

Restauration Lodge #548

May 2007

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The May social meeting will be
Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 7:00 pm at
First Lutheran Church
Luther Fellowship Center
1000 3rd Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Hosts: Dean and Ann Gesme, Bill and
Yvonne Cary, Dave and Sue
Johansen

Sarah Gunderson will be presenting at the Restauration Lodge's social meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 7pm. As you recall, the program was originally scheduled for the February meeting, but was cancelled due to bad weather. Then it was rescheduled for March, but Sarah became ill. Thus, the program has now been set for May. The presentation will discuss the history of the stave churches in Norway. The stave churches have a distinctive Nordic-style construction with their roofs being compared to Viking ships. Furthermore, some of these churches have stood for more than 800 years and depict the finest artifacts of medieval art in all of Norway. This program will travel to different parts of Norway in order to explore several of these churches in more detail and to learn more about these beautiful structures.

The main doors of the church will be locked at about 7:00 pm, for security reasons, but the Administrative door will remain unlocked until about 7:45

PRESIDENT McCORMICK'S CORNER

Sorry to have missed the April social and board meetings, but was on vacation with my family. I was sorry to have missed your program, Bob, but thank you very much for doing it. I am looking forward to this month's social meeting and the program by Sarah Gunderson as well as our May 17th celebration. May is a busy month for Sons of Norway. Have you read the April Viking and all the celebrations that were listed? The articles on three hometown festivals was also very interesting.

Sandy VanAmburg brought attention to the picture on the District 1 page of the April Viking. It was about one of the visitors that we hosted last fall and their visit to Sandy's home. Thanks Sandy for the heads up. I think I would have missed that.

Well enough of my rambling on--see you at the May meeting and May 17th celebration.

SYTTENDE MAI Our Syttende Mai Banquet will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (3634 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids) on Thursday, May 17. Social hour at 6:00 pm followed by a catered meal at 6:30. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the May 8 meeting or call Ardy Erickson (365-4926) or Ann Larson (373-1891). Tickets must be purchased by May 8. NO tickets will be sold at the door. We are also looking for Norwegian desserts for the banquet. If you would be willing to provide a dessert, please sign up at the May meeting or call Ardy or Ann. Thank you.

APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was held on April 17, 2007 at Ann and Dean Gesme's at 7pm. Attending: Sarah Gunderson, Ruth and David Christ, Ann Larson, Ardy Erickson, Ding Sather, Wally Sundet, Mary Durspek, Ann and Dean Gesme, Mavis Lovick, Bob Thorkildson.

The previous month's minutes were reviewed.

Treasurer's report: Checking \$2318.22. Savings \$7573.70. Membership is now 144.

May 8 social meeting will be in the upstairs room, and the program will be on stave churches.

Syttende Mai: Bob Thorkildson will format and print programs. Blaine Hedburg will be the speaker. \$250 was approved for his fee and expenses. Location is Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Ann Larson or Ardy Erickson must have money for tickets by May 8. Board members will be making member calls.

No baking classes planned at this time. A new member has been added to the Language Class. Kaffee Tid this month is at Mr. Bean's.

Sunshine: Ann Larson moved, Ardy Erickson seconded that a \$25 memorial for June Tow be sent to Vesterheim. Passed. A thank you was received from the Tow family. \$100 was received from Norwegian friends of Leah Tow Plotz, granddaughter of June Tow. This is to be divided among this year's five Skogfjorden campers as a memorial scholarship.

April newsletter deadline is June 25.
May newsletter deadline is May 23.

Fairs: S of N will not have a display at the state fair. Lois McCormick would like us to participate in the fair at Central City July 7-9. As there is a \$150 charge for food vendors there will only be a display/information booth. Volunteers are needed. Contact Lois if you can help.

The September social meeting will be a membership growth event. The public will be invited to this event.

BEST OF RESTAURATION

This is my favorite rømmegrøt recipe. I got the recipe when I was in Decorah, IA for Nordic Fest several years ago. It is so easy to make! Sarah Gunderson

RØMMEGRØT

2 sticks oleo (Blue Bonnet)
1 cup flour
5 cups milk
¾ cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt

Melt oleo in heavy kettle. Add flour and cook a little. Add milk, continue cooking until thick. Stir constantly. Cook well. Add sugar and salt. Sprinkle individual servings with sugar and cinnamon. Enjoy!

KAFFE TID will not meet in May.

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

CHANGES If you have a change of address (either U.S. mail or e-mail) or telephone number, please contact Mavis Lovik. She can be reached by phone, 393-6679; or by mail at 2603 Falcon Drive, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 or by email, maalovfalcon@msn.com. It is important if you want to continue receiving your newsletter.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE will be Wednesday, May 23. The June deadline will be June 27.

REMODELING AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Sons of Norway meeting on Tuesday, May 8th, will be located in Room 308 at the First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. The church is still under construction in the area where the meetings are typically located. The staff at the church stated that the Lutheran Fellowship room will look great when the remodeling is complete, but we just need to be patient a little longer. The completed project will be worth the wait!

SPORTS

Restauration Lodge has as one of its goals that five of its members would participate in the sports medal program. We now have four. We have one working on an exercise program, and has been for months. Then after an announcement at the April meeting, three more came forward. One is a walker, one a bicyclist, and one a swimmer. The medal is one way of keeping you involved in a program to keep you fit. Let's see if we can't get that last one to make five (or maybe more). Veri Lekwa, Sports and Recreation Director.

MEMORIAL FOR JUNE TOW

Norwegian friends of Leah Plotz, granddaughter of June Tow and former Skogfjorden camper, have sent a \$100 memorial for June which the family has chosen to direct to Restauration Lodge's campership program in her honor. June was an enthusiastic supporter of Skogfjorden. The fund will be shared among this year's Skogfjorden attendees. The five young people who will be recipients are Giullietta and Fred Meraz, Grace and Zachary Williamson, and Jeffery Christ. All are grandchildren of Lodge members. Thank you to the Tow family for sharing this tribute to June.

30th ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN HJEMKOMST FESTIVAL - June 22 - 24, 2007 Take a Voyage to Discovery at this year's festival which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the sailing of the Hjemkomst ship from Minnesota to Norway. Each day of the festival features activities for all ages.

STRULL CLASS We got together on a Tuesday evening at the home of Ann Gesme. Ann prepared the recipe for strull which has no eggs or butter. (Printed in last month's newsletter.) Then we all got to try our hand at baking them and rolling them up before they cooled. Kind of tricky, but we had lots of fun. This led to the purchase of 4 krumkake machines by some of the students.

Ann Gesme demonstrating how to make strull.



The fruits of the strull class!

For more information on the festival:

www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org

MORE ABOUT THE SYTTENDE MAI SPEAKER

Blaine Hedberg is the speaker for Restauration Lodge's Syttende Mai banquet. on May 17th. He is the first Executive Director of the Norwegian-American Genealogical Research Center. Blaine's connection to the work of the Center dates from 1982, when he first volunteered to help Gerhard Naeseth; after a successful year of mentoring, he began officially working for the Center. So began Blaine's passionate devotion to genealogical research and publishing. In the succeeding years, Blaine has come to represent every facet of the Center's work. His experience is unparalleled: he has served as volunteer, assistant, researcher, tour leader, lecturer, teacher, and editor, as well as the Center's director from 1994 to 2001.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1983. Since 1982 he has been employed by the Norwegian American Museum of Decorah, Iowa, working at the Vesterheim Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, Wisconsin. He is currently completing a project to identify the first 18,000 Norwegian immigrants who came to the United States. Professor Gerhard Naeseth published the first volume of this work before his death in 1994, and Blaine has now completed volumes 2-4 and is working on volume 5.

To assist with the completion of *Norwegian Immigrants to the United States, A Biographical Directory*, Blaine Hedberg has been preparing transcripts and indexes to many of the early Norwegian-American census and church records.

MAY BOARD MEETING will be held on Tuesday, May 15, at 7:00 pm at the home of our president, Lois McCormick, 2990 18th Avenue, Marion.

COTTAGE GROVE PLACE WILL BE CELEBRATING SYTTENDE MAI

Restauration Lodge has been invited to attend a celebration of Syttende Mai at Cottage Grove Place, 2115 1st Ave. SE on Thursday, May 17, 1:00 pm. They will have a variety of Norwegian delicacies prepared by residents and staff members.

Members are invited to wear their bunads or busserulls. There will be a display of Norwegian items and art.

Please RSVP if you are planning to attend by calling 363-2420. If you have questions about the event, call Nancy at 297-5716.

NORSK JOKE FROM JON WHITE

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, British scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after, headlines in the UK newspapers read: "British archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots."

One week later, "The Klub", a Sunburg, Minnesota newspaper reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 meters in corn fields near Games Lake, Ole Johnson, a self taught archeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago Norwegians were already using wireless."

ARTICLES FROM THE SONS OF NORWAY NEWS SERVICE

NORWEGIANS' DREAM VACATION DESTINATION: AMERICA

According to a study by the analyst company Visendi, carried out for Dagbladet, four of ten Norwegians dream of being able to travel to the United States. After the US, Australia, Italy and Thailand follow as the most popular.

A good deal more men than women dream of traveling to the US and/or Brazil. Italy and France are more popular with women. Most young people want to go to the States, but if one is over 55 years old, Italy is the destination of choice over the US. Among those with higher education and income, there are many that dream of China, while more with lower or average education dream of traveling to the US.

Professor Ole O. Moen with the University of Oslo specializes in North America, and is not surprised that so many Norwegians dream of traveling to the US. The ties between the two countries have long been strong.

“It is certainly in many ways the dreamland in pop culture, and the American lifestyle is deeply rooted in many here at home also, even among those who are critical of the regime.”

He points to language as a reason why the USA is so popular. When teenagers are no longer learning German and French at school, it becomes even more popular to travel to English-speaking countries. Young people first and foremost travel to New York or the big entertainment places in California, while the older ones travel to the Midwest to visit relatives.

SOUR CREAM DESSERT OMELET

Ingredients:

- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 cup sour heavy cream
- 2 Tblsps. sugar
- 6 eggs, separated
- 2/3 cup flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Whip the cream and sour cream with half the sugar. Beat the egg yolks with the remaining sugar until light and lemon colored. Fold into the cream. Fold in the flour. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry and fold into the cream mixture. Pour into a greased ovenproof dish and bake until puffed, golden and set, about 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 5

DINNER SANDWICH (Middagssmørød)

Ingredients:

- 4 slices oatmeal bread, toasted
- 1 lb. country sausage
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 apple, cored and sliced into 4 rings
- 1 can (3.75 oz) Norwegian sardines

Shape sausage into four patties. Brown slowly in skillet; remove and keep warm. Saute onion in 2 tblsps of the drippings; add apple rings, cover and cook for 6 to 8 minutes. Butter toast lightly. Place sausage patty on toast; apple and onion rings over all and top with sardines.

