

# SynNor Brevet

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**Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1-008**



**November 2008  
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**NOTE NEW WEB SITE: <http://synnove1.com>**

**Voice Messages: 651-762-7872**



**Join us at our November meeting for a presentation by Bruce Engebretson (Mary Beth Mutchler's brother) titled "From the Wood, the Culture." Bruce started Norwegian carving with a class by Phil Odden and Else Bigton in Vesterheim. He carved a mangle board and his interest was peaked. Next he carved a kubbstol out of oak, but then lost his interest in carving for 10 years before returning to it.**

**Bruce has taken several courses at Vesterheim and the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, from knife making to advanced acanthus carving with Hans Sandom. He also enjoys the Shaker line of craft and furniture and has made several reproductions. Many objects and their cultural history will be on display at his talk.**

# Scandinavian Culture and News

## Urnes Stave Church Under Repair

The church may be built on a rock, as it is said, but Urnes Stave Church, Norway's oldest, apparently is not. Recent studies have revealed that sections of the foundation are unstable. The church inventory and flooring have been removed in order to determine what and how much needs to be done to correct the problem. The project is part of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage's stave church program.

There are about 13,000 visitors to the church each summer. It is still possible to visit the church and to look inside, and those who do are in for a rare sight as it is 50 years since the floor of this cultural landmark was last opened. Though there are no guided tours during the period of construction, the public will be able to see how the work of restoration is done. Workers will answer questions about the old building techniques and the materials that were used during that original construction.

The present church structure dates from the twelfth century, probably 1130-1150, but the north wall is from a yet older church and is richly ornamented with carvings of mythical beasts. The so-called Urnes style is said to be related to Irish art.

The interior of Urnes is of special interest because it retains an unusual number of pre-Reformation features. A group of three large wooden figures depicting Calvary, from the twelfth century, is affixed above the chancel arch, and on the altar are a pair of thirteenth-century candlesticks decorated with Limoges cloisonné enamel work. Between them is a candelabrum fashioned of wrought iron in the shape of a Viking ship and supporting seven candles. In the chancel is a sturdy Romanesque armchair made of turned poles and bars -- one of the few examples of this type to be found anywhere in the world.

Of particular interest to art historians are 48 exquisitely wrought twelfth-century carvings to be seen on the squared-off capitals, or tops of the 16 columns in the church interior. These superb pieces include an astonishing range of subjects and motifs, some of them to be found nowhere else in Nordic art.

From: *Stave Churches of the World: An Introduction*  
by: David McCall Walsten

## George C. Marshall Statue Unveiled in Oslo

On June 15, 2008, an audience of 200 people witnessed the unveiling of a statue of former U. S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, in gratitude for the Marshall Plan that helped Norway and the rest of Europe recover following World War II. The work of Asbjørn Høglund, the statue faces the harbor below the Akershus Fortress.

During the unveiling ceremony, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, emphasized Marshall's core message: The value of peace and prosperity, when shared, does not diminish. Rather it increases.

Jonas Gahr Støre began his speech by saying: "Today we may perhaps say that we are gathering many years too late. We are coming together to honor a man, a vision and a mission that changed Europe and thus changed Norway half a century ago. And yet, it is a change that new generations need to recall and remember."

"As Chief of Staff of the U. S. Armed forces from 1939 to 1945, George C. Marshall was one of the main architects of the allied victory in the Second World War. But in the years from 1947 to 1949, his role was no longer on the battlefield. Despite his military victories, it is for his work as Secretary of State during the harsh post-conflict years that we in Europe hold him in such high esteem."

"The monumental recovery program for Europe that bears Marshall's name, launched by the United States in the summer of 1947, provided credit, goods, advice -- and hope. All of which were in desperately short supply in a continent devastated by war."

The Marshall Plan addressed inflation and the shortages suffered during the post-war years in Europe, and helped prevent new conflicts. George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. Historian Irwin Abrams writes: "As the only representative of the military in the Nobel pantheon of peace, General Marshall not only exhibited the very best of the soldierly virtues but was an outstanding human being in many ways. To President Truman he was the "greatest general since Robert E. Lee, but also the man of honor, the man of truth, the man of the greatest ability."

From: *The Norseman*, Sept. 2008

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM At First Lutheran Church  
463 Maria Avenue (at 8th Street East, 2 Blocks North of Metro State University)  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106      Voice messages: 651-762-7872      (See back cover for officers)  
Web Page: <<http://synnove1.com>>  
Sons of Norway International: <<http://www.sofn.com>>

# Lodge News

Dear Members,

For those of you that were at the October meeting you know that I was not there as I am traveling on business; therefore, as I have on other travels this year, I am 3600 feet in the air struggling with what to write about. Well, after I read "USA Today" and saw Wall Street had the "biggest bounce" ever on October 13<sup>th</sup> with the Dow jumping up 936 points, I thought to myself why not tell you about the great news regarding Sons of Norway financial situation. So that leads me to my main focus of this article. How is Sons of Norway financially holding up in these times of daily swings in the market?

I would like to report that the current troubles in the financial world have no major impact on our assets. Sales of our life insurance and annuity products are strong.

Sons of Norway has a conservative investment philosophy. There are three main goals with the purchase of any new assets and in reviewing our current investment portfolio:

- Meet our conservative investment policy
- Provide financial integrity to meet our obligations
- Provide competitive rates of return on life insurance and annuity certificates held by our members

To meet these goals, Sons of Norway has invested 92% of our assets in government and investment grade corporate bonds. Our corporate bond holdings are well diversified over all sectors of the economy. The remaining 8% consists of real estate (home office building), certificate loans, commercial mortgage loans and cash. Sons of Norway does not invest in stocks.

Our operations are strong and profitable. We continue to monitor our bond holdings and make adjustments where necessary. Our prudent business practices and conservative investment policy will continue to keep Sons of Norway safe, strong and secure.

Finally, on a lodge note, by the time you read this newsletter, the Torsk and Meatball dinner will have taken place. For those that attended and volunteered, I want to thank you.

See you at the November meeting.

Len

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Dana Carlson on the recent death of his grandmother.

Many people enjoyed the interesting presentation by Roar Moe at our October meeting. We wish to thank lodge member Jill Storlie for arranging this opportunity to meet Roar and to learn of his passion for the Norwegian coastal culture and what it has to say to all of us in our modern world..



Picture courtesy of  
Joanne Englund.

# Lodge News

## Board Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2008

**Attendees:** Len Carlson, Sharon Amann, Rod Hale, Sue Halvorson, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Clay Keller, Clayton Lance, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Steve Roste, and Ron and Susan Stow.

Rod Hale proposed a Lodge ancestral biography project. A discussion was held on how to best accomplish the project and get members involved.

Progress on the planning for the Torsk and Meatball Dinner was reviewed. Nominations for lodge officers in 2009 are needed for the positions of vice president, treasurer, trustee, and publicity. Planning was begun for programs in the first quarter of 2009. Bell ringing for the Salvation Army will be at Bylerly's on Suburban Avenue on December 6. Rod will turn in the revised Lodge By-laws to the Sons of Norway Headquarters for approval.

The board approved a donation to Ski for Life.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4 (election day) at Sue Halvorsen's home at 170 Skillman Ave. E, Maplewood 55117. It's about a block and a half west of 35E and three blocks north of Roselawn between Jackson & Adolphus Streets.

## Lodge Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2008

The October lodge meeting was attended by 65 people including 3 guests: Betty Ostby, David Skog and Rosemary Willett. Vice President Sharon Amann presided.

There were no additions or corrections to the September board and lodge minutes as printed in the newsletter. Clayton Lance gave the treasurer's report.

A big thanks to Susan Stow who has stepped forward to fill the lodge musician position.

Ron Stow, foundation director, outlined how the contributions to the Sons of Norway Foundation are used to support lodge activities and lodge members. Contributions can be made at lodge meetings by putting money in the red piggy bank, or by submitting a donation form which is available from either Ron or on the Sons of Norway website.

### Old Business:

People are needed to help setup on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and to help prepare and serve at the Torsk and Meatball Dinner on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>. Officer nominations need to be made by the November meeting. Contact any of the board members with the names of people that you feel would be a good person to fill any of the open positions of vice president, treasurer, trustee and publicity.

### New Business:

Rod Hale presented Judy Jourdan with a sports medal.

Members are encouraged to submit suggestions for future lodge programs. Ideas can come from something a person has read or a program that a lodge member has attended. Sharon read a thank you note from author Jack Salmela who appeared at the September lodge meeting.

A signup sheet for Salvation Army bell ringing at Byerly's on Suburban Ave in St. Paul on December 6 was available.

Greg Hovland read a letter from Sons of Norway CEO John Lund regarding the financial stability of the Sons of Norway financial products.

A sunshine collection was taken. It is used for cards to those who are sick and for gifts to shut-ins.

Members celebrating birthdays in October are: Clay Keller, Lowell Helstedt and Steve Roste. Les and Meredith Berg are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Eunice Baker won the \$5 door prize.

Roar Moe gave a fascinating presentation about the history of Norway and its ties to the sea and how he is trying to preserve this heritage and way of living through his school on Little Færoy in Norway. A special thank you to member Jill Storlie for arranging Roar's appearance.

We thank our servers for the delicious refreshments: Trudi Johnson-Richards, Char and Clayton Lance and Rod Hale.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

# Calendar of Coming Events

<b>Saturday</b> Nov. 1	<b>Genealogy Group Meeting</b> Roseville Library conference room County Rd. B at Hamline Avenue	10:00 AM To 12:00 noon
<b>Tuesday</b> Nov. 4	<b>REMEMBER TO VOTE!</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> Nov. 4	<b>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</b> At Sue & Don Halvorsen's house, 170 Skillman Ave. E, Maplewood 55117; it's W. of 35E & N. of Roselawn between Jackson & Adolphus Sts.	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b> November 6	<b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b> 115 No. 4th St, Stillwater Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner Call Jeannie Wendorf (651)439-7400, x111	11:30 AM to 7:45 PM
<b>Saturday</b> November 8	<b>Junior Lodge Peer Gynt Dancers</b> Group practice on 2nd Saturday of each month Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1616 W. Olive in Stillwater - New members welcome	1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
<b>Saturday</b> November 8	<b>Nidaros Sons of Norway Lutefisk Dinner</b> Church of the Good Shepherd 4801 France Ave. So., Edina Tickets: \$15 - call Carolyn - 763-434-5650	3:00 PM To 6:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> November 11	<b>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event</b> Program: Bruce Engebretson presenting "From the Wood, the Culture"	7:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> Nov. 18	<b>Nordic Breakfast</b> Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington - Cost \$18 Contact Gene Branvold - 952-831-4361	7:00 AM
November 27	<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> December 9	<b>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event</b> Annual Lodge Julebord and Juletreffest Bring Scandinavian dish to share Program: "Music and Humor with Tim Dahl"	6:30 PM Begin with Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00
<b>Sunday</b> December 14	<b>Skandia</b> Scandinavian Holiday Celebration Landmark Center - 651-292-3276 \$5 Adults - \$3 kids and seniors	12:00 noon to 4:00 PM

## Synnøve-Nordkap Norwegian Language Classes:

1. "Norwegian in Five Minutes a Month" series - class 6:30-7:00 on Tuesday before lodge meetings in Nov, (no Dec.class)
2. "Norsk, Nordmenn og Norge" class on Thursday, 6:30-8:00 PM Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., near McKnight & Ruth Meet twice a month - Nov. 13, Dec. 18.

For information, contact class co-facilitators:  
Sheryl Hove 651-738-4908 or Crystal Bloecher 651-774-8545

Editors' Note: We (Karen and I) have been doing this newsletter for 7 years. Karen has been doing this page almost exclusively for most of that time, but is no longer able to do so. We need an editor for this page if it is to continue!

### Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner November 14 1:00 PM

Cost: \$13.00 each  
Shepherd of the Valley  
Lutheran Church  
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd.  
Apple Valley, MN  
For reservations, call: (952)432-6351  
Norwegian Glee Club concert  
after the 1:00 dinner

### Scandinavian Treasure Chest

Saturday, November 1  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran  
Memorial Church  
924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis  
For information call: 612-874-0716  
Hardanger embroidery, Hand-knit  
items, Norwegian chocolates, imported  
foods and gifts, home-baked cakes,  
breads and lefse  
Silent Auction also - new and used items  
bidding closes at 2:00 PM  
Lunch available at 11:00 AM  
Open-faced sandwiches, bløtkake, kaffe

### Lutefisk & Meatball Supper Saturday, November 22

Mindekirken  
Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church  
924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis  
(612) 874-0716

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2:30, 4:00 and 5:30 PM  
Seatings by reservation  
\$17.00 per adult (\$5 per child)

Tickets sold in advance by mail order.  
Make check to Norwegian Lutheran  
Memorial Church, send to above  
address, marked with "Lutefisk"  
on the envelope.

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The dishes are served family style and  
menu includes lutefisk, drawn butter,  
cream sauce, boiled potatoes, cole slaw,  
flat bread, lefse, coffee and assorted  
cakes (and meatballs in gravy).

# The Skogfjorden Experience: Camper and Parental Perspectives

Claire Keller and Clay Keller

As the time for Sons of Norway and Lodge Norwegian language camp scholarship applications approaches, we wanted to share one family's perspectives about the enjoyment, meaning, and value of such experiences. Claire is a veteran of Skogfjorden, the Norwegian option of the Concordia Language Villages (<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite/Languages/norwegian1.php>). She first attended Skogfjorden the summer after first grade and celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> year as a camper this past summer. Clay has 11 years of experience as the parent of campers as Claire's sister attended camp the summer before the family lived in Trondheim. He is also the Lodge's Scholarship Chair.

The article was written via an extended email conversation, the format of which is retained here.

**Dad:** Why did you want to go to Skogfjorden in the first place, and particularly at such a young age? What was it like for you going there--and being away from home for the first time--the summer after first grade?

**Claire:** At first one of the main reasons I wanted to go to Skogfjorden was because my sister had gone there a couple summers before and I really wanted to do everything she did. When you guys asked me if I wanted to go I said sure! The young age didn't bug me because I have always gotten along with older kids and I don't think we realized I would be the only one really that young. I thought Skogfjorden was great even though I was so young. It was just a wonderful atmosphere so I didn't have a lot of home sickness, especially since the credit villagers took me in and took care of me like I was a younger sibling.

**Dad:** Why did you keep going back year after year? Obviously you found it very enjoyable as you said. What were some of your favorite parts of camp, particularly in the early years? Did those change as you became older? Remember, too, that you can ask me questions if you'd like.

**Claire:** I just found it very enjoyable and a great place to be. In the later years it was interesting and fun because all these kids who had been credit villagers were now becoming counselors and other counselors were still around so they watched me grow up. I'm still close with some of them today. In the early years I guess I really liked it because it was fun and there were other kids there to learn Norwegian. It seemed like we were all one big family and I had a ton of older siblings that I didn't fight with. The reasons changed a lot over the years but I never lost interest like some of my other friends did. There was always the idea, too, that since I started young enough I could go for 10 years which is a big deal and still be in high school. It was sad, though, when a lot of my friends stopped going but you always make new friends each year and I keep in touch with the old ones.

A question for you, Dad. What was it like being a parent of villagers, especially at such different times? How have you noticed the camp change every year as you dropped us off and picked us up?

**Dad:** It was very enjoyable to be the parent of a camper as Skogfjorden was such a valuable, important, and enjoyable experience for you. Being an educator, it was good to see you become interested in something educational. As we became more international in our lives and our love for Norway and things Norwegian grew, it was great that your choice reinforced those values, and let us experience them again briefly each summer.

I don't think I saw Skogfjorden changing that much over the years--it looked the same, Tove was always the Dean, many of the counselors were the same, the goods in the store never seemed to change--but maybe my knowledge and connection deepened over the years as you experienced more of the curriculum. It was very rewarding as a parent to see you stick with this for 10 years to achieve that goal you had, despite many of your friends not going later on and despite the fact that your high school wasn't going to count the language credit that you earned for going to summer school/camp for a month. There was a nice family tradition and set of memories, too, from driving you to and from Bemidji all of those years--sighting the landmarks like Ball Club, MN, the Big Fish Supper Club, and T-Roy's; having lunch at the Italian restaurant before we headed back to Madeline Island; etc. And, I still get choked up thinking about everyone at Skogfjorden singing "Heia Norge" as the last song of the final assembly each year. It was a little sad this year as we realized that, when everyone sang about seeing everyone "neste sommer", there wasn't going to be a "neste sommer" for you as a camper or me as a parent of a camper. All of this is very special to me.

**Dad:** Last questions. What's your favorite thing about going to Skogfjorden? How has going to Skogfjorden had an effect on your young life?

**Claire:** There isn't one specific thing that's my favorite at Skogfjorden. It's just the overall package and feel that the camp has. I've talked to people who have been to and worked at other camps and they have said that Skogfjorden has the best attitude out of the bunch. It really just has a great feeling of community.

(Continued on bottom of next page.)

# On Stevne and lags

- by Meredith Berg

Norwegian immigrants coming to the U.S. in the 1800's came mostly from rural areas, rather than the cities. And, since these people were uprooted from the security and friendships of their native society, they readily banded together to reorganize their lives by restructuring the old ways of life and creating new ones where needed. One of the ways they did this was by forming "bygdslag", which were based on geographic communities back home in Norway. Thus, while a "bygd" is a place or a community, a "lag" is an organization related directly to that particular place. The goals or purposes of the people who formed these groups were to continue the cherished aspects of their Norwegian heritage, which included their various dialects, and to make certain that their old country localities were retained through their traditions, foods, holiday celebrations, clothing styles and their traditional values.

A "bygd" was understood to be a particular community or group of communities as well as a general district, fjord region or a valley, and they usually took their names from the place where most people felt comfortable (and probably were most numerous!) The establishment of the bygdslags themselves were intentionally conservative in nature, aimed at maintaining and strengthening the feelings, beliefs and cultural memories of the immigrants. The longer they were here, the more they realized that memories of those things seemed to be fading and they wished to keep them alive as long as they could.

The first bygdslag in the U.S. was organized by immigrants from Valdres, when they held their first meeting at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis, Minn, on June 25, 1899. By 1907, there were 4 new bygdslags established: Sognalaget, Tronderlaget, Nordlandslaget and Numedalslaget. Today there are over 30 bydelags in the U.S. and several in Canada as well. They all have many things in common, among them the celebration of nature (mountains, fjords and waterfalls) in Norway, and the honoring of the hard work and sacrifices that had to be made in the early days of settlement in America.

As bygdslags were formed they organized big "get-togethers" called "stevne" or "stevner", usually in the summer. Nowadays, each lag publishes a newsletter, primarily to help members keep in touch with each other, but also to list meeting dates and locations, information about trips to Norway, social and cultural activities as well as genealogy workshops, internet sites to use in genealogical searches etc. One of the main goals of the "stevne" is to provide people and resources to help in genealogy, as the 'lags' are always interested in helping members find their ancestors and ancestral farm. The VIKING magazine publishes the Bygdslag/stevne dates and locations in early spring, so keep your eyes open for this important information.

Eight years ago, my husband and I didn't even know what 'stevne' or 'lags' were...then we saw a listing with dates and locations in the VIKING, said to ourselves "lets go and try it--if we don't like it we can always come home". So, we drove to Rochester, paid for a lunch ticket and "discovered" what these strange sounding Norwegian meetings were! We enjoyed ourselves so much at that one, we have gone every year since, and, in fact, since that was "my" stevne, we found out where 'his' was meeting the next year, and we have attended both ever since! Since they 'travel', being in a different location each year, we have been to Rochester, and Sioux Falls, Minot and Fargo-Moorhead, Eau Claire and Decorah, Forestl City and Northfield...each steve was different, each one interesting and all of them thoroughly enjoyable!

Stevne are usually 3-4 days long, in a large hotel (they try to have a place where everything is under one roof, so you can stay there, eat your meals there and attend all activities without leaving, if you choose!) They are usually a Wed. or Thursday, through Saturday noon lunch. There are classes taught by experts in such things as Norwegian-related history, such as "Norwegians in the Civil War" or "Who came over on the Restoration and why?" There are always classes on the folk arts, such as rosemaling, weaving or hardanger. We always enjoy a traditional Norwegian banquet, complete with torske and lefse, lingonberries and have even enjoyed rommegrote a few times, along with good music! There is usually some kind of entertainment with either folk dancers, music or comedy as part of their evening dinner. There are always wonderful Norsk vendors, selling everything from antique dishes and books, to jewelry, rosemaled or hardanger items, newly published Norsk books, clothing and purses and even woven or felted items.

Attending a "stevne" is a wonderful way to learn more about your heritage, to make some new friends and maybe even 'find' some old friends too! Watch the VIKING along about Feb. or March for information about next summer bygdslags, and try one out for yourself! I'm sure you won't be sorry!

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**Claire:** Skogfjorden has made me more interested in international things and has really pushed me to travel and learn other languages. It is great to just do stuff internationally and learn more about the world. In the end we all need to communicate globally to make the world work better which is part of CLV's mission.

We'll be giving a brief presentation to children and their parents about Skogfjorden at the November meeting of the Junior Lodge. If you have any questions about Skogfjorden or the scholarships for campers, please contact Clay ([keller.clay@gmail.com](mailto:keller.clay@gmail.com); 651 310 9667).

# Lodge News + The International Scene

Thank you to all who helped to make our **Torsk and Meatball Dinner** successful. If you have never worked at one of these events, you don't realize the number of people needed for various tasks. This event was chaired by Sharon Amann, who deserves our thanks for her fine work. Including the committee meeting on August 18, planning, shopping, cooking, set-up, serving and cleanup, the following people helped, and their services were much appreciated. Hopefully no one's name was mistakenly omitted.

Sharon Amann	Ed & Penny Gilbertson	Dave, Mary Beth, & Lisa Mutchler
Lyle & Eunice Baker	Curt & JoAnn Hogenson	Loren & LaRee Opdah
Meredith Berg	Sheryl Hove	Jerry Richards & Trudi Johnson Richards
Bob & Joanne Berndt	Judy Jourdan	Frank & Laura Sherman
Shirley Brekke	Beth Juran	Taffy Storck
Dana Carlson	Sharon Kalmes	Ron & Susan Stow
Len & Kathy Carlson	Clay & Claire Keller	Harry Thomsen
Patty Carlson	Ron Kvas	Axel Torvi
Ardyce Davies	Clayton Lance	Andy & Jane Urness
	Sherry Miller	Karen Vinnes

Special thanks to Wayne Bjorum, who was unable to attend the dinner, but made a \$20 donation to the fundraiser.

## **Norway won't cut oil production**

Oil prices fell again on Wednesday and OPEC is urging Norway to cut its production. Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, however, said the country won't go along with the effort to boost prices. High oil prices sparked a boom in oil exploration and production in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said Norway will decide its own levels of oil production itself, just like it has in the past.

PHOTO: STIAN LYSBERG SOLUM/SCANPIX

Støre, who's been hosting his Algerian counterpart in Oslo this week, said Norway has no plans to cut production. "Norway makes its own evaluations on an independent basis," Støre said. He said Norwegian officials "of course" consult others, "but it's Norway alone that makes these kinds of decisions."

OPEC is due to meet Friday to discuss ways to boost prices, with production cuts high on the agenda as a means of cutting supply and thereby boosting demand. Algeria chairs OPEC, of which Norway is not a member.

Algerian Oil Minister Chakib Khelil has urged Norway, Russia and Mexico to reduce production in line with OPEC. Algeria's foreign minister Mourad Medelci said Tuesday that he doubted Norway would let itself be instructed by OPEC.

From a high of nearly USD 150 a barrel last summer, oil prices fell by more than USD 3 on Wednesday, to near their lowest level in 16 months. Prices below USD 70 were tied to mounting worries that production cuts by OPEC itself will not be enough to offset lower energy demand.

Some North Sea crude fell to USD 67.44. "People are just scared that the economy is going down the tube," Tony Nunan, assistant manager of risk management at Mitsubishi Corp in Tokyo, told Reuters. "There is a feeling that we are now going to see problems in the real economy; employment, real estate prices will continue to fall and the big concern now is how much economic growth is going suffer."

A stronger US dollar means Norway stands to collect higher kroner revenues on every barrel sold, which may offset some of the price decline. There's no question, though, that high oil prices in recent years fueled the strong economy Norway enjoyed until the international financial crisis erupted. Lower prices will mean far less money flowing into state coffers.

It doesn't seem all that long ago that oil prices were well below USD 20, and the huge jump to well over USD 100 drove up costs for industry and most consumers. The high prices thus were a source of huge concern and complaints, making it almost ironic that the recent decline to a level that's still over three times as high as prices once were, is now sparking concern and complaints as well.

Aftenposten English Web Desk  
Nina Berglund/NTB/REUTERS

# This and That

A book report from Sharon Amann

**Of Vikings & Voyagers** by Jack Salmela

I love to read, and I especially like to read thrillers and mysteries. This book is both. It has the added dimension of being historical with fictional personalities interwoven to keep the reader's interest engaged.

Jack Salmela's writing style heightens this literary adventure by changing scenes from the lake country wilderness northwest of Lake Superior in 1779, to various present day areas in Minnesota, jumping to Paris, France in 1782, then over to Scotland in 1777, and stopping at other places in between.

Salmela hooks the reader immediately with a white-water canoeing adventure so one can't lay the book aside until the last page is read. The hook is set when the scene changes to present day intrigue and action.

Rune stones, diamonds, blonde and blue-eyed Indians, Hudson Bay Trading Company, voyagers, Benjamin Franklin, and many other historical people and events are punctuated with some that are not, or maybe just could be—who can tell?

Even after the last page is read, the story line continues to draw the memory back to snippets that linger, begging for more...

**Sound Bytes** by Dave Mutchler

We have (copies of) some additional CD's in our library for our musical education. All originated in Norway and were loans from **Clay Keller**, who spent time in Norway as a Fulbright scholar. The titles include:

- **“Julekveld: Nidarosdomens Guttekor, Trondheimsolistene”** a nice Christmas album by the Nidaros Senior Choir and orchestra, sung in Norwegian.
- **“Jul i Nidarosdomen: Nidarosdomens Guttekor, Trondheimsolistene,”** an even nicer Christmas album by the Nidaros Senior Choir and orchestra, sung in Norwegian, with some instrumental only.
- **“The Lovliest Rose,”** an interesting Christmas mixture of vocal and instrumental pieces with a medieval sound.



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## Alert on new Minnesota quarters!

Hang on to any of the new Minnesota Quarters you may have or acquire. They may be worth MUCH MORE than 25 cents!

The US Mint announced today that it is recalling all of the Minnesota quarters that are part of its program featuring quarters from each state.

This action is being taken after numerous reports that the new quarters will not work in parking meters, toll booths, vending machines, pay phones or any other coin operated devices.

The problem lies in the unique design of the Minnesota quarter, which was designed by a couple of Norwegian specialists, Sven and Ole. Apparently the duct tape holding the two dimes and the nickel together keeps jamming up the machines.

Submitted by LaRee Opdahl

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**Time sensitive material;  
please deliver promptly!**

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**St. Paul, MN**

**Upcoming Activities**

**Genealogy Group Meeting - Sat. Nov. 1  
"From the Wood, the Culture" - Tues. Nov. 11  
Julebord and Juletreffest - Tues. Dec. 9**

**More Info Inside**

The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge welcomes visitors and new members.