



May Luncheon Remembers Victor Borge



Victor Borge

We are pleased to welcome Bob Levi to our podium presenting a program titled "A TRIBUTE TO VICTOR BORGE – THE CLOWN PRINCE OF DENMARK".

Most or all of us remember Victor Borge. Trained as a concert pianist, Victor Borge began infusing comedy into his stage concert appearances during the 1930s while performing in his native Denmark. He fled the Nazis, sailed to America and became one of the greatest entertainers of the 20th century. As a tribute to Victor Borge, Bob Levi has developed a one-hour multimedia presentation on his life. The program includes numerous video clips of some of Borge's funniest moments.

Bob Levi is well qualified to address the subject. He has developed a number of unique, entertaining and educational multimedia presentations. The programs all have musical themes. His "Opera in Pop Culture" series is based on the premise that everyone is exposed to opera melodies but often doesn't realize the origins of the music. He has developed a similar series involving classical music. In addition, Bob offers programs on jazz and a series of comedians performing musical numbers in movies and on TV and recordings. He also has special presentations on Victor Borge, Tom Lehrer and Stan Freberg [who just passed away on April 7]. Having been a business consultant and teaching part-time at local universities, Bob has considerable speaking experience. He enjoys passing along his love of music to others.

Bob is brought to us by our long[est] term member, Dr. Ray Newgard, who will serve as torskemaster this month. This is doubly appropriate as Ray will skål the Chicago Torske Klub's 55th anniversary; also celebrated this month. We enclosed some of his recollections in this letter on page 2.

Please note this month: because of the length of the presentation, we will run about 15 minutes longer than usual.

Call now for reservations and bring a friend!

Shetland Bus Stops by in April

Thanks again to Jon Satrum for his "Shetland Bus" presentation in April, and to Greg LeDuc for manning the Torskemaster duties.

Torske Klub Luncheon - May 9, 2015

The luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556 for directions that day). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation by the evening of May 4, 2015. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you.

The fish order is called in after the deadline. \$5 surcharge for late reservations.

Call **312-233-2887** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Garry at 312-497-6407. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party, as well as NUMBER OF STEAK or FISH DINNERS. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. We have reservations from the following members : **3, 38, 40, 42A, 47, 51, 55, 84, 97, 98, 115, 120, 149**. 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 reservations@torskeklub.com (not .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 and Coffee Mug** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2014/2015 season, excluding father/son/daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

Reservations
by **MAY 4**

Reservation Phone: (312) 233-2887

Remembrance of the Last 55 years

We have asked Dr. Ray Newgard, a 1952 graduate of Lane Tech High School and our only living member of the 1960 charter group founding the Chicago Torske Klub, to share his memories of those early days. Ray writes:

O my, we have come a long way. There were no computers, cell phones or tablets to communicate as we have today. The Torske Klub Luncheon idea started in the 1959-60 winter. It was a long, cold snowy time that lasted until April— much like the past winter. Two Norwegian ski jumpers had just won medals in the Olympics and soon would visit Chicago. All Norwegian Americans were so proud.

Everyone was younger then; raising large families in small apartments or homes. Men worked long hours. Kids walked to school; sometimes many blocks. Few families had automobiles; shopped locally. The Scandinavians met weekly at fraternal lodges in Chicago; where most lived.

Another evening was spent bowling. I was the oldest son of Alfred and Olga Newgard. Dad was a tool & die maker with 4 kids. We were raised strict to obey parents and respect elders. The times were tough. We were getting over 2 wars, just elected a new president with young children. There was great pride in the country and roadways were being built allowing us to leave Chicago for the suburbs. But back to the story...

A new Torske Klub in Minneapolis shared the idea with our lodge brothers. A group of us boarded a train, and spent a weekend at the Curtis hotel having lunch and enjoying ourselves in Minnesota, at this new club. We returned, determined to start a Torske Club in Chicago.

A committee was formed. The second Saturday, once a month, was decided. The Norske Klub on Kedzie & Fullerton Aves. was negotiated to be the host. Male members of the our many fraternal lodges were invited. Officers were chosen at the Thursday night bowling alley. I was 25 years old, about to graduate college, and bowled on the BB Lodge #97-B team. The A team were my peers and captained by Irving Highland and my dad. They were damned good and in first place of 14 teams.

The Bowling league was the nucleus of all the founders of the Torske Klub. You have seen their names printed in past anniversary books. The history of this monthly event has been told many times.

I can only add my involvement and memories. My service Bio— 27 years continuously as assistant Boss to 3 great Bosses, Asst. Secretary for 3 years and your Program Chairman for 8 years following the great Don Hoganson. I retired after almost 40 years of service on the Board; many times under the stress of changing locations, getting cod fish, or bad weather. Through it all we prevailed.

The leadership is in good hands. The club is growing. We miss old timers who are gone or cannot attend for health reasons. The Lord has been good to us. I retired from a successful Chiropractic Practice in 1999 and this October 15th celebrate my 60th wedding anniversary with my wife Dorothy. We have 2 daughters and a 3 year old grandchild.

Keep the tradition going with good food and fellowship. God Bless you all.

- Ray Newgard

[Thanks for the memories, Ray]



Dr. Ray Newgard

Member Birthdays and News

This month we celebrate the May birthdays: Jim Stoga, Per Loseth, Henry Hansen, Thor Fjell, Fred Gilbertsen, our good board member David Langseth, treasurer Ken Nordan, and our Assistant Boss Roger Elmer. Skål to all!

The only news received this month is more of a query to our members. We received a return envelope of last month's letter from our member Roy Jensen from Park Ridge marked "deceased— No forwarding". Usually we can follow up by looking at obituaries and such, but we find nothing. Does anyone have information on Roy that we missed?

Join us on May 17 for the Norwegian Constitution Day Parade in Park Ridge. Assemble at Noon.

Check for updates on our website
<http://www.torskeklub.org>

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