



"Music and Song; Stories and Carols"

Our December Luncheon will feature a Christmas program led by the Rev. Dave Langseth as he has done so masterfully in the past years. This will feature solo's by our good member Julian Ronning, and music by Melissa Grant & her husband Brook. We will join in singing carols, and hear stories of the Christmas Season. Join us for this annual program which promises to be as moving and delightful as in previous years. Make your reservations early for the December 12th luncheon as noted at the bottom of this page.



December Birthdays, New Member and Other Congratulations

The last month of this year is arguably the most celebratory. Birthdays include Charles Norton, past treasurers Dick Biehl & Gene Kaczmarek, Board Member & Historian David Cornwell, Oystein Borsheim, Milt Gustafson, Aquavit Chairman Garry Grube, Emil Ulstrup, Harold Bendicsen, Roger Elmer Sr., and Art Carlson. Skål with the Christmas gløgg to you all.

We also welcome to our ranks of membership, Tore Bakk-Hansen of Crystal Lake. Gentlemen, give Tore a warm welcome as he dines with us.

Congratulations also to Harold Bendicsen as the book he has co-authored is published this year, "Guide to Psychoanalytic Developmental Theories"

November Beekeeping

Our November Luncheon featured a talk and demonstration of the tools of the trade by a local beekeeper, Harry Patterson of Batavia, Illinois. We were entertained to his hobby, which has become somewhat rare in this area. His donation of a couple jars of honey to our raffle table was also very appreciated. Thanks also to Carl Eglund as he was the Torskemaster for the day.

We also heard the story and background of Don Hoganson's Norwegian Order of Merit decoration from the Hon. Consul General Paul Anderson and from Don himself.

Final Dues Reminder

This is the last month for collection of dues; December 31, 2009 is the deadline for the 2010 year. Please provide your dues by mail or in-person at the luncheon. Membership cards will be sent with next month's letter for all members of good standing as of the end of December. Join up for our 50th year!

Torske Klub Luncheon December 12

Our monthly dinner meeting will be held on December 12, 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 TUESDAY Noon, December 8, 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 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 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, 22, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 115, 126, 141. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call to cancel. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name.

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 ladies day in February.

Dinner Reservation Phone: (630) 445-1263

Reservations
Required by
12:00 Noon on
December 8

Norwood Life Care Announces Norwegian Heritage Hall

The Board of Directors of Norwood Life Society is constructing a room to honor the Norwegian heritage of Norwood Crossing.

This space will serve as an impressive multi-media theater, chapel, meeting room and activity room for residents. It will also be a center of Norwegian pride in Chicagoland. Normennes Singing Society has donated the wood panels that used to hang above their bar in the clubhouse in Logan Square and subsequently were on display in the Scandinavian Club in Arlington Heights until it closed. Their beautiful mural that was painted by the same artist (John Cadel), is being digitally reproduced and will be the focal point of the room. The Illinois Rosemalers Association is moving their private collection of Norwegian rosemaling from a museum in Norway, Illinois to Norwood Crossing, and some of their pieces will be included in the Heritage Hall. Other pieces include Norwood's own treasured possession, a painting by renowned artist Karl Peter Andreas Ouren, the large snow scene that was displayed for many years in the Norwood Crossing dining room.



John Cadel Mural

The venue will welcome our traditional Syttende Mai celebrations and will be available to Norwegian organizations that may need a place to host events. We are pleased to be able to announce that the official name of this hall is:

The Honorable Per Bye Ohrstrom and Mrs. Liv Ohstrom Norwegian Heritage Hall and Pedersen Chapel

These friends have done much to champion the mission of Norwood Crossing. It is fitting to honor them in a manner that recognizes not only their generosity towards the seniors in our care, but also the preservation of our Norwegian heritage. To make our vision a reality, we have set a fundraising goal of \$300,000. We are halfway there. Each donation of \$1,000 or more will be listed on the Heritage plaque inside the room and receive a complimentary ticket to our opening dinner, scheduled for January 16. You may donate cash or securities, or you may make arrangements for a gift annuity by contacting Laura Curley in the foundation office

(lcurlley@norwoodlifecare.org, 773-577-5367).

Again, the official opening of the room will be held on **Saturday, January 16**. To be added to the list of invitees, please email lcurlley@norwoodlifecare.org with your mailing address.

— Emil Ulstrup

Editors Note: Emil Ulstrup is a member of the Torske Klub and also Norwood Life Society Board Chairman. Per Bye Ohrstrom is the past Norwegian Consul General and honorary member of the Chicago Torske Klub for his years of service to the Chicago Norwegian American Community.

Notice: Save-the-Date!

The **Chicago Friends of Vesterheim Committee** is pleased to announce that our next event will take place on **Saturday, March 20, 2010** at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, IL. Our Nordic Marketplace will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. when our Luncheon and Program will begin.

Invitations will be in the mail early February 2010. Please plan to join us and we look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please contact Evy Alsaker at 847.446.0714 or at evy_alsaker@hotmail.com. Tusen Takk!

— Rob Alsaker

Programs for the Upcoming Months

The following programs are in place for the coming months:

- **Jan. 9, 2010** - A slide presentation by Rudy Valbunker, admissions director of Manor Health Care Services, serving all of Illinois with 25 locations for short-term Rehab, stroke recovery, & Hospice services. This is Norwegian Sweater Day.
- **Feb. 13, 2010 - Ladies Day** - A program of Music and Song featuring the combined singing of Normennes and Bjornson Male Choruses.
- **March 13, 2010** - A slide presentation by Douglas Meyer, who is the son of our member Marv Meyer; and National Director of the Alliance Defense Fund. This is father/son/daughter day.
- **April and May** programs will be announced in the near future.
- **October 9, 2010** is the Chicago Torske Klub 50th Anniversary Black Tie Optional Dinner.

—Dr. Ray Newgard, Program Chairman



Merry
Christmas
and Happy
New Year
from your
friends at the
Chicago
Torske Klub

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