

Restauration Lodge #548

January 2009

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXXIII Number 1

The January social meeting will be
Tuesday, January 6, 2009

6:00 pm

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

Set-Up: David and Ruth Christ, Ardy Erickson,
Ann and Dean Gesme, Paula Schulte, Bob and
Nancy Thorkildson.

Clean Up: Bill and Mary Durspek, Ann and Ron
Larson, Lois McCormick, Cheryl Zapf.

Epiphany Potluck with Lutefisk.

*Please note: The January meeting will be a
week earlier than usual.*

It was the custom in Norway to celebrate
Christmas for 13 days, ending on Three
Kings Day, or Epiphany, which falls on
January 6. Thus the lodge will be having
an Epiphany Potluck dinner with *lutefisk* on
the first Tuesday in January in 2009.

Lutefisk will be prepared by a group of
experienced cooks, and the remainder of
the meal is potluck. Please bring your own
table service as well as food to share with
the group. Those who have a flair for
preparing typical Norwegian dishes are
encouraged to bring those (especially *lefse*
to go with the *lutefisk*), but American
dishes will be equally welcome!

This will be "Norwegian Sweater Night,"
and there will be a short program about
Norwegian sweaters. Everyone having a
Norwegian Sweater is asked to wear it, or
bring it to have on display at the meeting.

President McCormick's Corner

Well, mother nature decided that I should
write one more president's corner.
Hopefully, at our Jan. 6 meeting we will be
able to have the election of officers. We will

plan to have elections before the dinner
begins so that they can be installed during
the meeting afterward. You will find the
slate of officers to be elected elsewhere in
this newsletter. We will be accepting
additional nominations before we vote.

Due to our cancellations, we will accept
nominations for the Tusen Takk Award at
the January social meeting. They should be
sent or given to any one of the three
committee members, Ruth and David Christ
or Carolyn Rushton.

I will bring the Calendars that have not
been picked up to the January social
meeting.

The next board meeting will be on January
27th at the home of the newly elected
president. Old officers should plan on
attending this meeting to assist the
individual elected to your position.

I hope that you all had a Happy Holiday
Season and beginning of the New Year.
Hope to see you on January 6th.

2009 Board Meeting Date Change

In 2009, the SON Board meetings will be the
fourth Tuesday of the month (January 27).
Call Cindy Monroe (981-8356) if you have
questions concerning this change.

Genealogy Seminar for Novices and Seasoned Researchers

March 7, 10a.m. to 3 p.m.

Blaine Hedberg, Director of the Norwegian
American Genealogical Center and Naeseth
Library in Madison Wisconsin, will conduct
a genealogy seminar for Sons of Norway
Members. It will be held in the fellowship
hall of Our Savior's Lutheran Church 3634
First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday March 7, 2009. Cost of the Seminar is \$35 per person, which includes morning coffee and lunch at noon.

Many of you know Blaine, who is the foremost authority on Norwegian-American genealogy in the world. He led a very successful seminar for our lodge five years ago, and has presented numerous programs for us. This fall he spent a week in Norway, meeting with leading genealogists there, and gathering more resources to add to the impressive collection at the Center in Madison. Whether you are a novice or a seasoned researcher you will be captivated by, and benefit from, Blaine's knowledge of Norwegian and American genealogical data and resources.

If you are interested in registering for the seminar, contact me at 319-362-6910, or augdhg@mchsi.com. Advance registration and payment is required before February 25, 2009.

A Pre-seminar meeting will be held for participants on Sunday evening, February 1 at 6:30 p.m., to iron out details and prepare you for getting the maximum benefit from the March 7 session.

Language Camp Scholarships

Skogfjorden and other Nordic Villages sponsored by Concordia College (for ages 7- 18) and Masse Moro sponsored by Sons of Norway District 5 (for ages 9-15) are great opportunities for our children and grandchildren to learn about their heritage with an emphasis on language and cultural skills. Scholarships are available from District 1 and/or the local lodge.

Contact me, Ruth Christ, Restauration Lodge Scholarship Chairman, for an application form and further information. I may be reached at: 1335 Emily Ct., Iowa City, IA 52246-4148; phone 319-351-7717; e-mail ruth-christ@uiowa.edu. Since I will be out of town several days at the end of

January, it would be very helpful if anyone considering applying for a scholarship would contact me with an indication of interest by January 12. Be sure to leave a phone number/e-mail address so your message can be returned as I will be checking voice and e-mail. Applications must be sent to me for receipt by February 1, 2009.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet at Gesmes' on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 1 p.m. Mary Durspek will lead the discussion on Kathleen Stokker's book, *Folklore Fights the Nazis*, and Ann Larson will provide refreshments.

Although the picture looks more like a gourmet club, we do follow dessert with a discussion of the month's book. Next month's book club will meet on Wednesday, January 21, at 1:00 at Ann and Dean Gesme's home to discuss *Folklore Fights the Nazis*.



Celebrating the New Year and the End of Christmas

As in many countries, in Norway the change from one year to another is celebrated on both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. New Year's Eve is celebrated with a party or get-together either at home or out on the town, which often culminates with counting down to the new year's beginning at midnight. On the

table one typically serves among other things lamb ribs (pinnekjott), pork ribs or turkey on New Year's Eve.

In olden times New Year's Day was an important day for the whole country to look for signs of how the new year would be. The signs people looked for had mostly to do with how the crops would do, or what the fishing would be like. The weather on New Year's Day was also taken as a sign of how the weather would be for the rest of the year. Today New Year's Day is an official holiday and is usually celebrated at home and is for many people a day of rest after New Year's Eve. The Prime Minister gives a speech, called the New Year's Address.

The thirteenth day of Christmas (January 6) is called Helligtrekongersdag (Three Holy Kings' Day) in honor of the three kings who came to Jerusalem to honor Jesus. In the Catholic era a pageant was performed on this day, a living demonstration of the three kings' journey, but today it is more of a symbol that Christmas has come to an end.
Adapted from the book Merkedager av Ann Helene Bolstad Skjelbred

'Skal' Most Popular With Beer

Beer remains the drink of choice in Norway, but wine continues to steadily gain popularity. New figures from Norwegian state statistics bureau SSB show that consumers in Norway prefer beer when it comes to drinking alcoholic beverages.

The average Norwegian bought around five bottles of wine, 30 half-liters of beer and one bottle of liquor during the first three months of the year. The biggest increase was seen in wine sales. A total of 15.7 million liters of wine were sold in Norway during the first quarter, up 4.7 percent from the same period last year.

Since 1996, wine sales in Norway have nearly doubled, while beer sales have increased around 10 percent.

State health officials estimate that 10

percent of the population in Norway is behind half of all alcohol consumption in the country. More than 50,000 persons drink alcohol amounting to a half-bottle of liquor every day.

Going out for a traditional half-liter glass of beer has gotten expensive this summer, though. Recent surveys found prices for a half-liter as high as NOK 85, with about 17 kroner going to the brewery, 8 kroner to the state in taxes and the remainder to the serving establishment.

Aftenposten English Web Desk/NTB

Matlyst Monthly

Vanilla Wreaths (Smorkranser)

Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup and 1 tbsp. butter

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar

1 egg

$1\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. vanilla sugar

Cream butter and sugar until light and airy. Add remaining ingredients. Chill. Force through cookie-press to make about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long bars. Form into wreaths. Place on parchment covered cookie sheet. Bake in preheated 350 Fahrenheit oven and bake until light golden. Cool on rack.

From Authentic Norwegian Cooking by Astrid Karlsen Scott

Election of Officers

We will be electing the 2009 officers before our Social Meeting in January. The nominees are:

President: Cynthia Monroe

Treasurer: Ding Sather

Social Directors: Mavis Hovden

Jean Murray

Secretary (1year term): Harold Williamson

We will be accepting other nominations before we vote.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

January 6
January 27

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 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
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