

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the NAHA Office to the Association Members*

NUMBER 125

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

SUMMER 2005

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED

NAHA's 27<sup>th</sup> triennial membership meeting was held on April 30, 2005. We are pleased to announce that four new members joined the Board of Directors. These individuals bring a geographic diversity and a commitment to sharing their time and talents for the betterment of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

Joining the NAHA Board for the first time are H.Theodore Grindal, a health care attorney from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Katherine Hanson, a professor in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington, James Honsvall, a CPA from Stillwater, Minnesota and Mary Rand Taylor, a philanthropist from La Jolla, California.

Returning members to the NAHA Board include: H. George Anderson, Joan Buckley, Ruth Crane, Karen Davidson, David Hill, Nils Lang-Ree, Zay Lenaburg, Mary Ann Olsen, Janet Pultz, Christopher Thomforde, Bob Tollund, O.J. Tomson, and Sultze Zempel.

The newly elected Board conducted a brief meeting to elect new officers for the upcoming triennium. Serving as President will be John R. Tunheim, a U.S. Federal Court Judge, who lives in Stillwater, Minnesota. Brian Rude, a Vice President of Public Affairs for Dairyland Power in the LaCrosse, Wisconsin area was elected NAHA's Vice President. Liv Hustvedt, an import entrepreneur from Northfield, Minnesota was elected Secretary. Layne Haugen, the former CFO at Luther Seminary, is continuing as Treasurer. Rounding out NAHA's Executive Committee is Karen Annestad Humphrey who is currently the Vice-President for Advancement at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.

## OUR OFFICIAL 2005 CELEBRATION! THE VITAL LINKS BETWEEN NORWAY and the UNITED STATES

You are invited to help us celebrate the unique friendship between Norway and the United States. In conjunction with Norway's 2005 Centennial Anniversary, St. Olaf College and the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) will host a symposium that explores the past, present and future relationship of these two countries. Norwegian and American speakers will examine the attitudes and policies of each culture toward society and community, business and industry, as well as science and technology.

The symposium begins with a gala event on Friday, Sept. 23, at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. On Saturday, Sept. 24, the conference will convene at St. Olaf with a keynote address

by the director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, Geir Lundestad. The symposium concludes with music, a banquet and remarks by distinguished guests.

Register at: [www.stolaf.edu/events/norway2005/conference/registration](http://www.stolaf.edu/events/norway2005/conference/registration) A list of hotels in Northfield is included on the website. We look forward to seeing you for this important event which will showcase the ongoing close relationship these two countries share. While registering for the conference you can click on "Speakers" and check out the backgrounds on the various speakers.

## NORWEGIAN NATIONAL OPERA PERFORMS *PEER GYNT*

Mark your calendars! The Norwegian National Opera will perform *Peer Gynt* on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18 and 19 at the Ordway Theatre in St. Paul. This is the magical tale of Norway's folk hero, Peer Gynt, and the basis for the famous Henrik Ibsen play and Edvard Grieg's superb music. The opera will be a collaboration between VocalEssence and the National Opera, National Theatre and National Ballet of Norway. The story will be narrated in English and sung in Norwegian with costumed soloists, dancers, a hardanger fiddle player and a full orchestra. **Tickets go on sale August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Call 651.224.4222.**

## NAHA GOES TO MADISON, WISCONSIN!

Together with the Wisconsin Historical Society, NAHA hosted a reception in Madison to celebrate the Association's 2004 publication, *Ethnic Leadership and Midwestern Politics, Scandinavian-Americans and the Progressive Movement in Wisconsin, 1890-1914*. What better place to celebrate than the city where Bob La Follette's fight for the direct primary took place! Former President of the Wisconsin State Senate, and NAHA Vice-President, Brian Rude welcomed everyone along with Bob Thomasgaard from the Wisconsin Historical Society. University of Wisconsin History. Professor John Milton Cooper explained what other things were going on in the state at the time of the Progressive Era. Professor Emeritus Leon Epstein told a bit about the diverse ethnic groups in Wisconsin and what a substantial contribution Jørn Brøndal's book is to the history of politics in a state that was growing and changing at the turn of the Century.

We appreciate the hospitality of the WHS and the generosity of Professors Milton and Epstein. We are delighted to have been able to take NAHA out of Northfield and meet our members and friends in the Madison area.

## THANKS TO OUR MANY MEMBERS!

Our list of contributors spans from the last posting, September 2004 through May of 2005. We are grateful for your ongoing thoughtfulness and making NAHA a priority for your personal charitable giving!

Your generous support of NAHA is important. Membership dues alone do not provide the funding to support the archives, the operations and the publications program. Your tax-deductible gifts are essential to our continuing the mission of locating, collecting, preserving and interpreting the many contributions made in the United States by Norwegians and those of Norwegian descent. NAHA must continue to collect the letters, diaries, journals, photographs and stories of the Norwegian immigrants or their lives and contributions might be lost forever. We honor the lives of these immigrants through preserving the documents that tell their unique experiences.

### \$1000-\$4999

*Karen Davidson* · Lois Drews · Luther Forde · *David Hill* · *Liv Hustvedt* · *Nils Lang-Ree* · *Todd Nichol* · Brit Aabakken Peterson · *Lois Rand* · Lee Rokke · Walter Rugland · *John Tunheim*

### \$501-\$999

Dave Holt · Sons of Norway

### \$251-\$500

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Annexstad · Harold Bakke · Louis Blumengarten · Michael Bovre · Julie Buckley · *Ruth Harold Crane* · Nancy Gossell · Gary & Miriam Grandrud · Richard Graving · David Hardy · Lawrence Hauge · *Karen Annexstad Humphrey* · John Karevoll · Trygve Lønnebotn · W. O. Lyders · *Elizabeth Paulson Miller* · Mr. & Mrs. David Monson · Adrienne Morrison · Dr. & Mrs. John Nilsen · Carole Stempfle · Sundet Foundation · Lloyd Svendsbye · *Solveig Zempel*

### \$101-\$250

Charles Beck · Ruth Christ · Randolph Cox · Liv Dahl · Fran Debnam · Ross Farnsworth · William Georgeson · *Layne Haugen* · Roger Haugo · Marlin Heise · *Kimberly Holland* · *James Honsvall* · Marilyn Jones · Lars Kindem · Robert Kittelson · Doris Kornfeld · Severt & Mary Kvamme · Delores Thorson Lewis · Fritjof Lokensgard · Anita Hillesland Londgren · Odd Lovoll · David Nasby · Lila Nelson · Mrs. Charles O'Kieffe · *Mary Ann Olsen* · Per Overland\* · *Brian Rude* · Sons of Norway F?rder Lodge #108 · Lee Sandwen · Phillip Thorson · Frank Tysver · Einar Vallevik

### \$51-\$100

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### \$1-\$50

Owen Anderson · Roger Anderson · Anne Bidne · Grace Birkestol · Virginia Blood · Lynn Brown · Storm Bull · Bennie Bungum · Alva Calvin · Carla & John Rokke · Judith Christensen · Marian Christopherson · John Dahle · Eina Anderson Dutton · Everett Everson · G. Bernhard Fedde · Luther & Vee Fjelstad · Glen Fors · Barbara Freet · Cheryl Larson Freitag · Frederic Giere · Frederick Gilbert · Richard Gilman · Elaine Graham · Lloyd Gunderson · James Hanson · Lloyd Hanson · Gordon Hanson · Iris Hemmingson · Gordon Hetland · Anna

Marie Huesers · Joan Iverson · David Jacobs · Gladys Johannesen · James Johnson · Jeffrey Johnson · O. Walter Johnson · Roy Jorgensen · Mary Keenan · Victoria Kingslien · Robert Kjorsvig · William Korsvik · Lori Anne Lahlum · Philip P. Larson · Victor Larson · Joan Losen · John Lovell · Roald Lund · Joyce Madole · John Mahlum · Jean Marck · Zona Mathison · Robert Minish · John & Ruth Monson · Barbara Nelson · Eugene Nordby · Norwegian American Genealogical Association · Frieda Nowland · Magne Olson · Mrs. Lee Olson · N. Thomas Olson · Oscar & Carroll Palrud · Margaret Paulson · Clarence Pedersen · David Preus · Philip Ramstad · Kek Robien · Kristian Ronning · Selma Rud · Sons of Norway Valhall #168 · M. Hildegard Sanderson · Shirley Lillehaugen Santoro · Paul Scheffel · John Schevenius · James Schlosser · Kathleen Bergan Schmidt · Nina Schroepfer · Elaine Schulstad · John Serkland · Marvin Slind · Allan Solomonson · Leona Stavlo · Milo Sulentic · *Christopher Thomforde* · Lowell Thompson · Mr. & Mrs. John Thompson · Edith Thorstenson · Richard Tvedten · Arlen Twedt · Patricia Williams · Vincent & Verla Williams

### Special Donations

Judith Anderson – In memory of Carlyle E. Anderson, Sarah Buck – In honor of Lois Rand, *Joan Naglestad Buckley* – In memory of Ruth Berge, James Christianson – In memory of Sigrid “Siri” Christianson, John Christianson – In memory of Dr. Mary Towley Swanson, Julien Collins Jr. – In memory of Anna Thompson Collins, Reidar Dittmann – In memory of Lloyd Hustvedt, Charlotte Jacobson & Beulah Folkedahl and their contributions to NAHA  
Rhys Hanson – In memory of Dr. Sidney Rand, Mary Hargrave – In honor of Rev. McWaller, Gregg Orwoll – In memory of Duwane Evenson, *Lois Rand* – In memory of Margaret Stork – mother of Adrienne Morrison and In Honor of Forrest Brown, Paul Scheffel – In honor of Jo Scheffel’s birthday, Erlaine Seeger – In memory of their mother: Freda Johnson Hovden, *Clarence Sheffield Jr.* – In memory of Dr. Sidney Rand, Dennis Sorheim – In memory of Dr. Sidney Rand and Dr. Lloyd Hustvedt

\* Proceeds from book sales  
*NAHA Board Members*

## DANISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Danish American Heritage Society (DAHS) will hold a conference, **Danish Culture, Past and Present: The Last Two Hundred Years**, on **October 13-16 2005** at Grandview College in Des Moines, Iowa. Registration information is at the Grandview College Website [www.gvc.edu](http://www.gvc.edu). Use the DAHS conference icon. The conference looks at Danish culture through the traditions of art, literature, music, philosophy, history, technology and film, with speakers and artists from Denmark and the United States.

## CALL FOR PAPERS – NAHA-NORWAY

### Migration and Memory

#### Norwegian-American Dimensions

*Telemark University College, Bø i Telemark, Norway,  
June 21–23, 2006*

The ninth seminar of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Norway Chapter, entitled “Migration and Memory: Norwegian-American Dimensions,” will be held on June 21–23, 2006, at the Department of the Humanities and Cultural Studies, Telemark University College, Bø i Telemark, Norway. As its theme title suggests, the seminar organizers welcome a wide range of topics within Norwegian-American studies. We are particularly interested in papers on subjects related to emigration / immigration and the construction of memory.

NAHA-Norway encourages seminar contributions based on many academic traditions. Topics related to literary, linguistic, and religious studies, to history, social science, fine and folk arts, and cultural studies—as well as multi- and interdisciplinary approaches—are appropriate. NAHA-Norway also emphasizes the need to see Norwegian-American Studies in the context of international migration and ethnic studies in general. Presentations may be delivered in English or Norwegian and, except for invited lecturers, should not exceed twenty minutes.

Prospective speakers are invited to submit a half-page proposal and a one-page CV to NAHA-Norway Chairperson Dina Toflsby, Norwegian-American Collection, National Library of Norway, Oslo Division; P.O. Box 2674 Solli, N-0203 Oslo; Norway, ([dina.toflsby@nb.no](mailto:dina.toflsby@nb.no)) or Associate Professor Øyvind T. Gulliksen, Telemark University College, N-3800 Bø i Telemark ([oyvind.gulliksen@hit.no](mailto:oyvind.gulliksen@hit.no)), by **November 1, 2005**. For further information please contact Dina Toflsby or Øyvind T. Gulliksen.

Those who wish to attend the seminar without giving a paper should also notify NAHA-Norway or Telemark University College at the above addresses to receive information (program, accommodations, registration).

### NORWEGIAN AMERICAN ELECTED TO SOCCER HALL OF FAME

Several years ago NAHA was contacted by a sports reporter asking for any information about Werner Nilsen, a Norwegian-American soccer star from the 1920's and 1930's. Nilsen was one of the great forwards before World War II. Werner Nilsen was born in Skein, Norway and started his soccer career with the local Grane club. Nilsen moved to the United States in 1923 and played for the Norwegian-Americans of the Boston and District League for two years. He won the American Soccer League championship with Boston in the 1927-28 season. Werner Nilsen played 239 games and scored 131 goals in the first ASL, placing him 10th on the all time scoring list.

After playing for a variety of clubs in Massachusetts, Nilsen made a home for himself in St. Louis, Missouri. His team in St. Louis won the U.S. Open Cup 1933 and 1934, making it five cups in a row for the popular Norwegian. In 1934 he was chosen to represent the United States in the FIFA World Cup played in Italy and played in both the qualifying game against Mexico and in the first round game against Italy. In 1928 he toured Scandinavia during the summer months with a Norwegian-Swedish American All-Star team playing under the name of the New York Club, known as Viking, and made a second Scandinavia tour in 1931 as a guest player with Brooklyn Gjoa. To learn more about Werner Nilsen's soccer career check [www.soccerhall.org](http://www.soccerhall.org). Check in the class of 2005 hall of fame inductees. Nilsen died in 1992.

### YOUR NAHA 2005 PUBLICATION

Your upcoming NAHA publication this fall will be something different for our members and for the Association. Your 2005 book will be Orm Øverland's translation of Johannes Wist's trilogy of novels on Norwegian-American life. The three volumes will be published under one cover as *The Rise of Jonas Olsen*. The novels originally appeared in a serial format in the *Decorah Posten* during the 1920's. This previously un-translated fiction offers a view of Scandinavian immigrant life which

involves business, politics and cultural life in the Upper Midwest. The character's struggle to preserve his identity and heritage while at the same time trying to become a true American is a struggle with which most of our ancestors or any immigrant can identify. The book is published through a cooperative agreement with the University of Minnesota Press. *The Rise of Jonas Olsen* is slated to be a November mailing.

### ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Lee Rokke, *Krødsherad volume IV*, hard-cover, 576 pages, plus an index and fold-out map of the local area. This is an updated bygdebok of the area which includes color photos and easier to read family information.

Received from Lee Rokke, *Krødsherad volume V*, hard-cover, pages 552 pages, plus an index and detailed, fold out map of the area.

Received from Kristin Risley, *Vikings of the Midwest: Place, Culture, and Ethnicity in Norwegian-American Literature, 1879-1940*. A doctoral dissertation examining the concept of home in Norwegian-American literature. The author reviews the use of place, culture and ethnicity by Norwegian-American writers to articulate their attachments to their homeland in Norway and their new homeland in America. Hard-cover, 313 pages.

Received from Luci and Eunice Baker, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Leif Erickson Lodge 2-001, Sons of Norway, Seattle, Washington. 1903-2003. Hard cover, 52 pages. Includes a list of lodge presidents, photos of gatherings, events and documents. Includes a color photo directory of current members and mailing addresses.

Received from John Holland Redfern, *Railroad Signatures Across the Pacific Northwest*, by Carlos A. Schwantes. Soft-cover, 360 pages. The chapter, "Shapers of a New Northwest" reviews the railroad's advertisements to entice Scandinavian laborers to construct its Cascade line and lure people from Minnesota and the Dakotas to farm and settle in Oregon and Washington. Louis, the son of railroad baron James J. Hill, told the Northwest Development League that it was the immigrants from northern Europe that make the best kind of settlers. Many immigrants arrived at their western destinations after days on an emigrant train originating in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Received from Dr. Stanley G. Moum, a notebook of poetry written in Norwegian by his father, Erik Olson Moum with copies of Moum family photographs and genealogical materials. Includes a partial English translation of Erik O. Moum's poems prepared by Berit Lindley. The poetry was written between 1896 and 1903, Moum worked in the lumber industry in Menomonie and Stanley, Wisconsin. The poems are an example of original literary work by a recent Norwegian immigrant without much formal education.

Received from Ole Jone Eide, *Et tidlig utvandringsmiljø, En studie av organisert pioneremigrasjon til Amerika 1821-1854, med særlig vekt på Finnøy prestegjeld*. A master's thesis at the University of Bergen. Soft-cover, 107 pages.

Received from Dr. E. Richard Ensrud, additional photos and memorabilia from the family of Bernt O. Ensrud and Randi Henjum Ensrud of Wells, Minnesota, whose children included Adolph G. Ensrud and Paul G. Ensrud. Includes photos of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Wells, Minnesota and Adolph Ensrud's album of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century postcards from Wells, Minnesota. Additional Ensrud materials have been archived with St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Received from Dr. E. Richard Ensrud, several Norwegian and Norwegian-American books including, *Dr. Martin Luthers Prædikener*, published in Christiania in 1874. This book is an early collection of Norwegian translations of Luther's sermons.

Received from Jim Heg, *Stangeland, Einung, Kornbø A Norwegian-American Family History*, by Alice Stangland Kirn. Soft cover, 92 pages, prepared as a tribute to the immigrant families in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the marriage of Gurine Einung and Elias Stangeland in the Old Muskego Church on May 17, 1855. Includes many photos and information about the different families and how paths led to and from the Muskego settlement in Wisconsin.



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Received from Dr. James J. Garber, a case study on *Jan Christian Grønbold: The Minnesota Leprosy Doctor*, 16 pages. Grønbold was born in 1833 in Gudbrandsdalen and died in 1895. The paper reviews the history of leprosy in Minnesota and the work of Norwegian-American Dr. Grønbold, who was a neighbor to Bernt Julius Muus in Goodhue County. Garber was able to interview the youngest daughter of the Grønbold's nine children when she was 82 years old in 1974.

Received from Nils Lang-Ree, *The Search for Clary Downer* by Arnold Berwick. Spiral bound, 287 pages. A play written by a Norwegian-American living in California.

Received from Nils Lang-Ree, a copy of a May 1993 Reader's Digest story, "The Little Boat That Sailed Through Time" by Arnold Berwick. The story tells about the author spending the summer of his 10<sup>th</sup> year in Norway with his grandfather, Jørgen. Berwick returned to Norway with his family 34 years later and was able to re-connect with a grandfather who had been gone for decades.

Received from Nils Lang-Ree, *Eric of Bjørndal* by Arnold Berwick. Spiral bound, 293 pages. A historical novel set in the early 1500s in Norway.

Received from Nils Lang-Ree, *Who Was Uncle Ole? The Life and Times of Ole Nelson (1864-1945)* compiled by Arnold Berwick. A traditional family picnic called the "Uncle Ole picnic" got the young people asking "Who was Uncle Ole?" The author's mother, a niece of Uncle Ole, decided to find answers about this Norwegian immigrant who ended up in Santa Barbara, California. Using transcripts from interviews in the 1970's the author was able to learn about the group of friends from Stranda, Ansok and Overå Norway who were able to buy adjoining parcels of land in Santa Barbara and start new lives.

Received from Michael H. McCoy, Norwegian and Norwegian-American music and songbooks, a program for the visit of King Harald V and Queen Sonja to Decorah, Iowa, in 1995; Anne Lunde's, *Loving Hands and Kind Hearts*, the Centennial history of the Norwood Park

Home in Chicago (1995); Several Norwegian joke/humor books; *Norges Jul*, the Nordmanns Forbundets Julehefte for 1979-83; several pictures from the Chicago Norwegian community, including a 1900 photograph of Birger Osland and other Chicago Norwegian leaders; Arne Fjellbu, *Memoirs from the War Years*, trans. L. A. Vigness (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1947).

Received from the Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge, Sons of Norway, three issues of the magazine "Norge I Det Nittende Aarhundrede" published in 1901, 1902, and 1903.

Received from Nancy Larson Stout, *The Bernhard Martinus Larson Family History 1980*. Spiral-bound, 151 pages. Includes excerpts from letters, memories the children had from stories the parents told them, photos and copies of documents. Bernhard was born in Drammen, Norway and married a Norwegian immigrant, Elise Saxhaug who was from Inderøen, Norway. They lived most of their married life in western Minnesota and the eastern North Dakota area. In 1920 they moved to Puyallup, Washington. Many of their nine children settled in the Pacific Northwest.

Received from Per Øverland, *The Asker Family Tree*, soft cover, 96 pages. Includes some photos, background information and genealogical charts. The Norwegian author has written the family history in English about the Ravensborg farm and the branches of the family starting in the early 1800s through 2004.

Received from Aaron Hanson, a DVD, *Voices of the Valdres Samband*. The DVD includes excerpts from oral histories of the Valdres Samband members recorded from 1992-1995. Excerpts of the interviews were grouped into four topics: Stevnes, Publications, Genealogy and Trips to Norway.

Received from Paul Scheffel, *The Centennial Period of the Valdres Samband 1994-2004*. Soft-cover, 138 pages. The book includes: reviews of the stevnes, trips to Norway, *Budstikken*, genealogy, committees and projects, a tribute to the officers who passed away during this period, and the roll of officers and directors.