



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

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Gud dag!

Syttende Mai will soon be here and we are all looking forward to a wonderful gathering at Bethany Lutheran College on May 21st. We have a great day planned! Check out the attached flyer!

Hilsen Fra Presidenten, Dick Norland - In Norway, there are many Syttende Mai and 100th anniversary celebrations coming up. King Harald and Queen Sonja have been traveling in the United States as part of the festivities. For the history buffs, there's a great website that explains the Norway/Sweden events of 1905 - <http://noram.norway.com>. One interesting point is that the May 17th date actually goes back to 1814 when the Norwegian Constitution at Eidsvold was signed. It would be almost another century before Norway became totally independent from Sweden in 1905.

Norway's Centennial Independence Commemorative Print - To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the union between Norway and Sweden on June 7, 1905, District 1 Sons of Norway commissioned artist Tamara Isfeld from Granite Falls, MN, to create a limited edition print. There will be (50 artist proofs at \$125), (250 limited editions at \$100), and (700 open editions at \$30 each) plus shipping and handling of \$5. Joel Brude shared a display copy at our April lodge meeting. Order forms will be available on our lodge's website (www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org) by May 5 or look for them at the May 21st event at Bethany.

May 21 Syttende Mai Celebration - Come and help celebrate the Centennial Syttende Mai on May 21st! Add the date to your calendar and invite friends and relatives! As with any event, there are advance preparations. If you are interested in lefse baking (call Jodie Wallschlaeger 388-2303) or kringla baking (call Kris Norland 625-6060). Members whose last names start with R-Sp will help with the Scandinavian food sales at the event. Ann Carlberg, serving chair, will contact each server beforehand. Additional volunteers are needed on the actual day of the event - directing guests, ushering, etc - if you are available, call me at 625-6060. Everyone is encouraged to wear bunads or Norwegian apparel or dig out that Sons of Norway pin and wear it proudly! We have a great day planned - free family fun! As a reminder, call in your dinner reservations by May 7.

May Garage Sale - The garage sale will be held Friday, May 20 (4-8pm) at Dick & Kris Norland's home, 209 Chatsworth, across from East High School. Come help support this annual fundraiser! Donations can be dropped off Thursday, May 19 (8am-8pm) or call 625-6060 to make other arrangements. The neighborhood event (100+ possible homes) will be advertised in the Mankato Free Press and the Home Magazine.

April Events - George Orvick, our lodge's Cultural/Social Director, presented a great program at our April 9 lodge meeting. If you would like copies of his Important Tips for Recording Your Family's Oral History, call him at 387-1498. East High School was a busy hub at the April 10th International Festival - we encourage everyone to add it to their calendar for next April - Mankato has a wealth of cultures! The bus trip to Lanesboro was held on April 17th and all of us shared a nice day even though it did not go as planned. There are currently two bus trips being planned for later this fall.

July Fundraiser- The Sons of Norway Elvesvingen Lodge will be having a brat and hotdog stand at Wal-Mart on Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 3. Call Audrey if you'd like to volunteer. Or come on out and support us. Proceeds go to the planning of the Sons of Norway National Convention that will be held in Mankato in 2008!



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Genealogy???

Checkout our newest website addition (Genealogy Links), which includes the Norwegian American Historical Association.

Free Financial Review - Ralph Carpenter, Field Staff Representative, attended our March meeting and reminded us of the free financial review offered by Sons of Norway. All members are encouraged to contact him at rcarpenter@cmins.net or 507-451-3450. We now have the same contact information on our website (Contact Us section).

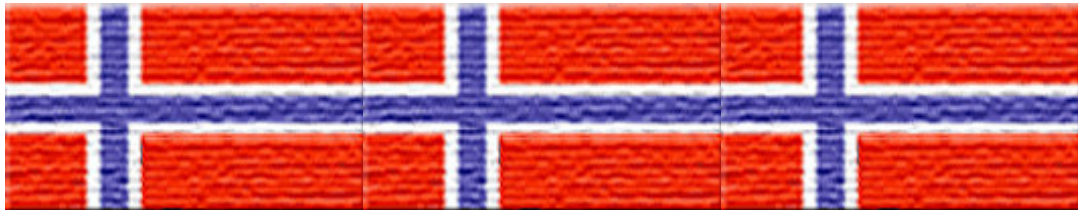
Did you Know? - The Norwegian Arctic Cod have begun their migration towards the coast of Northern Norway. They generally arrive off Lofoten in February or March to spawn and fishermen eagerly await the annual return of the skrei, a special arctic cod prized for its firm, white meat. Mothers and Fathers in Norway - Every Norwegian family with a child is allowed 330 days off from work with the same payment as if you were sick (75% of the normal salary). The mothers are then titled "motherfree." The fathers need to use at least 45 of the 330 days. The government is now discussing if the law should force the parents to share the days equally.

Elementary Norwegian and Elementary Swedish - Minnesota State University, Mankato will be offering classes this Fall 2005. Begin thinking about this opportunity. For information call Birgitta 507-389-2917 or birgitta.hendrickson@mnsu.edu

Fra Vise Presidenten- Audrey Morken - Syttende Mai Centennial Buttons- Have you bought your collectible Centennial souvenir button? They are \$3 each. Hurry!! Limited supply. Call Dick at 625-6060 or Audrey at 387-2223.

Midsommar's Eve picnic- Don't forget to mark your calendars for our June picnic at Land of Memories Park. The picnic will consist of a small scale bonfire, showing and telling of favorite Norwegian souvenirs, keepsakes/ heirlooms, or maybe a favorite memory of an ancestor, trip to Norway, etc. There will be traditional Scandinavian games also. This should be great fun for the whole family so bring the kids and grandchildren.

A brief history of the Norwegian Flag- Have you looked at the Norwegian flag lately? Have you *really* looked at it? Ever wonder what the colors stand for? The Norwegian flag as we see it today was first unveiled in 1821 by Fredrik Meltzer. Meltzer chose the colors red, blue, and white to symbolize freedom. But, more precisely, red represents blood and love, blue- the ocean, and of course, white symbolizes snow. The cross which is present in all flags of Scandinavian countries represents the spread of Christianity throughout Northern Europe. The Norwegian flag wasn't legalized until 1898- seven years before Norway's dissolution from Sweden (May 17.) During WWII, under German occupation, the flag was only allowed to be hoisted on a flag pole. The end of the War brought a new sense of freedom and pride about the land and Norwegians once again were free to show off their beloved flag. At Christmas time (Juletid), it is common for Norwegians to tastefully adorn their Christmas trees with strings of little paper flags. Another flag raising tradition is held as soon as the construction of a house has been completed. The homebuilders are then invited into the new home for a meal. These are just a few of the many instances where the flag plays an important role. So, the next time you see the Norwegian flag, smile and be proud that you are Norwegian!



Centennial Syttende Mai Celebration

Hosted by Bethany Lutheran College & Sons of Norway Elvesvingen Lodge

Saturday, May 21, 2005

Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, Bethany Lutheran College
700 Luther Drive, Mankato MN 56001-6163

12:45pm Opening Ceremony by Ylvisaker Flag Pole

Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet

1:00 - 5:30pm Cultural Demonstrations & Scandinavian Food Sales

Book Signing and Book Sales

**1:00 - 1:45pm Erling Teigen - Bethany & ELS - Norwegian Roots
and History of Syttende Mai**

**2:00 - 2:45pm Mark Harstad - Norwegian Pioneer Stories from the
Iowa Prairie**

**3:15 - 3:45pm Deb Nelson Gourley, making of the book,
Astri, My Astri: Norwegian Heritage Stories**

4:00 - 5:30pm Tours - Bethany Campus or Ottesen Museum

4:00 - 5:30pm Entertainment and Outdoor Games

5:30 - 6:30pm Dinner - Old Main Great Room (Reserve by May 7)

Adults - \$11 (children prices available)

Free Fun for the Family!

Bunads and Norwegian Apparel are Encouraged

Directions: www.blc.edu/about/directions/

Parking available in visitor and student parking lots

Dinner Reservations Due by May 7

Call 507-388-7139 (ask about free dinners for new memberships)

P O Box 1091, Mankato MN 56002