



December Luncheon Celebrates Christmas

The Chicago Torske Klub is pleased to welcome our good members Pastor David Langseth and Julian Ronning as we celebrate Christmas for 2011. They will be joined by accompanist Ken Spengler on piano to accompany the music of the day. Come join us for the traditional music and readings of one of favorite times of the year.

We have traditionally hosted an additional appetizer during the cocktail hour, so come early to enjoy the treat. .

November Featured Climate Presentation

Steve Goreham presented topics about climate warming to about 50 members last month. Thanks to all that attended and special thanks to our torskemaster Larry Eckstrom and to Fred Glure who filled in as secretary that day.



As we have given thanks in November, let us also give thanks and acknowledge those members who provide the monthly work to have these meetings. Their names are at on the back as board members and officers.

Thor Jondahl is New Program Chairman

The Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors met briefly after the last luncheon and approved the election of our good member Thor Jondahl to the board of directors and to the role of Program Chairman. You may recall that Dr. Ray Newgard filled that role for a number of years and stepped down in this last month. Please join us in welcoming Thor to this volunteer post, and support his task by continuing to provide recommendations and pointers to appropriate speakers for our future meetings.



Torske Klub Luncheon - December 10, 2011

The next luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556 for directions that day). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation by TUESDAY Noon, December 6, 2011.

Reservations Required by 12:00 Noon on December 6

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 fish and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon deadline means noon. The fish order is called in directly after noon.

Call **630-445-1263** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Ken L. at 630-336-6723. 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. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 13C, 40, 47, 51, 55, 98, 114, 115, 120, 149**. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle "Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!" If you prefer email reservations, please send to secretary@torskeklub.org with your total number of reservations, including yourself and 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 2011/2012 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

Luncheon Reservation Phone: **(630) 445-1263**

As Scandinavian Americans, many of us have been exposed to Scandinavian traditions, such as waiting for "nisser" (a Santa elf) or the consumption of lutefisk. The time between Boxing Day (Dec. 26) and New Year's Eve is called "romjul". During this time children in some parts of Norway dress up as "nisser" and go "Julebukk" – "Christmas goat" – in their neighbourhoods and sing Christmas carols to receive treats, much the same way as in the American Halloween. Julebukking is a Christmas tradition of Norwegian origin.

The tradition of the Christmas buck (*Julebukk*) is believed to have originated in Norway, where pagans worshiped Thor, the god who traveled in his chariot drawn by two goats. During the Yule holiday, they would disguise their appearance by dressing in a goatskin and go from house to house carrying a goat head.

Christian missionaries modified the tradition and divorced its meaning from Paganism. The Yule Goat became one of the oldest Scandinavian and Northern European Yule and Christmas symbols and traditions. In Scandinavia, the figure of the julebukk is used as a common Christmas ornament. It is often made out of straw, has a red ribbon around its neck, and is found under the Christmas tree.

Though the practice of Julebukking may be dying out, it is still observed in areas in America with large populations of people of Scandinavian descent, such as the rural areas of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and in Petersburg, Alaska and Ketchikan, Alaska.

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, people wearing masks and costumes (*Julebukkers*) go door to door, where neighbors receiving them attempt to identify who is under the disguise. Julebukkers will often disguise their voices and body language to further the masquerade. Offering people holiday treats and something to drink is customary. Once identities are known and the food is eaten, the Julebukkers continue to the next home.

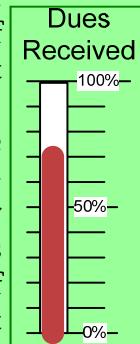
In one version of Julebukking, people go from door to door singing Christmas songs. After they have sung, they are usually awarded with candy. Another tradition requires that at least one person from the visited household join the band of Julebukkers and continue to the next household.—from Wikipedia—<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julebukking>

December Birthdays and Member News

This month, we toast the birthdays for those kids that most likely got their birthday gifts combined with their Christmas presents: Charles Norton, Ragnar Lund, Milt Gustafson, Oystein Borsheim, our secretary emeritus David Cornwell, treasurer emeritus Gene Kaczmarek, our Aquavit chairman Garry Grube, Emil Ulstrup, Harold Bendicsen, and our other treasurer emeritus Richard Biehl

Dues by December 31!

As of this writing, we have received 70% of our dues. This is the last month for collection. We have added a note this month on the mailing envelope if your dues are missing, "Dues Reminder Enclosed". If we received dues, it notes "Tusen Takk for your membership".



Future Dates

- ◊ **Dec. 10, 2011**—Christmas Program by Pastor David Langseth, Julian Ronning and Ken Spengler
- ◊ **Jan. 14, 2012**—Bob Nordin—Gokstad Ship
- ◊ **Feb. 11, 2012**—Ladies Day- Eric Dregni—Author of "Vikings in the Attic" and "In Cod We Trust"
- ◊ **Mar. 2012**—Father/Son/Daughter Day- Bob Lew—Pop Culture
- ◊ **April 2012**—Fred Glure on Trains
- ◊ **May 2012**—Anniversary of Torske Klub

Also see <http://www.torskeklub.org> for more information.

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Robert Alsaker
Assistant Boss: Lowell Olberg
Treasurer: Ken Nordan
Secretary: Ken Larson
Program Chair: Thor Jondahl
Aquavit Chair: Garry Grube
Raffle Chair: Ron Bentsen
Membership Chair: Robert Frost II
Board Member: Larry Ekstrom
Board Member: Roger Elmer
Board Member: Dr. Ray Newgard
Board Member: Fred Glure
Board Member: Sam Smith
Published by the Chicago Torske Klub. Editor, Layout and Print:-Ken Larson. ©2011 Chicago Torske Klub

