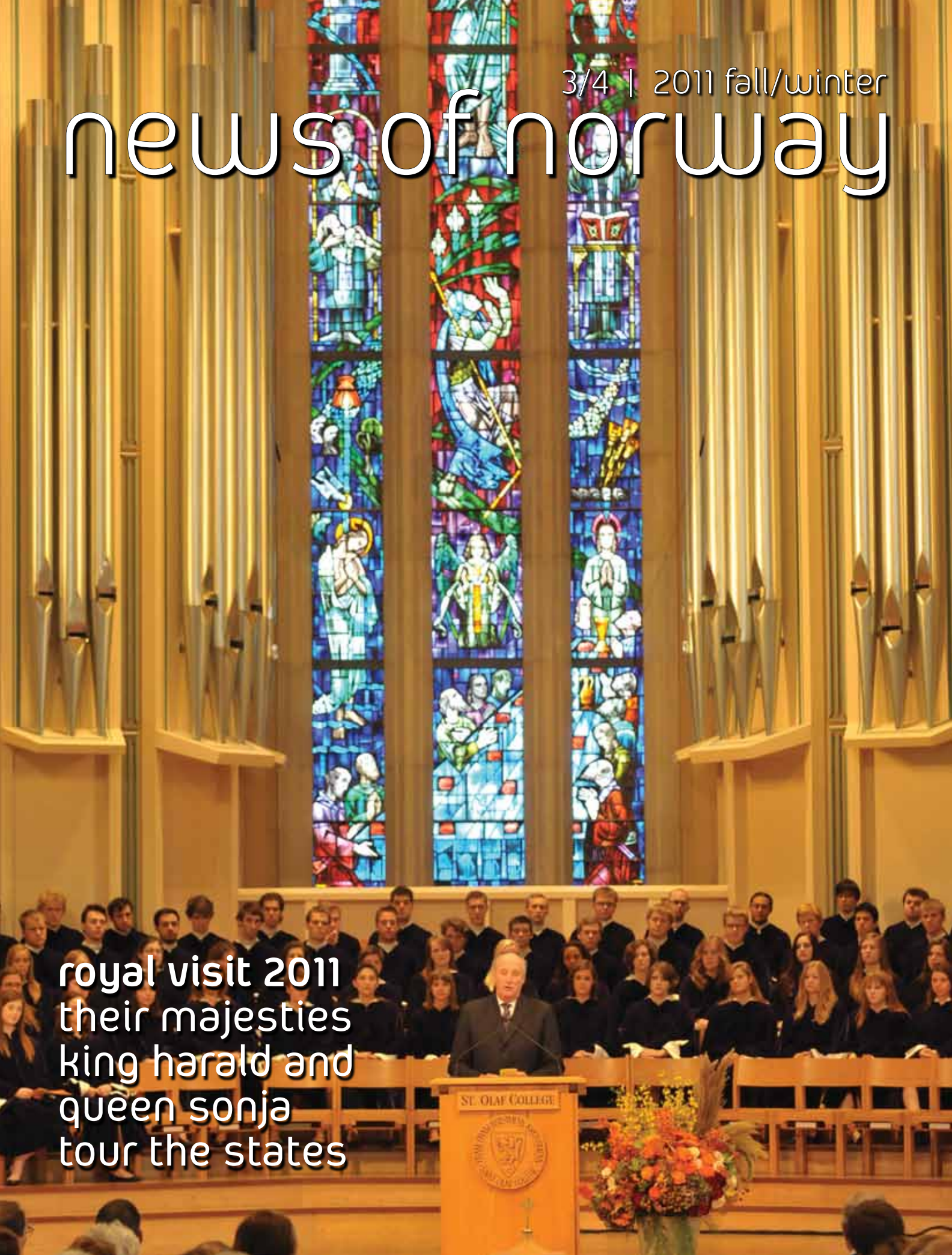


3/4 | 2011 fall/winter

# news of norway

royal visit 2011  
their majesties  
king harald and  
queen sonja  
tour the states



# Merry Christmas and God Jul to All

dear readers,

As we approach the holidays, a time of joy and new beginnings, it is natural to take stock and reflect on the year that has passed, a year that was violently interrupted for every person related to Norway on July 22 by a senseless act that can never be forgotten. However, as 2011 draws to a close, the message is overwhelmingly clear that strong positive forces will triumph and that we are thankful for the good that our society represents; we do count our blessings and look with optimism to the future.

This fall has been tremendously active and constructive for the Embassy and our Consulates.

We sincerely thank each of you for your support and engagement in connection with the exceedingly successful visits to the U.S. from Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja, and Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit. The Prime Minister also conducted an especially effective visit to the White House in October, spotlighting the genuine and affirmative relations between the U.S. and Norway.

My family and I are very happy about our move to Washington, D.C. and I am professionally excited and optimistic having taken up the position as the Head of Culture and Communications here at the Embassy since August. Working with our great team for the production of *News of Norway* is new and



enlightening for me and has already proved to be a rewarding learning experience. I very much look forward to hearing from you in the coming months. The culture is changing quickly and we want to ensure that we are responsibly reflecting your interests in what we cover in *News of Norway*. This magazine and its established and distributed network are important tools for us to stay in contact with you and therefore we need your help to improve. We hope that you will take just a few minutes to participate in the reader survey that we are developing for our magazine, which you should receive in the mail early in the new year.

From Ambassador Strommen, myself and the *News of Norway* team, we wish you all God jul og Godt nyttår.

—Linken Nymann Berryman  
Head of Culture and Communications



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# by the people, for the people

improved design helps make voting accessible to all

by pia dahl

Norway's municipal and county council elections, held in September this year, marked the beginning of a new era in polling equipment.

As an incentive to promote democracy through making voting more simple and appealing, Norway's 430 local municipalities, with more than 3,000 polling stations, started using new information material, signage, voting booths, ballot slips and ballot boxes.

From the 2011 elections onward, the new polling equipment will be available to all Norwegian municipalities. With this move, Norway became the first country in the world to implement a single nationwide standard for polling equipment.

The realization that there was a need for a more functional voting system came about in the late 1990s, when Heidi Dolven, then a design student, was working at a summer job as an election worker in Oslo. She thought that the equipment lacked functionality and did not provide dignity to the act of voting. "The focus, until now, has been solely on carrying out the election correctly. Few have seen the importance of creating a setting which makes the act of voting a positive experience. This positive experience will in turn affect the election and election results," said Dolven.

Dolven later became an employee of Norsk Form (the Foundation for Design and Architecture in Norway) and created awareness around the need for new polling

equipment. This led to an investigation of the state of Norwegian polling stations in conjunction with the local and county elections of 2007. A nationwide survey revealed that there indeed was a need for an upgrade to national polling equipment.

Based on the survey, Norsk Form launched a State Design Competition, with 11 design teams competing to make the most attractive and accessible polling station. The winning entry, a cooperation between Blueroom Designstudio, Kadabra Produkt Design and Innovativoli Industridesign, was called "Clean Sheet." The Clean Sheet system consists of a voting booth, ballot papers and ballot box, an uncomplicated and universal system that can be used by all, including people in wheelchairs. The color orange is used throughout the system, helping to tie all of the components together visually. Pictogram symbols, high-contrast designs and a versatile, highly legible typeface are used to simplify the business of voting, particularly for people with vision impairments. The entire system has been carefully designed to be accessible to people with a variety of special needs. Even the ballot paper is designed in a special way so the voter intuitively understands how it should be folded.

Norway is a country that prides itself on its inclusiveness and on its respect for the democratic process. The new Clean Sheet voting system helps ensure that Norwegian democracy is accessible and comprehensible to all. ■



Left: Norway's new voting booths.

Above (upper): Close-up of a new voting booth.

Above (lower): Voter casting a ballot.

# royal visit 2011

Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja visited the United States Oct. 11–22, 2011. They made numerous stops in the Midwest and in New York City, and were greeted by large, enthusiastic crowds throughout their trip.

A full archive of materials related to the visit is available online at [norway.org/royalvisit2011](http://norway.org/royalvisit2011), with full texts of the King's speeches, accounts and photos of the various visits, and much more.

On these pages, News of Norway presents a small sampling of the sights from this exciting and all-too-rare royal sighting.

Upper left: A local ice cream shop welcomes Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja to Decorah, Iowa.

Lower left: The Augsburg College Choir performs at the Augsburg College student service, Minneapolis, Oct. 16, 2011.

Upper right: Flower girl Bergen greets Their Majesties in St. Paul. Amb. Wegger Strommen and Rev. Dr. Cecilie Jorgensen Strommen look on.

Lower right: Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja visit the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City.



URD MILLEBURY/ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY



INGRID MAGNUS/NORWEGIAN CONSULATE IN NY



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URD MILLEBURY/ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY



URD MILLBURY/ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

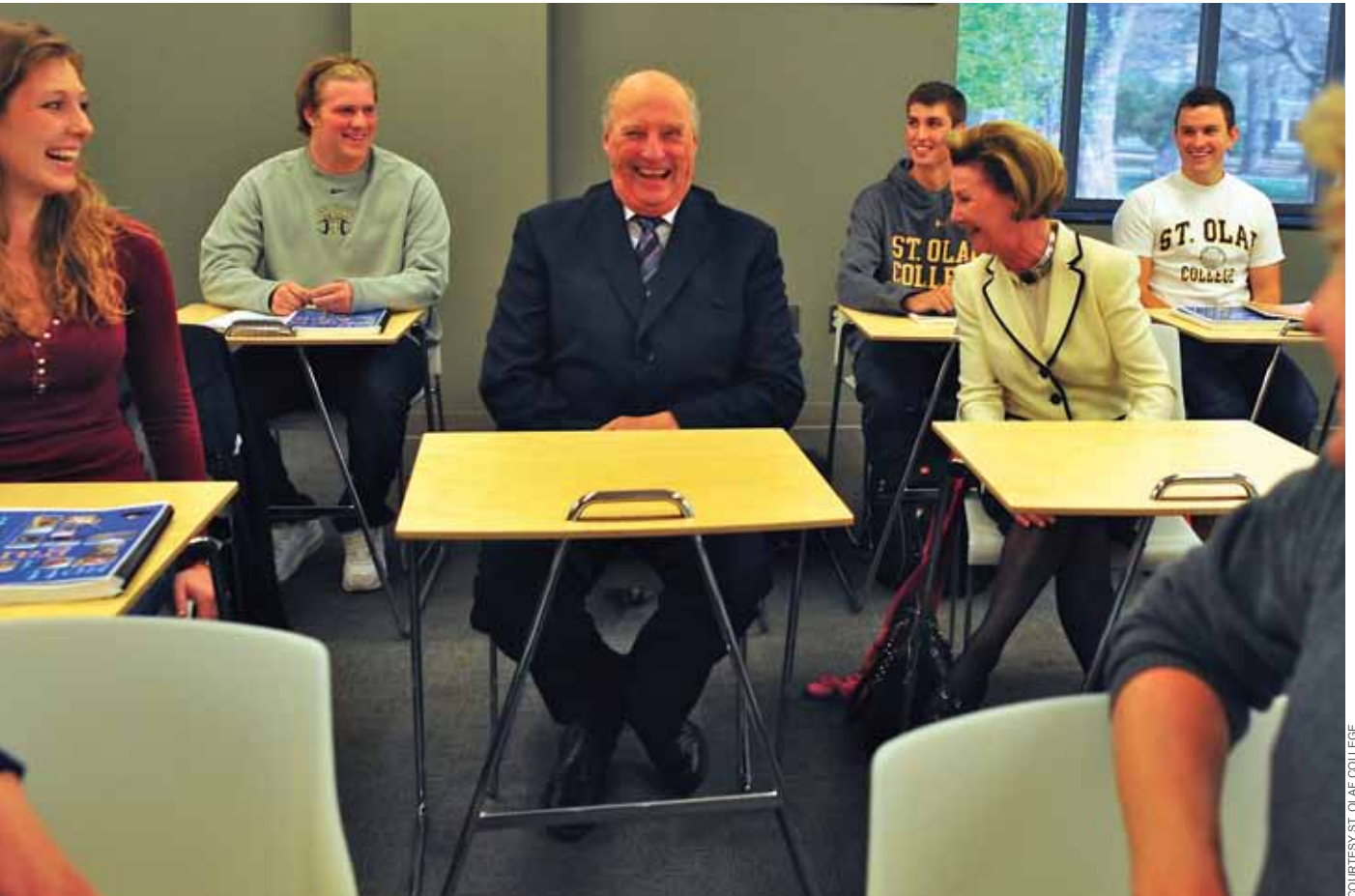


URD MILLBURY/ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

Left: HM Queen Sonja is interviewed by a reporter for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corp. while HM King Harald looks on.

Above: Former Vice President of the United States greets HM King Harald upon his arrival in St. Paul.

Below: Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja participate in a beginning Norwegian language class at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Each student said a few words about himself or herself in Norwegian — a language they had been studying for only a few weeks.



COURTESY ST. OLAF COLLEGE

# found in translation

by marthe bjørnen and stine ravnå

Anyone who has read two different translations of the same text knows how widely translations can vary. Translating texts from a different language entails more than an understanding of the words themselves. One must also understand cultural references and often look beyond traditional meanings of words to slang and idioms. Tiina Nunnally, renowned translator of Scandinavian books into English, took a moment to speak to News of Norway about the challenges of translating Norwegian titles for an English-speaking audience.

## *Why did you decide to become a translator of Scandinavian literature?*

I started translating in my free time because I wanted my friends to read some of the great Scandinavian books that I was reading. I had learned to speak fluent Danish as an exchange student to Århus when I was seventeen, and after that I studied Scandinavian literature, eventually earning a Masters in the subject. Years later, I decided to translate my first book, a memoir called *Early Spring*, written by the Danish author Tove Ditlevsen. I was lucky enough to have it published by Seal Press in 1984. It also won the American-Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prize, so that really encouraged me to continue translating.

That same year, at a conference on Scandinavian literature in Seattle, I met Steven T. Murray, the editor in chief of Fjord Press. We ended up getting married in 1985, and we ran Fjord Press for 20 years, publishing mostly Scandinavian and German fiction in translation. We never made a profit — and always had to take other jobs to pay our bills — but our books regularly received excellent reviews.

## *Are there any facets of Scandinavian life that are particularly difficult to describe to American audiences?*

The model for the Scandinavian social-welfare system has been quite well known in the U.S. for many years, and the Nordic countries have always had a reputation for being highly liberal and tolerant societies. But with the boom in Nordic crime novels and their enormous popularity in English

translation, readers are getting a closer look at Scandinavian culture and many of the current problems and challenges in northern Europe. I think this is one reason that Americans are so fascinated by these detective novels and thrillers, which often present a view that contradicts the conventional, idealistic image of Scandinavia.

## *Are there any Scandinavian books that have been particularly difficult to translate?*

One of the most difficult books I've ever translated was a volume of short stories called *Laterna Magica* by the Faroese author William Heinesen, which we published at Fjord Press. He wrote the stories in Danish, but he wasn't shy about throwing in words from other languages, such as Icelandic and Latin. And the tone was a mixture of saga-like narrative and modern dialogue, which led one otherwise-favorable reviewer to accuse me of inserting anachronisms into the text — even though those anachronisms were the author's doing, not mine!

## *How do you manage to translate idioms and idiosyncratic Norwegian words such as "koselig," "dugnad" and "pålegg"?*

Literary translation is an art. It requires the translator to have an ear for the cadences, nuances, and undercurrents of both the original language and the language into which the text is being translated. Attempting to produce an exact word-for-word translation will produce a flat, lifeless text that no one will want to read. Like a musician, the translator must listen to the music of the text and then "play" the work, trying to get as close



COURTESY TIINA NUNNALLY

## *Tiina Nunnally with her translation of Kristin Lavransdatter.*

as possible to the sound and intent of the original composition. This involves paying attention to the style and tone.

For example, if the book is written in a very formal style, you need to match that appropriately in English. If the style is colloquial and filled with modern slang, you need to find comparable terms in English. This is particularly crucial in dialogue. One of the most egregious examples of this is in the first English translation of Kristin Lavransdatter, where the characters speak in such a convoluted and artificial manner that it's impossible to read those passages aloud without stumbling. The original Norwegian is somewhat formal, but definitely not stilted or awkward.

## *How do you tackle the difficulties of Norwegian slang and dialects?*

Of course, the best way to learn new idioms and slang is to read lots of contemporary novels and also spend time actually speaking the language in Scandinavia. We try to make a trip to the Nordic countries at least every other year. But in between trips,

we've discovered that the Internet is one of the best resources for understanding current slang usage. Since slang is constantly changing, new words are often not included in standard dictionaries, no matter how often they may be updated. Instead, we like to look at blogs, especially those written by teenagers, to find out how a current Norwegian word or phrase is being used. Once we see how the word is used, we can then find

a comparable word in English. Dialect is a more difficult issue to tackle, and sometimes we simply have to ask a native-speaker of Norwegian to explain what certain words mean.



*What is your favorite Norwegian novel? Do*

*you have a favorite author?*

Sigrid Undset's *Kristin Lavransdatter* is my all-time favorite Norwegian novel. I was thrilled and honored to be asked by Penguin to produce a new translation that would attempt to get closer to the author's beautifully clear and straightforward style. As mentioned, the first English translation of this epic work was written in an artificially archaic style that stopped many readers from even trying to read the novel.

The early translation was also marred by mistakes and misunderstandings, and for some reason entire passages were deleted from the text. I was dismayed to see Undset's work so poorly represented in English, and I was determined to do better. I'm delighted to say that I often receive emails from readers who have finally discovered Undset's work and want to share their enthusiasm for her wonderful story about Kristin. The novel remains as powerful today as when it was first published.

*How do you try to capture the authors' individual voices? Are there enough similarities between the languages to capture rhythm and pacing, or do you take a different approach?* I often say that translating is rather similar to acting. The translator has to immerse herself in the "voice" of the text, giving up

her own voice in the process. Of course it's impossible to become a hundred percent invisible, because every translator brings her own background and experiences to the work. But with practice — by paying attention to such things as rhythm, pacing, word choice, and repetition — a translator can learn to take



on the "role" of the book.

*When you translate a book, are you able to enjoy the story, or are you so close to the material that it is difficult to get enough perspective?*

As a rule I find that a well-written book with interesting characters is a pleasure to translate. Books that are not as well written require more wrestling with the language to make the work sound good in English. I especially appreciate authors who make creative use of the original language and thus challenge my translating skills. And no matter how hard I'm working on a translation, I always love a good story. Those of us who translate fiction for a living got involved in the profession because we love books. No one reads a text with more attention than a translator, who has to examine and understand every single word. Such a close reading usually enhances my respect for the author's skill and my admiration for the story.

I rarely read the entire novel in advance, which keeps the work fresh and interesting. This is especially true when working on crime fiction — I like to unravel the case just as the reader does, moving through the first draft of the translation without knowing who the villain is or what the outcome will be.

*How long does it take to translate a novel?*

It varies widely, depending on the length of the book and the difficulty of the language. Normally, I translate four or five books a year.

*Your husband is also an accomplished translator. Do you ever work together and help each other?*

We always edit each

other's work. After I finish my first draft of a translation, I sit down and read through the whole thing through again, making changes and corrections with a green pen. Then Steve reads the manuscript, marking changes in red. I look over his changes, either accepting them or not — using a third colored pen — and then all the corrections have to be entered in the computer before the manuscript goes off to the publisher. It's not unusual for us to read a book seven or eight times before it's done!

*When you are translating contemporary fiction, do you work closely with the author or do you just deal with the publisher?*

Some authors get more involved in the translation process than others. It's always



great to be able to correspond with the author by email to get my translation questions answered before sending off the manuscript to the publisher. Since most Scandinavian writers speak English well, this can sometimes

create problems for the translator, because the author may want to "correct" the English. We diplomatically try to discourage this type of "help." It's really a matter of trust. The author needs to trust the translator to present his or her novel in a way that gets as close as possible to the style and intent of the original. My first loyalty is to the book itself — not to the publisher or reader, or even to the author. It's my job to make the text read well in English, and I take that responsibility very seriously.

*Some people would claim that translation is the "art of the impossible." What do you think of this statement?*

Literary translation can be difficult, frustrating, time-consuming, and at times a bit daunting. It's also a fun and endlessly fascinating job. But I would not call translation an "impossible" art. Of course a text will never be exactly the same in another language, and in that sense the translation process produces an "imperfect" version of the original. But just as a talented musician or actor can give an inspired performance, a gifted translator can create a work that remains faithful to the original and at the same time brings the text brilliantly alive in another language. ■



# back in time

in newfoundland, a restored viking settlement rekindles the imagination

by pia engh roll



DALE WILSON/PARKS CANADA

**O**n the northern tip of Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, the Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows was discovered in 1960 by Norwegian lawyer and explorer Helge Ingstad (1899–2001). Ingstad had been studying historical documents known as the Vinland Sagas, which led him to begin a serious search for traces of early Nordic peoples in North America. Working his way north from Rhode Island, he passed through Labrador and Newfoundland, eventually arriving in L'Anse aux Meadows. A local, George Drecker, showed him some mounds that reminded Ingstad of similar mounds he had seen in Greenland.

The excavation began in June 1961, led by archaeologist Anne Stine Ingstad, Helge's wife. Archaeologists from Canada, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the United States participated. The Ingstad family returned to L'Anse aux Meadows every summer for eight years to continue the excavations. The mounds turned out to be the remnants of eight buildings of various sizes. Three of the buildings were dwellings, while the others were used as workshops and storage.

Norwegian tradition holds that it was Leif Erikson who discovered L'Anse aux Meadows. He was the son of Erik the Red, from southern Norway, and an Icelandic woman. The couple moved from Iceland after Erik the Red was banished for murder. Leif was born in Greenland and it was from there that the excursion to L'Anse aux Meadows departed.

Their discoveries showed that L'Anse aux Meadows was settled around 1,000 AD by Norsemen from Greenland, which was at the time a society distinct from Norway and Iceland, even though there was a lot of trade and exchange of people. Today it is believed that the settlement was established as a way station to explore the new continent and exploit the resources found there. The presence of butternuts from New Brunswick and wood from various trees prove that the inhabitants traveled extensively. However, the Norse occupancy was short, perhaps not longer than a decade.

With their discovery of the Viking settlement, the archaeologists filled in 500 years of European-American history. L'Anse aux Meadows was an important discovery and has later been seen in context with other sites discovered by Canadian archaeologists. Parks Canada continued excavations after the Ingstads and today

they are running the L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park.

Today the remains of the buildings are on a half-moon shaped terrace overlooking soft green slopes that roll gently into a shallow beach. A visitor's center has been built and the ancient houses were reconstructed. The idea is to offer a living history experience so that people can see how the Vikings lived. "I was very impressed with the work Parks Canada has done on the site and the National Historic Park; they have made it such an interesting place to visit. The museum is wonderful with the large windows overlooking the sea and the buildings," Ambassador Eikeland says.

*"L'Anse aux Meadows is a magical place where heaven and earth meet. You can easily imagine Leif Erikson landing there with his two wooden ships."*

*—Ambassador Else Berit Eikeland*

## in the footsteps of a childhood heroine

Growing up in Jæren in southern Norway in the 1960s, Ambassador Eikeland loved to read. One of the first books to make a real impression on her was *The Viking discovery of America: The Excavation of a Norse Settlement in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland*, Anne Stine Ingstad's first-person account of the excavations at L'Anse aux Meadows, describing the work she performed and how she discovered many of the buildings at the site. She also tells of her close relationship with the locals and their participation in the excavation. Their support was invaluable to the Ingstad family, which was living in the little fishing village in a harsh climate with no electricity and no roads to the outside world. The importance of the locals' friendship is a central theme of the book.

"Since my appointment as Ambassador to Canada, I've wanted to visit L'Anse aux Meadows to see the buildings but also to experience what Anne Stine described in her book. We all have some experiences in our lives that define who we are as persons and for me Anne Stine's book was such an experience. It made me aware of the world outside and how it was mine to discover. In addition, people from Jæren feel a strong bond to L'Anse aux Meadows because Erik the Red came from Jæren. We feel we have a kinship with the first discovery of North-America and Helge Ingstad's rediscovery," says the Ambassador.

She reread the book before her visit to L'Anse aux Meadows in July. "I hoped to reconfirm the connection to Norway and relive what the heroine of my childhood experienced. It was an amazing trip, and L'Anse aux Meadows surpassed my expectations." The older generation still remembers the Ingstads and many have a link to the excavation; most either participated in it themselves or know



DALE WILSON/PARKS CANADA

Above: Blacksmithing demonstration at L'Anse aux Meadows.

Facing page: Reenactment of the Viking arrival in North America.

someone who did. "Many of them feel like I do, that Anne-Stine's role in the discovery and excavations has been understated and downplayed," the Ambassador says.

The Embassy is working to support L'Anse aux Meadows as a tourist destination in Canada to reconfirm Norway and Canada's political ties and shared history. "We're talking with Parks Canada about maybe starting a Viking Festival. It would be a great place for it and so nice to do something in such a lovely community," says the Ambassador.

"L'Anse aux Meadows is a magical place where heaven and earth meet. You can easily imagine Leif Erikson landing there with his two wooden ships," she says. ■



## Amundsen Featured on New \$50 bill

The new \$50 polymer banknote to be released in 2012 is the first non-paper note to be issued by Bank of Canada. Polymer, a plastic-type material, was chosen to allow for additional security features, reduce counterfeiting and increase durability.

The Canadian \$50 bill will honor the famous Norwegian polar explorer, Roald Amundsen through his namesake, the Canadian research icebreaker CCGS Amundsen. The ship with the Norwegian connection was chosen as the theme for the new bill to highlight the icebreaker's important role in the High North. The CCGS Amundsen helps keep important passages open, allowing for Arctic research and access to local communities, and is used for search and rescue operations when needed.

It is fitting that Roald Amundsen, whose time spent in the Canadian Arctic was essential to his success as a polar explorer, is being remembered for his Arctic research and unparalleled contribution to polar exploration on the centennial of his trek to the South Pole. —Jan-Terje Storaas



## Residence in Canada Opens Doors

Situated in one of the most prominent and picturesque neighborhoods in Canada's capital, Rockcliffe Park, the Norwegian Embassy's Residence, with its parklike surroundings, has been a popular local landmark since the early days of Ottawa.

Every summer, locals and visitors to Ottawa get a unique opportunity to visit places normally out of bounds to the public, when during two weekend afternoons, participating government offices, embassies, churches and more open their doors to provide a look behind the scenes. When the Norwegian Embassy decided to be a part of Ottawa Doors Open this summer, it was the first time the public was given a chance to view this magnificent property, located right next door to Canada's Governor General, since it became the Norwegian Residence in 1949. More than 1,200 visitors came through the doors, and they were excited to see this part of their heritage as well as taking in the Norwegian art on the walls and learning more about the building's history and its former residents. —JTS

# to protect and to serve

by siri h. hollekim hælønd

*When she was 13 years old, Trude Eiane Vatnes had a dream that might have seemed familiar to many Norwegian girls her age: She wanted to ride horses for a living. But unlike most teenage girls, she wanted to do it patrolling the streets of Oslo, proudly dressed in a police uniform with her country's emblem on her chest.*

Vatnes grew up in Bergen, Norway's second-largest city, famous for its natural beauty and rainy days. There, her neighbor, a policeman, took her under his wing, seeing a young girl that he was convinced would one day make an excellent police officer. The two spent much of their free time together preparing Vatnes for the Norwegian Police Academy's rigorous psychological and physical entrance examinations. And with her mentor by her side, Trude was accepted into the Oslo academy, then the only police academy in Norway, in 1990 — a high achievement, as the country's police academy is known for its very stringent admission requirements. She was 20 years old.

Now 42, Vatnes is a member of one of the most respected professions in Norway and a mother of two, living in Oslo and serving her

*“The general reaction in Norway [to the events of July 22] has been love and togetherness, something that I have certainly experienced as a police officer, but maybe even more importantly as a Norwegian.”*

—Officer Trude Vatnes

fellow citizens as a detective in the Homicide and Vice Department. And although relinquishing her childhood dreams of having her office on horseback, she has never regretted any of the choices she has made when it comes to her career.

“Working within the police department gave me numerous choices and a unique opportunity to work within my field of interest. It is challenging, unpredictable and fascinating, and even though my department can be an emotionally and professionally hard place to work, I really do feel that I am making a difference. It is incredibly rewarding to be able to see that what you do through your work is making life easier to handle for someone else,” she says.

## answering the call on July 22

Because she's assigned to the Oslo police district, Vatnes was directly affected by the tragic events of July 22. She was spending the weekend with her children at their cabin in the Norwegian mountains and the family has, like all Norwegians, its own unique story regard-



PHOTOS COURTESY TRUDE EIANE VATNES

Officer Trude Vatnes in the Oslo police department.

ing how they learned about the bomb in downtown Oslo.

“We were in a store, doing something as trivial as buying a new washer for our cabin, when I suddenly heard talk about an explosion in Oslo. One hour later I was called in, assigned to the team running the center where families would gather to wait for information on their children who were at Utøya. I don't know whether it was my role as a mother or my role as a police officer that played the biggest part on that day. But I know they were both important for both the families waiting for their children and myself.”

Months later, choosing to focus on the future, Vatnes definitely sees a change not only within the police force and its relationship with the people it is there to protect, but also within herself.

“I was a proud police officer before July 22, but my perspective on my own occupation and job title has undeniably changed. Introducing myself as a person working within the police not only has a heightened and new meaning for me, but I can also tell that many Norwegians feel they have a stronger relationship with us, even on a personal level. The general reaction in Norway has been love and togetherness, something that I have certainly experienced as a police officer, but maybe even more importantly as a Norwegian.”

## feeling safe without guns

Following this summer's attack, an issue raised in both national and international media pertains to the fact that Norwegian police do not carry firearms in their everyday work. A normal week in the Oslo police district does entail armed operations, mostly in response to robberies. But low crime rates and relatively few murders allow officers to feel safe while walking the streets of Oslo carrying pepper spray and a baton.

Vatnes asserts that she feels just as safe after July 22 as she did before. "We pride ourselves in being a peaceful nation and I genuinely feel our values and culture prohibit us from using deadly weapons in a conflict. We as a people and as a country believe in nonviolent resolution, and I think that shows all the way from our everyday life to our international commitments. Carrying a gun can be just as dangerous as being without one, as it can come into the wrong hands during a struggle. As an officer I have my shooting training, my yearly approval to carry a gun and, if worst comes to worst, a weapon in my car. In Norway we have highly competent

*"It is incredibly rewarding to be able to see that what you do through your work is making life easier to handle for someone else."*

*—Officer Trude Vatnes*

stand-by units specially trained for dangerous situations, but my colleagues and I have never and probably will never feel the need to constantly carry a gun. And that is one of the things I value most about my country."

But despite earlier skepticism towards the idea of an armed patrolling police force, the discussion around the issue of firearms is alive and an official survey is being conducted throughout Norway to determine what officers within the police really think of the current situation. Still, Vatnes is clear: Before she became a detective, her days patrolling the streets were spent without a gun in her holster, and she hopes that will not change for the men and women wearing the blue uniform today.

## a police officer, but a parent first

Maybe the idea of living in a society where the police do not find it necessary to carry arms is closely tied to Vatnes's role as a mother of two. But her eldest, Helene, 16, maintains that at home, Vatnes is first and foremost a mother, not a police officer. "She might be a slow and careful driver, but I never find myself being annoyed over her acting extra strict compared to my friends' parents. We had the talk about where not to walk at night in Oslo and the dangers of alcohol, but I think these are conversations all parents have with their children. I am just lucky enough to have a mother who really knows what she is talking about and has seen the dangers tied to it."

Both of Vatnes's daughters, youngest Tiril included, agree that their mother is someone to be proud of. Their friends often joke that Helene can just dial 911 when she wants her mother to pick her up.

Tiril, 8, talks about her dreams for the future, which are remarkably similar to her mother's dreams of years ago. Not the part about riding horses; there's only one thing she wants to be when she grows up: "A police officer! And if not... Well, then I just don't know what I want to do." ■



Above: Officer Vatnes greets an Oslo police horse.

Below: On vacation with daughters Helene and Tiril in Washington, D.C.



# Tweets from the Top

want to quiz the norwegian foreign minister? you can find him on twitter

by anders aalbu

Norway's Foreign Minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, is one of a growing number of government ministers using social media. The recent United Nations General Assembly proved that no news is too big or too small to merit a tweet — be it a jog in Central Park or a debate on democratization in the Arab world.

When it comes to social media, Støre is hot on the heels of Norway's Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg. Both have been active on platforms such as Facebook and Twitter for more than two years. In fact, Stoltenberg has more followers on Twitter than any other Norwegian citizen: More than 85,000 people follow his updates. With more than 25,000 followers, Støre also gets into the Top 10 list of Norwegians on Twitter.

Støre put his experience to good use during this year's U.N. General Assembly in New York when he moderated a debate on social media and the role it can play in promoting democracy and human rights. The debate was part of the annual Trygve Lie Symposium on Fundamental Freedoms, named after Norwegian politician and lawyer Trygve Lie, who served as the U.N.'s first Secretary-General, from 1946 to 1952. The Symposium is held each September by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Peace Institute.

The panel was packed with social media practitioners. Claire Diaz Ortiz came on from Twitter. She's the author of the book *Twitter for Good: Change the World One Tweet at a Time*. The U.S. was represented



Foreign Minister Støre with India's Deputy Foreign Minister, Shashi Tharoor.

by Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Maria Otero, who later tweeted about taking part in the discussion. From Sweden came Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, an avid user of Twitter. Central to the discussion were two influential human rights activists, Nora Younis from Egypt and Wissam Tarif from Lebanon, who used social media as a catalyst for change during the recent Arab Spring.

Foreign Minister Støre opened the debate by saying that social media is not inherently good or bad: "It was not Facebook or Twitter that overthrew Ben Ali in Tunisia and Mubarak in Egypt. It was the people who overthrew them. But the effectiveness of social media triggered the urge the repressive regimes have to stop and censor the use of social media and control the human rights activists and the opposition as a whole."

Activists Younis and Tarif echoed that sentiment and gave examples of how the power of social media lies not only in documenting events but also in mobilizing the masses. The tension between Internet security and freedom of speech was another hot topic. Ms. Younis appealed to governments to lay off the Internet. She said it is civil society's responsibility not to misuse the Internet, not politicians' place to control it.

About 50 countries around the world exercise some form of censorship on the Internet. Foreign Minister Støre asked what

sympathetic governments should do to support human rights activists. Several panelists answered that freedom of speech needs to be protected both offline and online. Bildt took it one step further in a tweet he posted during the debate: "the net is the new frontline in the fight for freedom across the world."

Discussing social media in a U.N. context is different from the more informal way most people use social media in Norway. As politicians, Støre and Stoltenberg use platforms such as Twitter or Facebook to send political messages, but they also use them to share moments from their personal lives, like photos from a skiing trip or the view from the top of a mountain. Earlier this fall, when Støre was in New York, he posted a photo from his morning run in Central Park. In an instant, the online world had a peek into the ordinary life of one of Norway's most prominent politicians.

Prime Minister Stoltenberg and Foreign Minister Støre can be followed on Twitter at [twitter.com/jensstoltenberg](https://twitter.com/jensstoltenberg) and [twitter.com/JonasGahrStore](https://twitter.com/JonasGahrStore), respectively. (Both tweet primarily in Norwegian, but they may respond in English to questions posed in English.) Those interested in international relations can check out the Twitter accounts of the Norwegian U.N. delegation (@NorwayUN), the Norwegian Embassy in Washington (@NorwayUS) and the Foreign Ministry (@utenriksdept). ■



# School Days

norwegian exchange students flock to u.c. berkeley for academics, good weather, and cheap beer

by marthe bjørnen and stine ravnå

*U.C. Berkeley is a popular destination for Norwegian exchange students wanting to experience academic life in sunny California: More than 1,300 students from Norway have studied there during the last five years. Here, News of Norway asks some of the Norwegians studying at Berkeley about the highs and lows of their stay in California.*

**Eirin Skaale Sælen** is 25 years old and comes from the lovely city of Bergen. Like most of the Norwegian exchange students at U.C. Berkeley, she is studying sociology while on the West Coast.

Being Norwegian draws a fair bit of attention in Berkeley: “Americans are very interested when they hear a group of blondes speaking in a foreign language,” says Sælen. But she says it’s not just the language that separates the two countries: “The U.S. has a very liberalistic economy. Everyone looks up to the rich and there is no *Jantelov* [the Law of Jante, a tendency toward self-effacement and modesty familiar to most Norwegians] like back home. But there are also a lot more homeless people here; it seems like there is no support system when things go wrong.”

*Best thing about studying in the U.S.:* “Learning the language and the culture, sunny weather and cheap beer.”

**Monica Olsen** (21) is from Svelvik, just outside Oslo. At U.C. Berkeley, she is studying sociology and economics, taking two courses in each department. She says the American system of evaluation takes getting used to. In Norway, typically, just one paper and one exam determine the final grade for an entire course, whereas in America, there is continuous evaluation throughout the semester.

Olsen sees some advantages to the American way of doing things: “There is more maturity of learning with the American system and reading continuously. In Norway, it is much more common to go for an all-out effort right before exams start.”

*Best thing about studying in the U.S.:* “All the things you get to experience. Trying the American college life with fraternities and sororities. Traveling and seeing more of the country.”

*Worst thing about studying in the U.S.:* “All of the papers and exams. In Norway, we only have one exam at the end of the semester [for each class] and we do not have as many assignments.”

**Karen Oftedal Eikill** (25) is from Haugesund, a city on the west coast of Norway. At Berkeley she studies sociology. Eikill likes living in the U.S., but sees big differences between American and Norwegian society: “There are so many homeless people here compared to Norway, and there is less welfare in society. People here are more concerned with the American dream and managing on their own.”

*Worst thing about studying in the U.S.:* “Lectures in the evenings, having to work continuously, and the [relative lack of a] social welfare system.”

**Heidi Høgalmen** is 21 years old and comes from Stavanger, one of the biggest cities in Norway. She is taking classes in both sociology and economics during her semester at U.C. Berkeley.



PHOTOS: KAREN EIKILL

Heidi Høgalmen, Camilla Thunes and Monica Olsen at an American football game, rooting for the school team.

Høgalmen thinks that Americans are more forward than Norwegians, more helpful and good at offering advice. “It is so typically Norwegian seeing two people sitting next to each other without talking. Here, people are so extroverted and willing to chat with strangers.” She thinks the weather makes all the difference: “I think Norwegians would be different if it weren’t for the bad weather. We are influenced by the fact that we are inside a lot. You only have to take a look at the way we walk — we walk much faster than Americans, not lingering and chatting, but always on our way somewhere!”

**Emilie Bratt Jakhellen** (24) was born and raised in Oslo. At Berkeley, she is taking classes in sociology while working on her thesis. She says she sees a different way of communicating in the U.S.; she thinks the professors are very enthusiastic and use more humor when teaching. Being an exchange student also means that she has to push herself to do new things, get to know new people and become acclimated to another academic culture. Jakhellen finds the proliferation of jargon in American academia particularly challenging. ■



Emilie Bratt Jakhellen takes advantage of California’s sun and surf.

# Salmon for Sammen

d.c.'s schoolchildren discover that the new nordic cuisine combines traditional techniques, unusual ingredients to create a new taste sensation **by pia dahl**

A new culinary movement has found its way into the world's top kitchens in recent years, flowing not from Spain, France or the Mediterranean but from Oslo, Copenhagen, Reykjavik and points as far north as Lapland. Sometimes referred to as "new Nordic," though many chefs from the region prefer the term "authentic cuisine," it focuses on food that is foraged, sourced locally and quite often raw.

Many associate the term *new Nordic cuisine* with chef René Redzepi and his Copenhagen restaurant, Noma, but equally talented chefs throughout the Nordic countries are opening up restaurants attracting food lovers from all over the world. (See the Spring 2009 issue of *News of Norway* for a profile of Norway's own prizewinning chef, Geir Skeie.) Instead of the new (cutting-edge techniques, use of stabilizers and unusual ingredients) it emphasizes the old (drying, smoking, pickling, curing) focusing on the abundance of wild and pure ingredients found in the north, ranging from moose, trout, eel and hare to mushrooms, herbs and vegetables, all grown locally.

Incorporating whey, rutabaga, pine, juniper and hay into the recipes, and fashioning serving pieces from items such as shells, twigs and rocks, new Nordic cuisine looks as wild and natural as it tastes. It has less of the manicured look found in much of haute-cooking today, and more of a rough-and-tumble assemblage reminding us of the Nordic climate and nature. In many of the restaurants promoting new Nordic cuisine, the only imported ingredients are sugar, salt, vinegar and selections of wines and coffee — there's not a drop of extra virgin olive oil or a sprig of basil in sight.

## nordic day in washington, d.c.

As a nod to this rising interest in new Nordic cooking and the importance of pure and healthful food in general, the Embassies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden cooperated on a project bringing Nordic Food to elementary school students in Washington, D.C. Working with the D.C.

Public Schools' Office of Food and Nutrition Services and the D.C. Embassy Adoption Program, the five Embassies brought Nordic food to all 45,000 students at 125 D.C. schools on a school day in November. The students were served Norwegian salmon sponsored by the Norwegian Seafood Export Council, as well as Swedish meatballs, Icelandic *skyr* (a type of low-fat yogurt), rye bread, lingonberry jam and cheese. The purpose of Nordic Food Day was to expose the students to new and healthy foods while encouraging them to recreate the recipes at home, while also incorporating healthier lifestyle choices inspired in part by Michele Obama's "Let's Move" initiative. The students were given a special cookbook to take home as a keepsake and as inspiration to cook at home in the future.

Nordic "Food Mentors" sponsored by Nordic Innovation visited 20 schools, giving the students a primer in Nordic culture and culinary tradition before serving breakfast, lunch and dinner the following day. The menu items were partly prepared by five Nordic apprentice chefs, who were visiting D.C. as winners of a Nordic culinary competition.

Staff from the Norwegian and Icelandic Embassies spent lunchtime at Brookland Elementary, having fun with the students



PHOTOS COURTESY ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

A student at Brookland Elementary School in Washington, D.C. samples Nordic food.

while listening to live performances by Icelandic jazz musician Bjorn Thoroddsen and Norwegian fiddler Vilde Aasland and talking about Nordic food and traditions from our respective countries. ■



Brookland Elementary School students jam with Icelandic jazz musician Bjorn Thoroddsen.

# A Twist on Tradition

Recipe by Sondre Brusvik

by siri h. hollekim hælønd

**B**orn in a country with proud food traditions, Sondre Brusvik (21) takes his job as the new chef at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington seriously. But that does not stop him from having fun with the food he serves.

“I have always had a great love for dish-ing up new and different kinds of courses. And being from the west coast of Norway naturally comes with its own kinds of preferences regarding the ingredients I use,” says Brusvik, referring to the coastal region’s enthusiasm for and abundance of fish and shellfish. “I try to use as much fish as possible, my favorite being the cod, as I can accessorize it with strong-flavored side dishes without stealing its thunder. My country’s love of fish is definitely, in my opinion, the best feature of the Norwegian kitchen.”

But while Brusvik shares his fellow Norwegians’ fondness for seafood, there are some parts of a typical Norwegian meal he

wishes would play a smaller role. “We love our whole boiled potatoes and heavy bread. And while the potato does not even come into consideration when serving international guests, I try to do a twist on our bread traditions,” he says.

And the young chef is not shy about steal-ing ideas from food traditions outside his home country: “One of the things I like to serve as an alternative to the more heavy Norwegian bread is focaccia. The Mediter-ranean way of adding more spices to their bread is definitely something I try to incorpo-rate into my dishes. I guess you could say I am trying to modernize the Norwegian style of cooking by gathering inspiration from other countries’ kitchens.”

Although this issue’s dish is made without Norway’s beloved fish, it is a typical example of the healthy and wholesome traditions of Nordic food. With a modern twist by Brusvik, of course. ■



PHOTOS BY SIRI H. HOLLEKIM HAALAND

## Cauliflower Soup with Croutons

### cauliflower soup

1 large head of cauliflower  
8 1/2 cups of whole milk  
2 tbsp of butter  
Salt  
White pepper  
Chives

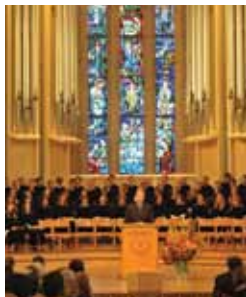
1. Remove leaves from cauliflower.
2. Cut cauliflower into small pieces, place into a pot, and pour in the milk to cover the cauliflower.
3. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer until cauliflower is tender.
4. Use a handheld blender to make the soup smooth.
5. Melt the butter and add it to the soup
6. Add salt and pepper to taste.
7. Decorate with chives.

### croutons

1. Cut your bread of choice into small cubes.
2. Drizzle with olive oil, salt and pepper.
3. Bake in 320 °F oven until golden brown and crunchy.



## on the cover



COURTESY ST. OLAF COLLEGE

King Harald V addresses the St. Olaf community during a special *Sammenkomst* in his honor in Boe Memorial Chapel. In the background is the St. Olaf Choir, which sang for the King.

# news of norway

# 3/4 | 2011

## events

### seattle

**Cold Recall: Roald Amundsen's Words and Pictures Tour the U.S.**  
One hundred years after Roald Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole, the Norwegian Embassy, in collaboration with the Norwegian Fram Museum in Oslo, brings the Cold Recall-exhibit to several exhibitors throughout the U.S. The exhibit tells the story of Amundsen's travel through the Northwest Passage and to the South Pole. Images and text were both used in the explorer's own lectures and together they offer a unique insight into how he presented his expeditions to an international audience.

Dec. 9, 2011–Feb. 5, 2012  
Nordic Heritage Museum  
3014 NW 67th St.  
Seattle, WA 98117

Note: Exhibition travels to Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA in February, and to the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, in April. Other venues and dates to be announced.

### new york

**Regional Modernism: New Art in Scandinavia, 1880–1912**  
A Symposium on Early Modern Nordic Art  
The American-Scandinavian Foundation's third and final centennial exhibition, *Luminous Modernism: Scandinavian Art Comes to America, 1912* will culminate in a major, all-day symposium in February 2012. The program, *Regional Modernism: New Art in Scandinavia, 1880-1912*, will offer audiences an in-depth look at the art, history, and cultural relations of the Scandinavian countries during the dynamic decades of the early 20th century.

Sat., Feb. 11, 2012  
Two sessions:  
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

[www.scandinaviahouse.org](http://www.scandinaviahouse.org)

### ottawa

**Norwegian artist Anne Senstad to feature at two venues in Ottawa exhibition**  
Two video artworks by New York-based Norwegian artist Anne Katrine Senstad will feature in the multisite group exhibition *Preternatural*. Senstad has been exhibiting her work internationally for more than 20 years, but this will be the first time her work has been shown in Canada.

Dec. 9, 2011–Feb. 12, 2012  
Canadian Museum of Nature  
240 McLeod St.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
<http://nature.ca/en/home>

January 29–February 17, 2012  
St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts  
302 St. Patrick St.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
<http://saintbrigidscentre.com/>

### Winterlude 2012

Ottawa's famous winter festival will feature a Norwegian Pavilion in Confederation Park. There will be a focus on Sami culture and heritage with a traditional *lavvo* tent, complete with reindeer hides, storytelling around the fire and traditional song. There will also be an outdoor display of Roald Amundsen's own photos from the Northwest Passage and the South Pole. The director of the Fram museum in Oslo will give a public lecture on the evening of February 6.

For details on the Festival Program, please visit <http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude>

February 3–20, 2012  
Confederation Park  
Ottawa, Ontario Admission: Free.

See a full listing of events around the U.S. at [norway.org/calendar](http://norway.org/calendar)