



October Luncheon Features Mt. Rushmore

On October 13th, we'll gather for our second luncheon of this torsk season. Our scheduled speaker is Jim Weren, who will talk about sculptor Gutzon Borghum and Mount Rushmore. Jim is a graduate of American Academy of Art, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Roosevelt University. He had a 40 Year career as an art director, book illustrator and corporate marketing executive He is now retired, residing in Naperville IL and is active in lecturing on various aspects of the American Civil War and Symbols of America. The Reservation line is open.



Mount Rushmore

October Kicks Off Membership

This month initiates our membership and dues collection. Our dues go to support the ongoing costs of this monthly luncheon, mostly for the cost of this letter, mailing, and costs of the luncheon not paid for by the actual meal fees for each plate. Our speakers occasionally request an honorarium, and we pay for dinners of a few people who have worked the luncheons. We send out 125 letters each month to you, our members, along with a few to organizations who would have interest in our activity as a kind of marketing. All this must work well, because our good treasurer, Ken Nordan, reports our group to be solvent and our cash flow indicates we are not collecting too much or too little.

Your request for \$40 dues is enclosed. If your dues are paid it will be noted on your information sheet. Your information sheet is enclosed. Please check your address, phone number and other data. Please tell us your birthday, at least the month, so we can celebrate on that month.

Dues can be paid at the luncheon, or mailed in the envelope provided.

October Birthdays

The birthdays of October include Peter Hastings, Eivind Torske, Kaare Nevdal, Walter Lorentsen, and our good board members, Tom Field and Sam Smith. Happy Birthday!

Torske Klub Luncheon - October 13, 2018

The 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 the evening of Oct 8 for the luncheon. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. The fish order is called in after the deadline. \$5 surcharge for late reservations

**Reservations
by
October 8**

Call **(847)886-4841** 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. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 38, 42A, 47, 51, 55, 84, 97, 98, 115, 120, 149.** Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel *or add guest to the count*. 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 reservations@torskeklub.com (not .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 2018/2019 season, excluding father/son/daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(847)886-4841

Origin of Halloween

Halloween or All Hallows Eve, as it is sometimes referred to, is a lot different now than it may have been celebrated many centuries ago. With October 31st coming around the corner, I thought it would be interesting to find out what the origins of Halloween were.

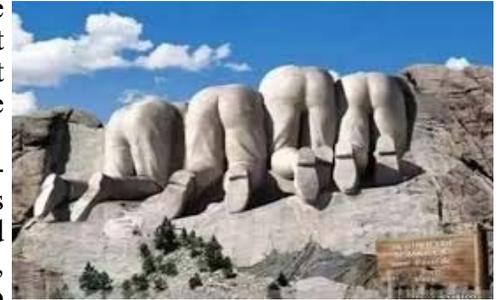
Peter Tokofsky, an assistant professor in the department of folklore and mythology in UCLA states, "The earliest trace (of Halloween) is the Celtic festival, Samhain, which was the Celtic New Year. It was the day of the dead, and they believed the souls of the deceased would be available".

Samhain (pronounced sah-win) means "summer's end" by the Celts. In old Germanic and Celtic societies, what we call equinoxes and solstices marked the middles of the season, not the beginnings." Therefore if there exist an autumnal equinox, winter solstice, spring equinox and a summer solstice, there are also the beginning of autumn, winter, spring and summer. All of these eight dates were important. Summer's end which meant the beginning of winter was an important time for people who survived on plants grown in the field and animals that were kept in pastures. "This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death". It is most likely this reason that the Druids (Celtic pagans) believed that the spirits of those who died the preceding year roamed the earth the night of Samhain.

The Druids celebrated this holiday "with a great fire festival to encourage the dimming Sun not to vanish" and people "danced round bonfires to keep evil spirits away, but left their doors open in hopes that the kind spirits of loved ones might join them around their hearths". On this night, "divination was thought to be more effective than any other time, so methods were derived to ascertain who might marry, what great person might be born, who might rise to prominence, or who might die". Also during the celebration, the Celts "wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes". Crops were burned and animals were sacrificed. The spirits were believed to be either "entertained by the living", or to "find a body to possess for the incoming year". This all gives reasons as to why "dressing up like witches, ghosts and goblins, villagers could avoid being possessed." By 43 AD, "Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory." For the 400 years they occupied Celtic lands, two Roman festivals: Feralia (the commemoration of the passing of the dead) and a day to honor Pomona (the Roman goddess of fruits and trees). The apple served as a symbol for Pomona and which might have been incorporated into Samhain by the practice of "bobbing for apples".

When "local people converted to Christianity during the early Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church often incorporated modified versions of older religious traditions in order to win converts." Pope Gregory IV wanted to substitute Samhain with All Saints' Day in 835, but All Souls' Day (Nov. 2nd) which is closer in resemblance to Samhain and Halloween today, was "first instituted at a French monastery in 998 and quickly spread throughout Europe". In the 16th century, "Christian village children celebrated the vigil of All Saints' by doing the *Danse Macabre*. The Seven Brethren whose grizzly death is described in the seventh chapter of the deuterocanonical book of Second Macabees" is also said to have resulted in children dressing up in grizzly costumes to signify these deaths.

Halloween came to the United States when European immigrants "brought their varied Halloween customs with them". In the late 1800s, America was flooded with new immigrants including the Irish fleeing from the potato famine in Ireland in 1846. By combining Irish and English traditions, Americans began the "trick-or-treat" tradition. In the later 1800's the holiday became more centered on community and in the 1920's and 1930's, Halloween became "a secular, but community-centered holiday". In the 1950's leaders changed Halloween as a holiday aimed at the young to limit vandalism.—*University of Albany*



Few people have had the chance to see the reverse side of Mount Rushmore.

Future Events for 2018

- ◇ **Oct. 9**— Leif Erikson day
- ◇ **Oct. 13**— Torske Klub Luncheon—Mt. Rushmore Program
- ◇ **Nov. 10**— Torske Klub Luncheon— Taliesin Program
- ◇ **Dec. 8**— Torske Klub Luncheon—Christmas Party
- ◇ **Jan. 12, 2019**—Sweater Day
- ◇ **Feb. 9**— Ladies Day
- ◇ **Mar. 9**—Father/son/Daughter Day

See <http://www.torskeklub.org> for more info

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