

# Restauration Lodge #548

April 2008

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXXII Number 4

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

7:00 pm

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

Hosts: Bob and Nancy Thorkildson, Wally and Marie Sundet, Ding and Bev Sather

Our guest speaker will be Øyvind Gulliksen, professor of American studies at Telemark College in Norway and currently visiting professor at Luther College in Decorah. The subject of his presentation is the Decorah Posten, one of the three most important Norwegian-American newspapers in the Midwest, published in Decorah, Iowa, from 1874-1972. Don't miss this program!

## President McCormick's Corner

Isn't it nice to see the ice and snow melting and enjoy a little sunshine and warmth. It has been a long winter.

Thank you to Jean Murray and her husband for sharing with us parts of a video taken when she and her husband visited her father's birthplace in Norway in 1994. Programs like this always give us a little more insight of our Fatherland and the people.

Thinking ahead to District 1 convention in June, we as a lodge have been asked to donate an item or items for a silent auction. The proceeds from the auction will go to the District 1 Scholarship Trust Fund. This is a good cause as the students we send receive some assistance from the District as well as from our own Lodge. I don't

think that our item or items necessarily have to be new, but in good condition and attractive for attendees to bid on. If you do any needlework, painting, woodworking etc. and have an item to contribute, please call me.

Hoping that you all had a Blessed Easter and that we will still be enjoying warmth and sunshine by the time of our next social meeting. The April Board meeting will be held at Dean and Ann Gesme's, 7:00 p.m. on the 15th.

## From the Cultural Director

Interest Survey Members had the opportunity at the March meeting to register their interest in Norwegian Cultural Activities. The purpose of this interest survey is to arrange for instruction in these skills, with classes probably beginning in the fall. Genealogy topped the interest list, followed by Rosemaling, Needlework, Cooking/Baking, Book Club and Language. Other classes will be scheduled depending on the interest level shown, availability of place to meet, instructors, etc. The sign-up sheets will be available at the next meetings also.

Wood Carving Class – Joe Reed has volunteered to teach chip carving in the fall. Let us know if you are interested in that class and an organizational meeting will be scheduled.

Language and Culture Class - has been conducted weekly from mid-October to the end of April for the past 20+ years. If there is adequate interest in the fall, we will do this again.

**Seeking Secret Skills in the Norwegian Folk Arts** Do you have skills that you are willing to share with lodge members? We are looking for member volunteers to teach needlework, rosemaling, cooking/baking, or other Norwegian Folk Arts. Would someone be interested in taking charge of a book club? You do not need to be an expert to be an instructor/leader, and help others learn.

**Opportunities to Study with the Masters** - For top quality instruction in the Norwegian Folk Arts you are encouraged to study in Decorah with the Masters! The Vesterheim class schedule for 2008 is available from your Cultural Director. Most of the classes are conducted in summer and early fall, with a few exceptions. Now is the time to register for classes as some of them are already filled for this season.

**Norwegian Fiddle Music and Dance** - To anyone interested in Norwegian Fiddle Music and Dance, the annual workshop will be held at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, WI July 17-20. For more information check the web site: <http://www.hfaa.org/>.

If you are interested in pursuing any area of study --- or for more information --- please contact the Cultural Director, Ann Urness Gesme at [augdhg@mchsi.com](mailto:augdhg@mchsi.com) or (319) 362-6910.

### **Syttende Mai Dinner**

Our Syttende Mai dinner will be held on our regular meeting night, May 13, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The dinner will again be catered by A Taste Above. Members will be asked to bring Norwegian desserts. Tickets will be \$20.00 and will be on sale at the April Social meeting or you can contact Ann Larson or Ardy Erickson. The program will be a drama written by Carolyn Rushton (a member of our lodge). Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this special dinner.

### **Tubfrim Note**

Needed: Your saved used stamps for Tubfrim in Norway. Please bring them to the April meeting. They will then be forwarded to Minneapolis and subsequently to Norway. Thank you. Dean Gesme

### **New Investment Product**

Sons of Norway now has a new investment product called the Single Premium Deferred Annuity. The Single Premium product enjoys a shorter surrender charge period, higher interest rates and the potential for higher first year interest bonus. Call your Financial Benefits Counselor for details

### **Stoltenberg Stresses Schools in New Year's Address**

Stung by recent studies showing below average performance by Norwegian students, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg called for speedy improvements in his annual New Year's address to the nation.

Stoltenberg promised a thorough evaluation of recent school reforms that were supposed to boost student performance, not hurt it. Instead, a recent international study sounded what Stoltenberg called a "serious warning" about the quality of schools. The so called PISA rankings indicated that Norwegian teenagers are testing poorly in such basic areas as reading, mathematics and science.

"Have we gone too far in loosening up the framework around education?" Stoltenberg wondered in his national address. He suggested a return to more structure in the classroom, longer school days, more attention to reading skills and better continuing education for teachers. His remarks seemed generally well received by teachers and school administrators, who also see a need for improvements.

**Climate Concerns, Too** In Norway, it's traditional for the reigning monarch to speak on Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) on New Year's Eve, followed by address by the prime minister on New Year's night. Stoltenberg joined King Harald V in also stressing the importance of battling climate change. Stoltenberg, whose government has been criticized for failing to practice what it preaches, insisted he was taking the threats of climate change seriously and that oil producing Norway would reduce emissions at home as well as help finance emissions cuts overseas.

"The climate problem has been created by people," he said. "It can be solved by people." Wealthy countries like Norway, he said, must take the greatest share of responsibility.

Stoltenberg also joined King Harald in sending New Year's greeting to Norwegians around the world, especially the Norwegian soldiers currently stationed in Afghanistan.

**Newsletter Deadline: April 29, 2008**

#### **BOAT FOR SALE**

Sven was going for his morning walk one day when he walked past Ole's house and saw a sign that said "Boat For Sale." This confused Sven because he knew that Ole didn't own a boat, so he finally decided to go in and ask Ole about it.

"Hey Ole," said Sven, "I noticed da sign in your yard dat says 'Boat For Sale, 'but ya don't even have a boat. All ya have is your old John Deere tractor and combine." Ole replied, "Yup, and dey're boat for sale."

#### **THE 911 CALL**

Lena passed away and Ole called 911. The 911 operator told Ole that she would send someone out right away. "Where do you live?," asked the operator. Ole replied, "At da end of Eucalyptus Drive." The operator asked, "Can you spell that for me?" There was a long pause and finally Ole said,

"How'bout if I drag her over to Oak Street and you pick her up der?"

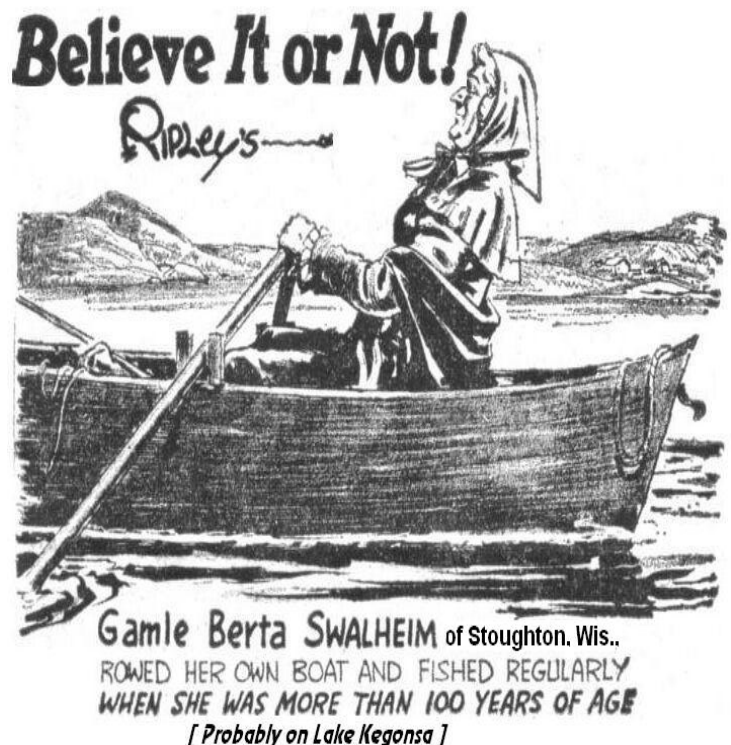
#### **Matlyst Monthly**

#### **Bergen Water Pretzels**

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups water or milk  
1 ½ ounces fresh yeast  
¼ cup butter or margarine  
½ cup flour  
¼ teaspoon salt

Heat the water (or milk) and stir in the yeast. Melt the butter and add with flour and salt to make a firm dough. Divide into 20 pieces. Roll each into long tubes and form into classic pretzel shape. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Bring a wide pot of water to a boil. Add a few pretzels at a time and bring the water back to a boil. At first, the pretzels will sink to the bottom. When they rise back to the top, remove them with a slotted spoon and place on a baking sheet. Bake pretzels for 10 minutes.



## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 8

April 15

May 13

Social Meeting

Board Meeting

Syttende Mai

### Elected Officers:

President-Lois McCormick	377-2890
Vice President-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Counselor-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Secretary - TBD	
Treasurer-Ding Sather	393-7310
Assistant Treasurer-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Membership Secretary-Alan and Barbara Erickson	377-1707
Cultural director-Ann Gesme	362-6910
Social directors- Ardy Erickson	365-4926
Ann Larson	373-1891

### Sons of Norway representative:

David Tesdahl	319-286-9447
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### Lodge web site:

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

### Appointed Officers:

Auditors:	
Verl Lekwa	319-728-2847
Ruth Christ	319-351-7717
Bob Thorkildson	319-721-9902
Foundation-Wally Sundet	393-6971
Greeters-Sharon Mow	366-3202
Ruth Berger	365-4979
Historian-Paula Schulte	396-1076
Language Facilitator:	
Ann Gesme	362-6910
Librarian-Sarah Eness Gunderson	319-330-3153
Marshalls-Lloyd Holecek	377-4438
David Johansen	319-338-0414
Musicians-Carolyn Rushton	319-351-8604
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
Trustee	
Paula Schulte	396-1076

Sons of Norway

Restauration Lodge #548

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