



Our December Christmas celebration and our 400th Torske Klub dinner will be held on December 11, 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 to seat us for dinner.

Dinner Invitation for a Christmas Celebration and 400th Dinner



We are pleased to welcome our good member, **Pastor David Langseth** leading the Torske Klub Chorus (us) in what has become the tradition of Norwegian and American Christmas Carols. If you were with us last year, you recall his moving reading of Christmas stories as well as the Gospel; the reason for the season. We will also enjoy smoked salmon as an appetizer before dinner. Our Torskemaster will be our own resident scientist, Thor Jondahl.



Every once in awhile, we come across an item or donation which deserves more attention than a mere raffle. One of our good members, **George Tarnow**, has donated something special. He has asked for a good home to a decorative sword and also a decorative dagger.

Both are in original wrapping and both have display cases for wall mounting or table display. The handle is gold color and the stainless steel blade is masterfully decorated. It is about 4 feet long. The dagger has a jewel handle look and is about a foot long. Either one would be a handsome addition to a viking home. The Torske Klub has decided to hold an auction for these items during the December dinner. Thanks again to George for his generous donation.



To those that missed our meeting last month, we were treated to the wit and wisdom of Steve Baskerville, weatherman anchor and broadcaster from CBS 2 Chicago. We found ourselves at the mercy of the Elks Club schedule for their Swedish women's dinner and 61 men crammed into the upstairs room to listen.

Steve talked from the corner of the room while the serving staff went by and he handled it like the professional he is, unnerved and steady in his delivery. He stayed to the end and greeted each member as they left the dinner.

Wolfgang Gruener took the masterful helm in his debut as Torskemaster and even gave Steve some good natured weather forecasting tips in his stories.

Thank You!

Our thanks, by the way, to **John Teppen** who stepped in as Raffle Chairman for the day while **Ron Bentsen** was traveling.



Thanks, of course, also to **Dr. Ray Newgard** who substituted for **Rob Alsaker** and **Don Hoganson**.

All these missing board members were in Oslo enjoying their Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce trip.

Make Your November Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, December 7, 2004

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Last month, we had 46 reservations at noon on the deadline date and 61 at the dinner. In November, the dinner portions were not as much problem as the seating arrangements. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you.

Call 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. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to someone urgently, please call Ken's office

at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours.

For those with email, feel free to send an email message to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". You will receive a confirmation. We have reservations from member numbers 6, 3, 13C, 22 (#55 paid your dinner #22; Happy B-day, God Jul), 43A, 47, 51, 64A, 73C, 78, 85, 98, 114, 126. Remember that the guests of the members must be called in as well. ****TIP Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name.**

FREE Raffle Ticket to each member who brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2004/2005 season excluding father/son/daughter and ladies day.



Road Trip!

It's time to go to Madison. The Madison Torske Klub has again invited the Chicago Torske Klub to dinner at the prestigious Madison Club in Madison, Wisconsin. The date of the event is January 15, 2005; the week after our regular dinner. Once again, the Klub is renting a bus at no extra cost to the participants. Your dinner cost and that of cocktails will be at each member's expense. Reservations for this special event are now being received by calling the reservation line (630-443-6839) or by email to the secretary@torskeklub.org.



Please identify your reservation as that for the Madison Trip. Thanks to our boss, Rob Alsaker and to our honorary member Trygve Lønnebotn, the boss of the Madison Torske Klub and Wisconsin Honorary Consul for Norway, for arranging this. Kudos to **Bill Scheiderich** for arranging the transportation again this year. ■

Last Reminder for Dues

Last month we sent the request for dues as well as a slip with your personal information for the Klub. Please return the form with your check for \$35 (American money, not Kroner!) in the addressed envelope or drop the envelope at the table when you register for your meal and pay us there. If you have any corrections to your information, please update our information and return the slip with your payment. For those who pay at the meal, feel free to write one check for dinner and dues and submit it at the December dinner. Dues are due on Jan. 1. Late payments will receive a stern finger wagging. ■

December Birthdays

The Christmas boys include: **Harold Bendicsen, Harland Oates, Milt Gustafson, Bill Skoien, David Cornwell** (our secretary emeritus, historian and board member), **Garry Grube** (our wine chairman and board member), **Gene Kasczmarek** (our treasurer), **Dick Biehl** (our previous treasurer; now retired in Iowa), and our long-time board member, **Art Fitzgerald** (now retired in Florida). Gentlemen, we raise our glasses to you and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Photos!

We received a quick set of photos of that elegant group, who was entertained by representatives of the Norwegian government, among others. Actually, when we look at one of these photos, it looks like **Don Hoganson** was entertaining them! Thanks to Julie Nordan, wife of our good member **Ken Nordan** who both attended.



Torske Klub members visit the Storting Chamber; From Left: Rob Alsaker, Jim Vatn (of Seattle Torske Klub), Rev. Bob Furrboe, Sam Smith, Peter Olberg, Thor Torger, Hank Solberg, Bill Scheiderich, Ken Nordan, Don Hoganson, Lowell Olberg, Per Ohrstrom, Ron Bentsen.



Don Hoganson talks with Torild Øvrelied and Lodve Solholm, President of the Lagting. Photos (c) Julie Nordan

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