



# Scandinavian Club of the Southeast Valley

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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**December, 2013**



## **Our loss is Iowa's gain.!**

Scandinavian Club President Ken Egertson has resigned after he and Gloria sold their home in Sun Lakes. We have lost count of how many years Ken was on the Club board, however we have determined that he served as Treasurer for nine years. After one year as Vice President, Ken was elected to be President for the current 2013/2014 year last March.



Gloria had also served our Club as President and had been elected as Secretary for the 2013/2014 year.

Unfortunately Ken and Gloria will have left town before our meeting on December 15th, leaving us without a opportunity to wish them well and thank Ken for his many years of service. We will miss Ken's presence at our meetings along with his friendly "hello".



Originally from Minnesota, where Ken was on the University of Minnesota faculty staff, he and Gloria reside in Ames, Iowa. They promise we have not seen the last of them as they plan to return for a visit in January of 2015.

## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

As most of you know, we sold our house in Sun Lakes. We are returning to our home in Ames, Iowa. After the first of the year, we plan to spend the winter months in the Gulf Shores area. We do plan to return to Arizona from January to March of 2015.

The friendships we have made with members of the Scandinavian Club will remain in our hearts during our absence. The Club and you members have been a big part of our lives for the past 20 years. Thank You!

Now as we leave, all the best and may "God be with you till we meet again".

Fondly,  
**Ken & Gloria Egertson**

Having put together a great program for the 2013/2014 year, **Nancy Espy-Martin** steps up from Vice President, to take on the role of President vacated by Ken Egertson.



## **BE READY TO SING ALONG WITH LENNY SAZICK**

Lenny will be with us in December sharing music from the 40's, 50's and 60's. In addition we will hear some good Christmas music and be invited to "SING ALONG". So, tune up those vocal cords and be ready to join in after dinner.



**COME JOIN WITH US ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**

**Sun Lakes Country Club**

**25601 N. Sun Lakes Blvd.-Arizona Room**

**Social Hour 5:00**

**Potluck Dinner 6:00 (bring your place settings)**

**Program at 7:00**

**WE HAD MANY NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER  
THESE ARE JUST A FEW WE FOUND WITH OUR CAMERA**



**Evelyn Sundman and  
guest Ray Pfersdorf**



**Jeanne and Bill Becker**



**Greg and Dawn Weitzel**



**Dave Weitzel**



**SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS**

**Annual dues \$15 (guests \$5)**

**Jan 19**

Madrigal Singers/Dobson High School

**Feb 16**

Scandinavian Heritage- Sylvia Jorgenson/Carl Nyberg music and dance  
Dinner will be served. Tickets are \$20 each and available at the January meeting.

**Mar16**

Crown Princess Martha of Norway film—  
Mother a Dane-Father a Swede

**Social Hour 5:00 pm.**

**Smorgasbord/Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm.**

**Be sure to bring your own table service.**

Some new—and some who have been with us before—Chris and Gordon Roen, Bob and Donna Thorsen and Murilyn Racine welcome new members Linda and Ken Nelson

**SOME SCANDINAVIAN HUMOR**

Ole Olson is on his deathbed, knows the end is near, is with his nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons. "So", he says to them:

"Swen, I want you to take the Minnetonka houses."  
"Lena, take the apartments over in Edina" "Rasmus, I want you to take the offices over on Hennepin."  
"Gunhild, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings downtown."

The nurse is just blown away by all this, and as Ole slips away, she says, "Mrs. Olson, your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated all this property."

Gunhild replies, "Property? ... the idiot had a paper route!"

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME  
THOSE WHO ARE NEW MEMBERS**

Jeanne and Bill Becker  
Edla Berggreen  
Keith and Marian Bjerke  
Richard & Doreen Johnson  
Jay and Carol McIntyre  
Ken & Linda Nelson  
Roger Rodeberg  
Mary Sample  
Ike & Esther Spindanger  
Evelyn Sundman  
Ted and Liz Tollefsen  
Ken and Pat Torgerson  
Greg and Dawn Weitzel  
Patricia & David Weitzel

**ROMAN MARTIN SHARED HIS WAR  
MEMORIAL AND WASHINGTON D.C.  
PHOTOS IN DECEMBER**



Roman was born and grew up in Des Moines, IA. He joined the Naval Reserve on January 28, 1953 and was placed on active Duty on September 22, 1953.

After completing boot camp in January of 1954 he attended Communications Technician School in Imperial Beach, CA. From October of 1954 until December of 1955, Roman served at the Naval Communication Station (NAVCOMSTA) Guam, Marianas Islands.

Roman was released from active duty on January 12, 1956. He studied chemistry and math at St Ambrose University, graduating in June 1960.

Upon graduation, Roman was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. After serving in the reserve for some 29 years he retired with the rank of Captain from the United States Navy on February 1, 1989.

In addition to serving in the Naval Reserve, Roman was a Project Manager - Computer Process Control, building automated corn plants in Lafayette, IN, and Loudon, TN and a vegetable oil refinery in Des Moines, IA.

Our recognition of Veterans Day included a stirring story of war by Ronald Isaacson and a reading of "Flanders Field" by Roman Martin.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGodXzGGxWs>  
By Ronald Isaacson

Roman Martin shares "Flanders Field"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfzlMLrkIKk>

**VETERANS AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING**



## THE 55 YEAR CONNECTION

Shared with us by Jeanne Becker

My Grandparents were born in Denmark late in the 19th century and my grandmother immigrated to the US as a newlywed and started her family here.

My mom was 13 when her parents moved her back to Denmark because my grandfather was ill, and my grandmother knew she needed the support of her family and friends. So my Mom, an only child and 13 years old, found herself in a foreign country with a different language, but she also met her cousins – teenagers like herself – who befriended her and helped her learn the language and to adjust to her new life in Denmark. However, as the war continued to escalate in Europe, my grandparents felt that it would be safer to be in America, and in spite of my grandfather's failing health, they decided to return to the US. Before they left, my grandmother and her sister, Elle, asked their daughters to always write to each other to keep in touch despite the huge distance between them. My grandfather obtained passage for the three of them on what would be the last ship to successfully take passengers from Copenhagen to New York before no more ships could risk the voyage due to the German U-boats.

My mother and her cousins would write to each other in Danish several times a year for what would become 55 years before they would see each other again.

In 1995 I convinced my mom that it was finally time for her to go back to Denmark to see her cousins again, so Bill and I travelled with mom and dad to Copenhagen where we had a most emotional reunion – elderly white haired ladies and gentlemen cousins with tears streaming down their cheeks, hugging each other – there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

One of the cousins, Grete, had had cataract surgery and couldn't make the trip to Copenhagen to see mom. Grete lived on the island of Bornholm in the middle of the Baltic Sea, and so my dad and Bill bought tickets for us to fly to Bornholm to visit her the next day. She squeezed my cheeks and said something in Danish, and my mother translated that she said that I looked just like my grandmother. It was a wonderful reunion for my mother, and for us to meet my Danish family.

Unfortunately, all the members of the older generation that we met there have since passed on. However, the good news is that that reunion trip would just be the first of many as we have since become very connected to the younger generations of our Danish family. The younger cousins (under age of 50) are very fluent in English, and we are very welcomed in their homes when we fly there. One of the younger cousins stayed with us for a semester and attended Gilbert High School; she is now in college and attending Vancouver University and she will be visiting us for the Christmas break before heading back to Denmark. We have been to Copenhagen several times and plan to visit many more times in the future to keep that connection fresh – maybe for another 55 years!

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### WE WERE WELL REPRESENTED IN DECEMBER BY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS FOR SOME TIME



Don and Trudy Solberg



Pam and Ray Johnson