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Dr. David Judisch receives the St. Olav's Medal and the Citation from Norwegian Honorary Consul Quentin R. Boyken, on behalf of His Majesty King Harald V of Norway, as part of the Luther College Spring Semester Opening Convocation, February 4, 2016. photo: Breanne Pierce ø16, Luther College Photo Bureau

HIS LIFE AND CAREER

His boyhood and education

David E. Judisch was the sixth child of a German background farm couple, born at Buck Creek, rural Sumner IA. Two sisters, a brother, and two other sisters preceded him.

He attended a rural school, which had no music program except - as Dave said, "to crank up a Victrola and sing along with Burl Ives," then High School at Readlyn, now part of the Wapsie Valley High School, and went on to the University of Iowa, where he

received his Bachelor's degree and Master of Fine Arts in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy. Later, in 1979, he received his Doctorate under the tutelage of Professor Herald Stark, himself a Nebraska farm boy.

Prof. Stark did not want to see his pupil go into high school teaching; he wanted Dave, who had signed a contract with the Lake City IA Schools because he needed a job, to pursue a career in professional singing.

Prof. Stark knew Weston Noble and encouraged Prof. Noble to contact the

young music teacher and encourage him to come to Luther College. This meant Dave had to break his contract with the Lake City Schools. Dave and wife Gail arrived in Decorah in 1974 with their older son Nathanael, who was born at Iowa City.

Prof. Judisch had known David Greedy from work together in opera at the University. Dr. Greedy was also on the faculty at Luther, and had succeeded Wesley Abbott as Director of the Luren Singing Society.

In the fall of 1975 Dr. Greedy and öJackö Nelson, then President of the Luren Singers, contacted Prof. Judisch to become Luren's new director, thus beginning a remarkable career that is still unfolding.

His career with Luren and NSAA.

As a Norwegian-American male chorus, Luren had sung primarily songs of Scandinavian background. For many years, many of the members understood and/or spoke Norwegian, so there were several ötutorsö for the German-background director, especially in how to pronounce the words. But he was the professional/professor who could teach the men how to sing those words properly.

Membership in Luren grew. There had already been concert tours to Norway in 1969 and 1973; other tours were arranged for different areas of the Upper Midwest. Soon another tour was planned for Norway in 1983, the year Luren reached its peak in membership, the mid 80s.

Luren continued to take part in the biennial NSAA Sangerfests, hosting in 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006. Soon its director's skills were recognized by the NSAA voting membership, and he was elected Associate Director-in-Chief in 1980 and 1982, and became

Director-in-Chief in 1984, a position he has held to the present time. With a Music Committee including directors of other NSAA choruses, he has helped select Sangerfest pieces, arranged for orchestra and soloists, and shared helpful instructions on how to perform the selections, leading rehearsals and conducting much of the program. On occasion he himself has been a featured baritone soloist.

Under Dr. Judisch's leadership, Luren has returned to Norway for concert tours in 1983, 1993, 2001, and 2015. In addition, he was director for tours to Norway and other Scandinavian countries by members of NSAA choruses, with other singers from the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association and other groups, in 1995, 1997 and 2005. Each of the tours has been planned to include not only the major cities, but also places less often visited by touring musical groups.

In 1989, Luren arranged a concert tour to the West Coast, with several major venues on the way to and from Seattle, including the Air Force Academy chapel and Temple Square in Salt Lake City. In Seattle, Luren joined in the Pacific Coast Sangerfest, honoring the Centennial of the host chorus and the State of Washington. Dr. Judisch was the featured soloist for the event.

His Career at Luther and Beyond

Because of their mutual interest in opera, Dr. Judisch and Dr. Greedy collaborated in establishing the Dorian Opera Theatre at Luther College. He sang the lead role of Edvard Grieg in *Song of Norway* in 1995 and 1996 in conjunction with Decorah's Nordic Fest. In 1999 he played the role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He has continued to teach voice lessons to college students and community peo-

ple, and in his recent retirement from the College he has established a studio in his home for private voice lessons.

Dr. Judisch served three separate years as head of the Luther College Music Department, another 17 years as Associate Head of the Department, and Head of Voice and Opera for 16 of those years.

For several years he was Director of the Senior Choir at Decorah Lutheran Church. Currently, he serves on the Social Concerns Committee of Good Shepherd Lutheran, and is a leader of a Community Meal held twice each month at First Lutheran Church.

Dr. David and Gail (Haberkamp) Judisch were married in 1968. They have two sons. Nathanael is married and lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife and two children. Aaron, who was born in Decorah, is a professional opera singer, currently living in Germany. Gail is an RN, who has worked at Luther College in the Infirmary.

The Medal and Citation



Photo: Kjartan Hauglid The Royal Court.

Part of the presentation by Norwegian Honorary Consul Quentin R. Boyken on behalf of his Majesty King Harald V of Norway: Dr. Judisch is a consummate musician and an inspiring conductor and director who has provided exemplary teaching, scholarship and service. He has

touched the lives of countless students, chorus members and many others both in the United States and Norway.

Dr. Judisch has increased the level of activity and musical achievement of Norwegian-American male choruses over the years and at the same time has preserved and strengthened the bonds between Norwegian-Americans and Norway.

The diploma reads as follows:

**Harald
King of Norway
Does Indeed
Award
David Judisch
The St. Olavs Medal.**

NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY Chicago IL

The chorus has been busy and our rehearsals are enthusiastic. Perhaps that this is a Sangerfest year is paying dividends.

On Sunday, Jan. 31, the chorus performed at the Annual Norge Ski Jump in Fox River Grove. We sang the two national anthems along with Winter Song and *Hil Dig Norge*. There were over 3000 spectators and a great time was had by all!

Saturday, March 13, we were the entertainment at the Chicago Sons of Norway Torske Klub in Des Plaines. This was their annual Ladies Day, with many of the singers wives attending. Our music selections included Climb Every Mountain and *Barnsdomine Fraa Nordland* along with the national anthems. Again, a wonderful time was had by everyone!

(continued on page 16)

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("SINGERS GREETING")

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SangerHilsen Production Assistant Dennis
 Barnaal, barnaade@luther.edu
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OFFICERS OF NSAA

President: Marlan Velgersdyk, 5115 S.
 Rolling Green Ave. #210, Sioux Falls, SD
 57108. (605) 371-0669.

mcvelgersdyk@midco.net

Vice President at Large: Thor Fjell,
 1041 W. Ogden Ave, #118, Naperville, IL
 60563. cell (630)479-4233

thorfjell@comcast.net

Recording Secretary: Richard Leake,
 703 Valley View Dr., Decorah IA 52101
 (563) 382-3796 leakeric@luther.edu

Corresponding Secretary: Donald Berg,
 407 Leif Erikson Dr, Decorah, IA 52101.
 (563)382-5727 FAX(563)387-0770

Treasurer: Francis Peterson, 710 Ridge
 Road, Decorah IA 52101. (563)382-4504
fpmp@MCHSI.com

Grand Marshal: Roger Amdahl, 5008 E.
 28th St., Sioux Falls SD 57110. (605) 336-
 6387; cell (605)929-6488.

Assistant Grand Marshal: James
 Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave, St. Paul MN
 55104-7011. (952)953-9264

jim27ps@gmail.com

Director-in-Chief: Dr. David E. Judisch,
 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah IA 52101.

judiscda@luther.edu

Assistant Director: Terry Walter, 2708
 West Oak St., Sioux Falls SD. (605)339-
 0607 clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com

Past President: Herbert Nelson, 620 Oak
 St W, Stillwater MN 55082-5624.
 (651)587-4819

herbert.nelson@comcast.net

**NSAA STATE VICE-
 PRESIDENTS**

Illinois: Frank Potempa, 1788 W.
 Sherwood Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016.
 (847) 296-2568

fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net

Iowa: Robert Lillie, 1102 Nordic Dr. No.
 223, Decorah IA 52101. (563)419-0159

lillierb223@gmail.com

Minnesota: Norman Arlandson, 4540
 Columbus Ave, Minneapolis MN 55407-
 3526. (612)822-4216

normanarlandson@gmail.com

South Dakota: Curt Hepner, 321 N.
 Lincoln St., Canton SD 57013-1721.

(605)764-2914 mycurt67@gmail.com

Wisconsin: Charles Morkri, 7567
 Pioneer Place, Verona, WI 53593. (608)
 833-3732 nordic@tds.net

**VETERAN CHORUS
 OFFICERS**

President: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th
 Ave., Lennox SD 57039. (605) 647-2851
beckparadoxr@speednet.com

Vice President: Robert Lillie, 1102
 Nordic Dr. No. 223, Decorah IA 52101.
 (563)419-0159 lillierb223@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Larry Lubbert,
 2440 Cedar Valley Rd., Decorah IA
 52101. (563) 382-8053

lubberr@mchsi.com

Marshal: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St,
 Canton SD 57103. Tel (605)987-5720;

Director: Bernhard Gluth, 103 Grove,
 P.O. Box 84, Ft. Atkinson IA 52144.
 (563)534-3079 bcgluth@acegroup.cc

**DEADLINE FOR
 Mar.-Apr. 2016 ISSUE
 Apr. 11, 2016.**

GRIEG MALE CHORUS**Canton SD**

(Editor's note: The following report was received in time for the previous issue, but was somehow left out in the process of transferring copy from one computer to another. Our apologies to Jerry and the Grieg Male Chorus.)

Christmas Greetings to all our NSAA friends and families from the Grieg male Chorus members and families! With sunshine, green grass, and temps in the 50s in South Dakota, it doesn't seem like Christmas is only three weeks away. This unusual weather has been an unexpected blessing though, for everyone attending the many concerts, programs, and festivities of this wonderful season.

The Grieg Male Chorus has had a busy schedule as well. On Nov. 7th, we participated in a program helping chorus charter member Julian Holter celebrate his upcoming 100th birthday. Still participating in rehearsals and concerts when possible, Julian was the soloist in one of the selections during the program. His actual 100th will be on Jan. 1, 2016, but the Open House was held early to take advantage of good weather. With a beautiful day and large attendance, it was a great celebration.

Grieg Male Chorus, Sioux Valley Singers Association and NSAA have been a major part of the lives of Julian and his wife Verna, so his celebration would not have been complete without Grieg participating. One of their first dates was attending a Sangerfest; they celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary Dec. 20th, 2015, and have registered for the June 2016 NSAA Sangerfest.

Dec. 6th the Chorus performed its annual Christmas concert at 4 p.m. at

Grand Valley Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The concert, hosted by the congregation, is held as a benefit for Love, Inc. "Love, in the Name of Christ." Rev. Nate Hanson, a Grieg member, explained during the concert the many ways Love, Inc. touched lives in our community during the past year, and the enormous needs still to be met. Our Chorus looks forward to participating in this event to benefit this organization each year. With holiday refreshments served during the concert, great weather, a large attendance, and generous hearts, the event was a great success.

We are looking forward to two events for our chorus: first on Dec. 12th we are participating in the Lincoln County Courthouse Festival of Trees, and on Monday, Dec. 14th, we will gather with our families and guests as we enjoy our annual Christmas party.

Merry Christmas, and Blessings for the New Year to each of you!

(Editor's note: The following report is intended for this issue.)

Following a winter break during the month of January, the Grieg Male Chorus began regular weekly rehearsals on Feb. 1st, with a kick-off concert at the Canton Good Samaritan Center. Since our chorus uses one of the large community rooms at the Center for our rehearsals, we like to present a short concert from time to time to show our appreciation. This first rehearsal was extra special, as this was also Ladies Auxiliary Night, which meant treats and great refreshments would reward a good rehearsal.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming NSAA Sangerfest, and each

rehearsal now involves discussion, focusing on preparations involving our chorus members.

Greetings from our Chorus to yours, as you perhaps celebrate special days in February with cherry pie and chocolate hearts.



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB Minneapolis MN

We start on a sad note, a final goodbye to another wonderful human being and a very special Glee Club member, Duane Olson. He was a retired ELCA pastor who gave so much to others during a long distinguished career. After country school near Grand Forks and Central High School in Grand Forks, he went on to college at Concordia in Moorhead, then Luther Seminary in St. Paul and Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Ordained in 1953, he served 17 years as missionary pastor and seminary professor in Madagascar, then as TALC mission executive for South Asia and Madagascar, ending with 13 years as Professor of Mission at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, retiring in 1995.

He sang for 13 years with Nordkap, and with the Norwegian Glee Club for five years. He died Dec. 8, 2015. Rev. Olson's memorial service was Dec. 26th at Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Richfield MN. He will be sorely missed by all whose lives he touched.

Glee Club tempo has moved up a notch as we prepare for our Spring gigs, and of course Sangerfest in Sioux Falls, that we look forward to.

We finally have a little snow on the ground, and the mosquitoes have moved south for some rest to plot their return.

On a pleasant note, this writer has scored twice: some great new neighbors and a new singer for the Glee Club. I learned quickly that Gene likes to sing and was interested in joining the Glee Club. He has provided some bio and his picture: a very fine addition to our second tenor section.



Eugene Willms

Eugene Willms is a retired Hennepin County MN employee, who wrote environmental reports for the Road Design Unit in the Hennepin County Transportation Department.

Eugene studied anthropology/archaeology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and graduated from the College of Liberal Arts with a B.S. degree. While at the University he studied the Norwegian language and culture because of his interest in his mother's heritage. His great grandparents emigrated from the Hallingdal area of Norway and settled in the southeastern part of Minnesota. They eventually moved northward and homesteaded land in Ulen Township in Clay County MN.

He is interested in music and currently plays guitar in a three-piece Old Time Appalachian string band,

“The Gritpickers.” They play for square dances, farmers markets, store openings, coffee houses, elder homes, or wherever they are needed.

Recently Eugene studied Violin Repair at the Southeast Technical School in Red Wing, and received a diploma for the same. He hopes to construct and repair violins during his retirement.

Eugene graduated from High School in Ulen MN and considers Ulen his home town. He has lived in the Twin Cities since discharge from the Army in 1971, and now lives in Chanhassen with his wife Ruth (Amundson) - also Norwegian - and their best friend/dog Molly. Eugene and Ruth have one daughter, Anna.

(Editor’s note: I added to Charles’s report from an obituary for Rev. Olson in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Also I am adding to his report the following item, also from the Star-Tribune

Ruth Junette (Reinertson) Peterson, widow of Rev. Luther Peterson, a former member of Nordkap, died Feb. 2, 2016. Her father, E. C. Reinertson, was a former District President in The ALC. Ruth was 83. Her funeral was Feb. 13th at Redeemer Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis.

For a smile: My doctor told me to start my exercise program very gradually. Today I drove by a store that sells sweat pants.



Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS Sioux City IA

The Nordics have begun rehearsals on music for Sangerfest 2016, in the

meantime marking this same year the 125th Anniversary of the Chorus. This and the responsibility of the members and auxiliary on registration and greetings for the June 9-11 event in Sioux Falls.

The origin of Sioux City’s oldest singing group came from eight young Norwegian immigrants who formed the Fram Singing Society. Their performances were mostly in homes.

In 1891, the Chorus known as Normendenes Sangforening emerged with its first director N. S. Orningaard, who served the singers for over 20 years. A similar group was organized the same year in Sioux Falls; both were charter members in a parent organization called the Norwegian Singers Association. From this came biennial conventions featuring music concerts to be known as Sangerfests.

The first national Sangerfest was held in Sioux Falls in 1892. Two years later, Sioux City hosted the national event in the first of several Sangerfests through the years.

It was in 1913 that the Chorus was host for the newly organized Sioux Valley Singers Association, composed of member choruses from Sioux City, Sioux Falls and Canton, performing singing sessions in the off-years between national meets.

No formal celebration for the 125th Anniversary is planned, but the Nordics may mark the Anniversary at a later date.



Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS**Madison WI**

It looks like the Chorus will be busy over the next four months! Between now and Sangerfest we have no fewer than seven scheduled performances. On Sunday, February 14, we sang a ValentinesøDay concert at Livreise, the new Norwegian cultural center in Stoughton. We sang for the grand opening of the center last year and were invited to perform again as part of the øDestination Stoughtonø weekend of Norwegian activities. We sang 14 songs of which 8 were Norwegian or Swedish including *Dansen på Makeskjær*, *Sangerhilsen, Norge, mit Norge!*, and *Fader i Himlen*. Most appropriately we sang *The Gift of Love* and *You Lift Me Up* in celebration of the holiday. Several visitors traveled from Norway to attend the various activities and enjoyed our performance as the kick off to their weekend in Stoughton.

The following Friday we performed another return engagement, this time at the Verona Senior Center. As was the case last year, we had a very enthusiastic and responsive audience. We sang *Man of La Mancha* and *Astri, mi Astri* as well as several of the songs from the Valentinesø Day concert.

On Sunday, March 20, we will be celebrating at our annual Founders Day Dinner. Phil Dybdahl, our Social Director, has organized something new and different for this yearø event. We will have the dinner at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, and the special entertainment is sure to be a pleasant surprise for all.

We welcome two new members to the Chorus. Tom Beatty sang with us two years ago, before taking a break

to manage a family medical crisis. Tom had retired earlier as Facilities Manager with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration. Richard Albright is a retired Stoughton dentist who is looking forward to singing with us as several members of the Chorus were his patients! Tom sings first bass and Rich has joined our second bass section. Welcome aboard, Tom and Rich!



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY**Decorah IA**

Our scheduled resumption of rehearsals on Jan. 25th was delayed due to the snow. It happened again on Feb. 2nd (a day later than usual because of the caucuses held on Feb. 1st). That meant no official rehearsal for Feb. 4th when we were to sing for the special Convocation at Luther College marking the start of the semester and honoring Dr. Judisch, as he received the St. Olavø Medal.

Well, we solved the problem with a brief rehearsal beforehand, and all went well. Dr. and Mrs. Judisch then provided us and other guests with a fine noon luncheon in Peace Dining Room, complete with a nice program featuring reminiscing about how he came to be at Luther College over 40 years ago and then became Lurenø longest-serving director.

On Feb. 6th, we were invited to the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Don and Shirley Housker at Mabel MN. We

did not sing, so Luren members came and went throughout the afternoon.

Now we are back in the groove with emphasis on Sangerfest selections.

We have only one invitation for our usual Lenten appearances: March 9th at Calmar Lutheran Church, served currently by interim pastor and Luren member Phil Olson. We will share a soup supper at 5 p.m., with worship at 6:45.

On April 10th, we will sing a concert at St. Patrick's Church in Waukon (ca. 20 miles east of Decorah). The Allamakee County community will be building a Driftless Area Visitors Center on a site near Harpers Ferry. The proceeds from the concert will go to this cause.

Our long-standing joint concert with the Luther College Norsemen will be on Mothers Day, May 8th, at 7 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. Our ladies usually provide plenty of refreshments after the concert, so the students get to bring to their dormitory rooms plenty of goodies in Care packages prior to their semester finals. Both they and we see this as a Highlight event.

A week before Sangerfest, June 2nd, we are invited to sing for the Sons of Norway Wergeland Lodge at a new location, a Presbyterian church at 1327 N. Salem in LaCrosse WI at 7 p.m. We get to share pie and ice cream after the concert - making this invitation an easy one to accept.

We have a couple dates already for the fall; more about those later. Mean-while, the County Fair runs July 12-16, where we run our food stand and replenish our treasury. Nordic Fest is celebrating its 50th year

in 2016 July 28-30. We'll be involved.

Until next time,



Corr. Sec. Don Berg

NORSE GLEE CLUB

Sioux Falls SD

As with the other choruses, we are coming off our post-holiday recess. We began rehearsals on Monday, February 1st, primarily pointing our preparations toward the NSAA Sangerfest in June. At the initial meeting, we cleared old music and brought aboard the new selections. Some of the new looked pretty yellowed and fragile.

As most of you already know by now, the NSAA Sangerfest is scheduled to be held this year here in Sioux Falls, SD from June 9 to 11. The Sioux Valley Singers Association (SVSA) will host this year's event. In support of this activity, yours truly has recently assumed additional duties as secretary of the SVSA. While working on the executive committee, and hearing the subcommittee reports it appears to me that things are coming together according to plan. A timetable of desired and necessary preparatory actions has been provided to the 10 participating choruses. Should you have any questions, please directly contact Marlan Velgersdyk, (NSAA President) (605-906-3625), or me (605-731-5281).

On the social side, first, last month saw a continuation of a 17-year tradition for us when George and Judy

Regan played co-hosts at a mid-winter evening of "Court Whist." It is an event of card-playing, fellowship, and enjoying good food. We changed card-playing partners every few hands, and rotated, as scores dictated, among the six tables. At the end of the evening, recognition was given to the high scorers and low scorers.

Secondly, this last Monday, February 8th, saw our Director (Lyle) and President (Steve) with help from some Auxiliary members host a Valentine-themed buffet for our members and the Auxiliary in total. The "reds" were quite colorful and abundant. Additionally, we took this opportunity to celebrate WARREN EITREIM'S 90th birthday, as well as some other February birthdays.

Our initial rehearsals for the year showed that "lay-offs" may not be the best thing for voice-quality and music recall, but we will be ready when June comes!!!



Gail A. Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

BJORNSON MALE CHORUS Chicago IL

Our Christmas Dinner Concert was held on Friday, Dec. 18th at the Avalon Banquet Room. After the evening's social hour, we opened the first part of the program with three Christmas tunes before a fine Roast Pork Dinner.

In spite of being "stuffed," the chorus managed to sing Part 2 of our concert ending the night with our favorite tenor, Ken Michaels, leading

O Holy Night concluding with a thunderous standing ovation!

Our first rehearsal in the New Year was on Tuesday, Jan. 5th. The weather was bitter cold and snow was on the way, so several singers played "Hookey," they even admitted to being Norwegian "ó UFDA.

We have the June Sangerfest Program to work on and there are four new songs we are learning and we'll have them ready in plenty of time.

Our only gig so far this year is on Friday March 18th at the 36th annual "Festival of Song" at the Estonia Club in Lincolnshire IL, the "home base" of the Normenneses Singing Society. The attending choruses are expected to sing two songs each, one in Norwegian and one in English. The ladies are invited to enjoy the musical evening as well.

The finale finds the choruses joining together in a Mass Chorus to sing *You'll Never Walk Alone, Dear Land of Home, Let There be Music, Rise Up, O Men of God, Sanctus* and *God Bless America*. Then it's on to refreshments and fellowship.

In closing, it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear singer-brother, Phil Holmes, who went home to be with God on February 11th, after a long battle with cancer, his wife Ruth at his side. We all grieve at his loss and will hold him forever in our hearts.

Leve Sangen,



George Michals, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR**Sioux Falls SD**

Mandskor membersø thoughts of taking a month off in January quickly fell by the wayside. The time over the Christmas holiday was quiet, but the new year has been quite busy with Monday night rehearsals (one was canceled because of weather) and singouts.

President Marlan Velgersdyk kept things humming with Sioux Valley Singers Sangerfest 2016 committee meetings and inspiring SVSA and other NSAA members to sell ads in the Souvenir Program book. Committee meetings from now until Sangerfest will be monthly at a minimum.

ABOUT MEMBERSÍ Our own Ron Beck, who has served as Secretary of SVSA the past several years, decided it was time to hand off this responsibility. Norse Glee Club member Gail Kristensen has graciously accepted the job, and settled right in, writing minutes of committee meetings in January.

Longtime Mandskor member Roger Amdahlø younger brother, Charles, passed away on January 24 in Sioux Falls. Roger and Dene made the trip back from Mesa, AZ when he received word that death was imminent.

SINGOUTSÍ Director Terry Walter made arrangements for us to sing at Dow Rummel Village on January 7. We provided a program at Bethany Meadows (a retirement place in Brandon) on January 26. The reception at both of these venues, as always, was friendly and appreciative. So far, the calendar for the month of February is open, but it may not stay that way for long. Director Terry and

President Marlan have several ideas about places to perform.

SANGERFEST 2016í Ad sales are progressing well, but Marlan urges all the Mandskor and other NSAA chorus members to öGET OUT AND SELL!ö We are at about 55% of budget. In addition to the commercial ads, the campaign now includes personal ads. Information about personals has been distributed, and some sales have been made. This category has the potential of making up an important part of the total. Family members and friends are all prospective personal ad-takers. Various sizes are available from 1/8 to ½ page. JUST ASK. Represent your family for as little as Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). Talk to your local Sangerfest 2016 leader.

The February 1 **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** has come and gone. All NSAA choruses have responded, but some forms are incomplete. It seems registrations are somewhat fewer than our first polling in Nov. 2015. Early payment without penalty is due March 15.

The committees of the **SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS LADIES AUXILIARY** have been planning a fun time for those attending Sangerfest 2016. Thursday will be vendor day, when each vendor will give a door prize at the end of the day. There will also be a style show and free make-overs. Other activities are in the planning stages.

The Friday outing includes lunch at Chef Dominiqueø, a tour of the beautiful St. Joseph Cathedral, shopping at ö8th and Railroad,ö and a visit to Falls Park. The Saturday luncheon will have Julie Clark as featured speaker. Julie is an author, and creator of Inspirational Coffee

Club. Saturday will also have a Norwegian *Butik*.

June 9-11 will be here before we know it. As the date gets closer, the need to expedite preparations becomes more and more important.



John Rasmusson, Corr. Sec.

Mandskor Member Spotlights

Joel Wehrspann came to the Mandskor tenor section somewhere around 2001, because his wife was the accompanist and it seemed natural to carpool to rehearsal. Not unusual for the Wehrspanns. They met while singing together in Lincoln Lutheran Choir in Lincoln NE. Joel would give Deanna a ride to rehearsal.

From St. Louis MO, Joel graduated from Lutheran High School North and continued his education at St John's College in Winfield KS (degree) and also at Concordia College in Seward NE, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Joel and Deanna Wehrspann

He was inducted into Concordia College/University's Athletic Hall of Fame as Asst. Soccer Coach for the

1979 team. Joel worked with Lincoln NE Parks & Recreation and NE State Penitentiary for 25 years. He has had an extensive career as a sports official for softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Currently he works in customer service for TCF Bank.

He and his wife Deanna are parents to Catherine (26), a Luther College grad who just married last September, and Grace (22) a recent St. Olaf College grad.

Deanna Wehrspann began accompanying the Mandskor in 1997. She grew up in Aberdeen and Sioux Falls SD, and graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Deanna has a long resume as a professional pianist, composer, choral singer and church musician. She has accompanied SD All-State Chorus and High School Honor Choir, played with the SD Symphony and was guest pianist for Grammy-winning Phoenix Chorale.

As a composer of choral, vocal, piano and string orchestra music, she is published by Augsburg Fortress and upcoming from Choristers Guild, and was recently commissioned by both the Elementary Honor Choir of the North Central Region of American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and the South Dakota Music Teachers Association. She has been Composer-in-Residence at both Ucross Foundation in Wyoming and Kimmel-Harding-Nelson Center for the Arts in Nebraska.

She is a charter soprano of the SD Chorale, a professional choir honored by being invited to the National Conference of the ACDA in Salt Lake City, in 2015. She is an active church musician at Our Savior's Lutheran

Church in Sioux Falls, where she lives with her husband Joel. Their two grown daughters grew up listening to Mandskor rehearsals every Monday evening.

**HARMONY SINGING SOCIETY
Rockford IL**

Our chorus is pictured below singing at Swedish American Heart Hospital Dec. 15th in Rockford. The folks are in the lobby and looking down from the upper floor and enjoying our music. Accompanist was Sharon Whitlock. This has become a yearly event for us.



Harmony singing at Swedish American Hospital, Dec. 15 2015.
Photo credit: Swedish American Hospital.



Singing at Swed. Am. Heart Hospital.

Our Christmas concert was held Dec. 20th at Broadway Covenant Church. Midway thru the program we had a Holiday Sing with the audience. We and the audience sang:

Go Tell It On The Mountain
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
O Little Town Of Bethlehem
Tryggare Kan Ingen Våra
Accompanist was Linda Smith.

The audio recording of our performance turned out well. If you want to listen to our performance, send me an email and I will reply with a "link." You can then listen to our music. My email is stevej1945@comcast.net

Here are the numbers we sang:
Sanctus, *Fader I Himlen*, Born, Born In Bethlehem, When The Stars Begin To Fall, *Pie Jesu*, The Shepherd's Spiritual, Issay- Issay, The Coventry Carol, Happy Holiday/White Christmas, You're A Mean One Mr. Grinch, One Candle Lights The Way, Silent Night, O Holy Night, Let There Be Peace On Earth, The Angels' Blessing.



Harmony sings at Broadway Covenant Church Dec. 20, 2015.

Let us all look forward to Spring.
Happy singing!



Steve James, Corr. Sec.

Norwegian Singers Association of America, Inc.

(www.nsaaonline.org)
**Pacific Coast Norwegian
 Singers Association**
 (www.pcnsa.org)
Club Membership Index

ILLINOIS CHICAGO

Bjornson Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at V.F.W. Hall; Camfield and Higgins Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068. President: John Lee, 738 Bent Ridge Lane, Elgin, IL 60120. tel. (847) 741-4210; Secretary: George Michals, 5236 Arlington Drive West, Hanover Park, IL 60103 (630)837-8615; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050.

Normenneses Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Thor Fjell, 1041 W. Ogden Ave. #118, Naperville, IL 60563. Tel: (630)369-4233, cell: (630) 479-4233, thorfjell@comcast.net. Recording Secretary: Frank Potempa, 1788 W. Sherwood Rd., fcpotempa@shcglobal.net Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, perc55@juno.com.

ROCKFORD

Harmony Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15th Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Jim Wolf, 1104 15th Ave., Rockford, IL 61104, tel (815) 965-7833.; Corresponding Secretary: Steve James, 625 Dawson Ave., Rockford IL 61107. tel. (815)601-3813. stevej1945@comcast.net. Director: Sherry Dreyfuss, 11665 Glen Eagles Lane, Belvidere IL 61008. Tel (815)978-2245. swedishcantor@gmail.com

IOWA

SIOUX CITY

Nordic Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Blvd. Sioux City, Iowa 51103; President: Gary Munson, 3303 Court St., Sioux City, IA 51104, tel. (712) 277-1428; Corresponding Secretary: Robert R. Hansen, 20 Eastview Drive, Sioux City, IA 51106 (712) 258-7445 gregors5@juno.com; Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, scschuett@aol.com.

DECORAH

Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Ken Larson, 210 Iowa Ave. Decorah IA 52101. tel. (563)382-8167. larsonke@luther.edu. Corresponding Secretary: Donald L. Berg, 407 Leif Erikson Drive, Decorah, IA 52101-1038, tel. (563) 382-5727; Director: Dr. David Judisch, 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah, IA 52101, tel. (563) 382-9222 judiscda@luther.edu.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

Norwegian Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Thursday evening at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. So., Edina, MN. President: Robert O. Olson, 7442 Pillsbury Ave S, Richfield MN 55423-4115; tel. (612)866-0687, hobjoolson@comcast.net ; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 7642 Prairie Flower Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel. (952)401-8838; cbengh@hotmail.com Director: Carsten Sløstod, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639 carstonian@hotmail.com .

SOUTH DAKOTA

SIOUX FALLS

Minnehaha Mandskor

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Center For Active Generations, 2300 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD. President: Marlan Velgersdyk, 5115 S. Rolling Green Ave. #210, Sioux Falls, SD 57108. tel. (605) 371-0669. mcvelgersdyk@midco.net Corr. Secretary: John Rasmusson, 4312 W. 58th St. #109, Sioux Falls SD 57108, tel. (605)271-0838. mrgail@sio.midco.net. Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com.

Norse Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St, Canton SD 57013. Tel (605)987-5720; Corresponding Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt. #110, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, tel. (605)731-5281. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

CANTON

Grieg Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Good Samaritan Center. President: Bill Kortemeyer, 406 E. Poplar Dr., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 764-9060. ringshanks@iw.net Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480th Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161; Director: Lane Karli, 3401 S. Grace Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57103-7219, (605) 275-5591. lkarli@sio.midco.net

WISCONSIN

MADISON

Edvard Grieg Chorus

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704
 Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 richarj@charter.net. Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 richarj@charter.net ; Director: Mark W. Everson, 711 Highway #106, Edgerton, WI 53534, tel. (608) 884-9398 evers11111@aol.com.

SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President:: David Lien, 1800 S. Splitrock Blvs, Brandon SD. 57005. Vice President: Ray Schnabel, 2201 Pebble Beach Ln, Brandon SD 59005. Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt #110, Sioux Falls SD 57104. tel; (605) 731-5281, mrgail@sio.midco.net; Treasurer: David Stene, 6109 Canary Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1076, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com; Assoc. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7th Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 p.petersen@gmail.com. Vice President: Jeffrey Highland; 76 Utsalady Road, Camano Island, WA 98292. (360)387-5285 highland@smum.edu. Secretary: Phil Overlund, 11556 Shadow Ranch Rd; La Mesa CA 91941, (619)660-1125 jpooverlund@cox.net. Treasurer: Rick Olson, 8726 Shadowood Dr, Everett WA 98208, (425)337-0795, olymeister20@comcast.net. Trustees: California: Don Stewart, 5476 Forbes Ave., San Diego CA 92129-1892 (619)287-7812, dstewart73@att.net. Oregon: Mike Bagaason, 2460 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene OR 97405, (541)687-2562, bagaason@riouasa.com. Washington: Allen Feris, 23514 135th Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144, feris.allen@msn.com. Trustee at Large: Allen Feris, 23514 135th Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144, feris.allen@msn.com. ; Director-in-Chief: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net; Asst. Director-in-Chief: Erik Eliason, 8115 49th Ave NE, Marysville WA 98270. Tel. (425)328-9807, erik.eliason@hotmail.com.

CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: time and place unknown

President: Larry Schaleger, qubedude@aik.cin; Secretary: Paul Eikeberg, tel. (925)485-1538 vikingike@yahoo.com. Director: unknown

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal: every Monday at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of San Diego State Univ. in music Bldg. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (619) 709-6171, svenio@cox.net; Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 holmerud@cox.net; Director: Paul May, tel. (619)227-9979 paulthomasmay@gmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO

Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco

Rehearsal: Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. at 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. President: Herleiv Storsteter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathisen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650)947-1357, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: Megan O'Brien.

OREGON

EUGENE

The Norsemen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Sonja Lodge #38, Sons of Norway, 710 McKinley, Eugene, OR 97402. President: Mark Williams, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 541-343-8060. Secretary: Duane Esperum, tel. (206)501-2010 desperum@gmail.com; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 97448-9438. tel. (541) 998-6329 amundson@peak.org

SALEM

Thorsmen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lanning Avenue North East, Salem, OR 97303. President: Paul Flora, tel. (503)363-9753 paul.flora@pgn.com; Secretary: Wes Anderson, tel. (503)363-1714 wander@comcast.net; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf372@centurytel.net

WASHINGTON

BELLINGHAM

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsals every Tuesday evening, 6:00 pm at the Norway Hall, 1419 North Forest St., Bellingham WA. President: Larry Peterson. Tel. (360) 935-1110. Secretary: Jim Florence. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net.

EVERETT

Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue
Everett, Washington 98201
Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. at Normanna Hall; President: Craig Fredlund, tel. (425)210-9067, craig_fredlund@jamco-america.com. Secretary: Robert Bruland, tel. (425)335-1150 burland2@comcast.net. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

POULSBO

Vestre Sund Mannskor

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Stan Overby, 29311 Beach Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 779-2460; Secretary: Warren Rosvold, (360)930-0504, wrosvold@gmail.com; Director: Kathy Haug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360) 908-9806. Kathy@meland.com.

SEATTLE

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Every Monday evening 7:30 p.m. Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 N.W. 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117. Officers: President: Jens Eysteinnson, tel. (205)799-8000, JensEysteinnson@AmericanSeaffods.com. Secretary: Rolf Federspiel, tel. (425)823-9080, farfarfed77@frontier.com. Director: G. Robert Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, bobsings@gohuskies.com

Skagit Valley Manskor

PO Box 481, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Rehearsal every Monday at 7:00 PM at Abel Lodge, 21098 2nd St. Conway WA 98238. Officers: President: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285, highland@smum.edu. Secretary Skip Ingraham tel (360)387-6168. Director Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

TACOMA

Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 20 Tacoma Ave. S, Tacoma, Wash. President: Pete Petersen, tel.(509)607-9406, p.petersen@gmail.com. Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34th St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, jangaardl@hatmail.com; Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.net

(Normennes cont'd from page 3)

The next major event is March 18 at our 36th Annual Festival of Song at our rehearsal site, The Estonian House near Lincolnshire. This is when we invite 6-8 choruses to perform two selections each and at the end we sing in a mass chorus. We are all looking forward to an enjoyable evening.

I do have some bad news ... we lost our former singer, Ole Birkelund, who lost his battle with cancer. Ole was only 65 years old and our prayers are extended to his widow, Mary, and his family.

Yours In Song,



Thor Fjell



Mandskor at the Salute to Veterans.

Note from Gail Kristensen.

I have assumed responsibilities as secretary for the Sioux Valley Singers Association in place of Ron Beck, who is unable to continue due to health issues. I will be assisting Marlan Velgersdyk, NSAA President, as SVSA prepares to host Sangerfest 2016. See index p. 14 under SVSA for contact information.