

Restauration Lodge #548

January 2006

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXX number 1

Next Social Meeting:

January 10, 2006

Meeting time: 7:00 P.M.

**First Lutheran Church
Luther Fellowship Center
1000 3rd Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401**

Program:

Ole Edvart Rølvaag

Presented by
Sarah Gunderson

Ole Rølvaag wrote about life on the American frontier. His most famous book, *Giants in the Earth*, describes the hardships of Norwegian-American farmers in the Midwest during the late 1880s.

Thanks to Christmas Entertainers

Thanks to the cast of Onkel Jørgen's Christmas Party. They did a tremendous job of entertaining us at Julebord 2005. Special thanks to Harold Williamson (Onkel Jørgen) and his Norwegian friends and American cousins: Gladys Aakre, Ruth Berger, Otis Boyd, Sarah Gunderson, Eileen Kjonaas, Merle Kjonaas, Ding Sather, Nancy Thorkildson, Bob Thorkildson, June Tow, and Cheryl Zapf. Thanks also to Gerry Rushton, computer technician and stage hand.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Lodge members who presented programs these last two years. They made my job as cultural director a great experience. We have an abundance of talent in this Lodge and I hope our new cultural director, Sarah Gunderson, will have as much fun as I did. Thanks for the memories.

Carolyn Rushton

Kaffe tid for January will be on Wednesday, January 18 at Mary Durspek's, 2770 McGowan Blvd, Marion, Iowa. Please call her at (319) 377-4480 if you plan to attend the meeting.

The deadline for newsletter submissions for February is January 26th 2005. You may email me at jonrwhite@hotmail.com.

For Security Reasons, the doors in the drive-through entrance at First Lutheran Church will be locked while our Sons of Norway meeting is in progress. Therefore, if you arrive late, you will have to enter through the door to the Administrative area. It is the single door located to the left (as you face the rear of the building) of the drive through area.

The main doors will be locked at about 7:00 P.M. and the Administrative door will remain unlocked until about 7:45 P.M.

Address or Phone Number Changes

If you have a change of address or telephone number, please contact David Christ. He can be reached either by phone, 319-351-7717; email, dchrist@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu; or by U.S. mail, 1335 Emily Court, Iowa City, IA 52246. It is important we know of any changes of address (either traditional or email) or telephone numbers. This is especially critical now that the newsletter is being sent electronically.

Language Camps Promote Nordic Heritage

Skogfjorden and other Nordic Villages sponsored by Concordia College (for ages 7-18) and Masse Moro sponsored by Sons of Norway District 5 (for ages 9-15) are great opportunities for our children and grandchildren to learn about their heritage with an emphasis on language and cultural skills.

Scholarships are available from District 1 and the local lodge. Contact Ruth Christ, Restauration Lodge Scholarship Chairman, for an application form and further information. She may be reached at: 1335 Emily Ct., Iowa City, IA 52246-4148; email ruth-christ@uiowa.edu, phone 319-351-7717. Forms are also available from Lois McCormick, phone 319-377-2890.

Applications must be sent to Ruth by February 1, 2005.

PRESIDENT McCORMICK'S CORNER

When you get this newsletter it will be 2006. I hope all of you had a Happy New Year in spite of those things that may have happened in 2005 that were not so happy.

It was reported that approximately 76 people attended Julebord. The food was great and the program was very good. We had a few laughs as we were entertained by selected members of the lodge. We have so much talent. Thanks to all the program participants, lutefisk cookers and set up and clean up helpers.

I want to let you know that the final amount earned from the Younkers Charity Sale was \$254.27. We also have sold 28 calendars at \$12.00 apiece, so we have made \$130.79 from calendar sales. We still have 2 calendars to sell. Just contact me if you are interested in buying one.

This month, Dean Gesme will be installing the lodge officers for 2006. I would like to encourage all the lodge officers to put January 21st on their calendar to attend District 1 officer workshop. It will be in Coralville at their public library. The workshop will be from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. All attending are to bring a sack lunch to keep the cost of the workshop at a minimum. We will be asking for your decision at the January Social Meeting and I will call those not attending.

In closing, I want to thank the lodge for their patience with me as I fumbled my way through 2005 as your president. I am looking forward to 2006 and the programs that have been planned.

Minutes of the Lodge Board Meeting December 20, 2005

Lodge President Lois McCormick called the meeting to order on December 20, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Gesme home in Cedar Rapids. Many of the new officers were in attendance.

The following Board members were present: David Christ, Ruth Christ, Dean Gesme, Ann Gesme, Carolyn Rushton, Larry Knutson, Sara Knutson, Wally Sundet, Merle Kjonaas, Jean Oxley, Paula Schulte, Lloyd Holecek, Jon White, Mavis Lovik, Wil Mickelson, Verl Lekwa, and Bob Thorkildson.

The Secretary's minutes from the last Board meeting were approved with two corrections to the published minutes: spelling of Sharon Mow's last name and "kolrosing" in place of "kolrosmaling".

The Treasurer's report was given by Wally: the Lodge has \$3398.77 in checking and \$7528.78 in savings. Next month the yearly audit will be performed on the Lodge's books.

Membership Secretary Paula Schulte reported that membership is 154 at the end of November. We have two members who are 45 days past due, two new Golden Members, and five address corrections.

Cultural Director Carolyn Rushton reported that plans for coming year's social meetings are complete and she gave a list to put on the website. In January Sara Gunderson will give a presentation on Ole Rølvaag, who wrote the trilogy *Giants In The Earth*, *Peder Victorious*, and *Their Father's God*. Carolyn is leaving the Board and her creative talents will be sorely missed.

Social Director Sara Knutson reported that 25 pounds of lutefisk was cooked for the Julebord and we took in \$246.50 from food sales (lutefisk, herring, and lingonberries) and \$179 from the donation basket. We paid \$350 to Olsen Fish Company for the food so we came out a little bit ahead.

Newsletter Editor Jon White said the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter was to be Monday, December 26, 2005.

Counselor Dean Gesme has had a new Tusen Takk award made. He also reported the Marriott Hotel (formerly the Collins Plaza) might be an option to host this year's Syttende mai banquet.

Other Reports: Kaffe tid: Mary Durspek will decide where and when the January event will be. Library: Ann Gesme has two new books for our library: one from NAHA and the other from Charlotte Olson. Language Class: Ann Gesme told us that the regulars attending the class are very enthused and that they will be starting on genealogy. Scholarship: Ruth Christ made a motion to sponsor up to 6 students at \$85 per student for this year's camps. Dean Gesme seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote unanimously. Publicity: we are looking for a candidate to replace Marlis, who is retiring as publicity chairman.

Old Business: Younkers' Charity Sale ticket sales totaled 37 and brought in \$185. Many thanks to the members who volunteered: Dean and Ann Gesme, Ina Brende, and Sara Gunderson.

Calendars: Lois turned in \$216 from sales at the Julebord. She had another \$100 to turn in to Dean tonight. The 30 calendars cost the Lodge \$205.31 including postage.

New Business: Next Board meeting is January 17th and will be held in Lois McCormick's home: 2990 18th Avenue in Marion at 7:00 PM.

Comments for the Good of the Order: the St. Olaf Christmas concert from Norway's Nidaros Cathedral will be on IPTV.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Bob Thorkildson, Lodge Secretary

A Little in English...

Nobody Messes with Norway

Norway is still the world's best place to live, according to the leader of UN's development program (UNDP), Kernal Dervis.

The new UNDP-boss was in Oslo Friday to sign the proclamation, and he mentioned also that Norway is topping the list for the fifth year in a row.

The report over standards of living in the 177 countries on the list, will be made public September 7th, writes NTB.

At a press conference in Oslo Dervis did not wish to comment further on the standard of living report with ranks countries based on wealth, education and life expectancy.

Norway has topped the list since 2001, when Canada had to give up the top spot. (forbruker.no)

Litt på norsk...

Ingen slår Norge

Norge er fortsatt verdens beste land å bo i, ifølge lederen for FN's utviklingsprogram (UNDP), Kemal Dervis.

Den nye UNDP-sjefen var fredag i Oslo for å undertegne en bistandsavtale, og der røpet han også at Norge topper listen for femte år på rad.

Rapporten over levekårene i de 177 landene på listen, blir offisielt offentliggjort 7. september, skriver NTB.

På en pressekonferanse i Oslo ville ikke Dervis røpe flere opplysninger om levekårsrapporten som rangerer land etter velstand, utdannelse og forventet levealder.

Norge har toppet listen siden 2001, da Canada måtte gi fra seg topplasseringen. (forbruker.no)

Bruce and Pat Bjorseth have a large (5 feet wide by 3 feet high) framed picture of the ship Christian Radich they are looking for a new home for. Please call Pat if you are interested.

Promote Your Lodge and Win \$100

Over the past year Sons of Norway has worked hard to provide lodges with tips and tools for promoting itself and lodge events. There are currently a series of articles available within the Viking Resource, beginning in October of 2004 and carrying through to the most recent issue. Also available is the Publicity Director's section of the Guide for Leadership, which includes a wide range of information from instructions for writing news releases to the use of collateral materials like posters and brochures. Now, with your lodge increasing in activity during the fall and winter it's a perfect time to start trying some of these publicity resources!

By using such tools and tactics, you will be sure to see positive results like an increased profile in your local media which will hopefully lead to increased membership. In support of such efforts, Sons of Norway is announcing an exciting new contest for all lodges with a prize of \$100 to be given to the winning lodge!

The rules are simple—each time a story runs about your lodge, or Sons of Norway, within your local media, please submit a copy of the story to Sons of Norway Headquarters, Attn: Erik Evans. With each article or mention that you submit, your lodge will be entered into a drawing for the \$100 prize. For example, if you submit 3 articles or mentions, your lodge will receive three entries. Thus, the more submissions you send the more chances you have of winning the prize.

To submit a media clip, please enclose in an envelope a copy of the media clip and a 3x5 card with your lodge's name, location (city and state) and district. The deadline for this contest is May 31, 2006.



