

# Restauration Lodge #548

September 2008

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXXII Number 8

The September social meeting will be  
Tuesday, September 9, 2008

7:00 pm

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

Hosts: Lois McCormick, Jerry and Ardy  
Erickson, Dean and Ann Gesme, Bill and  
Mary Durspek

## "A LIFETIME OF SINGING" A Norwegian Perspective



by Karen Gesme Brunssen

The human voice is the most unique "instrument" on the face of the earth. No other instrument is "alive." No other instrument gets colds, allergies, can eat *lutefisk* and *rømmegrøt*, tell Norwegian jokes and sing *Ja vi elsker*. No other instrument starts as a baby and develops all the way through puberty, mid-life and into old age. Karen will take a unique look at the chronological life of the singing voice through examples of singers ages 3 months to 103 years old -- all of them of Norwegian ancestry.

*Mezzo-soprano KAREN GESME BRUNSSSEN, grew up in Cedar Rapids. She received her bachelor of music from Luther College and attended graduate school at Yale University. She is the co-chair of Northwestern University's Department of Music Performance Studies and Coordinator of Voice and Opera. As a professional singer she has appeared in operas*

*and Symphony orchestras throughout the United States as well as in Europe. She is frequently a guest clinician/master teacher for Colleges, Universities, and Choral organizations in the US, and has taught at the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy and Cambridge University in Cambridge, England. She lives in Westmont, IL, with her husband, Kim, and son Karl. Her parents are Dean and Ann Gesme.*

### President McCormick's Corner

Well, August is over and Fall is ahead of us. Our September program will be an excellent one to bring guests to whether they are interested in joining the Sons of Norway or not. But, we are also hoping that publicity will bring in some new faces. September is also the month that the nominating committee will be elected. I will be contacting members that I hope will be interested in being on the committee. It is not a difficult job, but takes a few phone calls or contacts.

I had a good time at the Tre Lag Stevne in Fergus Falls, MN. that I attended in early August. I attended several enjoyable, interesting and educational sessions during the four days, as well as a tour of Fergus Falls. We were also fortunate to attend the play called the Emigrants. The actors were from the Trondheim area in Norway. I belong to the Tronder Lag, part of Tre Lag and we celebrated 100 years of the Lag's beginning in Fergus Falls. We had a special program for that on Saturday afternoon and evening. Others from the lodge who also attended this event were Carolyn and Gerald Rushton.

If you are interested in a Lag for your ancestors' area of Norway you can ask the Gesme's, the Durspek's, the Christ's or me about it. There are also others who belong

to Lags that can be of help. You don't just work on genealogy, but meet new friends with a common Norsk ancestral area.

I want to thank Ann Larson, Anna Marie Klein, and Cindy Monroe for being a great help at the booth we had at the Linn County Fair in July.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the September social meeting. The next board meeting will be at my house on September 16th at 7:00 p.m.

### Book Club for Men and Women

The organizational meeting of the Book Club was held Aug 20 with 11 members present. It was decided to hold the monthly meetings at the Gesme home, 2119 Lincolnshire Dr. SE. The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent meetings will be the on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The following books were chosen:

#### 2008

24 September – *Giants in the Earth* by Ole Rolvaag

15 October - *Peder Victorious* by Ole Rolvaag

19 November – *Their Father's God* by Ole Rolvaag

17 December - *Keeping Christmas*  
by Kathleen Stokker

#### 2009

18 February – *The Emigrants* by Johan Bøjer

21 January – *Folklore Fights the Nazis*  
by Kathleen Stokker

18 March – *The Body in the Fjord*  
by Kathleen Hall Page

15 April – *The Cotter's Son*  
by Joel Winkjer and H. A. Foss

20 May – *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson

17 June - *The Diary of Elisabeth Koren*  
by Elisabeth Koren

15 July- *Norway to America* by Ingrid Semmingson

19 August – *The Shetland Bus* by David Howarth

16 September – *Remedies and Rituals*  
by Kathleen Stokker

21 October – *Norwegian Folk Tale*  
by Asbjørnsen and Moe

18 November - *Between Rocks and Hard Places*  
by Ann Urness Gesme

16 December – *Per*, by Palmer Rockswold.

*For more information contact Dean or Ann at [augdhq@mchsi.com](mailto:augdhq@mchsi.com) or 362-6910.*

Language Class will begin Thursday evening, September 18th. Tom Næsse will be teaching the class at his home at 5823 Muirfield Dr SW #3 Cedar Rapids 52404. Those who have an interest in attending the class, or have questions, should contact Tom at (319) 841-2311 (e-mail: [tnaesse@southslope.net](mailto:tnaesse@southslope.net))

Norwegian Chip Carving Joe Reed has graciously consented to teach a class in chip carving. The organizational meeting will be October 16, at Lois McCormick's home, 2990 – 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Marion, where the class will meet. Contact Mary Durspek at 319-377-4480 for more information.

Former Skogfjorden Scholarship Recipient Married in Norway Since 1977 our lodge has offered scholarships for children or grandchildren of our members to attend Skogfjorden, the Norwegian language camp at Bemidji, Minnesota. One of those recipients was Leah Plotz, whose grandmother, June Tow, sent her to camp eight summers. After Leah graduated from Prairie High School, she went to Norway, where she was living in Oslo before her marriage to Peder Grambo in Elverum, Norway, June 28, 2008. Peter attended Pacific Lutheran University in Seattle, WA, and graduated from Hedmark College in Norway. He is a teacher in Årnes, Norway. Members of the lodge send their best wishes to Leah and her husband.

### Sword from the 1700s found in Oslo

In June work was stopped at Jernbanetorget, the central Oslo train station, which was then under renovation, after large archeological discoveries were made there. Among other things a sword that probably fell or was thrown overboard from a boat in the 1700s.

Archeologists have excavated wooden construction materials that may date from the 1700s, making them the first buildings on the train station site. The area was a good harbor at that time, according to the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

The discoveries made the first week lay no deeper than one meter under the ground level. The team of archeologists will dig in an area of approximately 50 meters square. This is an area where little excavation has been done previously, and therefore is of great historical interest.

### Matlyst Monthly

#### Sea Mussel Soup

##### Ingredients:

2.2 lbs. Fresh sea mussels

3 shallots

3 cloves of garlic

½ cup white wine

1 ½ cup heavy cream

¼ gram crushed saffron

½ tsp. Curry

Fresh herbs (finely chopped)

1.7 oz. Butter

Salt and pepper

Wash the mussels well in cold water. In a pan, fry finely chopped shallots, crushed garlic, herbs and spices in butter. Add the mussels and white wine. Let it steam under a lid for 4 to 5 minutes (until all mussels are open). Add the cream and let cook for 3 to 4 minutes without the lid. Season with salt and pepper. Serve the soup with the mussels (with shells) in it and some bread and butter.

From Sons of Norway's Recipe Box on [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com)

Newsletter Deadline: September 30

### Norwegian Experience 2008: Choose Your Own Adventure!

For many, the most exciting part of entering the Norwegian Experience contest is the fact that you can choose your own adventure. Not only does the winner receive an all inclusive trip for two to Norway, with exclusive trips to the Hadeland Glasswerks and Solstrand, the winner gets to work with travel professionals in creating a tailor-made adventure. Whether you are interested in an active sightseeing trip that takes you on walking/hiking tours, or if you'd rather take a relaxing cruise through the fjords of Norway, the choice is yours!

Just like last year, the winner of the 2008 Norwegian Experience contest will work with the knowledgeable folks at Borton Oversees to plan the trip of a lifetime. Their experience in Norwegian travel is unsurpassed and they have all the information you need to plan for the most memorable vacation ever!

Remember, entering the contest is easy! All you have to do is to be a current member of Sons of Norway who recruits a new, dues-paying member between January 1 and December 31, 2008. Also, don't forget that any gift memberships you give to new, dues-paying members throughout the year can also qualify you for the contest as well!

Lois at the SON Booth at the Linn Co Fair



**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

**September 9  
September 16**

**Social Meeting  
Board Meeting**

**Elected Officers:**

President-Lois McCormick	377-2890
Vice President-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Counselor-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Secretary -Cheryl Zapf	363-5326
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  
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