

# Shirley Tinner named honorary grand marshal for Scandinavian Midsummer Festival parade

ASTORIA — The 2017 Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival has named Shirley Tinner as honorary grand marshal for the OpTog Walking Parade, to be held 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 17, at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

Tinner was part of the group that founded the original Midsummer Festival fifty years ago.

Born and raised in Astoria, Tinner graduated from Astoria schools and worked as a judicial assistant to Circuit Court Judge Thomas Edison for 23 years.

Tinner's father, Franz Olaf Fransen, was a Swede-Finn and her mother Hilja Maria Eskola a pure Finn. Shirley learned "Union-town" Finnish and can still speak it. Her only daughter, Kim Supple, was Miss Finland in 1976 and crowned Miss Scandinavia.

When Kim and her classmates Gail Norrman



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shirley Tinner

and Debbie Obie were in first grade, they joined a Brownie troop. Carol Obie was the troop leader and Nelly Norrman and Tinner were assistants. This group is credited with founding the original Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in 1968.

Tinner was active in the festival for 25 years, chairing the entertainment committee and making programs. She later alternated these duties with Maureen Sundstrom. The leaders of the first festival spent many hours at the Astoria Library researching midsummer traditions in Scandinavia and interviewed local families who had immigrated to the Astoria area from Scandinavia.

Tinner is delighted that the festival continues to be authentic and thrive. She hasn't missed a festival in 50 years, and is pleased that many of traditions her group started fifty years ago are still used today.

These traditions include the hex burning and bonfire, the OpTog Walking Parade and the princess speeches focused on "What My National Heritage Means to Me."

Tinner is unable to walk in the OpTog herself this year but will be represented by Supple and other members of the original Brownie troop that started the festival.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Swan Mom" by Jean Nitzel (watercolor)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Horses," by Betsy Teopfer

## Art show — and inaugural art contest — in the offing

LONG BEACH, WASH. — On the eve of summer, Northwest Artist Guild — now entering its sixth year — is holding an art show and evening reception 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 9, at the Picture Attic (711 Pacific Highway North). The event includes treats, as well as music by Fred Carter.

"There are new guild members with different pieces to add to the mixture of mediums and the energy of their art," organizers wrote.

The whimsical acrylic paintings of Mary Timm will be on display. A new member, Joyce Wingett, will be showing her large oil paintings and have some prints available.

In addition, Wes Moehnke, Cindy Keyes, Annie Unwin, Jean Nitzel, Linda Marsh and other artists will be showing new work.

The guild is always interested in bringing in new members. Applications are available at The Picture Attic, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The shop is closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information, call 360-642-4770.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Bridge" by Mary Timm (acrylic)

### ART CONTEST

Soon, the guild will launch a new event: an art contest for nonmembers. Artists from the Lower Columbia region are encouraged to enter up to three paintings or three-dimensional art works.

Prizes: \$25 and a year's membership to the guild for first place in each category; \$25 for second place; and \$50 for one people's choice award.

Contest categories include: Oil and acrylic; watercolor and pastel; collage; and 3-D (mosaic, ceramics and sculpture). Judges will include guild members.

Entries are due Saturday, July 8. All entries will be displayed at an opening reception the evening of Friday, July 14. Artists are encouraged to invite friends and family. Prizes will be awarded. The exhibition will stay up for two weeks.



JUNE 17 CONCERT  
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THE MUSIC OF ABBA

TICKETS  
www.libertyastoria.org  
CLATSOP COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS

**7:30 PM**  
Doors open at 7PM  
Free admission to  
the festival  
after 5PM

General Admission  
Tickets available at the  
Liberty Theater  
Box Office  
through June 15



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Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

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