



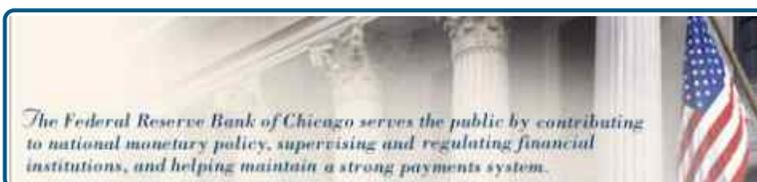
The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago - Norwegian Sweater Day - February 14, 2004

Dear Torske Klub Member,



ur February Torske Klub meeting will be held on February 14, 2004 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cocktail hour begins at Noon; Dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, Robert Alsaker, rings the bell.

Most of us listen to news and financial reports. Typically leading financial news is anything that the Federal Reserve has done to influence monetary policy. The chairman, Allan Greenspan, is almost legendary. We are honored to have a representative of the Federal Reserve System as our featured speaker. He is James Peiper, who represents and will speak on the Federal Reserve System, its banking issues and the Midwest Seventh Reserve District. Who else should be the Torskemaster but our own longtime board member, the educated and refined Ralph Haug, Asst. Professor of Business Administration at Roosevelt University? We all look forward to an interesting and enjoyable day.



► **Norwegian Sweater Day**

In the tradition that is now one year old and started by our boss, we will dispense with the coat and tie in favor of our favorite Norwegian Sweater (or other sweater). Hello Dale! Dr. Ray Newgard and Wolfgang Gruener have also volunteered to take a snapshot of each member for posterity.

► **Make Your February Dinner Reservation before TUESDAY NOON, February 10, 2004**

...to insure that you receive a fresh fish dinner. If you're reading this letter, call right now! Enough said...I'm not your mother. Speaking of mother, remember that February 14 is Valentine's Day. Bring enough cash for the raffle, maybe you'll get lucky and have a prize to take home to your sweetie (assuming she likes our usual offerings of golf balls, cigars or liquor). The raffles have been well populated thanks to Dick Fjeldheim and all those generous members bringing a donation. Mange Takk!

Call [630-443-6839](tel:630-443-6839) at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. As we did last year, this reservation phone is usually unattended since it is an answering system only. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to me urgently, please call my office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. If I am not there, leave a message at either of the phones and I'll get back to you. I am again in Kansas City during the reservation period, so please be patient with my response.

For those with email, feel free to send me a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". I will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. I believe that I have an internet email account for everyone that wants an email notice. If you wish to be included or excluded from this list, please contact me.

continued other side



For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839



I should mention to those without email, you are not missing anything; the letter sent is the same as this one. We have February dinner reservations from 3, 13C, 17B, 22, 43A, 44, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 78, 85, 98, 114, 126.

More New Members this Month?!

Following the precedent of the last few months, we have received membership applications from **two new members!** First, we welcome David Grevstad, from Arlington Heights and we welcome the man who makes this letter look so elegant, my son-in-law Wolfgang Gruener. The latter was a birthday gift, but I have never had to twist his arm to attend the dinner. Interestingly enough, at the time he received his membership, he was appointed by Macromedia as a consultant for marketing to Scandinavia as well as Germany. Welcome to all gentlemen!

We have sent out a number of letters this month to men who have been recommended by friends, some who have attended in the past, and some past members. Consider joining us for dinner. We have been growing, and the fellowship is reminiscent of the days we met at the Norway Center.

Chicago Friends of Vesterheim 2004 Nordic Luncheon & Marketplace

SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, March 6, 2004, at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, Illinois, the Chicago Friends of Vesterheim will hold a *Luncheon & Marketplace* to benefit Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, Iowa.

The event will spotlight the rich traditions of Norway, including ethnic food and visual arts that represent this native land. Featured events include a market filled with Nordic-inspired artisans and items, a busk procession, and opportunities to sample Norwegian foods.

Come early and spend the day!

— Chicago Friends of Vesterheim Committee
look forward to seeing you! *Mange Tak!*

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
(563) 382-9681 • www.vesterheim.org

January Torske Klub Meeting

Our speaker for the January 10 Dinner was Anders Malm, the General Manager of the Central USA for Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS). We had an excellent dinner with 60 members and guests attending. I do not recall a January turnout like that for years, but it is becoming the norm. Our own assistant boss, Don Hogansen performed his duties as Torskemaster in his usual admirable fashion, although he questioned my eyesight when I introduced him as the “handsome and talented torskemaster” in the last letter.

News from the Boss

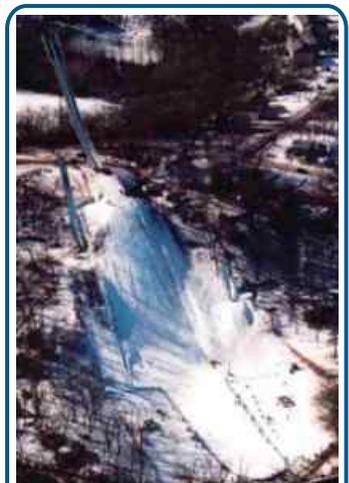
We highlighted the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce activities in the last letter. This month we make note of the future activities of the Chicago Friends of Vesterheim. Vesterheim has supported the Torske Klub in the past, with speakers, such as the author of “Ole Goes to War”, Jerry Rosholt. Consider supporting Vesterheim at the Park Ridge Luncheon on March 6, 2004. See the insert enclosed here or the web site at

<http://www.vesterheim.org>.

Rob has been scanning the Norwegian News lately and noticed an article about a ship that capsized off the coast of Bergen:

“Families of the 18 crew members killed or missing after their ship capsized off Bergen Monday will get assistance from the Norwegian government, Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik vowed Tuesday. A formal investigation into the cause of the accident will also be held in Norway. Trade Minister Ansgar Gabrielsen was already in Bergen on Tuesday for meetings with the company that operated the vessel, Jebsen Management AS. Fishing Minister **Svein Ludvigsen** also was in Bergen to monitor pollution from the stricken vessel and its containment.”

You'll remember that Svein was our dinner speaker just one year ago this month.



K70 Ski Jump in Fox River Grove.



Other News

As the Wright brothers learned to fly 100 years ago with a machine, the Norwegian Community was continuing to fly the old fashioned way...with a ski jump. The Norge Ski Club celebrated their 99th Annual Winter Tournament on January 18th in Fox River Grove with the opening of their new K70 ski jump. Awesome.

News from Ole and Lena:

Ole tells Lena that he is eligible for social security. Lena says: "*Ole, you aren't old enough for social security!*" Ole says, "*You just watch me, I'll go down and come back with my first check today!*" Ole leaves, and later comes back home.

"Lena! I have my check! I told you I was eligible!"

"Ole!,How'd you do that?"

"Well, I unbuttoned my shirt and showed them my gray chest hairs, and they said I looked old enough for them, and they gave me a check." Lena replies, "*You should have unzipped your pants, maybe they would have given you disability too!*"

Uff da!

Letters, we get letters...

I get a few letters from our members and friends for our newsletter and one of them is from our longtime member and friend Einar Cannelin from Indian Park, IL. He described that he had come across a book of Swedish customs from a friend who was in Chicago for a conference. He notes, "Some of our men at the Torske Klub would sing Helan Går, and I wondered what it meant. I'm sending you some information and now I know what it means....I had previously heard Helan Går in Scandinavia and had also wondered at the time what it meant." We enclose a transcription below. There are a number of other items of interest in the letter, some of which we'll put in the Torske Letter in the future. Einar also notes, almost incidentally, that he is undergoing knee surgery this month and hopes to be with us in March. We wish you our best, Einar. Thanks for the letter, and I am happy that I remembered to pull it out of my notes before I finished the letter this month. It also brought some memories of when he accompanied a fairly large, regular group from the southern suburbs to the Norway Center for dinner. I worked with one of them, Arnold Aagaesen, at Sargent & Lundy Engineers for years. That southern group has dwindled as the years pass.

Helan Går

*Helan går, sjung hopp falle rallen rallen lej,
helan går, sjung hopp falle rallen lej.
Och den som inte helan tar
Han heller inte halvan får
Helan Går, sjung hopp falle rallen lej.*

It is a drinking song, advising us, the singers, to down the "whole" glass so as to qualify for the "half" that comes after it [...hmmm, maybe we need to change the klub rules]

Remember to bring a Guest!

Any male guest to the Torske Klub this season, who is 21 - 50 years old, will have his first dinner paid for by the Klub, if he joins the Torske Klub.

I hope to see you all at the dinner.

Beste Hilsen,

Ken Larson