

Restauration Lodge #548

December 2008

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXXII Number 11

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

7:00 pm

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

Hosts: Board Members

Clean-up: Ron/Ann Larson, Bill/Mary Durspek,
Cheryl Zapf, Lois McCormick

December 9, 2008 meeting
a member participation event:

*"Norwegian Christmas Music and Favorite
Norwegian Goodies."*

ALL MEMBERS are asked to bring their favorite Christmas goodie (finger food) arranged on a tray or plate, ready to be served. Treats will be placed on a decorated serving table – and will be sampled by everyone. Coffee and hot spiced cider will be provided by the lodge. You are encouraged to prepare Norwegian treats, but American treats are also appropriate.

President McCormick's Corner

Thanks to David Christ for his very, very informative and interesting look at Cod Fishing in Norway. He presented this topic at our November social meeting attended by approximately 40 members. Thanks again, David. Always look forward to your presentations.

Well, this will be the last President Corner that you will have from me. Our new president will take over in January. I have enjoyed these last four years as your President, but couldn't have done it without the assistance of many of you members and officers. Many thanks.

We will be electing the 2009 officers at our Social meeting. The nominees are:
President - Cynthia Monroe,
Treasurer - Ding Sather
Social Directors - Mavis Hovden and Jean Murray
Secretary (1 year term) - Harold Williams
We will be accepting other nominations before we vote.

I know that I will see some of you in December, but for those I don't see I want to wish you a Happy Holiday Season.

The December board meeting will be held on the 16th. We will meet at 7:00 p.m.

OLD & NEW OFFICERS AND SPOUSES at December Board Meeting - The December board meeting will be held on December 16th at Lois McCormick's home. My address is 2990 18th Ave., Marion, Ia. Phone number is 377-2890. This will be a meeting of old and new officers and their spouses. We are asking that those attending bring a treat to share and beverages will be supplied. Our meeting will be short so that we will have time to socialize. Would love to see a record number of old and new officers and their spouses attend.

Lodge Genealogy Seminar

March 7, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Opportunity to Rearch Your Norwegian
Roots

An all day Lodge Genealogy Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009. It will be held at Our Savior's Church (subject to Council approval). Leading the seminar will be the world's foremost authority on Norwegian-American Genealogy, Blaine Hedberg. Blaine has been our speaker numerous times at special events, and

conducted a seminar for us five years ago. He is Executive Director and Gerhard B. Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center in Madison, WI.

A pre-seminar meeting of those interested in participating will be held in January to iron out details and to prepare you for getting the maximum benefit from the March Seminar. Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know if you are interested. (319-362-6910, or augdhg@mchsi.com). If there is not enough interest shown (well in advance) the seminar will be cancelled.

For more information about Blaine Hedberg and the Norwegian American Genealogical Center, refer to the web site : <http://www.nagcni.org/>

LOOKING AHEAD

[Notice: The January meeting will be a week earlier than usual]

Potluck with Lutefisk!

Guests and Visitors Welcome

January 6 – 6:30 p.m.

The January meeting will be an Epiphany potluck on the FIRST TUESDAY. Lutefisk will be furnished, but the rest of the food will be potluck. You are encouraged to prepare Norwegian ethnic dishes, especially *lefse*: however, traditional America dishes are also appropriate. Also, bring your own table service. You are encouraged to bring prospective members to this meeting, so invite your friends or neighbors who might be interested

New officers will be installed at this meeting, and there will be a short program about Norwegian Sweaters.

Needed: Nominations for the Tusen Takk Award

It is time to nominate Restauration Lodge members to receive the Tusen Takk Award. The individual nominated must have been a

member of the Lodge for at least one year prior to the year of outstanding service and must still be a member in good standing. The award is given for truly extraordinary service and not for simply doing a good job.

There may never be more than two awards given in a single year and the deadline for nominations is December 31, 2008. Nominations are to be made in writing and should state why you believe the person you chose is deserving of the award. These written nominations should be given to any of the three committee members: Ruth Christ, David Christ or Carolyn Rushton. They will be responsible for making the final selection in the event that several people are nominated. Nominations will be retained for reconsideration in subsequent years, if they are not chosen to receive the award this year.

Since it is not possible to receive this award more than once, we are including a list of people who have already received it. They are: Gladys Aakre, Toini Landis, Torrey Carlson, Evelyn Sondrol, Ellen Sunde, Mary Durspek, Delores Ross, Norm Erickson, Dean Gesme, Ann Gesme, Merrill Ludvigson. Lee Stephenson, Peter Haug, Bill Windus, Jean Murray, Ruth Carlson, Marilyn Cornell, Doris Werth, Wally Sundet, Otis Boyd, Sue Shimon, Darla Thompson, Lois McCormick, Carolyn Rushton, Ruth Christ and David Christ. If we have inadvertently left someone out, please let us know.

You can hand deliver your written nominations at the social meeting on December 9, 2008, or you may mail them to any one of the three committee members by December 31, 2008. Their addresses are: Ruth and David Christ, 1335 Emily Court, Iowa City, Iowa 52246 or Carolyn Rushton, 215 Lexington Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52246.

This is your chance to nominate a deserving Lodge member to receive this

award. We value your input and we greatly appreciate your help. Thanks.

-The Tusen Takk Award Committee

Book Club

December 17 a 1 p.m. at Gesme's. We will discuss portions of Kathleen Stokker's book, *Keeping Christmas*. Please let Ann know if you will be attending. 362-6910 or augdhg@mchsi.com.

Norwegians Visit Norway (IA.)

Several members of our lodge had the opportunity to visit with 14 Norwegians on a perfect day in October when they visited Norway, IA. At the Norway Cemetery, they visited the grave of Osmund Tuttle who came to this country from Hjelmeland, Norway, in 1836, and who gave the land for the railroad to go through the town of Norway, Iowa, on the condition that they name the town Norway.

They also visited the grave of Holger Strand. Strand, who came to Norway, Iowa, to visit his brother in the 19th century, became sick and died here. For Holger's great-grandson, Lars Strand, a highlight of this trip was visiting his great-grandfather's grave. It had been his life-long dream. He brought Norwegian flags to place on the graves of Holger Strand and Holger's brother, Lars, a Civil War veteran. The two brothers are buried side by side. When the flags were placed at the graves, the people sang the Norwegian National Anthem.

The visiting Norwegians come from the communities of Strand, Forsand, Suldal and Hjelmeland. They were supper guests at the farm of Sandra Van Amburg, Norway. This is one of the farms settled by Norwegian emigrants. Paula Schulte, Dan LeGrand and Sandra Van Amburg co-hosted the supper. Tom and Ingrid Næsse were special guests.

The group also enjoyed the hospitality of Bruce and Pam Towe, Norway, visiting their farm and barn where pleasure horses are

trained and stabled.

The Norwegians visited Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota - states heavily settled by their ancestors. Several of the tour members were members of Sons of Norway, District 8, Ryfylke 23 Lodge in Hjelmeland. Author Odd Harald Olsen was the tour leader.

On Saturday morning, Paula Schulte arranged visits at the St Rand church and cemetery and a Friends church and cemetery near LeGrand. A funeral was taking place that day and the Norwegians asked many questions about the vault that was being lowered into the ground, as they do not use vaults in Norway.



Lars Strand at the Norway, IA cemetery, by the grave of his great-grandfather, Holger Strand, who died in 1897.

New Members

Connie Stusak and Douglas Madsen joined Restauration Lodge in November. Welcome them!

Newsletter Deadline December 20

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

December 9

December 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

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 Facilitators:
Tom and Ingrid Næsse 319-841-2311
Librarian-Sarah Eness Gunderson 319-330-3153
Marshalls-Lloyd Holecek 377-4438
David Johansen 319-338-0414
Musicians-Carolyn Rushton 319-351-8604
Marvel Titone 319-683-2702
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
2119 Lincolnshire Dr SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1606**