



## Cook County and Chicago



Our featured speaker for the first meeting of 2009 is none other than our own member Gary Skoien. Gary has held significant posts in the Republican Party in Illinois including Chairman of the Cook County Republican Central Committee from 2004 to 2006 and an assistant to the Governor Jim Thompson.

He is currently the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Horizon Group Properties in addition to his many other credentials. Not many of our members are listed in the world-wide Internet encyclopedia Wikipedia. As with many of us who are 2nd generation Torske Klub members, Gary is most well known to us as the son of our late and long time member Bill Skoien, and also the nephew of Howard Skoien.

Mark your calendar for January 10, 2009 and feel free to make your reservation any time early by leaving a message at the Torske Klub Hotline (630) 445-1263.

## Birthdays

This month, we toast the new year birthdays for *January*:

John Rose, Ron Hoppe Sr., Rich Wielock, Thomas Maxson, Mats Stenander, Ted Torgersen, Norman Roland, Howard Skoien, our speaker Gary Skoien, Otto Eik, Rick Nelson, Larry Ekstrom, C.E. "Doc" Kalleem and our newsletter publisher Wolfgang Gruener, plus, a special belated birthday greeting to our treasurer, Gene Kaczmarek, who was omitted from the December list.

A New Year's toast of the bubbly to each of you.

## Membership Cards

We have enclosed membership cards for those who paid their dues, and for the few who have not, we will bug you a bit more before the letter stops.

## Calendar of Events for 2009

- **February 14, 2009:** Ladies Day (coincidentally Valentine's Day) – Ms. Tina Winther, will sing for Ladies Day.
- **March 14, 2009:** Bud Herseth – Head Trumpeter of the Chicago Symphony
- **April 11, 2009:** Father, Son, Daughter day – John Lund, President of the Sons of Norway International
- **May 9, 2009:** 49th Anniversary Celebration – Torske Klub History by Dave Cornwell



The first luncheon of 2009 will be held on January 10, 2009 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, Jan 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 630-445-1263 at any time day or night to leave a reservation; only call 630-406-0148 if you can't get through. 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 a few times before answering.

We have reservations from the following members: **3, 13C, 22, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 115, 126, 141, 147.**

We also 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 or number/letter by your name.*

**NEW!** Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 445 1263

## Fylkesmann Lodve Solholm

Many of our Chicago Torske Klub members met some good friends and wonderful hosts when we traveled to the idyllic Norwegian coastal town of Ålesund with Lodve Solholm and his wife Torild Overlid. Many had met them in other trips to Oslo, Tromsø and Trondheim. A few more met them last September when they visited the Chicago Torske Klub in the midst of record rains and floods.

Lodve has been appointed governor of Møre og Romsdal fylke (county) in Norway, one of the 19 “flyker” in Norway. Another good friend in Norway, Svein Ludvigsen, is the “flykesmann” in Troms County. Our congratulations to our honorary member Lodve for his appointment in Norway.



*Svein Ludvigsen greets Lodve Solholm in 2007 under the midnight sun in Tromsø.*

## King Harald's New Year's Eve Speech: “No man is an island ...”

In his speech to the nation on New Year's Eve, Norway's King Harald opened by quoting the English poet John Donne: “No man is an island, entire of itself...”. He also recalled the 60th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Declaration in 2008: “All men are born equal..”.

- If we had really taken this to heart, the King said, the world would have looked different from how it looks today.

*Some excerpts from his speech:*

- “We need to remind each other of this - as we met the global challenges we are facing, but also as we face our everyday lives.”

- “I am concerned over the fact that persons in our own land still are receiving differential treatment because of the colour of their skin, in their workplace, when buying a home or when meeting the public official.”

- “If we had acknowledged that all humans are equal, neither would we have tolerated the condescending attitude towards those struggling with a drug problem. I wish we would stop using the term ‘the weakest in our society’. Some of them are in reality the strongest among us. We are all responsible for providing for a worthy life for ourselves and our fellow human beings. This is not a responsibility we receive, - but one we take,” the King said.

He went on to say that the global financial crisis has created a situation more serious than we are used to in modern Norway. It will demand much of us all in the time ahead, - both in keeping up our spirit and in tackling readjustments at various levels.

King Harald also expressed a fear that we today build too much of our identity around performance and being noticed - and that we judge both ourselves and others from this. In the new year we should just encourage each other to relax a bit more in relation to outside pressures, he said.

*(Taken from The Norway Post)*



*King Harald V of Norway*

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