



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

SNORREPOSTEN

February 2003

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A few words from the President

In the wake of the February 1 Tragedy, it is difficult to sit down and write something nice and cheerful. The images from the TV screen linger on, and it feels especially close to home here in the Clear Lake area, the home of the Johnson Space Center. Many of us have Astronaut families living on our streets or attending Sunday Services at our local Churches.

Years ago, when my daughter was a student at Clear Lake High School, I once asked her if her Astronaut -children classmates ever talked about it when their father was on a mission in Space. No, she said, they are just very, very quiet until he is back home.....

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Looking back, NST had a very good year in 2002, thanks to excellent support from our members and our friends. All events were well attended, although we did have room for quite a few more at the Christmas Ball. May be it is time to change the format of that event somewhat?????

The Norwegian language classes are very popular, and we could easily fill a couple more, if we could only find teachers!

I am looking forward to what I hope will be another great year . The program is ready, and so are we who are on the NST board.

Dear members and friends of NST, have a Good and Prosperous New Year, and join us for wine & cheese on February 28th.

Inger

Special Thanks To:

Anne Saglokken who does at least 80% of the work with all our social arrangements. She does a tremendous job in arranging all the events that we all enjoy, such as the Juleball, the Rekefest, the Wine & Cheese Party, and everything else NST puts together. Thanks Anne !!!!

On the Horizon for NST:

We have a lot of fun events coming up. First up is the 2nd annual **Wine & Cheese Party** on Friday February 28th. See enclosed invitation for full details.

On March 16th, we will join the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in hosting an evening with Orm Øverland. Professor Øverland is teaching at the University of Bergen, and will entertain us with "Norwegian Texans Tell Their Story in Letters: 1843 - 1884". Find your invitation on the last page.

April 25th will be this year's date for the Rekefest, so mark you calendars and look for the invitation to show up in your mail box.

Scandinavian Club Report:

We remind you that the Scandinavian Club also offers a full range of events here in Houston.

Scandinavian Club bus trip to Chappell Hill on April 5th.

There will be a guided tour of historic buildings in Chappell Hill and traveling of the countryside to view the wildflowers. Box lunches will be picked up at Bever's Kitchen and eaten at a covered pavilion at Washington on the Brazos State Park. Reservations will be necessary by Wednesday, March 19. The cost is \$10 for each person. For information, please contact Anne Eiesland at 713.467.8720 (vegeland@flash.net) or Robert Bjercke at 281.778.6486 (bjercke@worldnet.att.net).

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

Gro:

Unless you are married to a different Gro, we all think of Dr. Brundtland when we hear or read "Gro". Our first female Prime Minister, the Harvard educated public health expert, just resigned from the post as Director-General of the World Health Organization, after one term. The WHO's first female leader in its 55 years of existence has decided to spend more time with family and friends after three decades of public service.

When she took charge of the WHO four and a half years ago, Gro was certain that she would move health issues to the top of the global agenda, and leave her no-nonsense imprint on the giant agency. There is no doubt that the WHO has regained some needed credibility during Gro's years at the helm.

Quiz:

H.M. Queen Sonja was born on what US holiday? Answer at the bottom of the page.

Did you know?

Oslo is only the 3rd most expensive city to live in, behind Tokyo and Osaka, according to a new “Worldwide Cost of Living Survey”. London came in 7th, Paris 10th, and New York 11th.

Mette-Marit & Ari:

Mette-Marit is about ready to move into Skaugum, the 140-room palace they were given as a wedding present by King Harald and Queen Sonja. They are just waiting for the place to be painted. Since Skaugum is also a working dairy and cereal farm, she will no doubt have her hands full.

Ari is getting ready for the move to New York, and is taking shooting lessons in Oslo. Rumors have it that he is “Best in Class” so NY better watch out. Personally, I just don’t like to see a gun in the hands of someone who is “Trist som Faen”

Cold Winter, Warm Hearts:

Russia has asked for Norwegian assistance in an effort to prevent further deaths from the severe winter. Several hundreds persons have died from cold and exposure in the region over the past months. The winter has been more severe than usual, with temperatures well below –30 degrees Celsius in many places.

While blankets and heaters are the most asked for items, there is also a need for financial assistance to repair all the central heating systems that broke down during heavy use.

The Norwegian Red Cross is working closely with the Russian Red Cross, trying to assist in any way they can. So far the Norwegian Red Cross has already financed the purchase of 100 portable heaters and about 400 blankets in the Karelia region, the hardest hit area.

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

Quiz Answer: July 4th, Independence Day.

NORWEGIAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Norwegian Language Classes

Spring Semester 2003

Kinsmen Lutheran Church

This spring semester 2003, we have started up the one conversation class at Kinsmen Lutheran Church, 12100 Champion Forest, in Northwest Houston.

The class has 8 students.

The class is on Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Teacher: Anne Brith Berge

Memorial Drive Lutheran Church

We are hoping to continue a beginner/intermediate class at Memorial Drive Lutheran Church on Memorial and Gessner.

Teacher is Magne Bjorlo. However, he currently has severe back problems and may not be able to teach this spring. For now, that class has been postponed until Monday, March 3, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Norwegian Seamen's Church

Inger Russell is currently finishing up her fall 2002 beginner class on Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Inger Russell's home

Inger Russell is currently finishing up her fall 2002 intermediate class on Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

We have surprisingly many who would like to take Norwegian language classes, but we need TEACHERS!!!!

If you are looking to have a great time and in addition get to know new people, maybe you would consider teaching the Norwegian language in Houston.

For information, please contact Anne Brith Berge, NST Education Coordinator

Tel: 281-537-6879, E-mail: nacc@net1.net

The Norwegian Society of Texas
and
The Royal Norwegian Consulate General.

Invite you to an evening with

**Professor Orm Øverland
fra Universitetet i Bergen**

"Norwegian Texans Tell Their Story in Letters: 1843 - 1884".

Professor Orm Overland got his Ph.D. in American Literature from Yale University, and holds a professorate at the University of Bergen, Norway. He is a well known scholar on both sides of the Atlantic, with a merit-list that could be a book in itself. A very popular guest lecturer, he has visited just about every imaginable university in the U.S., as well as those in most of Europe.

He has his own personal style, and is not afraid to tell it like it is, which makes for very entertaining listening.

Thursday, March 20th at 7.p.m.
Norwegian Seamen's Church
4309 Young Street

Entrance fee \$5.00

A light meal will be served

For reservations please send e-mail to

ramh@mfa.no

or call Rita at

The Consulate General: 713-521-2900 or

Anne Sagløyken: 281-481-4156

The Norwegian Society of Texas

Is launching the 2003 Season
by welcoming you
to our annual

Wine & Cheese Party

Friday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m.
2910 Sea Ledge Drive
in Seabrook

Members \$ 10.00
Guests \$15.00

Make your reservations before February 25th
By calling
Anne Sagløyken 281-481-4156