



Thor Amulet

Scandinavian Club of the Southeast Valley

Meeting at the Sun Lakes Country Club, Arizona Room



February, 2013

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE!!!!

Gloria E., Carolyn B. and Carol J.

Annual Heritage Dinner

February 17



Roger and Jan Luoma were newcomers in January. How fortunate to have someone of Finnish descent with us..



Wayne and Beverly Johnson were in attendance at the January meeting.



We were happy to see Roger and Donna Thorsen share their evening with us in January.

A presentation honoring one of Arizona's own Danish immigrants. Share in his success and tragedy story. Then, a photographic tour of our great state of Alaska world travelers David and Diane Reesor.

Join others in bringing your artifacts honoring your Scandinavian Heritage.

For those of you who have tickets for the event, it will be buffet style so no need to bring table servings. And, there will be just made (and home-made) lefse.

Lola Folks and sister Beverly from Alaska shared some time with us in January. Lola Fulks spent the majority of her life in Minnesota.



Roger and Nancy Bonngard were engaged with other Scandinavians when we snapped this photo.

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE PARK — MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

The next time your travels take you to the upper western part of North Dakota you might want to venture to Minot. The Scandinavian Heritage Park may be the only place in the U.S. that features all five of the Scandinavian countries.

The following are extracted from the web site at- <http://www.scandinavianheritage.org>.

The Scandinavian Heritage Association was started in 1989 to honor the cultures of the five Scandinavian countries: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland. The SHA boasts an international membership and is committed to honoring the past and building a legacy for the future.

Our immigrant forebears were unable to bring much in the way of material goods and treasures with them to this land, nevertheless, they had an inherited strength of character and perseverance that surmounted the hard tasks of life in the New World

While these new citizens loved their adopted land, they still remembered with great fondness the friends, relatives and familiar places they left behind in the "old country." They often longed to see the majestic fjords again and walk through the meadow beside a cool, clear stream that rippled down from the old stave church on the hill.

Gol Stave Church Museum

A full-size replica of the Gol Stave Church, which was moved from Gol, Hallingdal to the Folk Museum in Bygdoy Park in Oslo, Norway about 100 years ago, has a place of honor in the Heritage Park. It is a full-size replica of the original church built in about 1250.

Inside the church, the corner posts are essential. They are often accentuated, and are heavier and more richly decorated than the other structural elements. "They represent the four gospels whose teachings are the supporting foundation of all Christianity" is the description given in a sermon in the thirteenth century. The beams upon which the columns rest "signify God's apostles, the foundation of all Christianity." The floor boards represent "the humble men who bow in honour; the more they are exposed to the trampling feet of the congregation, the more support they provide."

Stabbur

The stabbur is a replica of a storehouse from a farm near Telemark, Norway. The original was built about 1775. This replica was constructed in Norway. It was then disassembled and shipped to Minot where it was reconstructed in 1990.

Trunks with clothing and valuables were stored on the upper floor. Food and commodities were stored on the ground floor. Stilts raised the floor level, the wooden steps did not come into contact with building to reduce the possibility of rodent infestation and meat/cheese was hung from the ceiling.

According to the Norwegian folklore each farmstead has a Christmas gnome living in their stabbur. The Christmas gnome brings gifts for well-behaved children. But if the gnomes are not well-looked after, they can play tricks on people. Some people put out a bowl of rice porridge sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon to keep their barn gnome happy, much like children today leave out cookies for Santa.





SIGDAL HOUSE

The Sigdal House is the oldest in North Dakota. A 230-year-old house from the Vatnas area of Sigdal, Norway was selected to be representative of a typical house from old-time Norway.

It was purchased by the Scandinavian Heritage Association from Thorvald Watnas and restored with museum standards by Arne Svarstad and crew. The house was then dismantled with each log being carefully numbered for accurate reassembling. Even the old moss which was used to seal in between the logs was saved along with the rocks that formed the fireplace. The entire house was carefully packed in an overseas container and shipped to Minot, and Svarstad and his helpers reassembled the house in the park.

The decorations on the doors inside the house are as they were painted about 1800 by the famous painter from Sigdal, Guldbrand Larsen Foss and were restored by artist Hans Wold prior to the house coming to America.

The completed house was dedicated on October 15, 1991 as a tangible reminder of the important part our forebears have played in the lives of all of us.



Hans Christian Andersen Statue

Hans Christian Andersen nearly comes to life in the park's newest statue, which was sponsored by the Danish Society. Shari Hamilton of Westhope was the sculptor. It was dedicated on October 5, 2004.

The sculpture was funded by Lynn and Marilyn Odland of Mitchell, SD in honor of Mr. Odlund's mother, Alice Nelson-Odlund, an elementary teacher.

Hans Christian Andersen was most famous for his fairy tales even though he wrote novels, poems, plays and travel articles. One of the things his works taught was that beauty comes from within.

Sondre Norheim Statue

Almost forgotten after his death in 1897, Sondre Norheim, the father of modern skiing, has been immortalized with a marker on his grave at the Norway Lutheran Church south of Denbigh.

He brought the joy of skiing to the world. The legendary Norwegian skier played a crucial role as skiing during the late 19th century changed from utility into enjoyment and sports. Norheim was the acrobatic master of the slopes - a man whose traces in the snow will always be visible.

President's Message

Heritage. Noun. Something handed down from one's ancestors, or the past, as: certain skills or rights or a way of life (free speech is an American heritage!).-- Webster's New World Dictionary

On Sunday, February 17, the Scandinavian Club of the Southeast Valley will hold its annual Heritage Dinner. This is an auspicious occasion, but what does it really mean? To many of us, "heritage" means, "our American way of life". Sadly, many Americans are not interested in their ancestral home(s). Most of us did not retain our ancestral language, customs or beliefs. Often, we were told by our parents, grandparents or other relatives to "put aside the old ways, and think, act and speak American!" Certainly this mantra contributed to the great strides in nearly every field of endeavor, but it also resulted in the loss of our past. In some ways, the "melting pot" philosophy of early America, may have gone too far. I never thought too much about this while growing up in a diverse farming community in northwestern North Dakota. Within a few miles of our farm lived Norwegians, Germans, Swedes, Scotch-Irish, English, Danes, Yugoslavs, Poles, Greeks, Italians, and American Indians (and probably some other nationalities I was unaware of or have forgotten). It is true, we had little strife among ethnic groups in the community (well, other than the jokes such as the Norwegian who got cold one evening, so he got up and shut the gate...), but we also missed the cohesiveness of communities such as the "Roosians" (ethnic Germans who migrated to Russia for 100 years and then came to America). They never lost their language, or customs! Indeed, in such communities as Strasburg – where Lawrence Welk originated – many children didn't learn English until they started school! German was spoken in the home, and their food, community gatherings and other customs followed the "old ways". Conversely, most Scandinavians gave up the old ways, and wholeheartedly adopted the new. For instance, my father spoke fluent Norwegian, but he never taught his children the language (I suspect part of the rationale for this was so the older folks could converse openly without fear of being overheard by the children!). I never realized what I was missing until my wife and I visited Stavanger, Norway in 2006. We met many relatives, and got to stand on the island where my grandmother was born and raised (and where access was only by boat; what a contrast it must have been to move to the stark prairies of North Dakota!) It was then that I realized...I had missed much of my heritage!

So as we assemble Sunday evening to celebrate our Scandinavian heritage, let us remember our ancestors and ancestral home(s). Furthermore, let's pledge to learn more about our roots (Sun Lakes has a number of organizations that are dedicated to strengthening our ties to the past, such as the Genealogy Club and clubs

like ours.) Also, let's continue to "spread the word" to neighbors, friends and family about the educational and entertaining programs the Scandinavian Club puts on from November to March each year. Finally, let's share our experiences and keepsakes -- please remember to bring cultural artifacts from your ethnic past to display at the meeting. We anticipate three long tables of "treasures" from the homelands represented by our membership (be sure to label your items, so you will get them back)! Special thanks to Chuck Hughes for donating his grandmother's hand-sewn Swedish costume which will be auctioned off at the Heritage Dinner.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday evening. Velkommen!

Your Viking Chief (president), Maynard Iverson

COME JOIN US AT

Sun Lakes Country Club, Phase I
25601 N. Sun Lakes Blvd.-Arizona Room

**Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00,
Programs at 7:00**

OUR YEAR END EVENT

March 20

A final opportunity to share some good time with fellow Scandinavians until next fall. Join us as Butch Hall shares his photos and experience when he travelled to Norway.

ARIZONA SCANDINAVIAN SPRING FEST

The fest is on Saturday, March 2, starting at 10:00 am and ending at 2:00 pm. This event will be held at Desert Ridge High School, at 10045 E. Madero, Mesa, AZ

It is a wonderful time for all Scandinavians to gather together to meet each other and renew friendships.

You will find imported Scandinavian items, including ethnic costumes and clothing for sale by various vendors. Scandinavian crafts by various crafters are also for sale. Enjoy some ethnic Scandinavian food for sale by various Scandinavian Clubs and Lodges.

Listen to some good, original Scandinavian music, either for your dancing pleasure or just listening. The Scandinavian Folk Dancers will appear at 12:20 pm giving a demonstration and later, audience participation in Scandinavian ring dances.

Schedule to attend this fun event and join in on the fun. Find directions and a map on page five.



Arizona Scandinavian Springfest

Saturday, March 2, 2013

10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Desert Ridge High School

10045 E. Madero, Mesa, AZ 85209

Admission & Program \$3:00

Children 12 and under free

10:00 a.m.	Open booths, food and crafts
10:00 a.m.	Sylvia Jorgensen music for dancing
12:00 p.m.	Flag ceremony
12:20 p.m.	Scandinavian Folk Dancers followed by audience participation ring dances

Take Crismon exit off Hwy. 60. Turn south. Go past traffic light at Baseline. Go past Madero and turn into High School parking lot.

Spring is Festival time in Scandinavia. Join folks from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to celebrate Scandinavian customs, music and crafts while enjoying Scandinavian foods.

Info: 480-854-3128
Vendors: 480-218-7270

