



## Chicago Torske Klub Celebrates the 50th Anniversary with Memories from Our Own Members

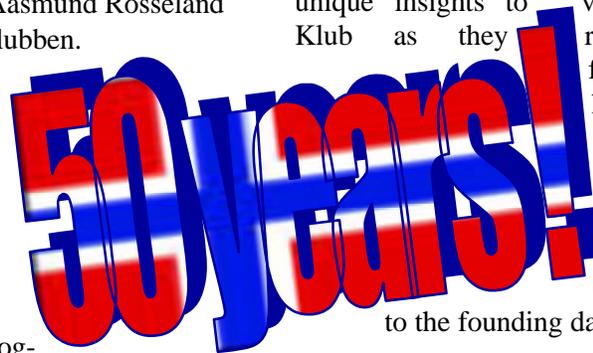
This is the anniversary of the Chicago Torske Klub. Fifty years ago in May 1960, we were formed by the inspiration of Claus Nicoll, Andrew Highland, and Aasmund Rosseland after dining at the Minneapolis Torske Klubben.

That first Luncheon was May 14, 1960 and forty members attended. We have been meeting on the second Saturday of the month ever since, except for June, July and August.

We will mark this event as all good anniversaries in Norway and America are recognized, with food, drink and speeches.

We are scheduled to be addressed on our anniversary by these good members: Haakon Andreasen, Robert Alsaker, Einar Cannelin, Robert Cornwell, Roger (Rusty) Elmer Jr., Art Fitzgerald (in absentia), Thor Fjell, Gary Grube, Ken Larson, Cedric Syrdal, Eivind Torske, and Dr. Ray New-

gard. Ken Nordan is preparing a slide presentation to accompany the talks. The speakers will bring their unique insights to various decades of the Torske Klub as they reminisce over these years. Look for an appetizer during cocktail hour as well.



This letter is accompanied by an attachment written by our program chairman Dr. Ray Newgard, who does remember the Chicago Torske Klub back to the founding days; he was there.

Remember that we will also celebrate the anniversary with a more formal dinner on October 16, 2010. On that day, we will be joined by NBC news broadcaster Dick Johnson, as well as our good friend, the Governor of Troms Fylke (County), Svein Ludvigsen.

Make your reservation early for this special day and bring a guest as well. Guests become friends, and friends become members for the next fifty years.

## April Hosted Northwestern University Athletics with Shon Morris

The Chicago Torske Klub welcomed Mr. Shon Morris of Northwestern University. Mr. Morris is in his 13th year as director of development at Northwestern. He is a 1988 graduate of Northwestern's School of Education and four-year letter winner in basketball as well as an announcer for the games. Although our attendance was a bit lean due to the 100th Anniversary of Skjold Lodge and other events, the dozens of men and two high school aged ladies that attended were treated to an outstanding luncheon and talk by Mr. Morris. Thanks to all that attended.

### **Torske Klub 50th Anniversary Luncheon May 8**

Our 50th Anniversary luncheon meeting will be held on May 8, 2010 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 TUESDAY Noon, May 4, 2010.

**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 reservation is called in directly after noon and the fish is ordered.

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. The phone usually will ring 4 times before answering.

We have reservations from the following members: **3, 13C, 40, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 98, 103, 114, 115**. 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 by our principle "Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!" 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 2009/2010 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

Reservations  
Required by  
12:00 Noon on  
May 4

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

Our first fifty years have not gone completely unnoticed in the community, and in the nation nor in the world. Here are a few clips of mentions that the Chicago Torske Klub has had over the years:

## “It’s a treat, honest to cod”

Reprinted from the Chicago Sun Times—March 4, 1986

*It sounds a bit like the "Taste of Lake Wobegon."*

*The Torske Klub - "Codfish Club" in Norwegian - is flying 100 pounds of precious cargo from Boston to Arlington Heights' Scandinavian Club Saturday.*

*Seems its members are hankering in a big way for the taste of fresh cod.*

*"It's got to be fresh, we're very particular about that," explains club "boss" Chris Johansen, a Norwegian native who drives with "TORSKE" license plates. Johansen calls about 100 men to the 26-year-old club's monthly cod-fests with a brass bell. Who salutes the crowd? A "torskemaster"...*

## “The Promise Fulfilled: A Portrait of Norwegian Americans Today”

a book by Odd Sverre Lovoll

*The Chicago Torske Klub came into being in 1960, and emulating the Minneapolis group, called its president “boss”. p. 206 © 1998 U of Minn. Press*

Reference: David Cornwell-Chicago Torske Klub Secretary

## “Til torsken pris”

Hvis du noen gang befinner deg i Chicago andre lørdag i måneden, og du er kvessen på litt torsk, kan løsningen være å besøke Chicago Torske Klub.

*If you ever find yourself in Chicago the second Saturday of the month, and you have a craving for some Torsk, the solution may be a visit to the Chicago Torske Klub. - Stavanger Aftenblad - 26 May 2006*



## May Birthdays and Member News

May is good Norwegian month for a Norwegian to have a birthday. May Birthdays include past Norwegian Hon. Consul General Per Ohrstrom, Nels Nelson, Treasurer Ken Nordan, the Rev. David Langseth, Marv Meyer, accordionist Ray Nilsen, Steve Klos, Henry Hansen, Thor Fjell, noted ski jumper Andy Andersen, Board Member Roger Elmer Jr., Fred Gilbertsen and Leonard Zielinski of Nelson Funeral Homes. Special acknowledgement to our good friend Bob Jaeger of Elmhurst who is 98 years. Bob’s wife Karen tells us he requires nursing care now.

We’ll celebrate the birthdays of June, July and August in September. Congratulations and skål.

## Commemorative Plate Raffle

A special multi-month raffle is in progress for the 50th anniversary plate created by Carl Eglund for the Chicago Torske Klub. Special Raffle Tickets will be \$5 a piece, or 2 for \$10! The drawing for the plate will be at the October dinner. Winner need not be present to win. See Ken Larson or Ken Nordan at the check-in table as you arrive for the luncheon; look for the ticket jar.



**This Month! May 16th**  
Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Chicago Torske Klub by showing your pride and getting a bit of exercise at the annual Syttende Mai Parade in Park Ridge. The Torske Klub will walk the short mile to the reviewing stand. If you need a ride instead, we can arrange that in advance.

## Future Programs

- **Sunday, May 16–** 12:30 at Talcott and Cumberland Ave. Syttende Mai Parade in Park Ridge. March with Torske Klub for the 50th! Ride vs. walking available.
- June, July, August—Rest, golf and fish
- **Sept. 11, 2010–** Sara Drower, Author & World Traveler –“**The Story of Salt**”
- **October 16, 2010—**6pm -50th Anniversary black tie optional Dinner. Note that we will not have a noon Torske Dinner at the Elks that 2nd Saturday of October. MC is Dick Johnson of NBC. Speaker is Norwegian Governor Svein Ludvigsen.
- **Nov. 13, 2010 -**Marc G. Pomerance, Forensic Firearm specialist  
Watch the website, <http://www.torskeklub.org> [Yes, we have a website!] and future letters for announcements of upcoming programs.

## Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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