



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

**SNORREPOSTEN**  
**Julenummer 2003**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**A few words from the President**

**President (2000)**

Inger Russell  
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**Vice President**

Anne Brith Berge  
281-537-6879 (H)

**Secretary**

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**Membership**

Bob Bjercke  
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**Treasurer**

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**Social**

Anne Saglokken  
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**Website**

Bernardo Cuellar  
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**Newsletter:**

Rune Gabrielsen  
713-443-4065 (C)

*Dear members and friends of NSJ*

*We are at the preparatory time of the year. The Holidays are piling up ahead, and we have to prepare. Right now, the plans for a wonderful and abundant Thanksgiving feast may be in the forefront, along with plans for how to accommodate traveling family members who are headed to your house for this very special occasion. This last Thursday in November we all get together, family and friends, to share a meal and to count our blessings.*

*And as soon as December rolls around, Advent is there.*

*In my childhood home those last three weeks before Christmas flew by in a seemingly endless ocean of chores. Everything had to sparkle for Christmas, and all this cleaning and polishing filled the house with a special soapy clean smell, accompanied by the aroma of cookie-baking and the cooking of exotic dishes we never tasted the rest of the year. But the Advent Sundays were special. If we did anything at all, it would be things that were not categorized as work: renewing the Christmas tree decorations, finishing a piece of craft that some lucky relative would find wrapped under his or her tree, go for walks in the woods to gather pine-branches for decorations. We lit the appropriate number of Advent candles, and rested.*

*Those days, almost everything was home made; from food to presents to clothing and no corners were cut during preparations.*

*Not so today. We have learned to make a short-cut or two to avoid total exhaustion. The preparations are important, but hopefully today, with the assistance of all our time-saving devices, we can pace our efforts and enjoy the preparations; and take time to prepare our hearts and souls as well as our homes.*

*One event you do not have to work for though, is the annual NSJ Christmas Party, which this year is set in the beautiful surroundings of the Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland, on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Take the opportunity to dress up a little, and join us for dinner and entertainment you have not had to prepare!*

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all of you!*

*Inger*



## **Looking back at 2003, and forward to 2004**

From the President.

Our two events in the spring semester were very successful in the capable hands of our Social Chairwoman, Anne Saglokken. In the fall, we got on the arena a little late, and we had to cancel our Texas Evening in October because very few signed up for it. I suppose everybody's social calendar was full by then.

We have made an effort to keep our events inexpensive, so that everybody can afford to attend, and I believe we have succeeded. As a non-profit organization we are not supposed to sit on a fat bank account, but to put our earnings to good use. Among other things, we have contributed \$750 towards the new carpeting in the Norwegian Seamen's Church, in appreciation of the excellent relationship we enjoy with the church.

The Norwegian language classes are getting increasingly popular, and this semester we have three classes running counting over 20 students, and with more wanting to join next semester. This is a special joy, for what better way is there to increase knowledge and understanding of Norwegian culture than through the language we speak? The language classes have become the cornerstone of NST-Snorre, and the foundation on which we should build in the future.

So looking forward, I believe we are headed into change. Several of the present board members have come to the end of their term(s), and we need new Officers to serve on the board.

**Our hope is that some of our younger members, like the students, would want to get involved as board members. That way YOU can be part of the policy-making that we have to address to continue to improve the Snorre Chapter.**

## **Holiday Happenings**

- December 6 NST Christmas Party. See next page for details.
- December 10 NACC Christmas Luncheon at the Houston Country Club.  
Call 713-526-6222 for information
- December 16 NST fall semester student graduation party at the Norwegian Seamen's Church (see next page for details)
- December



*The Norwegian Society of Texas*

*has the pleasure of inviting you*

*to our annual*

## *Christmas Party*

*At*

*Golfcrest Country Club*

*2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland, Texas 77584*

*Tel: 281-485-4323*



*Dinner Buffet*

*including Pork Loin with all the trimmings*

*Date: 6 December 2003*

*Time: 7:30 pm to Midnight*

*Cocktail Hour 6:30pm - 7:30pm*

*Cash Bar*



*Music by Glenda Lynn*

*Caroling around the Christmas Tree*

*Door prizes*



### **RESERVATION FORM**

PLEASE RESPOND BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2003

NO CANCELLATIONS OR REFUNDS AFTER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2003

**COST:** Members \$40.00, none Members \$45.00

**NAME (S)**.....

Check payable to NST, Mail to: 2215 Country Club Dr., Pearland, TX 77581

INFO: Anne Saglokken, Tel: 281-481-4156 or E-mail: [asaglokken@aol.com](mailto:asaglokken@aol.com)



## Norwegian Language Classes

### **STUDENT GRADUATION PARTY**

**The Board of NST's Snorre Chapter hereby would like to invite students w/spouses and/or friends and the teachers to a graduation party on Tuesday, December 16, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, 4309 Young Street, Pasadena.**

### **Spring Semester 2004**

Norwegian Language classes start up in the middle of January and run for 12 weeks @ 2 hours. (Classes run approx. through the first two weeks of April depending on which day of the week they are scheduled).

If we follow fall 2003 schedule, classes will start up as follows (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Kinsmen Lutheran Church – FM 1960 area: Teacher: Anne Brith Berge	Mon, Jan 19, 2004
Memorial Drive Lutheran Church – Memorial Dr. & Gessner: Teacher: Joanna Ofstad	Tue, Jan 20, 2004
Norwegian Seamen's Church – Pasadena area: Teacher: Inger Russell	Wed, Jan 21, 2004

Class fee: \$65

Text Book: \$30, Work Book: \$20, Grammar: \$10 (The books are a one-time expense)

NST annual membership fee: \$25 (most of the current students already are paid members)

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

**Tel: 281-537-6879, E-mail: [nacc@net1.net](mailto:nacc@net1.net)**

**NST Web site: [www.nsthouston.org](http://www.nsthouston.org)**

## NM-GOLF

It is 5 years since NM-Golf was held for the first time. A few enthusiastic "Norske" golfers thought it would be a good idea to have a Texas Scramble 2-3 times a year at different golf courses in and around the Houston Area.

Last tournament's winning team is in charge of the arrangements and chooses where and when to play. Lately it has been a twice-a-year event, with spring and fall tournaments.

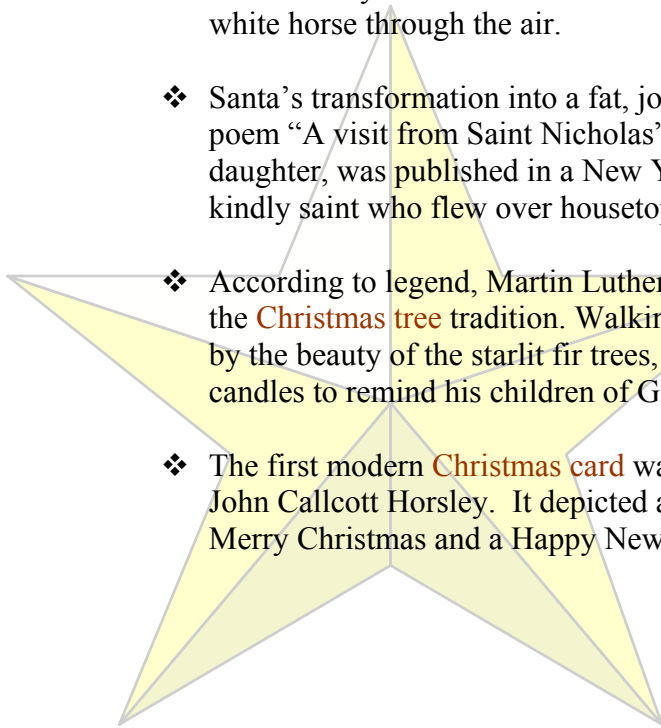
NM - Golf had their 2003 fall tournament Saturday, November 8, at River Plantation golf club in the Woodlands. Forty-one players participated and the winning team consisted of Haakon O. Dale, Harugy Futrell, Anne Torill Eggen and Erling Storaune. Congratulations, and good luck with your tournaments in the future.



## Christmas Trivia

### DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- ❖ The word Christmas comes from *Christes maesse*, meaning “festival of Christ”, and entered the English language around 1050.
- ❖ The shortened form *Xmas* may have come into use in the 13th century. The *X* stands for the Greek letter *chi*, an abbreviation of *Khristos* (Christ).
- ❖ Most scholars believe Christmas originated in the 4th century as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice.
- ❖ The Bible provides no guidelines that explain how Christmas should be observed, it does not even suggest that it should be considered a religious holiday.
- ❖ According to tradition, the sacred Christmas season starts with *Advent* and ends on Epiphany, January 6.
- ❖ The Advent wreath – four candles anchored in a circle of evergreen branches - originated with German Lutherans.
- ❖ *Santa Claus* came to America with the Dutch settlers in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Traditionally the Dutch *Sinter Klaas* was a tall, dignified, religious figure riding a white horse through the air.
- ❖ Santa’s transformation into a fat, jolly old gentleman began in 1823 when the poem “A visit from Saint Nicholas” that Clement Clark Moore wrote to amuse his daughter, was published in a New York newspaper. Moore described Santa as a kindly saint who flew over housetops in a reindeer-drawn sleigh.
- ❖ According to legend, Martin Luther, the founder of German Protestantism, started the *Christmas tree* tradition. Walking in the forest on Christmas Eve, he was awed by the beauty of the starlit fir trees, and brought one home and decorated it with candles to remind his children of God’s creation.
- ❖ The first modern *Christmas card* was created in 1843 by the English illustrator John Callcott Horsley. It depicted a family celebration and its caption read: “A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You”.





**No Christmas Edition without:**

OUR FAVORITE RECIPES.

This traditional Christmas dessert was surely a result of the frugal Norwegian homemaker's resistance against throwing good food away. Many households ate rice porridge (risengrynsgrøt) for lunch on Christmas Eve, because it was a time-saver. It could be made in advance and required a minimum of dishwashing afterwards. Any leftovers would reappear as the delicious

**RICE CREAM**

(serves 4)

- 3/4 cup whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- a few drops almond flavouring
- 2 cups rice porridge

Whip cream with sugar, vanilla and almond flavouring. Mix in the porridge. Chill and serve with red fruit sauce on top.

**SAND CAKES**

- 1 egg
- 100 g(gram) almonds
- 200 g butter
- 250 g wheat flour
- 100 g sugar

Blanch and grind the almonds. Crumble the butter and flour together. Add the almonds, egg and sugar. Mix the dough and let it rest for an hour in the refrigerator. Press thinly into greased "sandcake" tins. Placed on baking sheets and bake at about 350 degrees F (ovens vary) for 10- 15 minutes until light golden. Leave to cool a little before turning out the tins.

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**Some NST info:**

Bob Bjercke, who is in charge of all membership matters reports that currently NST has 127 members in the Snorre Chapter. If any of you know of anybody who would like to become a member, or has questions regarding memberships, they can contact Bob Bjercke at [bjercke@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bjercke@worldnet.att.net).



## **This would only make the news in Norway**

### **Drunken moose alert in southern Norway**

**Experts are not sure how it will affect moose behavior, but if you meet Norway's 'King of the Forest' in the southern part of the country, he could be intoxicated - and potentially dangerous.**

According to a report from the Newspapers' News Bureau (ANB), the reason behind the warning is this year's early snowfall.

A warm summer has led to an unusual bounty from the region's fruit trees. The sudden and early snowfall has left some fruit under snowy cover, while still more remains on the branch. This fruit is fermenting, and also a readily available and tempting source of food for the region's moose.

"This is the first time I have heard that moose are getting drunk. But I assume that they react the same way people do to intoxication - some become harmless while others are the exact opposite," said district veterinarian Paul Stamberg in Kristiansand.

Martin Kolberg, head of the local animal committee in Telemark, warns people to beware of drunken moose.

"Be careful when you approach moose that have been munching apples for days. Their behavior can alter and they can become frighteningly aggressive. Clap and see how it reacts. If it doesn't retreat but instead comes even closer, by all means stay vigilant. It can be intoxicated and attack," Kolberg told newspaper Faedrelandsvennen.

### **Flying moose lands on car's roof**

**A leisurely Sunday drive came to an abrupt halt for a couple in southern Norway over the weekend, when a fully grown moose suddenly landed on the roof of their car.**

"We didn't even have time to think when there came this enormous thud," said a shaken Leo Henriksen after the bizarre incident.

He and his wife were cruising along the two-lane Highway 405 in their little red Mazda. The couple was a few kilometers south of Vatnestrom in Iveland township, Aust-Agder, when their involuntary encounter with the moose took place.

The moose, a female weighing some 350 kilos (770 pounds), apparently had been running through the forest when she suddenly came upon a cliff leading down to the highway. Unable to stop, the moose seemed to literally fly off the cliff, landing first on the Henriksen's car before catapulting further into the oncoming lane.

The moose was dead when wildlife authorities arrived on the scene. Henriksen suffered minor hand injuries, while his wife and the Olsens emerged from the incident without a scratch. Both cars, however, were severely damaged. Henriksen told the Kristiansand newspaper Faedrelandsvennen that he and his wife lost their house in a fire in mid-January. Now they've lost their car as well, and were hoping for a sympathetic meeting with their insurance agent on Monday.



**Yes, there is more:**

## **State ordered to buy car for short man**

**A Norwegian court has sided with a man who claimed he can't use public transit for fear he'll be ridiculed because he's so short. The state may also need to waive his driver's license fees.**

Today he measures 149 centimeters, or about 4 feet, 2 inches.

He complained of bitter memories riding the school bus as a child, because of bullying and because he needed more time than his fellow passengers to go on and off the bus. Today he remains subject to anxiety attacks at the thought of riding the bus. Local authorities in eastern Norway, where he lives, said this is a problem he must tackle himself. The special Norwegian court that decides social welfare conflicts nationwide (Trygderetten) disagreed. The court sympathized with his claim, and ruled that society shouldn't expose him to the additional psychological burden of riding the bus. The court said he thus can demand that taxpayers finance the purchase of a private car for him.

A state-funded car, according to the court order, is the only way he could enjoy a relatively independent life.

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We send our most sincere thanks to all of you who have faithfully supported us in the years past, and in particular this last year. Without the continued interest in our language classes and our events, there would be no reason to continue our chapter. We believe that NST fills its own little square in the tapestry that makes up the social life of the Norwegian-American community in Houston, and by supporting the organization you tell us that you agree.

**We wish all our readers a most wonderful  
Holiday Season!**