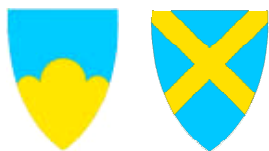


May, 2012

Volume 32, Issue 2



Since 1911



Inside this issue:

2012 Stevne Information 3-5

Sigdal in 1899 6-7

Past Pres Judy Sosted 9

Stevne Schedule 10

Stevne Classes 11

Serving Norwegian-Americans of Sigdal, Eggedal & Krødsherad ancestry

Exciting Year 2012 - Stevne & Norway Trip!

July 18 – 21 are the dates for our Stevne at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center in Oconomowoc, WI. This is a really good resort location! A Norwegian Christmas theme will transform the resort to a time special time of Christmas memories for all Norwegians. The resort is conveniently situated less than two miles off of Interstate 94. The venue is all one large building that should be easy to negotiate for those with limited mobility.

On July 18 there will be a lag get together from 7:30 – 9:00 in the President's Suite, a good opportunity to connect with other lag members followed by two full days of programming and our lag annual meeting on the morning of July 21. The room price is \$79 a night for up to four people. The reservation number is 1-800-558-9573. Make your room reservations prior to July 4 to assure the reduced room rate.

Sigdalslag's Norway trip is scheduled August 31-September 10, 2012. Icelandair will fly us to Oslo to begin the trip. For our trip from Oslo to Sigdal we will be met by Sigrid Kvisle, recently retired from the museum in Sigdal. She will coordinate our busing, cultural visits, local hotels or home-stays, and other special activities with our Sigdalslag relatives and friends during the time that we are in Sigdal, Eggedal and Krødsherad. The trip includes tourist time and two nights in Oslo, four nights in Sigdal, mountain scenery, Undredal (known for its goat cheese), the Flam railway, five hours viewing the fjords by boat, and two nights in historic Bergen.

The arrangements in Sigdal and the cost of the bus for September 3 through September 8 is estimated at \$300 or less per person depending upon the number of participants and the exchange rate of the US dollar to the Norwegian krone. Using a local bus is a substantial savings. This is not included in the tour price, but exact prices will be available when the number of participants is known. Individuals will pay their own costs in Sigdal for local hotels and meals, but many will be utilizing home stays with relatives.

The tour includes package and land only pricing. Efforts will be made to meet individual plan variations. There must be a group of ten people to secure the Icelandair group space special price. We currently have reserved 15 seats on Icelandair, so get your reservations in early so that you do not have to alter your flights or have increased costs because the initial block is sold out.

For more information go to the Sigdalslag.org website for the brochure, registration form, terms and conditions, and travel insurance information. If you have questions or want to receive information by mail or email, please call 1-651-483-9261 or e-mail president@sigdalslag.org and questions can be answered or referred.

Velkommen, nye lag medlemmer!

- **DAVE SIMPKINS**
Vining, Minnesota
- **JANE CARLSTROM**
Denver, Colorado
- **ELEANOR KASELLA**
Woodbury, Minnesota
- **GUNHILD BERGAN**
Veggli, Norway
- **TARA LEVINE**
gift from Earl Knutson
- **ELIZABETH PFIFFNER**
Spokane, Washington
- **SANDRA PAULGAARD**
Calgary, Alberta
- **ÅGE STICK**
Hokksund, Norway
- **LORI PETERSON**
Peterson, Minnesota
- **KATHY DOTO**
Richland, Washington
- **MARIA BRATLY**
Reseda, California
- **CATHERINE BEYER**
Gypsum, Colorado
- **LOIS KLEISINGER**
Macomb, Michigan
- **RACHEL HAWVER**
Tieton, Washington

2012 Sigdalslag Officers

JEAN T. KNAAK *President*
2456 Arkwright Street
St. Paul, MN 55117
(651) 483-9261
knaak002@bevcomm.net

EARL O. KNUTSON
VP 1/Membership
722 Second Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 222-1613
eoknut@en-tel.net

KAREN OLSON *VP 2*
P.O. Box 225
Northome, MN 56661
olekaren@paulbunyan.net

MARLYS HONRUD LARSEN *VP 3*
P. O. Box 217
Spicer, Minnesota 56288
larsenfamily@charter.net

JANICE JOHNSON *Treasurer*
8451 Nicollet Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55420
jj3dc@juno.com

DALE BUISMAN *Secretary*
38265 Great Oaks Court
North Branch, MN 55056
(651) 277-6885
dbuisman@sherbtl.net

GARTH ULRICH *Genealogist*
3099 Dunn Drive
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 6Y6 CANADA
gulrich@sasktel.net

DIANNE SNELL *Historian*
31326 122nd Court SE
Auburn, WA 98092
(253) 351-0926
dssnell2@comcast.net

SCOTT BRUNNER *Saga Editor*
555 Hilltop Drive
Green Bay, WI 54301
brunner315@yahoo.com

ED ESPE *Webmaster*
webmaster@sigdalslag.org

Fra Presidenten:

Fra Presidenten,

Lots of great things are happening for Sigdalslag!

"Christmas in July" is the theme of the 2012 Stevne to be held from July 18-22 at the Olympia Resort and Conference Center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Look in the newsletter and on the website for more information - a great location! Re-member to call the Olympia Resort directly at 1-800-558-9573 before July 4 and request the \$79 room rate for the Seven Lag Stevne to be guaranteed the special reduced room rate.

Our Norway trip is going to be a reality from August 31 - September 10, 2012. This trip is unique because Sigrid Kvisle, the former head of the museum in Sigdal and guide for the Norwegians to our lag in Fargo last year, will meet us in Oslo and will arrange for four nights and three days in Sigdal, Eggedal and Krødsherad. This personalized experience will allow us to really get in touch with where our families came from. Check the information on the website and in the newsletter. Any questions, email me at knaak002@bevcomm.net.

June 30 is the deadline for submitting your family stories for the 2012 Sigdalslag book. Please include emigrant ancestors and families in this country who have not previously been featured. Help the editors out by submitting your family information as soon as possible. Family stories may go to Scott Brunner at brunner315@yahoo.com. Our website is a wealth of information. More items are posted frequently! Do take the opportunity to look at it often. Remember to send your emigrant obituaries to our genealogist for posting on the website.

Have you thought about what a good financial package our stevne offers to our members? I just paid an individual member conference registration fee for a three day conference, two luncheons, and one banquet at \$505 with the rooms at \$139 plus tax in Indianapolis. Compare that to our \$25 conference fee, \$25 banquet plus \$79 plus tax rooms in a lovely resort. All of this is through the work of our great volunteers and Norwegian care for finances.

Hilsen,

Jean

2012 Stevne Highlights

The 2012 7-lag stevne will be held at the Olympia Resort and Conference Center July 18th to the 21st. The resort is located about 1 ½ miles off Interstate-94 at the Hwy 67 (Summit Road) exit north. There is an Olympia sign at the left to Royale Mile Road.

The Hadeland Lag is looking into the possibility of taking a bus from Fargo, N.D. to Oconomowoc, Wis. for the Seven-Lag Stevne in July. There would have to be a minimum of 40 people to make this feasible. We are extending an invitation to members of all seven lags to take part in this venture. The bus would depart from Fargo on Wednesday, July 18, and arrive in Oconomowoc that evening. It would travel on I-94 through Minnesota and Wisconsin to Oconomowoc. It would depart from Oconomowoc at noon on Saturday, July 21, and drive back to Fargo. The cost for this transportation is estimated to be \$100-\$125 per person, depending on where you board the bus.

If you are interested in the possibility of traveling by charter bus to Oconomowoc, please let Anne Sladky know before June 1st. Her e-mail address is

siteadmin@hadelandlag.org and her telephone number is (218) 547-1156. She will let you know whether or not there is enough interest to charter this bus.

The theme this year is “**A Norwegian Christmas in July**” or “**Jul i juli**”. The Resort air conditioning has been upgraded and the manager suggests that if you get cold easily, you should “bring a sweater to classes” as the whole complex is on one thermostat and not easily changed. You are encouraged to decorate your room and your door if you can. We may have a prize for the best decorated door.

As this is a resort area and July is their season, motel rates in the area are high. You can get a rate of \$79 a night plus tax at the Olympia by mentioning “7-lag Stevne” when making reservations. The hotel is just completing a \$1.5 million renovation and looked good before that. The rooms are large and comfortable with a small refrigerator, coffee maker and Internet connection in each room.

There will be a Genealogy Open House and an informal Lag get-together in your lag president’s Suite Wednesday evening with registration and activities starting at 8:00 am Thursday morning.

Opening meeting:

I have always found these to be excessively long and often frankly boring. For this reason, I will do my best to keep it to 1 hour and fifteen minutes. Our Keynote speaker is Kathleen Ernst, who has a lively illustrated program about her 12-year tenure as an interpreter and curator at **Old World Wisconsin**, particularly the Norwegian area entitled “Lasting Legacy: Folklore and Stories Created and Inspired by Norwegian Immigrants.” She has written many books but has promised not to push them while she talks. She will have a table outside the room for those who are interested in them.

Tours:

Note: The price includes transportation and tickets.

The Thursday tour to **Old World Wisconsin** starts at 10:30 and should return about 4:15. This is a large open-air museum with a strong emphasis on early Norwegian emigrants. As the ride is short and the cost of tour buses has gone through the roof, we will use school buses. Tram transportation between the exhibits is part of the ticket price. The tram is wheelchair accessible but much of the exhibit is on grass. They suggest that you call 262-594-6316 if you have limited mobility.



Lunch is on your own, but there is a lunch area near the entrance. Other options include a “Grab and Go” at the resort and a Subway on the way that the bus driver will stop for if there is enough interest. Cost: \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids 17 and under. Old World Wisconsin contains several authentic houses, buildings, & barns from the many different ethnicities that populated Wisconsin. The Norwegian farmstead contains many buildings, including an 1848 home build by immigrant Anders Ellingson Kvaale from Sogndal. The family farmed in Dunkirk Township of Dane County, Wisconsin. Their original home has been preserved and restored to its 1865 appearance, but moved and now featured at Old World Wisconsin.

The Friday tour is to the **Harley-Davidson Museum and Pabst Brewery** and the hours are the same. These venues are only a short distance west of downtown Milwaukee. By the way, I am told, this whole area near the resort was once Pabst Farms and was used to grow hops and barley. Lunch is again on your own but both venues speak of impressive facilities. The Brewery tour includes a 16-ounce glass of beer if you are over 21 and Sprecher root beer (a treat in itself) if you are not. I.D. is required. The cost is \$35 for all.

Note, if there is not enough interest in these tours, we will cancel them.

Hospitality:

The Hospitality area will be between the registration area and the vendors and staffed by Sigdal, Numedal and Telemark volunteers. We are hoping that you will contribute to the “goodies” by bring some Norwegian Christmas treats. If your treat is unique, include the recipe if you wish. We will make copies if needed. Because the coffee has to be supplied by the resort and kind of expensive, there will be a donation basket nearby.

Vendors:

We will have a large number of vendors in an area next to the Hospitality area.

Classes:

Updates on classes and instructors have been coming in weekly. (See list of classes on page 11)

Entertainment:

I think that the whole stevne will be entertaining, but the folks we will be paying to entertain us are:

- Sven and Ole. This is an act that has been going for more than 30 years and gets better each year. They sing about their college days and what ever moves them. They have promised to add some zany Christmas Carols. Phil, the guy on the right (I think, don’t all Norwegians look alike!) will be back with us on Friday with the Madison Grieg Chorus.
- The Madison Grieg Chorus. The picture is old, but they keep adding voices. Their piano player is in the front row. They too will add some Christmas Carols.
- The Milwaukee Norwegian dance group “Lykkeringen Norwegian Dancers”.



Madison Grieg Chorus

7-LAG REGISTRATION FORM

July 18 – 21, 2012

Olympia Resort and Conference Center

Oconomowoc, WI

Print Name(s) _____
 Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Stevne Registration Fee:

\$25.00 per person (postmarked on or before June 30) x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

\$30.00 per person (after July 1) x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Stevne registration covers classes, presentations, genealogy room and entertainment for one or all days.

It does not include tours or banquet.

Norwegian guests and students (or younger) will be admitted free but must still register. Include name and age of students to help us plan Children's programming:

FRIDAY EVENING BANQUET AND PROGRAM: \$25.00 per person (including children)

Sliced Roast Beef x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Chicken Cordon Bleu x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN TOUR:

Thursday, July 19; 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

\$25.00 per adult x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

\$20.00 per person age 17 and younger x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

HARLEY DAVIDSON MUSEUM & PABST BREWERY TOUR:

Friday, July 20; 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

\$35.00 per person x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

** No refunds after July 6, 2012 **

TOTAL = \$ _____

HARDANGER EMBROIDERY CLASS: Friday, July 20; 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Cost is \$8.00, payable at time of class. Class size is limited to 12 people and pre-registration is needed. Please contact Betty Knutson to register:Phone: 320-222-1613 or e-mail: blknutnsn@en-tel.net

I/We are members of: ___ Hadeland ___ Land ___ Numedal ___ RDD ___ Sigdal ___ Telemark ___ Toten

Please check all that apply.**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SIGDALSLAG AND MAIL WITH THIS FORM****NO LATER THAN JULY 6 TO:**

Janice Johnson, 8451 Nicollet Avenue, Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

A Report “From Sigdal” - 1899

compiled by Dianne Snell, Lag Historian

The following article was published in the *Minneapolis Tiden* newspaper of April 7, 1899, and was sent by a person calling himself *Ole Sigdal*, which I assume is a pseudonym, with no other identification provided. I was given the article at the Stevne, and since it was printed in Norwegian I sent it to—who else—our Master Translator Rosella Goettelman. The article, as translated, appears below and gives a good insight into what ordinary, everyday life was like in Sigdal Parish at the dawn of the 20th century.

“From Sigdal

To the editor of Minneapolis Tiden:”

“I received your esteemed newspaper that had been sent to me at one time. Since I noticed that various little things from many places in the old foster land, Norway, have found place in your columns, I thought of the possibility that you probably would be so kind as to receive some lines from a place like Sigdal, from the place where so many vigorous men and women, through the course of time, have said goodbye to their birthplace and emigrated to America.”

“Let me first relate that, until now, the winter has not been exactly old fashioned Norwegian, but a continual shift, with snow, mild weather and a bitter cold day in between. No steadiness—clearly a madcap of a winter. Yes, yes, we must still hope for more steadiness in the climate in the near future, so His Majesty Spring and Summer can more easily dispel that capricious General Winter. But many old sign readers shake their heads seriously and say, ‘Yes, if all the old signs aren’t wrong, we will get a late spring.’ I do not dare to predict.”

“To you good folks who have not heard about home in the parish for a long time, for example, 20 or 30 years or more, if you saw it again, you would find several changes here in most respects. What the poet Ivar Aasen says in one of his excellent poems must also fit here.”

‘There are so many changes

Come into the parish.

I saw so many things

All in a little car.

They have turned over the meadow

And leveled and cleared and built.

But the good old peaks,

They stand just as sure.’

“That the mountains and ridges are equally unchanged, and the fjords, rivers and ponds are in their places, is clear, but the forests have, to a considerable extent, become thinner. And why? Yes because right there is what the Sigdal farmer must resort to until all the improvements and advancements are done here, as in the last snow year.”

“That the majority of the farmers have equipped themselves more modernly on their farms with remodeling and building new homes is clear, and when they procure for themselves new and modern machines that they can utilize for their use, it is also an advancement, which becomes to the good for each one.”

“What I have said before about advancements each individual has undertaken, if I may call it that, is ordinary. The improvements that come to the benefit of the whole parish and inhabitants are extraordinary, and I will point out a few of them.”

“The new road (highway) up over the valley from Aamot has now, for a couple of years, finally crawled itself up to Sundet, and thereby replaced the monstrous, hilly, difficult Sigdal road on that stretch. Pretty, solid iron bridges at Prestfoss and Karlsrud have replaced the old wooden bridges. The telephone has come through the valley to Eggedal. Many of the schoolhouses in the parish are remodeled and more modernly, with family conveniences and woodworking halls. And a new schoolhouse was built at Rolfsrud at Hiaaskogen. The savings bank place (the old town hall) is remodeled into a large two story building where advanced school is held.

“Probably the largest advancement has been done in the area of the school system, not only with the improvements in the school buildings, but the arrangements inside must be said to be as good as our circumstances can wish. Now, each child, who really wants to, can acquire much good and useful knowledge for life, which for 20 or 30 years back the common school was not able to bring them in any manner.”

“We have three dairies here in the parish, one at Karlsrud, many years old, one at Skartum and one at Hole, that has been in operation for one year. The two last mentioned are magnificent farms with modern machinery. But it costs money, when one, in a way, must follow the times.”

“Now, when this is being written, during the time of the actual ski competition, I must not forget to mention that the Sigdal boys who are not in the sport have let themselves fail. They should take part fearlessly in the contest. When the prize races are held they are really a delight for the large multitude of spectators to see, as, with suppleness and elegance and elated expressions, many of our agile skiers shoot out over the precipitous hillside and manage, well and surely, quite an unbelievable jump. If sometime one happens to make an unintentional coal bucket, he does not get nervous, and a burst of laughter from the spectators usually will revive him, so that, before we know it, he is already up on the hill again and the signal is given. With the speed of a bird, he is ready again and tips out over the jump. ‘Bravo!’ booms from the hundreds of mouths. ‘Look at him, straight in the back and knee, like a soldier,’ they shout. ‘That cold snow boat must somehow be stimulating. He has really come into a better vigor.’ That is what they say, and possibly it is true.”

“So it goes, until the participating members have shown their skills in the appointed races. Afterwards, they assemble at a place to see the result, along with a little entertainment, so that the fairer sex shall not be completely ignored, but also get to compete in their sport, which, for them is a dance.”

“While I think, as mentioned before, that a very large armed snowwoman can work at reviving one at the ski jump as long as he has skis on, I also think that a bright, spirited girl can do it when the Hardanger violin begins to send its discreet, sparkling spring dance out over the trail. The daily grind is ended, and the happy faces show that now the cheerfulness and sociability are just as large as the competition was today—and around it goes in the dance. The sport of skiing is like an organization of shooting teams. They have created many competent rifle shooters here in the parish. They both have noble form. We also have other organizations—and they are not so few—and I am not the one who can remember the names of all, although, I dare to hope that each of them do their best and work toward the goal that they have set for themselves.”

“Politics, the old worn out name that one is concerned with now. It rages so periodically with its attack about every three years, or, more correctly said, it walks as an epidemic before each election. In the fall it was not free for otherwise but that one could notice a little trace of it before the commune election. That kind of epidemic gives itself difficult cures, but then, the disease is not so deadly anyway.”

“So that the Sigdal letter does not become tirelessly long, I must quit. But I must not forget to inform you that the letter is addressed especially to those who, as I said, long ago left their childhood home and seldom or never correspond with anyone here. Therefore I hope that individual small items herein can have a little interest for someone.”

“A happy greeting to each one, especially of the paper’s readers who are from Sigdal. And for the future, if I understand that it will interest anyone, it would be a pleasure to send a few lines later. Hereby, live well for this time.”

“Sigdal, 3rd March 1899

Respectfully yours, Ole Sigdal”

Member News ...

In Memory...



Dolores Kopseng

Memorial services for Dolores Kopseng, of Albert Lea, were held at 11 a.m. Friday at the First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. The Rev. John Holt will officiate. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery at a later date.

Dolores died on Monday, January 23, 2012, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Albert Lea. She was 82. As a special gift to science, Dolores donated her body to the Department of Anatomy, Mayo Foundation.

She was born on Nov. 11, 1929, in Albert Lea, the daughter of Lowell and Harriet (Skinner) Ihde. Dolores graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1947, and continued her education at Macalaster College, later graduating from St. Olaf College with a degree in music education.

On June 18, 1949, she married Arthur T. Kopseng at the First Presbyterian Church in Albert Lea. They first made their home in Owatonna then St. Louis Park and in 1955 moved to Albert Lea.

Dolores had worked at King

Sealy in Albert Lea, Trades Publishing, as secretary at the First Presbyterian Church for more than nine years, and as a nurse's aid in Lake Mills, Iowa.

Dolores was a member of First Lutheran Church. She was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and throughout her life had been active with the Sons of Norway, Naeve Hospital Auxiliary and the Freeborn County Historical Society.

She enjoyed reading, keeping up with current events and theatrical plays, but music was her passion. She played the piano, organ, clarinet and enjoyed her involvement in community band.

Dolores is survived by her children: Arthur G. (Kathy) Kopseng of Northfield, Jeff Kopseng and special friend, Alan Bloemke of Albert Lea, Diane (Hal SR.) Sharpe of Appling, Ga., and Doug (Karen) Kopseng of Minneapolis; grandchildren: Betsie (Bryan) Sawyer, Amanda (Daniel) Wright, Alison Kopseng, Daniel Kopseng, Daryon Parker, Jennifer Bock, Tyler Bock and special friend Marc, Carson Sharpe, Hal Sharpe Jr., Shawntea Kopseng and Antonia Kopseng; great-grandson, Ethan Wright; brother-in-law, Brian (Sheryl) Kopsing and several cousins.

Dolores was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; her par-

ents, Lowell and Harriet Ihde; mother-in-law and stepfather-in-law, Anna and Melford Dahlen; father-in-law and stepmother-in-law, Tom and Stella Kopsing.



Carlyle Jokstad

(Carlyle is the son of Sigdal member Calvin Jokstad of Fargo, ND, grandson of Sigdal immigrant Carl Hansen Jokstad who came to America in 1907; and Hilda Knudsen, daughter of Sigdøler Ole O. Knudsen who immigrated in 1875 with his parents.)

Carlyle Brent Jokstad died at his home in Tracy, MN on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the age of 62. He was born October 22, 1949 in Springfield, Brown County, Minnesota to Calvin and Hazel (Van Klei) Jokstad. He grew up on a farm near Revere, MN and moved with his

family to Marshall, MN where he attended Marshall Public Schools, graduating from Marshall High School.

Carlyle then attended Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall for two years before entering the U. S. Navy on January 13, 1969. He served on River Patrol Boats in Vietnam in 1969-1970 and then returned to the United States where he served the remainder of his term. He received an honorable discharge on January 8, 1972.

After his military service Carlyle made his home in Chula Vista, CA for several years before returning to live in the Tracy, MN area. Over the years Carlyle worked as a welder for Coleman Industries in Springfield and for Marshall Truss. He was a member of the Tracy America Legion and enjoyed making furniture in his spare time. He attended the Baptist Bible Church in Walnut Grove, MN.

Carlyle is survived by his father, Calvin (De Von) Jokstad of Fargo, ND; his mother, Hazel (C. J.) Molitor of Lynd, MN; two brothers, Carlton (Cheryl) Jokstad and Carl Jokstad, both of Tracy, MN; two sisters, Kimberlee (Jason) Winters of Mason City, IA and Kellee (Michael) Vivens of San Antonio, TX; nieces, nephews and friends.

You are invited to the Sigdalslag Get Acquainted Evening

Wednesday, July 18, 2012 7:30 – 9:00 PM

President's Suite at the Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Past President Judy Sosted - A Task Well Done

by Dianne Snell, Lag Historian

Judy Sosted, Sigdalslag's Immediate Past President, was able to breathe a huge sigh of relief on July 18, 2011 - the Seven-Lag Stevne and the 100th Anniversary Celebration for Sigdalslag had come to a successful conclusion and the office of Sigdalslag President, which she held for four years, had been passed on to Jean Knaak. *Whew!*

With seven lags involved in the annual Stevne each Lag is responsible for the planning of the event once every seven years. By the luck of the draw it was Sigdalslag's turn to host the Stevne in 2011 which also coincided with the Lag's Centennial. What to do but to have one big blowout to cover both events, and Judy graciously agreed to stay on as President to see it through. Both events were held, July 14-17, at the Best Western Doublewood Convention Center in Fargo, North Dakota.

Understand that planning a Stevne does not just involve a place to meet, but also entails obtaining speakers and entertainment, arranging classes and tours, negotiating for meals and the best prices possible, communicating with the other six Lags, and a million more details. Also, with two groups of over 130 Norwegians coming for the Centennial celebration the pressure was on to make the anniversary event extra special. Luckily, Judy was ably assisted by Vice Presidents Donna Kullenkamp, Karen Olson and Earl Knutson and Treasurer Jan Johnson who handled the registrations and finances. After two years of intense planning it was all over in four days, a wonderful celebration!

Judy Sosted is the elder of two daughters born to Harold and Margaret Davey Sosted. The only grandmother she knew was Bertha Anderson Davey whom she remembers for her doughnuts, the smell of coffee always perking, and the lullabies she sang. Her grandparents lived on a farm between Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, Wisconsin which she considered an "idyllic" place.

Judy graduated from Carleton College and the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and worked as a school social worker in Faribault, Minnesota until retirement. She is passionate about genealogy, but as many of us who are involved in that passion, her interest in seeking her roots came later in life after most of the relatives that knew anything had passed on.

Judy took her first trip to Norway in 1977 and visited her mother's ancestral farm, Stoa in Sigdal. On her second trip in 1998 she went back to Sigdal and also visited the next valley to the north where her paternal grandfather was from, Saastad near Snarum. While in Sigdal she came in contact with local historian Håvard Støvern who referred her to Lee Rokke, Sigdalslag Genealogist (now Emeritus).

From Lee, Judy learned that in the 1300's Rolv Hallvardsen Leir and his wife Gudbjorg Kittelsdtr. Lesteberg from Krødsherad had two sons. One son settled in the north valley and became her father's ancestor and Bjorn Rolvsen Eikje settled in the Sigdal valley and became her mother's ancestor. Judy's great-grandfather, Gullick Anderson, was born at Stoa, Sigdal and immigrated to Highland Wisconsin with his family when he was five years old. Judy has taken two trips to Norway since 1998 and she plans to go again this summer.

Judy enjoys spending time with family. She has two sons, Erik and Alan Koehler and grandchildren who all live in the Minneapolis area as does her sister Karen Foot and family. Judy, in her spare time which she now may have more of, volunteers at the Northfield Historical Society, the Norwegian-American Historical Association at St. Olaf College (NAHA), and does Court Mediation for Rice County. She also participates in many activities for Carleton College and is a member of several Bygdelager including Sigdalslag.

Thank you Judy, on behalf of Sigdalslag, for your years of service and for overseeing the biggest event in the Lag's 100 year history! What do you plan to do for an encore?



Judy Sosted with Jens Kristian Kopland at the 2011 Stevne banquet in Fargo. Jens was a tour leader for the smaller group of 35 Norwegians who attended the Stevne and Anniversary.

Stevne Schedule

Wednesday July 18:

Sign-in at hotel.

1-5pm Kohls Cares volunteers will be on hand to assist genealogists and vendors bringing in supplies.

6:00 to 8:00 PM Community Genealogy

7:30 to 9:00 Informal lag get acquainted sessions

Thursday July 19:

Breakfast

8:00 Registration

9:00 to 10:15 Opening meeting

10:15 to 5:00 PM Genealogy

10:15 to 5:00 Hospitality and Vendors

10:30 Load buses to go to Old World Wisconsin

10:30 to 11:45 Class and questions

11:45 to 1:15 Lunch

1:15 to 2:30 Class and Questions

3:00 to 4:15 Class and Questions

4:15 to 6:00 Dinner

4:15 to 6:00 movie: The Stavig Letters

6:30 to 9:00 Evening session and entertainment (Ole and Sven)

8:30 to? Hospitality

9:00 to? NSI meeting

Friday July 20:

Breakfast

9:00 to 2:00 Genealogy

9:00 to 3:30 Hospitality and Vendors

9:00 to 10:15 Class and Questions

9:15 Load busses to go to Harley-Davidson and/or Brewery tour

10:45 to 12:00 Class and Questions

12: to 1:30 Lunch

1:30 to 2:45 Class and Questions

2:45 to 6:00 free time

6:00 to 9:00 Banquet, Entertainment and centerpiece auction

(bunad parade, Madison Grieg Chorus, and Milwaukee Norwegian dance group)

Saturday July 21:

Breakfast

9:00 to?

Lag meeting, time with your Lag and departure



Surveys & library Contributions

Sigdalslag Surveys have been received from:

- 1) Susan Marie Wiseman Gardner on Petter Gulbrandsen Aasen
- 2) Vickie Storlie on Ole Reiersen Halstenrud
- 3) Vickie Storlie on Syver Olsen Noreeie
- 4) Åge Stick on Jacob Eriksen Grenseie
- 5) Kathy Doto on Helge Nilsen Frøvolleie
- 6) William and Maria Bratley on Elling Knudsen Kieland
- 7) Lois Kleisinger on Knut Gundersen Bakken

Emigrant Obituary Project:

submitted by Garth Ulrich, Genealogist

To date, seventy-nine obituaries of emigrants from Sigdal, Eggedal and Krødsherad have been submitted and added to the website. To view these obituaries go to the Sigdalslag web page (www.sigdalslag.org) and click on the link on the right 'Genealogy'. On this page will be information about the Emigrant Obituary Project. Click on the hyperlink 'obituaries of emigrants' to view the obituaries.

Thank you to those that have submitted obituaries: Jim Sanborn, Sonja Minchau, Dale Buisman, Jerry Allery, Karen Medalen Olson, Larry R Haugen, Amy Michelsen, Vickie Storlie, Dianne Snell, Daniel Flatin, Scott Brunner, Evans Knight, Cynthia DeLano, Karen Olson, Sharon Tomkins, Anita Welsh, Kathy Dota, Sandy Hendrickson and Garth Ulrich.

Stevne Classes

1. Tove Lundborg, a professional singer and choir director from Toten will teach and lead Norwegian Christmas Carols possibly for the banquet program.
2. Odd Martin Hesjadalen will explain the laws and feelings about old building preservation in Norway.
3. David Christ and his wife took the Telemark Canal from one end to the other and then a biking tour back. He has a slide presentation of his trip.
4. Jan Heusinkveld will show Children of all ages how to make Christmas baskets to decorate your Norwegian Christmas tree.
5. Gary Gandrud, the Honorary Norwegian Consul General will have an insider's look at the recent visit of the Royal family to the US.
6. Jason Hawke will do " Find Grandpa's House on Google Earth." Google Earth has almost everyone in the Genealogical world talking. It is heralded as the biggest advance since the archives. He will spend time in genealogy too.
7. Chad Muller will speak on "Spring Grove in Fact and Fiction", Minnesota's first Norwegian settlement.
8. Kay Demrow of the Luther Valley Historical Society will talk on " Historic Luther Valley." She sent a list of early settlers that included folks from all our areas.
9. Jerry Paulson from the Norwegian Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library in Madison will speak on the changing traditions in Norway and the US and how they effect our Christmas celebrations today.
10. Carol Moore has spent a lifetime teaching rosemaling and will talk either on the history of or how it is different in separate areas of Norway and the US.
11. Beth Miller has been called the "Lefse Queen" of Stoughton and will demonstrate the making of her sweet potato lefse. This will be presented twice.
12. A Milwaukee Norwegian dance group, Lykkeningen Norwegian Dancers, has committed to come and dance for us at the banquet. A dance class will be taught by Chris Jansen.
13. Robert Peterson, retired professor of theatre and music at the U of W has taken Kathleen Stokker's "Folklore Fights the Nazis" to a new level as musical entertainment.

Sigdal'slag Saga

Serving Norwegian-Americans of Sigdal,
Eggedal & Krødsherad ancestry



FIRST CLASS MAIL

SIGDALSLAG EDITOR
555 HILLTOP DRIVE
GREEN BAY, WI 54301

SIGDALSLAG SAGA IS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY,
MAY AND OCTOBER

We're on the Web!
www.sigdal'slag.org

Comments? Suggestions? SAGA solicits feature articles, news, pictures & obituaries from members. E-mail sigdal'slagsaga@yahoo.com, or contact the editor (see Pg. 2).

Next deadline: September 15, 2012

Changed your mailing or e-mail address?

Don't miss an issue! Please contact Earl Knutson at eoknut@en-tel.net

NOTE: the YEAR shown on the mailing label next to your name indicates that your membership is paid thru DECEMBER of that year.

Consider receiving your newsletter by email! You will enjoy full color and save your lag leadership time and help the lag finances. Some lags are moving to e-mail newsletters for everyone who has an email address. Sigdal'slag wants to be certain that our newsletter is available to all members. E-mail Earl Knutson at eoknut@en-tel.net if you are willing to change to email delivery. Remember that members can always access all issues of the Saga through our member's only section on the website.

JOIN SIGDALSLAG NOW! Date _____ Check if Renewal: or Gift:

Full name/s _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

BUSKERUD Family Origin in (circle one) - SIGDAL EGGEDAL KRØDSHERAD

Emigrant Ancestor's name _____

Farm name _____ Year Emigrated _____

2012 Dues: **USA and CANADA** \$10/YR or \$25/3 YR, in US dollars
ELSEWHERE \$12/YR or \$30/3 YR, in US dollars

Make check payable to **Sigdal'slag** and mail to:

EARL KNUTSON
722 Second Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201

Residents of CANADA should make check payable to **Garth Ulrich** and mail application to:

GARTH ULRICH
3099 Dunn Drive
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 6Y6 CANADA

Write "Sigdal'slag dues (3 yr or 1 yr)" on the memo line of the check. Dues in Canadian dollars should be made in the amount equivalent to \$10 US (1 year) or \$25 US (3 years) on the date written.