



## We Need Your Recipes!!!

Welcome new members:  
**Jim Olstad and Dale and Donna Else**

Lodge Meeting: **Saturday, Feb. 10, 530 PM – Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
 Program:” ‘To Be Sure There Was Neither Lefse Nor Gnome’” : Norwegian Women in the  
 Upper Midwest- Lori Lahlum- speaker  
 Serving Committee: Borcherts, Olsons (Paul and Phyllis), and Members (H – I)  
**Transportation Available for non- night time drivers: call Audrey Morken 387-2223.**

**Hilsen Fra Presidenten - Linda Stelter.** Thanks to Dick Norland for the video of HRH Crown Princess Martha at last month’s lodge meeting. We enjoyed learning more about Norway’s Royalty. It was great to see so many of you on such a cold night. Our bus trip the next day to Mindekirken Church was also very enjoyable. The Norwegian church service was easy to follow along as the bulletin was in Norwegian with English translation. The coffee hour after had open face sandwiches and treats. Then we were off to the Science Museum to see the Viking movie. The movie briefed us on the history of the Vikings. We learned how the Viking’s longboats were built and why they were well suited for navigating shallow waterways. These boats allowed the Vikings to influence (i.e. invade, conquer, and trade) most of Europe, as well as discover and settle Iceland and Greenland. The movie showed the probable routes the Vikings used to discover North America. Thanks to Dick and Kris Norland for arranging everything. Watch in the newsletter for our next trip.

**February Lodge Meeting:** Lori Lahlum will be our guest speaker. Lori, a native of North Dakota, is an Assistant Professor of History at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is currently working on revising her dissertation into a book manuscript in addition to co-editing a volume on Norwegian immigrant and Norwegian - American women’s history. Prior to coming to MSU in 2005, she taught for a number of years at Valley City State University in North Dakota.

**Board Members Attend after noon training in Owatonna** -Several board members attended the annual Leadership training at the Elks Club in Owatonna on Saturday, Jan. 27. It was led by Gene Brandvold, the SON International treasurer. The other lodge in attendance was Nortonna. Many ideas were swapped between lodges.

**2008 Convention Planning Committee update** - The June 2008 Sons of Norway District 1 Convention will be held in the great city of Mankato. Preliminary discussions have covered a variety of topics. Contracts have been confirmed by the Holiday Inn and the Midwest Wireless Center, but will need to be revised if the convention is shortened from 3 to 2 days. Jodie Wallschlaeger, our Zone 5 Director has been visiting area lodges to ask for additional help in this great feat!!! It’s going to take everyone’s help to make this convention a success!

**Recipes** -We still need many more recipes for our cookbook fundraiser. Please bring them to the next meeting or send them to: Sons of Norway P.O. Box 1091, Mankato, MN 56002. The cookbook committee thanks those of you who have brought recipes already.



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

Blue Earth  
River  
Minnesota River

### Norwegian Christmas in Washington D.C.

Recently my husband and I (who are members of your lodge, along with my in-laws, Duane and Janice Ahlness) attended a Christmas party at the home of the Norwegian ambassador's military attaché in Washington, D.C.

This past December, several senior officers from the Minnesota National Guard were invited to attend the Norwegian embassy's Defense Attaché Christmas party in Washington D.C. For the past 30+ years, members of the Minnesota National Guard and of the Norwegian Home Guard have participated in a military training exchange program each February for three weeks.

As the Minnesota National Guard Government Relations Officer, my husband frequently flies to Washington D.C. for business, and he was going to be in our nation's capital during the time of the Norwegian Christmas party. I had been to Washington D.C. for the first time the previous year for just a weekend, and I loved the few sites I was able to see. I thought going to Washington D.C. during Christmas would be wonderful--a chance to see beautifully decorated sites. So my husband and I made arrangements for me to meet him in Washington DC.

Attending the Norwegian Defense Attaché's Christmas party was definitely the highlight of our trip. Our evening began with a cab ride to what we thought was the Norwegian embassy. But 30 minutes and \$50 dollars later, we arrived at a beautiful mansion in Potomac, outside Washington DC. Mini torches were lit along the long drive and entryway, with valets waiting to assist. This was the home of our hosts, Major General and Mrs. Tom Henry Knutsen.

The door was answered by Major General Tom Henry Knutsen, the Norwegian Defense Attaché, and his wife. We presented them a traditional bottle of wine (as did all the other 30 couples and guests), and were then directed downstairs, where the bar served mulled wine with almonds and raisins. While we mingled and introduced ourselves to other guests, we learned that this Christmas party is an annual tradition held by the Norwegian embassy, and many other guests were either political or military attachés from other nations.

Between the downstairs and main floor, there were approximately 12 dining tables, with each table labeled a city in Norway, such as Vadsø, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø, and Molde. For dinner, we found our seats at the downstairs Vadsø table, and sat with two other couples—the US Dept of State representative for Nordic and Baltic Affairs and his wife, and Torill and Eldar Berli, a Norwegian military advisor and his wife. Next, the Defense Attaché told several traditional Norwegian stories, led us in a Norwegian song and meal prayer, then gave instructions on table order for visiting the buffet. About 1 ½ hours later, after lots of discussion and laughter with our wonderful table company, it was time to visit the buffet again for a wide variety of desserts, fruit, and sauces.

Our evening at the Defense Attaché's home came to an end around 10:30 p.m. While saying goodbye to the Major General and his wife, Mrs. Knutsen presented each woman with a lovely Christmas gift box. Inside the box was a Christmas tree ornament that she personally made. It was an angel made of various uncooked macaroni shapes and spray painted gold, with a gold hanging string. She also gave one of these to each of the men who attended alone and instructed those men to give the gift to a woman in their lives, be it wife, girlfriend, mother, etc.

After a short wait for a taxi, we were back on our way to our hotel in Alexandria, where we knew the next morning we would have to use the hotel workout equipment after all the wonderful food we ate the night before.

Colonel Eric Ahlness  
Mrs. Lori Ahlness

**Tubfrim Stamps.** If you have received extra mail over the holidays, please save those envelopes/stamps! Our lodge supports the Tubfrim organization in Norway. Cancelled postage stamps are sold to collectors and dealers - the profits assist disabled children via the Norwegian Health Service. We have a former lodge member living in an area nursing home who is willing to trim the stamps to be forwarded on to Tubfrim. We are also looking for a local business interested in donating monthly billing envelopes. If your business or family can assist in this project, please call Jodie Wallschlaeger, 388-2303

**Wanted:** Are you energetic and giving of your time? Do you have good ideas for programs and how to attract more members to our lodge? If so, we want you! We are looking for new future board members to lend us a hand. Please contact any of the following Nominating committee members: Dick Norland, Linda Stelter, or Audrey Morken if you would like to help us out.

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

Feb, 2007

- **Feb 10, 5:30 PM - Lodge Meeting, Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Norwegian Women in the Upper Midwest**
- Feb. 23-25- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ibsen Festival- Lanesboro, MN – for more info Call 1-800-657-7025
- Feb. 24, 2007 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nordic Gala “It’s Grieg to Me”- Hjemkost Center, see [www.ScandinavianHjemkostFestival.org](http://www.ScandinavianHjemkostFestival.org)
- **Mar 11, 5:30 PM - Lodge Meeting, Bethlehem Lutheran Church**