

The
Human
Edition

Tomte Times

Volume Two * Issue One * January 2021



Under-Secretary of Communications
Sven Olafson

From the Council of Elders:

I wish to share fantastic news with you. The Council of Tomte Elders have given great thought to our relationship with the human race. Historically, we have intentionally kept hidden and have only briefly made ourselves known to the humans we have been assigned to protect. It has been agreed that at this time in history, we feel that it is necessary to show the human race how to reach out and love each other. We are therefore going to interact on a very limited basis to try and teach practices of love and compassion.

In our attempt to reach out, the Elders have decided that we are going to share a little bit of our world by means of a **Human Edition** of our Tomte Times.

We have conducted interviews and Beda Gustavson has been hired to

head up this new publication. She will be editor in chief.

We wish to thank Birgit Ruotsala for her past work on the Tomte Times. Beda will from time to time confer with Birgit. Great work ladies.

When each and every tomte has the occasion to interact with his or her assigned human, please use your best practices of love and compassion. (This is not the time to carry grudges about the Christmas porridge!)

Please report your findings to Mona Oleson. She has been named Human Education Director.

Note to humans: if you see a tomte, please stop and have a chat. Tomtes have big hearts and are quite shy, but if you speak softly, you will learn a lot. Good luck to everyone with this venture.

Sven Olafson

Meet Beda Gustavson

Beda Gustavson comes to us from the University of Alastour. She earned highest honors from the distinguished department of Written Communications and Letters. For her work on Multi-Lingual Communications along with Ancient Calligraphic Interpretation, she was awarded Most Distinguished Tomte Scholar.

She was a writer for the "Alastour Chronicles," "The Evening Times,"

and most recently, editor in chief at "The Tomte Times—International Edition."

Greetings From Beda

It is my great honor to become the editor of the Tomte Times - Human Edition. This will truly be a most wonderful opportunity, the highlight of my career.

I learned a lot when I was assigned to my human family. They were kind and generous to me. Even though we are not always seen or heard from, my family knew I was there protecting them and they in turn made my stay very comfortable.

Besides my work at the publication, I enjoy music, quilting and hope to learn how to knit.

Beda Gustavson



Beda wearing her new knit heart hat



St. Knut Celebration

A big thank you to all who helped with our St. Knut Celebration held at Little Swede look out. What a way to end the Christmas season!

For our human friends, St. Knut Day is the 20th day of Christmas where we undecorate the house and throw out the Christmas tree. *Tjugonedag jul* (20th day of Jul), marks the end of our holiday festivities. The children sure enjoyed all the candies and chocolate treats that were decorating the tree.

Finns celebrate January 13th differently. On *nuutinpäivä*, young men dress as goats (*nuuttipukki*) and visit houses to demand food and leftover alcoholic beverages. A long time ago, if they did not receive goods, they would do evil deeds. In modern days, the *nuuttipukki* is played by a child and involves fun and candy as well.

Our Alastour Island celebration was capped off with hot chocolate and glug served to warm our innards while all the thrown out trees provided fuel for a wonderful bonfire where we were warmed twice.

Thank you to Hellmer Johnson for the glug. His son Hendirck has volunteered to be next years *nuuttipukki*.

Next years celebration will be held at Noslo Farms.

Alastour Olympic Committee

The Commission on Sporting Events has selected an Olympic Committee to start the process of coordinating teams and events and to select athletes. We know that we are well situated to compete in Curling and the Nordic Sports of cross country and ski jumping. As an Island nation, we are investigating the possibility of forming a Bob Sleigh Team. "Rocky" Neilsson has done a bit of research and found the following information:

- ◊ Object of this sport—pack athletes as tightly as possible into a carbon-fiber torpedo and race down an ice chute as fast as possible only to have a few micro second difference from other teams.
- ◊ Qualifications for athletes in this sport seems to be "being good at something else!"
- ◊ A Combine will be held at Highpoint Ski Lodge. If nothing else, we hear that Magnus Magnuson will be the cook for the whole weekend—so you can't go wrong!
- ◊ The bob Sleigh run is akin to riding down in a mountain in a washing machine!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 21 Princess Ingrid Alexandra's Day
HRH Princess Ingrid is the first Norwegian girl born with the right to be an heir to the throne.
- ◆ February 6 Sámi Day - Scandinavian Indigenous People Day. The Sáme people are also referred to as the Laplanders. This years festivities will include reindeer races at Evergreen Park.
- ◆ Feb. 7 to 28 Make sure to schedule your *Sportlov* holiday. Check with your local centers for the date of your weeklong sports break. Be careful on the ski hills and have a nice break with your family.
- ◆ Fettisdagen is right around the corner. Mona Oleson is looking for volunteers to make semlor. She will share her recipe in next month's publication. She does estimates needing 10,000 for the planned celebration.

CURLING SEASON



Dig out your curling shoes and brooms for the 2021 season. We have four teams in place but look for several more.

There will be a few scheduled open houses for you to attend if you are interested in the sport.

Tomtes are quite small so the 42 lb rock many seem like a challenge, but..... we are stronger than we look! Plus, some of the players from the women's team will show us how to braid our beards to keep them out of the way. You will remember in the 10th end of the championship last year, Gunnar Larsson stepped on his beard, became the hammer and went flying past shot rock yelling "uff da." It was quite a sight. Gunnar retired after that match.

Guild Reports and Activities



* Spinners Guild

We are hosting a Hat Felting workshop at Harmony Park Arts Center on Friday, 12 Februari and Saturday 13 Februari. Please call the Guild office to reserve a space and order your special red wool.

We will be making extra hats for those on human assignment. It has come to our attention that those on assignment don't have the knowledge to make their own hats and have been stealing hat materials.



* Knitters Guild

Our Februari meeting will feature world famous Nordic knitting expert Berta Svensen. She will demonstrate her famous heart pattern and have some of her wonderful sweaters for sale.

The Knitters Guild has also reached out to our tomtes on assignment to arrange knitting lessons. This has been long overlooked and thanks to a new book released by Birgit Ruotsala, it was brought to our attention that we need to do a better job teaching younger tomtes how to knit or felt.



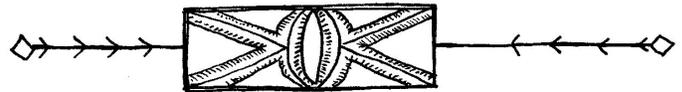
* Guild of Historical Librarians

We have received a copy of "The Tomte's Hat" written and illustrated by Birgit Ruotsala (a human). At our Februari meeting we will discuss the book and its implication—mainly the decision for publishing a human version of our time honored publication. We will meet with the **Literary Guild** to outline our best ideas for sharing our lives and history with the humans again. There are many implications, both pro and con for our younger tomtes. Our next meeting will be at Tate Town Records Center on 25 Jan.



* Guild of International Bakers

We are excited to make our regular Valentine treats and invite all bakers to volunteer on Februari 10, 11 & 12 as we prepare for the Valentine dance on Sunday 14 Februari at Grace Ridge Resort. It was decided to serve berry juice instead of wine this year after last year's brawl between the northern and southern Nilssons (not to be confused with the Neilssons.)



* Craft Hall of Chip Carvers

Harry Thorsen will demonstrate his special carving technique on a lovely jewelry box just in time for Valentine's Day. Our meeting will be at Evergreen Town Hall. He will have his special chisels for sale along with beautiful hardwood from his mill on the mountain. His lovely wife, Ellen, will provide the treats. The meeting will begin at 1:00 followed by fika (There's always time for FIKA!)

For our human friends, let me tell you about Fika. Fika (pronounced *fee-ka*) is coffee plus something to eat. It's that moment in the day when you take a break and have a cuppa and a treat. The word comes from the old Swedish word for coffee—Kaffi. There was a time in history when it was illegal to have coffee breaks so the syllables in the word Kaffi were turned around and became Fika (a code word) and banned the tradition continued. Now, it is almost the most important Swedish custom that people speak of and it's spreading throughout the world with the help tomtes assignments with humans.



* Society of Alastour Astronomers

No Januari meeting. In Februari, bring your photos and commentary on the Dec. 2020 Christmas Star.

Beda's Book Review

I am excited to share this first book review. Since it is our first human edition, I am happy to highlight a human author and illustrator. You have already heard of Birgit Ruotsala in other parts of this newsletter. She has written of her discovery about how the tomtes assigned in her area have figured out how to get their hats. While it is a wonderful story of the tomtes living in her area, it does point out some problems that we are planning to address. I digress! The book tells a little story about the tomtes that live in her area. It shares part of the story of immigration that many of our tomtes and all of our Scandinavian cousins (the nisse and tontte) have faced. As the story unfolds, one of the tomtes has his hat stolen. The tomtes are very clever in how they make new hats.

I give the book 4.5 🍓🍓🍓🍓 berries for the clever way Birgit portrays our culture. Please see the add below to purchase your copy. *Beda Gustavson*

From Under-Secretary of Communications

Sven Olafson

I invite you to subscribe to *The Tomte Times* which you can find at the website:

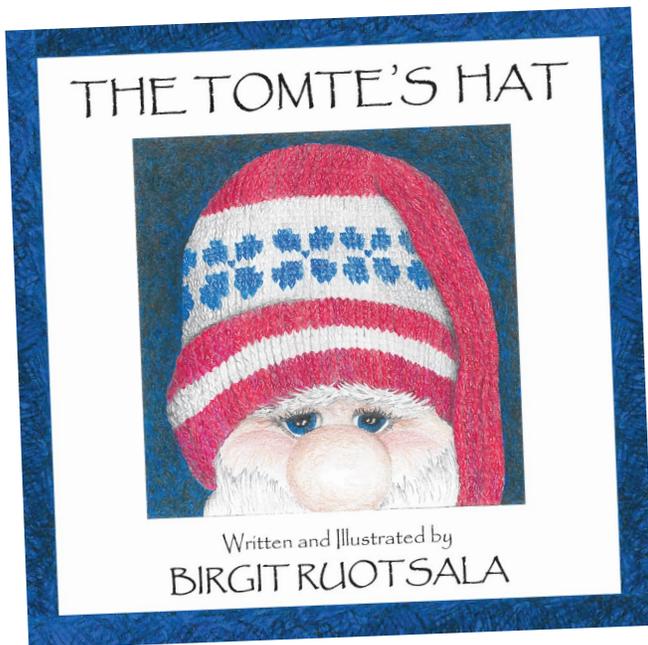
birgitsdesigns.com

We will keep you informed about all that is happening in our tomte world and answer your questions. Please direct your questions to Birgit Ruotsala at birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com and she will make sure to get them to us.

In upcoming issues, we will feature different articles on tomtes: how tomtes are assigned to human families; the life of a tomte; where we come from; where our headquarters are; our activities; and anything else that you would like to know about us.

Please feel free to invite your friends to subscribe as well. If you know a human or tomte (do you have a relationship with the tomte assigned to protect and help you?) that you would like to tell us about. Please direct your article to the e-mail above.

Sven Olafson



Order details:

birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com

Cost: \$16.99 hardcover
.94 tax \$6.00 s&h

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If you live in the Green Bay or Escanaba area save on shipping as they will kindly be delivered

Books to Come in 2021

The Tomte's Alphabet ~ Fun Scandinavian Words

The Tomte's Smorgasbord ~ a Tomte's Cookbook

Team Tomtes' Olympic Adventures Olympics