



March Luncheon - Bud Herseth and the CSO -Father/Son/Daughter Day

Our program for March is Adolph "Bud" Herseth, a fellow Norwegian who was the lead trumpet in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1948—2004. He will speak of his experiences at the CSO. This is also the annual father, son, and daughter day. All ages are welcome. *-photo courtesy of CSO*



Crooning in February

The Chicago Torske Klub was pleased to invite Tina Winther back for a return performance to a packed house of men and women celebrating Valentine's Day. The combination made for a successful and well attended ladies day. Thanks to Tina and her group for their music. Thanks to Ken Nordan for taking over as secretary and to all the board members for supporting this day.

Klub Announcements and Birthdays

This month, we honor the birthdays of the month of St. Patrick: Scott Solberg, Thor Torger, Hugo Lanneskog, Roald Harr, Richard Peterson, John Halversen, and David Bentsen. We won't tell their ages, but collectively they are almost as old as the blarney stone.

- We were saddened to hear of the death of Stein Ohstrom of Houston, son of our Consul General Emeritus Per Ohrstrom, and his wife Liv.
- Just before printing this letter, we were advised of the death of our good member David Grevstad. No other info was available at that time.
- We welcome Dr. Victor Carnelli as a new member.
- Ken Nordan reminds all members with photos and memories of the last 49 years of Chicago Torske Klub to make a copy for him. Plans are being made to celebrate our 50th year in 2010. Stay tuned.
- You may notice that the letter is slightly different this month. Our "publisher" Wolfgang Gruener, has asked to be relieved from that responsibility due other responsibilities with work and his young family. The Torske Klub heartily thanks him for his years of support!



March 14



Our monthly dinner meeting will be held on March 14, 2009 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.

Make Your Regular Dinner Reservation by

Reservations due by:

Tuesday March 10

NOON

TUESDAY Noon, March 10, 2009

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER.

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon means noon. A call at 12:30 on Tuesday is no better than a call on Friday evening; the fish order is already made.

Call **630-445-1263** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Ken at 630-406-0148. 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. The phone usually will ring 4 times before answering.

We have reservations from the following members: 3, 13C, 22, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 115, 126, 141. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call cancellations.

If you prefer email reservations, please send to secretary@torskeklub.org with your number of reservations, including guests. We will respond with a confirmation email.

****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 that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2008 /2009 season, *excluding father/son/daughter in March and ladies day in Feb.*

Dinner Reservation Phone: (630) 445-1263

The Prototype for Arctic Exploration

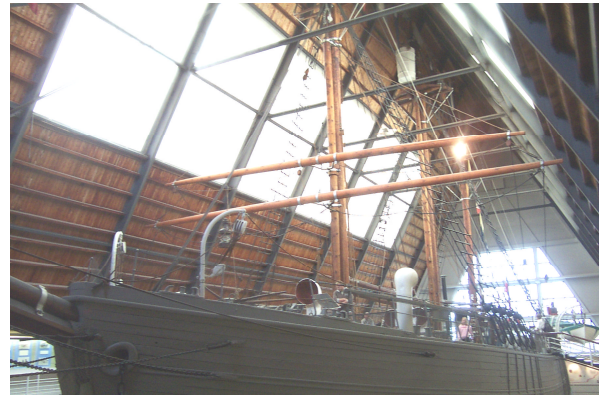


Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930)

As we emerge from a long, harsh winter in Chicago, we are reminded of the day that Norway's Minister of Fisheries, Svein Ludvigsen, visited our Torske Klub from Tromsø above the arctic circle and proclaimed how he loved to visit Chicago in February. "It is so warm and sunny." Even with our tolerance for the cold, our heritage has never prepared us for such a harsh and unforgiving climate as we would find in the arctic. Even more so 100 years ago when the technology of the day relied on early propeller driven wooden ships. Travel to the arctic was an adventure and travel to the North Pole was the challenge of the period.

It was in this environment that many famous Arctic and Antarctic explorers emerged. Roald Amundsen, Robert Scott, Admiral Peary, Ernest Shackleton among others. All had fame of their own, yet most of these owe their motivation and inspiration to explore the arctic to Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen. Nansen was the prototype for arctic exploration.

Nansen was an early advocate of traveling to the north pole; not by walking or by dog sled, but incredibly, by drifting. He observed that ships trapped in the arctic ice often emerged across the arctic from their initial entrapment. The doomed American ship, *USS Jeannette*, did just that. They were trapped near Siberia and wreckage emerged near Greenland. Nansen reasoned that a well constructed ship could be purposefully entrapped in the ice and travel to the North Pole over the months. For this arctic purpose, the famous arctic ship *Fram* was constructed and launched in 1893. It is likely the strongest wooden ship ever built, and certainly it was built for the ice. The rudder and propeller could be retracted and the thick, round keel enabled the *Fram* to withstand the arctic perils. The ship was electrified with arc lamps run by windmill generators. Nansen sailed with his crew in 1893 to prove his theory.



The *Fram* remains one of Norway's most treasured ships. It is enclosed for visitors on the island of Bygdøy in Oslo.

The voyage went as planned. Locked in the New Siberian Islands in September, the crew listened all winter as the ice tried to claim the ship, which rose above the shifting death. The men rode the ice for two years in this solitary existence until they emerged in March 1895 and realized that the pole was not achievable in this way. Nansen enlisted Hjalmar Johansen to accompany him with sled dogs to make the attempt. By April, they were at 86°14' N; as far as man had traveled north, but could not finish the last 226 miles to the pole. They struggled back for months, consuming their dogs to survive, and finally reaching an island in August. It had bears and walrus for food.

By sheer luck, Nansen and Johansen came upon British explorer Frederick Jackson, who had sailed his ship there for polar exploration. Against all odds, they were saved. They returned to Norway in the summer of 1896, Nansen a hero and concurrently with the *Fram* crew who had also broken free of the ice.

Most would have rested on their achievements, but Nansen had just started. He was a professor of zoology and oceanography, also mastering neurology and fluid mechanics. Ultimately, he spent his remaining years supporting the League of Nations as a Commissioner. He received a Nobel Peace Prize too, for saving millions of lives in Armenia, but that's another story.

His legacy is certainly as the mentor and inspiration for those that followed him to the nether regions of the earth; and later to world peace. -Ken Larson
[see also <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/01/nansen/sides-text/1>]

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Published by the Chicago Torske Klub
Editor, Layout and Production: Ken Larson
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