

Published in the interest of  
North Americans of Scandinavian descent

# Scandinavian Heritage News

March 2012



**TURN TO PAGE 7 FOR COVER STORY**

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## President's MESSAGE

# Banquet, Midsummer among SHA happenings

by Gail Peterson, president  
Scandinavian Heritage Association

In the last issue of the newsletter, the headline to the "President's MESSAGE" was, "Mother Nature has spared us so far this fall!" Little did I know at the time that we would not experience winter until late February. Now March is here, and spring is just around the corner. With that comes planning for spring/summer events.

The annual **Scandinavian Heritage Association Banquet and Silent Auction** are set for Saturday, April 28, at the Grand International in Minot.

Doris Slaaten and Liz Gjellstad, chairpersons for the banquet, promise us an interesting and entertaining program. George Officer and I are chairing the auction, an important fund-raiser for our organization. Mark your calendar and plan to get together for a fun-filled evening while supporting the Scandinavian Heritage Association. (Turn to page 4 for details on the banquet, including a ticket order form.)

Friday, June 22, is the date for this year's **Midsummer Night Festival**. A celebration that has history in Scandi-

navian cultures going back to ancient times, Midsummer is held around the time of the summer solstice and is the most celebrated holiday in Scandinavia, apart from Christmas.

Our festival has become a tradition in Minot as a way to welcome summer with food and family oriented entertainment. Last year's festival was canceled because of the flood, so we especially look forward to celebrating Midsummer this year. Mark your calendar!

As the damage caused by the flood in Roosevelt and Oak parks is repaired, the Scandinavian Heritage Park will continue to be the site for other public events this summer. We look forward to being the site for the Integrity Jazz Festival on June 23, the Fourth of July Festival of the Parks, and the Arts in the Parks concert series from mid-June through early August.

I look forward to seeing you at the park this summer. Have a great spring—summer will be here soon! •



Gail Peterson

## Scandinavian Heritage News

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## CALENDAR

### SPRING 2012

- **SON Norwegian Potato Dumpling Dinner,**  
Monday, March 19, 6:30 p.m., First Lutheran, Minot
- **SON Spring Bake Sale/Luncheon, Saturday,**  
March 31, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. SHA headquarters, Minot
- **SHA Annual Banquet/Silent Auction,**  
Saturday, April 28, International Inn, Minot
- **Midsummer Night Festival,**  
Friday, June 22, SHA Park
- **Integrity Jazz Festival, Saturday, June 23, SHA Park**
- **Festival of the Parks, July 4, SHA Park**
- **Arts in the Parks Summer Concert Series,**  
(mid-June through August), SHA Park

Next newsletter deadline: Copy and pictures—May 15, 2012, printing date—June 1, 2012



## From the OFFICE

# SHA's seasonal calendar filling up

by Verla Rostad  
SHA office manager

Winter days are quiet at the Scandinavian Heritage Center's office. Fewer visitors and volunteers make for a slower pace—more time to brainstorm and dream!

Suddenly the phone rings ... the caller is wondering if she can reserve the Gol Stave Church for a wedding ... a little while later someone stops in to reserve the picnic shelter for a group outing in July ... more dreaming ...

Imagining a park full of families, greeters in the buildings, the Heritage House Museum busier with the new sidewalk leading visitors to the door ...

Another phone call: an outdoor wedding is added to the June calendar ... thoughts drift to ideas of fun activities



Verla Rostad

for children—a scavenger hunt! We tried that last year and it worked ...

The phone rings—someone wants to buy a brick for the Heritage Path ... I wonder how we can encourage more groups to

form teams to volunteer ...

John Sinn stops by, and we have coffee ... he makes some phone calls ... John has 46 items on his "to-do" list for this spring!

A shopper stops in the Gift Shop and is looking for a Scandinavian gift idea ... a figurine? How about a ceramic tile

with a rosemaled design? An Uff Da! mug ... shot glass ... t-shirt ... key chain? ...

The phone rings again... another outdoor wedding—the same day in June! It will work; this one is later in the day....

More dreaming ... time to think about Midsummer Night entertainment .... more planning ....

## Watch for these events!

All that dreaming and planning does lead to a calendar that is starting to fill up! Our annual **Banquet and Silent Auction** will be held at the Grand International on Saturday, April 28. The **Midsummer Night Festival** is scheduled for Friday, June 22. We have weddings and picnics on the calendar and are expecting more as spring arrives and folks make their summer plans.

With the Minot Park District continuing to work on flood recovery in Oak Park and Roosevelt Park, the Scandinavian Heritage Park will again be the venue for events normally held in the other parks. The **Integrity Jazz Festival** will take place in SHA Park on Saturday, June 23; the **Festival of the Parks** will be here on July 4. On most Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons and evenings from mid-June to early August, we will be the site for the **Arts in the Parks** summer concert series brought to us by the Minot Area Council of the Arts. Each concert is paired with a visual artist.

It is our hope that we will be able to recruit teams of volunteers to have our buildings open evening and weekend hours this summer. Public events give us the opportunity to show off our beautiful park! •

## Volunteer park greeters needed

Soon we will begin to compile our list of volunteer greeters for the 2012 season. Greeters in the Scandinavian Heritage Park are just that—greeters, on hand to offer a friendly welcome to park visitors. We usually have one greeter in or near the Sigdal Log House and another at the Gol Stave Church. You are not expected to be an "expert"—just to share whatever information you find interesting. We have audio tours and printed material that provide facts.

We also have a need for volunteers to be in the Heritage House Museum when it is open. The museum will see more visitors now that the Heritage Path is complete, providing a nice sidewalk connecting the park and the museum. The Heritage House Museum committee works to provide interesting facts about the artifacts on display, and is planning a display this year featuring Erik Ramstad and the early history of the Minot area. Heated and air conditioned, the Heritage House Museum is a great place to volunteer if you are sensitive to outdoor extremes or if walking in the park is difficult. We hope to have the museum open whenever the park buildings are open.

We are planning to use teams of volunteers again this year to cover shifts as needed. Some of our volunteers enjoy their weekly time in the park. Others have busier schedules and find it hard to commit to volunteering weekly. For those folks, being part of a team offers more flexibility. Teams of six to nine people cover a shift of three people at a time. Each person would work every two or three weeks. Our shifts are:

- Monday–Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Monday–Saturday afternoons from 12:30 - 4 p.m.
- Weekday evenings from 5:30 - 9 p.m.
- Sunday afternoons from 1 - 4 p.m.

If you could help us by greeting visitors to the park, please call the office at 701-852-9161. •

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President: Gail Peterson



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## Officers, directors re-elected at SHA annual meeting

The Scandinavian Heritage Association held its annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 28, in the SHA headquarters building. Highlight was the installation of officers, re-election of directors for three-year terms, and appointments of

one-year-term directors. The nominating committee report was submitted by Al Larson, chairman of the committee. Other nomination committee members were Myron Anderson, Sue Weston, George Officer and Peder Rice.

Officers for 2012 are Gail Peterson, president; Peder Rice, vice president; Marion Anderson, secretary; and Sue Weston, treasurer. For a listing of all directors, turn to page 2 and check out the right-hand column. •

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# SHA BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012

Grand International, Minot, ND

Co-chairs: Doris Slaaten and Liz Gjellstad

## Silent Auction

Co-chairs: Gail Peterson and George Officer

**Tickets: \$25 per person**

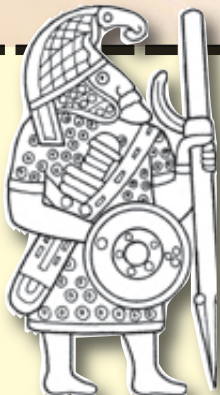
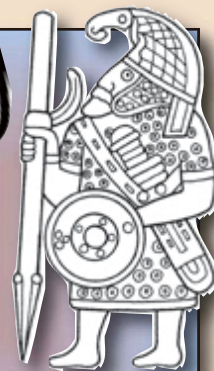
RSVP date for banquet: Monday, April 23, 2012

Call 701-852-9161 to request reserved seating

### ON THE MENU:

- Swiss Steak Jardinière
- (Vegetarian option, by request: Pasta Prima-vera)

- 5:30 p.m. — Social hour
- 5:30 p.m. — Silent Auction opens
- 6:30 p.m. — Dinner
- Entertainment
- Guest speaker



### MAIL TICKET ORDER TO:

Scandinavian Heritage Assn.  
P.O. Box 862 • Minot, ND 58702

OR:

Stop by the SHA Office  
to pick up your ticket(s).

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS  
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I would like to attend the **2012 SHA BANQUET/ SILENT AUCTION**. Please reserve my place(s).  
I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 per person).

Mail ticket(s) to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_





# PICTURE THIS!

## Bouquets and kudos!

**RIGHT:** SHA president Gail Peterson (left) presents Verla Rostad with a bouquet of flowers, honoring her for all the hours she has volunteered as SHA office manager. Thank you, Verla!



**ABOVE:** Grounds committee chairman John Sinn makes a call from the SHA office regarding plans for the park this season. Thanks for all your hard work, John; we appreciate you!



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# Swedish reality TV show seeking contestants

A popular Swedish television network, Meter Television, is searching for Americans with Swedish ancestry for a reality TV show.

Its first Great Swedish Adventure (*Allt för Sverige* in Swedish), was a major success, prompting its producers to begin casting for a second season.

The show is the Swedish version of "American Idol" and "Minute to Win It." Its producers are coming to the U.S. to find fun, outgoing Americans with Swedish ancestry to participate in this new television series.

Americans chosen for the program will travel to Sweden to take part in the series. Chosen participants will com-

pete in extreme cultural challenges to discover their rich and fascinating roots while trying to win the grand prize: meeting their Swedish relatives.

This is an opportunity to discover a new land and culture and have a chance to win a spectacular prize.

The show should have no trouble finding contestants: In the years 1846-1930, 1.3 million Swedish people (one-quarter of the population) immigrated to America to build a better life for their families. Today, more than 4.8 million Americans have Swedish heritage.

*Allt för Sverige* will be shot and broadcast in Sweden and potentially other countries as well. This is an in-

credible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for someone to discover their ancestry and experience their rich and fascinating Swedish cultural heritage. For details and an application form, visit: [www.greatswedishadventure.com](http://www.greatswedishadventure.com).

For a sample of the show (partly in Swedish, partly in English), check out: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZntwZOZfmE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZntwZOZfmE). On this site, you'll

meet Series 1 contestants, view beautiful scenery and learn about Swedish customs. You'll also meet the last series' winner, Brian Gerard, a 39-year-old pastor from Kentucky.

Who knows, you could be the next winner! •

## LETTER TO SHA

### SHA Newsletter reader reminds us of another Norse Yule tradition

*Dear Newsletter Committee: This is to let you know that I enjoy your magazine very much and read it end to end. I have also enjoyed seeing the Heritage Center and have been there several times. It is great to see each new addition.*

*Seeing the center and reading the newsletter make me glad to be Norwegian.*

*I especially enjoyed "Christmas traditions" by Verla Rostad, but was surprised that the tradition of singing or dancing around the Christmas tree was not mentioned. I am the daughter of homesteaders and our Christmases were not in the least*

*lavish, but the most joyous part of our celebration was singing carols around the tree. My very favorite was "Jul Med Din Glade" — an action song which involved clapping our hands and twirling around. My son's family and I do this every year, maybe just to please Grandma, and it still lifts my spirits.*

*Maybe it was not a common practice, although they also do it at a Danish Lutheran Church in the area.*

*At a future date, could your paper mention this? Or am I the only one who loves this tradition?*

*At any rate, you publish a very good paper. Thank you.*

*Yours truly,  
Margaret Andersen,  
Plentywood, MT*

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter and your kind words about the *SHA Newsletter* as well as our SHA facilities and park.

In checking several websites, these sentences appear: "Before the presents are opened, the families often dance in a ring around the Christmas tree while singing traditional Norwegian Christmas carols." And, "Singing Norwegian Christmas songs and dancing around the Christmas tree is also a long-held tradition popular among families with young children."

So this was indeed a tradition in many Norwegian homes at Yuletide. It's neat to know that families of immigrants still practice these traditions!

—Editor

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**COVER STORY:**



## Memorial path will lead to HERITAGE

In the December issue of the Scandinavian Heritage News we introduced the plan for the Heritage Path bricks, which are being sold and will line the new sidewalk between the Scandinavian Heritage Park and the Heritage House Museum.

The engraved bricks will provide a way to honor or memorialize individuals or to publicly proclaim your support of the Scandinavian Heritage Park. Proceeds from the sale of the bricks will be used to supplement memberships and other gifts for the ongoing expenses of the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

Along with the sidewalk lined with engraved bricks, the Heritage Path will include additional trees, benches

and flower beds. A tranquil park-like atmosphere will be created along the path between the park and the museum. It will be a pleasant walk to the museum and a place for quiet medita-

tion. Donations to provide memorial trees and other plants and benches are also being accepted.

You may order a brick with the form below:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, we'd like to reserve a permanent brick**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4" x 8" brick (\$100) — 3 lines with 20 characters per line  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 8" x 8" brick (\$225) — 7 lines with 20 characters per line

**Please engrave our brick as follows:**

- Any symbol is considered one space (period, comma, dash)
- All text is automatically centered unless otherwise noted. (You do not need to center on the form.)
- Please print in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS:

**Line 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Line 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Line 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Use for additional lines on 8" x 8" brick:**

**Line 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Line 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Line 6:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Line 7:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Scandinavian Heritage • 25

# Prillar-Guri: The country girl who saved Norway

Perhaps you have seen a picture of a Norwegian girl playing a long horn called a "lur." If so, it was likely meant to be "Prillar-Guri." It's a story that inspires courage and patriotism.

The year was 1612. There was war between the joint kingdom of Denmark-Norway and Sweden. In those days, there were often disputes between the Scandinavian powers that led to military conflicts.

The political decisions for the joint kingdom were made in Copenhagen. King Christian IV was the leader of a kingdom joined by the Union of Kalmar in 1397, when Margaret was queen. In this war, the Swedish king had recruited mercenaries from Holland and Scotland to come to his aid.

It has happened only a few times in history that the "savior" of a nation has been a woman, and hardly ever a girl of 17. Guri was an exception, playing a key role in defending the land.

For over 350 years, the story of "Prillar-Guri" had been told, but no book could be found on it. In 1968, Arthur Stavig went to Norway to look for the complete story. After a painstaking search, he discovered it was being serialized in the *Romsdal Budstikke*, a daily newspaper. He took the story back to America, and together with Marvel Arseth DeSorti, translated it into English. Now the whole world could read about this heroine of



## Fact? Folklore? Or both?

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

Say the name "Prillar-Guri" and any Norwegian will recognize the name. The girl behind the name is part of Norway's oral tradi-

tion. So famous is she that paintings and carvings bear her likeness. Many songs and poems have also been written in her honor. A statue of Pillar-Guri playing her horn welcomes visitors to the present-day Gudbrandsdal town of Otta, located in Oppland fylke. Between Otta and Dovre, home of her fiance, Kjell, she is alleged to have played her "lur" (long Norwegian horn) to warn her Norwegian kinsmen that a band of around 300 Scottish mercenaries was on the march. The soldiers were on their way to join forces with Sweden, at that time the sworn enemy of Denmark and Norway. The soldiers' path took them along the Lågen River valley, wedged

between steep peaks in the Rondane mountain chain. In places, the valley was so narrow the soldiers were forced to march single file. There, in 1612, the Battle of Kringen took place. Armed only with primitive weapons, a militia of around 400 Norwegian farmers blocked both ends of the passageway, then heaved rocks from the mountaintops onto the soldiers trapped below. During the 90-minute battle, soldiers were crushed by rocks, shot, drowned, or clubbed to death. How many were killed depends on which account you read; most of the 116 soldiers who survived the battle were murdered by the farmers a day later. The 18 or so remaining prisoners were taken elsewhere for trial. Among the survivors was the leader, Capt. Alexander Ramsey; yet it is Sinclair who is listed as in command according to oral tradition. Was there a captain named Sinclair who lived through the fight and later returned home to Scotland? Or was he one of the first to die in battle? No official reports on the battle mention Prillar-Guri's name. The first accounts of her appear roughly 200 years after the event.



old Norway.

Guri was an orphan and had been reared by foster parents in Romsdalen, near Molde. She had been a sickly girl, and for this reason was taken to an old stave church up in the File Mountains (Filefjell) for prayers of healing. St. Thomas Church was the place for pilgrims to visit on Annunciation Day (March 25). Many of them left their crutches behind as they journeyed home.

Whether it was the prayers, the long hike in the mountain air or a combination of both, we do not know, but Guri became radiantly healthy. She was getting ready for her wedding to Kjell, just as soon as he returned from the war.

Little did they suspect that their lives would be tragically changed by an event already in progress, of which they were innocent. Invading mercenaries would pass directly through

their valley.

The Scots might have traveled through to Sweden with little incident, as did the Dutch through Trondheim, if their leader, Col. George Sinclair, had not decided on a campaign of terror to conquer Norway first.

Sinclair was a soldier with a charisma for leadership, but whose ambition would not hesitate to employ the vilest treachery. His army, with two notable exceptions, was a band of cut-throats, recruited from the lowest dregs of society in western Europe.

Their arrival on Aug. 10 began a 16-day reign of terror which has not been forgotten. Every farm building was burned to the ground, children and old people were murdered and maidens were ravished. They looted and feasted on whatever food and liquor they could find. To make it even more frightful, Sinclair had a huge bloodhound named "Ralf" that was able to sniff out people and farms at a great distance.

Because of the war with Sweden, there were only old men with crude weapons to defend the valley which led to Gudbrandsdal, Kjell's home. Beyond that lay the unguarded heartland of central Norway.

It was Guri, the seter girl, who carried the warning to the unsuspecting farmlands. She traveled through streams and underbrush, hiding from Sinclair and his dog. He had seen her and had resolved to make her his prize of war.

She traveled without regard to pain and danger of the wild animals in the mountains. With every breath she prayed, "Lord Jesus, lead me to warn the people and to save Kjell's family from this terrible enemy."

When she arrived at the end of her journey, she didn't look much like a bride. But the people had been warned and now worked feverishly to build an ambush at a narrow pass near Kringen, upstream from Lesje and Dovre.

In the strangest of happenings, Mary Sinclair was also hurrying through the mountains, trying to stop her husband. Carrying her newborn son, she wept bitter tears at her husband's deeds.

An avalanche of rocks was constructed to greet the invaders. Just beyond a bend on a narrow pass, a



PHOTO BY MARY PAT FINN-HOAG

Author Arland Fiske

*Editor's note: This column is the 25th in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Texas), retired from ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The chapter reprinted here is from his book, "The Scandinavian Heritage."*

barricade was built. Across the river in plain sight of the enemy stood Guri. She was dressed in her bridal clothes, her wedding with Kjell having just been completed, as he had unexpectedly returned from the war. Guri played her lur as a signal to the defenders that the hated enemy was approaching.

A musket shot from the bushes mortally wounded Sinclair. Then the rocks began to roll. Almost all of the 800 invaders perished. Of the survivors, only 16 escaped massacre by the angry farmers.

The victory for Norway brought a tragic end to Guri's dreams. In the aftermath of the melee, Kjell tried to save Sinclair's son from harm. The child's mother, overcome with grief and fearing for her son, misunderstood Kjell's intentions and stabbed him to death.

Guri's marriage lasted only hours, but she is remembered for what took place at Kringen that day, Aug. 26, 1612. "Prillar-Guri" will live forever as a national hero in Norway's long struggle for freedom. •

**Pictures often depict Prillar-Guri with a lur. In reality, she likely played a "Prillarhorn," made from an oxhorn.**

**In conclusion: Often, legends contain at least a few grains of truth. Since women were rarely listed in records of yore, perhaps that is why no mention was made of Prillar-Guri's role. One source suggests that she was awarded a farm by the king for her contribution to the battle. No matter whether Prillar-Guri is fact or folklore, she lives on today as the motif on the crest of Sel kommune, Prillar-Guri's home. The community of Otta hosts an annual event called Pillarguri Dagene (Prillar-Guri Days); the festival closes on 26 August, anniversary of the battle. •**

*The colorful wood replica of Prillar-Guri at left was hand-carved and painted by Henning Wood Carving studios in Kapp, eastern Norway, run by the Engelsen family. For more information, visit: <http://www.henning.no>. The carving is also available through Ingebretsens in Minneapolis. For details, visit: <http://www.ingebretsens.com/hand-made-treasures/henning>*

# SHA memorials: Gifts that keep on giving

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

When a friend or loved one has just passed away, it's often a struggle to come up with a fitting tribute to that person's memory. Making a gift donation in that person's honor to the Scandinavian Heritage Association is one way to acknowledge how much the deceased meant to you. It's also a way to keep the heritage of our immigrant ancestors alive and well through our beautiful park in Minot's heart.

There are many ways to give a memorial to Scandinavian Heritage Park

in a loved one's memory. For example, you can choose to support a specific project, such as our Heritage House museum. Or, you can choose an ethnic group's project within the park (such as the Danish windmill, Swedish Dala horse, Gol Stave Church, etc.). You can also give a donation directly to the association to be used where needed.

Contributions of \$1,000 or more are acknowledged with a plaque on the Scandinavian Heritage Association Wall of Honor. Lesser amounts of \$25 or more are recognized in the Golden Book of Memory in the SHA headquar-

ters building.

It's a good idea, too, for each of us to sit down with our families to discuss where we would like our own memorials to go someday. We should write down our wishes so that other family members have the information and can follow through with our wishes. Remember, too, that placing a notice in an obituary indicating where memorials are to be sent helps others who wish to honor the deceased.

And finally, the ultimate gift is to become a benefactor of SHA through your estate. It's a way for you to leave a lasting legacy to your Scandinavian heritage as well as a memorial to you or a family member.

We hope you will consider the Scandinavian Heritage Association when you discuss memorial donations or estate gifting. For information, contact the SHA office at (701) 852-9161. •

## Join Us In Preserving the Traditions of Our Proud Heritage

THE SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE PARK, the only park in the world representing all five Nordic countries, hosts thousands of visitors each year from around the world; as well as providing a picturesque setting for weddings and family gatherings.

*As a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Association, You help support:*

- Interpretative Tours of the Park
- The Heritage House Museum
- Local School Field Trips
- The Annual "Midsommar Natt"
- "Arts in the Park"
- Seminars on Heritage and Culture
- The on-going preservation and promotion of Scandinavian traditions, positive values and ethics
- And much, much more!

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#### SUSTAINING MEMBER

\$35.00 per year

Will receive the SHA Membership Package, which includes:

- Membership Card good for 10% off Scandinavian Gift Shop items

- Membership Pin (initial membership)
- The Scandinavian Heritage News, official newsletter of the Association
- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events
- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window Sticker

#### SPONSOR MEMBER

\$100.00 - \$499.00 per year

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in Newsletter (one issue)
- One (1) Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

#### BENEFACTOR MEMBER

\$500.00 and above per year

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in Newsletter (one issue)
- Two (2) Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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I/We wish to support the Scandinavian Heritage Association at the level checked below:

**Sustaining Member**     **Sponsor Member**     **Benefactor Member**

Yes, I/We give permission to print our name in the SHA publications

Please contact us.     I/We would like to become Volunteer(s) at SHA.

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Credit Card:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  Am. Exp.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail to Scandinavian Heritage Assn., P.O. Box 862, Minot, ND 58702. Thank You!*



# Gifts to SHA keep the legacy alive

Gifts to the Scandinavian Heritage Association in the form of donations and memorials are always appreciated, and are a thoughtful way to help sustain the Scandinavian Heritage Park.

Gifts can be given with a designation to a particular fund or project, or undesignated. Undesignated gifts are used as needed for the perpetual care of the park, which is a beautiful remembrance of the past and legacy for the future.

The following people gave us gifts between March 1 and Dec. 31, 2011:

## In memory of...

In memory of Al Doerr

- James & Carolyn Bodell

In memory of Arlene McNally

- John E. Sinn

In memory of Arnie Braaten

- Carroll & Noreen Erickson
- Jewell & Lois Grove

In memory of Bob Christianson

- Virgil & Geraldene Rude

In memory of Clinton Peterson

- Glenn & Norma Berg

In memory of Daryl Opstedal

- Barbara Person
- Mildred Williams

In memory of Diane I. Vitko

- Jeanne McNea
- Irene Solie

In memory of Donovan Hegre

- Ramona Buettner

In memory of Ernest Nelson  
(Ryder, ND)

- John E. Sinn

In memory of Gerald Velde

- Anna Marie Huesers

In memory of Gus Gustafson

- John E. Sinn

In memory of Hardy Lieberg

- Creative Media, Inc.

In memory of Harlan O. Olson

- Lillian Olson

In memory of Harold Anderson

- Norsk Høstfest Association

In memory of Harold Medalen

- Curt Medalen

In memory of Jackie Stordal

- David & Jackie DeMers

In memory of Layman "Bud" Slavick

- Ramona Buettner

In memory of Lillian Solberg

- Glenn & Norma Berg

In memory of Madeline Larson

- Rhonda & Cordell Bugbee

In memory of Robert J. Johnson

- Carroll & Noreen Erickson
- Ramona Buettner

In memory of Signa Nelson

- Lois & Mitchell Evenson

In memory of Wiley Wilson

- Carroll & Noreen Erickson

In memory of William Condon

- Ramona Buettner

In memory of Wylma Allen

- Carroll & Noreen Erickson

## In honor of...

In honor of Ernie Selland's  
79th birthday

- Paula Selland & Mark Hendrickson

In honor of John Sinn

- Duska LaCount

In honor of Marian Bergan's  
90th birthday

- George & Jeanice Officer

In honor of Mike & Woldina Krueger's  
wedding (1919)

- Elsie Scott

For SHA Park's 20th Anniversary:

- Meredith & Sharon Larson

## In appreciation

In appreciation for group tours:

- Brekke Tours & Travel
- Group Destination Planners
- L A Tours
- McPhail Agencies
- Moostach Joe Tours
- Rustad Tours, Inc.
- Saskatoon Norwegian School
- UND
- Sunrise Tours

## Other gifts

- Bob Bruhaug
- Doris Slaaten
- Jerome C. Jorgenson, CPA
- Mattson Construction Co.
- Verendrye Electric
- Gate City Bank
- Gordon Oas
- Leslie Strege

## Wall of Honor donations

The following gifts are recognized on the Wall of Honor inside the Visitor Center:

In memory of Arnie Braaten

- John E. Sinn

In honor of Rolly & Iona Loken

- Rodney & Marlys Loken

In honor of John Sinn's 91st birthday

- Jerry & Cheryl Sinn
- Jan Joseph

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Quist and Chelgren (Johnson)  
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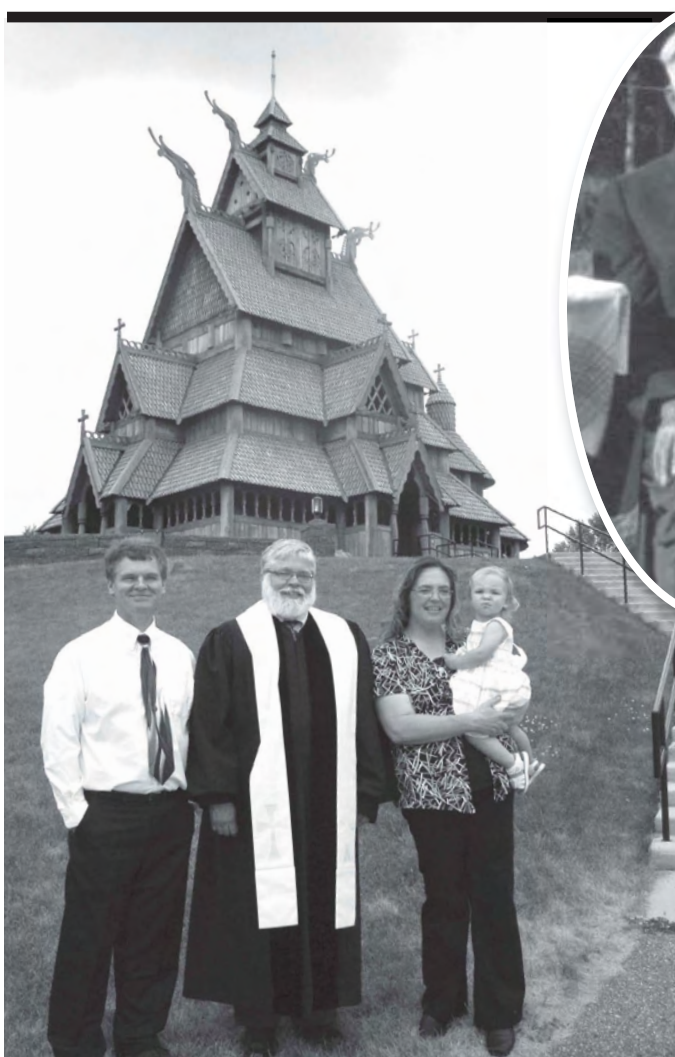
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## The GOL Church *connection*

Since opening, the Gol Stave Church Museum at the Scandinavian Heritage Park has been the site for 169 weddings and 24 baptisms. In many cases, particularly with baptisms, there is a family connection to the Scandinavian Heritage Association or the Scandinavian Heritage Park. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Scandinavian Heritage Association board members have been among those baptized at the Gol Stave Church.

On July 13, 2011, Camilla Mae Brown, daughter of Jeffrey Brown and Beverly (Strand) Brown of Valentine, Neb., was baptized in the church at the Scandinavian Heritage Park.

Camilla has a very special connection to the Gol Stave Church. Camilla's great-great-great grandfather, Iver Halsteenson Strand (1845-1939), was baptized in the original Gol Stave Church in Gol, Norway, in 1845. Iver's father, Halsteen Ivarson Hustad-Brandvol-Nordstrand (1810-1871), was also born in Henstud, Gol, Buskerud, Norway, but the family does not have information to verify where he was baptized. •

Jeffrey Brown, Pastor Gary Ball-Kilbourne, Beverly Brown (standing), holding Camilla Mae Brown. Inset photo: Iver Strand (1845-1939).

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# SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...



## Swedish Heritage Society-NWND NEWS

### Annual meeting held

by Bev Jensen,  
secretary  
Swedish Heritage  
Society-NWND

At our January meeting, Sweden and Norway were brought to us in a unique way through a wonderful power-point presentation by Selmer and Carol Moen of their three-month vacation last summer. This self-guided tour took us into the many facets of family traditions and beautiful scenery. If looking for a Scandinavian vacation, these countries would be highly recommended.

This was also our annual meeting month, at which time the following were elected as officers:

- President – Bob Soderstrom
- Vice president – Marcella Nelson
- Treasurer – Lois Matson
- Secretary – Bev Jensen
- Lunch – Eldora Eliason
- Hospitality – Gerri Larson

We continue to learn pronunciation of the Swedish National Anthem (“Du gamla, du fria”).

The magazine *Sweden & America* is received with a paid membership to the Swedish Heritage Society. This is an informative and joint publication shared by Sweden and the United States. In addition to this magazine, we like to highlight the interests and heritage awareness right here in our local community.

### Worthy causes!

The 11th annual “Love Without Fear” Walkathon, sponsored by the Domestic Violence Prevention Foundation, was recently held in Minot. This event raises funds to help ensure that services will continue to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to this event, staff personnel are available for clubs and group meetings to promote the awareness of services they provide.

An article from the *Embassy of Sweden News* published in January 2012 evaluated how Sweden has, through Sida, supported United Nations Women and the project

“SHIELD,” aiming at aiding the Georgian state in its work for supporting victims of domestic violence. The project was started in 2010 and evaluated in 2011.

The article assessed the project to be efficient in its goals. Two state-run shelters for victims of domestic violence and a hotline have been established. Financing became fully covered by the state during the project, as well as guidelines and training of police and government officials.

A second phase of the project has been initiated. The project is now part of a large Swedish supported three-year joint United Nations gender-equality project in which United Nations Women, UNDP and UNFPA are partners.

A representative from the Minot Domestic Crisis Center will be the guest speaker at our society’s meeting on April 21. Everyone is welcome to attend this informative program and enjoy a traditional noon meal of Yellow Pea Soup and bread (Ärtsoppa and Bröd) at the SHA building. •

## Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

### Tucson to host FinnFest 2012

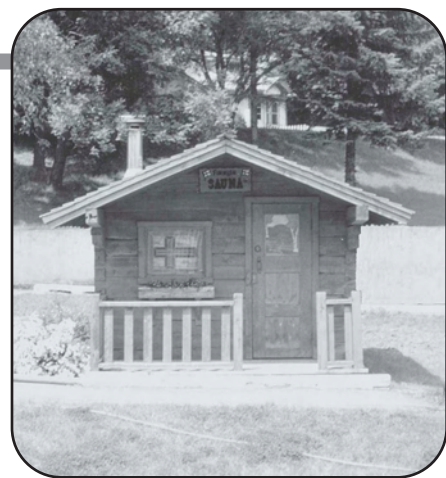
by Marion Anderson, president  
Dakota Finnish Society

St. Urho's Day is coming up on March 16, 2012, and once again they are going to have a celebration in Rolla. Some of us from Minot attended in 2010 and hopefully we can get there again this year. They have a parade, Finn food and music—sounds like a good time.

FinnFest 2012 will be held in Tucson, Arizona, Nov. 8 - 11. Some of us from this area are going to try to get a

group together and drive down there for it. One of the persons in charge is Sinikka Garcia, who attended our FinnFest here in 1997 and had many kind comments about it in her book, “Suomi Specialties” (Finnish celebrations). This cookbook is available in the SHA bookstore. There is a club of about 100 Finns in Tucson. November would be an ideal time to go south for a while.

On the political side, Finland has just elected a new President. His name is Sauli Niinisto. Prior to this election,



the president was a female, Tarja Halonen. President Niinisto will become the first conservative head of state in five decades. Tarja Halonen had served the maximum two six-year terms. •

## Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

### 'Got butter?'

by Rob Odden, president  
Thor Lodge 4-067  
Sons of Norway

Did you know Norway has had a butter crisis the last few months? The butter shortage deepened during holiday preparations as Norwegian cooks and restaurants baked their traditional Christmas cakes and cookies. The stockpile of Norwegian butter dwindled, leaving almost no butter on the shelves during Christmas baking. When some butter was on the shelf, it was bought immediately. Some stores have even rationed butter, to prevent hoarding.

Norway is an oil-rich country with one of the best economies per capita in the world. Couldn't they just import more of this agricultural product? Norway has high import tariffs on butter, \$2/lb. import duties. The demand for butter in 2011 compared to 2010 increased dramatically, by 1,000 tons.

The 30-percent increase in butter



Norway experienced an "oil crisis" of another kind recently: a butter shortage!

usage was actually a desire by the Norwegian population to lead healthier lives. A low-carb, high-protein diet has been the fad recently, and a chef on TV popularized the use of real butter over margarine in making proper and good-tasting Norwegian food.

2011 brought a large amount of moisture. Feed for milk cows was not as readily available. Therefore, Norwegian milk cows produced 20 million fewer liters of milk. As I took note the last time I was shopping, I saw that the most economical price to pay for butter at my local grocery store was \$2.75.

At the height of the Norwegian butter crisis, a 1-lb. package was selling for several hundred dollars.

Large quantities of the golden stuff have been smuggled in across the Swedish border. Other countries may face a ripple affect and feel the same butter pinch, especially if their dairy market is regulated as Norway's is. To confront the shortage, the government has slashed tariffs dramatically. Butter is piling up again. Shelves are full of cream and milk as well.

Even though this matter was no laughing matter, there is some humor evident and a good lesson to learn. Even during the butter shortage, cream has been available. So making homemade butter has become popular with some and makes for a great gift or conversation piece at your next dinner party. This raises the question, how much is enough? And if there is less to go around, will I share what I have? Thank goodness we don't have to say, "*Vi beklager tidvis mangel på smør* (we apologize for the occasional lack of butter.)"

Are you a butter hoarder? How many pounds of butter do you own? Butter or margarine? I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!!



## Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

### Dog revered in Iceland

The Icelandic Sheepdog reportedly came to Iceland together with the Vikings (in A.D. 874-930) and is probably one of the oldest breeds in the world. As Norwegian Vikings colonized Iceland, they brought their animals with them. The dog was used to work sheep, horses and cattle.

This Nordic dog is slightly rectangular in shape, with prick ears and a curled tail. His gentle, intelligent expression makes him a favored pet.

Visiting Iceland in the 17th century, Danish scientist Peder Hansen Resen gave this account:

"Dogs are so much the joy of the natives, that hardly any are seen without being accompanied by a dog."

Throughout the years other breeds were only imported in small numbers. Since 1901, it has been forbidden to bring animals into Iceland, so the

breed has remained pretty much the same since the Vikings settled there.

So revered is this dog by Icelanders that they have issued postage stamps in its honor, including the one shown here, issued in 1980. •



### Coming SON events

Please come and enjoy our annual Norwegian Potato Dumpling Dinner on Monday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be held in the First Lutheran Parish Dining Hall. There will be a choice of butter or margarine.

You may enjoy some goodies made with butter and other good stuff at our Spring Bake Sale and Luncheon. Stop by the SHA building on Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Have you ever been to Trollfjorden Norwegian Language and Cultural Camp? This four-day summer camp is June 7-10 at Lake Metigoshe. Contact persons are Helene Anderson (756-6493) or Kari Mahle (362-7497). You will have a great time at camp!

Vennlig hilsen, and ... pass the butter! •





## Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

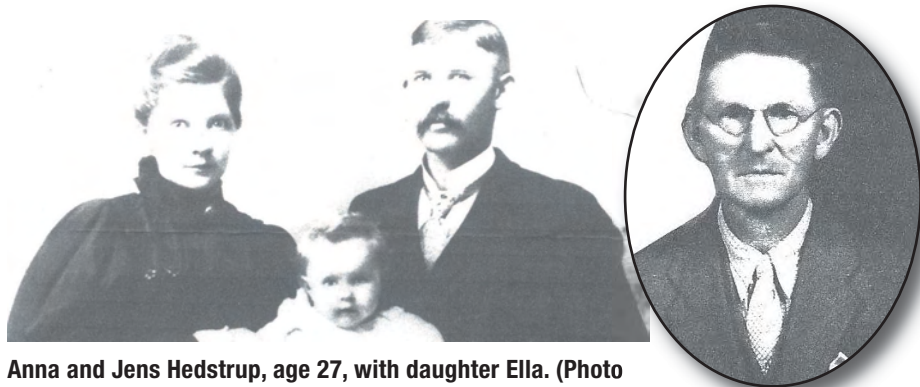
# Red hair, love of crosswords, passes down

Again in this issue, we are highlighting family histories of our members. The following is the ancestry

of Souris Valley Danish Society member, Dorothy Schmelling Kruse, current president of the Souris Valley Danish Society. The article, written by Dorothy, was submitted to this newsletter by Pam Orth, secretary.

My maternal grandparents, Jens Christian Hedstrup (born Aug. 26, 1871, in Denmark) and Anna Christina Rasmussen (born Jan. 6, 1871, in Denmark) came to the United States at age 22, leaving behind two sisters, Stine and Karen. They settled in Lawler, Franklin County, Iowa, where Jens filed his intent to become a U.S. citizen.

Their first child (my aunt) was born on Dec. 10, 1897, and named Ella Margaret. The family moved to Bowbells, Burke County, North Dakota, and Jens became a naturalized citizen in Octo-



Anna and Jens Hedstrup, age 27, with daughter Ella. (Photo taken in 1898) Inset photo: Jens Hedstrup, 1943.

ber of 1904.

Subsequent children were born in North Dakota: Vigo in 1900, Edward in 1902, Edith in 1904, Julia in 1906, and Carrie (Carol, my mother) in 1909. Grandmother Anna died of tuberculosis on Sept. 18, 1911, after bringing food to a neighboring family infected with the disease. This left Ella, age 14, to run the household.

The children spoke Danish and learned to speak English when start-

ing school. As was the custom, as soon as children were old enough, they took jobs as live-in workers. When Ella married, Grandpa lived with them in Bowbells until Julia married in 1929; he then made his home with Julia and her husband on a Flaxton farm until his death in December 1947.

Grandpa made numerous visits to us in Minot. I remember him with gray hair, fascinating crisscrossed wrinkles on his neck, and smoking a delightful-smelling pipe. He liked to work crossword puzzles. Now that I do crossword puzzles, I know there is a connection. Helping him at age 14, I would scan the puzzle until I found an appropriate answer, would point to where it should be, and he gallantly filled in the word. I'm sure when I was out of sight, the word was correctedly changed!

Grandpa was an avid reader and a gifted writer who wrote several articles and many poems for the *Bowbells Tribune*. An interesting fact which came to light recently was that he had red hair, which passed through daughter Julia and grandson Barry to great-grandson Tim and his children.

Grandpa Jens died at age 76 in a Minot hospital. We can only imagine how difficult it was to come from another country not speaking English, lose a wife and have a houseful of children to support. If he were here, I would ask a lot of questions! •

## Old sayings from Denmark

**The best advice is found on the pillow.**

**No man limps because another is hurt.**

**A single bag of money is stronger than two bags of truth.**

**Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when it cries, and you will have a fine pig and a bad child.**

**Being born in a duck yard does not matter, if only you are hatched from a swan's egg. — Hans Christian Andersen**

**Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. — Wm. Shakespeare**

**Man reaches the highest point of loveliness at 12 to 17—to get it back, in a second flowering, at the age of 70 to 90. — Isak Dinesen**

**An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field. — Niels Bohr**

**He who builds according to every man's advice will have a crooked house.**

**Better to ask twice than to lose your way once.**



# Scandinavian Heritage Association

P.O. Box 862  
Minot, ND 58702

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## Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 36

### April 2: Magic date for genealogists

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

For family history buffs whose kin lived in the United States in 1940, **April 2, 2012**, is a milestone date. On that day, the 1940 census will be open to the public via the Internet. The U.S. Census Bureau and the National Archives (NARA) have teamed up to make this possible. What's more, it's free of charge!

While the 1940 census is not indexed, a helpful hint is to find the Enumeration District (ED) number. One way to find this number is via the following website: [stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php](http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php). Clicking on the purple-highlighted **Unified 1940 Census ED Finder** takes you to a tutorial on how to access the census.

According to [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), the LDS website, the 1940 census includes the following genealogical information:

- Full name, race and age
- Street address and house number
- Relationship to the head of household (active military personnel in naval yards, army posts, etc.; may use the term "sailor" or list military rank rather than actual relationship to head of household)
- Birthplace of the individual and the parents (included even if the parents were not members of the household)
- Marital status (single, married, widowed, or divorced)
- Year immigrated to the U.S.
- Whether a naturalized citizen
- Occupation
- Native language if foreign-born and whether can speak English
- Whether a military veteran

Beginning in 1790, the U.S. federal census was taken to determine the number of representatives a state could send



to the House of Representatives. The census has been taken every decade since. Sadly, only a small portion of the 1890 census exists because most of it was destroyed following a 1921 fire.

The 1940 census covers 95 to 97 percent of the population, at a time between the Great Depression and World War II.

The census remains a valuable tool for tracing migrations of families across the United States.

Keep in mind, however, that the census, while usually reliable, may contain errors. Therefore, information gleaned from the census should be checked against other records for accuracy. •