

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the NAHA Office to the Association Members*

NUMBER 133

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

SPRING 2008

## COME JOIN US FOR A TREASURE HUNT!

You are invited to join your fellow NAHA members in St. Paul for a casual and educational afternoon at the Minnesota Historical Society on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Our focus will be finding the Norwegian Americans within the popular exhibit *Minnesota 150 – the 150 People, Places and Things That Shape Our State!* For some Norwegian immigrants the Northstar state was a destination location. For many other Norwegian Americans, Minnesota was a stopping place to regroup, earn money and then move further west where they could find employment or purchase land.

The *Minnesota 150* exhibit is unique in that the people, places and events were nominated by everyday citizens - people like us! The top 150 vote getters are highlighted at the Minnesota Historical Society. Let's tour the exhibit together, find those with Norwegian connections and perhaps share a surprise or two!

Remember Norman Borlaug? While he is no longer living in Minnesota, (he started life in Cresco, Iowa) he did graduate from the University of Minnesota. There are bound to be other notables Norwegian Americans we can claim as our own.

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102. (At the junction of I-35E and I-94, on the western edge of downtown St. Paul - at the corner of Kellogg and John Ireland boulevards, across from the Cathedral of Saint Paul.)

**MEET:** In the rotunda of the Minnesota Historical Society Building. Look for Kim, holding the Norwegian and American flags! Feel free to bring a friend, or arrive early and have lunch at The Minnesota Café which opens at 11:30.

Admission to MHS is \$10 or \$8 for Seniors, and free for MHS members. For detailed parking information please check the website at [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org) On Tuesdays the Historical Society is open until 8:00 p.m. We look forward to getting together with our NAHA members and touring this special exhibit.

## 2008 NAHA PUBLICATION

Your NAHA publication for the year will be volume 36 of the *Norwegian-American Studies* series. Over time NAHA's *Studies* publications have been popular with readers because they contain a variety of Norwegian-American topics under one cover. This upcoming book brings you articles on a variety of themes, ranging from the early settlement to the present, and will cover topics from clothing, to architecture, to literature. The book will be mailed to you later this fall.

## NEW FICTION WITH NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CHARACTERS

Author and NAHA member, Siri Hustvedt, daughter of Lloyd and Ester Hustvedt, will be at St. Olaf College on April 25<sup>th</sup> to sign and talk about her latest book, *The Sorrows of An American*. Siri has creatively incorporated portions of her father's memoirs into the novel.

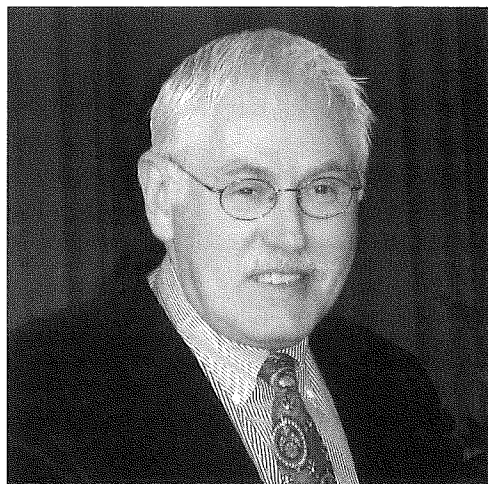
*The Sorrows of an American* is described at the Amazon.com website as a soaring feat of storytelling about the immigrant experience and the ghosts that haunt families from one generation to another. When Erik Davidsen and his sister, Inga, find a disturbing note from an unknown woman among their dead father's papers, they believe he may be implicated in a mysterious death. *The Sorrows of an American* tells the story of the Davidsen family as brother and sister uncover its secrets and unbandage its wounds in the year following their father's funeral.

The novel is about fathers and children, listening and deafness, recognition and blindness; the pain of speaking and the pain of keeping silent, the ambiguities of memory, loneliness, illness and recovery. Siri Hustvedt's moving prose reveals one family's hidden sorrows through an extraordinary mosaic of secrets and stories that reflect the fragmented nature of identity itself.

Siri Hustvedt will be speaking at **4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** in the **Viking Theater** in Buntrock Commons on the campus of **St. Olaf College**.

## SEATTLE BOOK PARTY FOR "MARCUS THRANE"

NAHA members and friends will gather at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle to hear University of Washington Professor Terje Leiren talk about his recent NAHA publication *Selected Plays of Marcus Thrane*. Leiren will discuss how some Norwegian immigrants viewed Americans through the plays of Marcus Thrane. NAHA Editor Todd Nichol will be in Seattle to meet members and share information on the founders of NAHA and the purpose of the organization.



## IS THIS SET of BOOKS SITTING ON YOUR SHELF?

Do you have a copy of *Grand Forks County Heritage Book: a History of Rural Grand Forks County, Grand Forks, North Dakota*? Perhaps you lived in North Dakota and purchased these books when they were published in 1976 and 1978. If you have completed your work with these books and now wish to find a good home for this 2 volume set NAHA would be a happy recipient! The books are a great resource for family historians.

## SAVE THE DATE

The tradition of a triennial meeting for NAHA members has taken a slight change. In updating the NAHA Bylaws, the Board determined the gathering of members should take place on a biennial basis. We look forward to having you join us for the last triennial meeting (or the first biennial meeting!) on **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>** at St. Olaf College. The festive banquet will be held in the Kings Room in Buntrock Commons.

## NORWAY DAY in MINNEAPOLIS

The seventy-sixth anniversary of the first annual Norway Day will be held Sunday, July, 13, 2008 in Minnehaha Park at 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and Minnehaha Parkway in Minneapolis. Norway Day in Minneapolis is filled with activities including a Barnetog (children's parade,) singing and dancing, a worship service along with crafts and food booths. Plan to join the fun and festivities. Bring the kids and grandchildren with you!

## 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL IBSEN FESTIVAL

Lanesboro, Minnesota will be hosting the Annual Ibsen Festival May 2-4. The scenic small community knows how to celebrate Scandinavian theater, art, music and dance. This year the featured play is Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. Check their website for all the details: [www.Ibsenfest.org](http://www.Ibsenfest.org) or call 1-800-657-7025.

## NORWAY DAY FESTIVAL in SAN FRANCISCO

May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> will be fun days in San Francisco's Norwegian Community. Cooking demonstrations, children's entertainment, a concert by Arve Tellefsen, a 10k Run for Arctic Awareness and other activities for the whole family. The Festival will be held at the Herbst Pavillion, at Fort Mason in San Francisco. See their website at [www.norwayday.org](http://www.norwayday.org) for all the details.

## CELEBRATING MID-SUMMER ON THE WEST COAST

Join your fellow Scandinavians for the 80th Annual Portland Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, sponsored by Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and League of Swedish Societies.

**When: Saturday, June 28, 2007**

**11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,** Music, Dancing, Games

**1 p.m.** Raising of the Maypole

**11 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Kids' Zone

**6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** Dancing

**Where: German American Cultural Center,  
7901 SE Division, Portland, Oregon**

## EARLY NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CHURCH LIFE IN WISCONSIN

For those of you with Norwegian ancestors who settled in Wisconsin, or those of you who have read about the Norwegian Synod and Herman A. Preus, you may be interested in a new book about his wife. *Linka's Diary, A Norwegian Immigrant Story in Word and Sketches*. The book provides glimpses into the life of a prominent Norwegian immigrant couple through a new translation of Linka's diary and letters along with her sketches. For more information on the book please check the website at [www.lutheranupress.org](http://www.lutheranupress.org). or call 1-888-696-1828.

NAHA's *Studies*, volume 32 includes an interesting article about Linka Preus titled, 'The Americanization of the Norwegian Pastors' Wives'. Volume 19 of the *Studies* also includes good background with the article, 'The Norwegian Immigrant and His Church'. These volumes are online at [www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu).

## REMEMBERING RUTH VIGNESS

A leader by example, we wish to remember NAHA member Ruth Vigness for including NAHA in her estate planning. Ruth was born in Texas and received a Bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University with a double major in music and English. In 1961 she moved to Rochester Minnesota and over the years taught Spanish, English and History at the Kellogg Middle School and at John Adams Middle School. Later Ruth earned a master's degree from the University of Minnesota. Ruth valued education, her church and her Norwegian heritage

## THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

The NAHA Board of Directors thank you for your ongoing support of NAHA's programs from September through December 2007.

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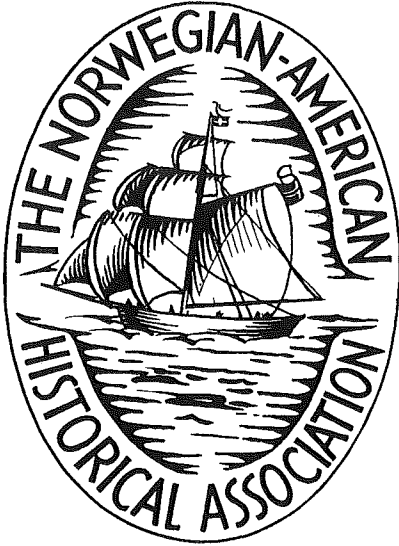
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