

# The Scandinavian Heritage NEWS



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

*A musical, magical, once-a-year fun event!*

## Join us for Midsummer Night 2006 on Thurs., June 22

Midsummer Night is the most popular festival in Scandinavia, next to Christmas. It ushers in the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. The celebration dates back to pre-Christian times, with rituals believed to bring a good harvest in the fall. The festival was later Christianized as the day of St. John the Baptist.

In Norway and Denmark, the day is known as Sankt Hans aften (St. John's Eve). In Finland and Sweden, Midsummer is a public holiday the third weekend of June. A dance around the Majstang (Maypole) is part of the tradition in Sweden; burning a bonfire is a custom at most Nordic Midsummer Night celebrations.



*A roaring bonfire attracts attendees to the pond's edge for the celebration's conclusion.*



*The Majstang (Maypole) is made ready for the annual Midsummer Night fun.*

You don't have to go to Scandinavia to celebrate this historic holiday. Come to Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot on Thursday, June 22, beginning at 5 p.m., for an evening of family fun. Here's what's on the agenda:

- Old-fashioned picnic in the park (bring your lawn chair). On the menu: fresh-off-the-grill hotdogs and brats; coleslaw; chips; beverage and dessert. Cost is \$5 per person (\$3 for children under 12). Serving takes place between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

- Entertainment by accordionist Jerry Schlag, by Dakota Dixie and by a Hans Christian Andersen storyteller (for the young-uns) begins at 5 p.m.

- Traditional flag ceremony and Swedish Majstang-raising event—7 p.m.; Scandinavian national anthems sung by area singers

- Entertainment by Minot City Band's Sousa Concert, the featured performer for Arts in the Park



- All buildings open for tours; sauna steam baths available
- Bonfire in the pond (built by Bruce Carlson of Velva, N.D.)

Don't miss this community celebration of summer—on Thursday, June 22, the place to be is the Scandinavian Heritage Park for a taste of food as well as Nordic culture. •

*Accordionist  
Jerry Schlag*

**Thanks!** Events such as this, just don't happen, it takes a lot of planning and work!

Our thanks to these volunteer chairpersons and their helpers: Entertainment - Ron Bieri; Membership Table - Luther Hanson; Noon Shows - Lorna Van de Streek; Food - Mark Anderson; Cookies - Jeanne McNea; Bonfire - Wendy Howe; Cleanup - Carroll Erickson; Advertising - Bob Whetter; Cashier - Jerry Jorgenson; Park Setup - Ron Bieri; Flags - Duane Aase; Flag Ceremony - Marion Anderson; Parking - Virgil Rude.

## President's MESSAGE

# SHA: An investment in community

by Mark Anderson, president  
Scandinavian Heritage Association

"Generally, you get what you pay for." It was the wisdom of a father passed down to his teen-aged son. Back then, the message revolved around things like fishing rods and shotguns, typical interests of a boy entering his adolescence.

My father didn't just speak his words, he lived by them. Even though he rarely hunted at that stage of his life (and fished even less), he always had the best equipment. He'd say, "I want to know that when I need it, I won't have to worry about my equipment."

It was sage advice. And as I have grown, I have learned to apply his wisdom to many situations far beyond fishing rods and shotguns.

I have learned that service to community and others is an investment that returns many times more than the original cost; the currency of service is time and caring. Now, I teach my children the value of serving others through simple acts like picking up garbage on a sidewalk or along a roadside, and through involvement in community organizations like the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

As a park builder, beautifier, histori-



Mark Anderson

cal educator and preservationist, the SHA serves the Minot community in many ways. In these times of rising costs and increasing self-centeredness, it's refreshing to know that all of the good works of the SHA are paid for with volunteered time and donations from people who want to make a difference in their community—for themselves, their children, and for those they will never meet.

These days, when I think back on my father's words, I no longer think of fishing rods and shotguns; rather, I think of leaving a legacy.

As a young Boy Scout, I was taught to always leave a campsite in better condition than I found it. It is in this spirit that I will teach my children to improve their community through good works and service to others.

The Scandinavian Heritage Association provides one such way to serve. Membership dues and donations are what keep the SHA in business, and your membership is important. To become a member, to make a donation or to volunteer your time in Scandinavian Heritage Park or in our office, please call (701) 852-9161.

Make your investment today. I promise you will see returns beyond your expectations, because when it comes to service to others, you *definitely* get what you pay for. •

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*From the OFFICE*

# Students, other visitors tour park

by Jeanne McNea  
SHA office manager

After a slow start in the spring and a few unexpected problems, everyone is making up for lost time trying to get the park in shape for tourists, weddings, baptisms, picnics, concerts and whatever might come up. The Plaza Scandinavia and Observatory have been dedicated, the new restrooms are almost complete, the Heritage House is almost ready for showing, and the waterfall close to being turned on.

We started scheduling group tours the last week in April, and May always brings us many school groups getting in a final field trip. Schools visiting this year were Lake Region Junior College from Devils Lake, Mohall Elementary, New Town second grade, Glenburn sixth grade, Berthold fourth grade, a small group from Central Campus of Minot, Perkett third and fourth grade, Dakota Elementary (from the Air Base) fifth grade, Bisbee-Egeland Elementary, South Prairie fourth grade and Edison third grade.

Other visitors included a group from Iceland and one from Denmark, a group of Canadian Cadets (comparable to our Girl Scouts), and a group of Amtrak Trails and Rails people—those who ride the Lewis and Clark train and lecture as they travel.

The students often write thank-you's after they return home. Some of their comments are:

- "Hi, I loved all of it."
- "You are the best."



Jeanne McNea

- "I liked the old houses."
  - "The field trip was great."
- Other comments in our mailbox, from Minot:
- "We like showing the park to our grandchildren. They live in the western part of North Dakota."
  - "We enjoy

going to the SHA Park with family and friends; so nice!"

From Minnesota.

- "I enjoy visiting your park display annually when I visit Høstfest. Keep up the great tradition!"

- "Thank you for all the organization does to keep the Scandinavian heritage strong."

From Montana: "I cannot be a volunteer, and give this (cash donation) to honor the many who are. SHA could not exist without them."

Once in a while, our visitors include descendants of someone who was born or lived in the log house from Norway.

We have some good tour guides again this year, and I hope we have enough to keep the buildings open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

We are getting many visitors who are enjoying our wonderful park.

Visit us when you can, and don't forget the Midsummer Night Celebration, June 22. •

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SUMMER 2006

**June 22** • Midsummer Night Celebration. Meal served between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.; entertainment by Jerry Schlag, accordionist; Dakota Dixie; Danish storyteller, and more. Evening Sousa concert by the Minot City Band (featured Arts in the Park performance). Flag ceremony, traditional park bonfire.

**July 18** • Arts in the Park musical performance by Richard and Deanna Wengel; visual artist Tim Goodman.

**Oct. 11-14** • Norsk Høstfest, All Seasons Arena, Fairgrounds, Minot.

*Next newsletter deadline:*

*Copy and pictures—Aug. 15, 2006*

*Printing date—Sept. 1, 2006*



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# Dedications held for 'Last Supper' woodcarving, Plaza Scandinavia and Observatory on May 18

by Allen O. Larson

On May 18 at 10:15 a.m., a capacity audience filled the Gol Stave Church Museum to witness the dedication of "The Last Supper" woodcarved artwork.

Last fall, this beautiful, eight-foot-wide, monumental masterpiece by Phil Odden of Barronett, Wis. was displayed at Norsk Høstfest for two days, then installed in its permanent location in the church. Odden had previously carved the decorative scroll work on the church's massive portals.

Stave Church committee chairman George Officer welcomed those attending the dedication ceremony and explained how the Scandinavian Heritage Association had commissioned Phil Odden to create this detailed wooden bas relief. Odden was unable to be present at the ceremony due to previous commitments.

Rev. Luther Hanson offered an invocation, with music provided by Thor Lodge Sons of Norway choir. Their fine music once again resounded through the church following the dedication ceremony.

Attendees then marched down to the Plaza Scandinavia and Observatory dedication to the tune of "Per Spelman," played by accordionist Jerry Schlag.

There, Plaza Scandinavia co-chairman Jim Maragos served as master of ceremonies of the dedication of the map Plaza and newly-completed Observatory near the entrance to the Scandinavian Heritage Center. The Plaza, featuring a 65-foot-diameter



*The World Globe slowly rotates by water jets from underneath atop the elevated Observatory and is surrounded by a decorative wrought-iron fence.*

granite map of the Scandinavian countries surrounded by an ocean of blue stone, was crafted by Stone Crafters of Minot. The Observatory overlook gives



*John Sinn relates SHA Park's history. Donor Anne Hunsaid is shown at left.*

visitors a higher vista from which to view the map.

Participants in the ceremony were: Rev. Luther Hanson for the invocation; Past President Arnie Braaten spoke on the value of heritage; Plaza Scandinavia co-chairman John Sinn related the history of the park and its development; and Anne Hunsaid told of her motivation for funding one of the benches, and subsequently the Observatory and World Globe.

Anne first purchased one of benches around the Plaza Scandinavia to honor the memory and heroism of her grandson Eric Christopher Hurst who died in an attempt to rescue a drowning camper in Minnesota. Eric was awarded the Carnegie Hero Award in 2003. Later, when she saw the rotating World Globe, she was moved to donate it in memory of her mother. Realizing the globe needed a proper presentation, she further funded the major cost of the Observatory.

This meaningful dedication ceremony closed with Rev. Mike Fiske, formerly of Minot (son of Rev. Arland Fiske) and now pastor of Nazareth Lutheran Church of Kenmare, offering the benediction. •

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## Heritage House cabinet honors Olive Sinn

Artifacts on display in the Scandinavian Heritage Park's Heritage House now have a beautiful showcase. A large cherrywood cabinet has been donated by SHA board member John Sinn, Minot, and his family in memory of John's wife, Olive Sinn.

The cabinet features glass shelves and a mirrored back. Displayed in the case are two violins and other items representing Scandinavian countries. These keepsake items have all been loaned or donated by folks who wanted to share their family heirlooms with visitors to the park.

For information on how you, too, can donate items, or give a memorial tribute to honor your loved ones, contact the office (see page 2). •



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# Join Us In Preserving the Traditions of Our Proud Heritage

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*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

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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!*

## Swedish Heritage Society NEWS

# Society chooses new slate of officers

by Loren Anderson, president  
Swedish Heritage Society-  
NWND

A hearty thanks to all those who helped put up our flags for Svenska Flaggans Dag, June 6. Thanks go to Bill Jensen, Mavis and Lauren Larson, and Lois Matson. I was in Minneapolis for a board of directors meeting of the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce and could not assist this year, but I understand the day here was fantastic and the flags looked great waving in the breeze. I was also informed that I missed a delicious picnic lunch.

Thanks also go to Bev Jensen, Vicki Jones, Mavis Larson, Lois Matson, Vicki Moe and Edie Vandal, who attended Scandfest 2006, the 17th anniversary of Swedish Clubs Around North Dakota. Following the meeting, the attendees were entertained by the Mikki School of Dance.

I have been in touch with Jim Schauf of Fastkorp, the company that fabricated and installed the Dala Hest (horse). Someone from Fastkorp will be arriving in Minot soon to inspect



the defects in the project, and we will discuss how they plan to solve the situation. I will keep you posted on developments.

Our next meeting date will be Sept. 16, the third Saturday of September. If you have suggestions for a program, please let either Mavis, Lois or me know so we can fit it into the schedule.

## President Bush has Swedish roots

Herbert Rambo, former governor or the Swedish Colonial Society, recently informed me that the Bush family has a Colonial Swede ancestor. George Bush is descended from among the oldest Swedish families in America.

The article is from the Swedish newspaper, *Nyheter*, and can be found at: [www.svd.se/dynamiskt/utrikes/did\\_12274793.asp#kommentera](http://www.svd.se/dynamiskt/utrikes/did_12274793.asp#kommentera)

Franklin D. Roosevelt also had a Colonial Swede ancestor and was a member of the Swedish Colonial Society ([www.colonialswedes.org](http://www.colonialswedes.org)).

Have a good summer! •

## Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

# Celebrating our heritage

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

Sons of Norway members, their friends and guests celebrated Syttende Mai (17th of May, Norwegian Constitution Day) with a Parade of Flags in the Scandinavian Heritage Park, and an evening banquet held at Grand International Inn.

On Thursday, June 22, it's time for another Scandinavian celebration—Midsummer Night. You're invited to join in this gala festival that heralds summer's arrival. Bring your lawn chairs, and your appetite for food and entertainment. It's a cultural event you shouldn't miss. •

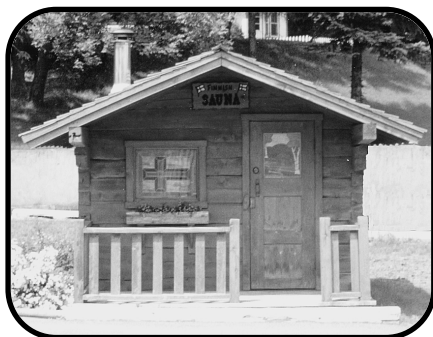


## Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

# Finns 'fired up' for Midsummer Night

by Marion Anderson  
Finnish Society  
president

Celebrate the summer solstice in style; come to Scandinavian Heritage Park on Thursday, June 22, starting at 5 p.m., for Midsummer Night. "Finnish" happenings that evening include the firing



up of the sauna (giving park visitors a chance to experience a Finnish steambath), and the lighting of the traditional bonfire (Bruce Carlson, Velva, will again be doing the honors). There's lots more going on that evening, including eats and entertainment.

Plan to be there to welcome summer, Scandinavian style. •

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## Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

# Society hosts Iceland visitors

by Ken Holand  
Icelandic Heritage Society president

The Icelandic Heritage Society met on May 10, 2006, at the Heritage House at the SHA Park. Those in attendance were Jim Goodman, Colleen Fitchner, Gordon Hannesson, George Freeman, and Evelyn and Ken Holand.

We discussed getting more Icelanders interested in our society. Input from our fellow Icelanders would be appreciated.

In April, we had five Icelanders with Rotary International visit us for



lunch. They were Biena Bjarnadottir, team leader; and Erla Sigurdarttig, Fjolvir Bjorgvinsson, Helena H. Vioisdottir and Sigiour Ingvardottir, all team members. They were very excited to meet fellow Icelanders in America.

I have been in contact with Jonas Thor from the Icelandic National Society of Reykjavik. He and a group of Icelanders will be coming to Minot to attend the Norsk Høstfest and also the Koffee Samkoma on Saturday, Oct. 14.

There will be 40 to 50 coming, so we should have a good time.

A lengthy discussion was held on our Icelandic booth at the Høstfest. It was decided that we will have the booth and will sell Ponnakukur and Vinarterta. We are asking for your support and help with the booth. If you are called and asked to work in the booth, we hope you will give a positive answer. We cannot run this with just five people. Jim Goodman is working on this project for us.

Colleen Fitchner is working on the scholarship applications for this coming year.

On Sept. 30, there will be a Kleinar Bake at the home of Evelyn and Ken Holand at 629 26th Ave. N.W. in Minot. If anyone can help, please give us a call (see phone number below).

Our next meeting will be Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Heritage House.

Anyone with any ideas or suggestions please give me (Ken Holand) a call at (701) 838-8538. •

## Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS



# Members enjoy 'Storybook Ballet'

by Pamela Orth, Souris Valley Danish Society

Danish Society members attended (and participated in) "A Storybook Ballet," a spring recital performance, presented by Rinat Mouzafarov and The Institute of Dance.

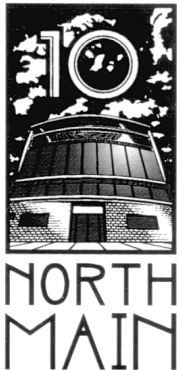
The recital was held the evenings of May 12 and 13 at Anne Nicole Nelson Hall. Dancers performed the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm.

Our president, Tim Burchill, will be head-

ed for Denmark in June and will regale us with more tales and information upon his return.

We are excited and happy to welcome Pia, a native of Denmark, whose husband is stationed here in Minot. She is interested in the Norsk Høstfest. What a treasure and a great help to us, as we attempt to learn the Danish language.

All in all, we can look forward to continuing enlightenment about Denmark. •



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## Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 13

# Genealogy: "It's all in the book!"

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

These past weeks I have been working on a reprint of the 1999 book, "Tracing Your Dakota Roots," co-written with a friend and partner, Cathy Langemo of Bismarck. Of particular interest to readers of this column will be the section on Scandinavian genealogy, which I finished last week. The revised and updated book will be reprinted in a month or so by the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Fargo.

With this chapter fresh in my mind, I thought you might like a preview of some information from that chapter.

• The section begins with an overview of Norwegian settlement, based on a "new-old" book I was privileged to edit ("History of the Norwegian Settlements," translated from a book by Hjalmar Rued Holand, originally print-

ed in Norse in 1908). For anyone interested in immigration and great pioneer stories, this book is truly a treasure! For details, call or e-mail me; my contact information is listed on page 2.)

• Bygdeboks and bygdelags are highlighted as special "tools" available to those researching their Norwegian roots. (Bygdeboks are histories of farms in specific areas of Norway; bygdelags are associations made up of descendants of certain regions in Norway.)

• Anyone with Swedish roots should check their attic for a "flyttningsbevis" (or moving permit), a document that granted their ancestor permission to leave the country. Issued by the Swedish Lutheran Church (keeper of the country's records), the paper listed names and birth dates; vaccinations; confirmation; marriage date; name of the parish; and date of departure. Emigrants carried this with them to America.

• For a history of Swedish emigration, check out the following Website: [www.americanwest.com/swedemigr/pages/emigra.htm](http://www.americanwest.com/swedemigr/pages/emigra.htm).

• A book entitled "Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry" is available online

at: [www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org).

• The Danish Immigrant Museum's Family History & Genealogy Center houses records ranging from immigration to Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood membership rolls. Especially interesting is the museum's online exhibit called "Across Oceans, Across Time." View it at: [www.danishmuseum.org/DanishCulture/DanishCulture101.html](http://www.danishmuseum.org/DanishCulture/DanishCulture101.html).

• Finns, unlike their Nordic-speaking neighbors, speak Finno-Ugric. The language is most closely related to Estonian.

• A beginner's guide to Finnish family history research is available online at: [members.aol.com/dssaari/guide.htm](http://members.aol.com/dssaari/guide.htm).

• The Pioneer Heritage Center, Icelandic State Park, Cavalier ([www.ndtourism.com](http://www.ndtourism.com)), holds information on the area's settlement period of 1880-1930, including Icelandic settlement.

• North Dakota's Pembina County resources, including Icelandic records, can be accessed at: [www.halfdan.is/vestur/pembina.htm](http://www.halfdan.is/vestur/pembina.htm).

Happy ancestor hunting! •



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