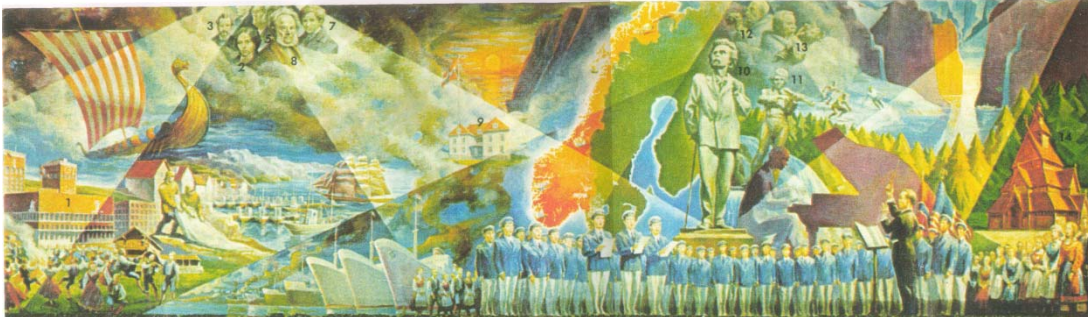




Ladies Day, Valentines Day, Chorus and Presidents

It is the time of year that the men of the Torske Klub host the women in our lives. What better day to do this but on Valentines Day? Our day starts with the renown [Normennenes Singing Society](#), found-



ed in 1870, leading us in opening music and a few additional pieces, we hope. Our speaker for this month of President's Day is John Radzinski, speaking about the presidents

of the United States. John is a retired social studies teacher. Upon retirement, John and his wife, Cam, set out to visit at least two sites associated with every president of the United States. When their quest was finished, they put together a presentation complete with anecdotes about the presidents as well as background about the sites. He'll cover a subset of these sites, due to the time available. Our torskemaster for the day is our own Richard Nelson.

The raffle will be stocked with some special prizes including a \$100 gift certificate from Mario Tricoci Salon and Day Spa, a number of Scandinavian items from the Gift Box in Geneva IL, and a silver medallion (see story on next page) donated by Morten Solum. Morten is a member-in-spirit as he resides in Nesna, Norway. An additional special gift awaits the ladies as well, on this Valentine's Day.



As in past years for ladies day, diners have the choice of traditional torsk, or steak for dinner. Indicate the number of dinners when you call in reservations. This day tends to be well attended and as such the "Table of Ten" rule will apply. All parties of ten people should send a representative before 11:45 am to reserve the table for their party. No seating for individuals or couples are allowed before this time. After this, all seating is open for self reservation as usual.

Torske Klub Luncheon - February 14, 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 February 9, 2015. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER *noting dinner preference of steak or fish*. 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** 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
February 9

Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(312) 233-2887

Akvavit Theatre and Norwegian Sweaters in January

Tusen Takk once again to Bergen Anderson for the Akvavit Theatre presentation and to Tom Maxson for his role as torskemaster on Sweater Day. We enclosed some photos from this event, courtesy of the boss, Lowell Olberg, as well as some photos from the December Christmas party courtesy of Thor Fjell. Thanks all!

Member Birthdays and News

This month we celebrate the birthdays of the February: Ed Grendahl, Neil Andersen, Cedric Syrdahl, Phil Waters, Dave Svendsen, Ed Ekstrom, our Program Chairman Thor Jondahl and our charter member Dr. Ray Newgard. We observe that Ray has been enjoying torsk for 55 years with this group. On this month, we will raise our glass to celebrate the birthdays of the men who bought the aquavit.

Ken Nordan reminded us that a new exhibit, "Vikings", will be at the Field Museum from February 27, 2015 to October 4, 2015. Info at:

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/at-the-field/exhibitions/Vikings>

MS Borgestad and Convoy SL64

74 years ago in February 1941, in the midst of World War II, a slow convoy was hauling vital supplies for the allies in the Atlantic from Freetown to England. Convoy SL64 included 3 Norwegian vessels: *Bur*, *Varangberg* and *Borgestad*. Circumstances were that the convoy was sailing without appropriate escort, and thus were particularly vulnerable to attack.



MS Borgestad

Borgestad's Captain Grotnæss was the "commodore" of the convoy. When the German heavy cruiser *Admiral Hipper* appeared to threaten the convoy, Grotnæss ordered the convoy to disperse, and steered his ship to engage the threat. He diverted away from the convoy. With a single cannon he engaged, but was easily sunk by the vastly superior warship, although the tower of the *Hipper* was reported to be hit. All 31 Norwegian hands were lost, including the American wife of the 1st mate. One other ship was sunk by the *Hipper* in that engagement.

The diminished convoy continued, but the ship *SS Gairsoppa* detached for lack of fuel to Galway Ireland, only to be found by the German Submarine U-101 and sunk with all hands lost, but one. The *Gairsoppa* sunk in 15,300 ft. of water with a cargo of pig iron, tea, and as well as 3,000 silver ingots.

In 2011, the *Gairsoppa* was discovered, and silver recovered. As a result, a Norwegian sailor memorial coin has been struck from the silver that Norway obtained. Morten Solum obtained one of these coins and donated it to the Torske Klub for our raffle. Tusen Takk!



Vesterheim Benefit Luncheon — 2015

Saturday, April 25th, 9:30 to 3:00 pm. At Park Ridge CC. Nordic Marketplace open from 9:30-12:30, followed by luncheon, raffle, entertainment & more. Reservations required. Invitations will be mailed in March. Reservations include entrance to the marketplace, luncheon and program

Future Torske Events

February 14, 2015— Scheduled Luncheon— Ladies Day

March 14, 2015—Scheduled Luncheon— Father, Son, Daughter day

April 11, 2015—Scheduled Luncheon

May 9, 2015—Scheduled Luncheon. 55th Anniversary Celebration

May 17, 2015—Constitution Day Parade in Park Ridge

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

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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The Chicago Torske Klub –2015

Sweater Day—January 2015—photos by Lowell Olberg



Christmas Celebration—photos by Thor Fjell

