



Celebrate Christmas at the December Luncheon

The Christmas season kicks off for the Chicago Torske Klub by the annual Christmas Party. Who does a better job of leading that, than our own member, David Langseth, accompanied by pianist Ken Spengler. Our Torskemaster for the day will be Roger (Rusty) Elmer.

Join us for this annual event where we just kick back and enjoy the season. If you have that neighbor or friend who would enjoy the dinner, this is a good occasion to raise a glass and enjoy the fellowship of our group.



-Photo by K. Larson

November Luncheon Highlighted U.S. and International Affairs

November featured J.D. Bindenagel, DePaul University vice president for Community, Government and International Affairs and former US Ambassador. Mr. Bindenagel has served in the U.S. Army, the State Department and in U.S. embassies in Germany in various capacities from 1972 to 2003. Our torskemaster was our Honorary Norwegian Consul General, Paul Anderson. Thanks to all who made this luncheon successful. In the talk, the Mr. Bindenagel referenced two PBS videos about the Berlin Wall. See these on the web site:

<http://www.pbs.org/programs/the-wall>

Torske Klub Luncheon - December 8, 2012

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 the evening of Dec. 3, 2012. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. The fish order is called in after the deadline.

Call **312-233-2887** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Garry at 312-497-6407. 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, 38, 40, 47, 51, 55, 84, 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.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 2012/2013 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

NEW ! Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(312) 233-2887



Honorary Royal Norwegian Consulate General
125 South Wacker Drive
Suite 1825
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone (312) 377-5050 • Telefax (312) 264-0344

November 14, 2012

Dear Friends of Norway:

The Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Chicago sadly must advise of the recent passing of Retired Consul General Per Bye Ohrstrom. Per passed away on November 8, 2012 after battling cancer and other health problems for the past several years. Of course his passing has come all too soon after he lost his wife Liv just a few weeks ago. We will all greatly miss these two pillars of the Norwegian community in Chicago, but we must be grateful for their presence and influence in all of our lives.

Per was a true Norwegian and loved all things related to Norway. He was a constant ambassador for Norway, not only in the diplomatic sense as Consul General, but also with his good cheer and love of his homeland which was so clearly reflected in everything that he did. Per first came to this country in 1954. He held several positions before ultimately founding two import companies, P.B. Ohrstrom and Sons and Maxicrop USA, Inc., and he was a leader in the business community. However, more than his success as a businessman he would be proudest of his day-to-day representation of Norway.

Per Ohrstrom was actively involved in every Norwegian-related organization imaginable. He was a long-time member of the Norwegian Pioneers Social Club of Chicago and its president for the past several decades. He was a constant supporter of Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, and gave generously of his time and money to the Norwood Park Home (now Norwood Life Crossing), setting up a fund for those in need and constantly providing needed support and acumen as Norwood grew and developed throughout the years. He has been active in the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce since its inception, as well as various Sons of Norway Lodges, the Torske Klub of Chicago, Norwegian American Hospital, various Viking Ship committees, Minnekirken Norwegian Memorial Lutheran Church, and many other groups. Per was always at the center of Norwegian activity in Chicago.

Per was active in all these events prior to his being appointed as Honorary Consul for Norway to Illinois in 1987. Soon thereafter in 1990 he was elevated to Honorary Consul General and served the community for 13 years in those positions. He

commanded a focus on Chicago by Norway and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and almost single-handedly elevated the status of the City of Chicago in the eyes of Norway. He developed very close relationships with Illinois Governors and Mayor Daley, and generally served the interests of Norway in Chicago in an extraordinary way. Notably, he was recognized for these efforts by H. M. King Harald V, receiving the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, Knight First Class.

Although Per's resume could go on for pages, perhaps his most important legacy will be the love the Norwegian community had for him. Per was admired and respected for his common sense, for his elegance and dignity, and for how he served as an inspiration and role model for the entire community. The Norwegian community was always so proud to have a man like him in the position of Consul General and he inspired many due to his charm and skillful handling of matters. These are not traits that are easily quantifiable, but Per possessed them in abundance.

We will greatly miss both Per and Liv, and the entire Norwegian community reaches out to the Ohrstrom family at this time of their significant loss. We will always remember the twinkle in Per's eye and his graciousness. His impact on the Norwegian community will not likely be duplicated.

Please note that there will be a memorial service honoring Per Bye Ohrstrom's life to be held on Friday November 23, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Chicago; Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights; or Norwood Park Life Center in Chicago.

Sincerely,



Paul S. Anderson
Hon. Consul General



In 2006, Per and Liv accompanied the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) on one of many trips to Norway; this photo of Per in the fjords near Ålesund

—photo by K. Larson

Last Call - Dues for 2013

In October we sent a request for 2013 dues. Thanks to the majority who responded. Please return this as soon as possible so we can close these books; our deadline is Dec. 31, 2012. Dues supplement our funds for aquavit, occasional speaker fees and this letter. Some of our letters are "Complimentary" to other organizations and require no dues, but we ask that all verify and correct the contact information, if changes are needed.

Birthdays & News for December

This month, we toast the birthdays of our members: Charles Norton, Ragnar Lund, past secretary David Cornwell, Milt Gustafson, Oystein Borsheim, past treasurer Gene Kaczmarek, our recording secretary Garry Grube, Emil Ulstrup, past treasurer and Iowan Richard Biehl, Harold Bendicsen, and Palmer Larsen. Happy Birthday Gentlemen, and skål.

We are saddened to hear of the news of the passing of Susan Ulstrup, wife of our member Emil Ulstrup. Our thoughts and prayers are with Emil and his family at this time.

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