



# Sons of Norway

Bakke Land Posten  
Cleng Peerson Lodge 1-645

Vol 11. No. 2

## Letter From the President

The past several months have been quite eventful. Our 2006 board was installed and participated in a leadership workshop in January. We had exceptionally informative guest speakers in February and March, and our own Dr. Erik Svenkerud provided an equally interesting presentation at the April meeting.

We are also beginning to see more visitors at our regular meetings. For example, at the March meeting, in addition to Dr. Fiske (our distinguished guest speaker) and John Drivdahl (our Zone 8 Director), we had a couple from Hanska, MN, and a family from the Austin area. The couple from Hanska (Dennis and Clarie Streng Broste) are active SON members in their community and were invited by Rita Carlson when she met them at another function in Austin. Clarie even filled in for Rita at the piano when we sang the Norwegian anthem! The local family (Warren and Karen Hayward and Karen's daughter, Lisa Madry) had contacted me after being referred to us by the Gethsemane office manager and seeing our notice in the newspaper (which Anne-Marie Adkins had posted).

The lesson here is that we all meet folks in our daily lives who share our Norwegian heritage. We shouldn't miss opportunities to invite them to our meetings, even if they are already members in distant places such as Minnesota! It would be a nice problem to grow too big for the Gethsemane music room – we could then move upstairs to the Gethsemane multipurpose room.

*Merrill Austin*

CLENG PEERSON LODGE # 1-645

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**Saturday, May 13, 2-6 p.m.**

Syttende Mai Celebration  
Springwood Park, 9117 Anderson Mill Rd.

**Midsummer's Eve, June 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Sankthansaften Celebration  
Joint Celebration with Norwegian Society of Texas  
Meet at dock by Hyatt Hotel, Town Lake

**Sunday, September 10, 2006, 5-7 p.m.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church – Music Room

**Sunday, October 8, 2006, 5-7 p.m.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church – Music Room

**Sunday, November 12, 2006, 4-6 p.m.**

Christmas Crafts and Foods  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church – Upper Level

**December Juletefest 2006**

Joint Celebration with Norwegian Society of Texas  
Location & Details TBA

## Scholarship Awarded

Recently, the Cleng Peerson Lodge approved a \$100 scholarship for a deserving student in the UT Department of Germanic Studies. An additional \$50 contribution was made to this scholarship in honor of Karla Hamilton. The Department has made the decision to award the \$150 scholarship to Thea Rusch. Thea will be studying design in Denmark this coming summer and will be visiting Norway as well. We will invite Thea to attend one of our meetings after the summer break so that she can relate to us her experiences and future plans.

Many others have indicated an interest in making a contribution to Karla's memory so we have decided to rename this scholarship the Karla Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Fund. If you would like to make a contribution, simply make your check payable to Sons of Norway/Karla Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Fund. We hope to be able to provide another deserving student a scholarship this fall.

## Lodge Goals for 2006

By Merrill Austin

The board of the Cleng Peerson Lodge met on the evening of April 9, 2006 to accomplish the final task set forth in the earlier held Leadership Workshop and that was to identify the annual goals and to discuss the hosting of a MAP, or membership dinner.

The goals as outlined and adopted by the Board include the following:

- (a) Achieve a net increase of at least 3 (three) members;
- (b) Host a MAP (membership) dinner;
- (c) Include a Norwegian cultural segment during each monthly meeting;
- (d) Sponsor a fund raiser that nets a minimum of \$200.

The MAP dinner noted above would be an event separate from our regular meetings. We have tentatively set the date for October in order to ensure maximum involvement of the membership and to provide a host of upcoming end-of-year events to stimulate new members to join. These events, of course, include our Leif Erickson meeting, the November Arts and Crafts show, and the Juletreffest Celebration in December.

A number of other practices have already been implemented to help us achieve the above goals, including each of us informally serving as greeters at meetings to welcome guests and new members; improved communication between Sons of Norway members and Norwegian Society of Texas members, as well as with the local Scandinavian community and public at large in order to stimulate more involvement; encouraging the membership to adopt an online newsletter to reduce mailing and printing expenses so that these funds can be routed to more productive uses; and a sign-in sheet at meetings to log member attendance and maintain an up-to-date mailing and contact list as well as to keep a roster of interested guests.

I encourage you to provide any feedback or suggestions you may have. Your ideas are important and will help us succeed in accomplishing what we have set out to do this coming year.

### Lodge President's Statement for 2006

It is my hope that we can continue to have fellowship and fun while celebrating our Norwegian heritage. We can do this by having interesting programs which increase our knowledge of Norway, and I believe that we are off to a very good start. It will also be our objective to welcome new members and retain those who are already part of our lodge. I encourage each member to invite at least one guest during 2006. The willingness of our members to be actively involved, combined with a wonderful board of officers, make it a joy to be your president. We look forward to a successful year!

—Merrill Austin

## Lodge Officers for 2006

John Drivdahl, Zone 8 Director, joined us twice in January. On January 8th he presided at the installation of our 2006 board during our regular meeting at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, highlighting the responsibilities of each officer and making official their new terms as lodge leaders.



On January 28th he returned to Gethsemane and conducted a leadership workshop, which was well attended by our board members. Two officers from the Waco lodge were also present. It is significant to note that most of our officers have been in leadership positions in past years, and three are former presidents.



## Words of Support

By Merrill Austin

I wanted to share with you all the following letter written by John Olaf Drivdahl, our Zone 8 Director, applauding the efforts of our club. This letter is addressed to Jon Tehven, the District 1 President.

*President Jon,*

*I hope District 1 is as proud of the Cleng Peerson Lodge as I was when I received this e-mail. Their lodge president, Merrill Austin, had promised me previously that all the information I had requested would be forthcoming. He has done that.*

*Therefore, I offer him my greatest "takk" for their accomplishment. If we had lodges with enthusiasm such as theirs, we would have no problems other than the ones we make, not the problems that come to us.*

*Hilsen og hip, hip, hurrah!*

*John Olaf Drivdahl, Zone 8 Director  
Sons of Norway, Texas y'all*

I want to reiterate my thanks to all my fellow Board members who helped me accomplish this task. Let's have a great year!

# MEETING UPDATES AND PHOTOS

## January Meeting Highlights

### **Officer Installation**

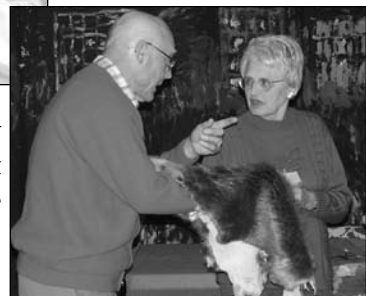
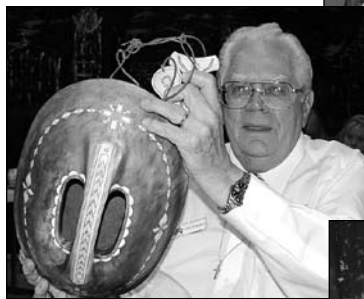
In January, new officers were installed [see story and photos, page 2]. The incoming president, Merrill Austin, gave a short presentation in honor of our outgoing president, Phil Erickson, praising his efforts, hard work, and many contributions over the past several years. Phil will, of course, stay on as counsellor for the group over the next two-year period as well as financial secretary. Merrill also provided Phil a gift of the newly published book by Charles Russell entitled **Undaunted**. Mange takk til Phil for his unfaltering leadership these past four years!



## February Meeting Highlights

### **Sami Culture**

Dr. John Weinstock of the UT Department of Germanic Studies was our special guest speaker on February 12th. Dr. Weinstock presented a very informative program on the Sami culture, which he had researched extensively. The Sami are an indigenous group who live in the northernmost parts of the

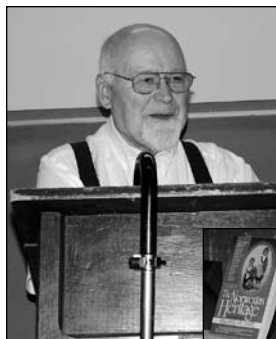


Scandinavian countries. Their history, ways and treatment parallel those of our Native Americans. Our distinguished speaker brought with him a couple of rare Sami drums and a fur pelt, which were passed around the room for closer inspection. Most of our members were aware of the Sami, but few had been exposed to a detailed understanding of their culture. Karla Hamilton, who had a Sami great grandmother, had invited Dr. Weinstock to speak to us, and the presentation was well received.

## March Meeting Highlights

### **Taming of the Norsemen**

At our March 12th meeting, we had the rare privilege of hearing a presentation by Dr. Arland O. Fiske, retired Lutheran pastor and noted author of books about Scandinavian heritage. Dr. Fiske, a native of Colfax, ND, currently lives in Laporte, MN.



He was spending some time in Texas and had spoken to the Waco lodge earlier in the month. John Drivdahl drove Dr. Fiske to Austin to speak with our lodge as well.



The subject of the presentation was "The Taming of the Norsemen," which also is the title of an historical novel by Dr. Fiske. Our speaker discussed his own Norwegian heritage and education, as well as numerous facts regarding Norwegian travel, culture, history, religion, and contributions to the world at large. Dr. Fiske brought

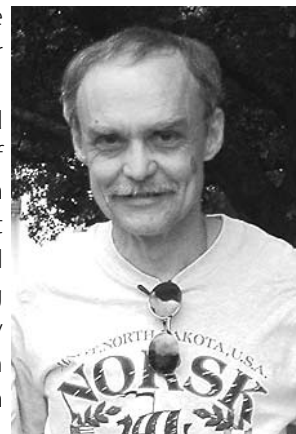
along many copies of several of his books and autographed them for us. When the evening ended, there were only two copies left! This was an especially enjoyable presentation, and we look forward to a possible return visit by Dr. Fiske later in the year.

## April Meeting Highlights

### **Experiences in Public Health**

Normally the Cleng Peerson Lodge doesn't have a regular meeting during April. However, when Viking Fest was cancelled this year, we looked for an alternative topic and found it among our membership!

Our own Dr. Erik Svenkerud presented an interesting account of his experiences in the Public Health field, particularly his work in west Africa. He emphasized that the real issue of public health is "keeping healthy people healthy," and many who benefit from public health are unaware that they have been helped.



"Mange takk" to Leila Tackett for recommending this speaker, and to Erik Svenkerud for accepting the call.

**Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645 Lodge Officers 2006**

President .....	Merrill Austin .....
Vice President .....	Pat Austin .....
Secretary .....	Linda Erickson .....
Treasurer .....	Ray Tackett .....
Financial Secretary/Counselor .....	Phil Erickson .....
Cultural Director .....	Rita Carlson .....
Chaplain .....	Donald Amundson .....
Historian .....	Mary Nedrud .....
Lodge Directory Editor .....	Don Nedrud .....
Webmaster .....	Erik Svenkerud .....
Newsletter Editor .....	Anne-Marie Adkins .....
Adopt-a-School Coordinator .....	Leila Tackett .....
Music Coordinator .....	Rita Carlson .....

**Sons of Norway District 1 Officers 2006**

President .....	Jon Tehven
Vice President .....	Joel Brude
Secretary .....	Karl Hella
Treasurer .....	Charles Hauck
Publicity Director .....	Carol Jung
Sports/Rec Director .....	Marilyn Syverson
Social/Cultural Director .....	David Susag
Youth Director .....	Gary Anderson
Zone 8 Director .....	John Drivdahl

**Sons of Norway International Officers 2006**

President .....	Jim Olson
Vice President .....	Ted Fosberg
Secretary .....	Tore Petterson
Treasurer .....	Arden Shores
District 1 Director .....	Gene Brandvold

**Sons of Norway  
Mission Statement**

*The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering benefits to its members.*

**gratulerer med dagen**

*Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år!*

*Ja, deg vil vi gratulere!*

*Alle i ring omkring deg vi står,*

*og se, nå vil vi marsjere,*

*bukke, nikke, neie, snu oss omkring,*

*danse så for deg med hopp og sprett og spring,*

*ønske deg av hjertet alle gode ting*

*og si meg så, hva vil du mere? Gratulere!*

**MAI**

- 07 Pamela Knott
- 09 Kathryn Rogenes
- 10 Wallace Vog

**JUNI**

- 01 Fred Bolgen
- 11 Kay Hichman
- 15 Donald Thorson
- 20 Mary Nedrud

**JULI**

- 02 Rune Harboe
- 05 Merrill Austin
- 17 Linda George
- 18 Lois Patterson
- 28 Phil Erickson

**AUGUST**

- 05 Linda Rife
- 06 Garrick Knott
- 14 Linda Erickson
- 17 Amanda Sebring
- 29 Sigurd Osterbus
- 31 Solvig Turpin

**In Memory Of...**

**Dr. Joel O. Hougen** passed away at his home on the evening of February 6, 2006. His daughter, Kay Knutsen, is an active member of the Cleng Peerson Lodge (Sons of Norway) and the Hovedstad Chapter (Norwegian Society of Texas). Dr. Hougen attended many of our special events and was a joy to meet. He served as a wealth of knowledge about our Norwegian heritage. His charm and good humor will be greatly missed. Joel lived a long and productive life and leaves behind him a family rich in his own heritage.



**Karla Hamilton**, an active member of both the Hovedstad Chapter (NST) and Cleng Peerson Lodge (SON) passed away early in the morning of April 8th. Karla was proud of her Norwegian heritage and provided a craft table for the younger attendees at many NST and SON events. Karla was an active participant in all cultural events of both organizations and was always eager to share her knowledge and skills with others. She will be greatly missed. A scholarship in her honor has been set up with the Germanic Studies department at UT.

