



NEWS FOR DESCENDANTS OF EMIGRANTS FROM THE TELEMARCK REGION IN NORWAY

Volume XXIV Number 2

November 2021

MINI-STEVNE FOR TELELAGET MEMBERS & FRIENDS IS RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1-3

Beautiful Spring Grove, Minnesota is the setting for our "Giants who Came Before" mini-stevne rescheduled for April 1-3.

The weekend promises to be a fun and educational experience for everyone. You'll enjoy listening to speakers in the comfort of the Spring Grove Cinema located next door to the newly remodeled Giants of the Earth Heritage Center. Now fully ADA compliant on all three floors, you'll be able to explore the many exhibits there, and the building will be our gathering place for meals and hospitality. With Covid causing the closing of local restaurants, we've chosen to cater all meals from area locations to the Heritage Center. This will also provide an opportunity for attendees to get to know their fellow 'Telers' better.

A *Revy*, (pronounced Re vee'), will open the *stevne* on Friday afternoon beginning at 4:00. The line-up for this variety show includes vocal and instrumental music, a Luren Singer small group, Norwegian dancing, a dramatic reading, and a sing-a-long. If you have a talent that you would like to share in a two or three minute presentation, please contact Elaine Nordlie by phone (320-296-2955) or email enordlie@charter.net

Check the schedule on the right for Saturday's line-up. Added to our Sunday afternoon schedule is a concert by the Luren Singers! Their performance will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, followed by a light supper in the social hall. You will be able to attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service at the Houston Stone Church, enjoy lunch in the area, and return to Spring Grove for the 2:00 p.m. concert.

Admission to the *Revy* is open to the public for only \$5.00, payable at the door. The worship service at the Stone Church is open to all, as is the Luren Singers Concert. This is a great opportunity to invite friends from the SE MN and NE IA area to see what a *stevne* is all about. Non-members of Telelaget are welcome to register for the entire *stevne* by purchasing a one-year membership (\$15.00) in addition to the registration. Meals must be ordered and paid for by the March 15 deadline.



2021 STEVNE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 1

2:00-4:00 p.m. — Registration
4:00-6:00 p.m. — *Revy* at the Cinema
6:00-8:00 p.m. — Cash Bar
Catered Dinner by Elsie's, Caledonia
Annual meeting at 7:30

Saturday, April 2

7:30 — 8:45 a.m. — Catered breakfast by Ivy Grove, Spring Grove

9:00 a.m — 5:00 p.m Genealogy room open, staffed by Telelag Genealogists

9:00-9:45 a.m. — Presentation by Lee Grippen, recipient of the prestigious King Olav Medal, sharing stories of his Norwegian connections.

9:45-10:00 a.m. — Coffee, cookies & concessions

10:00-10:45 — Presentation by Johnathan Storlie comparing results from various DNA testing companies using the same person with some Telemark ancestry. He will also share how to unlock additional health and ancestry information from DNA tests.

10:45-11:00 — Coffee, cookies & concessions

11:00 - 11:45 — "The Unique Circumstances of Norwegian Ridge" presented by Bill Fried. You'll learn about Native American tribes that populated the area as well as treaties that lead to availability of land acquisition in Southeastern Minnesota in the 1850s.

12:00 — 1:00 — Barbecue Pork lunch at Giants from Fat Pat's in Spring Grove

1:00 — 1:45 — Presentation on "The Red River Girl" by Jim Skree who has been involved in the writing, publishing and distribution of the book. Find out about the Thortvedt, Gedstad, and Gunderson families who lived here from 1861-1871.

2:00 — 5:00 — Self-guided road trip (map provided) to Red River Girl locations and/or Visit Red River Girl panel display and other exhibits at Caledonia Historical Society

5:00 — 8:00 — Cash bar and catered dinner by Elsie's, Caledonia, Culmination of "Writing Contest" and Prizes (see details inside) **Wear Your Bunad!**

Sunday, April 3.

8:00 — 9:30 — Catered breakfast by Ivy Grove

10:30 a.m. — Prelude of Norwegian Music at Stone Church in Houston. Public Welcome

11:00 a.m. — Worship Service at Stone Church

2:00 p.m. — Luren Singers Concert at Trinity, Spring Grove

THE LUREN SINGERS

We are excited to include a performance by the Luren Singers to close out our mini-*stevne*, "Giants who came Before," in Spring Grove in April. Just who are the Luren Singers? According to an article in the Winnesheik County, Iowa Biographies book printed in 1996, four young men who had emigrated from Norway met in Decorah on March 17, 1868, to form the Luren Quartet. The group got their name from a double quartet one member had heard near his boyhood home near Christiania (now Oslo), called Luren. The name refers to the long horn used often in the mountains of Norway to send messages.

Luren remains the oldest Norwegian American singing society in continuous existence in this country. Luren has been a member chorus of the Norwegian Singers Association of America for many years, and has been a mainstay as one of the largest choruses of NSAA.

Luren continues its tradition of singing in many settings: anniversaries, celebrations, receptions, church and civic occasions, and its regular concerts in and around Decorah. The group celebrated their 150th year in 2018. More information can be found on the Luren Singers website, <http://www.lurensingsociety.com/>



CALLING EVERYONE WHO HAS/HAD PARENTS

Yes, that means you! It's about that family story you've heard at least a dozen times. It's about that family story that you've told at least a dozen times. To you, it seems as if the whole world knows that story. But guess what? We don't! So please, share. Write it down.

Whether it's five sentences, five pages or anywhere in between or beyond. Write it down. Share it. We want to hear it. We want to hear about Uncle Fred's dresser, or Aunt Ginny's robe, or Grandma's Christmas fail, or that favorite family recipe, or that dog, or that horse, or that rattlesnake, or that lightning strike, or that cow, or that bike, or the time that cousin Pete... well, you know. Whether it be funny, sad, tragic, run of the mill, or seemingly typical. We want to hear your story. Because, believe me, it's unique.

Send it before the spring "Giants Who Came Before" *stevne* in April so we can share it then. (Send your story, even if you can't attend!) We'll all be glad you took the time. Please note: There will be prizes!

Send your completed story to Naomi Nowland, 420 19th Street West Clear Lake IA 50428 or email to nowland.naomi@gmail.com

thrivent® Choice Dollars

Don't forget! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep Telelaget of America in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Telelag is using a portion of member-directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to help offset costs of our "Giants who came Before" Stevne. In addition, we have received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant to use for Stevne expenses.

LODGING WITHIN 20 MILES OF SPRING GROVE



You must make your own reservations for lodging at the Spring Grove Stevne. Below is a list of known places within 20 miles of Spring Grove.

B & B's, Hotel, Motels, Inns

Mabel House Hotel

117 South Main, Mabel, MN 55954

Phone: 507-493-5768

www.mabelhousehotel.com

mabelhousehotel@yahoo.com

Loken's Sawmill Inn & Suites

809 East Cedar, Houston, MN 55943

Phone: 507-896-7050

Email: lokenssawmill@acegroup.cc

sawmillinnandsuites.com

The Bunkhouse Silver Creek Ranch

501 S Jefferson St, Houston, MN 55943

Phone: 507-896-2080

e-mail: jaschultz@acegroup.cc

Crest Inn

15944 State Hwy 44 / 76,

Caledonia, MN 55921

Phone: 507-724-3311

Betsy's B & B

10672 County 249, Caledonia, MN

www.betsysbedandbreakfast.com

E-Mail: Pieperfarm@msn.com

Phone: 507-724-3276

The Sportsmen Motel

2753 Iowa 76, Dorchester, IA 52140

Phone: (563) 497-3615

Telelaget Registration Form

April 1, 2 and 3, 2022
Spring Grove, Minnesota



Print name(s) for badges _____

Phone _____ () Cell () Landline

Email _____

Address _____

Address Line 2 _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Stevne Registration (covers space rental, speakers, entertainment, genealogy, hospitality, printing and advertising costs)

\$25/person x _____ = _____

We recommend you take advantage of the catered meals below, as there are limited options in the area.

Friday Evening — 2 Meat Buffet (Chicken & Pork Chop) Potato, Vegetable, Bun, Dessert and Beverage catered by Elsie's in Caledonia

\$16/person x _____ = _____

Saturday Breakfast — Scrambled Eggs, Muffin, Yogurt, Fruit, Coffee, Water catered by Ivy Grove in Spring Grove

\$ 7/person x _____ = _____

Saturday Lunch — Pulled Pork Sandwich, Potato Salad, Pickle Cookie & Beverage catered by Fat Pat's in Spring Grove

\$10/person x _____ = _____

Saturday Evening — 2 Meat Buffet (Chicken & Beef Tips) Potato, Vegetable, Bun, Dessert and Beverage catered by Elsie's in Caledonia

\$16/person x _____ = _____

Sunday Breakfast — Scrambled Eggs, Muffin, Yogurt, Fruit, Coffee, Water catered by Ivy Grove in Spring Grove

\$ 7/person x _____ = _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate where in Telemark your ancestors are from:

Kommune/Kommuner _____

Farm Name(s) _____

Have you or a family member done DNA testing? _____ Company(ies) used: _____

Other sites where you have uploaded your data: _____

There is no admission charge for the Houston County Historical Society to see the Red River Girl exhibit, or to tour the museum. The Society does, however, welcome your donations at the door.

Hotel reservations are on your own. A list of places to stay in the area can be found in this TeleNews, TeleMail or online at <http://www.springgrovemn.com/lodging-dining-shopping>.

Mail this completed form along with your check not later than March 15 to:
Jerry Burmeister, Telelaget Treasurer, 7410 159th Street NE, Atwater MN 56209

You can register online and pay via PayPal at our website www.telelaget.com.
There is an additional fee of \$3.00 per registration to cover transaction fees with PayPal

ANNUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM



Telelaget of America held their Annual Meeting via Zoom on Saturday, September 25. There was one opening on the Board of Directors vacated by Doug Framness who has served the maximum of two three-year terms as accorded by our by-laws. 'Thank you' to Doug, who has been the vice-president of Telelaget, for his time and contributions to our organization.

Completing their first three-year terms on the board were Jerry Burmeister and Joan Niemiec. Both agreed to remain on the board for a second three-year term.

Sara Gordon was on the ballot to fill the board position. In her biography, Sara states, "I live in Southern California. My mother was born and raised in St. Paul and was very proud of her Norwegian and Swedish heritage. She learned about Norway from her grandmother who was from the Tinn area of Telemark. Passing down the love of family traditions, cooking and genealogy was very important to her. I joined the last trip to Telemark which only deepened my love of and interest in my Norwegian heritage. I am currently an adjunct professor at a community college and look forward to my impending retirement so I can spend more time researching and learning about my ancestors. I am also currently a member of the Hadeland Lag and am a member of the DAR on my father's side." Welcome, Sara, to Telelaget's Board of Directors.



Membership in Telelaget of America is currently at 354, which includes 51 lifetime members and 22 complementary memberships. This is up slightly from our 2020 membership of 349.

The Treasurer's Report for 2020 showed a balance of \$19,661.44 on January 1, 2020. Income for the year 2020 was \$10,055.80 with \$8,209.98 in expenses. This leaves a balance of \$21,507.26 as of December 31, 2020. Most of our income is from membership dues, and our largest expense is for printing and mailing the Telesoga and TeleNews.

Your membership expiration date is printed on your mailing label. If your membership expires in 2021, send in your renewal today! You can renew online at www.Telelaget.com, or use the form on the back of your Telesoga. Videos of five of this year's



virtual stevne sessions are available for viewing on the 7+ Lag Stevne YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn1tyn16JBVDAUDzkl329pg>

History of Syttende Mai presented by Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger. Syttende Mai is the most important national holiday in Norway. It celebrates the signing of the Norwegian Constitution on May 17, 1814. Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger from Norway talked about the history of Syttende Mai. Terje has a background as a migration and ethnic history scholar and is director of the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Hamar, Norway.

Hymns of My Great-Grandfather presented by Telelaget member, Sandra Fjelstad Gilbert. In this presentation, Sandy discusses the stories of her great-grandparents, Reverend Rolf Knutson (Rollefson) Fjelstad and Sylvia Persdatter Wangsness, the churches they attended and served, and a treasured book of hymns Rolf had composed and authored, some of which are played during the presentation.

Scandinavian Blacksmithing at Goose Prairie Forge presented by Doug Swenson. Doug talks about his working blacksmith shop in Hawley, Minnesota. Doug has gained attention from both National and International Audiences and has appeared on the show "America's Lost Vikings." He is working with researchers to help recreate tools from the late Viking Age based on archaeological finds from Scandinavia. You will gain insight into a craft that has gained new interest.

The Pilgrim's Trail presented by Jahn Børe Jahnsen. Noted historian Jahn Børe Jahnsen from Valdres, Norway shared a presentation about the popular Pilgrimsleden or Pilgrims Trail in Norway. You will hear the history of the trails and see maps and various trail markers. Jahn shared some of his own personal pictures from when he has walked the trails himself. They all lead to Trondheim!

Family Search Norway Wiki Page presented by Jeff Svare. This presentation focuses on Norwegian genealogical content in the FamilySearch Research Wiki. The presentation includes Wiki content related to Norwegian Historical Records collections available on FamilySearch and Nordic material available on the FamilySearch Learning Center. There's much more to the Wiki than you may be familiar with, and there's sure to be something new for you to learn!

We are not authorized to make recordings of two sessions presented by staff of the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah Iowa available to the public.



Front: Lillian Bruvold holding the original Telleiv Sveinungen Norwegian Journal found in her Dad's attic, Willard Orvella, Arlys (Orvella) Soeder Back: Joan (Soland) Landenberger (Research and transcriptionist), Don Berg (Translator), Wayne Soeder

"The Midwestern Notebooks of Talleiv Sveinungen Vindlaus" by Øyvind Gulliksen appeared in the May 2021 issue of the Telesoga. The journal was found in the attic of Lillian (Orvella) Bruvold's father, Helmer. The Orvella family asked Don Berg to translate the journal and Joan (Soland) Landenberger offered to type it. Don and Joan spent over four years

translating, typing, researching, and laying out the journal. Joan contacted relatives and was able to add a few photos of relatives mentioned in the journal. The project seemed overwhelming at first, but what a tremendous look back into the lives of these Norwegian immigrants. The publication of the project was completed July 6, 2020. Don and Joan had hoped to have a book signing, but COVID-19 caused a postponement. Unfortunately, the signing was never held as Don had a stroke on December 21 and died January 10, 2021. Don had sent a book to Øyvind Gulliksen in Bø, Telemark last year. Øyvind wrote an article for the Vest-Telemark Newspaper in November 2020. This is the article that was translated and published in the Telesoga. The book is available for purchase online from the Vesterheim Museum Bookstore, Decorah, Iowa, or from Joan Landenberger at joan.landenberger@gmail.com. Price \$75.



How would you like to receive your Telesoga? Members now have three options to choose from:

1. Continue to receive the Telesoga via regular mail.
2. Receive a PDF of the Telesoga via email.
3. Receive both a paper and electronic version of the Telesoga

Email delivery not only will help Telelaget save printing and mailing costs, it will provide you with a searchable PDF document.

If you have not done so, please send an email to lilajs@gmail.com indicating your preference.

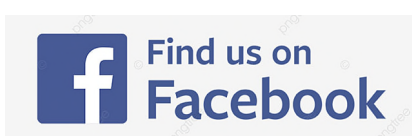
A NOTE ON EMAIL:

You should currently be receiving a copy of this newsletter via email, as well as our TeleMail newsletter. If you don't receive these, we may not have your current email address. Also check to be sure the email is not going to your spam folder!



We are really looking forward to coming together in the "real world" from **July 13-16, 2022, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin**. The festivities will begin with an open house for genealogy and vendors on the evening of Wednesday, July 13, and culminate with the banquet on the evening of Saturday, July 16. Thursday, Friday and Saturday's schedule will include classes exploring our theme **Vikings: Empire of the North**, plus genealogy and immigrant history. Research your family and expand your family tree. Learn a Norwegian-inspired craft. Enroll your kids and grandkids in the youth program. There will be entertainment each evening. On Thursday afternoon the schedule will include a picnic and a selection of local tours. The genealogy room will also be open and there will be classes for those not interested in touring. On Friday lag meetings will be scheduled in the morning or afternoon with the morning class schedule repeated in the afternoon so regardless of when your lag meets you won't miss a thing. Saturday you can join us for classes and family research during the day and the banquet and a special program Saturday evening.

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss a minute of our 2022 7+ Lag Stevne!



There are a number of pages and groups on Facebook that can give you great information and photos about Telemark and Norway. Access by entering the name in the search field at the top of your Facebook page. You are welcome to post and comment on all of these sites. Click on "See Translation" in any post to instantly translate to English.

**Telelaget of America
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Norwegian Genealogy
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Norwegian-American Genealogy Help Here**

FRIEDA E. NOWLAND

Frieda E. Nowland, 87, of La Crosse passed away Friday, April 2, 2021, at her home. Born in Spring Grove, Minnesota, July 2, 1933, to Palmer and Margit (Landsverk) Mindrum, she was baptized at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church and confirmed at Houston Lutheran Church. She graduated from Houston High School in 1950, from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in 1954, and later earned library credentials from UW-Whitewater and a master's degree in media from UW-La Crosse.



Frieda Nowland and husband, Ron

Frieda married Ron Nowland in 1955, while he was a student at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. They had three children, Paul, Naomi, and Jonathan and later adopted Grace, when she was 10 years old.

In addition to raising her family, she worked as a bookkeeper and secretary. She taught social studies, was a librarian, the program director and volunteer coordinator at Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center and owned and operated a Lutheran bookstore for before retiring in 2002.

Frieda's hobbies included reading, writing (especially family stories), crossword puzzles, cryptograms, traveling, bicycling, and helping Ron with his illustrated talks. Frieda was a long-time Telelag member.

TELL YOUR STORIES. SHARE YOUR HERITAGE. PASS IT ON

Frieda's daughter, Naomi, wrote and read the following at Frieda's funeral: "All her life, mom enjoyed informing people that she was 100% Norwegian. All four of her grandparents could point to exactly where in Norway they came from. I owe my connection to and fascination with Norway to my mom and her love of storytelling. I grew up hearing stories of long-ago relatives.

"In the spring of my senior year of high school, I had an opportunity to spend six-weeks in Norway, traveling with another high school senior. Guess what? My mom was all for it. Two eighteen-year-old girls by themselves in Norway. What could possibly go wrong? Thankfully, nothing did. We saw a lot of the country. In every major city we stayed in, as soon as I checked into the hotel, or the youth hostel or a person's home, there would be a letter waiting for me written by mom. She knew my schedule. She looked ahead and made sure to post each letter in time for it to be waiting for me. It didn't matter that the news might be old, or mundane. No, what mattered was that mom cared enough to write. Mind you, this was before cell phones, before

Skype, before Facetime. For six weeks, the only communication I had was via letters. Well, except for the telegram I sent home when I kinda, ran short of money.

"As I grew up, I learned lots of common Norwegian phrases that translate as: thanks for the food, thanks for the visit, I'm hungry, I'm full, I'm tired, I'm ready, I don't know, how are you doing, I'm fine thanks, can you speak Norwegian, and more. Mom even got my son to speak Norwegian. After each visit, once he could drive, mom would look Zachary in the eye and say, "kjør forsiktig" and he'd reply, "ta da med ro." Translated, she said, "Drive safely." And he acknowledged her instruction by responding in the affirmative that he would, "Take it easy."

"A few years ago, mom had her DNA tested. Imagine her surprise when it came back that she was only 94% Norwegian. The other percent? Divided evenly among Irish, Russian and Finnish. I tell you, those Vikings sure got around. If that's the total extent of scandal we can find, we're doing pretty good. Except, there's that story about a well-to-do farmer's daughter who fell in love with the hired hand. But that was back in Norway, a long time ago.

"Mom took at least six trips to Norway. I was privileged to join her on her last trip which was just five years ago. In helping to set up that trip, Mom insisted I contact Inger who lives in Norway so that we could stay with her. Now, this was a woman mom had met for all of 30 minutes. But Inger reportedly told mom that 'the next time you're in Norway, come stay with me.' When I questioned mom about the wisdom of contacting this Inger, mom said, "Well, I can certainly tell when someone means what they say." Indeed, we had a delightful two-day visit in Inger's home.

"Thirty some years ago, mom purchased a custom-made Eastern Telemark bunad, a beloved traditional Norwegian garment that is unique for specific regions and is worn on special occasions. A woman's bunad is a colorful dress made of wool that is adorned with embroidery, buckles, shawls, scarfs and handmade silver jewelry. Over the years, mom acquired all the extras. Yes, a bunad is quite the investment. This past Christmas, mom insisted that I take her bunad home with me. It will be my honor to wear it. Thank you, mom, "takk mor," for delighting so much in your heritage, that I also came to embrace... from whence I come."



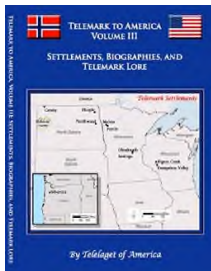
Frieda with Inger in Inger's home in Rauland, Norway. The next day Inger took us to visit Rukan.



BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

There are many stories in the news today about Christmas gift items being stuck in the harbors and unable to be delivered to stores. You won't have to deal with that when you order from Telelag's "store" located in Houston, Minnesota. In fact, you can even order online from the comfort of your home!

TELEMARK TO AMERICA SERIES



In 1987, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of "Tellers" in America, Telelaget published a set of Norwegian-American history books.

The first volume gives an overview of Telemark and its immigrant settlements in America. The second book in the series (which has been updated and re-published) is a collection of articles from the *Telesoga* and 1926 *Årbok* about Teler settlements in America. Volume three adds more about settlements, plus biographies and Telemark lore.

- Volume I - Emigration
- Volume II - Settlements
- Volume III - Settlements, Biographies, and Telemark Lore

You can find a table of contents for each volume on the Telelaget website at <http://telelaget.com/publications/toamerica.htm>.

Each volume is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. You can order all three volumes for the special price of \$50.00 plus \$8.00 shipping and handling.

A YEAR AT HAUGO FARM

"A Year at Haugo Farm" was published by the Vest-Telemark Museum. Telelaget sells and mails copies of the book in the United States and Canada.

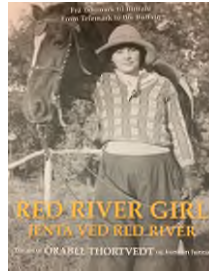
Author Ingebjørg Draugedal, who now lives in Kviteseid, Telemark, Norway, tells of her life as a girl in 1945, growing up under Nazi occupation on a farm in Telemark that was still as self-sufficient as those our emigrant ancestors left in the 1800's. How did people back then provide for nearly everything they needed themselves?



In the book Ingebjørg recounts how they shared the work, the hardships and the pleasures of living on a close-knit family farm. The book describes in detail the practical work that was done on the farm, but it also tells about the relationships between the family members and within the local community, and about the intimate interaction with the surrounding landscape. Ingebjørg's vivid reminiscences breathe life into what is now a bygone era for most of us.

The cost for the book is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

RED RIVER GIRL—THE ART OF ORABEL THORTVEDT



This popular new book is a main focus of our mini-stevne, "Giants who came Before," to be held April 1-3 in Spring Grove, Minnesota. You'll have the opportunity to see where Orabell lived, hear of her life in Houston County, and visit the display at the Houston County Historical Society.

The book is the result of a cooperative effort between the West-Telemark Museum in Eidsborg and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, Minnesota. Published in 2020, the text is both in Norwegian and English.

Orabel Thortvedt, granddaughter of pioneer Olav G. Geitestad/Thortvedt, devoted much of her life exploring and depicting her story. She was a trained artist, loved animals and was inordinately interested in local history. This book portrays the work of this fascinating artist, while at the same time telling a touching family saga.

The 9 ½ x 13 inch hardcover book weighs in at over three pounds, and its 193 pages are printed on luxurious, semi-gloss, art silk paper, profusely illustrated with black & white and color photographs, including numerous scans of Orabel's artwork. The book should be of interest to all who appreciate and enjoy the history of Norwegian immigration to the Upper Midwest in the 19th century. If you don't know your families story, you can imagine it was much like that described by Orabel in her book.

Cost for the book is \$45.00 plus \$5.00 shipping.

TELESOGA DVD

Telelaget makes historical issues of the *Telesoga* available on DVD in pdf format. The quality of scanned photos and sketches varies depending on the condition and quality of the originals. The DVD contains issues from 1909-1926 all in Norwegian, 1938-1953 and the 1938 anniversary issue in a mix of Norwegian and English, and 1980 to 2015 all in English. A second DVD contains Telesogas from 2016 through 2020. The cost for the complete set is \$30.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

Welcome

Welcome to the following people who have joined Telelaget since April 2021:

Becky Anderson, Fargo ND
Rebecca Bergerson, Bagley MN
Nancy Swisher, Houston TX
Dana Kelly, Deerfield WI
Karen Quick, Roseville MN
Sharon Stone, Deming WA
Jill Kieslich, De Pere WI
Carol Steiner, Mountain View CA
Michael Willias, Moorestown NJ
Judy Haccou, Santa Clara CA
Harlyn Oppeboen, Tucson AZ
Georgia Rosendahl, Spring Grove MN
Emily Manske, Burlington WI
Jillellyn Storie, Spring Grove MN
Randi Lundell, Roseville MN
Kelly & Steve McCartney, Aurora CO
Noah McCartney, Carbondale CO
Jill Reid, Cottonwood Hats UT
Todd Saylor, Mina Lake SD
Kjell & Jacqueline Stensrud, Comfort TX



MY HULDRA

By Naomi Nowland

When we first moved to our home in Clear Lake, Iowa, way too many years ago, my parents gave me this Norwegian Huldra as a house-warming gift. Huldras are the females of the species. The males are called Huldrekall. They are usually

farmers who have superior farms and better livestock than any of their human neighbors.

Huldrefolk are mostly born in forests and mountain regions far away from prying eyes. The females start out life with great beauty and alluring singing voices. However, their beauty comes with a price. They are born with a cow's tail they desperately try to hide. Their main goal in life is to achieve equality with humans. As such they use their beauty and their melodic singing voice to seduce a man so that he will marry her in a church. If she does, her tail falls off and she can pass for human.

So, why is my Huldra not beautiful? Well, if a Huldra fails to marry in a church, she quickly becomes shriveled and ugly. And just where is her tail? I theorize that because of her great age, my Huldra's tail just fell off on its own. However, as Huldras grow older, they also mellow. I was told that if you are kind to them, they will be kind in return. Therefore, I have made it a habit to be especially nice to my Huldra. So far, she hasn't caused me any trouble and I hope to keep it that way.

More information on these fantastic creatures can be found in the collected Norwegian folktales of Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe.

FELLESRAAD UPDATE – SEPT 2021



Our ties with Norway House continue to solidify. Last Friday, Sept 17 was the groundbreaking for the new building. This building will be the home of the Haugo Archive and Bibliotek. Fellesraad and Bygdelaag will be the primary holders of these two areas. I feel it is exciting to have a "home" for us, our genealogical collections in the Archive and the discovery center experiences based on information and enthusiasm which we as Bygdelaag members can share with others.



The discovery center stations which we will have in the new Bibliotek are the following. Please share your ancestral and Lag information for these experiences:

- *Bibliotek & Explore Norway*
- *Famous Norwegians and Norwegian-Americans Emigration & Immigration*
- *Norwegian-American and Norwegian-Canadian Settlements*
- *Renown Midwestern Norwegians*
- *Record My Story*
- *DNA.*

Elaine Haselton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President

Are you wondering what the Norway House expansion will look like? A fly through computer model tour of it is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo2Pch4qsqI> (2:30 Minutes) This space promises to host some incredible events and opportunities!



Are you looking for a gift for that hard-to-buy-for friend or relative? Give them a membership in Telelaget of America!

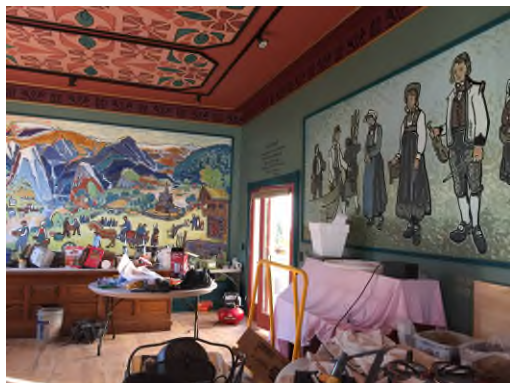
HAVE YOU FILLED OUT YOUR “GIANTS WHO CAME BEFORE” MINI-STEVNE REGISTRATION?

Don't miss out on this fun and educational weekend! The Friday night Revy and all speaker presentations



will be held in the comfort of the Spring Grove Cinema. You'll be able to enjoy coffee, snacks and concessions while participating in the Revy and listening to the presenters.

The last time the committee visited Spring Grove, renovation was underway on the Giants of the Earth Heritage Center. The large room pictured here and below will be our gathering place for the catered meals and fellowship with other Telega members. An elevator to all three floors make the building fully ADA compliant. You'll want to take some time to explore the exhibits upstairs and visit the gift shop! Right next door to the cinema, its just a few steps from one location to the other!



On Saturday, following a presentation on the “Red River Girl,” by Jim Skree, (pictured below with Shelley Jerviss), attendees will have the opportunity to travel to Caledonia to view the panel display based on the book. The display has previously been shown at both the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County and



Norway House. You can also spend time viewing the many donated artifacts that tell the history of the county.



Don't wait any longer! Go to page 3 of this newsletter, fill out your registration and mail it in!

NORWAY HOUSE ACQUIRES “THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN” NEWSPAPER

Norway House, the National Norwegian Center in America, located in Minneapolis, has acquired The Norwegian American newspaper (norwegianamerican.com, as a key programming initiative.

Publishing in print twice monthly and continuously on the web with core operations based in Seattle, the newspaper will strengthen Norway House's connection to the local community and beyond, both in North America and in Norway.

“At a time when local newspapers and small publications have been declining and dying, The Norwegian American has experienced a period of growth under Editor-in-chief Lori Ann Reinhall and her creative team. This upward trend will be enhanced through new synergies gained through the new partnership with Norway House.”

ROOTSTECH CONNECT - VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Roots Tech conference, usually held in Salt Lake City, Utah will be all-virtual (and free) again this year. “RootsTech Connect” replaces the in-person event with virtual dates of February 25-27. Attendees still must register online at <https://www.rootstech.org>.

TELELAGET'S 2022.

VISION OF NORWAY

July 25 August 7, 2022

***At present, we have 30 people signed up for the tour. The estimated price is based on 35 travelers, so we do have room for additional people to participate in the tour.**

You are invited to join Telelag of America and explore some of Norway's most beautiful landscapes, historic cities, and world heritage sites in 2022. A fully refundable \$400 per person deposit (paid by check) will secure your place on the tour with registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once Brekke Tours is confident that our tour to Norway can be operated safely, you will receive a confirmation packet for your tour. The confirmation packets will include the confirmed itinerary final price, terms and conditions as well as information regarding optional travel insurance, and you will be asked to confirm your tour registration. Upon acceptance of the confirmed itinerary and price, your deposit of \$400 per person becomes non-refundable. Should you cancel within the time period specified, you will receive a full refund of your trip deposit.

If you wish to receive an airfare quote from your home city or for alternative travel dates, please note your request on the Registration Form. If you prefer to make your own air arrangements please ensure that the tour is guaranteed to operate before making reservations.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS



DAY 1 MONDAY, JULY 25
Mpls/St. Paul—Trondheim: Depart on your transatlantic flight. To request alternative dates or for estimated airfare supplements from other US cities, please note on application.

DAY 2 TUESDAY, JULY 26 [D]
Trondheim: Arrive at Trondheim Værnes Airport. Transfer to hotel. Balance of day free to relax and adjust to time change. Dinner and overnight at Scandic Nidelven Hotel.

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 [B]
Trondheim: Four-hour morning sightseeing tour includes the magnificent Nidaros Cathedral along with the Archbishop's Palace Museum and Norwegian Crown Regalia. Balance of day free. Dinner on own. Overnight at hotel.

DAY 4 THURSDAY, JULY 28 [B,D]
Trondheim—Lillehammer: Depart for Oppdal, crossing the Dovre Mountains to Dombås. Lunch on own with short stop at the Memorial Park erected in memory of those who gave their lives in World War II. Continue through the Gudbrandsdal Valley to Lillehammer. Dinner and overnight at the Scandic Victoria Lillehammer Hotel.

DAY 5 FRIDAY, JULY 29 [B,D]
Lillehammer: Morning tour of Maihaugen, Norway's largest open-air museum outside of Oslo. Maihaugen offers more than 200 buildings from different eras, superb cultural experiences, a variety of activities for children and adults, numerous exhibitions and several places to eat. Time for independent explorations. Following lunch on own at Maihaugen, view the sites of the 1994 Winter Olympics. Afternoon free for shopping or possible independent visits to the home of Sigrid Undset. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

ITINERARY INCLUDES

- Roundtrip airfare from Mpls/St. Paul, on Icelandair, including taxes, fees & fuel surcharge
- 12 nights standard accommodations, double occupancy, with private facilities
- Daily breakfast [B], 1 lunch [L] and 10 dinners [D], including special arrangements with Anne Underberg
- 1st-class touring coach, train & ferries per itinerary
- City sightseeing in Trondheim and Oslo
- Entrance fees to all sites including: Nidarosdomen, Archbishop's Palace Museum, Norwegian Crown Regalia, Maihaugen, Anno Domkirkeodden, Fjellhallen, Tinn Håndverksenter, Vemork, Norwegian Ski Adventure Center, Kviteseid Bygdetun, Vest-Telemark Museum, Venstøp Henrik Ibsen Museum, Porcelain Museum and Den Norske Opera & Ballet
- Luggage handling at hotels for 1 suitcase (subject to availability)
- Tour Director (Elaine Nordlie) for Days 2 - 14

ESTIMATED TOUR PRICING

Price with air/taxes/fuel..... from \$4595
ESTIMATED Price is based on a minimum of 35 passengers. Price includes airfare from Mpls/St. Paul plus taxes/fees and fuel surcharge. Fuel and taxes are subject to change and if needed, will be re-assessed in your statement prior to final payment. Inquire about airfare from your home city.

Land Only from \$3495
Services begin in Trondheim and end in Oslo

Single Room Supplement. from \$695



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Trondheim, Lillehammer, Fagernes, Rjukan, Vrådal, Skien and Oslo

Nidaros Cathedral, Archbishop's Palace, Crown Regalia, Maihaugen, Glass Cathedral, cruise Lake Mjøsa on board a historic paddle wheel steamer, Vemork, West-Telemark Museum, Vrangfoss Locks, Vigeland Park and the Viking Ship Museum



DAY 6 SATURDAY, JULY 30 [B,D]

Lillehammer—Fagernes: Travel to Hamar. Tour the unique Glass Cathedral, an architectural and technological masterpiece created to protect cathedral ruins from the Middle Ages, at Domkirkeodden. Sail across Lake Mjøsa, Norway's largest lake, from Hamar to Gjøvik (depart at 11:15am; arrive Gjøvik at 12:30pm) on the historic paddle wheel steamer, Skibladner. In Gjøvik, tour the Olympic Hockey Arena, built inside of a mountain for the 1994 Winter Olympics. Proceed to Dokka and Fagernes. Dinner and overnight at Scandic Valdres Hotel.

DAY 7 SUNDAY, JULY 31 [B,D]

Fagernes—Rjukan: Drive to Gol and Geilo and proceed south on #40 through Skurdalen to upper Uvdal. At Bjørkeflåta, drive south through Tessungdalen to Austbygde. Stop at Atrå Church and the Håndverkssenter in Tinn with works by local Telemark artisans. Overnight at Skinnarbu Nasjonalparkhotell. Prior to dinner at hotel, enjoy a presentation by a local silversmith.

DAY 8 MONDAY, AUGUST 1 [B,D]

Excursion in area: Depart for Vemork, the hydroelectric power plant, where the Nazis produced "heavy water" for their atomic bomb experiments. Learn about the Germany occupation of Norway during WWII. Drive to Rjukan. Visit Silversmith Sando and lunch on own. Return to Skinnarbu. Telelag has made special arrangements at Hardangervidda National Park Center for a tour, dinner and a cultural evening. Return to hotel for overnight.

Activity Option: Saboteur Hike - Instead of visit to Vemork, enjoy a 2-3 hour one-way hike (easy hiking) in the Hardanger Plateau to the Saboteur's cabin - \$50 per person (minimum 10 participants) includes lunch pack from the hotel and a local guide will provide stories enroute. Duration: 6 to 8 hours total.

DAY 9 TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 [B,L,D]

Rjukan—Vrådal: Drive to Hjartdal. In Flatdal, enjoy lunch at Nutheim Gjestgiveri. A speaker will provide the history about "Farmers' Revolt" as per own arrangement. Continue to Seljord and Morgedal. Tour the Ski Adventure Museum. Proceed to Vrådal for dinner and overnight at Straand Hotel.



For more information, contact:
Brekke Tours & Travel
1-800-437-5302
Tours@BrekkeTours.com
WWW.BREKKETOURS.COM

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 [B,D]

Excursion in area: Following breakfast, tour the Kviteseid Bygdetun. Continue to Vest-Telemark Museum. Lunch on own at the museum. Guided tour includes visit to Eidsborg Church. Return to Vrådal for dinner and overnight at Straand Hotel.

DAY 11 THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 [B,D]

Vrådal—Skien: Our route takes us to Åmot, Seljord, Bø, and in Gvarv, we stop for lunch (as per own arrangements) with Anne Underberg (expert on lefse baking + other treats). At Ulefoss, view the Vrangfoss locks, part of the Bandak Canal, the 60+ mile stretch of waterway between Skien and Dalen completed in 1892. Continue to Skien. Guided tour of Venstøp, Henrik Ibsen's childhood home or an optional visit to Brekke Park. Proceed to Porsgrunn. Tour the Porsgrund Porcelain Factory. Dinner and overnight at Thon Hotel Høyers in Skien.

DAY 12 FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 [B]

Skien—Oslo: Late morning departure for Oslo. Afternoon sightseeing includes a visit to Vigeland Park and a photo stop at Holmenkollen Ski Jump. Tour concludes on Bygdøy, which provides an opportunity to visit the Fram and/or Kon-tiki Museum Balance of day on own. Overnight at Thon Hotel Opera.

DAY 13 SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 [B,D]

Oslo: Short walk to Oslo Opera House for morning tour. Balance of day free to explore Norway's capital city on own. Farewell dinner at hotel.

DAY 14 SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 [B]

Oslo—Depart: Tour ends following breakfast. Transfer to the Oslo Gardermoen Airport for return flights. Longer stays may be requested upon registration for minimum charge of \$150.



EARLY REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete (print or type) and return to the address below.

NAME OF TOUR: Telelaget's 2022 Vision of Norway

AIR & LAND LAND ONLY (Please select one)

Group airfare will be requested per the following schedule:

Depart July 25: Minneapolis/St. Paul - Trondheim

Return August 7: Oslo - Minneapolis/St. Paul

If alternate departure/return city is preferred, please indicate here:

DEPART FROM _____ (City) RETURN TO _____ (City)

If alternate departure/return dates are preferred, please indicate here:

DEPART DATE _____ (Date) RETURN DATE _____ (Date)

REQUEST FOR OPTIONAL FARM VISIT(S) IN TELEMARK: _____

OPTIONAL TOUR ACTIVITIES: Day 8 - Saboteur Hike

(Please indicate participant names)

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAMES EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS / WILL APPEAR ON YOUR PASSPORT

PLEASE NOTE: NAME CHANGES / CORRECTIONS WILL INCUR A MINIMUM \$250 CHANGE FEE

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)

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)

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 _____

TYPE OF ROOM: Single Double (1 double bed) Twin (double room with two separate twin beds)

NAME OF ROOMMATE/S: _____

If requested a double room with 2 twin beds: Brekke Tours will forward your request to the hotel; however, on some occasions, rooms with one double bed may be the only choice available.

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: Do you wish to room with another single person requesting a roommate? Yes No

Please note that you will be charged a single supplement fee. If you request a roommate and one is found, you will receive a refund of this fee upon acceptance of roommate.

AIRLINE SEATING: Groups seats are assigned at the discretion of the airline. Seat numbers may not be advised until check-in at the airport.

Your seating request will be submitted, however, specific seat assignments cannot and will not be guaranteed: Aisle Middle Window Adjacent

SPECIAL DIET REQUEST: Your dietary request will be submitted to airlines, hotels and restaurants, however, it cannot be guaranteed. Please reconfirm locally.

Name(s): _____ Sugar-free salt-free vegetarian low-cholesterol other _____

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

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

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

I understand that the enclosed check with the early deposit of \$ _____ (\$400 per person) will secure my/our place on this tour. Once Brekke Tours is confident this tour can be operated safely, I/we understand that I/we will receive a detailed itinerary with confirmed prices and services. I/we will then have two weeks to complete an official application form to finalize my/our reservation or cancel my/our reservation for a full refund. Upon acceptance of the confirmed itinerary and price, your deposit of \$400 per person becomes non-refundable. 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
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