



NEWS FOR DESCENDANTS OF EMIGRANTS FROM THE TELEMAR REGION IN NORWAY

Volume XXII Number 2

November 2015

Message from our New *Lag* President



As I start my term as the President of the Telelaget of America, I cannot help but feel humbled by the support and confidence placed in me by so many

good people in our organization. My term will be three short years, but it will be filled with many big events for Telelaget of America.

An exciting event for Spring 2016 will be the 100th anniversary celebration of Norwegian-American *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad* on May 5-8 at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel and Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. On the schedule are many knowledgeable speakers and interesting activities that are sure to give us more fascinating insights into our shared Norwegian cultural heritage.

Later next summer, the long anticipated Telemark tour will begin, scheduled for July 26 to August 5, 2016. I have had the privilege of attending the last two tours and, as wonderful as those were for me, I have no doubt this one will be the best one yet. Our tour guide, Elaine

Nordlie, has managed to craft yet another itinerary that will give us all a remarkable taste of the true spirit of Telemark, with good food, good friends and lots of fun!

In 2017, Telelaget of America will have the privilege of hosting the *7-Lag Stevne*. I am pleased to announce that plans are underway to hold the event on the beautiful Luther College campus in Decorah Iowa. Your dedicated and hardworking Board of Directors are in the preliminary stages of planning this event.

As you might imagine, planning an event such as the *7-Lag Stevne* is a big job, but one thing I've learned about our ancestors is that when they saw something that needed to be done, they worked together to make it a success. Please contact anyone on the board to let us know how you might be able to help. Speaking from my own experience, I can attest that the more I involved myself with this wonderful organization, the more meaningful and rewarding it has become for me.

Jim Oftelie
President, Board of Directors

2016 Telemark Tour *Through the Heart of Norway* July 26 - August 5, 2016

Elaine Nordlie has once again done a wonderful job of organizing our upcoming Telemark Tour. Inside this issue you will find an itinerary and registration form. If you are interested in taking part in this fantastic experience, register quickly, as space is limited! Information is also available on our website, www.telelaget.com. Click on 2016 Telemark Tour at the top of the page.

Fellesraad Centennial Celebration May 5 --8, 2016

Also inside this issue is more information and a double sided registration form for the Fellesraad Centennial Celebration to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel and Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, just north and west of the Twin Cities. It's an event you won't want to miss!



Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed to Telelaget of America! If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars available to direct, keep Telelaget in mind! For more information or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or go to www.thrivent.com and click on Making a Difference.

Through the Heart of Norway

Sponsored by Telelaget of America

July 26 – August 6, 2016



DAY 1 TUESDAY, JULY 26

Mpls/St. Paul—Oslo: Depart the USA on your transatlantic flight. If requesting alternate travel dates or departure cities, please note on application.

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 [D]

Oslo: Arrive Oslo Gardermoen Airport. Transfer to downtown Oslo. Balance of day free to relax and adjust to time change. Dinner and overnight at the Scandic Victoria Hotel.

DAY 3 THURSDAY, JULY 28 [B]

Oslo: Breakfast at hotel. Morning sightseeing tour of Oslo's capital city with local guide includes a visit to Vigeland Park and the Viking Ship Museum. Balance of day free for independent explorations. Overnight at hotel.

DAY 4 FRIDAY, JULY 29 [B,D]

Oslo—Skien: Breakfast at hotel. Depart for Skien. Visit the Brekke Park Museum in Skien. Some leisure time in Skien before dinner. Dinner and overnight at Thon Hotel Høyers.

DAY 5 SATURDAY, JULY 30 [B,D]

Skien—Morgedal: Breakfast at hotel. Depart for Ulefoss. Canal cruise from Ulefoss to Lunde. (Depart at 10:35am – arrive at 1:05pm) Proceed to Lerkekåsa vineyard and taste some local wine. Continue to Kviteseid Bygdetun and Kviteseid Church. Drive to Morgedal. Dinner and overnight at the Morgedal Hotel.

Following the cruise individuals may choose one of the following options instead of the vineyard and Kviteseid: Kayak on the canal (NOK 250) or Bike along the canal (NOK 200). Pre-registration requested. Please indicate interest on application form. Cost payable in Norway.



Kåre S Pedersen

DAY 6 SUNDAY, JULY 31 [B,L,D]

Morgedal: Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Eidsborg Church and West Telemark Museum or farm visits as per individual arrangements. Upon return to Morgedal, visit Norsk Ski Museum and Sondre Norheim's home. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 7 MONDAY, AUGUST 1 [B,D]

Morgedal—Rjukan: Breakfast at hotel. Opportunity to participate in a variety of optional activities such as Gaustabanen up to Gaustatoppen (NOK 350), Krossoban to Gvepseborg and walk along "Solstien" (Sun Trail) (NOK 120) or visit the Industrial Worker's Museum at Vernork (NOK 85). Dinner and overnight at the Gaustablikk Høyfjellshotell.

Pre-registration required for the Saboteur's hike (2 hours) - NOK 490. Please indicate interest on the application form. Cost payable in Norway.

DAY 8 TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 [B,D]

Hardangervidda Excursion: Breakfast at hotel. Following a visit the Hardangervidda Park Center, enjoy a short excursion to Selstali Seter or a hike on the Hardanger Plateau. Return to Gaustablikk Høyfjellshotell for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 [B,D]

Rjukan—Voss: Drive to Hardanger, the heart of Norway's cherry, apple and pear orchards. Opportunity to purchase pewter at factory prices at Hardanger Tinn. Cross the Hardanger Fjord on the new Hardanger Bridge, approximately 300 feet longer than the Golden Gate Bridge. Dinner and overnight at Fleischer's Hotel.

DAY 10 THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 [B]

Voss—Bergen: Drive to Gudvangen. Cruise the spectacular Nærøyfjord and Aurlandfjord to Flåm. Board the Flåm Railway, deemed by some as the most fantastic train ride in Europe. Within 15 miles ascend 2800 feet to Myrdal. Change to the famed Oslo-Bergen Line and continue to Voss. Meet motorcoach and drive to Bergen. Dinner on own. Overnight at Clarion Admiral.

DAY 11 FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 [B,D]

Bergen: Three-hour morning sightseeing tour includes a visit to Trolldhaugen, home of Norway's internationally-known musician, the late Edvard Grieg. Farewell dinner and overnight at Clarion Admiral.

DAY 12 SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 [B]

Bergen—USA: Tour ends following breakfast. Transfer to airport for return flight. Longer stays may be requested upon registration for a minimum charge of \$100.

Explore Telemark, as well as Oslo, Bergen and the fjord country on this exciting 12-day tour!



PRELIMINARY TOUR PROPOSAL

ITINERARY INCLUDES:

Days 1 - 3 and 9 - 12 arranged by Brekke Tours

- Estimated roundtrip airfare Mpls-Oslo; Bergen-Mpls on Icelandair including fuel, taxes and fees
- 5 nights accommodations, double occupancy
- Daily breakfast [B] and 3 dinners [D]
- 1st-class touring coach Days 2-12
- City sightseeing in Oslo and Bergen
- Fjord cruise Gudvangen to Flåm
- Train Flåm to Voss, 2nd Class
- Visits to Viking Museum Oslo and Trolldhaugen
- Ferries and entrance fees to all sites & museums outlined in itinerary
- Luggage handling at hotels for 1 suitcase
- Tour Director for Days 2-12
- Tour information kit

Days 4 - 9 arranged by Visit Telemark

- 5 nights accommodations, double occupancy
- Daily breakfast [B], 1 lunch [L] and 5 dinners [D]
- Telemark Canal cruise from Ulefoss to Lunde
- Guiding and entrance at the Brekkepark in Skien, West-Telemark Museum with Eidsborg church, Norsk Skieventyr and the Hardangervidda National Park Center
- Visits to Lerkekåsa Vineyard and Kviteseid Bygdetun and Church

ESTIMATED PRICING:

Estimated price with air/taxes/fuel from..... \$3895
Price based on minimum of 35 paying persons. Price includes airfare from Mpls/St. Paul and taxes/fees/fuel surcharge. Inquire about airfare from your home city.

Single Room Supplement..... \$450

For more information, contact:

Brekke Tours & Travel
1-800-437-5302

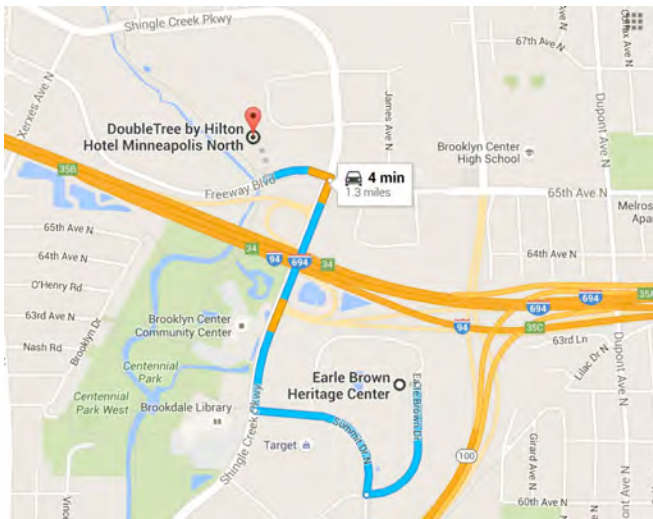
Tours@BrekkeTours.com
www.BrekkeTours.com

Celebrating 100 years of partnership with *bygdelaag* in America!



"Norwegian - American *Bygdelaagenes Fellesraad*" (NABF) is putting together an event to celebrate our 100th year of partnership with the *Bygdelaag* movement in American. We have been dreaming on this celebration for over a year now and it is time to let you in on a few of our plans.

We have many preliminary plans in place, but we need your help in carrying out these plans! Contact Elaine Nordlie at 320-275-2286 or email enordlie@charter.net if you are available to help on May 5, 6 or 7. You can also go to the Fellesraad web site at <http://fellesraad.com/centennial/index.htm> and click on the "Planning Committee" link in the panel on the right side to see more about opportunities to help.



Area of Brooklyn Center in NW Metro area where the Centennial will be held.

At this time we envision an event that begins with an early check-in and evening reception on the evening of Thursday, May 5th, 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel. Friday morning we plan to open with all day concurring sessions that have an emphasis on Norwegian Heritage. That evening there will be check-in for those who will be joining us for the weekend and another reception. Saturday May 7th, begins a full day at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, looking at the past and future of NABF. As usual we plan to end the day with a banquet. As an option, we'll close on May 8 with events at Mindekirken and the adjacent Norway House.

Descendants of charter members of the *lags* will be recognized at the Saturday luncheon. **Please contact Elaine Nordlie if your ancestor was a charter member of Telelaget of America.**

Knowledgeable and interesting speakers are being sought to present their views on past, current, and possible future activities of the organization. Entertainment and refreshments will break up the day into enjoyable segments for all. Children who attend will have activities of their own to keep them occupied and give them a chance to learn a little of their culture.

- The site we have chosen for this event is easily accessible by car without having to enter the heart of the cities.
- Nearby lodging for those coming from further away is just across highway 694 with the possibility of a van to get you back and forth without having to use your car.
- Consideration for access to people of limited physical capabilities is one of our main prerequisites.
- Early registrations are being offered registration discounts.
- We have also locked in a block of rooms at a reduced rate at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel for early registrants.
- Space is being set aside for *lags* to set up a display featuring information on their activities, history, and specialties.
- Space is also being set aside for vendors. (See link in the right panel on the web page if you are interested in participating as a vendor.)

The planning committee has reserved a block of rooms at DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, across the highway from the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. The hotel is also the location of the Thursday evening and Friday events. To reserve your room, call the DoubleTree by Hilton, Minneapolis North at 763-566-8000 or 800-481-3556 and tell them you are with the Fellesraad group. You can also make reservations online by following the "Lodging" link on the centennial web page. This hotel has a working agreement with us and the convention center to provide 14 passenger vans to move people between the two venues.

Telelaget plans to send out a more comprehensive plan for the Centennial in late winter or early spring. However, we encourage you to take time now to:

- Send in your completed registration form, found inside this issue of TeleNews
- Make a room reservation at the DoubleTree by Hilton
- Contact Elaine Nordlie and volunteer to help at the Centennial
- Contact Elaine if your direct ancestor was a charter member of Telelaget of America



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting was held on July 9 during the *Stevne*.

- Alice Kirn will produce one more Telesoga, and Lila Burmeister will take over as editor at that time. John Haugo recognized Alice's invaluable contributions in her role as editor and she received a standing ovation.
- Genealogist Darrell Johnson reports having received 11 new Coming Back Home submissions.
- We are hosts for the 2017 *Stevne*. James Oftelie reported on preliminary plans.
- Elaine Nordlie gave details of the upcoming Fellesraad Centennial Celebration May 5-8 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel and Earle Brown Center in Minneapolis.
- Bill Hoberg reported TOA now has the benefit of Thrivent Choice dollars as a funding source.
- Deanna Zentgraf and Douglas Framness were elected to the Board of Directors along with Jim Oftelie who was elected to a second term.
- Elaine presented the finalized itinerary for the Telemark Tour July 26-August 6, 2016.



Marian Evenson, Rushford MN
 Pam Mathison, Austin TX
 Dennis Wick, Howey in the Hills FL
 Harlan Wick, Kenosha WI
 Jody Kashmark Harmon,
 Maple Plain MN
 Kathleen Klein, Cottonwood AZ
 C Linda Siluk, Oakdale MN
 Donald Stangland, Deer River MN
 Sue Cassidy, Greenfield MA
 Sara Gordon, Lake Forest CA
 Lorna Anderson, Perham MN
 Ardis Christen, Rochester MN
 Debbie Connolly, New Brighton MN
 Sandy Gilbert, Plymouth MN
 Todd & Kymberly Gordon
 Antelope, CA
 Landa Miller, Richfield MN
 Sandy Mohar, New Brighton MN
 Jenna Munson, Ann Arbor MI
 Daniel Oftelie, Jacksonville FL
 Tove & Elmer Opsahl,
 Rochester MN
 Peggy Beilfuss, New London WI
 Jan Christensen, Skien Norway
 Gary Whitford Holey, Mnpls MN
 Kathy Mathiason, Milbank SD
 Janice Olson, Sioux Falls SD
 Wayne & Eileen Grundstrom,
 White Bear Lake MN
 William Allan & Karen Anderson,
 Maple Plain MN
 Kyler Glinz, Jamestown ND

Elected to Board of Directors



Doug Framness and Deanna Zentgraf are the newly-elected members of the Telelag Board of Directors.

Doug's Telemark heritage traces to Holla-Helgen Prestegjeld. His g-g-grandfather emigrated in 1872 and shortly after was followed by subsequent generations and other family members. His great grandmother's lineage traces to Bø. Doug is a chiropractor in Marshfield, WI in the specialty practice of orthopedics, and sports medicine. He and his wife of 41 years, Sherrie, have three children, Lars, Siri, and Chris. They have traveled to Norway twice, in 1994 for the Winter Olympics, and in 1999 to tour Telemark and visit heritage farms. Doug is hoping to connect with living relatives in Norway with assistance from Telelaget resources.

Deanna's interest in genealogy began after Joran Olson got Deanna's cousin Mary Cross interested in their ancestors. In 2007 she joined the *lag* at the Wahpeton *Stevne*. Learning and seeing pictures of her great-great grandfather and learning about her grandma's parents and family and where they came from has kept Deanna interested in her ancestry. She is excited about her plans to go on the Telemark Tour in 2016. Deanna moved to her great grandfather's brothers' century farmstead near Wheaton, MN in May and enjoys the peacefulness of being out in the country again. She has worked for the last 15 years at Sanford Wheaton doing Commercial insurance billing.

Telelaget Board of Directors



Your current Board of Directors are pictured at left. Front: Carol Johnson, Secretary, Deanna Zentgraf, Treasurer, Doug Framness, Director

Back: Jim Oftelie, President, Neil Johnson, Vice President, Elaine Nordlie, Tour Director, Lila Burmeister, TeleNews and Telesoga Editor, Judy Mathison, Membership Chairperson

Telefane Retired to Vesterheim

As many of you will remember, our new *Telefane* made its debut at the 2013 *Stevne* in St. Cloud, Minnesota. A nearly exact replica, the new *fane* is every bit as impressive as the original, a generous gift from Telelaget of Telemark, received during the 1937 tour, which was undertaken in honor of the 100th anniversary of the first emigration from Telemark, and the 30th Anniversary of Telelaget of America.

The beautiful silk *fane*, hand painted by Jens Høybo, an art teacher from Notodden, was accepted by Mrs. Johanne Leifson as a “fitting expression of our kinspeoples’ love for us” meant to “give brightness to the *stevnes* in the west.”



Our striking *Telefane*, pictured at left, was shown publicly for the first time in this country at the Minneapolis *Stevne* in October of 1937, proudly carried in by Harold Sersland, Dagny Dietrichson and Valborg Leifson, all three in national dress. From that point on, it served as a majestic and moving focal point for all

stevner. Although surprisingly durable, after more than 70 years the *fane* was showing signs of wear, so the decision was made to commission a replacement. (For more information on that project please see the September 2013 *Tele-News*, P. 3)

But what to do with the old *Telefane*? On July 1st of this year Shelley Jerviss and Jim Skree accompanied the venerable banner to Vesterheim, Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa where they met with Chief Curator Laurann Gilbertson.

An assessment was made, documents signed, photos taken, and Telelaget’s first *fane* was permanently accessioned into the collection. It will be stored with the other textiles, including over two dozen retired banners from churches, singing societies and fellow *byggdelag*.



Laurann Gilbertson, Curator of Vesterheim receives the *Telefane* from former Telelog Board of Directors members Jim Skree and Shelley Jervis.

A steel cabinet with shallow drawers large enough for the *fane* to lie flat will ensure optimum preservation in perpetuity. Its original standard and cross arm, as well as the decorative gold cords and elaborate tassels were retained for use with the new *Telefane*. [For more info. on the original *Telefane* please see *Telemark to America*, Vol. 2 (1992) Pp. 8-10 and (2009) Pp. 10-12.] It is interesting to note that our *lag* banner was on loan briefly to Vesterheim in the late 70’s. When the National Telelag was disbanded in the mid-1950’s the torch was passed—along with the *fane*—to the Northwest Telelag. They continued to meet faithfully up until the 1977 *Stevne* in Fargo, North Dakota after which it too dissolved. Since Anund Roheim was the President of Northwest Telelag at that time and since he had the *fane* in his possession at the Telelag reorganization meeting in Fargo, N.D. on October 28, 1979, it is highly likely that it was he who deposited it at Vesterheim and retrieved it a few years later.

We are grateful to Vesterheim for serving as caretakers of the *Telefane* during the interim years, and for accepting it again as part of their permanent collection.

Jim Skree, Telelag Historian



Norway House & Telemark Fylkeskommune Sign Agreement

On September 30 a cooperation agreement between Telemark Fylkeskommune and Norway House was signed. The agreement will lay the foundation for closer cooperation between Telemark and Midwest United States in the fields of industrial development, education and culture. County Mayor Terje Riis-Johansen signed on behalf of Telemark Fylkeskommune and Norway House President Jon Pederson signed on behalf of Norway House. John Haugo, past president of Telelaget and a member of the Norway House board of directors, helped to arrange the meetings of the two parties to the agreement. During the 2012 Telemark tour Johansen spoke to the tour participants in Skien.

In Memory

Dordi Round Translator for Telelaget

1920-2015

Beatrice Dorothy Round was born in Cornwall, England, August 18, 1920. Although her parents were born inland, they loved the sea and moved to Marazion where her father was a schoolmaster.

Dordi was deeply interested in Norway since she was five, when at her English school she first saw a picture of a fjord. She made six trips to Norway ranging from two to ten weeks, with the last camping trip in 1996. She loved it so much she taught herself to read, write, and speak Norwegian. Some might think it a bit unusual for a person to become so enamored of a country that isn't their own, but in the case of Norway *what's not to love?*

After many years of teaching in England and on the West Coast, Dordi finally settled in Crescent City, California in a house she fixed up herself. She always loved the ocean and began collecting sea shells as a child. The best of her specimens from many parts of the world were displayed at the Battery Point Lighthouse Museum.

She wrote two family history books for her friend, Helen Houkom Forbes, translating from letters, old records, and Rikard Berg's biography of Ole Bjørnsen Houkom, a great-great grandfather. She also translated *Everyday Life in Telemark*. The books, *They Came from Kviteseid*, Volumes I and II have been posted on the web and added to the Telelag site. Dordi has also shared her own delightful stories and some of her poetry in two books about her life, *Memories* and *More Memories*.

It was truly a "red letter day" for the *lag* when in 1987 Dordi wrote to then president of Telelaget, Glenn Nelson, wondering if she could become a member. We welcomed her into the *Telelag*, and in appreciation of all the work she did translating material for our *Telesogas* and for our *Telemark to America* books, she was given a lifetime membership.

I can relate from personal experience that Dordi was a pleasure to work with and I regret that I never had the chance to meet her. I remember that her translated manuscripts always arrived neatly hand-written in pen on lined loose-leaf paper, "bound" together with colored string which she threaded through the three-punch holes. She always asked if

everything was all right, "what more can I do?" and "please keep sending me articles."

Dordi's translation of *Aslak Prest*, an autobiography of Rev. Aslak Bergland, was particularly challenging. There were many obscure dialect words that she really had to work at to figure out, often relying heavily on context. So as not to lose this precious and hard-won knowledge, Dordi used those words to make her own little hand written dialect dictionary.

She also translated many of the poems found in the old *Telesogas*, producing a final product that also rhymed in English—*no small feat*. So much did she love the Norwegian language! I don't believe it would be an overstatement to say that Volumes II & III of the *Telemark to America* series could not have been completed without her valuable and selfless contributions.

Mange tusen takk!
Velsignet være hennes minde.
Jim Skree, Telelag Historian

— For a complete obituary as well as much more in-depth biography, please go to our website www.telelaget.com

Beverly Webster

1931-2015



Beverly Ann Webster, 84, passed into the Lord's hands on Sept. 27, 2015, at Henrico Doctor's Hospital Parham Campus in Richmond, VA.

Beverly was born to Joseph and Mabel

Lanning on August 20, 1931, in Sacred Heart, MN. She was united in marriage to Keith Webster on

October 19, 1957, until his passing April 18, 2013. Beverly lived in Willmar, MN from 1968 until she moved to Glen Allen, VA in July of 2015.

Beverly enjoyed researching family ancestry, belonged to many genealogical societies, and wrote several books on ancestry.

Beverly was pre-deceased by three brothers and one sister. She is survived by one brother and one sister. Beverly is survived by her children, Michael (and Kathleen) Webster of New Hartford, CT; JoLayne Webster of Glen Allen, VA; and Andrew (and Kathleen) Webster of Indian Trail, NC, and six grandchildren.

Johan Ronningen

1915 -- 2015

Johan O. Ronningen was born February 11, 1915 in Minnesota. He passed away Feb. 18, 2015 in the Avalon Care Center in Honolulu, HI one week after his 100th birthday.

Johan was very proud to be a member of Telelaget of America! He was a retiree from the City and County of Honolulu.

Arnold Ness

1926-2015



With roots in Holla, Lunde, Flåbygd, Kviteseid and Seljord in Telemark, and the early settlement at Highland Prairie, Arnie grew up in several of the heavily Norwegian-American communities in northeast Fillmore County, MN. He served in the US Navy during World War II, and later completed college and technical training in Minneapolis. Edna Hadash married Arnie in 1954 and they had two sons, Gerald and Duane. The family moved to a little farm near Northfield, MN in 1968, where Arnie was very involved in civic affairs, but never lost interest in his Norwegian heritage and genealogy.

It was while doing research at Northfield's St. Olaf Library that he came across the 53 issues of *Telesoga* by Telelag historian Torkel Oftelie, written in Gothic script and the old Telemark dialect. As Arnold read these booklets, he was fascinated with their settlement and pioneer histories and obsessed with an idea of translating them into English so others could enjoy their content. When Telelaget of America reorganized, the opportunity became possible and a committee was formed to translate the material, from which two volumes of the *Telemark to America* series have been composed.

Although Arnie never aspired to be the president of Telelag the position was "thrust upon him" by the untimely passing of Glenn Nelson in 1988. He rose to the occasion and served commendably in that position for a total of 11 years. He was a

major proponent of the ever-expanding capabilities of computer technology, especially in the areas of record keeping, using desk-top publishing to prepare the *Telesoga* for printing, and establishing a website, all of which were accomplished admirably by all those who were involved.

Through the years Arnie worked hard to bring about a close liaison with heritage groups in Norway, and Telemark in particular. He worked with the *Fellesråd* in getting good programs for the various *stevner* each year. He was instrumental in bringing over groups of Norwegians including the musical group, the Junior *Spelemanslag* (Fiddling Association) from Bø in Telemark.

Arnie has always been active in helping people with genealogy, including introducing them to the use of the *bygdebøker* (rural chronicles). Three of his eight trips to Norway were escorting Telelaget tour groups. On his last visit in 2002, he was honored by an invitation to a private audience with Norway's Prime Minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik. Arnold said, "It is pretty hard to beat that, and a good time to retire!" In honor of his retirement from the Board in 2008, Arnie was presented with a framed Certificate of Appreciation for a job very well done!

In the later years Arnie often took his RV to the annual conventions. It soon became known as the "Stevne-mobile," and served as an unofficial meeting place as well as entertainment center. Throughout his association with Telelaget, he remained the ultimate promoter who never missed an opportunity to recruit new members.

From his early exposure to the first series of *Telesoga*, to his involvement with the newly reactivated *Lag*, and his many years on the Board of Directors, Arnold's dedication to the Telelag has never wavered. We shall miss him.

Jim Skree, Telelag Historian

— For a complete obituary as well as much more in-depth biography, please go to our website www.telelaget.com



Telelaget of America has a number of quality publications available.

Telelaget to America:

Volume I – Emigration;
Volume II – Settlements;
Volume III – Settlements,
Biographies, & Telemark Lore.
\$20 each or \$50 for the series.

A Year on Haugo Farm tells of the life of a girl who lives on a Telemark farm during WWII. It is available for \$20.

Telelaget, The First One Hundred Years is \$20 and is free for a limited time to new lifetime members!

These and a number of other items are for sale on our website.



•**Telelaget of America** -- news and pictures related to Telemark and Telelaget

•**International Telemark** -- news about contemporary Telemark

•**Telemark Heritage & Genealogy** -- information on our heritage and genealogy.

You can access these sites by entering the name in the search field at the top of your Facebook page



Do you receive emails from Telelaget? If not,

perhaps we don't have your correct email address! If you haven't given us your email, or it has recently changed, please contact our membership Chairperson, Judy Mathison at jmathison@sbcglobe.com



The 7-Lag Stevne was held in July in La Crosse, WI. The “Gateway to the Prairie” theme was chosen since so many Norwegian immigrants passed through the area on their way west to settle the prairie. The key-note speaker, Karen V. Hanson, focused on how the stresses of immigration took a toll on many of the immigrants, and how cultural differences affected the interactions between the Native Americans and the Norwegian immigrants.

Recognizing that we are no longer a “generation of remembering,” as our grandparents or parents were, and

that we have become a “generation of learning,” this *stevne* featured a variety of excellent speakers touching on many aspects of immigrant life.

Lag genealogists were on hand from 9:00-5:00 Thursday through Saturday. For those who were new to online genealogy, or who wanted to augment their research skills, there were classes on online genealogical resources.

Cooking and craft demonstrations were introduced this year and were very well received. These included ski-making, rosemaling, and a number food demonstrations. Also available for viewing in the food demo area for people to enjoy along with a cup of coffee, was a 40-minute video of the prairie church photos sent in by the members of the seven-lag. La Crosse is ideally located in close proximity to Norskedalen and Vesterheim, so group tours were organized to those two museums.

Thanks to the location on the Mississippi River, two Saturday evening dinner cruises were planned, and due to popular demand by our members, the river boat La Crosse Queen was chartered exclusively for the 7-lag *stevne*.

Another addition to our *stevne* this year was a closing session. *Churches on the Prairie* was the theme for this Sunday morning session. Gracia Grindal, with her knowledge of hymnody, combined with the male chorus, Stouthearted Men presented a session which touched and inspired many.

A group of Telegagers then drove to the Old Stone Church near Houston where we were given a brief history by Jim Skree. We continued on to Caledonia for lunch and a visit to the Houston County Historical Center located at the fairgrounds there.

Both the ‘gateway to the prairie’ and ‘early churches’ videos from the *stevne* are on youtube! Gateway slideshow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkcUgPMUqjU> Church slideshow : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPglUosQel>

NOTE: A black spiral notebook with a green stripe down the side was left on a table at the *stevne*. Notes from some of the sessions, along with a Telemark brochure were inside. If this is your notebook, please contact Sandra Hendrickson (shendrickso@gmail.com).



Elaine Nordlie, Joran Olson, Darrel Johnson, and Neil & Carol Johnson helped *stevne* attendees with their genealogy



Ham & Suzanne Peterson, Landa Miller and Alice Kim spent an entertaining Friday evening at the banquet



Jim Skree, Shelley Jerviss, Eileen & Julian Ronning also enjoying the banquet



Left: Linda Kjerland, Joran Olson, David Christ, Elizabeth Bruening, Elaine Nordlie, Freida Nowland and Judy Mathison participated in the Bunad Parade

Right: Darrel Johnson, Randy Twito, Judy Hoberg, seated and Bill Hoberg and Joran Olson, standing, viewed La Crosse's beautiful scenery aboard the riverboat.



In 2017, Telegaget of America will host the 7-Lag Stevne at Luther College in Decorah. Our theme will be “Keeping Our Stories Alive - Leaving a Legacy for Future Generations.” If you are interested in helping in planning this *stevne*, please contact anyone on the *stevne* planning committee: Jim Oftelie jsoftelie@msn.com, Lila Burmeister lilajsb@gmail.com, Doug Framness dframnes@frontier.com, or Carol Johnson ncjohn42091967@att.net.

EARLY REGISTRATION FORM

Secure your space now! Please complete, sign and return to address below.

NAME OF TOUR: _____ PROMOTION CODE: _____ AIR & LAND LAND ONLY (Please select one)

DEPARTING DATE: _____ FROM _____ (City) TO _____ (City)

RETURNING DATE: _____ FROM _____ (City) TO _____ (City)

Optional Activities: pre-registration is required. If you would like to request one or more of the following optional activities, please indicate below:

Assistance with farm visits. Please indicate the farm(s) name and parish location you wish to visit: _____

Day 5 - Please check one (activities offered instead of vineyard and Kviteseid): Kayaking (250 NOK) Biking (200 NOK)

Day 7 - Two hour Saboteur's Hike (490 NOK). If requested, please indicate number in party: _____

Name must match exactly as it appears/will appear on your passport. If passport number is not available upon registration, please provide as soon as available; no later than final payment.

NAME #1: _____ / _____ / _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
(Last Name as it appears on passport) (First Name as it appears on passport) (Middle Name as it appears on passport) (mo / day / year)

Passport #: _____ Issuing Country: _____ Passport Expiration Date: _____ / _____ / _____
(Provide when available, no later than final payment) (mo / day / year)

Gender: M F How do you want your badge to read _____

NAME #2: _____ / _____ / _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
(Last Name as it appears on passport) (First Name as it appears on passport) (Middle Name as it appears on passport) (mo / day / year)

Passport #: _____ Issuing Country: _____ Passport Expiration Date: _____ / _____ / _____
(Provide when available, no later than final payment) (mo / day / year)

Gender: M F How do you want your badge to read _____

Final documents for all passengers listed will be sent to the address provided below unless otherwise indicated:

ADDRESS: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
(No. & Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: (_____) _____ /Home (_____) _____ /Cell _____

How did you find out about this tour? _____

Did you select this tour based on: (If more than one answer applies, please indicate ranking by 1 being your first consideration.)

____ Visits to specific city/region ____ Overall general itinerary ____ Date of tour

Please comment on any aspect of this tour itinerary which is of particular interest to you: _____

TYPE OF ROOM: Single Double (1 double bed) Double (2 twin beds) NAME OF ROOMMATE/S: _____

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING WITH ANOTHER PARTY, PLEASE INDICATE NAME/S: _____

To coordinate flights with travel companions coming from different cities, please state your request in writing. Exact flight schedules cannot be guaranteed unless a written confirmation is received from Brekke Tours.

SINGLES: If you do not wish to have a roommate, please check this box . Should you wish to room with another single person requesting a roommate, please check this box and answer the following questions: Do you smoke? Yes No. Do you mind if roommate smokes? Yes No. May we give your phone number to a prospective roommate? Yes No. Please note that you will be charged a single supplement fee. Should a roommate be found, you will receive a refund.

AIRLINE SEATING: Groups seats are assigned at the discretion of the airline. Your seating request will be submitted, however, specific seat assignments cannot and will not be guaranteed. Seat numbers may not be advised until check-in at the airport: Aisle Middle Window Adjacent

SEATING UPGRADE: Please send me/us a quote for: Economy Comfort Business Class

Please advise if you have any special needs of which the tour director or airlines should be aware: _____

DIET: The following SPECIAL DIET is requested for: (Name/s of passenger/s) _____

Sugar-free salt-free vegetarian kosher low-cholesterol other _____ Flight Only Flight & Land/Cruise

In case of an emergency, notify: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____ Email: _____

I/we understand that the enclosed check with the early deposit of \$ _____ (\$250 per person - check or money order) will secure my/our place on this tour. Package details and final pricing will not be available until later. At that time, I/we understand that I/we will receive a detailed itinerary with confirmed prices and services. I/we will be asked to complete an official application form and pay an additional deposit to finalize my/our reservation. Should I/we wish to cancel prior to completion of the official registration, I/we will receive a full refund.

Signature _____ Date _____

BREKKE TOURS & TRAVEL 802 N. 43RD STREET GRAND FORKS ND 58203 USA
TOLL-FREE: 1-800-437-5302 FAX: (701) 780-9352 EMAIL: TOURS@BREKKE TOURS.COM

A Century of Norwegian Heritage

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial Celebration - May 5 - 8, 2016

--- Events Registration Form (see fellesraad.com/centennial for online registration) ---

Registrations must be entered or postmarked before 04/15/2016.

Refunds are subject to handling fee.

No Refund after 04/30/2016.

Print Names of Adults for Centennial Badges:

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Contact Phone _____ E-mail please! _____

→ → **Please Complete!** → → I / we are current members of all checked bygdelag for 2016. ↓ None

Form Instructions and Notes:

Discounted rates are available for a current lag member who registers before Jan. 15, 2016!

Seating for the closing banquet will be assigned according to the date registration forms are received. To be seated as a group you must send in the registration forms as a group.

A special program for youth (18 years and under) will be available on Saturday. Please enter the names and ages of any youth attending in the space provided on page 2.

The conference hotel is The DoubleTree by Hilton. We have reserved a block of rooms at the special rate of \$95.00 per room per day (+ taxes) which includes two buffet breakfasts per day. Room sizes are king and double-double. Please ask for the Fellesraad Conference Rate when calling 763-566-8000. If there is a problem, contact the Event Coordinator at 651-357-6139 or knaak002@gmail.com. When the initial block is filled we will try to enlarge it or look to other area hotels for special conference rates. All Thursday and Friday conference events take place at this hotel.

A Friday evening buffet at the dining room in the hotel will be available for purchase by those who wish to eat there. Other restaurants and fast food places are available nearby.

(Hotel Planning Info Only) I am interested in purchasing _____ buffet evening meal/s at the Hotel on Friday.

Sunday Activities (On your own!)

Check this box to indicate your interest in attending a Sunday May 8th service at 'The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church of Minneapolis', better known as Mindekirken, (9 am in English, 11 am på Norsk). (Driving directions to be provided.)

A Church Coffee (light lunch) will be available downstairs following the second service.

Please indicate the number of persons _____ interested in attending the Church Coffee. (Suggested \$5 free-will donation to the church at time of the Church Coffee.)

Tours of 'Norway House', located next to the church, will be available from 9 am to 1 pm.

Gudbrandsdalslaget
Hadeland
Hallinglag
Hardanger
Landingslag
Lappmark
Møre og Romsdalslag
Nord Hedmark og
Hedemarken
Nordfjord Wisconsin
Nordfjordlag
Nordhordland
Nordlandslag
Numedalslågen Lag
Opdalslag
Ringerike-Drammen
Districts
Rogalandslag
Romerikslag
Sigdalslag
Sognalag
Sognefjord
Solør
Sunnfjord
Sunnhordland
Telelag
Totenlag
Trønderlag
Valdres Samband
Vestlandslag
Vosselag

See fellesraad.com for more information about these lags!

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
2200 Freeway Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
Phone: (763) 566 - 8000

Earle Brown Heritage Center
6115 Earle Brown Dr
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
Phone: (763) 569 - 6300

Mindekirken
924 E 21st St,
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 874-0716

Event Coordinator
Jean Knaak
Phone: (651) 357-6139
EM: knaak002@gmail.com

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial Celebration - May 5 - 8, 2016

Registrations must be entered or postmarked before 04/15/2016.

Refunds are subject to handling fee. No Refund after 04/30/2016.

A Complete Celebration Package Thursday evening at hotel through Saturday evening at Earle Brown Center.

Includes: Thursday: May 5th Evening kick-off & reception at hotel, and
 Friday: May 6th Seminars, coffee breaks, lunch, and evening reception all at hotel, and
 Saturday: May 7th Annual meeting, conferences, coffee breaks, lunch, and banquet all at Earle Brown.

Registration _____ persons x \$150 each \$ _____
Lag members who pay before Jan. 15, 2016 _____ persons x \$135 each \$ _____

B Conference Package Friday evening at hotel through Saturday evening at Earle Brown Center.

Includes: Friday: May 6th Evening reception at hotel, and
 Saturday: May 7th Annual meeting, conferences, coffee breaks, lunch, and banquet all at Earle Brown.

Registration _____ persons x \$90 each \$ _____
Lag members who pay before Jan. 15, 2016 _____ persons x \$80 each \$ _____

Youth Registration (18 & under) _____ persons x \$60 each \$ _____

Includes: Friday evening reception and Saturday, activity materials, snack breaks, lunch and banquet.
 Please list names and ages of youth. (Include contact info if different than that listed on page 1!)

C Conference Individual Event Pricing

Registration Includes: Saturday: May 7th Annual meeting, conferences, & coffee breaks plus other items purchased.

Reception Fri. evening at hotel _____ persons x \$10 each \$ _____
Registration Sat. (required for all attendees) _____ persons x \$35 each \$ _____
Luncheon Sat. at noon _____ persons x \$25 each \$ _____
Banquet Sat. evening _____ persons x \$35 each \$ _____
Banquet Only (Guests of registered members) _____ persons x \$45 each \$ _____

D Cultural & Heritage Day Only Thursday evening through Friday evening all at hotel.

Includes: Thursday: May 5th Evening kick-off & reception, and
 Friday: May 6th Seminars, coffee breaks, noon lunch, and Friday evening reception.

Registration _____ persons x \$70 each \$ _____
Lag members who pay before Jan. 15, 2016 _____ persons x \$65 each \$ _____

Total: Send payment and forms to Dixie Hansen at address below: **Total \$** _____

- ➔ **Have questions or Special Food Needs?** Please contact Jean Knaak (see contact info below)
- ➔ **Did you:** fill in your contact information, indicate your options under notes, and check your lag affiliations on page 1?

Make payment to **Fellesraad** at:
 Fellesraad c/o Dixie Hansen
 1411 Osceola Ave
 St. Paul, MN 55105

Event Coordinator
 Jean Knaak
 Phone: (651) 357-6139
 EM: knaak002@gmail.com

Need to explain something about your registration? Use this space: