



Norwegian Society of Texas –
Houston/Galveston Chapter (Snorre)

SNORREPOSTEN

Winter 2002

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Greetings from the new Board

The 2002 Board, headed by our new President Inger Russell is looking forward to a bright future for NST. We have every intention of increasing the growth of the membership base by providing a more active organization. We will as always build around the core functions like the Rekefest and the Juleball, but will also try to add a couple of events to make sure the organization does not fall inactive during the rest of the year.

We plan to come out with 4 or 5 newsletters per year, recapping recent activities, and letting you know what is coming up in NST and other organizations of similar interest.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the long standing members for their support, and would like to welcome all the new members into our organization.

An organization is only as good as its members, so we look forward to your input and support in the years to come.

Hope to see y'all at the next NST event!!

Visit us at www.nsthouston.org

Special Thanks To:

We sincerely thank all of you who supported us by participating in the Juleball in December of last year, and especially the companies who supplied door prizes: **Troll Enterprizes, Jo Tankers, Frank Mohn and Aker Maritime.**

COMING EVENTS FOR THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS:

Wine & Cheese Party

NST is planning a **Wine & Cheese Party** on **March 15th**, at the residence of Bernt Hellesoe in Seabrook, TX. Bernt has been gracious enough to allow us to have this arrangement at his home, so we should all thank him for that. Complete details will follow with the formal invitation.

Rekefest

The ever popular **“Rekefest”** will be held on **April 19th**, at the residence of the Consul General, the Honorable Wenche Kirkebye Moe. We hope to continue the tradition of many people, good food, and a festive atmosphere. Formal invitation to follow.

Scandinavian Club Report:

The following events are scheduled:

April 6th – Bus trip to Austin to visit the new Bullock Museum, the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the Capitol Building.

April 27th-28th – Be sure to remember the Viking Fest in Georgetown, TX

May 19th – Annual Buffet Brunch at the Hotel Galvez in Galveston

Contact Robert Bjercke with the Scandinavian Club at 281/778-6486 or at bjercke@worldnet.att.net for full details.

ATTENTION!

The Houston Dance Coalition, supported by the China, Norway, Sweden, France and England Consulates General and the Houston Ballet, presents DANCE SALAD SPRING FESTIVAL.

Featuring dancers from the Norwegian National Ballet, the Dance Salad Spring Festival will be held March 28th, 29th and 30th at the Wortham Center Cullen Theater. Performances will start 7:30pm all three nights, and tickets can be ordered through the Wortham Ticket Center, 713/227-ARTS (2787).

Besides the dancers from the Norwegian National Ballet, the performance will also feature dancers from the Guangdong Modern Dance Company of China, the Gothenborg Ballet in Sweden, the Rambert Dance Company in England, and several dance groups from around the US.

This promises to be a real treat for all dance and ballet fans here in Houston, so we encourage you to get your tickets early

Culture Corner:

If you happen to be in New York City during the next few weeks, consider visiting the Yossi Milo Gallery, where Simen Johan will show his "Room to Play" photo exhibit. The exhibit will be open from February 14th through April 6th. For more information, call the gallery at 212/414-0370.

Quiz:

Behind Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger, which is the 5th largest municipality in Norway? Answer at the bottom of this page.

Tip of the day:

Give Blood. The need for blood donations is growing. People can donate blood every 8 weeks, and the procedure only takes about 30 minutes. If you ever received blood at a hospital, you should give some back.

Norway is green

Norway has recently been declared the world's second most environment friendly country, barely edged out by Finland. The report ranks 142 countries according to a number of criteria, including level of pollution, use and abuse of natural resources, and the country's global role. Keep recycling !

Norwegian author wins top Nordic prize

A novel spanning several generations of an Oslo family's life won the Nordic Council's literature prize on Monday.

The jury awarded top honors to Lars Saabye Christensen for his epic "Halvbroren" ("The Half Brother") at a meeting in Reykjavik. The jury lauded the novel for its gripping ability to "shift between the realistic and the fantastic." The story about Barnum Nilsen and his brother Fred, the jury noted, deals with loss and sorrow, but also humor, friendship and hope. Saabye Christensen, who has written several other acclaimed novels set in Oslo, already has won a host of other prizes for "Halvbroren," which came out late last year. He now will receive the Nordic Council's Literature Prize along with DKK 350,000 at a ceremony in Helsingfors in October. Saabye Christensen said he felt like he'd won Olympic gold when the news came Monday morning. "I'm incredibly happy about this," he said. "It's an enormous honor, almost a bit frightening." "Halvbroren," which took Saabye Christensen nearly 20 years to write, has sold well in Norway and already has been translated into eight different languages.

Quiz Answer: Bærum, population 101,000 (approx)

Just like you and I

Norway's Princess Mārtha Louise recently became an "ordinary citizen", and will no longer be called "Her Royal Highness". While all young girls dream about being a Princess, Mārtha Louise found that being a regular citizen has certain benefits, like having a regular job, and paying taxes. People do the strangest things.

Olympic Moments

The Worst:

What is the worst Winter Olympic moment in history? I will let you think about it for a while, then I will give you my point of view.....

The worst Winter Olympic moment happened as recently as February 18th, 2002. The event was the Team 120k Ski Jumping competition at Salt Lake City. Norway finished 9th, right behind SOUTH KOREA !!!!! A team consisting of Choi Heung Chul, Choi Yong Jik, Kim Hyun Ki and Kang Chil Gu beat the Norwegian team by more than 10 points. At least we managed to hold off the pesky French team to restore some national pride.

The Best?

I am sure you all noticed that Ole Einar Bjørndalen took 4 Olympic Gold medals (for a total of 5 for his career), sparking a discussion whether he is a greater Olympian than Bjørn Dæhlie, who is the proud owner of 8 Gold and 4 Silver medals from 3 different Olympic Games. My vote is still for Bjørn, with Ole Einar a close second.

We also need to mention Johann Olav Koss, Thorleif Haug, Ivar Ballangrud and Hjalmar Andersen , they all won 3 Gold medals at the Winter Olympics.

The Big Project:

As you all may or may not know, there is a project in the works to move and preserve the "Ringness House" in Bosque County. Get all the pertinent details at:

www.bosque-norsemen.com/jens_ringness_project

Editor's Closing Remarks:

Whenever a new editor takes over **SNORREPOSTEN** there will always be changes in the format, and also in the material covered. **SNORREPOSTEN** is mainly meant to be a source of information regarding your local NST chapter, reporting on past events and keeping you apprised of coming events. I welcome all your comments and ideas for future editions of **SNORREPOSTEN**.

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Rune Gabrielsen, Editor