

ABOUT THE 7-LAG STEVNE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS...

***DR. JOHN HAUGO: NORMAN BORLAUG, NOBEL LAUREATE AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST, 7:00 THURSDAY EVENING**

Norman Ernest Borlaug, 1914-2009, was an American agronomist, humanitarian, and Nobel Laureate who has been called “the Father of the Green Revolution.” He was born near Cresco, Iowa, where he grew up on the family farm. His ancestors were from the Telemark region of Norway. Borlaug received his PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Minnesota in 1942. He took up an agricultural research position in Mexico, where he developed semi-dwarf, high-yield, disease-resistant wheat varieties. During the mid 20th century, Borlaug led the introduction of these high-yielding varieties combined with modern agricultural production techniques to Mexico, Pakistan, and India. He is credited with saving over a billion people worldwide from starvation. Borlaug was one of only six people to have won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Dr. Haugo is a graduate of Waubun, MN, High School and Minnesota State University at Moorhead. He also has an MA and PhD degree from the University of Minnesota. Early in his career, John was a math teacher and football coach at two Minnesota high schools. Later, he served as CEO of several Minneapolis based computer software companies. He is a recipient of Distinguished Alumni Awards from Minnesota State University at Moorhead, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Athletic Administrators Association. He is a member of the Minnesota State University at Moorhead Athletic Hall of Fame.

John is a full-blooded Norwegian whose paternal ancestors are from Telemark. He completed the writing and publishing of his family history entitled, “The Haugo Family History: Our Norwegian and Midwest American Roots” in 2008. The book is an in-depth descriptive and factual account of each of his grandparents. John is president of Telelaget of America and was coordinator of the 2009 7-Lag Stevne held in River Falls, WI.

John and his wife, Sharon, live in Hudson, WI, and Green Valley, AZ. They have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

***DR. STEVEN R. HOFFBECK: HAYLOFT MEMORIES: BARNS OF MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA, 7:30 FRIDAY EVENING**

Dr. Steven R. Hoffbeck, professor of history at Minnesota State University at Moorhead since 1998, teaches U.S. History classes concentrating on the period from 1877 to the present. Prior to teaching at Moorhead, he taught history at Minot State University in North Dakota from 1992-1998. Dr. Hoffbeck has published several articles in *Minnesota History* magazine and in *North Dakota History* journal on regional topics. Additionally,

he has written articles about baseball and agricultural topics for regional magazines including *Minnesota Monthly* and *Lake Country Journal*. Originally from Morgan, Minnesota, Professor Hoffbeck enjoys telling the history at the grassroots level and writing about the history of the upper Midwest.

Dr. Hoffbeck's first book, *The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2000), won a Minnesota Book Award in 2001. In 2005, the Minnesota Historical Society Press published *Swinging for the Fences: Black Baseball in Minnesota*, a story spanning 150 Years of baseball history in the Upper Midwest. This book won the *Sporting News/SABR* Baseball Research Award for 2005.

Professor Hoffbeck has written about topics such as the history of root beer stands, aviation, baseball, street pavements, and fishing.

Hoffbeck and his wife, Dianne, live in Barnesville, Minnesota, and have four children- Leah, Katie, Mary and John.

***DAN AND ANDY EMERT: MUSIC, SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET and SUNDAY SIGDALSLAG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

The Emert Brothers started playing fiddle around 1980 in Oregon. They were impressed with fiddle music at a Norwegian festival in Decorah, Iowa, and enrolled in the local violin class in elementary school in Salem, Oregon. Dan, the oldest, started violin lessons first. Andy learned to play watching his brother, starting formal lessons two years later. Both Dan and Andy learned to play classical violin along with folk fiddle tunes and both studied classical music in college. They have successfully competed in and judged fiddle contests throughout the Northwest corner of the US. Both have won the national title at the National Oldtime Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho.

Dan Emert resides in Pendleton, Oregon, where he is employed as a clinical microbiologist at the regional reference medical laboratory. He also teaches fiddle and guitar at Blue Mt. Community College. He has played for 30 years and often judges fiddle contests all over the country, including Oregon State, Idaho State, Washington State, the Western Open, and the National Contest in Weiser, Idaho. Honors include National Junior Fiddle Champion, Western Open Junior and Men's Champion, Colorado Adult Champion, and National Adult Fiddle Champion! Dan was the concertmaster for the Salem Junior Symphony and has played for the Mt. Hood Community College Orchestra and the Oregon East Symphony. He has two musical sons who play cello and violin and is married to Lorie who teaches choir at Hermiston High School. He also plays in several bands including Full Tilt Milt and the Amp Haulers, Cabbage Hill, and the Doherty Irish Band.

Andy Emert has judged and attended the Western Open fiddle contest in Red Bluff, California, the Northwest Regional Fiddle Contest in Spokane, Washington, the Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest in Corvallis, Oregon, and the North Cascades Fiddle

Contest in Winthrop, Washington. He won the Oregon State Fiddle Contest, the Western Open and the Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest in Oregon.

He has performed on several stages in the Pacific Northwest. He also toured small towns in Montana as a guest of the Montana Performing Arts Commission. Andy teaches violin and fiddle classes for the City of Portland and works at David Kerr Violin Shop. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife and twin sons.

***DR. ART LEE: SPEAKER, SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET**

Dr. Art Lee is a Professor Emeritus of History at Bemidji State University. An outstanding lecturer, he began his career there in 1959 and retired in 1995. Art specialized in social and cultural history as well as Scandinavians in America.

Dr. Lee grew up in central Wisconsin in a community called Scandinavia. Art is a celebrated author of books with a Norwegian flavor including *Real Norwegians Never Gossip-So Listen Carefully*, *Leftover Lutefisk*, and *The Lutefisk Ghetto*. His books feature light hearted accounts of life in a Norwegian-American community.

91.7 KAXE radio station has a lecture by Dr. Lee on its website entitled “The Early History of Bemidji and Bemidji State University”. To hear it, go to www.audio.kaxe.org/OurHistory.

***CHRIS SCHUELKE: CHURCH SPLIT IN NORWEGIAN GROVE TOWNSHIP, OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 10:00 FRIDAY**

Chris Schuelke has been Executive Director of the Otter Tail County Historical Society since 1991. Chris has a distinct belief that no matter where you live, there is a unique and interesting history just waiting to be uncovered. As a public historian, he believes that our local history is as important in our lives as national events.

The Otter Tail County Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization whose purpose is the collection, preservation and interpretation of Otter Tail County’s history and heritage. This is achieved through a variety of services including the Society’s exhibit gallery, educational outreach program, special public programs, archival and object collections, and a genealogical and local history research library. The development of these services has made the Society an active partner in the educational and cultural life of Otter Tail County. Visit the website at www.otchs.org.

A native of Wisconsin. Chris received his MA in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University. He specializes in probing historical events that are often ignored. No one likes to talk about the splits in Norwegian church history, but they existed and many times became nasty!

***ROD PLETAN: GENEALOGY 101, 10:00 FRIDAY**

Rod Pletan and his wife, Audrey, live in the country near Forest Lake, MN. He is retired from a career as a civil engineer at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Rod and Audrey have three children and are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Rod became interested in genealogy right after he was married, making notes of how his new in-laws were all related. What was intriguing at the time was that some of Audrey's relatives were related to him through marriage. So, Rod really got started with Audrey's family tree before his own. He now has over 30,000 names all interconnected in his Family Tree Maker Program. He has posted several family tree books on an internet site so families can have access to them. Both his and Audrey's great-grandparents emigrated from Norway.

Rod will share his own story as well as examples of others and use them as a guide to begin genealogy research. He began his research on paper, making pencil notes, and graduated to a word processor and finally to a genealogy software program!

Between work and pleasure, he has visited Norway six different times beginning in 1985 and has physically set foot on twelve ancestral farms. The most recent trip was one year ago when Audrey and Rod traveled together with one of their daughter's family of five.

Rod served as a Vice President on Sigdalslag's board from 2004-2009. He has been attending the annual stevne since 2002.

***KIM BAIRD: QUILT HISTORY, NORWEGIAN AND OTHERWISE, 10:00 FRIDAY**

Kim Baird's presentation on "Quilt History, Norwegian and Otherwise" seeks to go beyond the myths to learn the real story of quilts. Kim Baird was born in Thief River Falls, MN, and grew up in Minot, ND. She graduated from the University of North Dakota, and for the past 33 years, has lived and raised a family in Fargo. She started quilting 33 years ago, then began teaching others to quilt, and for several years, owned a shop that catered to quilters.

Kim is one of the founding members of the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota, and was in charge of the state-wide quilt documentation project. Her interest in quilt history led her to earn a Master of Arts in Textiles, concentration in Quilt Studies and Textile History, from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the home of the International Quilt Study Center. She is a long time member of the American Quilt Study Group.

Once a member of Solorlag, her Norwegian ancestors came from Solor and Telemark.

***MARK PEIHL: CLAY COUNTY ARCHIVES, CHANGED FROM 1:00 FRIDAY TO ABOUT 9:00 FRIDAY MORNING AT THE HJEMKOMST CENTER**

Mark Peihl has been the archivist at the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County in Moorhead, MN, since 1986. As archivist, he is responsible for the Historical Society's photo and Manuscript collections, their corporate records, the website and their public reference services. His duties include research, writing and production of publications, exhibits, and public programs. Mark has spoken to tens of thousands of school children, members of church and civic groups and the general public on a variety of local history topics. He will briefly outline the Society's unique resources for those serve attendees who are at the Hjemkomst Museum on tour.

Mark graduated from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in U.S. History in 1978. He was awarded the Pioneer Historian Award presented by the Red River Valley Heritage Society in 1991. He also received the Education Award from the River Keepers in 1995. In his spare time, Mark enjoys backpacking, canoeing, hunting, fishing and cross country skiing.

***GRANT AASENG: "ALT FOR NORGE," A REALITY SHOW EXPERIENCE, 1:00 FRIDAY**

Grant Aaseng, pastor of Shalom Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN, will share his experience as a contestant on Norway's reality show, "Alt for Norge". The requirements for contestants were to be an American of Norwegian descent who had never traveled to Norway and could take a month away for an adventure. To apply, his daughter filmed a video of her dad singing a Norwegian holiday song while cross-country skiing toward a Viking statue in his home town of Alexandria. He was the only contestant who was 100% Norwegian.

The reality show featured Americans who traveled to Norway to compete in good-natured games for a cash prize and the chance to meet ancestors they had never known. Whoever could prove to be the most "Norwegian" would win \$50,000 and a reunion with their Norwegian family. Each week the cast was split into two teams. Members of the winning team were spared elimination while the losers participated in additional challenges to determine who would leave the show. Although Pastor Aaseng was not the winner, the experience of seeing Norway was a dream come true... "It will be with me for life".

Read about the reality show in the StarTribune article of 12 December 2010.

***JOHN BYE: INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL STUDIES, NDSU, 1:00 FRIDAY**

John Bye is Archives Director of the North Dakota State University Institute for Regional Studies and University Archives. It is one of the major archival repositories in the State of North Dakota, serving not only students and faculty but also the general public. It

houses a wealth of resources for those doing family history research in North Dakota. Among its rich family history resources are a nearly complete collection of North Dakota community and county histories, newspapers of Fargo and Grand Forks, and archival records including the Cass County marriage, divorce, probate and civil cases. Under his leadership, extensive indexing has been done of various records and publications, and which are available on its website (www.ndsu.edu/archives). These online databases include the 1885 Dakota Territory census, North Dakota Naturalization Records, and the Cass County marriages, probates, divorces and civil cases. Of particular note is the North Dakota Biography Index that indexes biographical sketches in a wide variety of North Dakota publications. It currently has over 245,000 entries. The institute also has a copy on microfiche of the Rowberg Biographical Files collection. The original records are preserved at the Norwegian American Historical Association at St. Olaf College.

John is a native North Dakotan, raised in the Norwegian American community of Hatton. He descends from Norwegian lines on both his father and mother's sides. He has done extensive research in all lines and has been involved in the publication of family histories on the Bye and Bjerke families. His paternal ancestors emigrated from Hurdal, Hadeland, and Solor, while his maternal grandparents came from the parishes of Meloy and Rodoy in Nordland. His family history research has allowed him to travel to Norway often, maintaining contact with many relatives there.

After serving in the U.S. Army, John attended the University of Wisconsin where he received an MA degree in Library Science and Archival Administration. Since then, he has worked at the NDSU Institute.

***GARTH ULRICH: CANADIAN GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET, 2:30 FRIDAY**

Garth Ulrich is Sigdalslag's genealogist and a native of Canada. Garth was born in and grew up in Spalding, Saskatchewan, the same village that his ancestors moved to from Minnesota in the early 1900s. As a teenager, he became a member of Sigdalslag and later joined other bygdelags that represented his roots, including Totenlag, Solorlag, Romerikslag and the Valdres Samband.

Garth attended the University of Saskatchewan to earn a Bachelor of Education Degree and later returned for a Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education. His first teaching job was on an isolated First Nations Reservation, a fly-in community in northern Saskatchewan. Here he became adept at using the internet as a research tool for genealogy. During this time, he also served as the provincial representative on the Canada Census Committee which was successful in lobbying the government to have the Canadian census records released to the public. Later, he took classes and was certified as a Saskatchewan Record Searcher by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. Garth remains active on the board of the museum in Spalding and has compiled several family, church, and local history books and indexes.

Garth is presently employed as a Student Support Services Teacher in charge of Grade 4-8 Special Education at a community school in the city of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

***JACKIE MARLER: LIFE AT THE CORNER OF GENEALOGY STREET AND GENEALOGY AVENUE, RED RIVER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, 2:30 FRIDAY**

Jackie Marler has been an avid family history researcher since 1982, enjoying many genealogical adventures. She has been the genealogist for the Hallinglag of America since 2004, maintaining the Lag's collection of research materials. Jackie helped compile the Hallinglag's award winning centennial book in 2007 called *People's History of the Hallinglag of America 1907-2007*. Jackie has been involved with the Red River Valley Genealogical Society since 1983 in various capacities and is currently the Society's newsletter editor.

The Red River Genealogical Society serves eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota. Their geographic area of coverage in North Dakota includes Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Traill, Cass and Richland Counties. Minnesota Counties include Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Clay and Wilkin. The Society's website (www.redrivergenealogy.com) includes searchable databases and an extensive listing of library holdings of both ND and Minnesota.

***JEFF SAUVE: KEEPING FAMILY HISTORIES, 10:00 SATURDAY and NAHA, AN ARCHIVIST'S BIRD'S EYE VIEW, 1:00 SATURDAY**

Jeff Sauve is an associate archivist for St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. In addition, he serves as associate archivist for the Norwegian-American Historical Association which is located at St. Olaf College.

The Norwegian-American Historical Association was organized in 1925 to establish a national center for the collection and preservation of historical material. The Association has published nearly one hundred books of scholarly merit, promoted Norwegian-American historical research and literary work, and helped maintain and develop archives of Norwegian-American historical material located on the St. Olaf College campus.

The heart of the NAHA archives is its extensive manuscript collection, which includes letters, diaries, journals, and ledgers, newspaper clippings, obituaries, congregational records, family and local histories, and other resources related to Norwegians in America. The archival collection also includes photographs illustrating all aspects of Norwegian American history.

Jeff advises numerous local history organizations and offers his writing talents to help bring history to life, writing articles for *Avisen* and *Viking*. He was recently recognized by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, being awarded the Minnesota

History Award for his editing of *Pioneer Women: Voices of Northfield's Frontier*. An award winning columnist, Jeff writes a monthly column, "Looking Back", for the Sons of Norway *Viking* magazine. He is also a playwright and actor for the Northfield Historical Society's Cemetery Stories, autumn productions.

***ERIK MEADE: KNIVES MADE IN THE NORDIC TRADITION, 10:00 SATURDAY**

Erik Meade has been involved in knife collecting since 1982 and knife making since 2007. He is a life member of North Star Blade Collectors, based in Bloomington, MN, which has membership throughout North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Erik has held various club officer positions for the past 18 years and has written a monthly column for the club newsletter for the past 15 years.

As a part-time knife maker, Erik has a particular interest in Scandinavian style knives but makes a variety of fixed blade knives including hunting, fishing, camping and survival knives. He has made knives for each of his children as high school graduation gifts and for other relatives and friends. Erik will bring representative examples of knives crafted in the Nordic tradition, including some that he has made. He will show examples of the type of blades, fittings, wood for handles and sheaths typically found on knives from the Nordic countries.

Erik is employed as a security officer for Securitas Security Services, USA, which is a Swedish based company providing security to businesses world wide. Erik earned a BA in History from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, and a Master of Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He is a US Navy veteran.

Erik is the son of long-time Sigdalslag member and former president, Carol Meade. He has two children, Alexis, a student at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Roger, who is serving in the U.S. Navy in Japan.

***SASHA ASLANIAN: RETRACING A BIKE RIDE ACROSS NORWAY, AN AUDIO SLIDESHOW AND PRESENTATION, 1:00 SATURDAY**

Sasha Aslanian is a reporter and producer for Minnesota Public Radio and the granddaughter of Norwegian immigrants who settled in Seattle after World War II. In August of 2008, Sasha and her husband retraced her grandparents' WWII bike ride across Norway, from Finnoy to Heddal. Her journey was a quest to understand Norway's difficult years under German occupation while reconnecting with family members separated by distance, history and language. Her stories about the trip have been published by the Norwegian American Weekly, Adventure Cyclist Magazine, the Star Tribune and broadcast on American Public Media's Weekend America. The radio feature won a 2009 Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award.

In addition to her work as a Metro Reporter for Minnesota Public Radio, Sasha produces a Youth Radio Series for MPR. She and her husband and their two daughters live in St Paul.

Read about Sasha's journey, "Biking Through Norway" in the StarTribune, 21 March 2010.

***DR. VERLYN ANDERSON: HOMESTEAD AND LAND ENTRY RECORDS, 2:30 SATURDAY**

Dr. Verlyn Anderson served on the faculty of Concordia College for thirty-six years, including thirty years as Director of Libraries and as a professor of Scandinavian Studies. He is a nationally recognized expert on Norwegian-American history and culture and is a sought after speaker who has written numerous articles on the subject. He is active in many organizations, societies, and institutions involved in preserving the Norwegian-American experience. Dr. Anderson received the prestigious *St. Olav Medal* in 2008 from His Majesty King Harald V of Norway.

Dr. Anderson will discuss the process that the prospective landowner had to go through in order to acquire a homestead. The potential landowner had to fulfill certain requirements before obtaining title to the land. Verlyn will show samples of the necessary documents and explain how and where a researcher may obtain copies of these documents.

Dr. Anderson was born in Fergus Falls, MN, and grew up in rural Minnesota. He earned his BA from Concordia College and his MA and PhD from the University of Minnesota. He has traveled extensively in the United States and has made more than 40 trips to Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. He and his wife have served as tour directors on many of these trips to Scandinavia, including the 2010 Landingslag and Hadeland Lag tours.

Verlyn will be very ably assisted by David Pfeffer, who is Hadeland Lag's treasurer.

***DAVID PFEFFER: HOMESTEAD AND LAND ENTRY RECORDS, 2:30 SATURDAY**

David Pfeffer was born in rural Bertha, Minnesota, in 1935. He graduated from Bertha High School and attended St. John's University and the University of Texas at El Paso, graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1961. He served with the U.S. Army in Arkansas and Texas. During his working years, David was employed by Tonka Toys, became a CPA, and enjoyed a career as a college and school business administrator.

Some 90 plus years ago, David's mother, Alma Kittelson, began teaching in School District 255 in Woodside Township in Otter Tail County, Minnesota. During her two years at this country school, she met Joe Pfeffer, son of George and Thresia Pfeffer. Alma and Joe married in 1920 and became parents of five children, including David.

David's maternal grandparents, Anton and Sophie Kittleson, were children of immigrant settlers from Norway. Anton's parents, Hans Bustul and Bertha Stenbek came from the Numedal valley of Buskerud in 1870. Sophie's parents, Ole O. Hovland and Anne Teslo emigrated from Hadeland in 1867. David's paternal grandparents left Bohemia in 1891.

David lives in the Twin City metro area near Maple Plain. His children, Dan and Nicole, their spouses and children live nearby. He joined the Hadeland Lag in 2005.

***SIGRID KVISLE: SIGDAL, EGGEDAL, KRODSHERAD, THE BUNADS OF TODAY, 2:30 SATURDAY**

Sigrid Kvisle, director of Sigdal-Eggedal Museum, was born and raised in Sigdal. At University, she studied Folklore, Art History, Religion, Ethics and most recently, "National Costumes and Society". She is especially interested in bunads and folk costumes and the related background in style and fashion.

The Sigdal-Eggedal Museum, a regional museum for Krodsherad, Modum and Sigdal, is dedicated to the region's cultural history. The thirteen buildings, mainly farmhouses, are grouped together to show what life was like in the old days. The main building, opened in 1978, houses a fine collection of regional costumes from the 1800s to the present day.

Sigrid took over her family farm, Horgeseter, in Sigdal in 1993 and moved back in 1998 after 37 years in the Oslo area. Sigrid grew up with a family interest in genealogy. Her father wrote a family book titled "I Ring Om Fjoslia" (A Circle Around Fjoslia) mostly about his mother's family in Sigdal, Rollag, and the USA. Family names in the USA include Fjoslien, Hardenberg, Myran, Slette and Jokstad.

Sigrid has two sons, Reidar and Erik.

***MELVIN CONRAD: THE KENSINGTON RUNESTONE, FACTS, FICTION AND MYTHS, 2:30 SATURDAY**

Melvin Conrad, president of the Kensington Area Heritage Society, is one of the founders of the Society and has been the board president since its incorporation in 2006. The society is dedicated to the collection, preservation and dissemination of knowledge pertinent to the cultural and historical heritage of the Kensington, MN, area.

The local Kensington Runestone Park, established in 1974, preserves the discovery site of the Kensington Rune Stone, a 200 pound stone said to be left behind by Scandinavian

explorers. The stone, unearthed in 1898, by local farmer Olof Ohman and his son, has proved controversial through the years due to the writing on the stone. The inscription was carved using “runes” from medieval times to note the death of 10 men from a group of 8 Goths and 22 Northmen who had traveled from Vinland in 1362.

There has been much debate through the years about the authenticity of the stone and the inscription. Great strides, though, have been made in recent years to better understand the importance of this medieval artifact.

Mel earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Minnesota at Morris and a Master of Science from the University of Notre Dame. He has been employed on the corporate level in the laboratory, production, marketing and technical sales management for various companies in Indiana and Texas. He returned to the “home” farm in 1989 and began a full-time construction business and is currently semi-retired.

***BIRGITTA MEADE: CHILDREN’S CLASS, 1:00 and 2:30 FRIDAY, 2:30 SATURDAY**

Birgitta Meade is a science teacher. She teaches middle school science each morning in a small rural school district in Northeast Iowa and each afternoon teaches future science teachers at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Her young students frequently win contests for building solar cars, wind generators and robots. Birgitta earned a BA from Luther College and a Master of Science Degree in Science Education from Montana State University. One of her jobs prior to teaching was as the Seed Librarian for the Seed Saver’s Exchange in Decorah, a gene bank for heirloom vegetable varieties.

When she’s not teaching, Birgitta likes to garden. She enjoys making many kinds of Scandinavian food, but especially loves to make lefse from potatoes that she has grown herself. When Birgitta’s house was built, one counter was specifically situated so that it would be just the right height for rolling lefse!

Birgitta also enjoys working with her family’s two carriage driving horses, Eddie and Abel. Abel is a Norwegian Fjord Horse who has been in the family for twenty years. Birgitta is the daughter of long-time Sigdalslag member and former president, Carol Meade.

This is the first year in many that children’s classes will be offered at the yearly stevne. Birgitta will present workshops that will include re-enacting the immigrant experience with props and costumes, learning a few simple Norwegian phrases, and most importantly, preparing a presentation of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, a fairy tale by Asbjornson and Moe, a Sigdal native.

***BETTY KNUTSON: HARDANGER EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP, 9:00 SATURDAY**

Betty Knutson's Irish grandmother, who was bedridden with arthritis, taught her, as a child, to embroider on stamped tea towels and pillowcases. Little did she know what she started! Betty's mother taught her how to sew. Over the years, Betty has combined both interests. Her hobbies and interests led her to Colorado State University where she earned a degree in Textiles and Clothing with a minor in Fashion Design.

Betty's first counted cross stitch project was a 35 color design of birds at a bird feeder. She has not looked back! Since her marriage in 2000 to a full blooded Norwegian, Betty has become very interested in "Hardanger". Over the years, Betty has taken classes at stitching festivals and at the Nordic Needle with Jean Mann. She has won blue ribbons and merit awards for her work at county and state fairs in Minnesota, and ribbons at district and international conventions of Sons of Norway. A recent accomplishment was winning Nordic Needle's first annual "Stitcher's Choice Bookmark Contest" resulting in publication of her design. Her love of Handanger keeps growing.

After retiring from a finance career, Betty became very active in Sons of Norway as president, in Red Hat as Queen Mum, and in church and community groups in Willmar, MN, as well as supporting Sigdalslag. She teaches Hardanger classes in Sunburg and New London, MN.

Betty is married to her lovely husband, Earl, former president of Sigdalslag, who is very supportive of her crafts. She has taken him through needlework shops all over the USA and Norway! Betty has two stepdaughters, two granddaughters and a grandson who she loves to stitch for. She tries to spend a few hours each day stitching.

***DARLENE ELLEFSON: LEFSE DEMO, 10:00 and 1:00 SATURDAY**

Darlene Ellefson graduated from the University of Minnesota at Crookston in 1974 earning a degree from the Home and Family Services Department. Her book, *Illustrated Instructions for Making Lefse*, was written to share her vast knowledge about this Scandinavian delicacy. The book includes useful tips, information, pictures and recipes for and about making lefse.

Learn from the expert! Darlene won the National Lefse Bake-Off in 2007 and has been making lefse for more than 50 years.

***LINDA MOHN: CHILDREN'S NORWEGIAN DANCE CLASS, 1:00 SATURDAY and ADULT'S NORWEGIAN DANCE CLASS, 2:30 SATURDAY**

Linda Mohn became interested in Norwegian ancestry when she enrolled in a Scandinavian history class while in college. To complete a paper for the course, she interviewed her grandfather who related the story of his grandparent's journey to Minnesota from Norway. This led to a joint genealogy project with her father who

translated pages from the Krodsherad bygdebok which included the ancestral farm, Sortebergmoen.

Linda joined the Sons of Norway and the Norwegian Troll Dancers in Jamestown, North Dakota, in 2004. The Troll Dance troupe was started by Julia Schlacht in 1977 to preserve the dances she learned growing up in North Dakota. The Sons of Norway developed the Cultural Skills Program for Folk Dance in 1997 and a year later, the Jamestown group became the first group in Sons of Norway to earn their Cultural Skills Pins. Julia continued to lead the group until 2007 when, at the age of 99, she turned over leadership to Linda.

The Troll Dance group is made up of 14 dancers who range in age from 30 to 85! Linda is one of 12 dancers in the troupe to have earned her Cultural Skills Pin for Folk Dance. She mastered a song dance, a figure dance, and a couples dance at the easy, intermediate, and advanced levels for a total of 9 dances. The Troll Dancers are sought after performers locally in their community and in the surrounding area. They continue to learn more about dance each year by attending the Sons of Norway Folk Dance Workshops.

***ANNE SLADKY: RANDI BJORKVIK ARKIV ON DVD, 3:30 SATURDAY**

Anne Sladky spent over 30 years in the computer field as a systems analyst, design specialist and project manager working on operating systems and business applications.

All of Anne's ancestors came from Norway, hailing from Hadeland, West Telemark, Buskerud and Valdres. In the 1990s, she started creating websites to share her extensive research and to connect with "lost cousins." Since remarrying and retiring to Walker, MN, in 2000, she has become the webmaster for a number of non-profit organizations, including the Hadeland Lag, Telelaget and Landingslag. She coordinated the Norwegian-Minnesotan Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2008.

Hadeland has no bygdebok or local farm history but the local folk museum there has published a DVD of the notes a researcher named Randi Bjorkvik made over a period of three decades of working on that project. Her notes on the families of Gran, Jevnaker and Lunner go back to the 18th century. Anne, Hadeland Lag's webmaster, will show interested attendees how to use that DVD entitled "Randi Bjorkvik Arkiv." She will explain how the DVD is organized and demonstrate how to gather valuable genealogical information from the DVD files. Anyone with roots in Hadeland, Norway, will find this session informative and very interesting.