

BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD BULLETIN

NORWEGIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BYGDELAG
www.fellesraad.com

Since 1916

March 2015

YOU'RE INVITED

To attend the 99th year Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 2 At Mindekirken, 924 E. 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN

The national council of *bygdelaag*, *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad*, holds its 99th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, at the Norwegian Memorial Church, also known as Mindekirken, Saturday, May 2. Coffee upon arrival will be available in the lower level at 9 AM and the meeting will be called to order at 9:30 AM.

Annual lag dues of \$5, payable each January 1, allow for two delegates to be seated to hear reports and elect officers, provided that the lag is in good standing.

Registrations postmarked before April 14 for food and space is \$17 per person (for guests as well as delegates) and the registration blank on page 7 should be **received by R. Lee Brown, the treasurer**, with the lag name, delegates and guests names. Later, fees are \$20 per person.

Special Order of Business: the election of officers will be a special order of business. **There is one vacancy on the Fellesraad board for a director.** Nominations (with the consent of the candidate) should reach the secretary or another board member by April 14 as well as items to be considered for inclusion in the agenda.

Jean Knaak, 2016 Centennial Celebration chair, will report on the fine work of her various committees with plans for the 2016 centennial celebration. **Much of our time will be devoted to volunteers working on various assignments** in order to have an exciting and enjoyable 100th birthday party next year.

Lunch will be served at noon.

2015 Roll call: Delegates will state their names and tell who from their lag will be responsible to co-ordinate their lag exhibit or display for 2016 Centennial. Ann

Romo, lag exhibit chair, will be sending complete details to each lag. Please start to plan! To make, assemble, and exhibit your lag's notable accomplishments, here are a few basics to know:

Carolyn Bliss, a retired church musician and well known to Twin Cities Lutherans, will present an interactive musical program for the meeting.

For many with limited Norwegian, we'll have a chance to listen to the music, hear the commentary, and practice singing in both Norwegian and English.

◆ **Tables are 18 inches wide, 8 feet long, about 29 inches high;** 1 or 2 for each lag.

◆ **Nothing** can be attached in any form to the walls. Free-standing poster board or other elements that fold may work. Large showy pictures might be used for objects too large, too small or too valuable.

◆ The area will be secure.

Set up times will be very early for lag displays and vendors. The 2016 annual meeting starts at 8 AM.

In 2016 active *bygdelaag* will have several opportunities to 'show their stuff'. A great many have already celebrated their own centennials, but they will wish to show their unique current and future interests to prospective members.

Each lag banner deserves to be seen. Now is the time to make arrangements with someone to be sure it is in Minneapolis for the 2016 celebration..

At one time **the banner keeper** was an extremely honored position in each lag, often more important than some elected leaders. (In 1999 at the NABC in Decorah, IA, Vesterheim Museum had a showing of retired lag banners of lag who had replaced an old banner or of lag groups that no longer meet. Some, of course, ended up in the wrong hands and were not preserved.) **Most banners were gifts from the home district in Norway and are worthy works of art.**

Fellesraad is providing an incentive for new members to join your lag by offering reduced price registration for 2016 lag members at the Centennial.

(Go to page 7)

Based on the geography of your family origins in Norway, *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad* invites you to look at a [brochure map](#) and find your lag at www.fellesraad.com

Agenda - May 2

COME, CELEBRATE YOUR ROOTS at a 2015 STEVNE!

June

18-20 Valdres Samband & Vestlandslag:
Voss, Sunnfjord, Sognalag, Rogaland, Nord-/Sunnhordland, Møre og Romsdal and Hardanger – Kelly Inn, **St. Cloud, MN**
Bob Hanson, H4414463@juno.com or **763.441.4463**
Tom Standal, tjstandal@gmail.com

23-25 Nordlandslag, Holiday Inn, **Alexandria, MN**
Shirley Sampson, booklady@runestone.net or **320.986.2861**

July

09-12 Sju (7) Lag Stevne, Convention Center, **La Crosse, WI** See www.7lagstevne.com & register with one lag: **Toten** (president@totenlag.org); **Telelag** (jbhoberg@charter.net); **Sigdalslag** (knaak002@bevcomm.net); **Ringerike-Drammen**, (lynn8487@gmail.com); **Numedalslågen**, (sah4664@msn.com); **Hadeland**, (president@hadelandlag.org), and **hosts, Landingslag coordinator** Sandra Hendrickson, shendrickso@gmail.com or **952.892.5402**

August

05-08 Tre-Lag Stevne: Trønderlag, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, Gudbrandsdalslag -- Plaza Hotel, **Eau Claire, WI**
Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com or **952.922.9587**

13-15 Sognefjord: St. Olaf College, **Northfield, MN**
Kathy Johnson, kjohnson44@ameritech.net or **608.238.1785**

13-15 Hallinglag, Best Western, **Willmar, MN**
Tom Lanman, telanman@comcast.net or **651.731.5402**

September

12-13 Opdalslag, Scandia Lutheran Church, **Centerville, SD**
Pauline Strait, phstrait@gmail.com
16-19 Romerikslag & Solør Lag: Best Western Riverfront, **La Crosse, WI**
Joel Botten, **507.351.6712**, or Marie Thompson, **641.423.0487**
20 Nordfjordlag (National), Green Lake Bible Camp, **Spicer, MN**
Connie Olson, **763.972.7266**; Gene Rodi, **612.722.3324**

CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH EVENT. LEARN, BE ENTERTAINED, TAKE A TOUR, RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY, ENJOY ETHNIC FOOD & FRIENDSHIP.

Save the date, May 5 - 8, 2016

for the Fellesraad's CENTENNIAL Celebration

=====IN MEMORY=====

Please send President Somdahl a written notice of the deaths of lag leaders or someone in their family and the office they held in your lag.

Since 2004 we have read their names and sent a memorial toward maintenance of a pioneer place of worship, the old Muskego Church at Luther Seminary. Please **check the spellings** of the names before submitting them. They no doubt have appeared in your lag newsletter or the daily paper in your community.

Arrival Coffee at 9:00 AM.
Greet Others
Call to order about 9:30
National Anthems, accompanied by **Sandra Hendrickson**
United States
Canada
Norway

Introductions of Officers
Greetings
From the Honorary Norwegian Consulate General

ROLL CALL of delegates:

Secretary's 2014 Minutes
Report of Audit and Treasurer's report

Special order:
Election for 2015-16

Report of Centennial Celebration—Jean Knaak, Chair

Report of the Officers
President
Vice President
Webmaster

Cultural Program:
SING! BE HAPPY!
with
CAROLYN BLISS

Table Prayer: *I Jesu Navn*
LUNCH

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

****other items for possible inclusion in the agenda must reach the board by April 14**

www.fellesraad.com

Hilsen fra Presidenten:

It is 75 years since Norway became an occupied country April 9, 1940. I'm re-printing a column about it on the next page. It gives both inspiration and reflection about our own freedoms and how blessed we are today. It show how the "relatives" who stayed in Norway dealt with the unknown — stretching into five years. **It makes me as proud of their courage as I am of our ancestors who settled in North America and put up with many unforeseen circumstances here!**

It is also 190 years since the first group emigration—the Sloopers—from Stavanger, Norway. Values and ideas shared with those generations coming after us is the legacy not only of our genes or health but also of our ethnic inheritance—in our case—a Norwegian heritage. **This is a reason to celebrate the Fellesraad Centennial Celebration May 5-8, 2016.**

Because all of the *bygdelag* build on the efforts of previous lag leaders, you are asked to include them in a Fellesraad memorial (page 2). The old timber Muskego church, built in 1843 in Wisconsin, was moved to Luther Seminary's St Paul campus. A Syttende Mai celebration takes place each year at 3 PM.

Congratulations are in order for newly elected lag presidents: **Shirley Sampson**, Nordlandslag; **Dennis Sorheim**, Nordfjordlag; **LaRee Opdahl**, Nordhordland/Sunnhordland; **Ken Mjoen**, Opdalslag; **Sharold Hipfner**, Numedalslaagenlag; and **Bill Hoberg**, Teleglag. Please introduce yourself when we meet May 2.

All presidents will be asked to pass on this BULLETIN to their lag boards, genealogists and editors. Their treasurers should know what deadlines need to be observed to work with the Fellesraad. Information about prices for the coming annual meeting are found in a year-end *BULLETIN* sent between Halloween to Thanksgiving. It is also found under "Documents" online at the www.fellesraad.com website along with **printable brochures**. However, the lag president should strive to **to keep information current for brochure and for lag listings, or designate someone else to do this!** New officers and new members would like to get current news.

Here for your file are the deadlines:

- ◆ **January 1 Annual lag dues of \$5 are payable to Fellesraad's treasurer.**
- ◆ **January 15 the city and date/s of annual stevne—plus a contact person with phone and email for print ads due to president and webmaster.**
- ◆ **February 15 Names and address of Lag delegates due to both president and treasurer**

Look for page 2 print ad in *VIKING* magazine in April.

The format may change next year—either in frequency, size or both. This ad alone costs six times the combined income generated by the individual lag and the same person has prepared it since 1987.

Promotion of the bygdelag movement is our main goal, and publicity includes providing a web site, putting our name on gifts to support several other Norwegian endeavors and institutions. In the past we have generated small stipends for lag genealogists and we supported newsletter improvement gifts when several lag had not yet graduated to computer formats.

Last year the Fellesraad offered an incentive of \$100 per lag to match the first \$100 for lag gifts to Norway House that come in between May 3, 2014, and April 30, 2016. Most groups have taken advantage of the offer which has a year left. **With the previous gifts of \$5,000, the Fellesraad has now given Norway House a total at this writing of \$6,500.**

Previous concerns about various insurances came up this year with a specific request. Fellesraad does not have authority to dictate how autonomous lag make decisions since it is not a "top-down" corporation. It owns no tangible property (office buildings), and has all volunteers in our non-profit, so coverage doesn't readily exist for our special needs. **The board did look into the specific type requested for fiscal officers and directors, and the board cannot afford the closest type, even for itself.** Electing competent officers who have good practices and regular reporting is prudent. All officers must be alert, aware and offer scrutiny and questions if the occasion calls for it.

The Fellesraad exists to encourage and cheer your efforts to preserve heritage with your communities in Norway and with prospective members and lag members in the US and Canada.

For the coming year **we will promote early, reduced registration for 2016 lag members to come to the Centennial** of the 1916 founding of the co-ordinating council for *bygdelag*. This points out the fact that **before there was a council, we had many independent bygdelag, beginning with Valdres Samband in 1899.** Since then another 20 lag have held their own centennial celebrations. In 2016 Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag will celebrate its Centennial in July. **We are not hierarchical, as many organizations are.**

Now hopefully, we can all pitch in, work hard and enjoy the Party of the Century in 2016!

Marilyn D. Somdahl

THE WINTER BAN by then Mindekirken Pastor,
Bjørn Sorensen
(From *Communicator*, April 1995, and re-printed with permis-
sion in the *Ringerike Modum Eiker BREV*, May 1995)

There is a sign in our apartment building lobby saying, "The winter parking ban is in effect—No parking in the front—Violators will be towed."

April gives me a mindset of feelings this year. It is 55 years since the Nazi "winter ban" went in effect in Norway and lasted for 5 years. There were signs all over the country stating what was not allowed and that violators would be arrested and 'towed' to prison camps in Germany. The normal fine was almost always to be "sentenced to death."

I don't like to be reminded of those dark years of Norwegian history, but we have to keep history alive. We owe that to future generations. We have to tell the true story of what happened to mankind those years of evil.

Many of you watched the story of the Holocaust on TV last month. I have a feeling that many of you barely believe it could really be like that. It happened to 6 million Jews and a few thousand of them were Norwegians. To some it was even worse than a film can tell about. **April 9, 1940, will always be on the calendars of Norwegians to be recognized, not to celebrate, but in remembrance of so much.**

What do I remember? I remember I learned a new word. It wasn't in any dictionary at the time. It was new to almost everybody—evacuate. We had never done that before. But in the strong and cold winter days of April 1940, all the schools were closed and the people, the civilian population, moved from their homes to the countryside and rural areas, to cabins or they stayed with friends and families in order to flee from the dangers of air raids. I remember seeing the bombs fall.

I remember seeing prisoners of war kept in small and overcrowded tents like wooden houses. I saw them freezing and hungry, clothed in rags and tatters, some even without shoes on their feet during the cold winter. I remember I was not allowed to give them any of the food I had. I did it anyway—not knowing how dangerous it was. I was only 11-12 years old when the nightmare started. Yes, I had seen people suffering, even though I didn't suffer that much.

I also remember my own father being arrested. As a tailor, he made a suit out of fabric stolen from a German storage building. He didn't know that he should have been reporting it to the Nazis which he failed to do. Anyway, he came home the same day, but it could

have been worse, I tell you.

Of course, I also remember happy days of childish joy. We had to entertain ourselves. We had no movies to see, no TV (or radio), and you were not allowed to gather as a large group of people. As our homes were our kindergarten, our theater, and where people gathered behind blackout curtains, singing our national heroic songs and hymns, talking about being free some day, I remember going to church. You could do that and the church was crowded. In time of danger and fear, God is needed and the prayers were many. The church was a place of refuge. You could breathe and talk, and you could sing of happier days to come. At church we also could talk about hope and the future and encourage each other not to give in.

The winter parking ban at our apartment building also included a sentence saying, "The ban will be lifted approximately April 1st." Our (WW II) war posters, with all the bans, did not say anything of that.

But surely, the ban was lifted in May 1945—the month of liberation and freedom! But that's another story to be told in the May issue of the *Communicator*.

Other Coming Events

March 28 - Nordmanns Forbundet/Norwegians Worldwide Brunch at 10:30 AM with speaker Lois Rand, wife of the late Ambassador Sidney Rand. Minnesota Valley Country Club. \$55 for non-members. Send checks before March 23 to NF/NWW, c/o Kringstads, 8148 Kentucky Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55438.

April 16-June 13 - Henrik Ibsen's play, *The Master Builder*, at Commonweal Theatre Company, Lanesboro, MN.
www.commonwealththeatre.org

April 18 - Twin Cities Friends of Vesterheim Museum holds its Nordic Marketplace event at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest Hotel. Contact Stephanie Johnson, 563-382-9681.

May 17—Norway's Constitution Day falls on Sunday. Buttons will be sold at the May 2 meeting, and brochures will be available. Last year the evening banquet at Minnesota Valley Country Club was "sold out", so if you definitely want ticket information before the Fellesraad meeting, e-mail Marilyn Somdahl. The Norwegian Glee Club Concert followed by the 11 AM worship service at Mindekirken demands that you arrive earlier than you think—to have time to park. See www.mindekirken.org.

June 18 - Midsummer Celebration at Norway House, next door to Mindekirken, Minneapolis. www.norwayhouse.org

June 28—Scandinavian Summer Fest at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. (new fest day for all of Scandinavia) Come!

Minutes of the 98th Annual Meeting

The 98th Annual Meeting of *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad* was held May 3, 2014, at Mindekirken in Minneapolis, MN.

President Marilyn Somdahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed delegates and guests. She called for a special order to the agenda for the elections and to discuss Norway House plans.

The Norwegian, Canadian, and American National Anthems were sung with Elaine Nordlie of Telelag at the piano. The President introduced members of the Executive Board.

Guest: Gary Gandrud, Honorary Norwegian Consul General at Minneapolis, brought greetings and told of the 200th anniversary celebrations this year for the 1814 Norwegian Constitution, one of the oldest in the world.

Roll Call: The roll call for each *bygdelag* was read by Secretary Mary Gross, and the delegates answered with their names and a report of their lag's interest in Norway House. A clip board was circulated by the president with a list by lag to sign up lag volunteers for the centennial celebration committees in 2016.

(Responding were 43 delegates, as follows:)

Gudbrandsdalslag, 2; Hadeland, 2; Hallinglag, 2; Hardanger, 2; Landingslag, 2 (182 members); Møre og Romsdal, 2; Nordfjordlag, 2; NordHedmark og Hedemarken, 2; Nordhordland/Sunnhordland, 1 (75); Nordlandslag, 2; Numedalslaagenlag, 2; Ringrike Drammen Districts, 2; Rogaland, 1; Romerikslag, 2 (130 m); Sigdalslag, 2; Sognalag, 2 (183); Solørlag, 2; Sunnfjord, 1; Telelag, 2 (448); Totenlag 2 (230); Trønderlag, 2; Valdres Samband, 2; Vestlandslag, 1; Vosselag, 1.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made to accept the minutes of May 4, 2013, as printed in the newsletter. Motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The report for April 30, 2014, along with the budget ending April 30, 2015, was presented by R. Lee Brown, Treasurer. The books, records and ledgers for the period May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, were audited and found in order by Robert O'Neil. Treasurer Lee moved to accept the financial statements and the audit as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. (Copies of reports attached in minutes book.)

Special Order - Elections: The slate of (incumbent) officers placed in nomination for the coming year was read by the president. Nominations for an additional director were requested from the floor but none were offered. A motion to close nominations was seconded and passed. A motion was then made to accept the slate as presented: President Marilyn Somdahl, Vice President Marilyn Sorensen, Treasurer R. Lee Brown, Secretary Mary Gross, Webmaster/Director EuGene Rodi, Director Eunice Helgeson, and Director Don Teigen. Motion was seconded and passed.

Special order - Norway House: President Marilyn called on John Haugo, delegate from Telelag who is also on the Norway House Board, to come forward to accept the donation of \$2500.00 to Norway House. Delegates had voted to add this amount at last year's meeting, but it was not budgeted last year.

John then gave an explanation of what was needed from lags and individual donors for completion of the Norway House project. So far 2 million dollars have been committed to the project by donors, including \$5000.00 from Fellesraad.

Secretary Mary read the motion made at the February 28, 2014, Fellesraad Board meeting that as an incentive to lags to donate to Norway House, Fellesraad will match each lag donation up to \$100.00 per lag during the period from May 3, 2014, to April 30, 2016. If all lags made at least a \$100.00 donation, the Fellesraad would then donate an additional \$2700.00 during that period. (Go to p. 6)

Fellesraad Minutes of May 3, 2014, (continued)

The president offered brochures and other informative pamphlets available about Norway House for lags to take to their respective boards and *stevner* for discussion. It was noted that several lags and individual lag members have already donated or pledged to Norway House. Other lags haven't had the opportunity to present it to their members.

President's report was printed in the newsletter. Marilyn requested names of lag treasurers to improve communication. The newsletter was sent out electronically to lag presidents but there seemed to be difficulty with responses to registration and payment for the annual meeting.

Vice President: Marilyn Sorensen reported that 20 people attended Norwegian Lag Week at Salt Lake City, Utah, this year. Roots Tech (conference) will be February 12-14 and Norwegian Lag Week February 15-21, 2015.

Webmaster: EuGene Rodi changed our Internet Service Provider (ISP) and has rewritten the entire web page. He welcomes lag updates for the web site as changes occur. Much lag information seems to be out of date. He would like **e-mails of lag treasurers to be placed on the site in a secure area.**

New Business: Jean Knaak, 2016 Fellesraad Centennial Chair, gave a report on the plans made so far for the May 6-7 Centennial Celebration and Annual Meeting. Jean received the list of volunteers that had been circulated among the lag delegates. Two to four people per lag are needed.

Centennial Day will be held at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. That is Saturday, May 7: Annual Meeting at 8 AM, followed by lag exhibits and displays and vendors. Celebration Day includes a morning session, lunch, afternoon session, cash bar, evening banquet (wear your bunad).

Pre-conferences and a conference reception will be at Doubletree by Hilton (formerly the Minneapolis Boulevard Hotel) in Brooklyn Center, Friday, May 6, 2016.

This is where sleeping rooms have been reserved, but other motels are nearby.

Cultural Program: Dr. Byron Nordstrom gave a presentation: "Destined to Fail?" about the unique Norwegian/Swedish union of 1809 - 1814, ending with the Norwegian Constitution of May 17, 1814, being signed at Eidsvoll.

The meeting was adjourned at noon and a delicious lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Mary Gross, Secretary

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

By special arrangement with the publisher, the Norwegian American Historical Association recently sent its members a new book, *Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants From Norway to America Through the Canadian Gateway*, by **Odd S. Lovoll**. It was published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2015. Paperback edition, 211 pp, \$19.95.

Amy Boxrud has assumed the administrative reins at the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) at Northfield, MN. She began following the retirement of **Jackie Henry** in February. She brings a wide range of talents, including musical interests and superb editing skills.

Fellesraad's most recent membership for organizations was renewed a number of years ago at NAHA and is valid through about 2025 or 2030.

May 2 Annual Meeting Reservation Form
Come to Mindekirken for coffee, business, program and lunch

Postmarked before April 14, cost is \$17 per person; thereafter, cost is \$20 per person

We are/I am _____, a Delegate for _____ Lag

This lag has _____ individual members **or** _____ family units

(Non-delegates are **guests**; give names and lag)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAIL with check before April 14 — also last day for refunds or changes in delegates—

To Treasurer R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422

----- detach here -----

Annual Meeting (Continued from page 1)

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Officers

Handouts for 2016 early, reduced price registration for lag members as well as the program schedule, subject to very little change, will be available at the May 2 meeting. This information should be distributed at all of the 2015 *stevner* and to newsletter editors.

Marilyn Dahlen Somdahl, President, 952-831-4409
the.president@fellesraad.com
5100 West 102 Street, Unit 209,
Bloomington, MN 55437

Many more volunteers will be needed at the centennial itself and in the weeks just prior to this event. It may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many attendees.

Marilyn Sorensen, Vice President, 651-633-1329
rddlagen@usfamily.net
4468 Arden View Court, St. Paul, MN 55112

- If you are a lag president, **you are responsible to see that your delegates get this meeting notice**; others may also wish to hear our program. You will get a pdf to forward or to print and send to delegates.

Mary Gross, Secretary, 507-640-1417
the.secretary@fellesraad.com
401 South First Street, #1822, Mpls, MN 55401

- **If your lag plans to hold a planning meeting following lunch at Mindekirken**, please call the church office (612-874-0716) to make arrangements and pay the appropriate fees or your portion of it.

R. Lee Brown, Treasurer, 763-588-6666
the.treasurer@fellesraad.com
2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422

- Lag leaders who update web information frequently will help interest people in finding a lag to join!

EuGene A. Rodi, Webmaster/Director, 612-722-3324
the.webmaster@fellesraad.com
2600 E. 43rd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Eunice Helgeson, Director, 612-724-7202
5541 Woodlawn Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55417

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7250 Lewis Ridge Pkwy #217
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Bygdelagesnes Fellesraad Bulletin
Marilyn D. Søndahl, President & Editor
5100 W. 102 Street, #209
Minneapolis, MN 55437

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Bygdelag Week Hailed A Success For 10th Consecutive Year in Utah

There were 20 participants for the 10th consecutive year of Bygdelag Week February 16-21 at the Family History Center at Salt Lake City, UT. **Elaine Hasleton** and **Fellesraad VP Marilyn Sorensen** coordinated activities and classes for lag genealogy buffs. They express thanks to everyone that added value to the week.

Ginny Wegenast designed a new pin and logo to use on future announcements. Millie and Sheila Andorfer will order pins.

Judith Kay, Salt Lake City, taught an excellent class about new changes to Family Search and provided techniques for traveling through pages of information. Other informative classes included **Steve Hall's**

presentation about using Facebook, a 2-part session on *IrfanView* (a free software) and a snipping tool by **Joni Kesler**, and **Sheila Andorfer** taught techniques for better computer security.

Ample time was reserved for family research and assistance. **Laila Christensen**, who divides her residence time between Norway and Florida, provided generous assistance in solving a "brick wall" genealogy puzzle of many years for one conference participant.

Bygdelag Week will be February 7-13, 2016, with special rates at a hotel next door to the Family History Library. Details will be posted on Fellesraad's web site, www.fellesraad.com

Plan to attend. Norwegian resource people there help make your searches productive.

