiman set up 30 sewing machines in her home at 149 Somerset Street West and organized Red Cross sewing circles to send blankets and clothing to the soldiers overseas. She co-founded The Great War Veterans Association, which would become the Royal Canadian Legion, and was the first woman to become an honorary life member of that organization. In 1921, to raise funds for First World War veterans, she made the first Canadian poppies in her living room, and thus acquired her nickname "The Poppy Lady." She also helped around 150 Jewish war orphans from the Ukraine to emigrate to Canada, including a 12-year-old orphan named Gladys Rozovsky whom she and her husband adopted. She was involved in many other charitable fund-raising and community leadership efforts over her lifetime as well.

Lillian Bilsky Freiman was the first Jewish Canadian to receive the Order of the British Empire, which was presented to her on New Year's Day, 1934, by King George V. In 2008, she was designated a Person of National Historic Significance by the Canadian Government for being "a gifted organizer and philanthropist who worked to improve the health and welfare of her fellow citizens."

## Nicholas Kinsey on “Shipwrecked Lives”



*Author Nicholas Kinsey with the CNS mug*

“It was a dark and stormy night “in Ottawa on October 16 and we were a little concerned that we would not get a good turnout to hear author and filmmaker Nicholas Kinsey, who had driven all the way from his home in Quebec City to be our Distinguished Speaker and to launch his latest novel, “Shipwrecked Lives.” Not to worry, our sturdy Nordic members were not deterred by the weather and we had an excellent turnout. In fact, the damp weather seemed to create just the right atmosphere for Nicholas Kinsey’s story, which began with his vivid description of the key ingredient in this maritime disaster, fog.

The *Empress of Ireland* ocean liner, which was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) conglomerate, was en route to Liverpool from Quebec City when it sank in the early morning hours of May 29, 1914. Of the 1,477 people on board, 1,012 lost their lives. Clear conditions had turned to thick fog when the ship collided with the Norwegian steam cargo ship *Storstad*, which was carrying coal from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to Montreal. The *Storstad* hit the *Empress of Ireland* on its starboard side, leaving a large hole which flooded so quickly that the ship sank within about 14 minutes. Some passengers and crew were able to escape in lifeboats, but those who were asleep in their cabins had almost no chance as they rapidly flooded.

A Commission of Inquiry into the tragedy started in less than three weeks, on June 16, 1914, and lasted only 11 days. It was clear that one of the ships had changed course in the fog, resulting in the collision. The question was which one? A total of 61 witnesses were called, and two very different versions of events emerged, one putting the blame for the accident on Captain Kendall of the *Empress of Ireland* and the other on Chief Officer Toftenes of the *Storstad*. The Inquiry concluded that Toftenes was at fault.

Nicholas Kinsey has combed through the 200 pages of documents archived from the Inquiry and is far from convinced that Toftenes was responsible for the collision. His novel, “Shipwrecked Lives,” is based on his research, including the touching stories of some of the survivors. The unsavoury side of human nature also surfaces as people looked to gain financially from the tragedy. “Shipwrecked Lives” received a very favourable review in the November 30, 2018, issue of *The Norwegian American*. (Please see: <https://www.norwegianamerican.com/books/shipwrecked-lives/>). The book can be purchased online from Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

Following his presentation, Nicholas Kinsey was presented with the “coveted” CNS mug. Thank you to Astrid Ahlgren for the photo above, and for the two below where members are seen enjoying the talk.



## European Union Film Festival

The annual European Film Festival takes place in November and December at the [Ottawa Art Gallery](#), Mackenzie King Bridge, Ottawa. Tickets and the full schedule of films are available at: <https://www.cfi-icf.ca/new-events> The schedule of Nordic films being shown this year is as follows:

- Saturday, **November 16** at **4:00 PM** - from **Finland**, “One Last Deal”
- Saturday, **November 16** at **8:35 PM** - from **Sweden**, “Amateurs”
- Wednesday, **November 27** at **7:00 PM** - from **Denmark**, “Winter Brothers.”

All of the Nordic films are presented with English subtitles.

## Other Upcoming Events

- The Danish Club of Ottawa is holding its fabulous **Annual Bazaar** on Saturday, **November 2** at **11:00 AM** at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, 102 Greenview Ave., (Britannia Park) Ottawa. Not to be missed!
- The Canadian Friends of Finland, with the support of the Embassy of Finland to Canada and Suomi-Seura, are presenting a Fall concert called “**Musical Journey through Europe.**” It will feature Finnish soprano **Emili Paananen-Losier** and pianist **Aude Urbancic** and will take place on Friday, **November 15**, at 7:30 PM at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, (corner of Kent and Wellington), Ottawa. Tickets are \$20 each. You may purchase tickets online at: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ego6ixwc881df6ce&oseq=&c=&ch=> or at the door.
- On Friday, **November 15**, 2019 at **6:00 PM**, “**Seeing the Unseen,**” an Icelandic documentary about women on the autism spectrum, will be officially screened, followed by a panel discussion, at Richcraft Hall, Room 2200; Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa. Free admission. For details, please go to [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seeing-the-unseen-official-screening-and-panel-discussion-tickets-76284128883?fbclid=IwAR0kjXRqAFsuumkonGZyOjG\\_sPyv0BDfY77P\\_eMzZQNn59FZYW8rEEWjE](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seeing-the-unseen-official-screening-and-panel-discussion-tickets-76284128883?fbclid=IwAR0kjXRqAFsuumkonGZyOjG_sPyv0BDfY77P_eMzZQNn59FZYW8rEEWjE)
- **Finnish Christmas carol service** on Sunday, **November 24**, St Peter’s Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks St, at **3:00 PM**. Entrance through side door by the parking lot, don’t forget your free parking permit slip. Doors are locked during the service.
- **Finnish Christmas service** on Sunday, **December 8**, St Peter’s Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks St, at **3:00 PM**. See above re: parking.

## Recently Recommended

CNS member John Gilbert brought this free online book to our attention for those who, further to D’Arcy Thorpe’s presentation on his tenure as a diplomat in Sweden, may be interested in reading about some media issues in current Sweden. The book is titled “Understanding Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in the Digital Age. A Question of Democracy” and is edited by Ulla

Carlsson, Professor and UNESCO Chair on Freedom of Expression, Media Development and Global Policy at University of Gothenburg.

“Many of the societal issues of today have to do with digitization and, not least, the ongoing transformation of the media and communication culture. We are now at a point that may be described as ‘the end of the digital beginning’. Following a period of optimism - especially the hopes that it would increase citizen engagement and participation - problems have surfaced.... This is the starting point for this book. The book consists of three parts... The focus in the second part is on Sweden. The articles in this part present current research findings, policy decisions and political initiatives, and some examples of ‘best practices’ in the MIL area.” You can read the book online (free of charge) at: [www.jmg.gu.se/understandingmil](http://www.jmg.gu.se/understandingmil)

### **Contributions to *Nordic News***

We appreciate receiving your articles and news to include in the *Nordic News*. Please email them to the editor, Hilde Huus, at [communications@nordicsociety.com](mailto:communications@nordicsociety.com)

### **Canadian Nordic Society Co-ordinates**

Our website is [www.canadiannordicsociety.com](http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com), and you can contact us by email at [info@canadiannordicsociety.com](mailto:info@canadiannordicsociety.com).

The CNS council list, including email addresses and phone numbers, is available at: <http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/council.html>

And the CNS has its own, very active, [Facebook](#) page.

### **Join CNS or Renew your Membership**

September 1 is the beginning of a New Membership Year. You can join CNS or renew your membership online, by mail, or in person. We encourage you to pay online using PayPal. This is the quickest and most efficient method. If you prefer, you can pay in person when you attend one of our luncheons or speaker events. Please speak to any one of our Council members.

#### **Online**

To pay online, go to the CNS website (<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/join-cns.html>) and complete the membership form . Payment may be made through PayPal. Note: it is not necessary to have a PayPal account.

#### **By mail**

Please print and complete the membership form below, enclose a cheque payable to the Canadian Nordic Society and mail to:

Canadian Nordic Society  
240 Sparks Street  
Box 55023  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 1A1



# Canadian Nordic Society

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240 Sparks Street, PO Box 55023, Ottawa, ON K1P 1A1

[www.canadiannordicsociety.com](http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com)

**Membership Application/Renewal\***  
*(Membership year starts on September 1)*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (home):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (work):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Membership \$45, Individual Membership \$30, Student \$20**

***\*To apply for membership online or renew online using PayPal, please go to:***

**<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/register-renew-member.php>**