

ISSN: 0028-9272

3/2004 (June)

---

# news of Norway

---

Published by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2720 34th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008-2714

Vol.61

---

# Making it there

**Photographer. Painter.  
Jazz musician. Designer.  
Four Norwegians try their  
luck in the Big Apple.**

**/6-9**



## In Brief...

### Maria to the top

Entertainment Weekly has predicted Norwegian artist Maria Mena's song "You're the one" to become this summer's biggest hit. The song also appeared in the Time Magazine's list of top 12 summer hits. On July 20, she performs on Late Night with David Letterman.

### Here comes the sun

This spring's results from the Norwegian Institute of Meteorology show that the spring of 2004 is measured to have been the warmest since 1867. The average temperature in Norway from March until May measured 2.2 degrees centigrade more than what is normal for that time of year. The areas around Oslo enjoyed the warmest temperatures, but even Sognefjellhytta, the place with the coldest temperature, was well above average.

### Gotta dig the Vikings

The largest excavation of a Viking burial site since the 1950s is underway in Vestfold, south of Oslo. Experts will start opening up the burial site, with graves stemming from the end of the 8th century to the middle of the 10th. Though the woodwork from the burial ship in the first grave has rotted away, the team expects to find treasures, weapons and jewelry.

### No more KVI

The Norwegian industrial giants Aker RGI and Kvaerner, both owned by Kjell Inge Røkke, are being merged. The name Kvaerner will appear from the stock listings as the new company will be called Aker ASA. Aker ASA will be Norway's largest private employer.

### Boxing champion drowns

Magne Havnaa, the Norwegian former world champion boxer, drowned after a boating accident outside Risør in May. A technical malfunction in the boat's steering system is suspected to have caused the boat to make a sharp turn, throwing Havnaa and his wife into the cold water. His wife survived the accident.

**Front page:** Kristine Nyborg, 26, came to New York two years ago with empty pockets and big dreams. Through hard work, coincidence and some more hard work, the young Norwegian has managed to make a living as a press photographer in the Big Apple. Nyborg is one of many young Norwegians pursuing their dreams in one of the most competitive places in the world. Read four stories of courage and dreams on pages 6-9.



Kristin Krohn Devold, Norway's Minister of Defense, met the press outside the White House following her private lunch with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on May 18. "She is a strong and sympathetic woman," Ms. Devold said of Ms. Rice.

# Devold met Rice

**The Norwegian Defense Minister and the National Security Adviser met for a private lunch at the White House on May 18. "I told Ms. Rice that I was deeply concerned about the alleged mishandling of prisoners in Iraq," Kristin Krohn Devold said after the meeting.**

The Defense Minister is in the U.S. to talk to American colleagues and partners about present and future military collaboration between the two countries. Norway plays an active part in the worldwide war on terror, with a strong presence in places including Afghanistan and Iraq.

When Ms. Devold met the press outside the White House following the lunch with Ms. Rice, she was full of praise for the National Security Adviser.

"She is a strong, sympathetic and intelligent woman," she said.

The hour-long meeting gave the two leaders a chance to talk about several issues of importance to both countries. The current situation in Iraq was one of these issues.

"I told her that we need to support the establishment of a new government in Iraq," she said.

"The assassination of Ezzedine Salim [the head of the Iraqi Governing Council] showed that we need to focus on ensuring the safety of the new government once it is established."

Ms. Devold added that there should not be any doubt as to whether a new Iraqi government would be established on time.

"The occupation ends on June 30," she said.

The two women also discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the future of NATO.

"We face some challenges," said the Defense Minister, "in defining the roles in

NATO for small nations such as Norway."

The Norwegian defense system is undergoing major changes these days (see the article "Going Abroad" in News of Norway 1, 2004) in order to accommodate a post-Cold War situation.

"We are in a process of specialization. Among the things we are very good at is gathering intelligence. This is obviously of interest to the United States," Ms. Devold said.

Her conversation with the National Security Adviser also included talk of the allegations concerning the treatment of prisoners in Iraq. The Defense Minister said that the photographs she had seen were "terrible."

"I told Ms. Rice that I was deeply concerned about the alleged mishandling of prisoners in Iraq," she said.

Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik has also reacted publicly to the allegations. In a TV interview in May he said that he expected political consequences if the recent allegations printed in New Yorker magazine were true.

Kristin Krohn Devold was in Washington, DC during Norway's Constitution Day on May 17, and was the natural guest of honor at the annual "Søttende Mai" breakfast at the Ambassador's Residence.

"When I for the first time in my life celebrate this day abroad, I'm very glad I could do it with you here in Washington," she told the 300 Norwegians that had come to enjoy the day.

At a gathering in nearby Carderock Park, not even a member of the swarming hordes of cicadas could ruin the mood when Ms. Devold held the keynote speech.

"I'm not afraid of it," she told a laughing crowd as the red-eyed insect landed on her arm. "And," she added, "it's not afraid of me."

# Duets and dialogue

**Sondre Lerche doesn't need a female vocalist for his duet *Modern Nature*. At a concert in Annapolis, MD on May 14, the young Norwegian pop singer received backup from girls in the audience who knew every word. Lerche is currently on tour in the U.S. to support his latest album *Two Way Monologue*.**

This is the sixth tour for the 21-year-old pop sensation from Bergen, Norway, and his first with a full band. Lerche has so far released two records in the United States. Both his debut *Faces Down* and his sophomore record *Two Way Monologue* have received something close to a standing ovation from reviewers all over the country, and the sold-out concert in Annapolis was a clear indication that the audience has also taken to the quirky young talent from Norway.

"It's so much fun to be on the road again," Lerche told News of Norway between signing t-shirts and CDs after the concert at the Ram's Head in Annapolis.

And it was obvious for the audience that he was having fun during the show. *Rolling Stone* magazine had noted after his concert in New York a few days earlier that "for someone who writes such melancholy lyrics, Sondre Lerche sure has a great time onstage." And the Annapolis show was equally full of smiles.

When Lerche forgot the lyrics for his song *Stupid Memory*, both he and his aptly titled band, the *Faces Down*, broke down in laugh-

ter.

"Has anyone heard the live version of *Are You Lonesome Tonight*," Lerche asked the 300 people in the audience when he had gathered himself.

"I mean," he added, "if Elvis could do it, then..."

It was not the only time he talked to the audience during the show. In fact, the entire concert was filled with the young Norwegian's comments about songs, touring—even food.

"It's my recipe, you know," he said about the inclusion of a "Lerche Tournedos" on the Ram's Head menu for the night.

"All musicians need something to fall back upon," he added, "and the Lerche Tournedos" is my thing."

His communication with the audience reached a charming peak when the artist informed the crowd that he missed Lillian Samdal, with whom he sings the duet *Mother Nature*.

"I wish I had the budget to bring women with me on this tour," he lamented, before assuring his snickering listeners that he "didn't mean it like that."

When he started performing the song, sans *Faces Down* and all alone on the stage, a group of young women in the vast darkness of the audience started singing the female part of the duet in soft voices.

With a smile, Sondre Lerche seemed understandably assured that the night had been a success.

## Close to a trillion

Most of Norway's revenue from North Sea oil goes straight into the giant piggy bank known as the Petroleum Fund. According to the latest count, the fund has now reached 915 billion Norwegian kroner (NOK), or USD 131 billion. "We had a good quarter," said Jarle Bergo of Norway's Central Bank about the fund's performance in the first three months of 2004.

The Norwegian Ministry of Finance estimates that the fund will reach the magical number of NOK one trillion, or one thousand billion.

The return on the Government Petroleum Fund in the first quarter of 2004 was 2.9 percent. During the first quarter of 2004, the value of the fund increased by 70 billion NOK (USD 10 billion).

The Petroleum Fund was founded by the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, in 1990. The first transfer to the Petroleum Fund was made for the 1995 fiscal year and amounted to NOK 2 billion (USD 285 million).

Since then, it has grown to NOK 113 billion (USD 16.1 billion) in 1998 to today's record size. If the fund were to be distributed equally between all Norwegians today, it would provide each citizen with NOK 200,000, or close

to USD 30,000.

"It's the Japanese stocks that have given the greatest return this quarter," said Knut Kjær, the fund's director, at a press conference on May 24.

"Japan is in a good position to meet the increasing demand in China, especially when it comes to energy."

According to the Norwegian Ministry of Finance, the increase in market value is due to several factors. Among them are "a positive return, the transfer of new capital and a weaker krone against the currencies in which the Fund is invested."

"NOK 22.1 billion in new capital was transferred to the Fund, while the return on invested capital, measured in international currencies, amounted to NOK 26.1 billion," the Ministry writes on its website.

The fluctuations in the currency market has also had its effect on the value of the Petroleum Fund. 21.8 of the NOK 70 billion increase over the last quarter came from a depreciation of the krone against the investment currencies.

"However," the Ministry writes, "the change in the krone exchange rate has no effect on the Fund's international purchasing power."

## In Brief...

### Up in smoke

On June 1 Norway began its total ban on smoking in bars and restaurants. Though rules and regulations entered the scene several years ago, the new prohibition states that it is illegal to smoke anywhere food and drinks are served. While it sounds harsh, a recent poll shows that 60% of Norwegians favor the new regulations, and the telephone hotline for smokers reports record traffic from smokers who see the new legislations as an opportunity to quit.

### Awarded bookseller

Norwegian journalist Åsne Seierstad won the prestigious Emma award for her book "The Bookseller of Kabul" (*Bokhandeleren i Kabul*) – the current bestseller in Great Britain. The cross-cultural British award is given to media figures who have promoted understanding and awareness across cultures. "The Bookseller of Kabul" was written after Åsne Seierstad covered the conflict in Afghanistan for international media and it is the second best-selling paperback in the non-fiction documentary class in 2004.

### Stavanger chosen as cultural capital

The European Union has named Stavanger to be one of two cultural capitals for 2008. Though best known as the Norway's oil capital, the town of roughly 100,000 people also is known for its centuries-old cathedral, its small, white wooden houses and the narrow cobblestone streets of its Old Town. Stavanger Mayor Leif Johan Sevland has vowed to make the festivities in 2008 a national event that will include as many as 150 cultural performances in and around Stavanger.

### Norwegian-Americans knighted

Two outstanding Norwegian-Americans received the Knight's First Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit at a ceremony in Minneapolis, MN on the country's national day on May 17. John M. Lund was recognized for his longtime volunteer work as legal council to the Consulate General, while Lawrence O. Hauge was honored for his efforts to maintain and strengthen the close relationships between Norway and the United States. The Order of Merit was instituted by HM King Olav in 1985 and intended for foreign nationals and Norwegians permanently residing abroad.



Clockwise from left: Director Faith Fjeld of the Sami Báiki-Foundation is a proud descendant of Norwegian Sami who emigrated to the United States a century ago; Aaron Topkok performs a traditional Inupiaq dance while his father Sean (hidden), his mother Amy and his little brother Christopher provide the rhythm; Inge Andreassen (right) from American Seafoods explains the company's policy of buying pollock quotas from Alaska natives to Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen in Seattle in April this year.

# Home is where the heart is

**Alaska and Norway. Both are cold places with few people. But there are more elements linking the two places than simply a common proximity to the North Pole.**

"Most people don't know that there are up to 30,000 people of Sami heritage in the United States," says Faith Fjeld.

From her office in Anchorage, AK she runs the Saami-Báiki Foundation, an organization aimed at gathering and spreading knowledge about the descendants of Norwegian Samis in the United States.

In 1894 and 1898, the United States government hired 126 Sami reindeer herders and their families from northern Norway to travel to Alaska to teach the Yup'ik and Inupiaq natives their trade. When their three-year contract ran out, many decided to try their luck elsewhere in the United States.

Some struck it rich in the gold rush and returned to Norway as wealthy men. Some stayed behind and continued to herd reindeer. In 1937, they were forced to sell their animals at a loss when the "Reindeer Act" was passed. Faced with bankruptcy, most of the Sami moved south to Kitsap County in Washington state.

Today, very few signs of the reindeer herders' existence can be found in Alaska.

That's where Faith Fjeld comes in.

"I knew my background was Sami but I didn't know much more," says Fjeld, whose grandparents came from Norway.

"Soon after I started Báiki in 1991 I had 500 subscribers. There were suddenly a lot of people who remembered things about their heritage that had been forgotten until then."

Fjeld now works hard at locating and mapping the descendants of the 126 reindeer herders who crossed the Atlantic a century ago.

This summer, a traveling exhibition will present photographs, tools and other artifacts that remain from the Sami presence in Alaska. The exhibition, named "The Sami: Reindeer People of Alaska" is on display at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage all summer.

Having a traveling exhibition is fitting for an exhibition about the nomadic Sami people. The notion of traveling is also included in the name of Fjeld's organization.

"Báiki is a word the reindeer herders used to describe the cultural sense that travels with you when you go from place to place."

"I guess," she adds, "that you could roughly translate it as 'the home in the heart.'"

There are many other Norwegians who have had a home in Alaska. One is Kjell Inge Røkke, one of Norway's most successful businessmen. In 1982, he bought his first fishing boat in Alaska and quickly made a fortune fishing pollock. His old company, American Seafoods, is still run by Norwegians.

The company makes most of its revenue these days by selling pollock roe to the Japanese market. To gain access to the fish, it

buys quotas from Alaskan natives in exchange for handsome financial rewards.

"They earn good money on the condition that the funds are invested directly into the native community. It's a win-win situation," says Inge Andreassen of American Seafoods onboard one of the newly returned boats at bay in Seattle.

In Alaska's second-largest city, Fairbanks, an Inupiaq family of four has nothing to do with pike fishing off the west coast.

But they still speak Norwegian.

"I was an exchange student in Haugesund in the 1980s," says Amy Topkok, "and that's how I learned the language." She taught her husband Sean and sons Aaron and Christopher to speak Norwegian, although she admits to having some difficulty with the kids.

"They aren't crazy about learning, but it helps when they can read Norwegian comics. They know everything about Onkel Skruie and Ole Brumm," she says, referring to the Norwegian names for Uncle Scrooge and Winnie-the-pooh.

Sean has never been to Norway, but feels that Norwegian was as good a second language for the family to learn as any.

"Besides," he says, "I'm a quarter Norwegian. My grandfather came here to dig for gold. His name was Tveitt."

*For more information on the Saami-Báiki Foundation, see their website at [www.baiki.org/](http://www.baiki.org/) or call (907) 277-HERD.*

## Norway honored WWII vets

In a salute to a lasting alliance between two nations, a soldier from Norway walked among brass bands, veterans and dignitaries at a parade held on the National Mall on Memorial Day. The parade was the largest such event held in Washington in over 60 years.

"Being a part of this parade was a tremendous experience," said Snorre Waage following his half-hour march along the Mall.

The Chief Warrant Officer from the office of the Norwegian Defense Attaché represented Norway during the parade along with a handful of other nations.

"Norway was a trusted ally of the United States during the war, and this bond has only grown stronger in the following 60 years," said Waage. "Carrying the Norwegian flag in this parade was a symbol of that bond."

The Norwegian Embassy also sponsored the event with a financial contribution.

The three-hour parade passed the Capitol on 3rd Street NW before heading West on Independence Avenue. An estimated 15,000 spectators defied the 8 a.m. start and the drizzling rain to hail the heroes of the Second World War. Veteran units came from all 50 states.

"For many of these veterans, this will be their last chance to receive their deserved gratitude in such a public setting," said Waage, "and I'm glad so many people turned up."

People from across the nation had come to the nation's capital to honor the WWII vets. High school bands from 40 states, drum units, bagpipers, floats, motorcycle clubs, Native Americans, recording artists, horse riders and dignitaries all walked the 12 blocks to cast glory on the graying heroes.

The parade was the grand finale of a Memorial Day weekend that D.C. Mayor Williams described as the most successful event the District had seen in years.

"This is an even bigger event than the Millennium [celebration] was for the city," he told the Washington Post. According to the same newspaper, there hasn't been a bigger parade in Washington, D.C. since the same war people had come to commemorate this Memorial Day.

More than 400,000 Americans were killed during the Second World War. According to Statistics Norway, a little more than 10,000 Norwegians were killed during the five years of Nazi occupation.



Chief Warrant Officer Snorre Waage represented Norway at the Memorial Day Parade on May 31.



Isadore Singer, co-recipient of the 2004 Abel Prize, was the Ambassador's guest of honor at a dinner in Washington, D.C. on May 11.

## MIT professor receives 2004 Abel Prize

**The closest thing Norway has to a Nobel Prize in mathematics is the Abel Prize, awarded in honor of the great Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel. On May 25, Isadore Singer (US) and Sir Michael Francis Atiyah (UK) received a joint award in Oslo. "It's wonderful to be recognized for what we did," Dr. Singer commented.**

Albert Einstein once wrote that "as far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality."

Reality may often be measured in time and space. Few people have done more to express the formulas that define the rules of nature than Dr. Singer and Dr. Atiyah. In 1962, they stated and proved the Atiyah-Singer Index Theorem, an important tool for bringing together the various fields of mathematics with its applications.

For their excellence in the field of mathematics, the two men are this year's laureates for the Abel Prize.

"The two winners, both jointly and individually, have been instrumental in bringing closer together pure mathematics and theoretical particle physics, representing a very significant development over the past decades," Norway's Ambassador to the United States, Knut Vollebaek said at a dinner in Singer's honor on May 11.

In response, Dr. Singer commented that he was "overwhelmed" when he heard that he

had won the prize.

"About 15 years ago, I thought we deserved a prize for the work we did. Then I forgot about it until this bolt came from Norway," he said, adding:

"This really establishes the Abel Prize as the prize in mathematics. Leading people in the field now regard it as the full equivalent to the Nobel Prize."

The Abel Prize was established in 2001 to commemorate the following year's bicentennial of Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel's birth. Last year, the French mathematician Jean-Pierre Serre was the first person to receive the award and the NOK 6 million (USD 875,000) cash prize that accompanies it.

In a statement, the Abel Committee praises Dr. Singer and Dr. Atiyah for their work on the index theorem:

"The Atiyah-Singer index theorem is one of the great landmarks of twentieth century mathematics, influencing profoundly many of the most important later developments in topology, differential geometry and quantum field theory. Its authors, both jointly and individually, have been instrumental in repairing a rift between the worlds of pure mathematics and theoretical particle physics, initiating a cross-fertilization which has been one of the most exciting developments of the last decades."

The 2004 Abel Prize was presented at the University of Oslo on May 25.



Haavard Homstvedt, artist.

PHOTO: KRISTINE NYBORG

# First we take Man

Making a name for oneself in Norway is one thing. Doing it in New York is a whole different ballgame. Meet four young Norwegians who have cast away their safety net to reach for the stars in the Big Apple.

By Kristoffer N. Rønneberg

Haavard Homstvedt ponders. The question seems to have taken the 28-year-old aback. “Well,” he begins, “it’s not that I don’t make use of my Norwegian heritage when I paint. It’s just that I don’t want to be known for being Norwegian. I want to be known for what I do.”

The 28-year-old Norwegian painter eats, breathes and lives in a former factory building in Brooklyn. Walls, tables, shelves and chairs are covered with drawings, clippings, paintings and small plastic bottles of oil. The room reeks of paint and old air. A fan hums in the background but fails to rid the room of its overwhelming sense of being a place of work, a place of inspiration, a place of production.

“It isn’t easy having to sleep in the same room as where you work,” Homstvedt admits.

He has lived here since the spring of 2003, producing oil paintings and trying to gain interest for them at exhibitions around town. This summer, his work will be shown at the Feigen Contemporary Art Gallery at an exhibition entitled *Relentless Proselytizers*.

“Your success in this town depends on many things, among them luck,” Homstvedt says. “You have to be exhibited at the right gallery and you need to gain attention in the press.”

His apartment in New York is not his first experience of the United States. Far from it. Homstvedt gained his Masters degree at Yale, and

studied for a Bachelor’s degree in Rhode Island. He also attended high school in Seattle. Still, the Norwegian felt he had to come to New York to gain a reputation as an artist.

“The environment here is unique,” he says.

The pride of the vast collection of paintings he stores in his Brooklyn loft is a massive piece of art entitled *Borgund 297*. Too big to hang inside, the painting is suspended from the ceiling behind a protective plastic cover in the high-ceiling hallway next to Homstvedt’s apartment. Inspired by an 18th-century English book of bird illustrations, the painting consists of 297 similar but not identical bird portraits.

The painting is also inspired by a Norwegian church.

“Borgund stave church was based on drawings and ideas on what a European cathedral should look like. But the Norwegians who built it were still so much under the influence of the old Viking-age mythology that the church turned into a mix of the old and the new,” Hovstvedt explains. “Illustrations are based on your perception of things, not necessarily the things themselves,” he says.

The 297 birds in his painting are similar, but not identical. The colors are different, and every bird has a subtle detail to it that makes it stand out. Behind the birds lie a multicolored pattern of thin lines.

“I want this painting to look spontaneous at first sight. And I want the viewer to realize at the second sight that it isn’t spontaneous at all,



Siri Warren, designer.

PHOTO: KRISTINE NYBORG

# hattan...

that there's a logic to the apparent chaos."

Patterns form a backdrop to much of Homstvedt's work. One of the paintings he will exhibit this summer at the Feigen Gallery, *Stripes vs. Solids*, shows a soccer team where all the characters are identical.

"There were team photos everywhere at Yale," Homstvedt explains, "and I became fascinated by how people choose to present themselves in these pictures. At the same time, I was inspired by the Florentine painter Jacopo Pontormo, who featured the same person in several of his paintings. I guess the painting I made is a combination of those two sources of inspiration."

Homstvedt finds inspiration in many different fields. His desk is filled with cuttings from magazines and printouts from the Internet. Especially printouts from the Internet.

"I'm always looking for that special expression, a look that captures my attention. I can search random images online and find that one special expression in the strangest of places."

When he combines these random expressions with a strong knowledge and understanding of artistic tradition, Homstvedt manages to create art that is unique.

"Painting is so much attached to tradition that there is no point in fighting it," he says. "The same goes for clichés. You can produce a

lot of interesting art by taking advantage of the available clichés."

Although he doesn't carry his nationality on his sleeve, Homstvedt has made good use of the Norwegian community in New York. His network includes several friends from the homeland who share his situation in New York. In February, the Trygve Lie Gallery at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in New York exhibited two of his paintings. Among the guests at the opening was U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"New York... is a city of geometric heights, a petrified desert of grids and lattices, an inferno of greenish abstraction under a flat sky, a real Metropolis from which man is absent by his very accumulation."

-Roland Barthes

According to Eva Bratholm, a correspondent and former cultural editor for the Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet*, it is close to impossible to get by in New York without a little help from some friends.

"The city is filled with people who want to make a name for themselves," she says.

"Coming in as an outsider from a place like Norway is incredibly tough, especially if you don't take use of the Norwegian environment here."

Bratholm has had an ongoing love affair with New York for many years. In 2002, she published the book *New York: City of Authors*, where readers are introduced to the megropolis through writers such as James Baldwin and Arthur Miller.

She has a great deal of respect for the young Norwegians who move into the city with nothing in their luggage but talent, perseverance and courage.

“Those who try their luck in New York have to be prepared to work long, long hours, much longer than they would have to work in Norway. They also have to accept living standards far below what they would find back home because their income will likely be quite low. At the same time it is possible to live on a strict budget in New York because there are so many people here who live like that. There are so many young, talented people with low incomes that they form their own culture.”

**A**cross the Williamsburg bridge, another Norwegian sits at a café, gently stirring his cappuccino. He knows much about sacrificing security and a safety net in order to play in the big leagues.

“Heroes?” he asks. “A few include John Coltrane, Wayne Shorter and Michael Brecker. And Jan Garbarek, of course.”

Including the Norwegian saxophonist is about as far as Ole Mathiesen, 39, is willing to stretch his national heritage as a musician in New York. As with Homstvedt, being from Norway is not something on which Mathiesen chooses to focus when he performs at clubs and bars around the city.

“My Green Card says that I’m a world musician. That’s what I perceive myself as being,” he says.

David Bowie once said that it took ten years in the Big Apple to become a New Yorker. Mathiesen, originally from Sandefjord, just about qualifies. As a U.S. inhabitant, however, his tenure stretches further into the past. Prior to moving to New York to make it his base for his nationwide touring, the Norwegian lived for nine years in Boston,

“I didn’t come to New York to be a star, I brought my star with me.”

-Reggie Jackson

where he attended the Berkeley College of music.

Together with his Norwegian wife, a jeweler, he lives on Manhattan’s lower East side and earns a living as a jazz musician. It’s not an easy job, and it is certainly not secure.

“There is an amazing number of talented musicians in this town. You really need some luck to make it big,” he says, adding that these days are tougher than usual.

“It’s a rollercoaster ride. Some months are quiet. You just need to tell yourself not to panic when that happens.”

“And,” he adds, “you know there are endless opportunities in this city. That’s what’s behind it all, what makes you continue to try.”

Norway’s ambassador to the United States, Knut Vollebaek, is thoroughly impressed by the young Norwegians who venture across the Atlantic with stars in their eyes.

“The United States is a place of opportunity, but it is also a place where competition is fierce,” he says. “It takes a lot of courage to sacrifice the safety of one’s home in order to make a mark in a much bigger market. I admire them for that

courage.”

**W**hileas Ole Mathiesen has built a reputation as an agile jazz musician over two decades, Siri Warren, 22, is just about to launch her career in New York. It’s a scary scenario.

The young designer from Oslo is fresh out of the highly prestigious Parson’s School of Design. Now she hopes that talent, luck and patience will help her form a career as a designer in New York.

“Right now, after three years of living here, it is impossible to imagine anywhere else. New York is just so much fun,” she says.

Warren’s father is American. That gives her some time to build a foundation, she says, since she doesn’t have to apply for a visa.

She’s off to a good start - the Norwegian Embassy just bought her



**Ole Mathiesen, jazz saxophonist.**

PHOTO: KRISTINE NYBORG



**Kristine Nyborg, photojournalist.**

PHOTO: KRISTOFFER RØNNEBERG

user-friendly “self-leveling shelf,” a shelving system that requires no screws, bolts or nails. The piece, which Warren constructed together with classmate Thom Jones, is currently on display in the Embassy’s lobby.

“I’m very happy we acquired this,” says ambassador Vollebaek of the shelf. “It is a good example of the fact that Norway is to an increasing extent making its mark as a nation of talented designers.”

Siri Warren is happy to be a part of a wave of Scandinavian design currently washing over the United States.

“Although I don’t deliberately try to make my work look ‘Norwegian’,” she says, “I do prefer to create things that are simple and stylistic. That comes from my heritage.”

**E**stimating how many Norwegians there are at any one time in New York is an impossible task. Even though the former Norwegian stronghold in Brooklyn is slowly diminishing, there is a thriving group of young Norwegian talents who reside in the giant conurbation. The former *a-ha* songwriter Paal Waaktaar lives in the Village, and painter Vebjørn Sand has also made New York his home.

Eva Bratholm, the *Dagbladet* correspondent, knows which of the many young Norwegians that has impressed her the most.

“More than anyone, she has the New York spirit,” she says of Kristine Nyborg, 26.

The photographer from Oslo came to New York with little but two empty pockets and a willingness to work.

“I was on my way back home from studying journalism and photography in San Francisco,” she says, “and I decided to stay in New York for a while just to see what it was like.”

That was the fall of 2002. Because she had studied in the U.S., she was able to live for a year in the country without a Green Card. She

spent that period getting to know the city. Her humble income was derived from babysitting and small sales jobs.

She also attended a workshop with legendary photographer Eddie Adams. One of the pictures she took on the first commemoration of the 9-11 terror attacks in New York city ended up in *Life Magazine*’s annual photo compilation.

Nyborg couldn’t have asked for a better boost to her self-esteem as she tried to establish herself as a photographer. With money she made selling hair products on Manhattan, she bought a professional-grade camera and started doing work for Norwegian newspapers. Soon, she was in high demand, also from correspondents of other nationalities.

“Kristine has a wonderful attitude toward her work,” says Bratholm. “She never says no when asked to put in long hours and extra effort.”

Her one year in the Big Apple has now been extended, indefinitely.

“I never thought this place would get to me in such a way,” says Nyborg, who lives in Williamsburg in Brooklyn. A place she doesn’t want to leave.

“I make a living doing what I love to do,” she says, “but I know that I have to leave the city before I become one of these cynical New Yorkers who couldn’t imagine

anywhere else to live.”

She claims that although New York is tough, it is possible for anyone with a “drive” and who “doesn’t scare easily” to make a living there.

And even though she is successful in her work right now, she knows that living without a safety net means that you’re never better than your last job.

“I know that my employers can stop using me whenever they feel like it,” Nyborg says, “but I also know that even if that happens, I’ll find something else to do.”

That’s the New York spirit for you.

“The present in New York is so powerful that the past is lost.”

—John Jay Chapman

# A user-friendly cheese...

May 17, Norway's Constitution Day, is a special occasion for Norwegians at home and abroad. Regardless of their age, Norwegians often associate the day with good food. In Washington, D.C. this year, the ambassador got a little help from some friends when he opened his doors to more than a thousand embassy contacts and celebrating Norwegians.

CEO Jan Ove Holmen of the Norwegian dairy giant TINE carried a big smile throughout the celebrations.

"Jarlsberg is having a great year in the U.S., and this is a good way for us to mark our success," he said at one of two receptions held during the celebrations at Ambassador Vollebaek's residence.

Holmen arrived in Washington in time for the May 17 celebrations together with 200 pounds of cheese and three chefs from the Culinary Institute of Norway. Along with embassy chef Frode Selvaag, also on loan

from the Institute, the chefs worked tirelessly to make sure that the many guests were treated to a worthy celebration of Norway's constitution day.

A popular saying in Norway states that the more chefs you have, the more mess they make. During the two-day celebration of this year's "Søttende Mai," the four gastronomes put the saying to shame.

"Mmm," said Birte Horn-Hanssen, who had traveled from Fairbanks, AK to attend a seminar on arctic research.

"We have some good salmon in Alaska," she continued, "but this is simply fantastic."

As could be expected, the two main themes of the receptions were salmon and cheese. The export of Norwegian salmon is on the increase, and the U.S. sales of Jarlsberg are at record levels.

"We had an all-time high last year," says TINE CEO Holmen, "but this year is even better. We've seen an increase of 36 percent in sales in the first quarter compared to the same

period last year."

He added that the main reason for the increased sales was the fact that the low-price food chain Costco had started featuring Jarlsberg more prominently in its stores.

It's a good year in many ways for Holmen. TINE recently came in first in a survey measuring the reputations of Norwegian companies.

Its main export product, Jarlsberg is now sold in more than 32,000 supermarkets throughout the United States. These shops handled a total of 9,000 tons of Jarlsberg during 2003.

"Of course," Holmen mused, "it doesn't harm sales that Jarlsberg has very few carbs, either."

Embassy chef Selvaag uses a lot of Jarlsberg when he prepares food for lunches, dinners and receptions.

"Around 300 pounds a year, I'd imagine," he replied when asked to estimate a quantity.

"The best thing about it is that you can use it in so many different dishes," he continues. "It's a very user-friendly cheese."

## ...in eater-friendly sizes



### Six types of Jarlsberg canapés, courtesy of TINE

*Finger food and canapés are usually served at the start of a meal and should be accompanied by light, fresh wines. Often the aperitif will be a dry, sparkling wine, such as Champagne, Cremant or Cava.*

*Try these six canapés the next time you have a party. All of the recipes require 400 grams each of Jarlsberg in addition to the other ingredients.*

*Enjoy!*

#### Jarlsberg and caramelized kumquats

Caramelized kumquats:  
500 g kumquats  
200 g sugar  
1 cup water

Bring the kumquats to a boil 6-7 times with fresh water every time. Lightly caramelize the sugar, and add the water and the kumquats. Boil down to a syrup and let it cool off.

Cut the Jarlsberg to canapé size, and place half a caramelized kumquat on top.

#### Jarlsberg and marinated figs

Marinated figs:  
10 figs  
2 cups port wine  
2 cups red wine  
2 cups sugar

Cut the figs in fours. Bring the port, red wine and sugar to a boil in a saucepan. Add the figs. Simmer over low heat for a few minutes. Remove the figs and reduce the liquid to a syrup. Pour the syrup over the figs and store in a glass jar. Cut the Jarlsberg to canapé size. Place a quarter of a marinated fig on top.

#### Jarlsberg and tapenade

Tapenade:  
250 g black olives without stones  
1 Tbs capers  
1 Tbs chopped sardines or anchovies  
2 cloves garlic

Cut to canapé size. Mix the tapenade ingredients together and spread the mixture over the Jarlsberg.

#### Jarlsberg and pistachios

200 g pistachios  
50 g honey  
Cut the Jarlsberg into long strips. Finely chop the pistachios. Dip the cheese in melted honey and then roll in pistachios until covered. Cut to canapé size.

#### Jarlsberg and Parma ham

100 g Parma ham  
25 g rocket lettuce

Cut the Jarlsberg to canapé size. Roll the rocket lettuce and parma ham around the pieces.

#### Jarlsberg with tomato and basil

10 cherry tomatoes  
20 basil leaves

Cut the Jarlsberg to canapé size and place half a cherry tomato and a basil leaf on top.

*Use canapé sticks to hold the pieces together — it makes them easier to eat.*

# calendar of events

## Jazz with Eivind Opsvik and friends (NY)

Tenor saxophonist Haakon Kornstad teams up with fellow Norwegian Eivind Opsvik and other New York musicians for some high energy jazz at Nublu in New York City

**When:** Thursday, June 24 at 9:00 pm.

**Where:** Nublu, 62 Ave C btw. 4th and 5th streets, New York City

**Info:** (212) 979 9925

## Sami Life & Culture (NY)

Scandinavia House profiles the indigenous Sami peoples of northern Finland, Norway, and Sweden in its new exhibition Perspectives From The Far North. The exhibition includes photography by Fred Ivar Utsi Klemetsen, a Norwegian Sami; jewelry and crafts by Finnish Sami Petteri Laiti; and a video presentation featuring the Sami traditions of yoiking and reindeer herding.

**When:** Through July 31.

**Where:** Scandinavia House/ASF, 58 Park Avenue, New York City.

**Info:** Call (212) 879-9779 or visit [www.scandinaviahouse.org](http://www.scandinaviahouse.org)

## Edvard Munch's "Madonna" in "The Unfinished Prints" (NY)

A collection of some sixty impressions by European masters are on view at The Frick Collection. Among these are four variants of Madonna by the Norwegian symbolist Edvard Munch.

**When:** Wednesday June 2 - Sunday August 15

**Where:** The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th street, New York City

**Info:** (212) 288 0700 or [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org)

## Jan Fosse's "Night sings its songs" (NY)

Jan Fosse, Norway's preeminent playwright makes his U.S. debut. "Night sings its songs" is a modern tragedy that touches on universal human qualities, desires and flaws. Directed by Sarah Cameron Sunde

**When:** Monday June 7 - Saturday June 26

**Where:** The Culture Project's 45 Below Theater, 45 Bleeker street, New York City

**Info:** [www.theatermania.com](http://www.theatermania.com)

## "Unsuccessful Norwegians" by Jesper Halle (NY)

Bergen's cutting edge student theater presents a piece of "The real Norway" in New York. This is

a U.S. premiere of a collection of monologues that investigate what it means to be an unsuccessful Norwegian in a prosperous country. Tickets \$10

**When:** Tuesday, June 22 at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 23 at 7 p.m., Thursday June 24 at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Ars Nova Theater, 511 W 54th street, NYC

**Info:** For reservations call (212) 868 4444 or order online at [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com)

## Tre Lag Stevne (MN)

Descendants and friends of Trøndelag, Gudbrandsdal, and northern Hedmark regions of Norway are invited to learn more about their Norwegian culture at the Tre Lag Stevne, which is a joint gathering of three bygdelags. Events include genealogy labs and classes; seminars on Norwegian culture, such as music, art, dance, foods, and health; and a cultural tour in the area.

**When:** August 4 through August 7

**Where:** Best Western Apache Hotel, Rochester, MN

**Info:** Call (507) 282-1090 or visit [www.tronderlag.org/stevne2004.htm](http://www.tronderlag.org/stevne2004.htm)

## "Trolldom" Quartet on tour

"Trolldom" is a Norwegian vocal quartet. The four young artists perform traditional Norwegian music, vocal jazz, classical church sonories and improvisation.

**Tour details:** June 11: Nisswa Stammen Festival, Brainerd, MN  
Contact Paul Wilson at [pwilson@brainerd.net](mailto:pwilson@brainerd.net)

June 16: Mindekirken – Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, Minneapolis, MN at 7 p.m. Contact: Pastor Jens Dale at [jensdale@hotmail.com](mailto:jensdale@hotmail.com)

June 18: Vestlandslaget, Elk River, MN. Contact Roger Østby at [rogerhannah2@aol.com](mailto:rogerhannah2@aol.com)

June 19: Nordic Initiative Scandinavian Festival, Grand Forks, ND. Contact Shelle Michaels at [shellemichaels@msn.com](mailto:shellemichaels@msn.com)

June 20: Lutheran Church, Minnesota, MN. Contact Shelle Michaels at

[shellemichaels@msn.com](mailto:shellemichaels@msn.com)  
June 25 - 27: Scandinavian Hjemkomstfest (Homecoming festival), Fargo, ND. Contact Claudia Pratt at [cpratnd@mac.com](mailto:cpratnd@mac.com)

## Nordic Fest (IA)

Free admission thanks to Gundersen Lutheran and its Decorah Medical, Podiatry, and

Eye Clinics. The event includes:

- Traditional folk music and new arrangements by the Norwegian group Totak

- Readings from Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" by the Commonwealth Theatre Company from Lansboro, Minnesota

- Children's theatre production "The Primstav" with Upstart Crow Theatreworks

- The National Juried Folk-Art Exhibitions in Rosemaling, Woodworking, Knifemaking, and Weaving

- Fine Art and Craft Fair

- Folk-art demonstrations

- Old-time music jam sessions

- Special activities for children, including language lessons, crafts, stories, music, and more

**When:** July 23 through July 24

**Where:** Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, Iowa

**Info:** Contact Becky Idstrom,

tel: (563) 382-9681

or visit [www.vesterheim.org](http://www.vesterheim.org)

## Maria Mena tours the U.S.

Only eighteen years old, Norwegian artist Maria Mena may be heading towards an American breakthrough. This summer she will be touring the US, promoting her latest album. Maria Mena will perform for David Letterman on the "Late Show" on July 20th. If you haven't already seen her on MTV's TRL, you can catch her during her nationwide summer tour of the U.S.

### Tour dates:

Orlando, FL (Florida Mall): Saturday, July 10

Minneapolis, MN (Mall of Americas): Saturday, July 17

New York, NY (Roosevelt Field): Saturday, July 24

Houston, TX (Galleria): Saturday, July 31

Las Vegas, NV (Fashion Show): Saturday, August 7

LA/Orange County, CA (Mission Viejo): Saturday, August 14

San Francisco, CA (Stone Ridge): Saturday, August 21

## Heritage Camp for Youth (WI)

Norwegian language classes and culture for youth ages 9 - 15. Crafts, nature center and trails, state of the art star observatory, Viking club. We are currently accepting applications for campers and also for staff, including co-director or business manager, counselors, cook, and health aid.

**When:** July 18 through July 31

**Where:** Eau Claire County Youth Camp, Fall Creek (near Eau Claire)

**Info:** Call (507) 645-5875 or visit [www.sofnjohansen.home.com-cast.net](http://www.sofnjohansen.home.com-cast.net)

## Tyrrell Historical Exhibit (TX)

An exhibit on the life and career of Norwegian-American, Halvor I. Ostebee. Ostebee was a photographer of Spindletop, the first major petroleum find in the United States.

**When:** June 19 at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Tyrrell Historical Library, 695 Pearl, Beaumont, TX

**Info:** Call Penny L. Clark, tel: (409)833-2759

## Nordic Mid-Summer Fest (ND)

Bridge the Gap between the young and the old, cultures and people. We have vendors, crafts, educational tents, music, foot prints, bonfires, Therese and Trolldom from Norway, Nordic film festival, lots of fun and laughter.

**When:** June 19 through June 22

**Where:** Good Templar Hall, 2922 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis, MN

**Info:** Call (218) 779-7271 or visit [www.nordicinitiative.com](http://www.nordicinitiative.com)

## Scandia Camp Mendocino (CA)

Enjoy a fabulous week in Northern California's redwoods with evening dance parties (wooden dance floor), live music by staff and students, dance and music classes, concerts, Scandinavian culture sessions, mild temperatures, delicious meals! The cost of camp includes the above plus food and lodging. Call, or write to Scandia Camp Mendocino, 1320 Harleyford Road, Woodridge, IL 60517

**When:** June 12 through June 19

**Where:** Mendocino, CA

**Info:** Call Roo Lester at (630) 985-7192 or Fred Bialy at (510) 215-5974

## Sunday Scandinavian Dance (ND)

Instructions 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., dance 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$6 dance only, \$7 with instructions

**When:** Most Sundays until Aug 28

**Where:** Grand Forks, North Dakota

**Info:** Good Templar: (612) 722 8535

Please check [www.norway.org](http://www.norway.org) for complete and continous updates.

# "There is no alternative to open borders"

Norway's ambassador Knut Vollebaek made the case for basic education as an effective weapon in the fight against terrorism at a seminar in Baltimore on May 25. The following is a compendium of that speech. For the complete text, please see [www.norway.org](http://www.norway.org).

Good afternoon and thank you for inviting me. This is an impressive gathering. Even more than impressive, it is an important gathering. I am a lay man in the field of higher education. However, while few of us are educators, most of us are more or less educated and, thus, all of us are opinionated with respect to education, its role in our lives and its role in the society.

Peace and security require a certain level of economic and social development. Sustainable social and economic development requires broad-based public education. Thus, education becomes important for peace and security.

In Norway, public education has been an essential element in the development of a modern society, going hand in hand with the political development of the nation state.

I know of no country without a proper edu-

cational system that has seen sustainable development over years. It is not enough to educate an elite. An educational system that does not take into consideration the needs of the majority of its people, might lead to destabilization rather than stability.

Poverty, environmental degradation, and lack of economic opportunity are seen in Norway as important root causes of conflict. Many of the most brutal conflicts over the previous decade have taken place in some of the most marginalized countries in the world. Poverty may be one of the reasons for conflict. War and armed conflict then increase the poverty in a vicious circle. Our contribution in resolving and preventing conflicts therefore ties in with our efforts to reduce poverty.

Does open borders provide for better security and stability in the world? Yes, I believe so. Or to put it the other way: I believe closed borders provide for the feeling of exclusion and suspicion, and thus may create hatred and insecurity.

For many years, Norwegians have gone abroad for specialized education. We needed more doctors than we educated ourselves.

If Norway needs open borders in order to provide for its scientific and industrial development, developing countries need it much more. That means that we have to facilitate studies abroad.

Open borders do not necessarily create open minds. The foundation for an open mind has to be part of my basic education. That's why it is important for all of us to improve and facilitate a public education that fosters curiosity and intellectual skepticism. However, an open mind will demand open borders. Because we see a need to learn from each other. Closing the borders will not provide security, peace and stability in today's world. As already stated, to the contrary: closed borders deprive people of knowledge that is needed for development and as such foster anger and misconceptions.

There is no alternative to open borders. However, there are many alternatives when it comes to what we offer inside our borders. But these are questions I will have to leave to you to discuss further.

Thank you.

www.norway.org  
newsnor@norway.org

Events / 11

User-friendly finger food / 10

Making it in New York / 6

News / 2

## INSIDE

newsOfNorway  
Royal Norwegian Embassy  
2720 34th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-2714  
Tel: (202) 333 6000  
Fax: (202) 337 0870



News of Norway's articles, photographs  
and layout by Editor  
Kristoffer Nedal Rønneberg

This newsletter is a free service from the  
Norwegian Embassy. To add a name to the  
mailing list, please contact us using one of  
the means listed on this page.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Suburban, MD.  
Permit No. 4356