



NEWS FOR DESCENDANTS OF EMIGRANTS FROM THE TELEMARCK REGION IN NORWAY

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 1

MAY 2017

The mission of Telelaget of America is to enable members to learn about and gain an appreciation of the history, culture, and customs of their ancestors from the Telemarck region of Norway.



Let us live up to the legacy that was left for us, and leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations. *Christine Gregoire*

2017 7-Lag Stevne
Thursday, July 20 -- Sunday, July 23
Luther College Campus, Decorah IA

Telelaget is the host of this year's 7-Lag Stevne! We are excited to have several speakers and entertainers from Norway as well as from Decorah and the Midwest.

Thursday afternoon and evening classes, genealogy open house, and opening general session are free and open to the public, so encourage all of your non-lag member friends to come and see what a stevne is all about!

Also offered this year is a youth camp for students between the ages of 7 and 16. The organizers have a

fantastic program planned! Telelaget will pay the registration fee for any youth who are children or grandchildren of Telelag members!

There's no shortage of housing at Luther, with recently remodeled air conditioned dorm rooms, spacious townhouses, and a number of hotels in town offering lodging. You can also check on the Winne-shiek County Convention & Visitors Bureau website at www.visitdecorah.com for area bed and breakfasts, or www.airbnb.com for homes and rooms for rent.

Also, please consider volunteering in some capacity. We are in need of volunteers to:

- Act as ambassadors to greet and direct *stevne* attendees
- Introduce classroom speakers
- Make a monetary donation toward *stevne* expenses. Send your tax deductible donation to treasurer Deanna Zentgraf, 47427 111th Street, Rosholt, SD 57260.

Registration forms are inside this newsletter, or you can register and pay online at www.7lagstevne.com.

To keep updated on the latest *stevne* plans, like us on Facebook at 7-Lag Stevne. See you in Decorah!

Tell Your Story — Sustain Your Legacy

Do you want to write your life story, but find it is difficult to get started? Are you challenged trying to figure out how to structure



such an extensive and important project? Do you find it hard to complete the writing process, add photos, and get your story printed? Your story is unique. If it isn't written down, it will disappear!

Anette Holt Bratsberg, founder of Vita Veritas and a workshop leader at *stevne* this year, has more than 15 years of experience in the field of writing and documenting family stories. She lives in Skien in the county of Telemark, Norway. Sign up for Anette's two-hour class where she will help you develop an outline for your book, and then help you fill in the content. You'll receive a simple introduction to layout of photos and other important documents. There is a \$15 fee for materials payable at the class. Sign up on your registration form if you are interested.

If you would like more information on the full six-day course, contact Anette anette@vitaveritas.no or Lila Burmeister lilajsb@gmail.com. If there is interest, Anette will offer the class in Decorah or Minneapolis.

Fellesraad Enters Into New Partnership



Some exciting things are happening with Fellesraad and Bygdelag.

As of November 4, 2016, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad of the U.S. and Norsk Slektshistorisk Foreign (NSF) of Norway have entered into a partnering agreement. This is The Norwegian Genealogy Society that is based on Oslo and has members throughout Norway and elsewhere. Rune Nedrud, their Chairman, (pictured above with Elaine Hasleton, Fellesraad President) expressed a great interest in the sharing of each organization's publications, among other activities.

This partnership movement was unanimously approved by the Fellesraad Board. It is one of the steps the Fellesraad is taking to move the organization into the 21st Century.

Fellesraad Annual Meeting

The Fellesraad Annual meeting will be held on Friday, May 5 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Mindekirken in Minneapolis. Rune Nedrud will be presenting at the genealogists session and giving the Keynote address on Friday evening. Cost is \$10 for Friday only, \$17 for Saturday only, and \$22 for both days. Breakout sessions will be held to provide pertinent information for Lag positions. Registration forms can be found on the website at www.fellesraad.com. It will be an exciting and productive one and a half day event! **All lag members are welcome to attend!**

Janet "Jan" (Root) Frye



Long-time Telelaget of America member Jan Frye, age 75, of Bloomington MN passed away Dec. 29, 2016 at Regions Hospital, St. Paul MN.

After graduation from Johnson High School, in St. Paul, Jan attended Macalester College where she met Kermit Frye, and they were married on August 31, 1963 at First Lutheran Church in St. Paul. She worked as a librarian at Dorsey law firm in Minneapolis, Catalog Card Corp. in Burnsville, National Information Systems in Edina, and as a reference librarian at Dakota County Library in W. St. Paul until she retired.

Jan enjoyed genealogy and family history. She was Telelaget's president from 1996 to 1999, and part of our genealogy team from 2002 to 2013. She was instrumental in obtaining the Norsk church records on microfilms, and she was part of the team responsible for our Telemark To America series. She also was active at the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

Jan was involved in Bible study, did ceramics as a hobby and enjoyed playing bridge. She and her husband were active in square dancing for many years. They traveled through much of the US, Canada, Europe, and the Holy Land.

Jan is survived by her husband Kermit Frye; son James (Susan) Frye and their children Megan, Alexander and Justin of Hudson, WI; and son Steven (Leah) Frye and their children Benjamin, Anastasia, Indigo, and Rowan (McGrath) of Bloomington, MN. Jan was preceded in death by her parents and daughter Sharon Frye.

YOUTH AT THE STEVNE

With the future in mind, the *stevne* is hosting a two-and-a-half day youth camp for students between the ages of 7 and 16. **Registration is FREE for any youth whose parents or grandparents are members of Telelaget.** The camp will provide opportunities to learn about Norwegian culture and history and will include folk dancing, games, art, language, singing and more.

The camp will begin on Thursday afternoon with a getting-acquainted experience as we travel to Harmony to visit Niagara Cave. The one-hour guided tour will take us one mile underground, seeing 450 million year-old fossils and an under-ground waterfall. Students meet at the Dahl Student Union at 1:30 p.m. -- wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a light jacket.

On Friday, you'll have Norwegian lessons, then travel to Vesterheim Museum for a presentation, "Immigrant Trunk," and a hands-on "Immigrant Chores" activity. You will design and decorate a cap and hear a presentation about some of the UNESCO Heritage Sites in Norway.

On Saturday, you'll have Norwegian lessons, learn Folk Dancing, do a woodburning project, and play an old Viking game called *Kubbespill*. You will learn about Herbjørn Gausta, an artist who emigrated from Norway to Harmony, Minnesota and see some of his artwork, and you will hear about the reindeer in Norway. On Saturday evening, you will be asked to help a bit at the banquet – simple things like helping people find a seat, or carrying their food or drinks to their table. Then you'll join your family for the banquet. On Sunday, you can attend the worship service with your family.

Youth camp lunches, classes, activities, and transportation are covered in the registration fee. Parents/grandparents must join their child at the entrance to the Dahl Student Union at approximately 5 p.m. each day to enjoy dinner and evening programs together. More specific information will be given at the Thursday evening orientation program.

We encourage people willing to drive to one or more of our destinations, to call Elaine Nordlie at 320-275-2286.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM FOR STEVNE TODAY!

LUTHER COLLEGE HOUSING

- **Baker Village** (Townhouse-style) and **Farwell Hall** (Traditional dorm) -- \$45 per person per night
- See the On-Campus Housing Information and Registration Form for more information
- If you wish to share a townhouse or dorm cluster with friends, please specify on the housing form.

HOTEL BLOCKS have been reserved at the following hotels. Special rates **begin July 19:**

- **Country Inn & Suites** – 563-382-9646 -- \$155 per night – 1202 Highway 9 West, Decorah
- **Quality Inn** – 563-382-2269 -- \$144 & \$169 per night – 705 Commerce Drive, Decorah
- **Super 8** – 563-382-8771 -- \$149 per night – 810 Highway 9 East, Decorah
- **Hotel Winneshiek** – 563-382-4164 or 800-998-4164 \$149 - \$159 per night, 3 night minimum – 104 East Water Street, Decorah

All blocks are held up to 30 days prior to the event.

STEVNE SCHEDULE

For convenient parking, use the library parking lot, or the lot on Dike Street. A golf cart shuttle will be available to the main entrance of the Valdres Hall of Science if you desire. There is also an elevator for Farwell Hall accessible from the Dike Street parking lot. Shuttles will also be scheduled between Baker Village and campus. Other limited street parking on campus may be available.

THURSDAY, JULY 20

- **Registration** opens at 12:00 p.m. in the Valdres Hall of Science
- **Trolley Tours to Vesterheim** between 1:00 – 5:30 p.m. Demonstrators will be set up throughout the museum to answer questions on your self-guided tours. Sign up for trolley departure time at registration.
- **Genealogy Orientation** at 2:30 p.m. led by Marilyn Sorenson with Genealogy Open House from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- **Vendors Open** 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Classes** from 3:30 – 5:45 p.m. — Telemark Resistance to Nazi Occupation; All Tradition is Change; The Industry Heritage Site at Rjukan and Notodden; Archiving the Basement
- **Opening General Session** at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment by the Decorah Dancers and the Luren Singers.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

- **Vendors** open at 8:00 a.m.
- **Genealogy Research Room** open from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. “Genealogy Hints,” 15 minute idea sessions presented by *lag* genealogists every hour from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Full line-up of classes** beginning at 9:00 a.m. — Herbjørn Gausta; Dating Historical Photos Using Women’s Clothing; Unbending Purpose: Conflict, Controversy and the Founding of Nor. Am. Lutheran Colleges; A Comprehensive Overview of Norwegian Genealogical Research in the 21st Century; Victory for Some, Defeat for Others – WWII; Flatbread Baking; Norway: Rags to Riches; Taste of Norway; DNA Impact on Norwegian Family History Research; Antique ID — *Bring a favorite Norwegian piece or a photo of it, and learn its history. Item will remain in your possession.* Hardanger Embroidery — *A four-hour class for beginning hardanger students. See registration for fee and sign-up information.* Writing Your Family History — *Anette Holt Bratsberg (see TeleNews page 1 for details)*
- **Motor Coach Tour to Harmony MN and Spillville IA** from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Touring areas in and around Harmony where Norwegian artist Herbjørn Gausta lived and painted including Harmony Area Historical Society and Greenfield Lutheran Church and Cemetery. Then tour the Bily Clock Museum in Spillville containing huge, fully animated clocks built by Frank and Joseph Bily. Upstairs exhibit honors composer Antonin Dvorak who lived on the site one summer while composing his “New World Symphony.” Also visiting the St. Wenceslaus Church, the oldest Czech Catholic Church in the United States, completed in 1860.

Dvorak practiced daily at St. Wenceslaus while in Spillville. Box lunch included in tour fee.

- **General Session** begins at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment provided by Norwegian singer, Tone Tveito, Hardanger fiddler, Torgeir Strand, and by the Tinndølan Dancers, all visiting from Norway. Keynote speaker is Per Lykke of Rjukan, Norway speaking on the history of emigration from Norway to the US and focusing on the bonds between “Norwegians” in America and in Norway, yesterday and today.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

- **Vendors and Genealogy Room** open at 8:00 a.m. “Genealogy Hints,” every hour from 8:00 == 11:00 a.m.
- **Classes** will begin at 9:00 a.m. — National Parks in Norway; Sustain and Celebrate, Doing My Part; Conjuring Up the Past: the Huset Doctors from Holla; Asking Ourselves Some Serious Questions;
- **Individual Lag** Annual Meetings and tours from 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Cash Bar & Banquet** opens at 5:00 p.m. with banquet seating beginning at 5:45 p.m. Delicious buffet style meal. Entrée choices of pork, chicken and a vegetarian option.
- **Banquet Program** begins at 7:00 p.m. Show off your *bunad* by taking part in our annual parade! Torgeir Strand and Tone Tveito again provide musical entertainment. David Engen, recent winner of the Norwegian television program “*Alt for Norge*” will be our speaker. Find out what it means to David to be a Norwegian!

SUNDAY, JULY 23

- **Sunday Morning Worship** Service at 10:00 a.m. led by Pastor Charles Humphrey. Shelley Jerviss, a member of Telelaget, will be our organist.
- **Coffee Fellowship** from 11:00 a.m. until noon will conclude our time at Luther.
- **There are many area attractions** that you are encouraged to visit on your own or as a *lag*. Information on popular locations will be given out at the registration table or can be found online at www.visitdecorah.com.

ANNUAL MEETING



Telelaget of America will meet at 12:30 in the Sigmund Arseth Gathering Room in Vesterheim's Amdal-Odland Heritage Center located across the street from the Vesterheim Museum.

We will enjoy a catered lunch and hear a description of the unique piece of Norwegian folk art -- the perpetual calendar, or *primstav*, that enlivens the room. One of Vesterheim's knowledgeable staff will explain the paintings of Sigmund Aarseth, the noted artist from the Valdres region of Norway who worked with award-winning American rosemaler Sallie DeReus, to create the *primstav*. Our Annual Meeting will follow.

Carpooling is encouraged from the college, since downtown parking in Decorah is at a premium! Sign up and pay for your lunch on the registration form.



- David & Ardyce Olson,
Nerstrand MN
- Anita Streich, Fox Lake WI
- Patricia Oxley Ullrich, Iowa City IA
- Gretchen Swenumson,
New Hampton IA
- Larry Jensen, Tucson AZ
- Ann Haroldson Schmidt,
Wheaton IL
- Nancy Helbach, Waupaca WI
- Judy Stevens, Rochester MN

Telelaget of America currently has 387 members.



Once or twice a year, we may send updates or notices to our members via email. If you want to keep up-to-date, be sure we have your current email address! Send it to telenews@telelaget.com.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

- Telelaget of America is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed to Telelaget of America! If you're a Thrivent member and have Choice Dollars available to direct, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or go to www.thrivent.com and click on "Making a Difference" to direct Choice Dollars.
- When you shop on Amazon, start at smile.amazon.com and select Telelag. Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Telelag. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.



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 — The life of a girl living on a Telemark farm during WWII. It is available for \$20.

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

These items, along with mugs, tote bags, and miniature *fane* (banner) can be purchased at the *stevne*!



- **7-Lag Stevne** — Stay up date on the 2017 *stevne* in Decorah.
- **Telelaget of America** -- news and pictures of Telemark and Telelaget
- **International Telemark** -- news about contemporary Telemark
- **Telemark Heritage & Genealogy**
- Access by entering the name in the search field at the top of your Facebook page

A Pioneer Project in the Spirit of World Heritage

By Laila Eikeland Knutsen



Anne Haugen Wagn, one of Telelaget's liaisons in Norway and an enthusiastic, seasoned local historian, author of historical books, and teacher of history at Notodden High School, was recently chosen to spearhead a pioneering project. She is creating a curriculum that stretches from kindergarten to high school helping the youth of Norway learn about the world heritage site of Rjukan-Notodden. The site is centered on the plant built by the Norsk Hydro to produce fertilizer from atmospheric nitrogen. It is Norway's 8th heritage site, inscribed on the 5th of July 2015.

Anne's curriculum reflects the wide geographic reach of the project. The world heritage site is not just a local matter; it is important that children and teens alike in Notodden, Tinn, Vinje and in all of Telemark County for that matter, are aware of each others world heritage. The kindergarten class in Gransherad has used 'Slippen' (boat yard) at Tinnoset and 'Storegut' (Norway's largest veteran railroad ferry) as an arena for learning and Rygi school has made their own fertilizer.

The goal is to create an interest, a sense of pride and an understanding of what really happened in Notodden and Rjukan based on hydro-power. "If we are going to succeed with the world heritage project, we need to bring the young people aboard," says Anne with enthusiasm.

Anne will present a class at the 7-Lag Stevne in Decorah entitled, "The Industry Heritage Site at Rjukan and Notodden." She will also be helping with the Youth Camp.

7-Lag Stevne Registration Form

July 20-23, 2017 | Luther College Campus | Decorah, Iowa

PRINT FULL NAME(S) for badges	Telephone Number	Email Address
Street Address	City & State	Zip Code

On which day do you plan to arrive at the Stevne? (**Circle** the day): Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday

See the on-campus housing information and registration form for Luther College Campus lodging options.

Stevne Registration Fee for Lag Members: \$35 per person <i>Note: Registration is free for children and high school and college students who are accompanied by a registered parent or grandparent.</i>	\$35 X ____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Non-lag members: \$45 per person	\$45 X ____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Saturday Evening Banquet and Program: \$30 per person Meal choice (indicate number of each): Pork ____ Chicken ____ Veggie ____	\$30 X ____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Saturday Afternoon Lunch for Telelaget Annual Meeting: \$12 per person.	\$12 X ____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Optional Tour (Friday, approximately 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Includes Herbjørn Gausta Exhibit & Memorial, Harmony, MN, and the Bily Clock Museum, Spillville, IA. \$40 per person includes boxed lunch.	\$40 X ____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Youth Camp: \$22 per child Complete page 2 of this form to register children for the Youth Camp.	\$22 X ____ person(s) =	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

Please list any dietary restrictions: _____

***** **Additional Classes** *****

- **Writing Your Family History: \$15 per person payable at the class.** Anette Holm Bratsberg will be teaching two-hour sessions on the process of writing your family story. Check here if you would like to attend: _____
- **Hardanger Embroidery: \$8 per person payable at the class.** The class is 4 hours long. Limit is 8 students. To register, call Betty Knutson at 320-222-1613.

See the 7lagstevne.com web site for any additional details about lodging, tours, Youth Camp, and other activities.

No later than July 5, 2017, mail this form with check payable to

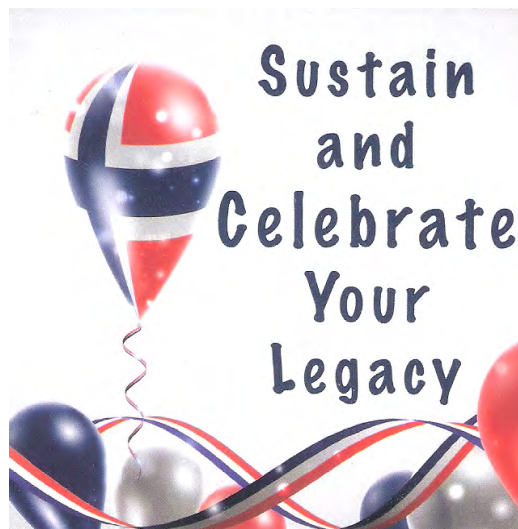
Telelaget of America to:

Deanna Zentgraf

47427 111th St.

Rosholt, SD 57260

No refunds after July 5, 2017.



Youth Camp

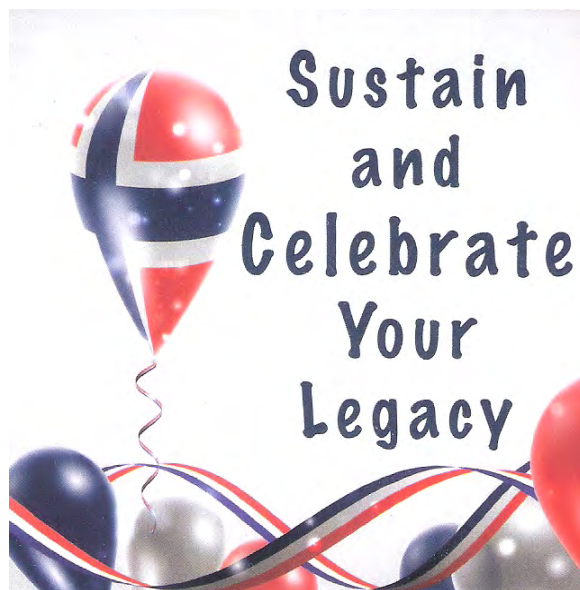
7-Lag Stevne Registration Form

July 20, 21, and 22, 2017 | Luther College Campus | Decorah, Iowa

PRINT FULL NAME(S) for badges	Age(s)
Parent or Grandparent	Parent's or Grandparent's Cell Phone #

Are there any allergies or medical conditions we should be aware of? _____

Note: Registration fee of **\$22 per child** includes Niagara Cave admission and guiding, Vesterheim classes, art supplies, art tour, and two lunches. Indicate the number of children and the total Youth Camp registration cost (children X \$22) on page 1. **Remember to include this form with your Stevne registration form.** See the 7lagstevne.com web site for details about the Youth Camp offering.



7-Lag Stevne On-Campus Housing Information at Luther College

Note: See the 7lagstevne.com web site for a list of alternative local lodging options.

Luther College is pleased to offer on-campus rooms for the 2017 7-Lag Stevne!

Housing is available starting **Wednesday, July 19, through Sunday, July 23** in Farwell residence hall and Baker Village townhouses.

Checking in / Checking out

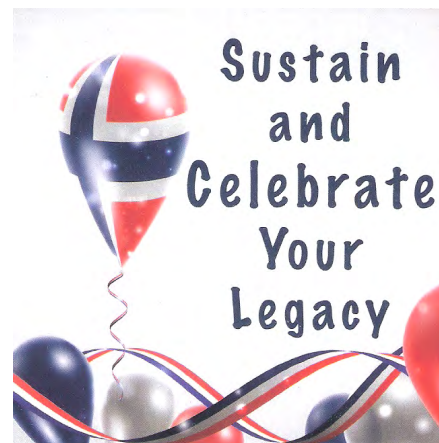
Please check in at the housing registration table in Valdres Hall of Science. Check-in hours for on-campus housing are:

Thursday 6/20 12:00-6:00

Friday 6/21 9:00-5:00

Saturday 6/22 9:00-12:00

If you plan to arrive outside of these hours, please call Judy Mathison (cell 414-520-5068) to arrange for key pickup.



Check-out time is 8:30 AM. Please return your key(s) to the Summer Housing Office in Dahl Centennial Union (main floor). The office is open 7 days per week 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM. The college will bill guests for keys not turned in.

Farwell & Baker Village Details

Both Farwell and Baker Village are air-conditioned. Elevators are available at the ground-floor entry to Farwell. Baker Village units are 2 stories without elevators. Linens are provided at both facilities (two sheets, a pillowcase, a towel, and a washcloth). Beds are not made.

- Farwell - Shared bathroom and shower facilities are located down the hall and are designated as men's or women's facilities. Each room contains beds, dressers, desks, blinds, chairs, and a closet. The dorm rooms do not have reading lamps, fans, television, radios, or clothes hangers. You may bring these items if you wish.
- Baker Village - Each unit accommodates 4-6 persons (except for the two units designated as handicapped accessible). Kitchens are furnished with basic appliances plus a coffee pot and mugs. Visitors may bring pots and pans, dishes, etc., if desired. Campus transportation (golf cart or van) is available between Baker Village and Dahl Centennial Union.

Handicapped Accessibility

- Farwell – All rooms on the north side of Farwell have safety bars and handicapped-accessible restrooms/showers. It is recommended that guests with mobility issues reserve rooms on the main floor.
- Baker Village – Two units, Oslo 1 and Trondheim 1, are handicapped accessible and accommodate 2 persons each.

Bringing children? Children 16 & under can stay in a room with a registered parent or grandparent at no extra charge (limit 2 children/room). However, bring your own linens and/or sleeping bags for the kids!

7-Lag Stevne On-Campus Housing Registration Form

Note: See the 7lagstevne.com web site for a list of alternative local lodging options.

PRINT NAME (Last name, first name)	Telephone Number	Email Address
Street Address	City & State	Zip Code
Emergency Contact (Name, phone, email, relationship)		
Special Requests , for example, if you plan to share a room or wish to be in the same townhouse as a friend, please name the person(s) here.		

Does anyone in your party require residence hall beds to be de-bunked? Yes | No

Nights staying on campus:

Wed 7/19 [] Thurs 7/20 [] Fri 7/21 [] Sat 7/22 [] Sun 7/23 []

Note: Luther College does not carry insurance on personal property of its summer guests and is not responsible for loss or damage to such property.

Farwell Hall SINGLE rooms requested @ \$45/person/night. (Traditional dorm housing.)	\$45 X ___ person(s) X ___ nights(s) =	\$ _____
Farwell Hall DOUBLE rooms requested @ \$45/person/night. (Traditional dorm housing.)	\$45 X ___ person(s) X ___ nights(s) =	\$ _____
Baker Village SINGLE rooms requested @ \$45/person/night. (Townhouse-style housing, limited availability.)	\$45 X ___ person(s) X ___ nights(s) =	\$ _____
Baker Village DOUBLE rooms requested @ \$45/person/night. (Townhouse-style housing, limited availability.)	\$45 X ___ person(s) X ___ nights(s) =	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

No later than July 5, 2017, mail this form with your check payable to **Telelaget of America** to:

Telelaget of America
 Judy Mathison
 S47W23365 Lawnsdale Rd
 Waukesha WI 53189-7907

No refunds after July 5, 2017.

