



God Jul og Godt Nytt År—December Luncheon

We are blessed and honored to have our good friend and board member, Pastor David Langseth as the host and leader of our annual Christmas party on December 14. He is accompanied by Kathleen West on piano, as she has done in recent years, and will be likely supported by Santa's helpers.

This is a great time to bring friends and relatives to join us. The torsk is hot and the aquavit is cold. The reservation line is always open.



Santa's Helpers lead the cheer in
2018

Noted Events for December

As Christmas approaches, our calendars fill with cheerful events. You may be interested in these highlighted local events:

- The Norwegian Christmas Program at Museum of Science and Industry—12/7/19, 1:30 p.m.
- Minnekirken Christmas Concert, 12/8/19, 6:30 p.m.—Normennenes Singing Society is performing among others.
- Various Santa Lucia Festivities—12/13/19-12/15/19—Norwood Crossing, Andersonville Swedish Cultural Center.
- Bjornson Male Chorus—Christmas Concert—12/20/19 6:30 Avalon Banquets, Elk Grove Village IL \$35/person— call (630)830-2971
- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day—Services and celebrations all over.

Livsreise Celebrated in November

November featured Jerry Gryttenholm, from the Livsreise Heritage Center in Stoughton, WI. At the helm was Jon Knutsen as torskemaster. Thanks to all for an enjoyable day.

Torske Klub Luncheon - December 14, 2019

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 Dec. 9 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, and the klub practice is to penalize late reservations by a \$5 fee.

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, 135, 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 April and excluding ladies day in February.

**Reservations
Due
December 9**

Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(847)886-4841

Many of us have grown up with the Christmas traditions of our immigrant ancestors from Europe and elsewhere. For mine, it is memories of baking *julekake*, *krumkake*, *sandbakkels* and *lefse*. It is the smell of pine and potpourri of the season, including the *gløgg*. Has anyone else thought it weird that many families will relish the lutefisk as well? Well, it ends up there is more weirdness than just that tradition; many adopted in recent decades after our ancestors were long gone. Here are some of Norway's weirder traditions for Christmas.



Marzipan Pigs—An almond dropped into rice porridge (*risgrøt*) for the children to retrieve. The first one gets a treat in form of a marzipan shaped into a pig.

Disney Cartoons—I suppose a Chicagoan baby boomer can relate to this as they watch “Suzy Snowflake” or “Frosty the Snowman” on WGN, but Norway has binged on ten specific Disney Cartoons since 1953; specifically shown on Christmas Day at 3pm.

Smuggling—Norwegians stock up in Sweden on liquor and other items that have a lower tax or availability (especially butter). Why is butter in demand? Read on...

Julekaks—The pre Christmas bake goes to such excess that butter shortages occur in December and one has to go to Sweden to smuggle butter back for baking (see above).

Trick-or-treating—Called *går julebukk*, it is the practice of children dressing up, traveling from house to house, and singing while begging for treats. Adults may go too, but often don't always last long on the trip as they get a shot of aquavit for their efforts.

Ribs—Norwegians eat ribs instead of roasts for Christmas, preferring pork (*julribbe*) or lamb (*pinnekjøtt*) ribs. Personally, I find this MUCH less weird than the lutefisk which Norwegian-Americans crave.

Dancing around the tree—This seems more traditional & less odd until you consider that most dance from songs from *God Jul*, the 1967 album by Norwegian show band *Dizzie Tunes*.

Tre Nøtter til Askepott—This is an East German adventure film from the 1970s watched on TV by most. It loosely translates to “Three Hazelnuts for Cinderella”. The American equivalent may be the Charlie Brown Christmas Special or Christmas Story in the USA.



Julenissen—Santa Claus turns up as a parent or uncle in a cheesy beard or heavy coat. Few kids are deceived.

Feeding the nisse—The *nisse* are gnome-like guardians in the barns. They get bribed with rice porridge (*risgrøt*) with a big dab of butter on top. It is a much more serious matter than leaving milk/cookies or a drink for Santa.



- Ref: <https://www.thelocal.no> Norway's 10 Oddest Traditions

November Birthdays and News

This month we celebrate the birthdays of December: Ragnar Lund, past Secretary David Cornwell, newly minted octagenarian Milt Gustafson, Dr. Egil Fosslie, Michael Mogill, Harold Bendicson and our Assistant Boss and new septuagenarian, Garry Grube.

Thanks to all for your dues so far, to those who have paid. This is the last month for those who have not paid. We will issue the coveted Torske Klub membership card to members in good standing next month and a “sorry you're leaving us” to the others.

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