

**TAKE
ONE!**

*Published in the interest of
North Americans of Scandinavian descent*

Scandinavian Heritage *NEWS*

March 2015

Glad Påsk!
(Happy Easter!)

In Sweden, it is common to decorate willow branches with feathers and eggs for Easter.

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President's MESSAGE

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Don't forget to mark your calendars: our annual banquet will be held on May 2nd at the Holiday Inn. Silent auction will commence at 6pm with dinner to follow at 7pm. The co-chairs for the banquet are Liz Gjelstad and Doris Slaaten, I am always grateful for their hard work. Two more individuals that are always indispensable when it comes to SHA duties, George Officer and John Sinn, both of whom are honored Director Emeritus. As 95 years young, George Officer does so much with the silent auction. He has always worked tirelessly visiting countless merchants to collect items to be sold in the auction. Thank you George for all of your hard work over the years. While George still works relentlessly at 95, John Sinn also hasn't showed any signs of slowing down while he turned 94 this year. As if to prove his endurance, four days after celebrating his birthday, John underwent major surgery. The surgery proved to be no match for John, and fortunately he came through with flying colors. John has worked so hard and accomplished so much in the park

over the years, and he has agreed to retire from his park duties. Of course, in true John fashion, he will not completely walk away from assisting the park: he will supervise pond improvements, and over see the planting of flowers. We definitely count ourselves blessed to have had such devoted friends such as George and John.



Gail Peterson

It is with great sadness that I bring this letter to a close, for a dear friend was lost recently. On February 4th, Jo Ann Winistorfer passed away after battling cancer. She was the editor of the SHA newsletter, and for all who were lucky enough to know Jo Ann, they got to experience her endearing personality. She had such an upbeat, positive attitude, that it was infectious to those around her. I know I can't possibly do her life justice in this short description, however I do know this for certain: Jo Ann, you will be missed. •

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CALENDAR • Spring 2015

- SON Potet Klubb Dinner – First Lutheran Church, March 16, 6:30 pm
- SON District IV Dance Workshop – Billings, Montana, March 20-21
- Spring bazaar – SON meeting room, Visitors Center, March 28, 9 am to 2 pm
- Swedish Society meets – lower level Visitors Center, April 18
- 2015 SHA Banquet – May 2
- Midsummer Night Festival – June 19

Next newsletter deadline: Copy and pictures May 1; printing, June 1, 2015

Swedish Easter Fun

by Roxi Mathis

Easter begins with Palm Sunday and in many countries, it is a common tradition to lay palm fronds at the image of Christ. As you may expect, Sweden doesn't have palm trees, so the practice was modified a little bit, replacing palm fronds with other tree branches, typically willow. Branches with buds on them are usually chosen and brought inside so that they sprout leaves in time for the holiday. It has evolved to be much like our Christmas trees, and many households decorate their willow branches with feathers and plastic eggs.

While Swedes share some of our own Easter traditions, there are a few

other fun ways they celebrate. For instance, children dress up as Easter witches (friendlier looking than the witches we're used to), and go door to door asking for treats. They also don't have an Easter Bunny, but they do have their "påskägget" (Easter egg), a paper egg with pictures of chickens on it and candy inside.



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2015 SHA Banquet

**SATURDAY,
MAY 2, 2015**

Holiday Inn Riverside, Minot, ND

Co-chairs: Doris Slaaten and Liz Gjellstad

Silent Auction

Co-chairs: George Officer, Curt Medalen

**Tickets:
\$30 per person**

BANQUET SCHEDULE

- 5:30 p.m. — Social hour
- 5:30 p.m. — Silent Auction
- 6:30 p.m. — Dinner
(Vegetarian dinner on request)
- Entertainment
- Guest speaker



• **RSVP DATE FOR BANQUET: MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015** •
Call 701-852-9161 to request reserved seating for a table of 8.



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OR:

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

*Don't miss out on this
chance to meet and greet
your fellow SHA members!*

I would like to attend the **2015 SHA BANQUET/ SILENT AUCTION**. I am enclosing \$_____ (\$30 per person) for _____ ticket(s). Mail tickets to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Easter traditions of Scandinavia

Easter in Scandinavia is a blend of customs and cuisines. Each country has its own unique traditions with which it welcomes the holiday. Here are some of the more interesting ways they celebrate Easter in the Nordic countries.

Sweden

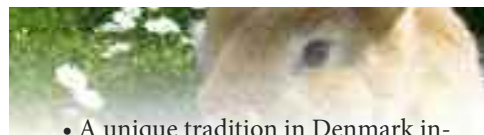
- In olden times, people were forbidden to touch a needle or scissors so they wouldn't violate the memory of Christ's suffering.
- An old tradition that continues is the *påskris*, birch twigs that are brought indoors and decorated with feathers.
- Lamb is the main course for Easter Sunday. The custom of eating lamb comes from the Bible story of the Passover, which gave birth to the tradition of eating paschal lamb.
- On Maundy Thursday, little girls dressed as witches go door to door begging for treats. This custom is called *påskkärringar* (Easter witches). According to an old superstition, this was the day witches consorted with the devil.

Norway

- A peculiar national pastime during Easter is the reading of crime novels. Publishers churn out books known as "Easter-Thrillers" or *Påskkrimmen*, and Norwegian readers spend the long holiday trying to solve the mysteries.
- Besides dining on roasted lamb on Easter Sunday, Norwegians stuff themselves with oranges, eating three times as many on Easter as they do the rest of the year.

Denmark

- Many homes and shops are decorated for Easter in green and yellow, especially with branches and daffodils.
- The main symbol of Easter is the egg—real, imitation or chocolate. Other decorations include small artificial hens and chickens and gradually the Easter hare, formerly exclusively common in the areas by the German border.



- A unique tradition in Denmark involves sending teaser letters with elaborate designs cut out with scissors and containing a verse. The letter is anonymous; the idea is for the recipient to guess who sent the letter.

Finland

- Some Finnish families sow grass in small pots before Easter, and put eggs in them when the grass has grown. They add little yellow chicks and Easter eggs to decorate their grass "gardens."
- The traditional Easter food in Finland is lamb. A special treat called *mämmi* (a kind of malt pudding) is bought or prepared, and served with cream and sugar.
- An old spring custom involves cutting and decorating pussy willows.

Iceland

- It's traditional to give store-bought chocolate Easter eggs filled with various sweets and strips of paper with sayings (similar to fortune cookies).
- Throughout the 18th and 19th century, when good, fresh food was scarce, porridge made from barley or rice was served on Easter Sunday.



A Valued Volunteer Retires with Honors

John Sinn resigned from the board effective 2015 and was presented the designation of Director Emeritus in November of 2014. John has tirelessly given much time and dedication to this park and his shoes will be big ones to fill. He states he will plant flowers and oversee the pond project in the spring but cannot devote as much time anymore as he has done in the past. What a great supporter he has been to this park and the City of Minot.





JO ANN WINISTORFER

1939 ~ 2015

Jo Ann (Luyben) Winistorfer, 76, of Pick City, North Dakota, went to be with her Lord on February 4, 2015, in her home after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Family and friends shared memories of Jo Ann at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 9, at Bismarck Funeral Home. A memorial service followed in the funeral home chapel at 11:00 a.m. Interment of Jo Ann's ashes will take place at a later date.

Jo Ann was born January 4, 1939, in Bismarck, North Dakota. At the time of her birth, her parents, Virgil and Alvina (Temanson) Luyben, resided in Stanton, North Dakota. The family moved to Beulah, and finally to Bismarck, where, as a pre-teen, Jo Ann began her career in journalism by publishing her own neighborhood newspaper.

After graduating from Dakota Lutheran Academy in Minot, North Dakota, JoAnn returned to Bismarck, where she continued using her artistic talents in various jobs. She became the artist for KXMB-Channel 12, followed by Quality Printing and several other advertising and print-related businesses. She then took the position of staff artist for the North Dakota Rural Electric Cooperatives magazine, where she worked for 29 years, eventually advancing to managing editor. She also taught commercial art in the Bismarck Public Schools vocational/technical center for two years.

During this time, she met the love of her life, Nick Winistorfer, who told her on the night they met that he was going to marry her. He fulfilled that promise on August 20, 1960. To this union were born three children: Wendy, Nicholas "Scott", and Shane. True to the teaching spirit of her mother before her, Jo Ann taught her children how to read at the ripe old ages of three and four, taught herself to play the guitar, and fostered in her kids and grandkids a deep love for poetry and music.

In 1992, Jo Ann and Nick moved to a farm outside of Pick City, North Dakota, but she continued to spend her weekdays working in the Bismarck area. She

became an avid genealogist, researching her own family history, volunteering at the LDS Library in Bismarck, taking a European vacation with her brother David Luyben to meet her newfound Dutch and Norwegian relatives, and finally, writing an award-winning how-to guide entitled *Tracing Your Dakota Roots: A Guide to Genealogical Research in the Dakotas* with co-author Cathy Langemo and design assistance from her brother, David.

After her retirement from REC, Jo Ann never slowed down. For years, Jo Ann was very active in the Norsk Høstfest organization, where she was the publicist. Other projects were editing newsletters for the Sons of Norway and the Scandinavian Heritage Association of Minot, where she was a member of the Board of Directors. She was also publicist for the Vital Friends of the Riverdale Ambulance Service. Until her illness sapped her energy at the very end, she continued to edit the internationally renowned Scandinavian Press magazine. Jo Ann was historian of the North Dakota Professional Communicators organization and won many state and national awards for her writing, including North Dakota Press Woman of the Year. Yet unpublished is her latest work, *The Mahogany Table: A Family History*, a novel based on historical events that occurred during the Holocaust in the Netherlands.

Jo Ann leaves behind her husband, Nick, Pick City; her children, Wendy (Dale) Sanderson, Bismarck; Nicholas "Scott" (Raquel), Bismarck; and Shane (Jodi), Phoenix, Arizona; her brother, David Luyben, Everett, Washington; her grandchildren, Chris, Jesse, Brynn, Eric, Nicholas, Katy, and Jessica; her great-grandchildren, Kelsey, Ta'teanna, Breein, Brekka, and Peyton, and her angel cat, Panda. Jo Ann was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Robert Luyben; and a second angel cat, Pudgy.

Dear Reader,

As publisher of *Scandinavian Heritage News*, it is my very difficult duty to notify you of the passing of Jo Ann Winistorfer, our wonderful editor for the past many years. She had earned many credits and awards in her lifetime that singled her out as a very special person. Unfortunately, Jo Ann was stricken with pancreatic cancer, one of the least curable cancers. She fought a cheerful, courageous battle for about three months before traveling home to be with her Lord in Heaven. As you may remember, she always signed off her columns with "A fellow traveler..."

I want to thank you readers for your notes of encouragement and praise for her work. These comments meant so very much to Jo Ann.

She will definitely be missed and fondly remembered. I know the SHA News staff, who dearly loved her and admired her talents, will work to continue Jo Ann's legacy of promoting Scandinavian Heritage Association. It was always her desire that the SHA Park and other heritage-preserving observances would continue and further grow for the enjoyment of many future generations.

She, as all of our SHA members do, shared our motto:

"A Remembrance of the Past, A Legacy for the Future."

— Al Larson, Publisher



Adding meat to your ancestral stew

By Jo Ann Winistorfer

Names, dates, and places written on a pedigree chart or family group sheet are the framework of a person's life.

Once the framework is constructed, you can "flesh out" the person with details of his or her life, embellish it with historical events that took place during their lifetimes, add human interest with family stories about the person. This will put meat on the bones of your ancestors.

"Close your eyes and try to think about your ancestors' lives," writes Patricia Law Hatcher in "Turning Paper Into People" (excerpted from "Producing a Quality Family History").

To bring the details into sharp focus, Hatcher suggests you use your "mind-camera" to picture your ancestor standing in his or her own kitchen—zooming in on the clothing, the utensils, the setting, the person's activities.

If you're getting a fuzzy picture, research can help to get a sharper focus.

Hatcher recommends you place your ancestors in the following contexts:



- **Times and lifestyle**— homes or farms they lived in, transportation, clothing, foods they ate, neighborhood, town, school, diseases, treatment.

- **Work**— farmer, blue collar worker, professional; implements used; duties performed.

- **Environment**— geography or topography of land, soil type, trees, birds, and wildlife, weather conditions and climate, major environmental events, such as blizzards or prairie fires.

- **Military duties**— branch of service, uniform worn, weapons used, campaigns, battles.

- **Religion**— denomination, parish, name of minister, religious beliefs and customs, ceremonies.

- **Family**— size, spacing between children, age at marriage, child mortality, first or second marriage, story behind names.

- **History and politics**— history and politics that affected your ancestor and his family significantly or distantly; political affiliation.

- **Community**— settled community or frontier? Nearest town?

- **Ethnic group**— how did ethnic background affect your ancestor's life?

- **Society**— social structure: view of children, courtship customs; whether slave/slave owner or indentured servant.

- **Law**— what happened when someone died without a will? Who inherited the land/property? Did widow have dower rights? What was required to get a divorce? Could your ancestor vote?

- **Records**— documents he/she is listed in: contracts, papers, registrations, directories, etc. Did ancestor's church keep records? Is he/she listed in a city or business directory?

Think, think, think!•

What if you're not a good 'cook'?



Here are some tips to help you cook up a good story even though you might not consider yourself a writer:

- Keep a personal journal or notebook to get in the habit of writing. Practice, practice, practice. Jot down ideas, observations, reflections, memories.

- Use description to bring your settings and characters to life. According to the book "Writing A to Z," "description . . . is the art of showing the reader how a person, place or thing looks, tastes, feels, sounds, smells, or acts. . . . it is bringing something to life by carefully choosing and arranging words and phrases to produce the desired effect."

- Use your common sense—and your five senses—when you write. Describe sights (Aunt Emma's bridal gown), tastes (Grandma's tangy spaghetti sauce), sounds (meadowlark's trill), smells (lilacs in spring), and touch (Grandpa's whisker rubs).

- Use dialogue. Let your readers "hear" your characters speak. Add quotes to your book.

- Write concisely. Long pages of description with little or no dialogue turn readers off.

- Avoid \$10 words when a nickel word will do. As the saying goes, "Write to express, not to impress."

- Employ clear writing, with proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

- Give your readers short, entertaining accounts spiced with plenty of anecdotes to make the story more palatable. Study the styles of other writers to learn how they handle anecdotes. Especially check out *Readers Digest*, which specializes in short stories with a catchy lead, entertaining body, and satisfying closing. •

Scandinavian Heritage Association re-elects officers



Upper Left: One year appointees, Adelaide Johnson, Marilyn Wagner, Curt Medalen and Bob Brugaug




Upper Right: Some elected board members, Everett Olson, Myron Anderson, Eva Goodman and Doris Slaaten

Below: Al Larson congratulating Marion Anderson on her re-election as Secretary.



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'Apaurak' in Alaska

by Pastor Arland Fiske

Read her obituary with special interest: 'Alaska missionary dies at age 90.' It referred to Dagny Brevig Nimmo who died Jan. 19, 1987, in Maine. My mind flashed back to my freshman year at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, 43 years earlier.

Above the Arctic Circle

Concordia's Professor J. Walter Johnshoy had just written a book entitled "Apaurak In Alaska: Social Pioneering Among the Eskimos." It describes the work of Rev. Tollef Brevig (1857-1935) among the Eskimos above the Arctic Circle in the areas of Teller, Igloo and Shishmareff from 1894 to 1917. I bought the book because of my high regard for the author who was my academic advisor in a philosophy major as well as my Hebrew instructor. I've had many outstanding teachers, but few have inspired me to study as much as Johnshoy. I felt a deep loss when he died suddenly at the beginning of my senior year in 1947.

Named "Father of All"

Who or what was "Apaurak?" It's an Eskimo name for "Father of All"

and was given to Brevig by the Eskimos in a special ceremony. He was the only pioneer white missionary and social worker in Alaska who was adopted into an Eskimo tribe. Born in Sigdal, Norway, Brevig emigrated to America at age 10 with his parents. After graduating from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, he taught school for 11 years in Minnesota. Then he enrolled at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, graduating in 1891. During March, 1894, while serving as a pastor in Crookston, Minnesota, Brevig received a letter from Rev. Herman A. Preus, president of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, asking him to consider going to Alaska.

Raising reindeer would help

The United States government wanted to help the Eskimos get started in raising reindeer. Siberians had been employed for two years but they were cruel to both Eskimos and reindeer. The government wanted to import Lapps (Sami) from Norway, known to be the finest reindeer herdsman in the world, to come to Alaska. The Lapps, however, agreed to come only if a Norwegian Lutheran pastor lived among them to

minister the Gospel. Brevig arrived in Alaska, Aug. 1, 1894, accompanied by his wife, Julia. He didn't know that he'd also be the manager of the reindeer herds and Teller's first postmaster.

His word was always good

Brevig was the first school teacher in the area. He found that the Eskimo children were quick to grasp concrete concepts but they had difficulty with abstract reasoning. Because they counted on their toes



PHOTO: VESTERHEIM NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM ARCHIVES, DECORAH, IOWA

Rev. Tollef Larson Brevig and his wife Julia M. (Johnson) are shown with one of their six children: Carl, Leonora, Alf Ottis, Dagny Alaska, Thelma Marie and Borghild Constance.



PHOTO: E.A. HEGG

View of Teller, Alaska about 1900.

and fingers, numbers over 20 gave them trouble. Brevig quickly learned the Eskimo ways and the people felt a strong sense of trust towards him because his word was always good.

The fur traders and whalers tried to keep missionaries away. Knowing that the missionaries would protect the Eskimos from exploitation, they said, "Next spring men will come with a book which they say cannot lie and which is given by God. These men who bring the book are liars and the book itself is full of lies." It didn't take the Eskimos long to figure out who the real liars were.

Better times for Eskimos

Some of the early encounters of the Eskimos with foreigners had been a disaster. Many of the Russian government officials were extremely cruel. The U.S. purchase of Alaska in 1867 eventually brought better times. The Eskimos were, for the most part, a trusting people with a strong sense of justice. Their religion, however, was centered in spirit worship, controlled by the "shamans" (witch doctors). Their living conditions were anything but sanitary, with poorly ventilated homes and lice everywhere. Bathing was not one of their virtues. They thought water was only for boats and had no appreciation for soap.

Christmas trees 70 miles away

Christmas became a high point among Eskimos in Teller after Brevig's arrival. They journeyed 70 miles into the interior to fetch the first Christmas trees. The annual Reindeer Fair brought people together for competition. The U.S. Commissioners and Marshalls were busy protecting the herds from poachers.

Yearly news from home

In the early days, ships with supplies and mail were scarce. Sometimes it took a whole year to get news from home. Professor Johnshoy, as a little boy in his father's parsonage, had known



Above: Reindeer herd, like those the Norwegian Sami people tended in Teller during Brevig's time.
Below: First family of Sami from Tromso, Norway, in Teller, Alaska.



Brevig. When Brevig died, his journals were given to Johnshoy for editing and publishing. A highly qualified linguist and a master of style, he put together an exciting story. It tells of Brevig's experiences during the "Gold Rush" days (described in Rex Beach's books), of intense cold, treacherous travel across the snow and ice, disease and death, struggles with those who wanted the missionaries out, competition from some later missionaries and the satisfaction of seeing the Christian faith as well as better living conditions take root in an aboriginal people

Promoting mission's work

Brevig's wife and two children died in Alaska. He returned to mainland USA several times to promote the mission's work. At age

56, he returned again to take over the work when no one else would go. Later missionaries included Bertha Stedje of Hettinger, North Dakota, who went out in 1945, and Pastor Albert Tastad of Rolette, North Dakota, from 1953 to 1956. Dagny "Alaska" Brevig, to whom the book is dedicated, worked with her father as a school teacher and helped with the mission orphanage until 1917. With her recent death, the last of the original missionaries to that far corner of America has come to an end.

Great work is usually done by a few dedicated people, not the masses. Brevig and his family dared to be those kind of people. He well earned their title, "Apsurak, Father of All".



Author Arland O. Fiske

Editor's note: This column is part of a series by pastor Arland

Fiske, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, retired from Evangelical Lutheran Church ministry. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The chapter reprinted here is from "The Scandinavian Spirit."

Your gift to SHA keeps Nordic heritage alive, well

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.). Or, consider a memorial brick in the path leading to the Heritage House. 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 headquarters 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.

Legacy Tax Credit benefits giver, charity

Anticipating next year's taxes, it's not too early to consider giving a gift donation to the Scandinavian Heritage Association than right now.

Making it more advantageous is a law passed by the North Dakota Legislature to improve the quality of life in our state. Senate Bill 2160 (SB2160) establishes a Legacy Tax Credit that allows individuals, businesses, trusts and estates to take advantage of a 40 percent state tax credit for contributions of over \$5,000 to qualified charitable endowment funds.

Even better, the unused portion of the state tax credit can be carried forward for three years.

Depending on your tax bracket, your contribution to the Scandinavian Heritage Association can make an even greater impact on the community and cost you less.

The table on page 11 was prepared by the Minot Area Community Foundation. It shows the tax benefits for givers in different tax brackets.

Check with your accountant or tax preparer for details, or contact the SHA office. •



2014 MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

In Honor of George Officer's 95th Birthday:

Undesignated:

- Jeanice Officer
- Thomas & Nancy Schuelke

MEMORIALS:

Undesignated memorials

- JoAnn Winistorfer
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- JoAnn Winistorfer
-Given by Allen Larson
- Rogene Christianson
-Given by Ramona Buettner

Undesignated donation

- Daniel & Jerlyn Langemo

Park Grounds memorial

- Larry Erickson
-Given by Jeanne McNea

Heritage House memorials

- Delores Morken
-Given by John Sinn
- Diane Heupel
-Given by John Sinn
- JoAnn Winistorfer
-Given by John Sinn

Stave Church memorial:

- Donald Anderson
-Given by George and Jeanice Officer

Finnish Society memorial

- Duane Jussero
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- Ernest Maki
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson

Swedish Society memorial

- JoAnn Winistorfer
-Given by Lois Matson



General Federal and North Dakota Tax Benefits

33%
marginal tax rate
on individual
return

Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Estimated Tax Savings*	(\$1,650)	(\$3,300)	(\$6,600)	(\$8,250)	(\$16,500)
ND Income Tax Credit**	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$20,000)
Net Cost of Contribution	\$1,350	\$2,700	\$5,400	\$6,750	\$13,500

35%
marginal tax rate
on individual
return

Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Estimated Tax Savings*	(\$1,750)	(\$3,500)	(\$7,000)	(\$8,750)	(\$17,500)
ND Income Tax Credit**	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$20,000)
Net Cost of Contribution	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$12,500

*Assuming the marginal tax rate on an individual return is as listed and the donor can benefit from itemizing deductions on Federal Schedule A.
**Assuming ND income taxes would be high enough over a 4-year period to use up the credit. (Current year, plus three years carry forward.)

Join Us In Preserving the Traditions of Our Proud Heritage

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

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- One (1) Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

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\$500.00 and above per year

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

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Name (please print) _____ Phone _____

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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!

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

Join in the Fun! Lots of Upcoming Activities Planned for the Sons

by Julianne Bonner, president
Thor Lodge 4-067 Sons of Norway

As I'm writing this the wind is blowing and snow is flying around. If you're like me you are waiting for spring to arrive. Maybe in another month it will be here but how can we wait so long for it to arrive. One way to do it is to keep busy with activities that we enjoy. Sons of Norway is busy as usual and we invite you to join us for our activities. In March we have two events coming up. One is our Potet Klubb on March 16 at 6:30 PM at the First Lutheran Church Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to come and partake of the delicious klubb that our cooks have made for us. Also in March is our spring bazaar on March 28 at the lodge home at the Heritage Park. We will have baked goods for sale, plus books, and a Grandma's Attic. Before you leave you can have lunch with pie and coffee to finish off your meal. Our next big event is Syttende Mai on May 17.

Everyone is invited to come out and join us for our parade at the Heritage Park in the afternoon. That evening we will have a banquet celebrating this special day for Norwegian people. We are starting to celebrate the next hundred years of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution as last year was the 100th anniversary.

We have elected new officers for the next two years for the lodge. I was elected President and I'm trying to get my feet under me as they say. I have lots of new things to do including writing this article. We will be doing some new and different things this coming term to try to make it a little more exciting and hopefully fun for everyone. If you would like more information about the Sons of Norway or would like to join our lodge we would be happy to talk with you and/or to have you join our lodge family. •



Interesting Things You Might Not Know About Norway

The name "Norway" means "path to the North".

There are as many Norwegian descendants living in the US as there are Norwegians living in Norway, especially the states of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.



Even though Norway is one of the biggest exporters of oil in the world, it currently sits at the top of Bloomberg's list for most expensive gas in the World, at \$9.26/gallon as of this writing.

On a related note, owning an electric car in Norway grants you free public parking, free ferry trips, and the right to drive in bus lanes.

Norway has over 12,000 km of coastline.



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Swedish Heritage Society-NWND NEWS

Growing Up in Sweden 1943-1961

*as told by Vicky Jones
to Tilman Jones*

In 1943, with World War" raging in most of Europe, Sweden remained neutral. Sweden prepared for war by stationing soldiers at various locations throughout the country. In the county of Varmland , a battalion of soldiers was stationed at a farm called Agviken, about 6 miles from the town of Filipstad which was owned by my parents Alfred and Elin Jansson. In 1943 the army Doctor offered to be the attending physician at my birth, Mom declined his medical offer but did accept a military Jeep ride to the hospital in Filipstad where a midwife helped Mom with my birth. The soldiers took up a collection for a baby gift. When Mom brought me home from the hospital she was given a silver spoon with my name engraved on it and 450 kronor for my future.

I grew up on a 45 hectar (113acres) on the far side of the lake from town. In warm weather going to town included rowing the boat across the lake and walking to the highway to catch the bus. When the lake was frozen we crossed the lake on a kicksled. The kicksled had 2 metal runners about 6 feet long and a small seat with handlebars to guide it. A person could hang onto the seat or a schoolbag and sack of groceries could be tied on to the handlebars. Dad made a small v-plow out of wood which he tied onto himself and pulled this plow to keep a footpath open to. and from the lake.

Life on the farm was simple. No electricity and no indoor plumbing. There was a story about a wolf carrying off a small girl which scared me. I would wake up Mom to keep an eye on me as I went to the outhouse and back. Of the 45 hectares of land More than half was forested. Hay meadows and potato fields were cleared and planted to help feed the animals and my family. We had chickens, 2 cows and 2 pigs. When Dad needed a horse to pull a cart or mow the hay he would borrow a horse from the neighbor. When butchering time came several neighbors would come and help. Dad would go to help them do the same.

We always had a large vegetable garden and the potato fields for food. Also in the forest and in cultivated patches we had a variety of berries other plants that Mom canned, jellied, dried and made wine with. We had raspberries, gooseberries, currents, strawberries, lingon berries, rhubarb, blueberries, cloud berries and cantrell mushrooms. Nothing went to waste.

Our radio was powered by a rechargeable battery that lasted several weeks. Regular new and Sunday church services were the main thing we heard on the radio. When the battery ran out of power Dad would have to take it to town and get it recharged.

Summer recreation was swimming, sunbathing, and fishing. There were northern pike, perch and many other kinds of fish. In August we would catch a big batch of crawdads and

have a crawdad feed with the neighbors.

There were many holiday traditions growing up in Sweden. For Easter we dressed up in brown-like witches, write Easter cards, go to the neighbors and throw the cards in the door while trying to not get caught and run away. In June we celebrated Midsummer by dancing around the pole and singing traditional songs. Christmas eve was when the tree was put up and decorated. We even used real lighted candles as part of the decoration. For Christmas eve we would have a party and dance around the tree singing along with the music on the radio. The traditional Christmas eve meal was lutefisk with potatoes and white sauce. For desert Mom would make rice pudding and hide an almond in one serving. Whoever found the almond was said to be married in a year. The Christmas tree was kept up for 20 days and then we had a party at each of the neighbors houses where we danced around the tree followed by a tug of war as the tree went out the door. For the New Year we melted lead in a fire and poured it in cold water to see what wonderful shapes it would make.

By the time I was 18 years old I decided to go to the United States and see my brother and sister who were already in the states. That 450 kronor from the soldiers bought my boat ticket.

I saw many new things in the United States in 1961 including my first television. •



Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

Misunderstood Vikings

Submitted by Pamela Orth

I subscribe to a site called "Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter" with Dick Eastman having over 30 years of genealogy experience. He also offers many other interesting posts for anyone such as "How to Find Anything on your Hard Drive within Seconds." When the article about Vikings probably being misunderstood and leaning more toward the "family man" idea was featured, I was interested. Mr. Eastman says he is not sure if he believes this but research compared 1,000-year-old mitochondrial DNA of Viking skele-

tons to that of modern day people living in Norway, Iceland, Britain and other places in north-west Europe and built a picture of how Norse lineage spread throughout colonized areas. This newsy item about the Vikings being misunderstood and maybe only pillaged a little was intriguing. The latest news may be that they brought their wives and even children with them on the long boats. These guys constructed the mailchain



to make shirts using the 4-to-1 method where each ring is linked with 4 others (could these guys be all bad?) May we deduce that the Vikings may not have been as brutal as the legends say.

The Vikings were feared warriors and according to Carol Menges would announce their coming with emblems of war on their longboats which would make it easier to take over whatever they wanted in the coastal areas and the inhabitants would run for any safety they could find. She states that eventually they assimilated into the cultures they took over. In between times of ravaging other Norsemen would come to trade and were not decked out for war and so they were able to do business with them. Carol

Menges goes on to say that our Viking ancestors married into the local population. A great many did and were not against that. She says some didn't have wives until they moved away from their birth areas and took over another place. This way they became a part of the new cultures they conquered. These Vikings included Danes. •



Longboats then...



Longships Now
Of course, no comparison, couldn't resist after receiving advertisement for Viking River Cruise

Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

A Successful Little Christmas with plenty of Giving

by Marion Anderson, president
Dakota Finnish Society

The Finnish Society had their Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration on December 14, 2014. We had another wintry day with icy roads, but we still had about 55 people there. They came from Velva, Stanley, Ray, Rolla, Belcourt, Washburn, Berthold, Mohall, Bismarck, Wing, Minot and Minot Air Force



Base. Entertainment was provided by John Halone, Dave Salinas, Carl Kannianen and Orlin

Larson. Many door prizes were given out and most were provided by Phyllis Gordon. There were no scholarship applicants this year. Donations of \$250.00 each were given to Salvation Army, Wounded Warrior Project, Homeless Coalition (through St Joseph's Hospital Foundation) and the Great Plains Food Bank.

The next Finnish event is St. Urho's Day on March 16, 2015. Rolla usually has a celebration on that date. •



There is an old Finnish saying:
"If booze, tar, or the sauna won't help, the illness is fatal."



St. Urho's Day

by Roxi Mathis

Every March 16th, Finns across Finland and the U.S. celebrate St. Urho's day, a day to recognize the man who, according to legend, drove the grasshoppers out of Finland, much like St. Patrick and his snakes. The legend began in Virginia, MN in 1956, a story told by Richard Mattson. Later, Dr. Sulo Havumäki of Bemidji, MN, changed the original pest of frogs to grasshoppers in an origin story which made St. Urho the patron saint of vineyard workers. This is why he is often portrayed with grapes. The story goes that ancient Finland's grape vineyards were threatened by a plague of grasshoppers and St. Urho rid the country of them with only these words: "Heinäsiirikka, heinäsiirikka, mene täältä hiiteen," which translates roughly to "Grasshopper, grasshopper, go to Hell!"

The holiday is celebrated in many communities with feasting and a variety of other activities, from parades and talent shows to pancake suppers and athletic games. The traditional colors are royal purple and Nile green.

Celebrations are held all over Minnesota, as well as some locations in Montana, Oregon, even Ontario, as well as our own, Rolla, ND.



Photos courtesy of sainturho.com



St. Urho statue in Menahga, MN



Ode to Saint Urho

by Gene McCavic and Richard Mattson

Virginia, Minnesota

Ooksi kooksi coolama vee

Santia Urho is ta poy for me!

He sase out ta hoppers as pig as pirds.

Neffor peefer haff l hurd tose words!

He reely tolt tose pugs of kreen

Braffest Finn l effer seen

Some celebrate for St. Pat unt hiss nakes

Putt Urho poyka kot what it takes.

He kot tall and trong from feelia sour

Unt ate kala moyakka effery hour.

Tat's why tat kuy could sase toes peetles

What krew as thick as chack bine neetles.

So let's give a cheer in hower pest vay

On Sixteenth of March, St. Urho's Tay.



St. Urho statue in Finland, MN



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