



# Scandinavian Club of the Southeast Valley

*Meeting at the Sun Lakes Country Club, Arizona Room*

Springtime in the desert  
**March, 2013**



Fellow Scandinavians,

This is my final duty as your president. It has been an honor to serve, first as an active member (in 2005, when we moved to Arizona); then, as Newsletter Editor for two years, as Vice President in 2011-12, and now, President.

What has made this volunteer service especially rewarding is the pleasure of working with friendly, talented and motivated Scandinavians -- members and Board of Directors alike. Of course, there were also some challenges...I am reminded of the highway sign in Wyoming that read, "Welcome to Sundance -- population 999 wonderful people...and one grouch!" Mostly, however, you have been kind, responsive and supportive; and for that I am deeply grateful.

We on the Board have worked hard to provide informative programs, a celebratory atmosphere, and opportunities for some quality visitin'! We have not always succeeded, but we have never failed to try! I know that this effort will be continued under the leadership of Ken Egertson. Next year, as Past President, I pledge to devote my time to making our Club even better. For instance, we don't fully understand why volunteer organizations succeed...or fail.

I plan to attend a seminar on working with volunteers that is being conducted in Phoenix; hopefully, some of the ideas generated can be used to



Maynard Iverson  
President

improve our organization. I do know, however, that we cannot continue to have a premier ethnic organization in the SE valley...unless good folks step forward to accept the leadership roles needed for operating our Club. You may ask, why should I, a person in comfortable retirement, put myself out to volunteer for a job that is unpaid, unheralded, and often lacking in orientation or training? One quick answer is for your mental health! Statistically, about 40 per cent of seniors will experience mental decline. Mayo Clinic has listed the following things we can do to sharpen brain function: 1. Take care of chronic problems--follow doctor's orders. 2. Stay mentally active. 3. Stay physically active. 4. Get organized--make a to-do list; de-clutter. 5. Socialize--attend events with friends. 6. Eat a healthy diet. 7. Concentrate. 8. Get plenty of sleep. I count at least four of these strategies that can be practiced by participating in the Scandinavian Club of SE Valley! Please join us in making a great organization even better!

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Tusen takk & ha det! (Norwegian, for "thank you very much" and "goodbye!")

Maynard Iverson, Chief Viking (President),  
2012-13

## COME JOIN US AT

Sun Lakes Country Club, Phase I

25601 N. Sun Lakes Blvd.-Arizona Room

**Social Hour 5:00**

**Dinner 6:00**

**Program at 7:00**

## OUR YEAR END EVENT – March 17

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

Fletchers will provide music and as usual there will be a great smorgasbord dinner.

## CELEBRATING OUR SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE

There is no better way to begin than with a good meal. And, to have lefse with our meal really gives it that sense of Scandinavia.



We have to give thanks to those who gathered together on Saturday evening so that we would have very fresh lefse with our meal on Sunday.

The camera might not have been performing at its best, but these are some of the people who made the lefse possible.

Curt Larson preparing batter and Gordon Roen preparing to roll.



It takes a lot of experience rolling to get as good as Chris Roen.



Gloria and Ken Egertson working together at making lefse.



Lydia Larson and Ken Egertson are old hands at making lefse.



We heard Niels Petersen (Lyle Replogle) tell his story of coming to the desert southwest from his native country of Denmark. From his humble beginnings in a adobe brick home on 160

acres of homesteaded land, Niels Petersen's farm grew to some 1,000 acres. He also became a prominent businessman and community leader.

The brick home still stands at Priest and Southern in Tempe, AZ. Now owned by the City of Tempe Museum it is open on some selected holiday periods.

**Niels Petersen's homes**  
**The homestead adobe brick**  
**The Queen Anne Style brick home**  
**built in 1893**





THE TOLSTAD STORY  
a story of my Norwegian heritage

By Murielyn Racine



By the time my mother was born in 1904, some of my descendants had been in the United States for some 38 years.

My great grandparents Mickal

and Ingeborg (Hjelle) Tolstad had emigrated to near Webster City, Iowa in 1866 from Trondelagen, Norway. They had three children before her death in 1875, one being my grandfather, Carl Tolstad, born in 1872. After the loss of his wife, and 14 years in Iowa, Mikal moved his family to Minnesota in 1880. Twelve years later he made a final move to Souris, North Dakota setting up a claim some 75 miles northeast of Minot, only several miles from the Canadian border.

My grandmother Hannah Mork was born in Ringebu Gudbrnadsdalen, Norway in 1879. In 1899, when 20 years old, she arrived in the United States and worked for relatives in Carbury, N.D. Hannah Mork soon met Carl Tolstad who lived some seven miles east in Souris.

After a short courtship they were married on December 6, 1900. They lived near Souris until 1901 when they purchased and homesteaded some land north of Landa, N.D., some eleven miles west of Souris.

They had three daughters while living in the home built to satisfy the homestead requirements. To accommodate their growing family they constructed a new six bedroom home after the birth of my mother, Alma in 1904.

Eventually the home was occupied by ten girls and two boys. The Tolstad home was often visited by friends and relatives and Norwegian goodies were always served to the guests. Often, some thirty people might stop by on a Sunday.

Lumber was purchased from Sears Roebuck and Co. to build a three story barn. It had to be shipped by rail and was completed in 1913. Unfortunately, in 1926 the barn caught on fire and six horses and some livestock perished in the fire. The barn was soon replaced as it was such an important building on the farm.

Carl Tolstad Farm  
Landa, North Dakota



The winters in Landa could be harsh. In preparation, wood would be hauled from the Turtle Mountains north of the border. Using a team of horses the trip would take two days. Grandmother enjoyed picking June berries in the Turtle Mountains as it reminded her of Norway.

Jars of beef, chicken, vegetables and fruits were canned every year. Beef was dried and buried in the oats bin to protect it from the cold. Apples were stored in the cellar as were potatoes. Laundry soap was made using tallow and lye. Like most farmers, the sale of eggs and cream would provide money for groceries and clothing.

My grandparents lived on the farm until 1944 when my uncle Raymond took over the farm. They purchased a home on the east side of Souris. Grandfather was 76 when he passed away in 1948 followed three years later in 1951 by grandmother when she was 72.

I will always be indebted to my grandparents and those before them. They endured many hardships so that we would have a better life experience.



Murielyn Rosendahl and her sister Lorriane at lower right in this photo.

The nominating committee is putting forth the following names for election to the Board for the 2013/2014 year. Nominations are also welcome from the floor at the March 17th meeting.

President	Ken Egertson
Past President	Maynard Iverson
Vice President	Nancy Espy-Martin
Treasurer	Jerry Johnson
Asst. Treasurer	Carolyn Brown
Secretary	Gloria Egertson
Two year board Term -	
Darlene Knipping and Sue Jordan	

Don Henke and Jerry Christenson will be serving the second year of their two year terms.

The following committees have been staffed by the nominated incoming president-

Membership Chair	Carol Jacobsen
Membership Asst.	Harriet Johnson
Historian	Gordon Roen
Table setup/coordinator	Sue Jordan
Newsletter Publisher	Lyle Replogle
Photographer	Lyle Replogle
Publicity	Jerry Christenson
Caring Committee	Jan Henke
Coffee Preparation	Curt/Lydia Larson
Greeters	Harvey/Carol Knudson

## THOSE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN

The monthly meetings would not happen if it were not for the effort that some dedicated people put forth.

What an effort by Ken Egertson to arrange for Walt Hiskett to share his story in November, the Madrigal singers in December, the wonderful sounds of the harp in January and the vision for the Niels Petersen story in February.

Have you noticed the articles about our club in the local publications? These help inform others of our clubs activities. Jerry Christenson makes sure it happens every month.

Where do the name tags come from? They are so great in getting to know each other. Carol Jacobsen takes on this task, as well as other duties as the "membership chair".

The set-up of tables and decorations are the result of a number of people led by Chris Roen. She is joined with others in the afternoon of meeting dates so that we might have a great setting for a enjoyable evening.

Others that make it happen are Curt and Lydia Larson providing coffee (Lydia as secretary also keeps track of board actions), Margo Otte in telephoning. Pat Schindele and Carolyn Brown who keep our financial ship in shape.

Our past president Jerry Johnson maintains and keeps track of some 150 street addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Lyle Replogle prepares the monthly newsletter and photos of club happenings.

All of this was supported by board members Nancy Espy-Martin and Don Henke as well as Gordon Roen, our historian and Jan Henke. Last, but not least, Maynard Iverson has gracefully hosted and chaired board meetings at his home.

### SOME WHO ATTENDED THE FEBRUARY HERITAGE MEETING





# SOME OF THE SCANDINAVIAN TREASURES SHARED WITH US





MORE PHOTOS FROM THE FEBRUARY HERITAGE MEETING

