

# The Scandinavian Heritage NEWS



Published in the interest of North Americans of Scandinavian descent • P.O. Box 862 • Minot, ND 58702 • March, 2006

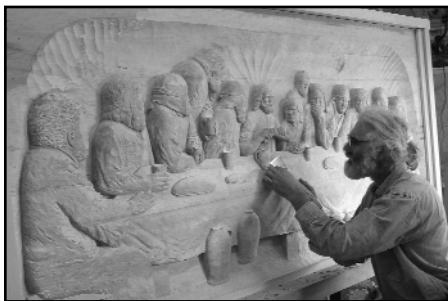
## Two dedications to take place in SHA Park May 18

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

Circle the date "May 18" on your calendar. On that day, two recent additions to the Scandinavian Heritage Park will be officially recognized. And you're invited to attend their christening ceremony!

The first dedication will take place at 10:15 a.m. at the northwest corner of the park. Last fall, an eight-foot-wide

*The newly-constructed Observatory awaits for the installation of the 48" diameter world globe in the spring.*



*Phil Odden puts the finishing touches on his "Last Supper" wood carving, which will be dedicated on May 18.*

carving of "The Last Supper" found its way to the park's Gol Stave Church Museum. This detailed wooden bas relief, commissioned by SHA, will be officially "welcomed" at ceremonies headed by Stave Church committee chairman George Officer. This monumental masterpiece was crafted by artist Phil Odden of Baronett, Wis. Odden had previously carved the decorative scroll work on the church's massive wooden portals.

At 10:45 a.m., a dedication ceremony for the park's "Plaza Scandinavia" map

plaza and Observatory near the entrance to the Scandinavian Heritage Center takes place. Jim Maragos, Plaza Scandinavia co-chairman, will preside over this tribute. The map plaza, part of the master plan drafted for the park in 1996, features a 65-foot-diameter granite map of the Scandinavian countries surrounded by an ocean of blue stone. Crafted by Stone Crafters of Minot, the map features colored inlays representing each country. A bronze plaque pays tribute to the many donors who made this project possible.

Also scheduled for dedication that morning is the Observatory, which gives visitors an overview of the map.

We hope you'll join us to celebrate these two additions that help tell the story of our Scandinavian heritage. •



13th annual Scandinavian Heritage Association

## BANQUET

Saturday, April 1, 2006 • International Inn  
Social - 6:30 p.m. • Dinner - 7 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 each • Raffle tickets \$1 each

The Scandinavian Heritage Association will hold its annual banquet and raffle on Friday, April 1, 2006, at the International Inn. Come and enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment, with social hour at 6:30 and dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner is \$15. Raffle tickets are \$1 each. Proceeds will benefit the Heritage House. Raffle prizes include the following: • One wooden heritage trunk • Two Norsk Høstfest tickets • One-night stays at one of the following: International Inn, Holiday Inn, Kelly Inn and Sleep Inn • One Rogaland-style-rosemaled muffin stand • One wood-carved Norwegian table prayer plaque • One 5-star car detailing/cleanup at Minot Chrysler & Toyota Center's ReinCARnation.

Come and join us for an evening of fun and help a great cause. Call (701) 852-9161 for tickets. •

## Board, officers chosen

The annual meeting of the Scandinavian Heritage Association was held Jan. 7, at the Scandinavian Heritage Center in Minot.

A major agenda item included choosing officers for 2006 and board members through 2009. The following will preside over SHA this year:

President—Mark Anderson  
Vice president—Luther Hanson  
Secretary—Marion Anderson  
Treasurer—Jerome Jorgenson

For the new board, turn to page 2.

Many thanks to outgoing president Carroll Erickson for his service on behalf of the organization, as well as to resigning board member, Glen Hasby. •

## President's MESSAGE

# A message of 'Välkommen'

by Mark Anderson, president  
Scandinavian Heritage Association

**Välkommen—Welcome.** It was a simple message that hung on the wall of my grandmother's kitchen, and as a boy it always made me think of my Scandinavian heritage and wonder about family that I never knew, but always felt a part of. No longer a boy (I'm 41 now), I have come to realize that our shared heritage will forever bind us together.

It doesn't matter if your ancestors came from Sweden and Norway, as my father's family did, or from the Carpathian Mountains of Central Europe, as my mother's family did. What matters is the pride we feel when we think of our ancestors leaving the life that they knew to make a better one—for themselves, their children, and, eventually, you and me. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they endured in seeking a better life for their family in the United States.

As we begin 2006, I find that my heritage has become even more important to me. My history and shared experiences are the only lasting memories that I will leave my children and their children. That is why I appreciate the good works of the Scandinavian Heritage Association. By celebrating our shared heritage, we honor those who came before us and preserve our history for those to come. Truly, the more involved I have become in the SHA, the more I appreciate the important work it does.

Through sponsorships, both direct



Mark Anderson

and indirect, the SHA supports many important causes, including:

- Scandinavian Heritage Park
  - Heritage House Museum
  - Midsommar Natt (Mid-summer Night) Celebration
  - Høstfest-Heritage Foundation
  - Scandinavian artist/artisan demos
  - SHA Gift Shop
- Membership dues and donations are what keep the SHA in business, and your membership is important. If someone loved you enough to record your heritage, or if you would like to preserve the past for your loved ones, I encourage you to generously support the good works of the SHA. Honor your children and your ancestors with a donation, memorial or membership today. Or, stop by our gift shop and purchase some history of your own to pass down. A gift of love is always the right size.
- And so, as my daughter researches our family tree for a school assignment, I long to ask my grandmother to record her recollections and personal stories for our family. Sadly, I cannot, so now it is my turn to honor her and all of my ancestors by documenting our family heritage. I do this, not for myself, but for those that will follow me, so that as they step into the past to discover their roots, they will be greeted with love and a simple message...*Välkommen*. •

## Scandinavian Heritage News

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### SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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*From the OFFICE*

# SHA has busy agenda this spring!

by *Jeanne McNea*  
SHA office manager

The annual banquet will be April 1 at the International Inn. Many nice prizes, which are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, have been collected for the raffle. The money from this raffle will be a start toward paying the mortgage on the Heritage House. If you want banquet or raffle tickets, you can call the office, and we will be glad to help you out. The number is (701) 852-9161.

The Heritage House should be open for touring June 1. Repairs and painting are almost complete, and the artifacts committee has been busy accepting gifted and loaned items for display and then deciding where and how to display. There is room for much more.

Right now we are particularly interested in items that would represent pioneer mothers and young children. Items that have an interesting history to go with them would be especially nice. You can call the office if you have anything.

The Map Plaza and Observatory and the carving of The Last Supper in the Stave Church will be dedicated May 18.

Midsummer Night is scheduled for Thursday, June 22. The Minot City Band has consented to play, and who knows what else the new committee will dream up.

Twelve weddings have been scheduled for the Stave Church so far in 2006. The picnic shelter has been reserved for one of the weddings, as




Jeanne McNea

well as for a family reunion and for get-togethers by some organizations. Some bus tours have also been scheduled. The office volunteers are always happy to help anyone schedule any of these things.

**Wanted: VOLUNTEERS!**

Volunteers! This is a subject always on my mind. Anyone who could give three hours or more a week to work in the office or give tours during the summer would be welcomed. We are easy to get along with and we meet so many fantastic people from all over the world. *Try it; you might like it!*



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## The Scandinavian Heritage • 3

# The Scandinavians in North Dakota

by Arland Fiske

Scandinavians seem to be everywhere in North Dakota. While this is the most Scandinavian state in the U.S., there are a few places where they forgot to come. But they are all here: Danes, Finns, Icelanders, Norwegians and Swedes.

A helpful book for locating the Scandinavians in the state has been written by William C. Sherman, entitled *Prairie Mosaic: An Ethnic Atlas of North Dakota*. He has platted every township in the state for its ethnic heritage. He writes of the Norwegians: "A venturesome soul could walk (with an occasional detour) from the Garrison Dam to the northwest corner of the state without stepping off Norwegian-owned land."

The major settlement of Danes is north of Kenmare, mainly in Renville County. The Danes began to arrive in

1889. A Danish windmill beckons tourists to the community. Danes settled in eight of North Dakota's 53 counties.

The largest community of Finns is in Rolla in Rolette County and Rock Lake in Towner County. The earliest settlers came in 1896. Nine counties became home for Finns in the state.

The Icelanders first settled around Mountain in Pembina County. They had originally settled in Manitoba in 1875 and relocated to North Dakota in 1878. In 1886, a migration of 30 families began a relocation to Upham in McHenry County. These are the only two Icelandic areas in the state.

There are numerous Swedish communities in 21 counties. The most concentrated area is found west of Washburn in McLean County and over into Burleigh County. The Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot areas attracted quite a number of Swedish immigrants who still live there.

Norwegians have settlements in 42 counties, with major groups in 25 counties. They began arriving about 1870 in Traill County along the eastern edge of the state. The Red River Valley was "flooded" with immigrants from all parts of Norway. The Goose and

Sheyenne rivers attracted many of them. Fargo, Grand Forks, Valley City, Devils Lake, Minot and Williston are major centers of Norwegian-American population.

From the beginning, the Scandinavians were fanatic about educating their children. As a result, large numbers of them became leaders in business, politics, education and social services in the state. Many have also left North Dakota for employment elsewhere.

As a boy growing up in a Norwegian home in Richland County, I discovered Germans while attending a rural grade school. Imagine my surprise when I learned that Martin Luther was German, too! I dearly love those lands across the sea, but I am grateful to my forebearers who arranged for me to grow up in the opportunities of the New World. •



*Editor's note: This column is the third in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske, LaPorte, Minn., retired from ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The story reprinted here is from his book, "The Scandinavian Heritage." Look for more installments in future issues of the Scandinavian Heritage News.*

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## Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

# Salute to our outgoing president

by Pamela Orth, Souris Valley Danish Society

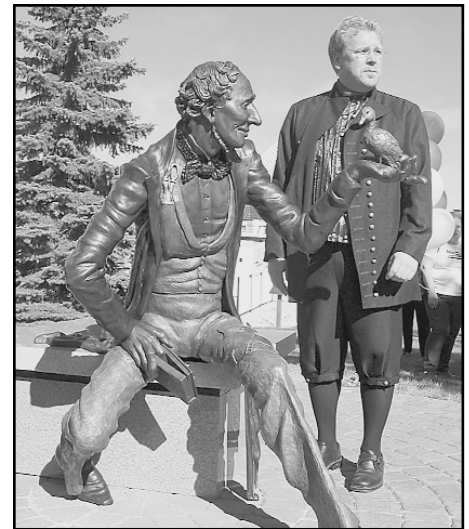
Even though January has rolled past and the Danish Society has elected new officers, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Dennis Jacobsen, our faithful former president. This modest, large-hearted, considerate man contributed much to our group. Whether he was cooking fish or frikadeller (meatballs), wearing the Danish costume in the heat or silencing the smoke alarm and so much more, he was ever obliging. Through perseverance (or as he calls it, Divine intervention), we were



able to acquire the Hans Christian Andersen statue for the Scandinavian Heritage Park. We wish him all the best at his new business site, now called Jacobsen Music.

New officers include: Tim Burchill, president; Neil Zimmerman, vice-president; Lillian Vannett, treasurer; Pamela Orth, secretary; Janie Plummer, our "do-all," light-a-fire person. Our new president, Tim, is also leading the group in learning at least the basics of the Danish language even as he plans his next visit to Denmark.

Presently, our Society is interested in



Dennis Jacobsen poses by the statue of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen.

procuring and placing objects in the Heritage House next door and making the rooms as interesting as possible for visitors starting in June 2006. •

## 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
- "Arts in the Park" at the Scandinavian Heritage Park
- The Annual "Midsommar Natt" Celebration
- Seminars on Scandinavian Heritage and Culture
- The on-going preservation and promotion of the 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 Scandinavian Heritage Assn.
- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events
- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window Sticker

#### SPONSOR MEMBER

\$100.00 - \$499.00 per year

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

### Membership Application

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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.

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

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



## Swedish Heritage Society NEWS

# Society chooses new slate of officers

by Loren Anderson, president  
Swedish Heritage Society-NWND

The Swedish Society of Northwestern North Dakota met Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Scandinavian Heritage Center. Guest speaker was Brian Rogers, who presented information on Medicare Part D alternatives and reviewed Medicare in general. He answered questions from the audience, and our members all felt a bit more confident about selecting a plan following his presentation. Several guests also attended this presentation and luncheon.

President Loren Anderson gave a presentation and demonstration on flag etiquette for those who may be

asked to carry the Swedish flag at future Norsk Høstfests.

Special thanks to the social committee (Eldora and Edie) for arranging the luncheon for this meeting and all others throughout the year.

Annual election of officers followed the guest speaker's presentation, and the following officers were elected for the 2006 year: Loren Anderson, president; Mavis Larson, vice president; Beverly Jensen, secretary; and Lois Matson, treasurer.

Committee chairpeople for 2006 include: Eldora Eliason and Florence Vandell, Social Committee; Geraldine Larson, Sunshine Committee; Beverly Jensen and Helen and Lowell Silseth, newsletter.



Our next business meeting is April 22 at the Scandinavian Heritage Center. June 6 is Svenska Flaggans Dag (Swedish Flag Day); our meeting will be held in SHA Park shelter. •

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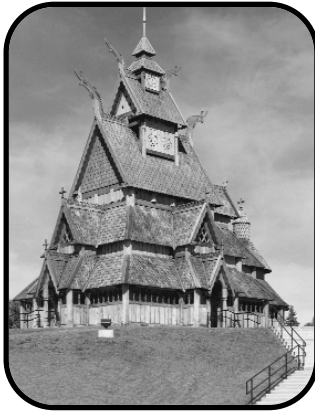
## Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

# A time for celebrating heritage

by Joan Varty, president  
Thor Lodge 4-067 Sons of Norway

Sons of Norway members have been busy attending Cultural Skills classes. Rosemaling, Norwegian Music Appreciation and Chip Carving classes have been completed for the winter season. Norwegian Language classes are meeting Tuesday evenings. Thor Lodge members attend Cultural Skills classes without charge.

The annual Potet Klub dinner will be held at the First Lutheran Church Kitchen on Monday March 20th. Serving will begin at 6:30 pm. This dinner is a fund raiser and the public is invited.



Thor Lodge is a part of the 4th District of the International Sons of Norway Organization. The 4th District Convention will convene in Billings, Montana on June 15th. Based on membership Thor Lodge will have 14 delegates attending.

Wednesday, May 17th a banquet to celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day will be held at the International Inn. The public is invited to join us to celebrate Syttende Mai. A parade of Flags will be held in the Scandinavian Heritage Park that day. For more information call General Chairman Martha Elliott – 838-8554 or Joan Varty – 839-1308. For banquet tickets call Glenn Hasby – 838-3713.

## Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

# Two scholarships to be awarded

by Ken Holand, president  
Icelandic Heritage Society

The Icelandic Heritage Society met on Feb. 18, 2006, at the Heritage House at the Scandinavian Heritage Park. A general business meeting was held, where we took care of some society business.

We had been asked to provide an alternate to sit on the SHA Artifacts Committee. After some discussion, Jim Goodman has agreed to be part of this committee and assist in the artifacts selection for the SHA's Heritage House.

A long discussion was held among those in attendance as to what our soci-



ety wanted to do and where we should be going. We have a difficult time in getting people involved and to attend meetings. Each one will be thinking of things that might entice people to become members.

### Coming events

Scholarship applications should be applied for in the near future, as the time will slip by before we know it.

Plans for the Koffee Samkoma are in the making and should be ready for the October meeting.

Our next meeting will be on May 10 at the Heritage House at the Scandinavian Park. Hope to see a large turnout of Icelanders at this meeting. •

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Spring 2006

#### Saturday, April 1

- Annual SHA Banquet, at the Grand International Inn, Minot

#### Wednesday, May 17

- Syttende Mai (17th of May) celebration, parade at the park and a banquet at Grand International Inn

#### Thursday, May 18

- Dedication of Last Supper carving in the Stave Church Museum, 10:15 a.m., SHA Park, Minot
- Dedication of Map Plaza and Observatory, 10:45 a.m., SHA Park, Minot

#### Tuesday, June 6

- Svenska Flaggans Dag (Swedish Flag Day), SHA Park

#### Thursday, June 22

- Midsommer Natt (Midsummer Night) Celebration, featuring the Minot City Band

Next newsletter deadline:  
Copy and pictures—May 15, 2006  
Printing date—June 1, 2006

Send newsletter items to:  
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## ***Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 12***

# **Good news for genealogists this spring**

*by Jo Ann Winistorfer*

**T**hree items related to genealogy (four, if you count this newsletter) have been keeping me busy these days. I'm so excited about them that I just have to share the information with you!

### **'Tracing Dakota Roots' reprint**

First, the 1999 book "Tracing Your Dakota Roots," co-written and co-published by me and a friend/writer, Cathy Langemo, has long been out of print. The great news is, the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Fargo, will be reprinting the updated book this spring. That means folks with lineage in the Dakotas will have a fresh resource in their quest for family history.

### **1908 Norse settlement book**

Second, the past four months I have been busy editing one of the most engaging books for anyone with Nor-

wegian roots. Scheduled to roll off the press in April, "History of the Norwegian Settlements" is a translation of a book written in Norwegian in 1908. Thanks to the English translation, ordinary Americans like us will be able to read what author Hjalmar Rued Holand wrote nearly a century ago.

The book traces the paths of the early Norwegian settlers, from New York in the 1820s, into the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and finally, the eastern Dakotas. The 500-plus page, hard-cover book contains names, dates and places of folks who could be your ancestors—along with stories of their experiences. It also features many maps, including full-color maps of Norway.

I was delighted to find my "Ole Olson" great-great-grandfather listed under Mower County. But even if your ancestors aren't listed, it's a fascinating read! For more information, visit the following website: [www.astrimyastri.com/](http://www.astrimyastri.com/)

### **'Explore your heritage' at Bismarck workshop, April 29**

Third, I've been busy promoting a WOW! of a workshop set for Saturday, April 29, at Horizons Middle School in northwest Bismarck. The all-day session covers topics ranging from resources at the local LDS Family History Centers and the Salt Lake Family History Library, to records pertaining to North Dakota immigration, and military, homestead and cemetery records.

There's something for every level of interest and experience—from beginning and intermediate genealogy to high-tech computer genealogy. Many ethnic groups are represented; a Norwegian session will be taught by Iona Loken of Velva; John Mogren, Fessenden, will lead a Swedish research class. In addition, a nationally noted genealogist and author, Henry Z. "Hank" Jones Jr. will talk on genealogy for the new millennium, as well as on Palatinate research and separating fact from fiction in family traditions.

For information on this workshop, go to: [www.rootsweb.com/~ndbmhgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ndbmhgs/) Or, call me at (701) 487-3312. •