



Dr. Ronning Speaks at March Father/Son/Daughter Day

Our program for this month is entitled "Health Lessons Learned from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark" and will be presented by Lizbet Ronning M.D. (nee Langseth). Dr. Ronning attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she majored in Chemistry and also spent a summer at the Oslo International Summer School studying the Norwegian language. She graduated from Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago. Dr. Ronning then completed residency at the MacNeal Family Practice Residency Program in Berwyn, Illinois. She is now a board certified Family Practice doctor working at Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center in the Humboldt Park, Logan Square, and Wicker Park neighborhoods of Chicago. There she is clinical faculty at the Saint Elizabeth Hospital Family Practice Residency Program, practicing and teaching a full spectrum of family practice including obstetrics. Dr. Ronning is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church. Dr. Ronning is excited to explore with us how ideas and studies from modern day Scandinavia can impact and improve our lives here in the United States. Besides being a physician and of Norwegian and Swedish heritage, perhaps what makes Dr. Ronning most qualified to speak to us during our March meeting is the fact that her husband, father, and father-in-law are all members of the Torske Klub! In fact, Julian Ronning will be our Torskemaster. Remember this meeting is also father/son/daughter day so plan on



Julian Ronning, Kristian Ronning, Dr. Lisbeth Ronning and Rev. David Langseth

bringing your sons and daughters of all ages. Sons, bring your fathers. (Moms get to enjoy dinner on ladies day.)

Vesterheim Market Day and Luncheon

Saturday, March 17th,
10:00am - 3:00pm
Park Ridge Country Club

Reservations: (563) 382-9681
Master of Ceremonies:
Jan Stenerud

Meet and visit with Jan Stenerud, Norsk NFL Player and only Kicker in the prestigious NFL Hall of Fame. Currently, Jan is an engineering company consultant and participates in numerous celebrity golf tournaments. Join us in welcoming Jan as our event guest M.C.



Our March luncheon will be held on March 10, 2007 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL. Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, Robert Alsaker, rings the bell to seat us for dinner.

Reservations due by:
Tuesday, March 6
NOON

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER. The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon means noon. ANY reservation made after noon on Tuesday will have a \$5.00 late fee imposed, making your dinner charge \$25.

Call 630-443-6839 at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. It will ring 4 times before answering.

We have reservations from the following members: 3, 13C, 22, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 115, 126, 141(2). Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call cancellations. We are reactivating the email reservations if you choose. Please send to secretary@torskeklub.org with your number of reservations, including guests. We will respond with a confirmation email.

****TIP – Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name.**

FREE Raffle Ticket to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2006/2007 season, excluding father/son/daughter in March and ladies day in May.

Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 443 6839

St. Patrick's Day - A Viking Tradition?

The Norwegian community shares a bit of history with the Irish as the vikings raided, traded and founded many Irish communities 1000 years ago.

The first recorded Viking encounter in Irish history occurred in 795 when Vikings from Norway looted the island of Lambay, located off the Dublin coast. Early Viking raids were on monasteries and towns throughout Ireland. Most of the vikings came from the fjords of western Norway.

At the start of the Viking period the Irish monasteries consisted of earthen enclosures containing a church, various outbuildings and the monks' residences. The Vikings found that it was very easy to ransack these largely defenseless settlements. In time, the monks learned how to frustrate the Vikings, by building tall stone towers known as Round Towers. The door was placed one floor up, accessible by a ladder. Inside the tower, each floor was accessed by further ladders. If Vikings were sighted, the Monks would grab as much food and valuables as they could, climb into the tower and pull up the ladder. The Vikings would then raid the empty monastery while the monks watched from the safety of the tower. Even if the Vikings did get into the tower - and they did not try hard to do so - the Monks simply retreated further up the tower by pulling up more ladders. Such a strategy did not save the monastery itself, but did save the Monks and some of their belongings from being captured. Many later Christian songs and hymns compared God to a "strong tower", mindfully a reference to this tactic.

By the early 840s, the Vikings began to establish settlements along the Irish coasts and to spend the winter months there. Vikings founded settlements in Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Cork, Arklow and most famously, Dublin.

So, you sons of vikings, enjoy a green beer this month with your Irish cousins on St. Patrick's Day. It seems that we have common ancestry. They may even invite you into the tower now.

Summarized from www.wesleyjohnson.com



Irish Round Towers -
Used to confound
the Norwegians

Last Month: Veterans Administration and Norwegian Sweater Day

The Torske Klub welcomed Mr. Robert Iverson, the Veterans Administration Regional Manager, who discussed the VA, GI benefits today and related some of his experiences in the military. February is Norwegian Sweater day, so Mr. Iverson was treated to an audience of colorful sweaters.

Thanks to Sam Cory for arranging our speaker and also for his services as Torskemaster this meeting.

Upcoming Events

Our program chairman has announced the following coming events:

April 14: Judge James Wascher: Our Jury system - it's many facets and problems

May 12, 2007 - Ladies Day and 47th Anniversary of the Torske Klub. Speaker: News Anchor and notable Chicagoan Mary Ann Childers of WBBM-TV, CBS Chicago

Birthdays and a New Member

This month, we honor the birthdays of March: Scott Solberg, Thor Torger, Hugo Lannesskog, Roald Harr, Richard Petersen, David Bentsen, Richard Nelson Sr. and also birthday greetings to our new member John Halvorsen from Des Plaines. *A tip o' the shamrock to you laddies.*

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Rob Alsaker

Assistant Boss: Don Hogansen

Treasurer: Gene Kaczmarek

Secretary: Ken Larson

Historian: David Cornwell

Program Chair: Dr. Ray Newgard

Aquavit Chair: Garry Grube

Raffle Chair: Ron Bentsen

Board Member: Ken Nordan

Board Member: Kristian Ronning

Board Member: Fred Glure

Membership Chair: Robert Frost II



Published by the Chicago Torske Klub

Editor: Ken Larson

Layout and Production: Wolfgang Gruener

(c) 2007 Chicago Torske Klub