



The Norden Club of Lincoln

Our 67th Year

March Issue

- Next Meeting: 6:30 March 17 at First Lutheran Church
 - Call for Reservation by Wednesday, March 12
- Dorothy Ekblad 402-488-6313
Leona Bellinger 402-484-7123

Program

Our program presenter for the March meeting is John Mark Nielson. John Mark Nielsen is executive director of The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, and emeritus professor of English at Dana College. A 1973 Dana graduate, Nielsen received his M.A. from Creighton University and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Ne-

braska-Lincoln. In 1977 he was awarded a Marshall Fellowship for study in Denmark, and in 1983-84 he was a Fulbright lecturer in American literature at several colleges in Denmark. During that time he was a consultant to the National Museum of Denmark in preparing "The Dream of America," an exhibit on Danish emigration to the United

States. He has written extensively on the Danish American immigrant experience since that time. More recently, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named him the 1999 Nebraska professor of the year. In 2000 he was a Fulbright senior lecturer in American literature at Mercy College of Calcutta University in India.

<i>Norden Club Officers</i>	
<i>President</i>	Phyllis Ericson
<i>Vice President</i>	Neil Simley
<i>Secretary</i>	Ingrid Hansen
<i>Treasurer</i>	Karen Zins
<i>Membership</i>	Ron Johnson Mary Contreras
<i>Courtesy</i>	Charlene Johnson
<i>Historian</i>	Dorothy Ekblad
<i>Newsletter</i>	Len Nelson
<i>Song Leader</i>	Ozzie Gilbertson
<i>Pianist</i>	Janet Harms
<i>Librarian</i>	Dorothy Ekblad

Courtesy Report

Cards sent: Lloyd Lehecka on death of wife Patricia. Dorothy Ekblad on death of sister in law. Vern & Jan Westburg on death of Jan's mother. Annie McBride on death of mother, Marilyn Hasselbach. Sons of Harold Hamilton on his death. Robert & Elaine Johnson—get well. Jeanette Eklund on death of husband Stan. Marie Backstrom on death of husband Linnier. Vicki Bousquet—thinking of you. Olie Ahlquist—thinking of you. Dorothy Ekblad on death of sister. Dagmar Ahlquist on death of husband Olie. Clint Johnson on 90th birthday. Charlene Johnson—Courtesy Chairperson

March Program

Our March program will include a presentation by John Mark Nielson, executive director of the Danish Museum in Elkhorn, IA. In addition, there will be a presentation by our scholarship recipient, Lisa Kopf. The meal will be catered by Leons and is roast beef with sides and pie. The cost of the meal is \$15.00. You

need to make reservations by calling Dorothy Ekblad (402-488-6313) or Leona Bellinger (402-484-7123) by Wednesday March 12. If you make a reservation and do not cancel by noon on March 12, you will be charged for the meal.

is ample parking and the side door is handicap accessible. Tables will be set up to take money for the meals and dues as well as provide name tags.

Dinner is at 6:30 and doors open at 6:00. The meeting is at First Lutheran Church at 2520 S 70th (south of 70th and A). There

Presidents Corner

Dear Norden Club Friends –

First of all I want to thank you all for the warm welcome I received as your incoming President at the December meeting. Every Smorgasbord, is the best one yet. The Swedes and all involved with the Smorgasbord certainly raised the bar this year!! I heard so many compliments. It was simply outstanding from beginning to end.

I would like to especially recognize and thank the efforts of several who worked to make the evening a success. Please join me in thanking Ron & Jackie Johnson for their contributions of the poinsettias and all the salmon. Del and Ingrid Stites contributed Swedish cookies and candy. Thank Ingrid for contributing the fabric and spending hours creating the white gowns for St. Lucia and her court.

The Board of Directors met in January and we discussed the Norden Club goals for the coming year. We are committed to making this a memorable year for club members. We will focus on three goals.

Increasing Norden Club

We have added a number of new members for 2014. Please welcome them as you meet them at the March meeting. Evert & Marcia Claesson, Varro & Jean Clarke,

membership. Our purpose is to spread the word and celebrate our Scandinavian heritage.

Improving connections with our members.

We want to make it easy for members to receive club information and to connect with each other. This includes providing an informative and timely newsletter; and connecting with members via email as well as the mail.

Providing memorable programs.

We want to provide interesting quarterly meeting programs.

So we need your input. As a member you can help with all three goals.

Invite your friends and family who have an interest in Scandinavian traditions and culture to join Norden Club. Need a Norden Club brochure to share? Email me or Ron Johnson, Membership Chair and we'll send you a PDF version you can print or forward.

Provide your email address to Ron Johnson, Membership Chair. Notify Ron or Len Nelson, Newsletter Editor, if you would like to get the Newsletter electronically rather than in the mail. Please notify Charlene Johnson, Courtesy Secretary, of members who need a note of recognition or condolence.

Recommend your ideas for Scandinavian focused programs to Neal Simley, Vice President and Program Chair. This can be speakers, topics, or entertainment in which you are interested.

And remember I would love to visit with you about your ideas for Norden Club. You can call me, phone #: 402-499-6594 or email me at:

Phyllis.ericson@gmail.org

I look forward to working together to create an outstanding club year.

Phyllis Ericson
President

New Members added since December Smorgasbord

Larry & Cheryl Dahl, Carl & Debbie Engstrom, Deanna & Nicole Hageman, Dave & Sandy Hansen, Terri & Ross Heckman, Sherry Koenigsman, Bill & Margaret Nelson, Troy & Heather Pedersen, Paul & Christine Read, Neal & Kathy Simley, Dan & Marriane Warnes, Nancy Wehrbein, Melissa Homestead, Terry & Jan Branting.

Foundation News

Many of you will remember Olie Ahlquist and wife Dagmar, both long-time members of the Norden Club. In recent years Olie became a member of the Norden Foundation Board. Unfortunately, Olie passed away February 11, 2014 in Scottsdale, AZ; where they winter at their second home. His first heart attack and stroke happened unexpectedly on December 17, 2013; followed by many more of the same, until he passed away in February. Olie had a positive attitude, was a hard-worker, and always active as a community volunteer. You may remember him best as our Foundation chair for that yearly fall Younkers Community Days event. He stepped up to the podium at our Norden dinners

once a year and urged all of us to purchase a coupon booklet. Olie gladly volunteered endless hours to raise funds for the Foundation, knowing that it went to our scholarship fund and in the end ... enabling us to continue our Foundation work. Olie will be missed by many friends and family, whom he fondly talked about over the years.

A memorial service is being planned for mid March at their church here in Lincoln. We send our best regards to Dagmar and family.

The Foundation wants to thank all of you for your support in our fundraising projects for 2013. Our fundraising efforts have brought us the best year we've ever

had! At Younkers we raised \$951.08, spending countless volunteer hours selling booklets. During our wonderful Christmas Smorgasbord the Norden Foundation silent auction netted \$946.00. In addition, that too was certainly a big success, due to the huge number of wonderful Scandinavian items that Carol Reed eagerly contributed. Many unique one-of-kind items, that were gladly purchased by many of you. Thank you again to those who contributed time, money, and items to make 2013 a very special year for the Foundation!

Norden Foundation President

Joan Tomlinson White

Treasurers Report

Your 2014 Norden Club membership dues are now due. If you did not pay them in December at the Smorgasbord, please pay at the March dinner meeting or send a

check to Karen Zins, 4900 Bridle Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 (write check to "Norden Club") The dues remain: couple - \$18, single - \$10. Thank you for your

continued support of Norden Club.

Karen Zins, Treasurer

Membership

One of our main objectives for 2014 is to increase our membership in Norden Club. We have a very good start as we have added over 30 new members for this year. The Norden Club Board is asking that each of us reach out and recruit a new member or two for our next meeting in March. We are also asking that past members, please mail your dues to:

Karen Zins

4900 Bridle Lane
Lincoln, 68516
402 421-6003

After the March meeting we will be sending out an interest letter responding to those who have not sent in their dues. We have a nice start in renewed membership! Let's set a goal of 75 new and renewed members by our March meeting. Get enthused as there are people waiting to be asked to join Norden

Club or needs to be reminded to send in their dues.

Realizing we have members who have a very difficult time getting out in the evenings and they have been dedicated members for a long time, the board is considering reinstating the "Life Time Member" program. You will hear more about that in the next newsletter.

Ron Johnson,
Membership chair

SWEDISH SMORGASBORD THANKS

Since I did not get a chance to say "Thank You" at our Smorgasbord and the celebration of Sankta Lucia, I want to take the opportunity to let the committee know how appreciative I am to have pulled off what I and many others considered a very successful and enjoyable evening. There are always a few wrinkles that pop up, especially in a new facility. I really felt we needed additional help that evening, but the management had felt that her helpers would be enough to handle everything, but needless to say we came up short on that aspect.

The committee members that helped make this Smorgasbord a success were: Program Committee: Del and Ingrid Stites who put together the pageantry of Sankta Lucia, the slides, and Santa Claus went, "over the top"!!

Decoration Committee: Leona Bellinger,

Donna Anderson, Audry Rouske, Carolyn Rundquist and Dorothy Ekblad. You could not have made the hall any nicer, "Thank You"

Food Committee: Arlene Nelson, Jackie Johnson, Sharon Seagren, Karen Zins, & Ingrid Stites. The selection of food items and the hors d'ouvres were great. The only improvement there, was we should have had four serving lines.

Registration Committee: A Big "Thank You" to Bill & Karen Zins, Ingrid Hansen, Mary Contreaus, Ansgar & Linda Jensen, and Len Nelson. This is always a big job with a lot of organization.

Publicity and Table Program Committee: What a great job Len Nelson did on the Newsletter, Poster and the programs. We "Thank You" and to Arlene Nelson and Jackie Johnson and Ingrid Stites who put the programs together and especially to Ingrid who did all the

"Ties" for the program. I also want to give Karen and her staff at Leon's a special "Thank You" in the preparation of the Swedish menu. I felt that the food was prepared as authentically as possible with that many people.

On the management side, they were not equipped to handle serving the coffee and refilling the water glasses. If we have it there again these issues will certainly have to be addressed.

And a special "Thank You" goes to Pastor Dan Warnes for being our Master of Ceremony. It was a long program and he certainly helped to make it entertaining and kept the program moving.

Again you all are to be commented for a "Job well done" and also to the members of The Norden Club who keeps our Scandinavian Heritage alive.

Ron Johnson, Chairman

Major Event June 13-15 at Midland University Celebrates Nebraska's Swedish Lutheran Heritage

Beginning in the mid-1800's Swedish immigrants to America established congregations that became part of the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church. In Nebraska they also created noted service agencies like Bethphage of Axtell (now part of Mosaic), the Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Immanuel Hospital, and Immanuel Nursing Program in Omaha, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, and Luther College of Wahoo that merged with Midland University about 50 years ago. For the first time the Augustana Heritage Association, with members from throughout North America, will celebrate these special Nebraska roots with a major national festival to be held on the campus of Midland University on the weekend of June 13-15. From 350 to 500 people are expected.

Members of the Norden Club will definitely want to make plans to attend the AHA Festival. Why? Because, under the theme "Prairie Roots, Global Impact" those attending will experience:

Excellent presentations at three general sessions providing new insights concerning Augustana institutions, born in Nebraska cities and on the Nebraska prairies

that continue to serve people locally, nationally, and around the globe

A parade of delegates from early Swedish Augustana congregations carrying historical banners, accompanied by commitments to future faithful service

A special appearance and speech by Bjorn Lyrvall, Swedish Ambassador to the United States

Entertainment, classical and modern, from the globally-competitive Pathfinders Chorus of Nebraska, the Ringmasters Quartet from Sweden, the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Omaha, Nebraska, and the winner of the Jenny Lind contest in Sweden

The celebration and official dedication of the new Luther College of the Liberal Arts at the educational center of Midland University, thereby returning the name of the Swedish Augustana-

founded Luther College of Wahoo to the American higher education landscape

The release of two important books of great importance in Swedish immigrant history

Fourteen well-planned, meaningful Interest Groups to choose from at two different times

Inspirational worship services, community hymn singing, and a closing worship service with Nebraska Synod Bishop, Brian Maas, preaching

Good food, including a traditional Smorgasborg

Enclosed with this issue of the Norden Club Newsletter you will find a special article about our Swedish Ambassador. You will note that you can register for the full weekend or for the special "Commuter Day" events on Saturday. The registration and information is available on the following website:

www.midlandu.edu/aha

Swedish Ambassador Headlines Guests from Sweden at AHA Festival

Bjorn Lyrvall, Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. since the fall of 2013, is expected to speak on Saturday afternoon, June 14, at the AHA Festival at Midland University. Ambassador Lyrvall has a diverse background in diplomatic service for his country. He previously served as Vice-Counsel in St. Petersburg, Russia and has held positions at Swedish embassies in London and Moscow. He also served at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Department for

Eastern Europe and Central Asia and at the Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels.

Joining him from Sweden will be the very popular Ringmasters Swedish Quartet. Winners of international competition among barbershop singing groups, the Quartet will appear at the AHA Festival as a part of their U.S. tour. Also expected to perform on Saturday evening will be the winner of the Jenny Lind competition in Sweden.

The winner will also be making a special tour of the U.S.

In addition to the Swedish musical groups, AHA Festival-goers will have the opportunity to hear the well-known Pathfinders Chorus of Nebraska. This all-male singing group has performed throughout America and abroad. And at the Smorgasbord on Saturday evening the lively Scandinavian Dancers of Omaha will be performing.

The Norden Club promotes fellowship among
Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and helps preserve
for the benefit of the United States the best in the cultural heritage
of Scandinavia.

The countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
make up Scandinavia.



The **Norden Club**

of Lincoln
Since 1947

7100 Old Post Road
Lincoln, NE 68506

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1359
LINCOLN, NE

We hope to see you on March 17.

The meeting is at First Lutheran Church, 2520 S 70th at 6:30. The program will be John Mark Nielson from the Danish Museum in Elkhorn, IA. Cost is \$15.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there.

Call for reservations by Wednesday, March 12:

Dorothy Ekblad—402-488-6313

Leona Bellinger—402-484-7123

Cancellations need to be made by noon Wednesday, Mar 12. Norden Club is charged for all dinners that are reserved. We appreciate you calling early if you know you can or can not attend.