

# RESTAURATION LODGE #548



September 2009 [www.sofn-cedarrapids.org](http://www.sofn-cedarrapids.org) Volume XXXIII Number 9

**The next social meeting is on  
Tuesday, October 13, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
3634 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403**

**Our program will be *Snowshoe Thompson of the High Sierras* by Bob Erlandson**

Bob Erlandson has done extensive research on this colorful Norwegian! . Jon Torsteinson-Rue was born in Tinn, Telemark, and when he was 10 years old he and his mother immigrated to LaSalle Co., Illinois. He moved to Missouri in 1845, and in 1948 to California. From 1856 to 1876 he became the mailman who carried the mail on skis over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, gaining the title "Snowshoe Thompson." Don't miss this interesting presentation on one of America's most colorful Norwegian immigrants.

November 10 Sons of Norway meeting features a program, ***Stabbur, the Norwegian Storehouse.***

## **Fra Presidenten**

You may remember from an earlier newsletter that I was sure my Scottish father-in-law was probably descended from the Viking settlements in Scotland. I just returned from Scotland and am convinced that "Mr. Blue Eyes" may indeed have a little Viking in him! I had to rely on a little history reading before my trip to know where and what to look for. Vikings knew the routes to Scotland before invading. Their early activities may have been selling/trading

amber and furs. After gathering steam with successful attacks, the Vikings attacked Iona, one of the islands we visited. Relics of Viking life remain on the island. Large areas of Scotland were poorly defended and one of the Vikings' prime interests was in acquiring slaves. My source indicated these war bands might have been an outlet for a community's bad seeds! They, in turn, had offspring who created new war bands to go off and plunder. Not only do Scandinavian names dot the current map of northern Scotland, but, again

according to my source, this area has the highest concentration of Norwegian DNA outside of Scandinavia. I've been thinking about having my husband's DNA tested!!!

Beautiful purple thistles grew everywhere. They are the emblem of Scotland. It was hard for me to understand why – until I read the information in a needlepoint kit I bought. According to legend, it was chosen as the Scottish emblem because a Viking soldier trod on a thistle and his cries of pain alerted the Scots to the approach of invaders and prevented defeat. The thistle is now firmly linked to all things Scottish.

Cindy Charlson Monroe,

### **Norway is best place to live, China moves up: UN**

Mon Oct 5, 8:28 am ET

PARIS (AFP) – Norway takes the number one spot in the annual United Nations human development index released Monday but China has made the biggest strides in improving the well-being of its citizens. The index compiled by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) ranks 182 countries based on such criteria as life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. Norway, Australia and Iceland took the first three spots while Niger ranks at the very bottom, just below Afghanistan. The top ten countries listed on the index are: Norway, Australia, Iceland, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, France, Switzerland and Japan. The United States ranks 13th, down one spot from last year.

## **Norwegian Language Classes**

Are you ready to learn or brush up on your Norwegian? Sons of Norway member and native-born Norwegian, Tom Naesse, holds Norwegian class every Thursday evening. At 6:00 informal conversation begins, followed by a more formal lesson at 7:00. Take a risk. Call Tom and tell him you are coming (319-841-2311)!

## **OCTOBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH**

Did you notice that the last Viking magazine had all of the past years Foundation Scholarship winners pictured? We have had one of these in the past, David and Ruth Christ's daughter. We also have received money for some cultural affairs events.

As usual, we will be taking up a collection at the October meeting to make our lodge's yearly contribution to the Sons of Norway Foundation Fund. Please bring your check books or cash to make a contribution to this worthy cause. We will be passing a collection basket instead of the Foundation Piggy at this meeting.

## ***Tusen Takk Award***

Help us recognize loyal workers who give generously in many ways by serving the lodge without the expectation of reward, beyond the enjoyment of fellowship.

Nominations for this award are to be made in writing by any Lodge member to the committee, on or before the conclusion of the regular December

meeting each year. Such nominations shall be supported by recommendations and details showing why this person is deserving of the *Tusen Takk* Award.

### **Hilsen from Sons of Norway,**

We hope you're refreshed from the summer festivities and breaks and ready to gear up to recruit new members with your lodge. And recruiting for your lodge this fall can mean winning big – a \$500 prize!

Dues-paying new members\* recruited between September 15th and December 15th qualify for this contest. Lodges will be divided into two categories based on size. The two lodges—one from the small and one from the large categories—that see the largest percentage growth will each win \$500 and be featured in a spring 2010 Member Matters section.

This is a team effort, so call your lodge vice president to see what you can do to help plan a member recruitment event. You can also find ideas in the members section of [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com), including the contact information for your Financial Benefits Counselor, who can help with throwing an event.

If you have other questions or want help brainstorming, contact the Membership Coordinator at [nneuman@sofn.com](mailto:nneuman@sofn.com) or (800) 945-8851 x697.

\*Applications must be from new dues-paying members and must be received at Sons of Norway Headquarters by December 15th. For complete details, please visit [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com) and

click on Fall Blitz in the Highlights section.

### **PLANNING A VACATION? Check out some of these Midwest Norwegian events**

- Nordic Lights Film Festival- Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN 11/20 to 11/22/2009
- Torsk & Meatball Dinner & Bake Sale, Sioux Falls, SD 01/16/2010
- Midsummer Scandinavian Festival, Crookston, MN 06/14/2010

### **Back Again – Silent Auction**

We have had some interesting silent auctions in past years and we are having one at our November meeting. You are invited to donate gently used Norwegian items or baked goods for our auction. The proceeds will be used for our Foundation and/or Scholarship. Bring your donations to the meeting. We will have auction sheets ready and let every shop for a little more Norwegian in you lives.

### **Calendar Items**

**October 27** – Board Meeting at Cindy Monroe's home

**November** – Complete your Tusen Takk Nominations

**November 10** – 7:00 p.m. Sons of Norway Social Meeting

**November 18** – Book Club at Gesmes

**November 27** – Board Meeting at Gesmes

### Interviews Needed:

In order to get to know our membership a little better, we would like to interview as many members as possible and publish in upcoming issues. We will start with our charter members and youth who have attend language camps. Please consider saying yes when we call. Newer members are unaware of the deep history within our membership.

### Table Prayer

I Jesu navn går vi til bords,  
At spise og drikke på ditt ord;  
Deg Gud til ære, oss til gavn,  
Så far vi mat I Jesu navn.  
Amen

Do you have ideas for the newsletter? A story you'd like to share, or an interesting piece of Norwegian trivia? Maybe something your parents or grandparents told you? Other members are interested! Please submit your own stories, or call Cindy or Sherrie with ideas. ☺



## Bok Forening

The Book Club will meet at the Gesme home (2115 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., SE, Room 3313 Cedar Rapids) on Wednesday, September 16 at 1:00.

Cindy Monroe will lead a discussion of Norwegian Folktales by Asbjornsen and Moe. The November 18 selection is Between Rocks and Hard Places by Ann Gesme.



Order at our next  
two meetings

Norwegian  
Calendars

Pickled  
Herring

Lingonberries

## Cultural Skills Medals Program

Ask Lois McCormick for help in participating in the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills Program. You can explore Traditional Norwegian Cooking, Reading Norwegian and American-Norwegian Authors, Collecting Norwegian and North American Stamps, Norwegian Rosemaling Genealogy-Family History, Hand Knitting, Norwegian Language and Culture, Hardangr Embroidery, Figure Carving, Weaving, Ornamental Carving, Chip Carving, Folk Dances, and/or Music and Musicians of Norway.



### **NAMETAGS**

**Orders for  
nametags will be  
taken at meetings.  
If unable to attend,  
please contact  
Dean Gesme to get  
information.**

Elected Officers:

President – Cindy Monroe	363-7420
Vice President – Dean Gesme	362-6910
Secretary – Harold Williamson	338-5658
Treasurer – Ding Sather	393-7310
Assistant Treasurer – Dean Gesme	362-6910
Membership Secretary – Alan & Barbara Erickson	377-1707
Cultural Director – Ann Gesme	362-6910
Social Directors – Mavis Hovden Anna Marie Klein Jean Murray	393-3286 373-9260 393-9560

Sons of Norway representatives:

David Tesdahl	286-9447
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Lodge web site: [www.sofn-cedarrapids.org](http://www.sofn-cedarrapids.org)

Web master: Robert Thorkildson	721-9902
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Appointed Officers:

Auditors:	
Verl Lekwa	738-2847
Ruth Christ	351-7717
Bob Thorkildson	721-9902
Foundation-Wally Sundet	393-6971
Greeters-Sharon Mow	366-3202
Historian-Paula Schulte	396-1076
Language Facilitators:	
Tom & Ingrid Næse	841-2311
Past President-Lois McCormick	377-2890
Librarian-Sarah Eness Gunderson	330-3153
Marshall-Lloyd Holecek	377-4438
Musician-Sharon Kay Stang	351-5133
Newsletter Editors-Cindy Monroe	363-7420
Sherrie Waite	329-8190
Publicity-Sandra Van Amburg	223-5331
Scholarship-Ruth Christ	351-7717
Sports/Recreation/Youth-Verl Lekwa	
Sunshine-Cheryl Zapf	363-5326
Trustee: Paula Schulte	396-1076

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403