



The Chicago Torske Klub Celebrates Christmas 2010



The Chicago Torske Klub will host the annual Christmas Luncheon for members and guests on December 11 in a fashion which we all have come to appreciate over the years. Pastor David Langseth is planned to lead the music for the season, with our own member Julian Ronning participating; and Ken Spengler as pianist. As of this writing we find that Pastor Dave is in Sherman hospital having had surgery, but reported to be doing well and home soon. Stay tuned for the latest, but rest assured that we will be celebrating on December 11th.

The Christmas luncheon is generally well attended by members and by many guests since many members have brought friends and neighbors to this event as an early Christmas gift. Join us for this special day and make your reservations early.

November Luncheon Attended by 70

The Torske Klub was pleased to have a good turnout for the November luncheon for the featured speaker, Mr. Marc Pomerance, forensic scientist with the Illinois State Police and expert in firearms forensics. Marc presented an excellent slide presentation and explanation of the duty.

Thanks to Bill Scheiderich for his dual role in suggesting the speaker and as his role as Torskemaster. Thanks also to Roger Elmer for filling in as secretary that day.



Many may have noted the odd crowding of the Torske Klub from the usual downstairs room, but as in past years, we have priority for our dinners only as the few groups which have met longer get priority over us for the big rooms. Such is the case when the Swedish ladies meet yearly; the Norwegian men get displaced. Cest la vie.

Santa Lucia Day— December 13

This day has always been intriguing; that a Sicilian Catholic Saint of the 4th century was adopted and celebrated by the Scandinavian Lutherans hundreds of years later. Although no sources of her life exist other than in hagiographies [study of saints], St. Lucy is believed to have been a Sicilian saint who suffered a martyr's death in Syracuse, Sicily around AD 310. The *Guilte Legende*, a widespread and influential compendium of saint's biographies compiled in the late Middle Ages, records her story thus: She was seeking help for her mother's long-term illness at the shrine of Saint Agnes, in her native Sicily, when an angel appeared to her in a dream beside the shrine.

As a result of this, Lucy became a devout Christian, refused to compromise her virginity in marriage and was denounced to the Roman authorities by the man she would

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Torske Klub September Luncheon - December 11

The next luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556 only for directions that day). 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. Make your regular dinner reservation by TUESDAY Noon, December 7, 2010.

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 fish and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon deadline means noon. The fish order is called in directly after noon.

Call **630-445-1263** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Ken L. at 630-336-6723. 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. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 13C, 39, 40, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 98, 115, 149, 153**. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle "Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!" If you prefer email reservations, please send to **secretary@torskeklub.org** with your total number of reservations, including yourself and 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 2010/2011 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.



Dinner Reservation Phone: (630) 445-1263

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have wed. They threatened to drag her off to a brothel if she did not renounce her Christian beliefs, but were unable to move her, even with a thousand men and fifty oxen pulling. So they stacked materials for a fire around her instead and set light to it, but she would not stop speaking, insisting that her death would lessen the fear of it for other Christians and bring grief to non-believers. One of the soldiers stuck a spear through her throat to stop these denouncements, but to no effect. Soon afterwards, the Roman consulate in charge was hauled off to Rome on charges of theft from the state and beheaded. Saint Lucy was able to die only when she was given the Christian sacrament.

In another story, Saint Lucy was working to help Christians hiding in the catacombs during the terror under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and in order to bring with her as many supplies as possible, she needed to have both hands free. She solved this problem by attaching candles to a wreath on her head.

There is little evidence that the legend itself derives from the folklore of northern Europe, but the similarities in the names ("Lussi" and "Lucia"), and the date of her festival, December 13, suggest that two separate traditions may have been brought together in the modern-day celebrations in Scandinavia.



In Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Norway, and Finland, Lucy (called *Lucia*) is venerated on December 13 in a ceremony where a girl is elected to portray Lucia. Wearing a white gown with a red sash and a crown of candles on her head, she walks at the head of a procession of women, each holding a candle. The candles symbolize the fire that refused to take St. Lucia's life when she was sentenced to be burned. The women sing a Lucia song while entering the room, to the melody of the traditional Neapolitan song *Santa Lucia*; the Italian lyrics describe the view from Santa Lucia in Naples, the various Scandinavian lyrics are fashioned for the occasion, describing the light with which Lucia overcomes the darkness. Each Scandinavian country has lyrics in their native tongues. After finishing this song, the procession sings Christmas carols or more songs about Lucia. A similar version occurs in Scandinavian communities and churches in the United States. - Derived from Wikipedia—



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucy%27s_Day

December Birthdays & New Member



This month, we toast the monthly birthdays for December: Charles Norton, Oystein Borsheim, Milt Gustafson, past Secretary Dave Cornwell, past Treasurer Gene Kaczmarek, Aquavit Chairman Garry Grube, Emil Ulstrup, Harold Bendicson, and past Treasurer Dick Biehl. A toast to you all of the Christmas løgg.

We are also pleased to welcome new member, Jon Knudsen of Chicago. He joined up in time for the November luncheon but after the last letter printing. Welcome Jon!

Membership Dues Reminder

This is the last month of dues collection with the deadline on December 31, 2010. We have a number of members who have not yet submitted dues for 2011, and only those who pay by the deadline will receive the benefits of Torske Klub membership as well as membership cards in the January mailing, all others receive a kind note telling them how much we will miss them. Payment can be made by send \$40 in check payable to the Chicago Torske Klub to the secretary at the return address on this mailing envelope or at the December dinner at check-in.



Future Programs

Although a letter and optional email reminder is sent every month, it would be prudent to mark these dates on that new 2011 calendar you will receive for Christmas.



- **Dec. 11, 2010** –Annual Christmas party led by Rev. David Langseth
- **Jan. 8, 2011**—Norwegian Sweater Day—Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor
- **Feb. 12, 2011**—Ladies Day—Dr. Martin Marty— Internationally known theologian and author.
- **March 12, 2011**—Father, Son, Daughter Day—Melissa Hulting discussing the EPA– Greenhouse Gas & Climate Change
- **April 9, 2011**– Fr. Mike Zaniolo— O'Hare/Midway Chaplain
- **May 14, 2011**—Norway Trips
- June, July, August 2011 have no luncheons.
- **July 5-11, 2011**—Lofoten Islands Norway trip sponsored by Chicago Torske Klub and NACC. A letter with details of the trip and the proposed itinerary was sent to all members this month and the trip is limited to first 55 reservations.

Watch

<http://www.torskeklub.org>
for additional news and links



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