

Restauration Lodge #548

January 2008

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXXII Number 1

The January social meeting will be
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

6:00 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
3634 1st Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Hosts: The Board

As a result of the bad weather on December 11, the Julebord was postponed until January 2008. Therefore, we will be celebrating with an after Christmas potluck on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. Please bring a dish or two to share. Lutefisk will be available and provided by the lodge at a cost of \$4 per person (for those who enjoy this tradition). Remember to bring your own plates and utensils. The doors open at 6pm, and the meal will begin at 6:30pm. The program will follow the meal. Guests are welcome!

The program will be "The Norwegian Immigrant Experience." Ann Gesme will be presenting on this interesting topic. Ann has done extensive research on this subject and knows many stories that describe the experiences of our ancestors. This will be a fun and educational program to attend.

President McCormick's Corner

You didn't hear from me in December. I guess I was having too much fun at my son's in Pennsylvania and forgot. Well, I'm back. We have our Julebord to look forward to in January, so cook up that great food and Norwegian goodies and join us. I'm sitting here writing my column with a driveway full of snow. I'm sure that is probably the same at your house. What a first day of winter!

In January we will have installation of the 2008 elected officers and appointed officers. We are ready to start a new and exciting year for our lodge. I hope you'll be there with us.

I recently received a letter from Concordia Language Villages introducing their 2008 adult and family workshops. Norwegian Family Fun Weekend, Jan. 18-21, Norwegian Adult Weekend, Apr. 24-27, Rosemaling Fall Workshop, Sept. 21-24, Norwegian Genealogy Seminar, Sept. 25-28, and a Norwegian Elderhostel, Sept. 28- Oct. 4. Of course, there are costs to the above workshops and if you are interested in getting more information, please contact me.

I also received information about The Norse Federations - Norgesskolen July 6-25, 2008. The school is open to children from 9 to 18 years of age. The school day includes several hours of instruction with many interesting indoor/outdoor learning activities. For more information, visit their website:www.norgesskolen.no

I received the following information from a recent Zone 7 newsletter. Famous Norwegian singer Sissel will be giving a concert at the Hoyt Sherman Auditorium in Des Moines on April 22, 2008. It is a fundraiser for Iowa Public Television, who will provide special seating for two for a donation of \$200. General admission will be around \$47.50 and will go on sale at the Hoyt Sherman Box-office around mid March.

Until our January social meeting, STAY WARM!!

December Business Meeting Minutes

The December board meeting of Restauration Lodge, Sons of Norway, was held December 18, 2007 at the home of Lois McCormick with Sarah and Keith Gunderson, Ding Sather, Ann and Dean Gesme, Mary and Bill Durspek, Ann Larson, Jennifer Rand, David Christ, Mavis Lovick, Cheryl Zapf and Lois McCormick in attendance.

No changes were made to last month's published minutes.

Treasurer's report: checking \$2025.16; savings \$7713.25.

Since the January meeting is now the Julebord, the servers will be the board of officers.

This year's Syttende Mai celebration will be held on our regular May meeting night, May 13, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. A Taste Above has been booked to cater the banquet.

Sunshine cards have been sent to Wally Sundet, Ron Larson, and Jerry Erickson.

Scholarship information has not been received, but there has been interest expressed by parents in sending children to language camp.

The Sons of Norway Foundation donations totaled \$276.00. Ann Gesme moved, Mary Durspek seconded a motion that the lodge add money to bring the donation to \$300.00. Motion passed.

Duties of officers are being updated. New officers will be installed in January.

Organizational issues were discussed.

Refreshments were provided by board members.

David Christ, Secretary

Sprak og Kultur/Language and Culture Lodge Names, part 1

In the earliest years of Sons of Norway, Norwegian was the first language of the vast majority of members. The organization, then known as Sonner af Norge, chose Norwegian names for its lodges which reflected the hopes and dreams of the membership, many of whom had left their homeland behind to begin a new life. As the years went on and the organization became more Americanized, the connection to Norwegian culture and language remained strong. In this edition of Sprak og kultur we will take a look at some interesting lodge names and what they mean.

The vast majority of Sons of Norway's first members were recent immigrants. Throughout the 19th century, when the majority of immigrants came to America, Norway was in the midst of a national romantic movement. Norwegian history, literature, folk art and language were being explored and celebrated after many years under foreign rule. Many Norwegians took this with them when they came to America, and the influence of the national romantic movement can be seen in many lodge names.

Ivar Aasen Over the years, there have been several lodges named for Ivar Aasen, the self-taught linguist who founded Nynorsk, the "New Norwegian" written language, based on rural dialects.

Arne Garborg There have also been several lodges named after Arne Garborg, an author and political activist who figured prominently in Norwegian politics in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Bjorgvin The Old Norse name for Bergen, which linguistic reformists wanted to restore, much as Christiania had been changed to Oslo.

Lodge Names (cont.)

Heimsyn A Nynorsk word that describes the act of looking at or around one's new home; also, an obscure book by Ivar Aasen.

Henrik Ibsen There have been about nine lodges named for Henrik Ibsen, Norway's greatest playwright.

Leif Erikson Every district has had at least one lodge named for Leif Erikson, the legendary Norse discoverer of America. Erikson and the Vikings were heroes to the early Norwegian immigrants, who wanted to prove to native-born Americans that they too had a claim to their new country.

Mjolner This was the name of Thor's magical hammer, from Norse mythology.

Wolf Population Stable Again

Researchers have found traces of 40-50 wolves in Norwegian territory during the winter of 2006-2007, and the population in the region appears stable. Half of the animals traced did not stray outside of Norway, while the other half roamed to areas in Sweden, according to the status report from research project Skandulv.

The conclusion drawn is that there were at least 136 and at most 169 wolves in Norway, Sweden and Finland during the winter season, with measurements taken from Oct. 1, 2006 to Feb, 28, 2007.

In the same period the year before there were between 141 and 160 wolves in the region, leading to the conclusion that the population is "stable or in extremely limited growth".

God Nyttår

940,000 Norwegians on Facebook

The internet society Facebook.com has now more than 938,000 Norwegian users, according to the website's own numbers. Norway is the fifth largest Facebook country in the world after the US, Great Britain, Canada and Australia. In relation to total population this makes Norway the world's most Facebook crazy country.

Facebook is a social networking site where the users communicate with friends by setting up their own profiles where they can write about themselves, post pictures and send messages to other users. Facebook was originally made for university students and employees in the US, but has since spread to other areas of use, including friends, schools and geographic areas. The service is financed by advertising, and free for the user.

Facebook is more than three years old, but in Norway the interest around Facebook increased dramatically in the first half of 2007. Around the New Year 2006-2007 there were 3000 registered Norwegian users, and in October of the same year the number has increased to something closer to 940,000. The site is especially popular among students. "It's almost social suicide not to be on Facebook right now," said one student to Forbruker.no.

Does this look familiar? Snow piles and damaged tree limbs at the curb!



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

January 8

Julebord

January 15

Board Meeting

Elected Officers:

President-Lois McCormick	377-2890
Vice President-Ann Gesme	362-6910
Counselor-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Secretary-David Christ	319-351-7717
Treasurer-Ding Sather	393-7310
Assistant Treasurer-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Membership Secretary-Mavis Lovik	393-6679
Cultural director-Sarah Eness Gunderson	319-330-3153
Social directors- Ardy Erickson	365-4926
Ann Larson	373-1891

Sons of Norway representative:

David Tesdahl 319-286-9447

Lodge web site:

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org	
web master- Robert Thorkildson	319-721-9902

**Sons of Norway
Restauration Lodge #548
2119 Lincolnshire Dr SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1606**

Appointed Officers:

Auditors:	
Ruth Christ (1 year)	319-351-7717
Jean Oxley (1 year)	364-5340
Bob Thorkildson (2 year)	319-721-9902
Foundation-Wally Sundet	393-6971
Greeters-Sharon Mow	366-3202
Ruth Berger	365-4979
Historian-Paula Schulte	396-1076
Kaffe Tid-Mary Durspek	377-4480
Language Facilitator:	
Ann Gesme	362-6910
Librarian-Judy Argo	319-247-2479
Marshalls-Lloyd Holecek	377-4438
David Johansen	319-338-0414
Musicians-Carolyn Rushton	319-351-8604
Jennifer Rand	366-6659
Newsletter Editors-Bill/Mary Durspek	377-4480
Newsletter Mailer- Lois McCormick	377-2890
Publicity-Sandra Van Amburg	223-5331
Scholarship-Ruth Christ	319-351-7717
Sports/Recreation/Youth-Verl Lekwa	319-728-2847
Sunshine-Cheryl Zapf	363-5326
Trustees	
Merle Kjonaas (1 year)	319-338-0414
Paula Schulte (2 year)	396-1076