

# Northern California Spelmanstag News

Promoting Scandinavian Folk Music and Dance

November 2003

## Hello From New Editor

Hello Everyone! I am Marie Kay Hansen, your new editor. I have been fiddling for many years. However, I am new at editing. It is fun and frustrating about equally! Sorry for any changes in the format or layout you might not be too happy with. I have had hours of help from Sarah Kirton and my husband, John Hamilton!

I will ask for help from all of you in finding informational articles for our newsletter. Please send in your ideas about articles that could be written, or people who might be able to write them, AND completed articles ready to be included in the next issue.

Here are a few topics to give you inspiration to write:

- \* Interesting music/dance/song details from your travel experiences in Scandinavian countries.
- \* Biographies of your favorite musicians and dancers.
- \* Musical instrument building, repair, maintenance, history, and myths.
- \* History of a dance or vocal style from a particular area.
- \* Review of a relevant CD you enjoy and would recommend to others.
- \* Tips for beginning dancers and musicians (techniques, etiquette in sessions, how to prevent repetitive stress injury, etc.).
- \* Discussion of a fiddle style from a particular musical province and recording titles that exhibit that style.
- \* Workshop reports describing tunes and/or dances learned, or other personal notes.
- \* Public letters of appreciation to those organizing and producing our many excellent events.

As for calendar items, send them to both Jim and myself. Jim will put them on the web as soon as possible. I will add them to the next issue. You *can* include items that are certain to happen, but are still in the planning stage.

Sincerely, Marie Kay

P.S.

Send in your announcements now to be included in the next issue! Deadline January 20, 2004.

## It's That Time of Year Again..

Yes, it's that time of year again, when thoughts turn to gifts and taxes... and to memberships in various organizations. Please look over the Questionnaire inside the back cover. Make sure your address information is up to date. While you're at it, think about what you'd like to see the organization do for you, and what you might do for us. Sometimes it takes awhile to organize events, but your suggestions are all considered, and often acted upon.

Last, but not least, remember to donate. We still have not reached our goal of paying for the newsletter by donations; we'd like to keep it free to all who'd like to receive one.

## Valdres Springar Dance Workshop and Retreat January 24 - 25, 2004

The last weekend of January, 2004 brings us a dance workshop in Valdres Springar at the Hidden Villa Wilderness Preserve and Hostel, just outside of Los Altos Hills, CA. The dance teachers will be Olav Jørgen and Mary S. Hegge, and the fiddler will be Sarah Kirton.

**Olav Jørgen Hegge** is a leading tradition bearer of both the hardingfele and dance style from the Valdres valley of Norway. He has played and danced for more than 35 years. Olav has judged both music and dance at local and regional competitions, as well as at the national competition in Hardanger fiddling. He has taught hardingfele at the University of Oslo, and is now teaching at the Ole Bull Academy in Voss. He is a recipient of the 1996 Saga Prize awarded by Saga Petroleum, naming him as a master

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## Board of Directors

The Northern California Spelmanslag has a board of 12 members. Current directors are:

- Jeanne Sawyer, President,  
jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com
- Betsy McKone, Vice President,  
recbetsy@aol.com
- Jim Little, Treasurer,  
james.little@sri.com
- Frank Tripi, Secretary,  
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- Henry Sawyer, Director,  
hsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com
- Tom Sears, Director,  
tomsearspols@hotmail.com
- Jane Tripi, Director,  
fjtripi@juno.com

Frank and Josephine Duvenek and is now a nonprofit 1600 acre organic farm and wilderness preserve. The organization is dedicated to environmental protection, sustainable building and agriculture, and education. There is a Youth Hostel and meeting facilities as well as beautiful hiking trails in the preserve area. We reserved the Hidden Villa Hostel for the group for Saturday evening. We encourage you to stay there to enjoy the surroundings and the company. There is a comfortable dining room/lounge to use for dinner, breakfast, and a Saturday evening after party. The accommodations are bunk house style cabins that sleep 4 to 12, with the bathroom located in a separate building. The Hostel provides a duvet, pillow, and pillow case, please bring your own sheets and towels. Sheets and towels are also available to rent at the Hostel. You can sign up for the Saturday night accommodations using the registration form found at your local dance class or on the NCS web page at <http://members.aol.com/jglittle/ncs.html>. There are 26 to 28 available beds, so sign up early. You are welcome to extend your stay to include Friday and/or Sunday nights. Please contact Hidden Villa Hostel directly for these reservations, [www.hostel@hiddenvilla.org](mailto:www.hostel@hiddenvilla.org) or call 650-949-8648. There is an additional charge for extra nights. We will ask for volunteers to help with the meal preparations, set up, and clean up. Please bring treats to share for the after party Saturday evening.

**Events: Saturday:** Teaching: 9:30am. to 5:00 pm., Dance Party: 7:30—10:00pm. **Sunday:** Teaching & Review: 10:30am to 1:30pm. Sunday afternoon you're welcome to stay and hike the trails or visit the organic farm at Hidden Villa Wilderness Preserve.

**Related Events:** Friday evening: Pre-party 7:30—10:30 (\$4) at the Carriage House, Holbrook-

(*Valdres continued*).....teacher for a young musician.

**Mary S. Hegge** has studied dance intensively since the mid 1980s with master dancers in Norway and Sweden, concentrating on the springar dances from Valdres and Telemark. She is a Class A level Valdres dancer. Together with Olav Jørgen Hegge, she has presented programs of Valdres music and dance and has taught numerous courses and weekend workshops in the U.S., Sweden and Norway. She has also served as a dance judge at the Jørn Hilme competition in Valdres, Norway.

**Sarah Kirton** will play for the dance workshops and party. Sarah plays and teaches both regular fiddle and hardingfele and has studied Valdres music with Olav Jørgen Hegge in Norway. Sarah has played for dance classes both here and in Norway.

**Location, housing, and other practical details:** Hidden Villa is a local treasure, nestled in the foothills just 10 – 15 minutes outside of Los Altos. It has the weekend getaway feeling without the weekend getaway drive. Hidden Villa was originally the historic home of

The Northern California Spelmanslag News is published quarterly. The NCS News is also online at:

[members.aol.com/jglittle/ncs.html](http://members.aol.com/jglittle/ncs.html)

**Deadline for next issue:** January 20, 2004.

Send articles and calendar information to:

Marie Kay Hansen, (209)836-5494

[brizal@comcast.net](mailto:brizal@comcast.net) or 15564 Rancho Ramon Dr., TRACY, CA, 95304-9754

To update Web Page Calendar between issues, send information to: Jim Little, (650)323-2256

321 McKendry, MENLO PARK, CA 94025

[james.little@sri.com](mailto:james.little@sri.com)

Address all other correspondence to:

Northern California Spelmanslag

321 McKendry, MENLO PARK, CA 94025

(*Valdres continued*).....Palmer Park, Atherton, CA (For info., call Linda or Jim at 650-323-2256). Fiddle lessons are available with Olav Jørgen by arrangement through Betsy McKone)

**Costs:** Workshop package: \$107.00 (Includes dance workshop, Saturday dance party, Saturday night at the Hostel, Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday continental breakfast and bag lunch) Workshop "only", includes meals, no lodging \$85.00 Saturday evening dance party only: \$10.00 Hostel check-in: 4:00 pm to 9:30 pm / check-out by 11:00 am. The trail between the Visitor Center dance space and the Hostel is not lighted; PLEASE BRING A FLASHLIGHT. For more information, contact Betsy McKone, 650-368-8006 or e-mail at < [recbetsy@aol.com](mailto:recbetsy@aol.com) >. Hidden Villa Website: < [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org) >

## 21st. annual San Francisco Bay Area Scandia Festival

Featuring: **Björn Fredriksson, Ingegerd Vejvi, Pelle Björnlert, Eric and Katarina Hammarström**

The slängpolska from Eastern Sweden (Östsvensk Slängpolska) will be featured at the Scandia Festival this year. The Slängpolska is a dance which appeals to dancers of all experience levels. Beginners can enjoy the dance in its simplest form, with even steps and few figures. Additional figures combined with the use of uneven timing of steps and continued development of lead/follow skills add depth for experienced dancers. Resembling somewhat Telespringar and other European dances, this Slängpolska appeals to dancers outside the Scandinavian dance community, including those who have trouble with turning dances.

Dance teachers **Björn Fredriksson** and **Ingegerd Vejvi** both live in Småland. Both started dancing in their teens and soon began to search for old dances of their area. Their interest shifted to the Slängpolska, and they worked with a few other researchers to reconstruct the version danced today. In Sweden Björn and Ingegerd are the primary teachers for this dance, and they have taught many workshops and courses there. We look forward to their first teaching visit here!

Fiddler teacher **Pelle Björnlert** discovered the music of this area in the early 1970's through his teacher and playing companion, Bengt Löfberg. He has researched old tunes for the Slängpolska from his part of Östergötland, which borders Småland. Pelle teaches annually at the weekend Slängpolska course in Malexander, Sweden. He can be heard on two CDs on

the GIGA label. Playing for dance is a high priority for Pelle, and dancing to Pelle's music is a delight. He, too, makes his first teaching visit here.

Musician **Eric Hammarström** began playing fiddle at the age of 8 years. After taking fiddle courses from Dalarna and Hälsingland fiddlers he started to concentrate on folk music from Östergötland. He now follows the tradition of Pelle Fors, a 19th century fiddler from Östergötland. Eric earned his Bronze Zorn award in 2000.

Eric's wife **Katarina Hammarström** will accompany him on the cittra. The daughter of Ingegerd Vejvi, Katarina learned folk dance and music early in life. A regular dance teacher at the Malexander course, she is an excellent dancer displaying an energetic aspect to her dance.

Dancers of all levels are welcome; however, prior knowledge of the fundamentals of Scandinavian dance is essential for full benefit.

The weekend package includes:

*Dance and fiddle Workshops:* Saturday and Sunday

*Dance parties:* Friday, Saturday and Sunday (open to all). *Lunch:* Saturday and Sunday

**Dancers:** Pre-registration is required for the dance workshops. Call or write Brooke Babcock, 415-334-3455 or [forbrooke@juno.com](mailto:forbrooke@juno.com)

Nobi Kurotori, [nobi@juno.com](mailto:nobi@juno.com)

Jane & Frank Tripi, 510-654-3636 [fjtripi@juno.com](mailto:fjtripi@juno.com)

Mark Wegner & Mary Korn, 510-527-9209

[wegorn@aol.com](mailto:wegorn@aol.com)

**Fiddlers:** Call or write Fred Bialy at 510-215-5974 or [bialy10@attbi.com](mailto:bialy10@attbi.com).

## Cedar Glen Camp Saved From the Fires

Southern California Skandia Festival 2003, will actually happen again this year, despite the terrible fires in the area just weeks ago. The camp is near the small historical town of Julian, CA.

**NCS Annual Report Published**

The Northern California Spelmanslag's Annual Report, which was, in the past, published in this newsletter, will be posted on the Spelmanslag web-page at: <members.aol.com/gjlittle/ncs/html>.

This report includes the organization's statement of purpose, a description of our member groups, a list of officers and how to contact them, the year's financial statement, and a list of the year's activities.

The Northern California Spelmanslag was founded in 1990. This NCS Newsletter goes nationwide; the Spelmanslag itself serves primarily those in the San Francisco Bay Area and northern California who are interested in Scandinavian Music and

**American Scandinavian Music Sites on the Internet:**

**The Northern California Spelmanslag:**  
members.aol.com/gjlittle/ncs.html

**Nordahl Grieg Leikarring & Spelemannslag:**  
www.ngls.net

**The American Nyckelharpa Association:**  
www.nyckelharpa.org

**Bruce Sagan's Scandinavian Web Site:**  
www.math.msu.edu/~sagan/Folk/sources.html

**The Hardangar Fiddle Association of America:**  
www.hfaa.org/

**The Skandia Folkdance Society (Seattle):**  
www.Skandia-Folkdance.org

## The Primstave for the Jule Season

by Sarah Kirton

This is a continuation of an article on Primstaves, a way of keeping a calendar before the days of widespread writing or modern calendars. The first installment was published in this newsletter in the fall of 2002. It can be found on our web page at <members.aol.com/gjlittle/ncs.html>. Because of space limitations, the introduction printed there will not be repeated. But here's some new information.

The old Norse months, before the adoption of the Roman-Christian calendar in the Scandinavian countries are mentioned below. Although dates can be put to these "months," they're really only approximate. It's perhaps best to think of these time periods as their names imply: Slaughtering-time in November, Harvest-time in August or September, etc. When a time period really began for the old Norse depended on place and weather conditions. There were also time-periods not mentioned here which were only a week or two long. Time periods could also overlap.

This installment covers the Jule season, December through mid-January. When reading about the customs associated with the winter season, remember that the calendar change shift (from Julian to Gregorian) in the 1700s moved calendar dates almost two weeks, so the old dates for midwinter, etc. are no longer accurate. Also remember that the hours of sunlight are absent or greatly reduced in most places in the far north. The symbols associated with these days are abstract and cryptic. There are a few I have no idea what they represent.

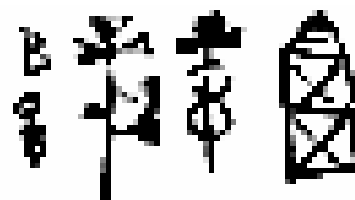
**December**

The modern month of December contains the last third of the old Norse month of *Ylir* (notice similarity to *jul*) and about half of the following month, *Mørsugr*. *Mørsugr* means *fat-sucker*, and probably says something about the food supply at this time of year. The old month of *Ylir* ran from about November 11<sup>th</sup> to about December 12<sup>th</sup>. *Mørsugr* then lasted until about January 12<sup>th</sup>. Later, in Christian times, and with the advent of the Roman-Christian system of months, December was called *Kristmånad* or *Julemånad*. (*Månad* (N)/*månad* (Sw) means month.)

December was considered a bad time to do much washing (except for special days, noted below) and was especially bad for letting blood. While we might object with abstaining from cleanliness today, I doubt few of us would have problems with foregoing bloodletting.

(Primstav, continued)

**4<sup>th</sup>** – *Barbromesse, Barbrodøgnet, Barbrodøgret: (St. Barbara's Mass/Day)* – symbols: tower, cross, sleigh, sun, chains, sword, spinning wheel, a “B”, or a cross with two suns, one rising, the other setting. – St. Barbara of Turkey was confined by her father in a tower because she was Christian, and martyred in 306. Her father, who gave her to authorities, got his, though. He was struck by lightning in the town square where she was killed. The old folks said that the sun went away on Barbromesse, and came back on St. Lucia's day. People should occupy themselves with knitting and spinning.



**6<sup>th</sup>** – *Nilsmesse, Nicolausdagen: (St. Nicolaus' Mass/Day)* – symbols: bishop's hat or staff, cross, wheel, snake biting its own tail. The snake biting its tail (and the wheel) is a symbol of continuity, the unbroken stream of time and seasons. – In honor of St. Nicolaus av Patera, bishop in Myra, Asia Minor. (d. 350) He's our own St. Nick, honored for giving gifts to the poor, and seeing to it that poor girls had enough of a dowry wed. Gifts were given to children on this day. The day was also called “Nils skinngnikkar” (Nils leather-pants). Today leather was prepared for pants and boots to be made for jul. In old beliefs, St. Nickolaus merged with Odin, who went around on a white horse in the days before jul frightening children.

**9<sup>th</sup>** – *Maria Unnfangelse, Marias Ventedør, Annadage: (Mary's confinement, Anna's day)* – symbols: fishing seine, woman's head, pine tree, book, pot or can. One story says this was the day Mary expected to bear Jesus, but she calculated wrong! The more probably, this was Mary's birthday. Anna was her mother. Today folk begin brewing Jul-beer, and clothes were to be washed for jul. A Norwegian archbishop declared Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> should be Maria Unnfangelse day, except in Oslo and Stavanger, where it would be the 8<sup>th</sup>, its original day.



**13<sup>th</sup>** – *Lucianatt, Lussimesse: (Lucia's Night, Lucia's Mass)* – symbols: cup, cross, torch, sheep shears, candelabra, bonfire, a sun which returns. Lucia was a Sicilian martyr. This was considered the longest night of the year. The cows would complain that “Lussinatt is so long.” And the sheep would reply, “Yes, it's as long as two.” On this night all the trolls and other evil ones were out, along with nisse, huldre and other otherworldly folk. If you were up and about at the exact moment the sun turned to come back, you could hear and see all manner of strange things. But only if you were quiet enough. The real jul season begins with Lussinatt (actually the night of the 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>). Folk should not work with anything that goes around, like spinning, milling, or baking (!!!). The Swedish custom of a candle-crowned Lucia-girl is a fairly modern addition to the day.




**16<sup>th</sup>** – *Imbredagen.* In several Norwegian dialects this was the name for the day(s) in the week before jul. In Norse times, the name was used for the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before jul, and were fast days. There were other fast-days with this name, at the beginning of Lent, during Pentecost, and the week before Mikkelmass (Sept.).

**21<sup>st</sup>** – *Tomasmesse, Bryggjardøgri, St. Tomas Bryggjar, Tomas Follbøtte, Tomas med Bøtta: (St. Thomas' Mass, Brewer's Day, Thomas Full-bucket, Thomas with Bucket)* – symbols: brewer's keg or cask, outstretched hand, bucket, rings, crown or cross. In honor of St. Thomas, the doubter. Today jul-beer should be put into casks. It was the custom to go visiting on this day to taste all the neighbors' beer before it was casked. One got a bit drunk, and this drunkenness was called *skokedrykke* or *skakkubollen*. The weather today began to thaw a bit. The woodshed had better be full by this time, or St. Thomas would come and punish you.

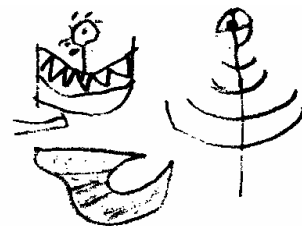


**23<sup>rd</sup>** – *Tollemesse, Vaskarnotti, Vesle Julafta, Sjursmesse: (Torlak's Mass, Washing Night, Little Christmas Eve, Sjur's (Sigurd's) Mass)* – symbols: wall-cleaning pole, half cross. Torlak was bishop of Iceland 1133 – 1193. He is reputed to have wrought many miracles. No one seems to know who Sigurd was. On this day, the walls should be cleaned of spider webs and dirt, then washed. After this, people should bathe and put on clean – preferably new – clothes.

(Primstav, continued)

 **24<sup>th</sup> – Julaften: (Christmas Eve)** – symbol: half cross. – This day had all the associations we have with it. In addition, any job or project finished this day would turn out well. A lot of projects were begun in the fall and left unfinished. The very last touches could be quickly added to them today. In the evening, all doors would be marked with a cross of pitch to keep away evil powers, who were out in force. The jul-beer was tried (again), and folk ate of the best meats. All the farm's otherworldly folk must be remembered with offerings of food - often some kind of porridge. At midnight, the birth of Christ was remembered.

**25<sup>th</sup> – Juledag, Natalis Christi, the old Norse Jól: (Christmas Day, Birth of Christ, Jul)** – symbols: drinking horn, beer keg, cross, star, seven armed candelabra or wheel. On some primstaves the beer keg was so long it stretched from Jul to Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. People stay home today, for the evil forces are still out and about. Also, on this day the dead try to find their way back home. Jul was originally a pagan feast to celebrate the return of the sun. People still follow the tradition of staying home on Christmas.



**26<sup>th</sup> – Stefansdagen, Stefanusmesse: -(St. Stefans Day/Mass)** – symbol: horse. In remembrance of St Stefan, the church's first martyr. This is the second day of Christmas. Folk can go visiting today, but usually only to close family.

**27<sup>th</sup> – Jonsmesse: (St. John's Mass)** – symbol: eagle. In honor of St. John. The weather today predicts the weather for a whole month. The third day of Christmas. Folk can go visiting more distant relatives and close friends.

**28<sup>th</sup> – Barnemesse, Barnedagen: (Children's Mass/Day)** – symbol: sword or small cross. In remembrance of the innocent children slaughtered in Bethlehem by King Herod in his search for the new-born Christ child. On this day, children get to make decisions in all things for themselves. The circle of allowed visits widens a bit more.

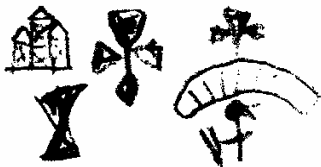


**29<sup>th</sup> – St. Tomas á Becket**, martyred in 1170 in England. He was much admired in Norway. St. Tomas Kyrke (church) på Filefjell in Valdres was dedicated to him.

**31<sup>st</sup> – Sylvester pave: The pope Sylvester, who converted Constantine** – symbol: wheel or hourglass to signify that time was running out. On many primstaves these symbols are set on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, instead.

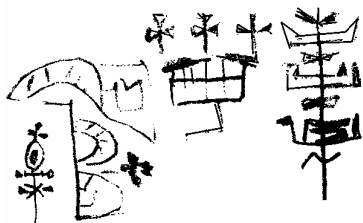
## January

The month of Mørsugr (see December, above) ends around the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the old Norse month of *Torre* began and ran till about February 11<sup>th</sup>. *Torre* was *Frost*, the son of *Snow*, the *Old One*, and brother to *Gjø*, (a girl associated with February). Another name for this period was *Glugmåned*.



**1<sup>st</sup> – Nyårsdag, Jesu Omskjering: ( New Year's Day, Jesus' Circumcision)** – symbols: see 12/31 above. The eighth day of Christmas. The weather today said many things about the year to come. All happenings on this day had either predictions for the new year, or repercussions to follow during the year. Many Jul customs are tied to this day. Another very dangerous day.

**5<sup>th</sup> – Tolvte dag jul, Trettande afton: (Twelfth Day of Christmas, Eve of the Thirteenth)** – symbol: little cross. In many places this was celebrated as Christmas Eve – a hold-over from the old Julian calendar. It was a day to get a bit drunk. One should not work on spinning or weaving today. A three-armed candelabra was often prepared for use the next day.



6<sup>th</sup> – *Heilag tre kongars dag, Trettandhelga, Trettandedag Jul: (Holy Three Kings Day, Thirteenth (Day) Holy-day, Thirteenth Day of Christmas)* – symbols: three men, three crowns, three crosses. The day the three kings came with gifts for Jesus. In some places boys went around with stars and presented a skit and a song. They got cookies or cakes as payment. This was the old Christmas day from before the calendar change. Today, jul was over (but see later!) The time from Christmas till now was (and still is) called *romjula* or *romhelga*. *Romjula* means something on the order of *jul-space, jul-time span*. The second word, *romhelga*, means the *jul-holiday*. On this day, there are thirteen-clawed critters out and about (*shudder*). As well as troll-women. So be careful.

7<sup>th</sup> – *St. Knuts Dag, or Eldbjørgdag: (St. Knut, Knut Larvard of Denmark, killed 1/7/1131. Son of Erik Eie-god and father of Valdemar the Great)* – symbols: bell, broom. The day was also called *de-parture*, or *farewell day*, as jul guests should leave for home today. St. Knut was thought to ring, chase, or sweep jul out. A toast was drunk to St. Eldbjørg today. (St Eldbjørg may be a modern invention.) An older custom in some places has this toast drunk to the fire so that it will hold the rest of the winter, and so the sun will return. *Eld* means fire, and *to berg* is to rescue, salvage or save. So today was a day to tend to the fire that had been burning all the jul season. Leftovers were eaten up, and anything left was burned. Children and serving folk went out visiting, and on this day, bears turn over in their dens. (It gets uncomfortable lying on the same side all winter, after all.)



?? - Eldbjørg

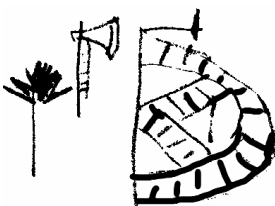


Bell – St. Knut

11<sup>th</sup> – *Brettmesse, Brokkismesse: ( St. Brictivas Mass)* – symbols: horse, ax, cross. My sources vary on her origin. Some say she was Norwegian, others say she was British or Irish (think Bridget). No one should take a horse out driving today, or it will surely break a leg. Other things could easily be broken today, too. Any leftovers (I assume any missed during the doings of the 7<sup>th</sup> or else this is a different district.) should be broken up into a stew-pot, cooked, and feasted on. One could get a bit drunk. This intoxication was called *snipprusen* (*rus* = intoxication or a high). Maybe this was the reason for all the breakage today?? In some places new beer was brewed today.



12<sup>th</sup> – *Midvinterdag: (Midwinter's Day)* – symbols: snow pile, snowflake. Now winter rolls over and the bears and rams roll onto their other sides. In Norse times, this was the first day of the Jul celebration, which lasted until Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. This celebration was called *Torreblót* or *Disablót*. See the comments on the month of January above for more about *Torre*. This day is yet another very dangerous day. Although the winter is half gone today, the worst of it is yet to come.



13<sup>th</sup> – *Tjuandedag jul: ( Twentieth Day of Jul)* – symbols: broom, upside-down drinking horn, sleigh bells, a kings head, or an ax. This was REALLY the last day of jul, and was called St. Knut's day in some places. He still has the job of chasing jul out. §

## Calendar

### Regular Events - Northern California

Monday Weekly **Scandinavian Couple Dance Class** Beginners 6:30 - 7:30, Advanced Group 7:30 & later. Call Marida (530) 672 - 2926 or email: <marida@earthlink.net> for information. Beginners may move to Fri.

Mondays Weekly **Open Sessions for Fiddlers** (aka Fiddling with Fred), 8 - 10 pm at home of Fred Bialy, 1925 Hudson Street, El Cerrito. Call ahead!:: Fred Bialy, phone: (510) 215-5974, email: Wednesdays

- or Sundays! <FredBialy@aol.com>, or Carolyn Hunt, phone: (925) 443-7471, email: <carolynhunt@alum.pomona.edu>.
- 1st, 3rd, 5th  
Mondays Bi-Monthly **Scandinavian Folk Dance Class**, Santa Cruz, 7:30 pm, Viking Hall, 240 Plymouth (at Button), Santa Cruz. Instruction in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and Finnish folk dance by Ellen Moilanen & David Heald. \$5/session. Everyone welcome. For info: call Valhalla Hotline (831)438-4307, (831)464-3310 or email: <moilanen@pacbell.net>.
- Wednesday Weekly **Nordahl Grieg Leikarring Performance Group** Usually at Masonic Hall, 980 Church St., Mountain View, 7:30 (or 8) - 9:30 p.m. Location subject to change. Contact: Anne Huberman & Greg Goodhue: (408) 437-8793, email: <goodhue@hotmail.com>.
- Thursdays Weekly **Scandiadans**, 7 - 10 pm, at Oakland Nature Friends, \$4. 3115 Butters Dr., Oakland CA. Hwy 13 to Joaquin Miller Rd, east (up the hill)~ 1/2 mile, second right onto Butters Dr., go another 1/2 mile. On the right, look for post with 3115 on it (also "Scandiadans" sign). Take steep driveway. Clubhouse is on the right. Contact: Jane or Frank Tripi at (510) 654 -3636, email: <fjtripi@juno.com>.
- Fri. before 2nd  
& 4th Sats. Bi-mon-ly **Mid-Peninsula Scandinavian Dance.** 7:30 - 10:30 pm at the Carriage House, Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. \$4. Beginner/intermediate class. From 101 take Marsh Rd exit to Menlo Park; left at traffic light onto Middlefield Rd; 1st right onto Watkins; left into park, go to back of park. The historic Carriage House is across from an old water tower. Teaching, request dancing, live & recorded music. All welcome (need not be a couple to join). Contacts: Jim Little or Linda Persson at (650) 323-2256, email: <james.little@sri.com> or Jeanne or Henry Sawyer (408) 929-5602, email: <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com> . Ask to be on class email list. Calendar, Continued)
- Dec.12, 26  
Jan. 9, 23  
Feb. 13, 27  
etc.
- Fridays Weekly **Scandinavian Fiddle Class**, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, at Carriage House on Fri's when Mid-Peninsula Dance Class meets, see above for location/dates. Other Fridays, often at Anita Seigel's. Location varies. Ask to be on class email list. Contact Sarah Kirton, (650) 968-3126, email: <sekirton@ix.netcom.com> or Jeanne Sawyer, (408)929-5602, email: <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com> for info & location/time changes.
- Fridays Monthly **Cultural Evenings in Santa Cruz.** Usually at Viking Hall, Plymouth, at Button St., Santa Cruz. Contact: Barbara Olson at (831) 438-4307 or: <emailcbolsons@aol.com>. Or call (831) 464-3310. —See calendar
- 1st Saturdays **Location change! The Saturday December 6 party will be at Trinity Cathedral, 81 North Second Street, San Jose 95113.**
- Monthly **Nordic Footnotes 1st Saturday Scandinavian Dance Party** , 8 p.m. - midnight, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave (between Byron & Webster), Palo Alto. From Hamilton, hall is in bldg to right on 2nd floor. Parking behind church, on street or in garage on Webster. For information contact Jeanne and Henry (408) 929-5602 <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com> , Sarah Kirton (650)968-3126 <sekirton@ix.netcom.com> ,or Jim Little and Linda Persson (650) 323-2256 <james.little@sri.com>
- 1st Saturdays  
Every other month **Special Events in Placerville area.** Call Marida(530) 672 - 2926 or email: <marida@earthlink.net> for information. Call first!
- 2nd Saturdays  
Monthly **Open Sessions for Fiddlers**, ~ 2 - 5 pm. afternoon before dance in Mill Valley at the home



of Fred Bialy, 1925 Hudson Street, El Cerrito, (510) 215 - 5974, email: <FredBialy@aol.com>. Call ahead; meetings occasionally canceled or moved, & times may vary.

- 2nd Saturdays  
Monthly      **Scandia 2nd Saturday Monthly Dance**, usually at Park School, 360 East Blythedale, Mill Valley. Cost: \$7. Musicians encouraged to play. Teaching; 7:30 - 8:30 pm, dancing 8:30 - 11:00 pm. Contact: Jane and Frank Tripi at (510) 654 - 3636, email: <fjtripi@juno.com>. (Location may vary.)
- 2nd Saturdays  
Monthly      **Traveling Dance Class**, Norwegian dance class meets 2 - 5 pm. Usually at Bjørnson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd. in Oakland. Everyone welcome to attend. Contact Gudrun Tollef-son at (510) 638-6454 , or Gerd Syrstad at (650) 363-2743.
- 2nd Sundays  
Monthly  
(may change)      **Barneleikkaring** (Children's Norwegian Dance) classes, 1:30 - 4:00 pm, at Nordahl Hall, 580 W. Parr Ave., Los Gatos. Contact Ginny Hansen (925) 634-0266 (both location and day may change, so call ahead).

## Calendar, Special Events - Northern California

- Dec 6*      3pm., **Butik** with Scandinavian gift and home items, 4pm, **Lucia with Zaida Singers**, Valhalla Scandinavians of Santa Cruz. At Messiah Lutheran, High Street, Santa Cruz. Valhalla Hotline (831)438-4307, (831)464-3310.
- Dec 6*      **20th Annual Swedish Christmas Fair**, San Francisco. Saint Lucia Pageant, handicrafts, imported gifts, Swedish folk music, traditional dancing, glögg, ornament making, Santa Claus, games for children,. Performances by Zaida Singers, Fresno Spelmän. 9am-5pm, Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St (at Geary). Admission \$2.50—\$5.00. Sponsored by Swedish Women's Educational Association International. (510)444-6608 web site: <www.chapters-swea.org/sanfrancisco>
- Dec.12-14*      **Butik** with Scandinavian gift and home items, Valhalla Hotline (831)438-4307, (831)464-3310
- Dec 12-14*      **Butik** with Scandinavian gift and home items. Fri, 5-9pm. Sat + Sun 10am—3pm, Viking Hall, 240 Plymouth (at Button), Santa Cruz. Valhalla Hotline (831)438-4307, (831)464-3310.
- December 13,14,*      **Santa Lucia Concerts** in Chico and Paradise, CA, in honor of Santa Lucia Day, with, Tim Rued, Nyckelharpa, Hardanger Fiddle, and wooden shoe. Laurel Paulson-Pierce (530)533-3666 or email <veraloe@cncnet.com.>
- Jan 9, 2004*      **"The Swedish Angel of Siberia"** a talk by Professor James Kaplan of Moorhead State Univ, MN. 7:30pm. For Valhalla Scandinavians of Santa Cruz, Viking Hall, 240 Plymouth (at Button), Santa Cruz. Valhalla Hotline (831)438-4307, (831)464-3310
- Jan 24-25, 2004*      **Valdres Springar Weekend Workshop** with Mary and Olav Jørgen Hegge and Sarah Kirton, Los Altos Hills, CA. Contact: Betsy McKone <recbetsy@aol.com> (650)368-8006 (see page one)
- June 12-19, 2004*      **Scandia Camp Mendocino, California.** Sigrunn Bæra Svenkerud and Bjørn Lien teaching dance and music from Hallingdal, Norway. Stig and Helén Eriksson teaching dances and music from Sweden. write:Scandia Camp Mendocino, 1320 Harleyford Road, Woodridge IL 60517 , call: (630)-985-7192 (Central time)email:<dancingroo@aol.com>

## Calendar, Special Events - United States

### January 30-February 1, 2004 **Eighth Annual Scandinavian Ski and Dance Weekend**

Fairlee, Vermont. Cross-country and downhill skiing nearby. Friday and Saturday night Scandinavian dance parties with musicians: Hauk Buen, Sarah Granskou, Loretta Kelley, Bruce Sagan, Toby Weinberg. The dance parties will emphasize bygdedans, with a lot of Telespringar, but there will likely also be waltz, reinlender, pols, hambo, etc.. Singles, couples, and families are welcome. Sat and Sun mornings, Hauk Buen will give group fiddle lessons. Dave Golber, 1 Fayette Park, Cambridge, MA02139. 617/661-3670 dgolber@aol.com

June 11, 12, 2004

**The 5th annual Nisswa-stämman** will be held June 11, 12, 2004 at the Pioneer Village in Nisswa, Mn. This year's stämman, as always, will showcase 100 local U.S. folk musicians, PLUS, Mauno Järvelä, of JPP from Finland, The Järvelän Fiddlers, FLUKT, from Norway, on fiddle; and a very well known spelmanslag Sweden. Nisswa-stämman also features all day and all night dancing opportunities, dance teaching and open dancing For more information, call Paul Wilson, (218)764-2994, or email: <pwilson@brainerd.net> <<http://www.brainerd.net/~pwilson/nisswastamman>>

July 3 -10, 2004

**Nordic Fiddles and Feet at Buffalo Gap Camp**, Capon Bridge, West Virginia. A week of Swedish and Norwegian music and dance with Britt-Marie and Sven Olsson - dances from Sweden, Arnhild Brenesvik - Telespringar from Norway, Roo Lester and Larry Harding - Scandinavian dance basics. Musicians to be announced. The brochure with registration form will be out later. If you haven't gotten your copy by mid January, or for more information, contact: NFF, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville, TN 37919, (865) 522-0515 email: <FiddlesandFeet@aol.com> Website: <[www.NordicFiddlesandFeet.org](http://www.NordicFiddlesandFeet.org)>. §

## Special Events - Scandinavia

July 18-24, 2004 **Norrlandia Camp**, Hälsingland, Sweden. Join some of Sweden's most well known dancers and musicians for classes in traditional Swedish.

Send your registration form and deposit by January 15, 2004! (630)985-7192(central time)  
Roo Lester, 1320 Harleyford Rd., WOODRIDGE, IL 60517 <DancingRoo@aol.com>

*For the latest news on events, and more details, see our web page.*

*See <<http://members.aol.com/jglittle/ncs.htm>>.*

### NCS Cassette Tapes

Northern California Spelmanslag cooperated with visiting musicians in producing a series of cassette tapes of Swedish and Norwegian music. However, there is only one title left. We had considered re-issuing the recordings on CD, but there has been no further action.

**I Västerled** - Anders Rosén (fiddle) and Harald Pettersson (accordion, säckpipa, and hurdy-gurdy) play traditional Swedish tunes from Western Dalarna plus 2 compositions on hurdy-gurdy. This recording won an award in Sweden when it was released.

Mail a check for \$12.00 (includes shipping)to: Fred Bialy, 1925 Hudson St.,  
EL CERRITO, CA 94530-1835

We Need Your Help--**If you contribute annually, consider this your annual reminder.**

The Northern California Spelmanslag (NCS) is a non-profit public benefit corporation which aims to promote Scandinavian music, dance and culture through special work-shops, regular meetings, concerts and performances. We also publish the *Northern California Spelmanslag News*.

We need your help with three things:

1. Identify **topics** you would like covered in the newsletter. What do you look for and enjoy in the *News*? What should be there that isn't now? Are you interested in writing for the *News*?
2. Consider a tax-deductible **contribution** to the NCS. Although not required to be on our mailing list, we'd appreciate at least enough of a contribution to cover the cost of printing and mailing the *News*. If you can and wish to contribute more, it will help us sponsor workshops, concerts and other events.
3. Address, Phone Number, and email corrections. **Help us keep up to date.** If you've experienced an address change recently, please tell us about it. Just fill in the form below.

Please check the relevant boxes, fill in address information and return to:

Northern California Spelmanslag  
321 McKendry  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

I would enjoy seeing articles in the *News* about (or general suggestions):

Contact me about writing for the *News*.

I can help financially, and have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(A donation is not required to receive the *News*, but is much appreciated.)

Name(s)

Address

Home phone

Work phone

email

## Northern California Spelmanslag Mailing List Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Musician \_\_\_ Dancer \_\_\_

May we publish your name, address, and phone on a Spelmanslag roster? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive information ? \_\_\_music workshops: Swedish\_\_\_ Norwegian\_\_\_ Danish\_\_\_ Finnish\_\_\_

\_\_\_dance workshops: Swedish\_\_\_ Norwegian\_\_\_ Danish\_\_\_ Finnish\_\_\_

\_\_\_dance parties: Swedish\_\_\_ Norwegian\_\_\_ Danish\_\_\_ Finnish\_\_\_

\_\_\_concerts and performances: Swedish\_\_\_ Norwegian\_\_\_ Danish\_\_\_ Finnish\_\_\_

Are you willing to bring potluck snacks and refreshments to Spelmanslag events? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to house out-of-town participants for Spelmanslag festivals? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to volunteer for various tasks to help organize or run Spelmanslag events? \_\_\_ How are you able to help? making punch, set-up, clean-up, collecting admission, sound equipment, designing fliers, photocopying, entertaining overseas visitors during the week, organizing events, playing for dances.

### Donation \*:

\_\_\_\$15.00 \_\_\_\$25.00 \_\_\_\$50.00 \_\_\_other

Send to: Northern California Spelmanslag

Donation is not necessary for membership.

321 McKendry, MENLO PARK, CA 94025

\*Your tax-deductible donation helps the Spelmanslag bring over instructors from Scandinavia, and covers the costs of publishing and mailing fliers and newsletters. Any amount you can contribute is greatly appreciated!

### Northern California Spelmanslag

*A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation*

321 McKendry

MENLO PARK, CA 94025

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