

Skjold News

Sons of Norway – A Fraternal Benefit Society
Visit us on the web at www.skjoldlodge.com



January-February 2009

The input deadline for our
March-April issue of Skjold News is
February 1, 2009



Remember – Skjold is fun for the whole family and a great place to make friendships that last a lifetime – here's to a great new year 2009...stay warm, well, safe & happy and till we meet again, **a heartfelt mange takk!**

Social Directors –
**Lorrie Brenner
Judy Torgersen**



Social Snakk by Lorrie Brenner and Judy Torgersen

Our October program was **Jon Satrum's** "Travels in Norway - The Northbound Hurtigruten". Highlights included beautiful scenery, especially with the "midnight sun". I'll put a copy of the video in our library for members to borrow. Prior to the presentation we had an ample (to say the least) pot luck. Mange takk to all who brought the wonderful food. It was such an enjoyable night!

November's Heritage Fest

was great. **Look for pictures** scattered around this issue and read more in Solveig Bender's Culture Column.

November's program, "Getting To Know You", was very well received. Everyone enjoyed learning more about their fellow members. And knowing each other better forms stronger bonds between us.

Lois Amack, Marilyn Turchi, Solveig Bender, Ted & Judy Torgersen, Anne Shabez and

Gregg LeDuc were our presenters. It was nice to learn about the genealogy, hobbies and other interests of our members.

Not everyone can attend a meeting. Because of the interest expressed in knowing each other better we are adding a new column to our newsletter – "Getting to Know You". Look for it in this and upcoming editions of Skjold News.

Getting To Know YOU – First in a series (Lois Amack)

From the Editor:

You can see we are experimenting with a new format for Skjold News. This was mainly dictated by a new computer, new software and also to make things easier for someone else to take over in the future. We are also going to try some different types of articles as well, starting with "Getting To Know You" (GTKY) in this issue.

While future GTKY will be much shorter, this one provided by **Lois Amack**, talks not just about her family, but about "growing up Norwegian" in the area around where many of us live. It could be the story of many of us.

Lois' submission is included unedited in its entirety.

Thank you, Lois.

Lois Ilene Trinrud Amack:

My mother's side - My great-grandmother, Kristina Hørstad Hovde, was born 7/13/1840 in Vestre Gausdal, Norway. Died 10/1910 in New Hope, WI. Married to Kristian Stenersen Bjørge in Norway. He was born 4/25/1835; died 1/25/1891 in Norway. Kristina, her daughter Mathia, and a nephew Gabriel sailed from Norway to America in 1891.

Mathia Bjørge was born on 9/15/1870 in Ostre Gausdal, Norway and died 10/15/1955. She was married in New Hope, WI on 7/20/1892 to Oluf Hans Lee who was born 7/26/1870 in New Hope, WI. He died 6/10/1916.

Oluf Hans Lee's parents were Hans Nilsen Lee, born 1831 in Ostre Gausdal, Norway and Ingeborg Mortensdatter Brubakken, also born in Ostre Gausdal, Norway, on 12/4/1831. They emigrated to America and resided in New Hope,

WI. Hans died in 1876; Ingeborg in 4/29/1924. Both are buried in the New Hope Cemetery.

On my father's side, my great-great-grandparents were born in Ostre Gausdal, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. My great grandfather, Johan Torgerson Trinrud, and his wife Sigrd Christensdatter Mortenson who was born in Ringebu, emigrated to America and settled in Scandinavia, WI. My grandfather, Carl Martinus Trinrud was born 12/26/1867 in Scandinavia. He married Dina Severtsdaughter Olson who was born 7/17/1878 in Follebu. Her parents, Severt Olsson Grytte and Tonetta Hansdatter emigrated to America in 1883 and also settled in Scandinavia, WI. Carl & Dina were married 7/15/1896.

Irvin Hilmer Trinrud was born 12/11/1910 in Sheridan, Waupaca County, WI, the youngest of 5 boys. He and my mother were married on 7/26/1930 in Waupaca, WI. He was very active in Skjold Lodge. He passed away 2/14/1989 in Evanston,

IL.

My mother and father both came from Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Mother was born in New Hope and my dad in Sheridan. My mother's mother and dad's mother were born in Norway. My great grandparents were all from Norway, so I'm 100% Norwegian. When I was little, I thought everyone was Norwegian and Lutheran.

I was born March 10, 1931 at home in Scandinavia, Wisconsin – population 265. Art Lee, who grew up in that little town too, wrote the "Lutefisk Ghetto" a book about Scandinavia. While we lived in several places in the area, the first real memory I have is of living in a farmhouse just outside of town. Our amenities included an outdoor pump for water, a wood stove with a wood box beside it, kerosene lamps, a kerosene stove which was used in the summer, an outhouse (and a covered pot under the bed).

We took baths in a washtub. No telephone or electricity! My parents and grandparents spoke Norwegian (as well as English) and I grew up

Continued on Page 3

Kommentar fra Presidenten



Wendell Brenner

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

2009 is going to be a great year for Skjold Lodge. We are increasing membership, you have me as your President for another year and we are planning amazing programs for this year. And it is all because of you! All of you working together to make this happen. Even the smallest of contributions have given us a new zest and zeal that will take us to the next step. Every single officer on the board is to be thanked for

all of the great work they have done in 2008, and now in 2009 they will be continuing to give this lodge the support it needs to flourish. And remember, we are going to be starting our countdown to our 100 year Anniversary, SO GET INVOLVED and make this the best 100 year anniversary ever! Remember this lodge needs you to stay alive and to flourish. Welcome 2009 with open arms and ask

what you can do to help your lodge!

Har du hørt?

Lodge member and good friend, **Steinar Steine** of Deer Park died November 21, 2008. His memorial service was on December 7 at Ahlgrim Family Funeral Home, 201 N. Northwest Highway, Palatine. Inurnment will take place in Norway. Steinar was an avid golfer. He was a member of the Skjold Lodge Sons of Norway and the Carpenters Union Local #181. Steinar is survived by his wife, June M. Steine (nee Hansen); eight brothers and sisters in Norway; and many dear friends.

Memorials can be directed to The Hospice of Northeastern Illinois, 410 S. Hager Ave., Barrington, IL 60010 or the Salvation Army, 5040 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60630 and are appreciated.

EDVARD MUNCH:
If you have been following our Edvard Munch series at our web site, here is another opportunity to learn more about this artist. See our "Coming Events" on page 5 and also learn more at our web site's "Programs" page.

HALLINGDAL:
Hallingdal is a rugged mountain valley in Norway, part of Buskerud County (fylke). If your family comes from that area, please note that Hallinglag of America is sponsoring a heritage tour to Norway July 1-14. If you are not a Hallinglag member, but are interested, see Marilyn Halversen at a meeting or contact Juven Tour & Travel 1-800-343-0093 for more details.



Anne Shabez

Please send all information for the **Har Du Hørt** column to Anne Shabez
See our Contact Us Page
postmaster@skjoldlodge.com

Gratulerer med dagen!

January Birthdays

2 Jacqueline Moe
3 Roy E. Rasmussen
9 Jamie A. Shabez
12 Theodor Torgersen
12 Robert W. Hendricksen
14 Kay Overland
14 Kaarina T. Tenold
14 Synnove M. Eiseman
14 Jon P. Knudsen

15 William L. Korstad
16 Jim E. Broberg
22 Eileen A. Dawson
23 Geraldine H. Hanson
24 Liv Ohrstrom
28 Willard R. Horne
29 Donald R. Jacobsen
30 Janet E. Tarbet

February Birthdays

1 Gregg K. Le Duc
1 John M. Bakken
5 Thor Jondahl
7 Marie E. Broberg
8 Gunvor J. Sorensen
10 Les C. Boughner
11 Lorraine Amack Brenner
13 Elizabeth Fjortoft
14 Arthur R. Anderson

14 Mary Lou H. Baumann
20 Judith Torgersen
20 Laila E. Stark
21 Arthur G. Kleven
22 Dorothy Chouinard
23 David J. Grevstad
23 Roger L. Nelson
24 Eva C. Stone
25 Karen E. Severson
28 Kenneth Brown

Continued from Page 1

Getting to Know You - Continued

understanding the language, though I really never spoke it. I remember my cousin speaking Norwegian to me and I would answer in English. Today I wish I had been encouraged to speak the language.

A one-room schoolhouse was just across the field from our house and there weren't many pupils, so at the age of 5, I was enrolled in first grade. There were four girls and one boy in the school. I have some reading certificates with gold stars for each book that I read and, to tell you the truth, it seems as though I've always been able to read. And, since the older kids were learning script, that's what I learned too. We moved to the town of Iola when I was in 2nd grade. There, each grade had its own classroom and teacher. Big Time! We lived in a house between a filling station and a blacksmith shop. And across the road from that was the Iola Pond. I remember catching some catfish and sunfish there – just for fun. The shoemaker around the corner paid me two cents for picking up his mail at the post office and bringing it to him. That two cents bought a big bag of candy – my favorites were chocolate hearts and chocolate-covered nuts, as I recall. I remember attending Sunday School at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, singing in junior choir and learning Norwegian Christmas carols like "Jeg Er Saa Glad" and "Herr kommer dinne arme smaa".

I had lots of Trinrud cousins living in the area. Some of the Lee side (my mom's family) lived in Northland and we visited them in the summer. While this was the time of the great depression, I don't remember ever worrying about it. Kids don't, I guess. We had enough to eat – we didn't turn our nose up at anything – whatever was put on the table, we ate, as I recall. I remember picking wild berries in the woods with my grandma. And the late summer day the thrashing machine came to my uncle's farm – all the food set outside on tables at lunchtime for the hardworking men. There was homemade ice cream with crushed strawberries. The men washed up outside by the pump before sitting down to eat. I remember my grandpa taking a nap on the kitchen floor with a newspaper over his head after lunch (we called it dinner then) because his overalls were too barnyard dirty to lay on a bed or sofa.

Everyone had a garden – and mother just kept washing, ironing, and mending the same clothes and that's what we wore. Everybody else was in the same boat, so we kids didn't care. I made a lot of

friends up there, some that I still see at least once a year. We had band concerts on Saturday nights in the summer (the bandstand was moved to Main Street each time) and there were outdoor free shows. We had a theater in town and I remember seeing Shirley Temple, Jane Withers, Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney movies there. And, in the fall, I remember going to my uncles' farm for thrashing machine day. Lots of food and home-churned ice cream... and I didn't have to work in the fields!

When I was ten, we left Wisconsin. My dad had found a job in Chicago and our family moved – everything, including us three kids, was piled into our car. Mother had to sell our furniture, including her dining room set, I remember. Our first stop in Illinois was at my mother's sister Gladys and Uncle Irving Dobbe's on Washington Street in Evanston. She served us gingerale, and I still remember how good it tasted. Her sister Bernice and Uncle Nels Olsen had a rooming house on the corner of Washington and Sherman. Then we drove on to a hotel called The Ivanhoe at 517 W. Aldine in Chicago where we lived in two rooms, sharing the bathroom (but we had plumbing, at last!), for about 1-1/2 years. I had the summer to pass before school started in the fall and luckily there was a library a block away. I made some friends in the building we lived in and down the block. Lake Michigan and the park were a block east. We spent a lot of time there. My three high school boy cousins came down for a visit (can you imagine all of us in two rooms?) and I remember my dad took them to Cubs Park and Riverview. Those three kept an eye on me when I spent vacations up north.

I attended Nettelhorst School in Chicago until we moved to Evanston. My folks found an apartment on Maple Avenue in Evanston when I was in 7th grade and I enrolled in Haven Intermediate School. In the two blocks of Maple Avenue between Emerson and Foster, there were six families from my mother's side of the family (the Lee's) and two of her friends from up North (one the sister of Leona Hjertaas). With all the kids, we made up quite a bunch of Norwegian Wisconsinites.

I remember coming home from school just in time to listen to the General Mills Hour on the radio. You could listen to the radio and do your homework at the same time. Most every summer, I would take the Greyhound up to my Grandma Trinrud's in Scandinavia for a few weeks' vacation – usually in time to

take in the Scandinavia Fair. And, I would stay a day or two with my old school chum in Iola.

We joined Trinity Lutheran Church where we went to Sunday School and then to two years of confirmation classes under Reverend Lars Oscar Anderson. Bette Oldeen became one of my friends at that time. We belonged to the Luther League and the Willing Workers. I remember the ice cream socials we had on the lawn of the parsonage at the northeast corner of Ridge and Central St. in Evanston. Trinity had plans to build a church on that site. After graduation from Evanston High School, I attended Evanston Community College for two years and worked in the EHS Business Office.

I joined Trinity Choir when Gunnar Saevig was the choir director and Audun Ravnham was the organist.

My parents were both members of Skjold Lodge Sons of Norway which met just around the corner from old Trinity on Sherman Ave. Lester's best friend, Ralph Burch, a member of Trinity and Skjold Lodge invited him to join the church choir and the lodge in 1950. Right off the bat, he was the lodge musician... they were so happy to have a piano player! Les lived about 3 blocks north of us on Maple Ave. and walked home from the train after work past our house. My dad invited him in one afternoon and I was sooooo embarrassed. Around the same time, Les joined Ralph in the church choir. We all used to go to a little restaurant on Central Street after practice for coffee and raisen toast, and that's basically how we got acquainted. By the end of 1950 (December 9th) we got married – at Immanuel Lutheran Church since Trinity was too small. But, we had Pastor Anderson marry us.

Audun and Gunnar left Evanston at about this time and Les became the organist (the pipe organ from old Trinity was installed in the chapel here). After Trinity moved to Golf Road, he continued as organist (the church bought a small Allen organ) and church services were held using the living room and the area at the foot of the main stairs. Sunday School classes were on the second floor. Les volunteered his time (as did many Trinity members) in the construction of the new church.

We lived in a number of places in Evanston during our first years of marriage and finally found an apartment next door to my folks on Foster Street where we lived until we bought our first house in Hoffman Estates that was mostly farmland then. Between 1951 and 1957, we had four children – three boys and one girl. When Les was transferred to Niagara Falls, NY in 1965 by the Carborundum

Company, we moved to Kenmore, NY and lived there just long enough to buy a house, paint, wallpaper, and get settled when we decided to move back to Illinois.

I worked at the Klingberg Schools for the Mentally Retarded as Executive Secretary from 1966 to 1980, the Saxophone Shop as Bookkeeper from 1981-1983, and for Ron Moen at the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care as Office Manager and bookkeeper from 1983 until I retired in January 1998.

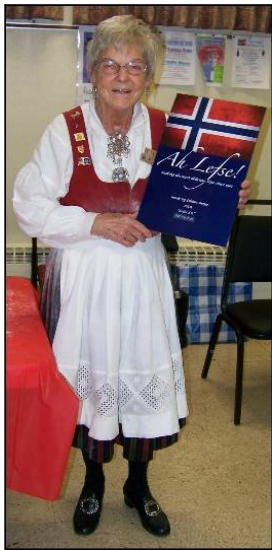
We're very much involved with our Norwegian heritage through the Sons of Norway, Bjørnson Male Chorus and Ladies Auxiliary and the Norwegian National League. And, we're taking part in helping to raise our great-grandchildren, which is tiring, but very rewarding.

Our kids can't imagine a time when there was no electricity, plumbing, central air and heating. And no television? Those were the days!

In the summer of 1985, Les & I took a 3 week trip to Norway. We visited my father's cousin, Ida Koltveit, her daughter Bjorg Koltveit and her husband Trygve Lassessen in Brumanddal and attended an Etter Bryllup at a mountain hotel in Savalen which was very festive. Bjorg was a reporter for the Hamar Arbeiderblad newspaper. She drove us to Lillehammer where we visited Maihaugen and did some shopping. I bought three Gudbrandsdal bunads (one for our grandson and granddaughter and the material for mine – my mother sewed mine together and did all the embroidery and had it ready for me to wear for the Fifth District Convention that year which Skjold Lodge hosted). Les bought a kaffe (sweater) and a busserull (work jacket). We then drove to the Bjørge's home in Ostre Gausdal. My mother's cousin, Nils, and his wife Kari lived in a large house at the top of an øs (small mountain) where my grandmother was born and lived until emigrating to America. Just down the hill was the Bjørge gartneri (greenhouse) that their son Anders and his wife Ragnhild then ran. They had 250 sheep that were up in the mountains for the summer. Each had a paint mark that identified the owner. Nils also was a beekeeper and had hives on the farm and up in the mountains. We spent an afternoon at the Bjørge seter where flowers were in bloom on the mountainside and farther up we threw a few snowballs. We visited the Østre Gausdal Kirke (an old Stone Church built between 1250 and 1300 and restored in 1952) that my

Continued on Page 6

Culture Column by Solveig R. Bender



Lillian Berge
Ah Lefse!

The Skjold Lodge Heritage Fest in November was a resounding success – both in the number of people who attended and the quality of our exhibits. Thanks to all who participated: our lodge members who helped publicize, set up, take down and those who did a yeoman's job in the kitchen. The food was delicious and our visitors expressed their appreciation.

Special thanks go to our exhibitors and musicians: the ladies who represented the Illinois Norsk Rosemalers, Perry Straw and his sheath knives, Inger of Rockford's Jul Hus, Armand and Arne Brastad who exhibited and sold his wood carvings, Kari Shussler's and

Jan Tarbet's knitting, Marilyn Halvorsen and Linda Schwartz who brought extensive information regarding genealogy, Jon Satrum who baked and sold krumkake on the premises, Lillian Berge who demonstrated and sold her lefse, Ray Nilsen and his accordion music, the Grieg Ladies Singing Society and those who equipped the children's area.

We really appreciate all of you. We are glad so many guests came, and welcome them back next November.

Our January meeting will highlight Lillian Berge making her delicious lefse. She will stress "how to" and explain the chemical reaction between

potatoes, flour and water. Lillian has been demonstrating baking her famous lefse since 1961!

Recently, I took part in an e-mail exchange of lefse stories with my Minnesota college classmates. It made for some very interesting reading and I thought perhaps you would like to tell Skjold News readers some of your lefse stories. Are there special recipes, traditions of baking, menus, and family special times that included lefse?

If so, please e-mail them to me at sbender935@aol.com or call me at 847-398-3336 and we can get an exchange of ideas regarding this special Norwegian culinary delight (or is it?).

The Bunads of Skjold Lodge



We continue featuring member's bunads – this month: **Judy and Ted Torgersen.**

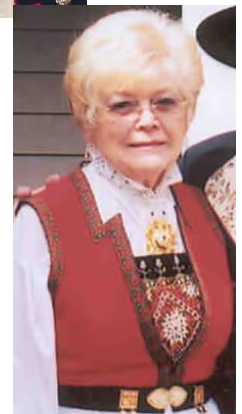
Judy's Hardanger bunad was purchased by her mother in 1954 in Stavanger, Norway. It consisted of the vest, insert, hat & belt. The hat that goes with this bunad is only worn by young & unmarried girls.

Through the years, the belt was lost and many blouses, aprons, & skirts have been made. Judy commented that It has been fun putting this together.

Ted's Rogaland bunad was purchased "off the rack" in Sandnes, Norway, in 2001 (Bunads are usually custom

made). It fits perfectly. Judy and Ted only needed to supply the buttons, which they happened to have at home. Through the years Ted received the hat, a red scarf & the knife (see inset) from his relatives to complete his bunad.

Notice the traditional solje jewelry as well.



Coming Events

JANUARY

13: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Board meeting.

15: 7:30 PM Building Society meeting – See Page 8.

23: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Open-faced sandwiches followed by installation of officers and our program: Lefse demonstration by **Lillian Berge**, the "Lefse Lady".

FEBRUARY

10: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Board meeting.

No February "Lodge Meeting"

14: 7:30 – 10:30PM Saturday night, **Valentine's Dance** – a joint event by Bethel & Skjold Lodge. See the flyer in this issue.

18: 1:00-2:30 PM.

****CORRECTION****

The printed copy mailed to members had a date of February 14 – not February 18. February 18 is correct for the LECTURE.

EDVARD MUNCH: HIS LIFE AND TIMES: RAY HARTSTEIN CAMPUS 7701 N. Lincoln Avenue; Skokie, Illinois. FEE: \$20
Preview the upcoming Art Institute of Chicago exhibition, "Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety, and Myth," opening February 14, 2009.

"I sensed a great infinite scream pass through nature," said Munch, a melancholy Norwegian painter who lived from 1863 to 1944.

Claire Copping Cross

explains how Munch was influenced by symbolists, the Pont-Aven paintings of Paul Gauguin, and the tortured brushwork of Vincent Van Gogh. We'll explore Munch's preoccupation with psychological forces, and learn how his themes of terror and angst reflect the moody works of his fellow countrymen, playwrights Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg.

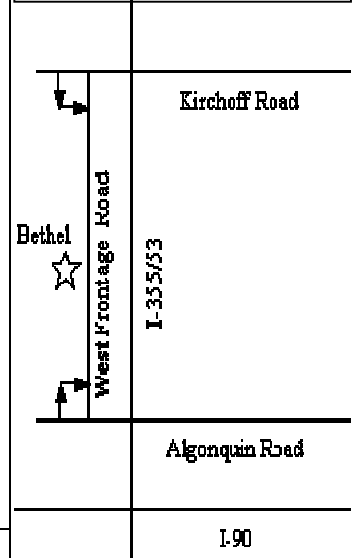
MARCH

10: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Board meeting.

27: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Program: Viking Ship presentation by Lorraine Straw

*****WHERE WE MEET*****

Skjold meetings and events are held at **Bethel Lutheran Church**, 3839 West Frontage Road, Palatine, IL (Board Meetings in the "Small Meeting Room", and events and lodge meetings in the "Hospitality Room" on the lower level), unless otherwise noted.



Tubfrim (Simplified)

What is it?

A charity in Norway originally created to eradicate tuberculosis in Norwegian children by collecting and selling used frimerker to stamp collectors. Frimerker is the Norwegian word for stamps. Blend parts of the words tuberculosis and frimerker, and you get "Tubfrim".

Today the profits are used to help handicapped children and youth in Norway, and to finance efforts to eradicate tuberculosis. 1.5 million people still die each year from TB.

How can something as simple as collecting used stamps help?

Since TUBFRIM was

founded, over \$2.3 million dollars has been generated by many people, each helping a little. Several hundred handicapped children are helped by TUBFRIM - every year.

How can I help?

Collect and give used stamps and telephone cards to our Tubfrim coordinator **Marian Seaholm**. If you are not able to attend a meeting, give the stamps and phone cards to a friend or relative who comes to meetings.

Collect the "good stuff":

Just cut or tear the stamps off the envelopes, leaving a slight margin (approx. 1/2 inch) to keep the perforation intact. Damaged stamps (damaged perforation,

edges etc.) are worthless and are discarded. (Damaged phone cards are also discarded).

Make it a family project:

Kids and grandkids love doing things like this, especially knowing their efforts will help other children. Have your entire family participate and combine all the stamps at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Ask your friends and co-workers to collect for you. It is amazing how many people will help, if only asked.

Teachers:

This can be a good classroom project! The collection can be done over many months with progress seen as the box or bag starts to fill up.



Several hundred Norwegian children are helped each year by Tubfrim – simply by people like you collecting used stamps.

GTKY

Continued from Page 3

grandmother had attended and was confirmed. A five minute ride from their house was Aulestad – Bjornstjerne Bjornson's home. The piano that Edvard Grieg played when he visited was still in the drawing room.

We also visited Trondheim, walked along the Nid Elven and passed the Bybro in the way to the Nidaros Cathedral. We took a ferry boat trip on the Geiranger Fjord, then took the Hurtigruten to Alesund, and the Floyen that glides over the water to Bergen. Strolled through Old Bergen and the Fisketorget and took a tour to Trolldhaugen, Edvard and Nina Grieg's home. We visited a friend from Trinity in Evanston, Diane Saevig. She married our choir director and they moved to Bergen. On to Egersund and Egeroy where we visited Ted Torgersen's family. From there we trained back to Oslo, with a stop in Porsgrunn. In Oslo, we toured the King's Palace, Frogner Park, the Kon Tiki Museum, the Viking Ship Museum, the Sailor's Church and the Sonja Henie Museum where we had lunch with Eva Ronneseter, a Norwegian friend we had met at Trinity Lutheran in Evanston. We spent time with Kari Hoel who was in Oslo visiting her niece.

A wonderful trip—everywhere we went, people were friendly and there was beautiful scenery!

Les and I have four children, Lewis, Lee, Les Jr., and Lorraine. Lorrie and her husband, Wendell Brenner are members of Skjold, as are all our grandchildren and great grandchildren. We have been members of Skjold 5-100, Sons of Norway, since 1950 while living in Evanston, Wilmette, Hoffman Estates, Kenmore, NY, Chicago, back to Evanston/Skokie and now in Wauconda.



Snakker du Norsk?

A Little in English...

Celebrating the New Year and the End of Christmas.

As in many countries, in Norway the change from one year to another is celebrated on both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. New Year's Eve is celebrated with a party or get together either at home or out on the town, which often culminates with counting down to the new year's beginning at midnight.

On the table one typically serves among other things lamb ribs (pinnekjøtt), pork ribs or turkey on New Year's Eve.

In olden times New Year's Day was an important day for the whole country to look for signs of how the new year would be. The signs people looked for had mostly to do with how the crops would do, or what the fishing would be like. The weather on New Year's Day was also taken as a sign of how the weather would be for the rest of the year.

Today New Year's Day is an official holiday and is usually celebrated at home and is for many people a day of rest after New Year's Eve. The Prime Minister gives a speech, called the New Year's Address.

The thirteenth day of Christmas (January 6th) is called Helligtrekongersdag ("Three Holy Kings' Day") in honor of the three kings who came to Jerusalem to honor Jesus. In the Catholic era a pageant was performed on this day, a living demonstration of the three kings' journey, but today it is more of a symbol that Christmas has come to an end.

Adapted from the book *Merkedager* by Ann Helene Bolstad Skjelbred



Litt på norsk...

Nyttårsfeiring og julens slutt

Sånn som i mange andre land markeres årskiftet i Norge både på nyttårsaftnen og nyttårsdagen. Nyttårsaftnen feires med en fest eller et selskap enten hjemme eller ute, som ofte kulminerer med nedtelling til det nye årets begynnelse ved midnatt.

På matbordet er det vanlig å finne blant annet pinnekjøtt, ribbe eller kalkun på nyttårsaftnen. I gamle dager var 1. nyttårsdag en viktig dag i hele landet for å ta varsel for det nye året.

Varslene gjaldt i stor grad hvordan avlingen skulle bli, eller hvordan fisket ville bli i det nye året. Været på nyttårsdagen varslat også om været for hele resten av året. Alt det som ellers hendte denne dagen ville også ha konsekvenser for resten av året.

I dag er nyttårsdagen offisiell fridag som gjerne feires hjemme og er for mange en hviledag etter nyttårsaftnen. Statsministeren holder en tale, kalt nyttårstalen.

Trettende dag jul (6. januar) kalles Helligtrekongersdag til minne om de hellige tre konger som kom for å tilbe Jesus. I katolsk tid ble det fremført et kirkespill på denne dagen, en levende fremstilling av de hellige tre kongers vandring, men i dag er det en markering av at julen avsluttes.

Adoptert fra boka *Merkedager* av Ann Helene Bolstad Skjelbred



Kids Corner

Our Christmas is over. What is Christmas like in Norway?

Norwegians are very close to the North Pole, and they strongly hope for the magic of snow for the holidays!

Their children always remember a little gnome (**Nisse**) at Christmastime. Nisse guards all the farm animals, and plays tricks on the children if they forget to place a bowl of special porridge for him.

Lucia: Christmas in Norway begins with the Saint Lucia ceremony on December 13. At the crack of dawn, the youngest daughter from each family puts on a white robe with a sash, a crown with evergreens and tall-lighted candles, accompanied by the other children, the boys dressed as star boys in long white shirts and pointed hats. They wake their parents, and serve them coffee and Lucia buns, ("lussekatter"). The custom goes back to a Christian girl named, Lucia, martyred for her beliefs at Syracuse in the fourth century. The Saint Lucia ceremony is fairly recent, but it represents the traditional thanksgiving for the return of the sun.

Juletre: The Christmas tree, juletre, spruce or pine tree usually, are often decorated with candles, apples, red hearts, cornets, straw ornaments, balls of glass and finsels, all depending on what you like. The homes have a scent of resin, hyacinths, red tulips, spices and tangerines.

Fjøsningen: Some children, especially in the country, still believe in and remember a little elf, fjøsningen, at Christmas time. He is told to guard all the farm animals, and he plays tricks if the

children forget to place a bowl of special rice porridge, "risengrynsgrøt", in the barn or outside for him. This is an old superstition. Norwegians also love to eat this porridge on December 23, ("lillejulaften"), and then it holds a magic almond inside. The one who finds it gets a prize. Some eat the rice porridge for lunch on the 24th. Perhaps in the evening they have some gløgg, it is a spicy drink (you can add some red wine if you like), with raisins and chopped almonds.

Julaften: On Julaften (December 24), a lot of people go to church service before they gather at home around the table for a nice Christmas Eve dinner.

Different families like different meals. The dinner can consist of a rib with a good crackling (crispy fat that forms on top of a pork roast), ribbe (roasted pork loin), served with "cabbage à la norvégienne", surkaal (sweet and sour cabbage), potatoes, carrots, cauliflower, sprouts, prunes and brown sauce.

Others like salted and dried ribs of mutton ("pinnekjøtt") served with potatoes, carrots and mashed turnips. Norwegians also eat lye-treated codfish called "lutefisk" (well at least some of them do), and wash it down with boiled potatoes, bacon, pea stew, rice porridge, gingerbread, and punch.

For dessert: rice blended with whipped cream served with a red sauce, ("riskrem"), caramel pudding, cherry mousse, or whipped cream blended with multer

(cloudberries), these are wonderful berries found on the mountain – that look like orange raspberries.

Julenissen: In the evening Santa Claus, julenissen, arrives with gifts - often it is snowing.

Julebuk: Norway also has a gift-bearing little elf. Known as Julebuk or "Christmas buck," he appears as a goat-like creature.

In the days between Christmas and New Years Eve (*romjulen*), the children sometimes go from house to house in the afternoon asking for sweets. This tradition, just like the goat-like creature, is also called "julebuk". It is an old tradition going back to Viking times, but just a few children keep up the tradition today.

On Christmas Day a lot of people have a big brunch at noon or dinner in the afternoon for friends and family. It is done the Italian way and can last for several wonderful hours!

Traditional cakes and cookies made at Christmas can be julekake (a Christmas bread made with raisins, citron and candied cherries), kryddekake (a spice cake), delfiakake (with cocoa and coffee), rosettbakels (crispy treats baked in oil), fattigmann (cut in a diamond shape and baked in oil), smultringer (tiny donuts), goro, silkekaker, pepperkaker (with pepper, ginger and cloves), kokosmakroner (coconut macaroons). Different nuts, fruits, figs, dates and sweets



Julebuk

also belong to the celebration.

A favorite holiday cookie called a sand kager (your family might call these *sandbakkels*, or *sandkaker*) is made by mixing 2 cups of butter and sugar, 4 cups of flour, and 1 cup of chopped almonds. This pressed into a tin, baked until golden brown, and cut into squares.

Others use little baking tins to make individual *sandbakkels*.

SKJOLD NEWS

Skjold Lodge 5-100
 P.O. Box 1364
 Arlington, Heights, Illinois
 60006

Skjold News is a bi-monthly production of Skjold Lodge #5-100, Sons of Norway.

Editor:
Jon Satrum

See our
 Contact Us Page
postmaster@skjoldlodge.com

Assistant Editor:
 Ron Grand

Non Profit Org.
 US POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 2562
 Palatine P&DC, IL
 60095

<AFFIX LABEL HERE>

IN THIS ISSUE

SOCIAL SNAKK	1
GETTING TO KNOW YOU	
KOMMENTAR	2
HAR DU HØRT?	
GRATULERER MED DAGEN!	3
CULTURE COLUMN	4
COMING EVENTS	5
TUBFRIM	
SNAKKER DU NORSK?	6
KIDS CORNER	7
BUILDING SOCIETY	8

2009 Skjold Lodge Officers

President	Wendell Brenner
Vice-President	Michael Hanson
Counselor	Jostein Bakken
Secretary/Personal News	Anne Shabez
Financial Secretary	Kathleen Secora
Treasurer/Musician	Lester Amack
Social Directors	Lorraine Brenner, Judith Torgersen
Cultural Director	Solveig Bender
Editor/Webmaster	Jon Satrum
Assistant Editor/Webmaster	Ron Grand
Publicity Director/Historian	Gene Kaczmarek
Foundation Director	Michael Hanson
Greeters	Dave & Marion Seaholm, Geri Hanson, Theodor Torgersen
Marshalls	Jimmy Tarbet, Geri Hanson
Sports Director	Karen Severson
Youth Director	Karli Barber
Librarian	Karen Egenes
Trustee 2008	Ron Grand
Trustee 2009	Marilyn Halvorsen
Trustee 2008-2010	Judith Torgersen
Auditors	William Borndahl, Rick Severson, Edward Waters
Sunshine Chair	Tordis Kaczmarek

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Name and address changes:

Remember to submit your name, address, and e-mail changes to:
 See our Contact Us page

BUILDING SOCIETY MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2009 7:30 PM

The annual meeting of the Skjold Building Society will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 3839 W. Frontage Road, Palatine, Hospitality Room -- lower level, on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 7:30PM. The agenda will include a financial report, election of officers, meeting locations, and general discussion. All members of Skjold Lodge are members of Skjold Building Society and can vote at the annual meeting. The Skjold Building Society was initially created to own property for the lodge and to provide a meeting location for the lodge. For more information, please call Jostein Bakken at 847-526-6486.