Membership invited to SHA annual meeting

The Scandinavian Heritage Association annual meeting is set for Friday, Jan. 27, at 10:00 a.m. at the SHA headquarters building at the intersection of 11th Ave. S.W. and Broadway in Minot. All members are welcome to attend.

On the agenda is the election of officers for 2007. The following were nominated at the December meeting:

- Mark Anderson, president
- Luther Hanson, vice president
- Marion Anderson, secretary
- Jerry Jorgenson, treasurer

Nominated to serve on the Board of Directors with three-year terms ending in January 2010 include:

- Marion Anderson
- Ron Bieri
- Helen Haaland
- Luther Hanson
- Jerry Jorgenson
- Gail Peterson
- Virgil Rude

Also, a nomination for the remaining one-year of Dennis Jacobsen’s three-year term ending in January 2008.

In addition, the president may make five one-year-term board appointments.

Retiring board members are Dennis Jacobsen, Bob Knudson, Christina Campbell, Ann Krause and Terry Peterson. Carroll Erickson’s term on the board expires in January 2007 and he will, as a past president, continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the board. We thank them for their support and service over the past years.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
To remember is to honor

by Mark Anderson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association

Last month, I went “home” to spend Thanksgiving with my relatives. During our time together, we shared memories of family members now deceased. My brothers and I went on a pilgrimage to several cemeteries to pay our respects to loved ones gone and to reconstruct the story of where we came from. The trip was rewarding for many reasons, but it got me thinking about the ways that we honor others.

American culture is replete with examples of how we honor people who have touched our lives. We honor our presidents and those who were killed for their beliefs. People like John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were killed because of who they were and what they believed, and they are still honored today around the world.

We honor our veterans and war heroes with memorials and ceremonies of every sort. When President Franklin Roosevelt uttered his famous words, “December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy,” even he couldn’t have imagined how, 65 years later, we would still honor, in solemn ceremonies and on film, the men and women who died that terrible day.

We also honor the memory of innocents who have died senselessly and needlessly. The Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City has been replaced with a national memorial featuring 168 empty chairs, honoring those who died on April 19, 1995. And who doesn’t remember where they were on Sept. 11, 2001? Much debate has ensued about the best way to honor those who died in the terrorist attacks that day, and plans for a lasting memorial are under way.

It is certainly right and appropriate that we honor our dead and those of national significance, but what about us “ordinary folk”? For me, personally, I need look no further than my own family for lessons on how to honor others.

As a former teacher and childcare administrator, my wife understands the importance of honoring others, especially children. No matter where we are in the community, we are routinely approached by children with outstretched arms, open smiles, and little voices, calling, “Jodi!”

Instinctively, my wife drops down on one knee so that she can look these little cherubs in the eye, smiles back with the same enthusiasm just extended to her, gives them a loving hug and exclaims, “Hi! I’m so glad to see you!”

And for that moment, that child is the most important person in the world. My wife understands that, by honoring children, she is also honoring their parents, who stand behind, witnessing all of this with overflowing smiles of their own.

Honor isn’t reserved for those of national significance; it is for all of us. During my recent trip, I found that my genuine interest in my ancestors was infectious; it got others talking about our loved ones, and it honored their memory. And so it is with our heritage. It isn’t just about honoring a country; it’s about honoring our family.

As we enter this Christmas season, it is important that we remember to honor each other. When we teach our children and grandchildren to honor others, we are teaching them not just to be good stewards of their heritage, but to be shining examples of all that we, as human beings, can be.

By planting and nurturing these seeds today, it is very likely that one day your descendents will be honoring you. May you be so blessed.

God Jul!
From the OFFICE

Volunteers: SHA’s secret of success

by Jeanne McNea
SHA office manager

The afternoon had been cold, snowy and windy and the evening was cold, but not much will stop a tough North Dakota Scandinavian. We had hoped for about 40 people, and 35 showed up.

At the November board meeting, we had agreed to have “open house” at the Heritage House to say thank you to the regular volunteers—tour guides, grounds workers, book store helpers, office personnel and board members. The date was set for Dec. 1 from 4 to 6 p.m., and plans went forward from there. The party was held in SHA’s Heritage House.

Before the party, the house got a cleaning, food was ordered and helpers delegated. One of the mannekins even got dressed up in her Hardanger bunad for the occasion! We have three mannekins, and each wore the costume of a different Scandinavian country: Finland, Norway and Iceland.

The Heritage House is a cozy place, and many of the artifacts have been placed in cupboards and display cases we have obtained. This gave the volunteers a chance to see what has been accomplished and allowed the board to tell them how much we appreciate their help. Since we have no paid help, we should all give each other a pat on the back.

Nothing in the nightmare I had the night before came true, and I have decided the party was a success. I hope all who came enjoyed it.

A special thank you goes to Carroll and Noreen Erickson, who did a thorough post-party Heritage House housecleaning.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

WINTER 2006-07
Dec. 25 • Merry Christmas!
Jan. 1 • Happy New Year!
Jan. 27 • SHA Annual Meeting

Next newsletter deadline:
Copy and pictures—Feb. 15, 2007
Printing date—March 1, 2007

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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” at the Scandinavian Heritage Park
- Seminars on Scandinavian Heritage and Culture
- The on-going preservation and promotion of Scandinavian traditions, positive values and ethics
- And much, much more!

Membership Categories

SUSTAINING MEMBER
$35.00 per year
Will receive the SHA Membership Package, which includes:

- Membership Card good for 10% off Scandinavian Gift Shop items
- Membership Pin (initial membership)
- The Scandinavian Heritage News, official newsletter of the Association
- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events
- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window Sticker

SPONSOR MEMBER
$100.00 - $499.00 per year
Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

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

BENEFACTOR MEMBER
$500.00 and above per year
Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

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

Membership Application

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!
‘Primstav’ served as Norse calendar

by Arland Fiske

In Old Norway, people kept track of the days and years with the aid of a “Primstav,” normally made of wood and hung in the entrance of a home. There was a notch for each day.

The Primstav was laid out horizontally to show the two seasons, summer (which began on April 14) along one edge of the board and winter (beginning Oct. 14) on the other. There was no spring and autumn as we celebrate. When you finished one season, you flipped the board over.

Originally, the Primstav gave weather forecasts, planting and harvesting dates, pasturing dates for cattle, moving dates, forecasting when fish will bite—such things as are found in the Farmer’s Almanac of today. Community life was organized around these dates.

When Christianity came to Norway in the early 11th century, 37 new holidays were added to the calendar. Religious emphasis was given to the dates from nature. The Christian holy days usually remembered martyrs, the Virgin Mary, Christ or the Apostles.

Each holy day is marked by a symbol. April 14 (Summer Day) is a tree filled with leaves, telling people to get ready for planting. It was also moving day for hired help. If it snowed on this day, it would snow nine times before full summer came. Oct. 14 (Winter Day) has a mitten, showing that winter clothes should be taken out and put in order.

The most celebrated of the summer holidays is John the Baptist’s birthday, June 24. Fires are lit everywhere on hillsides on the eve of this holiday. This was to protect people and animals against witches and evil spirits. The cows were taken to the seters (“out-farms” in the mountains). If it rained, then it would be wet during harvest. The calendar symbol is a church building.

Aug. 10 was the last day for putting up hay, or it would be worthless as winter fodder.

By Sept. 14 (Holy Cross Day), all crops were to be in barns for a blessing, and cattle were turned loose to graze. Anyone who did not keep holy days was fined.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year—whether or not you use a Primstav!

Editor’s note: This column is the fifth in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Moorhead, Minn.), retired from ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The excerpts reprinted here are from his book, “The Norwegian Heritage.”
Swedish Heritage Society NEWS

**Sweden is a nation of inventors**

*by Loren Anderson, president Swedish Heritage Society-NWNI

Happy holidays to all. The Swedish Heritage Society of Northwest North Dakota once again held the Sankta Lucia Pageant at the Scandinavian Heritage Center. This year’s event, which took place on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11:30 a.m., was directed by Sandy Starr, with performances by the Western Plains Children’s Choir and the Solid Oak Gospel Choir of Velva.

**Did you know?**

Sweden is well known as a nation of inventors. It is remarkable how many ingenious, life-improving products, appliances, machines, systems, medicines and gadgets originated in our little Scandinavian country. Here are a few:

- Anders Celsius (1701-44), the Celsius (Centigrade) thermometer
- Carl von Linné (1707-78), a systematic classification of plants, animals and minerals
- Carl William Scheele (1742-86), chlorine and other chemical elements
- John Ericsson (1803-89), the maritime screw propeller
- Alfred Nobel (1833-96), dynamite
- Gustav de Laval (1845-1913), cream separator
- Fredrik Ljungström (1875-1964), steam turbine
- Hasselblad (1906-78), single-lens reflex camera
- Rune Elmquist (1906-96), the pacemaker
- Håkan Lans, computer mouse (and others items too numerous to mention)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone!

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Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

**Tivoli booth at Høstfest features Danish delicacies**

*by Pamela Orth, Souris Valley Danish Society*

Norsk Høstfest 2006 is now history. Danes were well represented at the event, with members of the Souris Valley Danish Society helping to man the booth, along with Danes from Minneapolis.

All of us at the Danish Society wish all of you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2007.

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Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

**Icelandic booth wins ‘taste’ award**

*by Jim Goodman, editor Icelandic Heritage Society Newsletter*

We had a booth at the Norsk Høstfest and met a lot of great people.

We were pleased to have Asta Sol Kristjansdattir here representing the Snorri Program from Iceland. Asta is the director of the Snorri program and does a wonderful job representing Iceland.

Another visitor during Høstfest time was Almar Grimmson from Iceland. Almar is the president of the Icelandic National League in Iceland. He is also a great promoter of Iceland.

Speaking of Høstfest, the Icelandic booth was a great success this year, even winning an award! The booth won the Excellence of Taste Award for food items sold there. Our thanks go out to all the workers who helped out.

At our Coffee Samkoma, held Oct. 14 at the Holiday Inn in Minot, we presented two students with our scholarships. Winners were Erin Anderson of Moorhead, Minn., and Mark Lund of Marshall, Minn. Both recipients have Icelandic roots. Neither was able to accept the scholarship in person because of school.
**Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS**

**Members study cultural crafts**

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

Christmas was celebrated on Dec. 11 at the Grand International Inn. A large number of members dined on a meal of cordon bleu and lemon pepper cod. We were entertained by the Thor Lodge Singers singing songs in Norwegian and English under the direction of Sonja Hernes.

The Bishop Ryan High School Concert Choir presented a program of songs. It was a festive evening that put us in the mood for the coming Christmas holidays.

**Cooking up culture**

A group has been enjoying a cooking class taught by Kari Mahle. Kari has been introducing several recipes that had been a part of her life in Norway.

The Norwegians believe that a beautiful presentation is as important as the taste of food served. Kari makes cooking enjoyable and fun.

As the members learn this skill, they are encouraged to complete the steps required to earn the pin and bars offered by the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills Program.

A program of mini cooking classes will be offered if enough interest is shown.

Other cultural skills classes are also being offered to members. In January, classes in rosemaling, knitting and dancing will be in session. Classes in Norwegian language, chip carving and Hardanger are also being organized.

Mary Zurcher is the cultural director of Thor Lodge. Call her if you are interested in any of the cultural skills classes. Mary’s telephone number is (701) 362-7468.

**Officers to be installed**

The 2007 slate of officers has been elected and will be installed at the January business meeting. Martha Elliott is the newly elected president. Her telephone number is (701) 838-8554.

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway is a group that keeps busy learning about and remembering our Norwegian heritage. To become a member of this lodge, it is not necessary to be of Norwegian heritage. Simply having an interest in heritage is all that is required.

Have a Happy New Year! •

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**Dakota Finnish Society NEWS**

**Finns host ‘Pikkujoulu’**

*by Marion Anderson, Finnish Society president*

We had another successful and busy booth at the Norsk Høstfest. We were also the recipients of $100 from the Høstfest for one of their awards.

Thanks to all who volunteered and helped out with this project.

On Dec. 2, we held our annual Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration. The weather did not cooperate very well (icy roads and very cold temperatures), but it was a successful day nonetheless. Participants came from as far as Rolla, Rock Lake, Wing, Washburn and Stanley. Others came from Velva, Makoti, Ruso and Minot. Erik Olson was the entertainment for the day, along with Myron Dammen and Rod Renaud, who accompany him on guitar and bass. Erik is a very accomplished fiddle and violin player from Minot and has won many fiddle competitions.

Tommi Parmakoski from Finland also shared thoughts on the different customs in Finland relating to Independence Day in Finland which is on Dec. 6. Tommi has attended Minot State University for the past four years and will be returning to Finland to finish his schooling on Dec. 9.

We also had a silent auction at this celebration (the first endeavor of this type), and all proceeds were designated to the Salvation Army. We took in over $400!!! Santa Claus (Terry Lantto from Stanley) made an appearance. Bruce Carlson had the sauna heated and three Finns partook of this nice, hot Finnish bath.

Finnish Society scholarship winner receives $500 award

Recipient of a $500 college scholarship was Katie Jo Carlson of Velva, daughter of Bruce and Cindy Carlson. A graduate of Velva High School, she attends the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks and is majoring in occupational therapy.

Katie was not able to attend this festivities, so the scholarship was accepted by her parents.

Scholarship applicants have to have completed two years of college and maintained a B average. Applications are being taken again with a deadline of April 30, 2007, for applying. Any child or grandchild of a Dakota Finnish Society member is eligible to apply.

We also encourage applying for scholarships for young people to Salolampi, the Finnish language camp at the Concordia Language Villages. More information about these sessions for young people and adults can be found on the Salolampi website. •
Folks who love family history are easy to buy gifts for. Add to that Scandinavian roots, and your shopping problems are over for years to come! Here are some ideas:

• Buy your favorite Scandinavian a membership in the Scandinavian Heritage Association. For your money, your gift recipients will receive four issues of “Scandinavian Heritage News,” and discounts on Scandinavian-related merchandise sold in the gift store. They’ll also get the latest news on the park, and the satisfaction of knowing that their gift is helping to keep the park (along with their Scandinavian heritage) alive and well.

• Genealogists with roots stretching into Nordic lands will love finding a book under their tree that features their ancestral country. For ideas, try the SHA Gift Shop first. Next, try the Web. Just type the words “Scandinavian history books” (or more specifically, books on Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland or Denmark). You’ll be amazed at the choices available by mail order.

• For gifts with a Nordic flair, check out the SHA Gift Shop. Calendars for the new year come in “flavors” that include Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic. Ole and Lena fortune cookies feature jokes and witty predictions. And, they taste good! There’s lots of great items to choose from—and remember that discount!

• Using today’s technology, interview family members (especially elderly ones with their storehouse of memories) on a CD. You can then make duplicates to give as gifts to relatives.

• Make the holiday season a time for family togetherness. Share your stories with one another, revisit those old pictures, and take steps to preserve the memories.

Merry Christmas! •

For gifts with a Nordic flair, check out the SHA Gift Shop. Calendars for the new year come in “flavors” that include Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic. Ole and Lena fortune cookies feature jokes and witty predictions. And, they taste good! There’s lots of great items to choose from—and remember that discount!