

**TAKE
ONE!**

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

Scandinavian Heritage *News*

December 2014

*Hauskaa Joulua! Gledelig Jul!
Glaedelig Jul! God Jul!
Gledileq Jol!
Merry Christmas!*

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President's MESSAGE

The Giving Spirit is Alive and Well at SHA

Høstfest has already come and gone, and we were grateful to have another successful event. The book store at this year's festival had some improvements, including a children's section which featured "Frozen" as the theme. The decorations looked beautiful. With Høstfest and Halloween already behind us, the holiday season is upon us. As we approach Christmas, mark your calendars for the open house at Visit Minot Høstfest/SHA gift shop. The open house will be from 4-6 on December 18 and we will have plenty of Christmas goodies so be sure to stop by and take care of some of your Christmas shopping. Another holiday display I look forward to is the lighting of the SHA Park. It will be lit November 28th so be sure to stop by and check it out. Our "elves" have been busy decorating and they always do

such a wonderful job, thank you.

Our neighbors from across the street, Gate City Bank, have gifted us with a generous donation of \$500.00. Bank president Peggy Johnson presented us with the check and we are very appreciative. I hope you all have a safe and blessed holiday season. •



Gail Peterson



CALENDAR • Winter 2014

- Swedish Sankta Lucia celebration December 13, 2014, lower level of SHA Visitor's Center
- Dakota Finnish Society "Pikkujoulu" (Little Christmas) celebration, afternoon of Sunday, December 14, 2014, lower level of SHA Visitor's Center
- December 15, 2014 Sons of Norway Julefest Grand Hotel
- December 18, 2014, CVB/SHA/Hostfest Gift Shop open house 4-6 pm
- SHA office closed Dec. 22, 2014 through Jan. 2, 2015

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHA, Inc

January 24, 2015, 10 am, lower level of SHA Visitor's Center

Next newsletter deadline: Copy and pictures Jan. 15; printing, March 1, 2014

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Sue Weston	Treasurer

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Les Strege	Joan Varty
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Three-year terms ending January 2016

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Three-year terms ending January 2015

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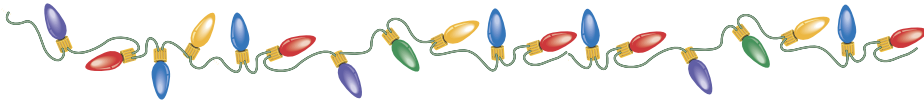
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Outdoor Christmas Lighting News



The Scandinavian Heritage Park will be aglow with Christmas Lights once again this holiday season. The lighting will be on nightly commencing Thanksgiving eve and continuing through mid-January.

Bob Sando and Bob Whetter, Co-Chairs, SHA Christmas Lighting, have decorated approximately 50 pine trees, several buildings, railings, and just about anything that stood still long enough to get lights.

In years past, the tree tops could be reached with specially designed 10' poles to start the process of wrapping the mini light strings around the trees. It takes approximately five 150 mini light strings per tree, that if not new, are painstakingly checked for burned out or broken bulbs and replacing them before hanging the strings. Each year, the trees get taller and wider making it more difficult to reach the tops and requiring more lights to cover the trees.

In recent years, the Minot Park District bucket truck has been used to put the first light string or two on most tree tops. With normal tree growth next year all of the trees will require the bucket truck to start the strings.

Pictured is Sando with a lighting pole handing a string of lights to the bucket operator, Michael Mesh, being assisted by Austin Berntson, the truck driver. These two young men are/were Minot State University Baseball players now

working for the Minot Park District.

Whetter, assisted by Lois Matson, decorated the outside of the Park Visitors Center. Between the Center and the Danish Mill facing Broadway is a 15-piece Nativity Display. This beautiful scene was donated by I Keating Furniture World of Minot.

Lots of work, lots of lights! We hope you enjoy them. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! •



Mange Takk and Good Luck!



Noreen and Carrol Erickson were honored for their many years of service to the Scandinavian Heritage Association at a going away party on September 26. We thank them for their dedication and wish them luck and happiness on their move to Florida.

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Amusing facts about Sweden, Swedish Culture, and Swedish Governance, compiled by an American.

Parents get a total of 13 months of paid maternity leave and the father is required to take at least 1 month of it. (There has been a discussion about changing this to 15 months and requiring the father and mother to each take 5 and then split the last 5 as they feel appropriate.)

All non-military property that is not fenced in, or is not a farm or someone's personal garden is open to anyone for hiking through or camping for one night.

Ice cream comes in blueberry and rhubarb flavors, and is never fluorescent. (Although the licorice ice cream can be coal black.)



The government installs elk fences along the sides of large roads to prevent elk from wandering into traffic.

The sun rises at 3.30 am in the summer and sets at 3.30 pm in the winter.

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Appreciating One of Our Dedicated Volunteers

by John Sinn

So often we get so busy with work on Park projects that we fail to take time to recognize those of our volunteers who spend many hours working on the many projects throughout our construction season in the Park. It is the volunteer crew whose efforts save the SHA Park a sizable amount of money, annually. Several projects would not have been possible without our volunteers.

We would like you to meet Les Strege. Les has spent many days over the past five years helping on numerous projects. "A gentleman willing to pitch in, work hard, and follow through... Les is accountable and has done an excellent job for us," says John Sinn, retired Buildings & Grounds chairman.

Among the projects Les worked on are:

- Two of the three family-size picnic shelters
- Storage building
- Cleaning ponds
- Painting
- Preparing flower beds

- Sidewalks
- Grading and Seeding
- Danish Mill repair work
- Underground electrical trenching and backfill
- Trenching for new waterline
- Electrical service to Mattson Picnic Shelter

Without Les's help, our Park would not be what it is today. For all his time and effort we say many thanks –

Your effort is greatly appreciated. We hope you find time in coming years to continue your support!

Les retired in 2008 as an Auditor III with the ND Tax Department, after 39 years. He served in the US Marine Corps from 1963-1966, including a tour in Vietnam. Les graduated from Minot State in 1969 with a BS degree in Business Administration.

SHA Park Buildings & Grounds welcomed Les in 2009 as a key member of the Volunteer Crew. When you see Les out and about, take a minute to stop and give him a pat on the back with a hearty "thanks."

Giving of one's time and talent through volunteering is an admirable trait – and Les is that kind of guy. •



Celebrate Santa Lucia Day

The Swedish Heritage Society of Northwest North Dakota will have their social at 2 pm on Santa Lucia Day, December 13, at the lower level of the Scandinavian Heritage Association Visitors' Center. Come and enjoy the day!

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WE THANK OUR SHA PARK GREETERS . . .

for providing park tours all season, including during Norsk Høstfest. Thanks for welcoming visitors, showing them around the park and making them feel at home!

Buildings and Grounds News

Face Lifting the Sigdal House



In North Dakota it is said there are two seasons....winter and highway construction. The same could be said about our Scandinavian Heritage Association Park.

John Sinn, Chairman, Buildings and Grounds Committee, though 93 years young, has been busy all summer checking off completed projects from the Park bucket list of things needing attention.

Numerous volunteers have assisted Sinn but most notable in their help would be Les Strege and Carroll Erickson along with Bob Whetter, a Minot Park District employee.

Major projects worked on or completed, in no special order, are as follows:

- Water Fall & Ponds (cleaned, repaired rubber liner, etc.)
- Danish Mill (new deck, new wind mill blades, etc.)
- Bridges on Ponds (new abutments, new approaches, replaced decking as needed, etc.)

- Visitors Center (stained, outside drainage improvements, inside water issues, etc.)
- Map Plaza (tile replacement where needed, etc.)
- Sigdal House (sealing/staining, etc.)

Many other projects, all needing attention and 1000's of hours of work, too numerous to list here.

A major project not successfully completed this season needing immediate attention in 2015 would be the restoration of the ponds.

It is no small task to keep the Park the beautiful place that it is. A huge thank you to Sinn and his volunteers! Speaking of volunteers we could use an infusion of new volunteers next season. A few days here, a few days there painting, planting and weeding flowers, cleaning, etc. It isn't all back breaking work. It can be a lot of fun seeing what a difference your volunteering has made in the appearance of our Park. •



Upper left: Austin Phillips, grandson of Myron and Marion Anderson

Left: Sigdal House

Above: Myron Anderson, Bob Whetter, John Sinn and Les Strege

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Creative Printing 852-5552

Editor out with Illness

You may notice this issue of Scandinavian Heritage News is a bit shorter than usual. This is because of the unfortunate illness of our editor, Jo Ann Winistorfer. We've done our best without her, but it will be a relief when she returns. We all wish her a speedy recovery. •



Confusion at a Norwegian Table

by Roxi Mathis,
acting editor

I grew up in southwestern North Dakota, in a family of all Norwegian descent. So having Norwegian foods around was normal for me. We always got very excited at Christmas time because it was one of the two times during the year that Mom would make lefse. We children even got to help. She'd roll it out, thin as paper and we'd cook it. Spread some butter and sprinkle some sugar and you couldn't have had happier kids.



Christmas was always crowded, with our large family and friends we'd always invite. One year, my aunt and uncle brought a young man who was visiting from North Carolina. We had fun watching him try the distinctively Norwegian treats, like lutefisk, fattigman and, of course, lefse. Some he enjoyed, some he did not (lutefisk!). They said their good-byes and as they headed home, the young man asked my uncle, "Are they Jewish?" My uncle, confused, said, "No, why do you ask?"

"Well," said the boy, "they eat unleavened bread, so..."

Lefse caused more confusion another Christmas when a new friend joined us. For meals, we tear the lefse into quarters for easy eating. When the plate was passed around, the newcomer took one triangle and dabbed his mouth with it. He thought it was a napkin. Needless to say, we all had a good laugh that day. •

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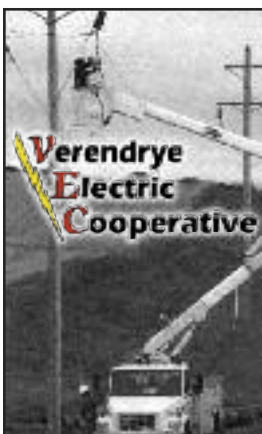
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Your gift to SHA keeps Nordic heritage alive, well

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

MEMORIALS:

Undesignated memorials

- **Jenice Schall**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- **Edna Danielson**
-Given by Glenn & Norma Berg
- **Orlan Tollefson**
-Given by Orlin & Millie Backes
- **Orlan Tollefson**
-Given by Loren & Jan Ness
- **Carla Lee**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- **Barbara Bauer**
-Given by Eva Goodman

NEW SPONSOR MEMBERS

- **Mark & Jodi Anderson**
- **Lois & Jewell Grove**
- **Jim & Sandi Myers**

Heritage House memorials

- **Eric D. Bergan**
-Given by Marian Bergan
- **Eric D. Bergan**
-Given by Jeanice Officer
- **Lowell Silseth**
-Given by Dorothy Kruse

Stave Church memorials

- **Barbara Bauer**
-Given by Scott & Susan Weston
- **Barbara Bauer**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- **Orlin Oium**
-Given by Joyce Oium
- **Barbara Bauer**
-Given by Jeanice Officer

Swedish Society memorials

- **Lowell Silseth**
-Given by Lois Matson
- **Lowell Silseth**
-Given by Bev & Bill Jensen

Finnish Society memorial

- **Barbara Maattala Kirby**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson

RECOGNITION HONOR DONATION:

- **Carroll & Norene Erickson**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson

DONATIONS:

- **Lions Group of Trondheim, Norway**
- **Rustad Tours**
- **Horizon Tours**
- **Group Destination Tours**
- **Lobstick Tours**
- **Home Spun Tours**
- **Brekke Tours & Travel**
- **Gate City Bank**
- **Severt & Mary Kvamme**

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

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

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\$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

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\$100.00 - \$499.00 per year

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- 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:

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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.

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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

Norwegian sculpture landscape on National Geographic's top-ten list

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

Artscape Nordland in Nordland County has been named one of the ten best sculpture parks in the world by National Geographic.



Artscape Nordland is an international art project with invited participants from 18 countries. The project was initiated during a debate about the role of art in society, and Nordland county does not have an art museum. Instead, inhabitants and visitors have to travel quite far in order to study modern art in museums and galleries.

Now, the sculpture park is on the top-ten list of the world's must-see sculpture parks, right next to parks in France, the U.S. and Japan.

"I am happy that it is also possible to complete projects of an international standard in small municipalities and a small country like Norway," says the former Director of Culture in Nordland, Aaslaug Vaa.

Vaa was hired as the county's cultural director in the mid-eighties, and fought for the project at a time when many of the municipalities did not want to take part in the idea. Now all

municipalities are included in the project, but their level of enthusiasm and engagement varies.

"Some of the municipalities really like their sculptures and are proud of them, whereas others are not so concerned with them. Bø municipality is especially proud of their sculpture and uses it as a symbol for the municipality," says Kristoffer Dolmen, the press contact for Artscape.

The idea of a collection of modern art in the form of sculptures with the landscape itself as an art gallery took shape in 1988, and now 35 sculptures, made by 35 different international artists, are placed in each of the county's 34 municipalities.

"Beacons, shelters, huts, human figures, pyramids, and other monumental sculptures by internationally-renowned artists such as Anish Kapoor and Antony Gormley have been installed on rocks, beaches, cliffs, and in fields along northern Norway's beautiful, remote, and sparsely populated Atlantic coast," the National Geographic writes. The list is

also included in the National Geographic book, *Journeys of a lifetime: 500 of the World's Best Hidden Travel Gems*.

Dolmen thinks that the recognition by National Geographic will help attract more tourists to the region.

"We never thought that the project would be known internationally. Originally it was just meant to be for the people who lived in Nordland, but now the ball just keeps rolling," he explains.

Thor Lodge recently held elections. Installation of officers will take place at our lodge home at our January Potluck Social, the 19th at 6:30. Julianne Bonner will be Thor Lodge's President for the 2014/2015 term. Congratulations, Julianne! Would you like to experience some of what Christmas was like for your Norwegian immigrant ancestors? Christmas on the Prairie will be at Thor Lodge on Sunday, December 7th at 2:00. For more information check out Thor Lodge's Facebook page or call 362-7497. Thor Lodge will be having Julefest at Grand Hotel, Dec 15th at 6:30. For tickets, please call 839-1308. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you from Thor Lodge. God Jul! •



Swedish Heritage Society-NWND NEWS

#1 Swedish Designer - Gudrun Sjödén

by Ila Lovdahl,
Swedish Heritage Society, NWND

Come on, Scandinavian women on the prairie! Where do you mature, confident ladies find an outfit for work, church, or vacation in our Minot area? Many names like Chico's, Esoterica, Herberger's, JCPenney's, etc., come to mind. But in Sweden and other Northern European countries the "grand dame" will go to Gudrun Sjödén's! You can explore www.gudrunsjoden.com but then I feel you would not read this article!

Gudrun Sjödén is 73 years old and lives on an island near Stockholm. Her journey into the world of fashion

began in the 1970s. She would paint a picture, put it aside, add to it, and finally make a bolt of fabric of that design. From it, she could create a dress, a book cover, a tablecloth, or a greeting card. Her fabric of life continued with bright colors and patterns. It was enhanced by Swedish folklore and cultures from distant countries. You could find a Dala horse and an elephant (her Save the Elephant Program in Africa) on the same sweater!

Gudrun believes we waste too much. Her first belief is that we wash our clothes too often. She never uses softeners or dryers. She feels that a dress of good quality should last for 20 years or until they wear out! It can be

reused and recycled. Her 35 years of business, show that a jacket made in 1978 has made a comeback for Fall 2014. She just shortened the slacks, added a belt and a couple of buttons, and a new look was created.



Gudrun and her workforce of 230 employees, and customers in 52 countries, believe that global warming is OUR problem. Therefore, she uses few chemicals, reduces plastic, produces catalogs on chlorine-free paper, ships by sea, and uses a cloth bag for purchases made in her 18 boutiques. Hopefully, I will soon visit her store in New York City. Her Code of Conduct and Gudrun's Good Deeds are reasons alone why she has earned Sweden's Entrepreneur of the Year award. These two codes of ethics, fair treatment, and good deeds are a foundation of her business.

This spring my husband Bob Soderstrom, his dear Swedish cousin Maria Soderstrom Sorensson from Malmo, Sweden, and I traveled by car from southern Sweden to the west coast of Norway. Maria and I were on a mission: to see as many Gudrun Sjödén stores as we could! Our successful trip included the four boutiques in Malmo and Göteborg (Sweden), Oslo (Norway), and Copenhagen (Denmark). It is a bucket list yet to be continued.

On our last day in Sweden, we traveled to Lund, Sweden, to see the "Kulturen of Gudrun Sjödén." Here we saw a display of 35 years of clothing and history. From the hippie movement of the '70s to the Save the Elephants in Africa campaign of the 2000s we were in awe. In that museum on a sunny spring day we saw the following sign: "Sometimes we think that what we do is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be smaller without those drops." Mother Teresa.

Maybe you are ready to catch the Gudrun spirit and explore her website. Witness the colors, the patterns, the comfort, the style of Gudrun. A Gudrun woman is confident and strong and uses the Earth's resources sparingly. Welcome to Gudrun's world! •



Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

Gottorp Castle

*Submitted by
Pamela Orth*

This writing, with the help of the Wikipedia, is not about the much fought over border between Denmark and Germany. It seems there is a wonderful and very significant castle in Schleswig. As told by Maria Thermann, author. Just like a person, (it's the inside that counts, not the gorgeous exterior) Castle Gottorp or Schloss Gottorf in the small town of Schleswig is a character with hidden depths. It is home to some of Germany's most valuable historic collections and adjacent to one of Northern Europe's most important archaeological sites. She goes on to say that after 800 years of various uses, the castle has finally found its calling; its museums are superb and offer great insight into the early dwellers of the region – particularly, as the place to head to when researching Vikings. The many archeological finds, in-



cluding Viking corpses in the local moors, are worth a visit by any writer with an interest in historical fiction and a taste for the macabre.

In the last few years, the museum has expanded its exhibits considerably, and now there are seven Viking houses and a jetty, where visitors can experience what it must have been like to be part of this important community. Thanks to the Viking museum and the many finds that document what life was like 1,000 years ago in Northern Europe, Castle Gottorp ranks as one of Germany's most important museums. •



Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

Fun at Høstfest and Little Christmas

*by Marion Anderson, president
Dakota Finnish Society*

The food booth at the Høstfest this year went very well—we were very busy serving mo-jakka and bread pudding with rum sauce. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with this in any way—it takes many people to keep these projects going.

The Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration will be on December, 14, 2014 in the lower level of the SHA Visitors Center. The meal will be complimentary. Donations will be given to the Salvation Army, Homeless Coalition, Wounded Warrior Project and Great Plains Food Bank. Serving will begin at 1 pm—all Finns and friends welcome. •

