



## Beyond The Numbers

### Prof. Haakon Andreassen Defines the USA



Haakon Andreassen, Ph.D.

The Torske Klub is pleased to have our own member, Haakon Andreassen, Ph.D. as the speaker for our January meeting. He is an emeritus professor of Northern Illinois University.

His presentation is entitled "What is the United States of America?" Many individuals might respond to this question with a list of characteristics such as a population of 290 million, a land mass of 3,717,796 sq. mi., multi-cultural (religion, ethnic origin, race, language), diverse economy, high per capita income, 97% literacy rate, life expectancy of 77 years, etc.

However, these characteristics describe the USA, but do not *define* the USA. Be sure to come for this interesting talk.

### January 2006: Special Meal Price for Guests: \$10!

In order to help attendance and encourage membership, the Torske Klub is offering a special meal deal for the guests of members to the January 14, 2006 dinner. Each guest to the klub will be treated to a \$10 special meal deal, this month only. The regular member dinner price will remain at \$20, but the klub member will still receive the usual raffle ticket worth \$5 for bringing one or more guests.

This gesture is intended to encourage membership and introduce our guests to the Torske Klub. This is a good year to join...wait until you see what we have in store for this year!

### Membership Cards for 2006

You should be receiving the membership card for 2006 in this mailing.

If you do not, we have not recorded your payment. Please submit the \$35 dues for the Torske Klub at the next meeting or mail the payment to the secretary.

If you have paid but are not recorded, please contact the secretary as well.

### New Members for a New Year

Speaking of new members. The Torske Klub would like to welcome five new members! We welcome Gary L. Ruud of Fox River Grove, Bob Wanak of Gurnee, and Arthur Carlson of Des Plaines.

In the last letter, we neglected to announce two members that joined us in November and will correct that now. We welcome Jim Severson of Elgin, and Roger Elmer Sr. of Chicago. Roger was a member of the Torske Klub for many years who finally caught up with us again as we have moved the klub around various locations over the years. *Welcome to you all!*



The first Torske Klub dinner of the new year will be held on January 14, 2006 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.

**Reservations due by:  
Tuesday, January 10  
NOON**

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. 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. For those with email, feel free to send a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". We have reservations from 3, 13C, 23, 39, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 78, 85, 98, 114 (5), 126, 167.

Remember that the guests of all members must be called in as well.

*\*\*TIP - Your membership number is the number next to your name on the mailing label.*

**FREE Raffle Ticket to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2005/2006 season, excluding father/son/daughter and ladies day in May.**

Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 443 6839



## Upcoming Events...

Our program chairman, Dr. Ray Newgard, has announced the following coming events for this year:

- ▶ **February 11** - Chicago Bears Quarterback 1969-1975, Bobby Douglass. This is also Norwegian Sweater month (Bears sweater/sweatshirt will be an acceptable substitute attire)
- ▶ **March 11, 2006** - Father, son, daughter day- Sinclair and the Rovers - Irish Music from Norway.
- ▶ **April 8** - Regional O'Hare Airport FAA manager - George Bloomingbird
- ▶ **April 15** - Bus trip to Madison Wisconsin Torske Klubben. As in previous years, the Torske Klub will pick up the cost of the bus. Members attending will pay for their own dinner and cocktails.
- ▶ **May 13, 46th Anniversary/Ladies Day** - Sven & Ole - Comedy and Music from Madison, WI.

## December 2005, U.S. and Iraq

The Torske Klub was pleased to have Dr. Toufic El Rassi as our featured speaker in December. He is a Professor in the History Department at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, IL, and discussed the history of United States & Iraq relations.

This dinner was WELL attended by almost 80 members and guests. The smoked salmon was an excellent appetizer while we were serenaded by Ray Nilsen on the accordion. Our own Pastor David Langseth, accompanied on the piano by his guest Kurt Wolfanger, provided a Christmas Caroling by the "Torske Klub Chorus" (all of us).

## Passing of Sigurd Olsen

The Torske Klub is saddened to note the passing of our good member, Sigurd Olsen. Our prayers and sympathies are with his family, including son-in-law and our member Julian Ronning, his wife Eileen (Sigurd's Daughter), his grandson & Klub member Kristian Ronning and their families.

*Sigurd Olsen, 87, born Aug. 27, 1918 in Brevik, Norway, died Dec. 20, 2005, devoted and loving husband of Ruth, nee Hansen, for 63 years; dear Papa of Eileen (Julian) Ronning; proud grandfather of Kristian (Dr. Lizbet) and Erik (Cheri) Ronning; loving great-grandfather of Viktoria and Emily Ronning; uncle of Ingeborg Pedersen in Norway; and cousin of many in Norway and Florida. He served in the Norwegian Merchant Marines and U.S. Army 99th Division-Norwegian Ski Troop. Longtime member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Chicago; Sons of Norway; Bjornson Male Chorus for 48 years and DeLiSa. In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Timothy Lutheran Church or Norwood Park Home.*

Summary from the Chicago Tribune, 12/21/2005

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## January Birthdays

Our birthday list for January includes Pat Betzel, Rich Wielock, Mats Stenander, Ted Torgersen, Norman Roland, Howard Skoien, Gary Skoien, Otto Eik, Irvin Mischler, C.E. "Doc" Kallem, new member, Bob Wanak and our newsletter publisher Wolfgang Gruener. Gentlemen, we raise our New Year's champagne glasses and wish you all Happy Birthday, and many more.

## News from the Boss...

First, let me wish everyone in our Klub a Very Happy New Year! I am delighted to report to you that the new year looks bright for Torske Klub.

Our membership has increased dramatically and our Klub is financially sound.

We are planning our third trip to the Madison Torske Klub, April 15th and we will hopefully be joined there this year by members of the Minneapolis Torske Klub.

This month we have something special for you. Bring a Guest for only \$10.00! That's a 50% one-time only discount from the regular guest fee of \$20.00. If you have been thinking about inviting a guest to Torske Klub, now is the time to do it. Pick up the phone and make that call today!

- Rob

## Norge Ski Klub...

January 15, 2006 represents the 101st ski jumping event in Fox River Grove Illinois. Our own Andy Anderson was a longtime and well-known ski jumper. He has accumulated a number of trophies and honors for this.