



Sons of Norway

Elvesvingen Lodge 1-582 P.O. Box 1091 Mankato, Mn 56002

**Mother's Day**

May 11

Blue Earth  
River  
Minnesota River

**May Lodge Meeting: Saturday, May 10, 5:30 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**Program: World War II POW Reidar Dittmann (DVD) "War: Imprisonment and Liberation."**  
**Serving Committee: Pam Borchert and Members (Mi-O)**

**Hilsen fra Presidentene Phil Wold og Paul Olson** The attendance at our April 12<sup>th</sup> Lodge meeting was outstanding – nearly 100. You are all encouraged to bring interested guests to experience the celebration of our culture and heritage. Mange tusen takk to Pastor Craig Ferkenstad for an outstanding PowerPoint presentation – the "Norseland 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary". There is so much Norse history to learn about in our local area. Mark DeGarmeaux again led us in a musical and fun-filled lesson on the Norwegian language – thank you, Mark. What a great way to learn some new words each month. We were treated to a wonderful meal that evening – thank you to the serving committee which included Marsha & Hal Natvig, Jodie & Joe Wallschlaeger, Marilyn Linnett, Adrian Lo, Judy & Mike Lokensgard and Marcia & Jim Mason. As the District One Convention approaches, please call Kris or Dick Norland if you are able to volunteer to help with one of the many tasks necessary to see that everything runs smoothly. The May 10<sup>th</sup> DVD program should be very interesting – "World War II POW Reidar Dittmann". We hope that there will be great turnout at every monthly meeting.

**May 2008 Program:** "War: Imprisonment and Liberation" by World War II POW Reidar Dittmann (on DVD) Reidar Dittmann was born and raised in Norway. He was arrested and sent to a POW camp in Germany during World War II. He later moved to the United States and was an art professor at St. Olaf College. Come and hear his fascinating story.

**CHANGE IN LOCATION – MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> LODGE MEETING** To better accommodate our Lodge meeting attendance, we will meet in the main dining hall at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (lower level – where the Julebord is held) for our May 10<sup>th</sup> Lodge meeting. An elevator is available for those that would like some assistance getting downstairs. Greeters will welcome Lodge members & direct you to the dining hall.

**Serving Chairs Needed for Next Year!** We're planning in advance for next year's lodge programs, lodge meals, etc! If you would like to sign-up to co-chair a serving committee for next year, please call Kris Norland at 625-6060. Planning is easy - just choose a favorite meal you serve at home, multiply it to serve a few more, and count on your serving committee to bring food, serve & clean up the kitchen! **A special note to Snowbirds:** please sign-up to co-chair or serve before/after the winter months.

**Hanska Syttende Mai Celebration** A number of our Lodge members are planning to attend the 5:30 dinner at Zion Lutheran and the 7:00 performance of "Jukebox Jamboree" on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Hanska. We'll plan to meet in the parking lot at Bethlehem Lutheran at 4:00 to car pool.

**11th ANNUAL IBSEN FESTIVAL** in Lanesboro, Minnesota, May 2-4, 2008. A weekend of events celebrating Scandinavian theatre, art, music and dance, featuring the Commonwealth Theatre's production of Peer Gynt.

**"Wanted" Kringla Makers** If you are willing to make Kringla the week of May 19-22, please call Ann Carlberg at 388-7334. The Kringla will be treats for the 4th & 5th grade global awareness program at Fitzgerald School on May 23rd.



## District 1 - 2008 Convention

MANKATO SONS OF NORWAY  
ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582  
PO BOX 1091  
MANKATO, MN 56002  
[www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org)

**Attention all lodge members and lodge volunteers! The convention is fast approaching!  
Circle your calendars – June 12, 13, 14 – Alltel Center – Mankato MN**

- Volunteer** Help our lodge host this event – call Dick or Kris Norland to volunteer – 625-6060  
Take tickets, give directions, serve coffee, make decorations, provide security, etc
- Donate** Our lodge is providing fruit for the hospitality areas – other lodges are providing cookies  
Which are easier to transport! Please send a \$5 donation to POBox 1091, Mankato MN 56002.  
Mark your check as “convention fruit” – volunteers will purchase/prepare the fruit in large quantities!
- Purchase** Convention pins and mugs will be available for sale at the May meeting
- Support** The Heritage and Vendor Fair is open to the Mankato community – about 100 vendors and cultural skills presenters will be offering a wide variety of Norwegian products for sale – see demonstrations of cultural crafts such as hardanger and rosemaling - listen to programs on heritage, genealogy and drama. Support this event & bring your family – free admission!  
Thursday June 12 (noon-9pm) - Friday June 13 (9am-9pm) - Saturday June 14 (9am-6pm)
- Attend** Join convention delegates on Thursday June 12 at 7pm – choose one of the following:  
1-Tour the Ottesen Museum on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College – free admission!  
2-Join the fans for a MoonDogs baseball game at Franklin Rogers Park – \$5 at the door!
- Celebrate** Put on your Norwegian wear, attend the banquet, and listen to Multe – a Nordic dance band!

**Sons of Norway Banquet – Friday, June 13, 2008 – 6:30pm  
Alltel Center - Mankato MN - May 10 Reservation Deadline**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email &/or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$28-Friday banquet choice (please circle one): 10 oz top sirloin or portabello mushrooms on rice

Make check payable to: Sons of Norway 2008 Convention

Mail by May 10 to: Kris Norland, Convention Registration, 209 Chatsworth, Mankato MN 56001

[June 12-14, 2008, Alltel Center, Mankato MN](http://www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org) [son2008convention@yahoo.com](mailto:son2008convention@yahoo.com)

**Sara and Mathias Norway’s Most Popular Names**

Every year Statistics Norway comes out with a list of the most popular first names in Norway. The results show that 2007 was not a year for big changes in the top names. The trend continues with short names for girls with –a or –ah endings and biblical names for boys. Sara was also the most popular name for girls in 2002, and Mathias topped the list in 2003 and 2004. Last year’s winners, Thea and Jonas, are now at second place. The popularity of names goes in waves. Many of today’s names were almost unused 50 years ago, while 120 years ago they were quite popular. The name Mathias was little used for many years until about 1980 when things began to change. In 1999 Mathias placed on the top ten list, and in 2003 it became the most popular name for the first time. The name Sara has almost the same history to it as Mathias. It was an old name that was “out” for a long time. Beginning in about 1970 its popularity began to increase slowly, but surely, until it reached the top in 2002. Here are both top ten lists:

**Boy Names**

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Mathias   | 6. Kristian |
| 2. Jonas     | 7. Magnus   |
| 3. Markus    | 8. Elias    |
| 4. Alexander | 9. Emil     |
| 5. Lukas     | 10. Henrik  |

**Girls Names**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. Sara  | 6. Ida    |
| 2. Thea  | 7. Emilie |
| 3. Emma  | 8. Ingrid |
| 4. Julie | 9. Anna   |
| 5. Nora  | 10. Sofie |



**International Festival**

The annual “International Festival” at Mankato East High School on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, was well attended. A variety of cultures were proudly displayed & presented – a great educational experience for the many who attended. A hearty “Thank You!” goes out to those who volunteered to staff our Lodge booth that day – Linda & Stan Stelter, Clancy Olson, Dorothy & Owen Viker, Evie & Owen Swenson, Marilyn Bigbee, Kris Norland, Phil Wold and Paul Olson. We were pleased with how many stopped by our booth to visit & find out more about Sons of Norway.

**Syttende Mai - Norway Constitution Day**

Perhaps the most important non-religious day of the year for Norwegians is the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. Celebrations commemorate the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814 at Eidsvoll, Norway. Although Norway technically remained in a political union with Sweden for another 89 years, May 17<sup>th</sup> represents the first proclamation of Norwegian independence from her neighbors. In Norway, children and adults alike look forward to May 17. The holiday represents Norwegian national identity, as well as the coming of the sunny, warm summer months. In cities and towns, residents dress up in bunader or their very best outfits complete with sløyfer, pins of red, white and blue ribbons. Parades of children, russ, or secondary school graduates, and other community groups march through Norway’s streets singing the national anthem and other patriotic songs. In Norwegian-North America, May 17<sup>th</sup> is also an important day. Coast to coast, Norwegians in cities and towns turn out to show their pride. Larger festivities typically include parades of flags and bunader, the Norwegian national anthem, delicious foods from Norway and America, and demonstrations of Norwegian culture.

SONS OF NORWAY

Elvesvingen Lodge 1-582  
P.O. Box 1091  
Mankato, MN 56002

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MANKATO MN 56001

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**Syttende Mai Celebration at Hanska (“Jukebox Jamboree”)**

Interested in attending the 2:00 pm matinee or 7:00 pm evening performance for the Hanska Syttende Mai celebration on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>? Please **register directly** by calling Sonja Smesmo (507-439-6401) -- tickets are \$17 per person (reserved seating). If you would also like to register for the 5:30 dinner at Zion Lutheran, please call Gudrun Kjelshus (507-439-6837) – tickets are \$9 per person.

**SONS OF NORWAY ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582 CALENDAR  
May, 2008**

**May 2-4 – 11th ANNUAL IBSEN FESTIVAL in Lanesboro, Minnesota**

**May 10 – World War II POW Reidar Dittmann (DVD)**

**May 17 – Hanska Syttende Mai Celebration – “Jukebox Jamboree”**

**May 19-22 – Brat Wagon at Cub Food East**

**June TBA – Midsommar’s Eve Picnic**

Check out the Information Table at our monthly meetings - pick up information on area events, travel, or SON financial products; sign up for lodge events/volunteer opportunities; view a copy of recent lodge minutes/treasurer's report; check out the SON magazine for children under 15; purchase gift items offered by the District One Sons of Norway fundraising committee; or simply ask questions.

Visit us on the web - [www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org) or [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com)