



## Hitting the “Pause” Button

The Chicago Torske Klub has made the decision to cancel the April Luncheon for health and safety reasons. We doubt if that is a surprise to anyone.

About March 1, the board of directors collaborated by email and phone about whether to cancel the March Luncheon. We decided to leave it up to the members at that time to attend or not; while advising to consider your own situation.

This month, the government and evolving information has strongly influenced our collective decision. Although the peak of the viral infections ‘should’ be past us by April 11, it clearly will not be over. On top of that, the average age of our Torske Klub member is 71.55 years with a standard deviation of 19.6 yr...so let’s face the facts guys...we are collectively <almost> senior citizens.

We’ll evaluate the situation for May and let you know next month. May 2020 is the 60th year of the Chicago Torske Klub.



## Our New Treasurer—Milt Gustafson

We were pleased to have our good long time member, Milt Gustafson, volunteer to serve as the treasurer of our group. Milt was a Normenneses social member when in 1960 they stopped having their cod fish dinners and announced that the Torske Klub would welcome us as members. He attended the 25th anniversary of the Torske Klub and has been a member ever since (35 yrs.). He is a 23 year retiree from Peoples Gas after 39 years as an employee. He has been a Bjornson Male Chorus member for 23 years.

Please thank Milt for his service when you greet him at the next luncheon.

### ***Torske Klub Luncheon - April 11, 2020 \*\*\*CANCELED\*\*\****

Your Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors has elected to cancel the scheduled luncheon for April 11, 2020 in respect for the virus situation and since the announced Illinois statewide “Stay-At-Home” order is scheduled to be lifted only a few days before, on 4/7/20. But that seems optimistic right now.

Our health and safety will always precede our urge for torsk. We will look forward to seeing you at future events. Watch the website or Facebook for updates also.

In the mean time, a sip of aquavit wouldn’t hurt...

## Who is playing Jumanji?

If you don't know what this means, you may have to ask your grandkids. In short, Jumanji was a movie from 1995 about a kid's game run amok as each spin of the dice created a situation that was replicated in real life affecting the players, until the next person threw the dice. Quicksand, lions, massive spiders and other chaos ensued. Déjà vu?

The month of March came off a leap year day, started with a full moon, lost an hour in time change, yielded a Friday the 13th, and ended with April Fools day. In between, we watched the record stock market crash to historic lows, St. Paddy's Day canceled, spring break hit the brakes, the bars and restaurants close, plus employees asked to work at home. Some of us even have to talk to our spouses now! It makes Jumanji seem a bit silly. On top of it, what is the deal with hoarding toilet paper? And did anyone notice it's spring now?



We know the state and national news from the US, China and Italy; repeated every 5 minutes on TV. Have you heard what's happening in other places? Here's my snapshot from various friends and relatives, acknowledging that these snapshots are old news already:

- Panama—As in much of the US, schools are canceled and teachers setting up remote classrooms to teach online, similar to what is happening in the US. \$250 fine to break quarantine.
- Norway—Hurtigruten ship Vesterålen was passing to Molde on March 6 fully booked. By Trondheim, the foreign passengers had to disembark and scatter home before the borders closed. Norway is already pulling more money from the wealth fund than was used in 2008 crisis.
- Cancun—100% filled on 3/14, 20% filled on 3/20, all flights to US shut down on 3/22.
- Venezuela— Although there is always concern to diseases, this one seems to be regarded as a just another plague after previous plagues of dengue fever and zika have already made the rounds. And everything is cash-only.
- Africa—Who would have thought that Africa would currently be the safest place on earth to avoid the virus?
- Batavia IL— I can finally put my skills as a couch potato to use.

Stay safe, stay healthy—*Ken Larson*



## April Birthdays and News

This month we note and celebrate the birthdays of April. Lars Ohrstrom, Rick Elmer, Richard Fjeldheim, David Hardy, Carl Graf Jr., Doug Conte, Richard Nelson Jr., John Eisemann, Chris Gruener, and Fred Olk. We'll raincheck that skål with you, but we wish you all the best.

Speaking of Chris Gruener, our thanks for his service as he is on standby for the Illinois National Guard, and to all those who continue to serve as doctors, nurses, fire, police and other critical jobs supporting the community at this time.

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