



Elvesvingen Lodge 1-582 P.O. Box 1091 Mankato, Mn 56002

We would like to personally thank our "retiring" board members, Marilyn Bigbee and Jodie Wallschlaeger. Marilyn and Jodie have really contributed to the lodge these past several years. We hope both of them will continue to be active in the lodge. Mange takk!



December Meeting: Saturday, December 10 - 5:30pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato  
 Program: Julebord and Christmas Program (note room change: lower level dining room)  
 Potluck: See information below  
 Serving Committee: Wallschlaegers and Bigbees (Chairs) and Members (St-Z)  
 Transportation Available for non-nighttime drivers: Call Dick Norland at 625-6060

**Hilsen Fra Presidenten, Dick Norland** - Consul Anita Helland from the Royal Norwegian Consulate General provided an inciteful and informative presentation on "Norway Today" at our November meeting. She shared some of the concerns the Norwegian government has for the approaching time when oil revenues will drop off.

Now that we're into December and thinking about Christmas, it reminds me of what my Norwegian cousin told me about Christmas in Norway - it's the time of year when church attendance is at its highest level. While there are less than 10% who regularly attend worship services during the rest of the year, churches are filled at Christmas or at special events such as family baptisms, confirmations, weddings or funerals.

**November in Review** -A few lodge members attended the unique genealogy expo held at MSU - did you see the Free Press article featuring Audrey Morken's Norwegian ancestry? The recent bus trip to the American Swedish Institute and Ingebretsen's in Minneapolis was a success with twenty attending. It was a fun day and a great way to get into the spirit of Christmas. On the same day as the bus trip, Linda and Stan Stelter celebrated the wedding of their son Matt Stelter to Laura Johnson. Gratulerer!

**December Meeting** - We will celebrate the Christmas holiday at the December lodge meeting - our annual Julebord. This is a potluck meal - each member brings their favorite holiday food. If you have traditional Nordic food you serve during the holiday season, please bring some to share with the lodge. Use recipes you have at home or call Jodie Wallschlaeger at 388-2303 to try new recipes. Or if this doesn't work for you, use traditional American recipes. Label your items so you are sure to bring home your own serving dishes. We ask the following in selecting what you bring - if your last name begins with:

**A-K (potatoes, breads, or desserts)**

**L-Sp (fruits, vegetables, or salads)**

**St-Z (appetizers)**

One of our own members, Marlys Heller, will present a special Christmas Program. If you have Norwegian sweaters, it's the perfect time to wear them or simply wear red clothing - to set the stage for a festive evening. We encourage all members to attend this celebration. We promise a time of good food, fellowship, and entertainment - and rumor has it; we'll have some pots of real egg coffee!



# Sons of Norway

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## Stamps

As a reminder, when you receive extra mail over the holidays, please save those envelopes/stamps!

### **Please welcome the following new members to our lodge and add them to your yearbook:**

1. Ilene Blume, 46647 US Hwy 14 Nicollet 507 232-3528 [iblume@myclearwave.net](mailto:iblume@myclearwave.net)
2. Wayne Brekke, 1416 N 6th St Mankato 507 388-3935 [waybrekke@hotmail.com](mailto:waybrekke@hotmail.com)
3. Ardyce Christianson, 105 Teton Ct Mankato 507 625-2641 [ardyce@gotocrystal.net](mailto:ardyce@gotocrystal.net)
4. Nettie Erickson, 928 South Ave N Mankato 507 388-3518
5. Jerry & Helen Hansen, 109 Thissen Ct Mankato 507 344-0271
6. Opal Helberg, 116 Dell Ave Mankato 507 387-7192
7. Janet Hoffmann, 828 Lower Johnson Cir St Peter 507 934-2498
8. Jan Holte, 909 S 7th St St Peter 507 934-6194 [holte@hickorytech.net](mailto:holte@hickorytech.net)
9. Lois Kitzmann, 19753 584th Ave Mankato 507 344-1684
10. Charles & Janet Morken, 100 Madison Ave Mankato 507 388-5887 [mmcpa@mctcnet.net](mailto:mmcpa@mctcnet.net)
11. Clancy Olson Jr, 908 N Broad St Mankato 507 345-7818 [drovaf30@hickorytech.net](mailto:drovaf30@hickorytech.net)
12. George Rosnau, 214 Heather Ln Apt #1 Mankato 507 388-8214
13. Talitha Skaff, 420 Holly Ln #17 Mankato 507 625-1344
14. Melissa Speiss, 910 N 4th St St Peter 507 934-2965 [mkspeiss@mchsi.com](mailto:mkspeiss@mchsi.com)
15. Eunice Tiede, 115 Shiloh Ct Mankato 507 388-4159

**Gift Ideas** -District 1 and lodge fundraising items are for sale at the Information Table at the meeting - ideas for holiday gifts! Calendars, books, caps, pins, etc. Please take special note of the 2005 commemorative print, which can be ordered as a large print or as greeting cards.

**Language Camp Scholarships** - Ellen Ahlness spoke (and sang!) at our November meeting about her experiences at last year's summer language camp. Scholarships are now available from our local lodge for parents or grandparents interested in sending their children or grandchildren to next year's summer language camps (Skogfjorden in Bemidji MN or Masse Moro in Eau Claire WI). The deadline for applications is February 1, 2006. If interested, contact Audrey Morken at 387-2223 for information on the application process.

**Fra Vise Presidenten - Audrey Morken** - Christmas greetings to everyone! With the holidays near and so many of us on the go, I just wanted to remind all of you that the Newsletter can be accessed through the [www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org) website. Just click on the button that says "Current Newsletter". If you misplaced your mailed copies or deleted your emailed newsletters, you can even look back at past copies of the newsletter by clicking on the Current Newsletter button and scrolling all the way down to the "Checkout past copies of our newsletter" link.

**Bake/Craft Sale**- Mange Tusen Takk to all who helped out in some way with the bake sale. This was a very successful event and wow, what a variety of delectable Scandinavian foods and cute crafts! (For those of you who have never been to the Julebord in December, you are in for a real treat!) We had an excellent turnout for workers, bakers, and craft makers, and an extra special thanks to Irene Mickelson who was instrumental in putting it all together.



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**Did You Know?** About 17 percent of all Minnesotans are of Norwegian ancestry, compared with 1.6 percent in the United States as a whole.

**Memories from Christmases past** - Getting ready for the holidays were very special in my family. My brother, **Bjorn** (yes- that's his real name-pronounced Bee'yurn, it means "Bear" in Norwegian) and I couldn't wait to go down to Mrs. Walker's little Scandinavian gift shop downtown. With our saved up money in hand, we'd bundle ourselves up for the 4 block hike on the usually cold, snowy, December night. Mrs. Walker was always good for a smile and a hug and also, some helpful hints on what Norwegian gifts we could buy for our parents. Once we were satisfied with our purchases, we quickly raced home to wrap our presents to put under the Juletre (Christmas tree). Our Christmas tree was a 6 foot artificial fir purchased brand new in 1968 from Sears. Usually about one week before Christmas, we, as a family adorned our tree with all kinds of homemade or purchased ornaments, colorful bulbs, a little bit of tinsel, strips of Norwegian flags, and a bright silver star to top it off. The tree stayed up until Jan. 6.

**Preparing the meal-** We usually had ham for Christmas Eve meal along with a side dish of **Lutefisk** to satisfy my Father and Bestemor (Grandma). Of course, my mom and Grandma had slaved hours over the stove and oven to bake holiday treats, like **Krumkake**, **Ris Krem (Rice Cream)**, **Smultring**, **Fattigmann**, and many other kinds of cookies. **Lefse** was a huge hit, but it wasn't the kind of lefse you see today. It was thicker and drier and didn't require potatoes. It tasted so good with butter and sugar. Once we finished eating, we could open only 1 present on Christmas Eve. We all helped mom and Grandma wash and put away dishes and made sure all the work was done, before gathering around the tree. There were many presents, but the ones that got our attention the most were the presents from Norway. Each Christmas we would receive presents in the mail from my Tante (aunt) Aud in Norway, so for us, this was usually the present we opened on Christmas Eve. One thing I hope to do some day is to visit Norway during the Juletid (Christmas time), but for now, I wish you all a Riktid Gud Jul og Godt Nyttar!

### **Holiday Television:**

- Dec. 17 at 1pm is a program "Scandinavian Traditions", at 2pm "O Christmas Tree", at 3pm through 4:30pm "New Scandinavian Cooking". Rick Steves European Christmas program is offered several times in December.
- Dec. 21 at 7pm or Dec. 22 at 1am, there is a program "Norway's Crown Princess Martha: The American Story". This is a documentary about Princess Martha's 69 day journey through 29 states in 1939, including Minnesota.

Check out the Information Table at our monthly meetings - pick up information on area events, travel, or SON financial products; sign up for lodge events/volunteer opportunities; view a copy of recent lodge minutes/treasurer's report; check out the SON magazine for children under 15; purchase gift items offered by the District One Sons of Norway fundraising committee; or simply ask questions.

Visit us on the web - [www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org) or [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com)

SONS OF NORWAY ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582 CALENDAR

December, 2005

- **Dec 2 - (6:30pm) - Swedish Club's Christmas Supper (potluck & one dozen cookies), Grace Lutheran Church, Mankato**
- **Dec 8 - (6:00pm) - German/American Club's Christmas Potluck, Morson-Ario, 1900 N Riverfront Dr, Mankato**
- **Dec 10 - (5:30pm) - Lodge Meeting - Julebord, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato (room change: lower level dining room)**
- Dec 11 - (11am-4 pm) - Skandia Scandinavian Festival, Landmark Center, St Paul (651-292-3225)
- **Jan 14 - (5:30pm) - Lodge Meeting, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato**
- Feb 23-24 - Barnebirke - Hayward WI