



## May Luncheon with Author Eric Dregni

May is the final luncheon of this torsk season as we traditionally break for the summer. It is an active month for us, as it is the anniversary of the Chicago Torske Klub which was founded in May 1960.

Eric Dregni is the author of 18 books including *Vikings in the Attic: In Search of Nordic America*, *Weird Minnesota*, *Never Trust a Thin Cook*, *Let's Go Fishing!*, and most recently *You're Sending Me Where? Dispatches from Summer Camp* about his experience running one of the Concordia Language Villages. As a Fulbright fellow to Norway, he survived a dinner of *rakfisk* (fermented fish) thanks to 80-proof aquavit, took the "meat bus" to Sweden for cheap salami with a busload of knitting pensioners, and compiled the stories in *In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream*. He is a freelance journalist for the *Lake Minnetonka Magazine*, *StarTribune*, *Salon.com* and the *Norwegian-American Weekly*.



Eric Dregni

### Dress Down for May

The usual convention of a coat and tie is suspended by order of the Boss for the May Anniversary celebration.

Wear a golf or polo shirt and if you have a Torske Klub shirt from a few years ago, pull that out of the closet.

He is Professor of English & Journalism at Concordia St. Paul and, in the summer, dean of the Italian Concordia Language Village, *Lago del Bosco*. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife, three kids, and an Australian shepherd named Bacc You may recognize Eric Dregni as he has spoken to us before about his earlier books at the February 2012 meeting.

Call the number below with the instructions to make your reservation. The line is open now.

## Thanks for the "Happiness"

If you missed April's Luncheon, we addressed the question, "Are Nordic People the Happiest in the World?" with Charles Peterson. He is Executive Director of the Center for Scandinavian Studies and Professor of Communication Arts at North Park University in Chicago. Thanks again to Fred Glure for representing the Swiss in the happiness polls and for torskemaster duties.

### **Torske Klub Luncheon - May 12, 2018**

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 7 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

**Reservations  
by  
May 7**

Call **(847)886-4841** 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. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 38, 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 *or add guest to the count*. 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](mailto: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** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2017/2018 season, excluding father/son/daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

**Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(847)886-4841**

# The Decades of Torske Klub

We measure Scandinavian history in millennia, American history in centuries, and our Chicago Torske Klub in decades. We'll close this torsk season with some photos and memories of those days; our history in pictures.



Our first meeting place at the Norske Klub on Kedzie Ave. in Chicago



The head table bench and mural, with a chandelier from the Norske Klub. Now at Vesterheim in Iowa.



Our last charter member, Ray Newgard skols to the torsk in the 1980s

**Chicago Torske Klub "Bosses"**  
 Andrew Highland 1960-1962  
 Irving Highland 1962-1980  
 Chris Johansen 1980-1990  
 Ralph Egeland 1990-1998  
 Robert Alsaker 1998- 2012  
 Lowell Olberg 2012- now



Our second meeting place in the 1980s-90s at the Scandinavian American Cultural Society in Arlington Heights



## Events for May

- ◇ **May 14**— Torske Klub Luncheon—58th Anniversary— last luncheon until September
- ◇ **May 17**— Minnekirken Concert
- ◇ **May 19**— NNL Banquet, see [nnleague.org](http://nnleague.org)
- ◇ **May 20**— Norway Constitution Day Parade in Park Ridge IL. The Torske Klub marches in this parade. Join us at noon.
- ◇ **Sept. 8**— Restart the next Torske Luncheon season



Our cod, "Barney" with his mentor and our master chef for years, Barney Jacobsen

## Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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Published by the Chicago Torske Klub. Editor, Layout and Print:-Ken Larson. ©2018 Chicago Torske Klub

## Member Birthdays

This month we celebrate the birthdays of May: Nels Nelson, our Treasurer Ken Nordan, board member and defacto chaplain of the Torske Klub, Pastor David Langseth, Per Loseth, Jim Stoga (who is halfway to 100), Thor Fjell, and two new nonagenarians, Fred Gilbertsen and Henry Hansen. Skol!