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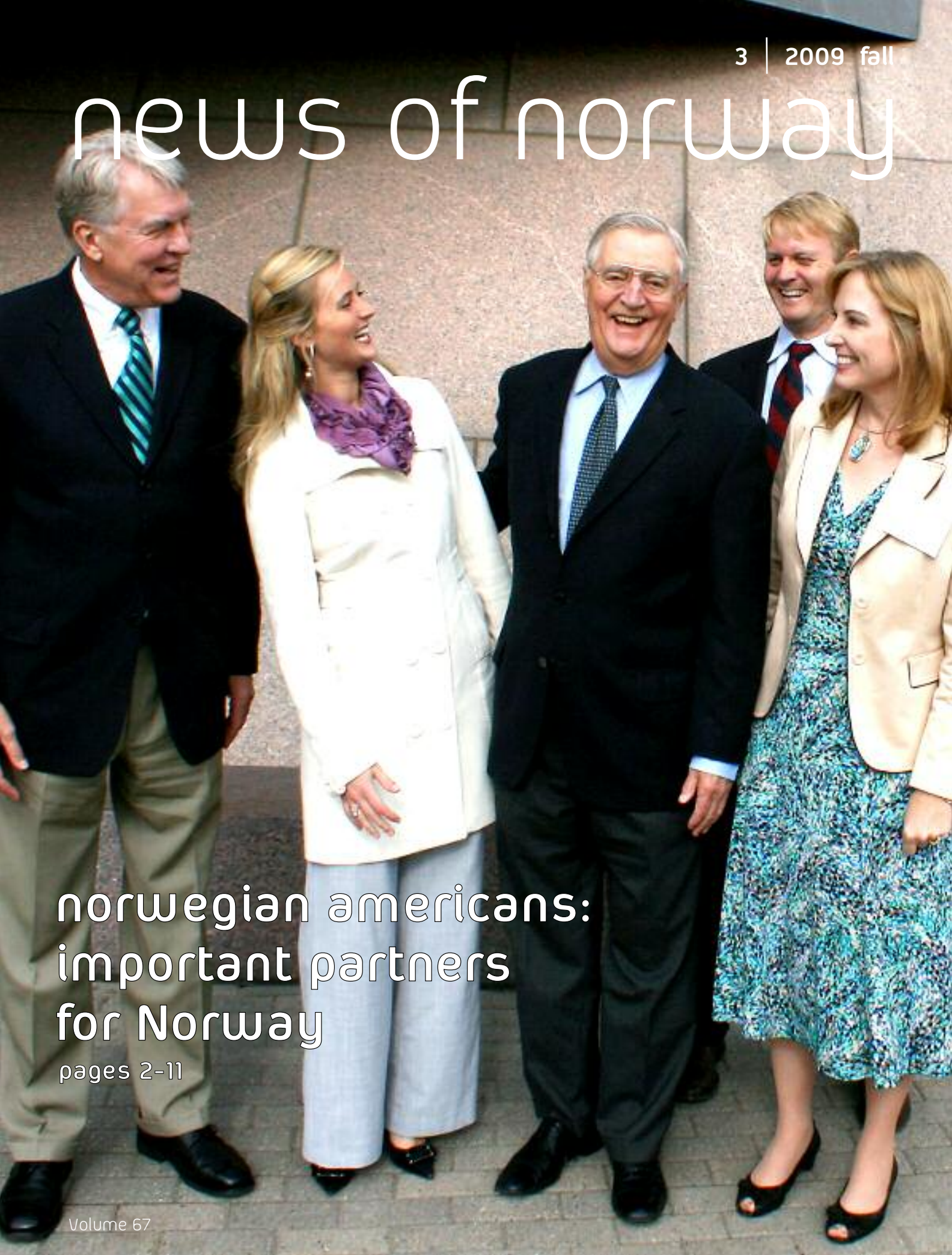
news of norway



norwegian americans: important partners for Norway

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Volume 67

PHOTO BY IDA SKEIE

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

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dear reader,

Over a period of 100 years from 1840, close to 1 million immigrants came to the United States from Norway, seeking a better life. Today there are between 5 and 6 million Norwegian Americans who contribute in important ways to the strong bonds between our two countries. It is amazing how Norwegian Americans continue to identify with the homeland. Having visited more than half of the American states, I have been touched by how important it is for Norwegian Americans to keep their cultural traditions alive. The majority of Norwegian immigrants ended up in the Midwest and on the West Coast – first in Washington State and, later, in California. For many years, hard work as farmers, fishermen, and longshoremen was the reality for most Norwegian immigrants. The typical Norwegian community was tightly knit around home and church, but they also built colleges so future generations could fulfil the American dream. Over the years, most Norwegian Americans have joined the middle class and assimilated into mainstream society.

What we see is that new generations of Norwegian Americans are redefining their relationship with Norway. Today, many are engaged in educational exchange, research cooperation and business opportunities. To nurture these aspirations, the Embassy is host for the annual "Science Week" where researchers from both countries network and discuss the latest research findings in biotech, new energy and cancer medicine, to name a few areas of mutual interest. Another meeting place is the annual U.S. Norway Forum, where the Embassy has the opportunity to engage with the many Norwegian-American educational institutions and heritage organizations. They are important partners in moving our bilateral relations forward. A case in point is Norway's Honorary Consulate General in Minneapolis, which brings together people with a stake in the growing bilateral collaboration. I am very pleased with the Consulate team, led by Vice President Walter Mondale. His story is the American dream of opportunity, hard work, duty, and heritage come full circle. (See story on page 4).

Another example is the Norway Caucus in the U.S. Congress. The caucus demonstrates that there are many reasons for associating with Norway. It could be Norwegian heritage, Norwegian Americans in a constituency, or an interest in international issues where Norway has something to offer. When Norwegian politicians visit Washington, D.C., or a state, we often connect with caucus members. They never fail to enlighten their Norwegian counterparts about U.S. politics and its influence on foreign policy.

Norway and the United States share many interests, and in our common pursuit of global peace and prosperity Norwegian Americans are a huge asset and play an increasingly important role.

wegger chr. strommen
ambassador of norway to the united states

PHOTO BY IDA SKEIE

two nations - one goal

by ida marie skeie

"People want tools that help them act against global warming," said Adam Markham of Clean Air-Cool Planet (CA-CP) at climate seminars co-hosted by the Norwegian Embassy, in Chicago, Illinois, and Racine, Wisconsin, this fall.

The conferences, which were also held in collaboration with the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread and Natural Resources Defense Council, reached out to an audience of business people, politicians, and opinion leaders. The events brought together four leading scientists in the field of climate research: Dr. Eugenie Euskirchen, Adam Markham, Dr. Steven Nerem, and Dr. Nalan Koc.

Markham, who is the chief executive of CA-CP discussed the effects of warming on Arctic ecosystems and potential catastrophic impacts on ice-dependent wildlife. He emphasized the importance of the contribution from all levels in society, "A solution is to provide people with easy ways they can make changes. It can be communities helping their town being environmentally sustainable, by for example having local energy meetings and discussing how the energy in town is being utilized." Markham made it clear that even though many tend to focus on government regulation, individual contribution is just as important. "Individuals can make a difference through choosing to buy a hybrid car, change the type of light bulb they use, and by writing letters to the government," he said.

Attending from Norway was Dr. Nalan Koc, who is the director of the Norwegian Center for Ice, Climate and Ecosystems in Tromsø. She studies the effect that climate change is having on ice in the Arctic region and in Norway. "The Arctic is warming at almost twice the rate as the rest of the world. The ice is melting faster than predicted," Koc said. She explained that Norway and the United States have common research interests which draw the countries together. In her opinion, the exchange of knowledge and experience both nations get from their work on ice melting and sea rise level is of great benefit.

The increased focus on research of global warming is creating new opportunities for Norwegian-American collaboration. Norway has a longstanding tradition of research collaboration with the United States, and in 2004 the Norwegian government adopted a strategy for research and technology collaboration with North America. The climate events in Chicago and Racine were examples of that partnership. And while the shores of Lake Michigan are far from the Arctic, the global impact may affect natural resources, commerce, and public health, also in this region.

"As research in the Arctic demands a great deal of energy and resources, an ideal situation moving forward is an increase in collaborative projects which would strengthen the bonds between the United States and Norway further," Dr. Koc said.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Eugenie uskirchen, research assistant professor of terrestrial ecology at University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Adam Markham, chief executive of Clean Air-Cool Planet; Dr. Steven Nerem, professor of aerospace engineering science at the University of Colorado; and Dr. Nalan Koc, director of the Norwegian Center for Ice, Climate and Ecosystems in Tromsø, Norway.

PHOTO BY ARILD STRØMMEN

minneapolis: a nexus for norwegian-american cooperation

by arild strommen

"Norway and the United States share so much and we need each other in so many ways," said former Vice-President Walter Mondale at the 2009 Science Week in Minneapolis. The 81-year old, whose ancestors came from Mundal, Norway may now have even closer ties to Norway than ever. For the past year he has spearheaded Norway's connection to the Midwest as the Norwegian Honorary Consul General in Minneapolis.

In the fall of 2008, Norway's long-established presence in Minneapolis went through a significant transformation. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to reallocate resources as consular needs of Norwegians abroad have geographically shifted over the years. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wished to establish a more modern platform for collaboration between the Midwest and Norway - enabling increased collaboration in prioritized areas such as research, higher education, innovation, and business development. "We have such an extraordinary common ground for meeting contemporary challenges: our history and heritage, our ties of friendship, our exchanges of students and experts, our willingness to cooperate and - not least – our determination to find solutions. A good understanding. A common ground," said Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in a speech at The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Minneapolis.

Innnovative discussions across the Atlantic paved the way for the creation of a completely new model of what a Norwegian foreign mission could look like. "Traditionally, Consulates have either been completely honorary, or staffed with foreign service personnel," Ambassador Wegger Chr. Strommen stated. "We developed a model we had never tried before: A hybrid foreign mission headed up by an Honorary Consul General and Honorary Consul, and with a staff of three full-time Norwegian Americans, each with specific purposes and tasks and located in the heartland of America."

At the Norwegian Honorary Consulate in Minneapolis, Anders Davidson is Director of Innovation and Business Development, Ellen Ewald is Director of Higher Education and Research, and Christina Carleton is Consular Officer handing all consular affairs.

To glue things together, Honorary Consul Gary Gandrud, a graduate of St. Olaf College, and former Attorney General for Bloomington, Minn., organizes daily operations and assists the staff in completing their missions in education, research, consular affairs, business, and innovation.

Davidson works closely with Innovation Norway, SINTEF and the Research Council of Norway. He assists Norwegian companies in the medical technologies, software, clean tech, food sciences, and oil and gas segments identify and pursue business opportunities. He works closely with Innovation Norway to educate Norwegian Enhanced Oil Recovery technology companies about the opportunities in the Bakken Oil formation in North Dakota. Davidson also works with Norwegian

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Minneapolis Honorary Consul General Walter Mondale and Honorary Consul Gary Gandrud.

medical technology and clean tech firms to identify potential financing, talent and business partnerships.

Ellen Ewald works with the University of Tromsø to establish institutional agreements and promote student and research exchanges with the Midwest colleges affiliated with NALA (Norwegian American Learning Alliance), St Thomas University, University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin. She has worked with Akershus University College in Norway to promote institutional agreements and exchanges in the field of "Energy and Environmental Studies" including the University of Minnesota and University of North Dakota. She also works with the Nobel Peace Prize Forum committee to promote Norway as the 'go-to-place' in educational exchange, and increasing U.S. awareness of the history of the Nobel Peace Prize and peace studies at Augsburg College, Augustana College, Concordia College, Luther College, and St. Olaf College.

One year one year with the new Consulate team, Gandrud sums up the results: "We got the right people hired, and got the new office up to speed," he said. "And the Norwegian-American community is pleased. We have not received a single complaint about the operation compared to how it was before."

Honorary Consul General Mondale and Honorary Consul Gandrud have attended hundreds of events and delivered countless speeches to strengthen US-Norwegian ties. Gandrud finds it important to engage young people: "I spend time on selling Norway to the iPod generation, and reaching out through education and research collaboration, business, and innovation."

With both sides of the family hailing from Hallingdal, Norway, Honorary Consul Gandrud believes his Norwegian heritage is an important part of him: "Talking about today's Norway is what will keep coming generations having appreciation of the heritage that we have. Today's Norway has so much to offer them."

NORWAY IN THE UNITED STATES

Norwegian immigrants went to the United States primarily in the later half of the 19th century and the first few decades of the 20th century. There are more than five million Norwegian Americans according to the most recent U.S. census (2000), and most live in the Upper Midwest. There are more people of Norwegian ancestry in America than in Norway.

The 10 states with the most Norwegian Americans:

1. **Minnesota: 878,744 (16.8%)**
2. **Wisconsin: 462,694**
3. **California: 411,571**
4. **Washington: 399,460**
5. **North Dakota: 194,886 (30.4%)**
6. **Illinois: 177,448**
7. **Iowa: 168,362**
8. **Oregon: 157,601**
9. **Texas: 118,968**
10. **South Dakota: 121,671**

NEWS AND EVENTS
www.norway.org
www.norway.com
www.norwaypost.com

EDUCATION
Universities with a strong Norwegian heritage:

St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.
www.stolaf.edu
Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn.
www.augsburg.edu
Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
www.augie.edu
Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.
www.cord.edu
Luther College, Decorah, iowa
www.luther.edu
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
www.umn.edu
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
www.plu.edu
University of North Dakota
www.und.edu
Nordic American Learning Alliance (NALA)
www.gradusa.org

For children
www.concordialanguagevillages.org
www.globalskolen.no

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN RESOURCES

The Norse Federation (Nordmanns-Forbundet) — Founded in 1907; seeks to strengthen cultural as well as personal ties with Norway
www.norseman.no
Norwegian-American Foundation — An umbrella organization for Norwegian-American organizations, the Foundation sponsors educational and cultural initiatives based on donor advised funds and contributions
www.norway.com
Norwegian American Historical Association — A private membership organization dedicated to locating, collecting, preserving and interpreting the Norwegian-American experience
www.naha.stolaf.edu
Friends of Norway Caucus — Congressional Caucus promoting Norwegian-American relations, founded by Norwegian-American congressmen
www.norway.org/News_and_events/Norway-in-the-US/caucus
Sons of Norway—An organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Norwegian heritage and culture, especially in America
www.sofn.com

250 attend science week in Minneapolis

"Science Week underscores the close connections between Norway and the United States. We share so much and need each other in so many ways," said Honorary Consul General Walter Mondale in his opening remarks at the 8th annual Transatlantic Science Week. For the first time it was held outside of Washington, D.C. – in Minneapolis – hosted by the University of Minnesota, in collaboration with the Norwegian Honorary Consulate General in Minneapolis and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

250 scientists, researchers and educators from Norway, the United States, and Canada attended, and engaged in spirited discussions on how to address issues pertaining to energy, pollution, global warming and life sciences. Berit Johne, Science Counselor at the Norwegian Embassy, said that "the conference serves as a catalyst for cooperation between the three countries."

According to Arvid Hallén, Head of the Research Council of Norway, half the research papers by Norwegian researchers are co-written with Americans. "The United States is the single most important country for research cooperation. Students are the glue for all cooperation," he said.

Norwegian Minister of Higher Education Tora Aasland stressed how cooperation across the Atlantic has increased over the years, lately with collaboration between Norway and the National Institutes of Health, more Fulbright exchange, and ongoing agreements and exchange between universities, such as at the University of Minnesota. Four years ago, the Norwegian government gave the University of Minnesota a $750,000 grant to help create an endowed chair in the fields of bioenergy, genomics and food safety. The Norwegian gift has been matched by University of Minnesota, which also administers the fund. "This partnership strengthens the relationship with Norway in the areas of biotechnology and bioenergy," said conference participant Judd Sheridan, who is co-holder of the Norwegian centennial interdisciplinary chair and director of international programs for the College of Biological Sciences at UM.

Next year's Transatlantic Science Week will be held in Washington, D.C., and in San Francisco in 2011.

PHOTOS BY ARILD STRØMMEN

250 scientists, researchers and educators from Norway, the United States, and Canada attended the Transatlantic Science week, held at the University of Minnesota.

At the opening Science Week reception, Norwegian Minister of Higher Education Tora Aasland pinned the Norwegian Order of Merit on Marilyn Carlson-Nelson, for her efforts to foster Norwegian-American relations.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Gary Gandrud, Honorary Consul in Minneapolis; Berit Johne, Science Counselor at the Norwegian Embassy; Kari Kongslien, Director of Research at the University of Oslo; Minnasota Governor Tim Pawlenty; Norwegian Minister of Higher Education Tora Aasland; Secretary General Trond Fevolden, Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research; Christina Carleton, Consular Officer at the Honorary Consulate General Minneapolis; Toni Larusso, Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office.

For opportunities in the new green economy, we should look to Norway

by lois quam

The relationship between Norway and the United States is a long and distinguished one, particularly for we Minnesotans who claim Norwegian ancestry. From the Viking settlements in the New World to the migration of the religious *Haugianere* and the younger children who didn't inherit the family farm, to the important collaboration during World War II and thereafter, our two countries have shared a vital and historic bond.

But now we need to make Norwegian-American collaboration something new and more vital. Working together, Norway and the United States have the opportunity to create and promote a true "new green economy" – one that will create new industries, investment opportunities, and jobs and provide clean technology products and services throughout the world.

Norway brings several advantages to a partnership with the United States. It is already playing a leadership role in fighting climate change, both in government policy and in creating new innovations.

It should come as no surprise Norway is taking a lead role in combating the environmental damage wrought by climate change. Norway's economy has weathered the global recession better than most, and its sovereign wealth fund is a model for all nations. And Norway's unique history of both Arctic and oil exploration gives it a comprehensive understanding of energy and the environment.

Norway was one of the first countries to impose a tax on carbon to provide incentives to its private sector to reduce harmful emissions ushering in innovation and new companies in response.

In addition, Norway has been a leading center of innovation in clean technology. In the area of carbon sequestration, the Norwegian company StatoilHydro has recaptured and injected 10 million metric tons of CO2 into sandstone below the floor of the North Sea thereby keeping it out of the atmosphere. Norway is also leading the way in solar energy. REC, a Norway-based solar energy company, has already demonstrated how solar technology developed for summer cabins in the mountains can be utilized in other regions of the world.

Exploring the full potential of each form of renewable energy is also crucial. Both Norway and the United States have natural advantages in exploring many of these areas – solar, hydropower, both off-shore and on-shore wind capacity, and wave power, to name a few. Clean technology used to retrofit and reengineer existing industries may be an even larger opportunity for Norwegian-American collaboration. Because Norwegian companies have long worked to minimize their environmental impact, the groundwork is already in place for the development of whole new industries.

Lois Quam is the chief executive of Tysvar, a strategic advisory firm focused on health care and the new green economy, and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. She was named the Norwegian American of the Year in 2005.

As Norway looks at American partners, the Upper Midwest, especially Minnesota, makes sense. Our wind-swept prairies and agricultural and forestry resources offer abundant opportunities to create diverse sources of energy from wind, solar, and biomass, and the University of Minnesota is leading the way with cutting-edge research.

We are living at a unique moment in history when we must rapidly create new products, companies and industries to power the green economy while making existing industries cleaner and greener. Working together, our two countries have the assets and capabilities to lead the global transformation to a cleaner, more sustainable planet.

THE OP-ED IS ABRIDGED. FOR FULL TEXT, PLEASE SEE WWW.NORWAY.ORG

PHOTO BY MARIUS E. HAUGE/MFA

Taking "Norwegian Lessons" in Peace Studies

by arild strommen

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, not only savors its Norwegian heritage, but also keeps a close connection with today's Norway through its academic offerings – especially through peace studies. "Norway has such strength in peace efforts and conflict resolution," said Vice President for Admission and Enrollment Services Karl Stumo. "We look for opportunities to leverage that knowledge for the benefit of our students."

PLU has partnered with Norway for many years to expand its global studies curriculum, and is now even considering a new master's degree program revolving around peace and reconciliation.

Eight years ago PLU, Norway's Hedmark University College, and the University of Namibia formally agreed to study peace, democracy and development together, drawing on their respective faculties and students. Each year a semester-long program takes place in Norway.

"What began as an opportunity for Namibian and PLU students to study in Norway, has grown to be an opportunity for students of other nationalities," said Neil Sobiana, Executive Director of PLU's Wang Center for Global Education. "Three course modules look at Norway and its history, democracy building and development, as well as conflict resolution, in cooperation with the Fridtjof Nansen Institute." Around 20 students participate in the full semester of study, which highlights the foreign aid and development practices of the Scandinavian countries.

Undergraduate courses at PLU have included class visits by Norwegian peace negotiators, such as former Ambassador to the United States, Tom Vraalsen. He has lectured about his experiences as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian affairs for the Sudan.

"We want to foster connections between PLU and peace building entities in Norway. Vraalsen has been instrumental in opening doors for internships at non-governmental organizations in Norway for our students. This is embedded into the fabric of giving our students education and political opportunities," Stumo said.

"Educational exchange is the best way to cooperate for long term impact and improvement of ties between our countries," said Dr. Loren Anderson, President of PLU. "In order to build in-depth knowledge, understanding and appreciation moving forward, we need more students moving back and forth." PLU is one of the universities in the United States with the highest number of students from Norway. Officials from PLU go to Norway three times a year to visit high schools to recruit new students and keep close relations with alumni.

International education has a long history at the university, which was founded by Norwegian immigrants in 1890. The university has always offered instruction in Norwegian, and since 1977, many students have majored in Scandinavian Areas Studies.

Norway Innovates in San Francisco

by nicholas stivang

"Norwegian Americans are always here for us," said Svein-Egil Nielsen, Director of Innovation Norway (IN) in San Francisco, California. "When we start a new project, one of the first things we do is to look for Norwegian Americans in the target organization. They will always assist us."

Innovation Norway is a government entity that assists Norwegian companies and businesses abroad and helps them identify local partners in their field. "Our priority areas on the West Coast are information technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, and energy. Innovation Norway's field office in San Francisco, is Norway's eyes and ears into this vibrant field where relentless innovation and maintaining a technological edge are keys to success," said Nielsen.

Within these areas, IN concentrates on promoting clean technology and life sciences such as biotech and medtech. "In addition, IN encourages entrepreneurship across industry segments," said Nielsen. "A one-segment approach does not work here, you need to fan out."

Nielsen is full of praise for the assistance Innovation Norway receives from Norwegian Americans working in the prioritized areas. "It is always very helpful to get assistance from Norwegians or others affiliated with Norway. Currently we have 3-4 projects where we have engaged contacts in the community to help us out and this help is invaluable," said Nielsen.

California has more than 400,000 Norwegian Americans, and many Norwegian-American organizations. "The Norwegian Club of San Francisco is a great place to find assistance for networking, as is the Norwegian Fish Club. We also work closely with the Silicon Vikings – a Nordic group of professionals in Silicon Valley,"said Nielsen.

The successful Nordic Green conference that took place in Silicon Valley in April 2008, was initiated by the Silicon Vikings. It fostered collaboration within the Nordic countries, and the conference Nordic Green II is scheduled to take place in Silicon Valley on April 27 and 28, 2010. Innovation Norway's e-learning network REN has for many years collaborated with a Norwegian American at SRI International in Menlo Park.

California prides itself on its lead in the fields of technology and business innovation, and the high quality educational institutions in the area are instrumental in driving research. "In seeks to build strong relationships with the top universities. They are very important to business development. Our two key partners in the area are University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University. We collaborate with UC Berkeley on a Norwegian School of Entrepreneurship-program named *grunderskolen* – they are our local academic partner – as well as on other projects," Nielsen said. At Stanford, IN is a co-sponsor of the "European Entrepreneurship & Innovation through Leaders Program"

"We appreciate the advice from many Norwegians within the venture capital community in Silicon Valley, who are always eager to meet with Norwegian companies seeking funding, or to give presentations at a seminars or conferences," he said.

Even in the current economic downturn there is potential for partnerships and growth. Innovation Norway by partnering with Norwegian Americans on the West Coast, IN can more effectively support Norwegian companies and businesses attain that growth.

Q&A – Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) is a member of the Friends of Norway Caucus in the House of Representatives – a forum for dialogue and exchange of views between the United States and Norwegian politicians on issues, interests, priorities, and policies, between Norway and the United States, and globally.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CONGRESSWOMAN BETTY MCCOLLUM'S OFFICE

How has your Norwegian ancestry influenced you as an elected official?

My Great-Grandfater and Great-Grandmother Hinjum emigrated from Norway in the early 1900s, settling in North Dakota. It was their daughter (my grandmother) and her mother who fostered my early interest in public affairs. My Grandma Goldie and my mother, who were Republicans, taught me by example that individual viewpoints matter and need to be respected.

The art of civil discourse is a Scandinavian tradition, and one that we honored and were expected to live by in my family. While we didn't always agree about how to solve a problem, we talked about it in an open and respectful way, whether it was around our kitchen table or in the backyard. Hearing each person's unique vantage point helped me to better shape my own beliefs.

Another Norwegian ethic we shared that translates into my policy decisions was a compassionate approach to policies aimed at ending injustice in our community. I value this special gift from the elders in my family, especially now during the current health care debate in Congress.

Why did you join the Friends of Norway Caucus?

Throughout my career in public service, I have been a champion for excellence in education, protecting the environment, expanding health care access, and fiscal responsibility. After I was elected to represent the families of Minnesota's Fourth District in the United States Congress, I became a member of the Friends of Norway Caucus, which was founded by my friend and former Minnesota Congressman Martin Olav Sabo.

I support the goal of the Caucus to enhance the relationship between the United States and Norway. This cooperation is vital to both nations, since there are more than 5 million Americans of Norwegian ancestry. In September, I met with the Norwegian Minister of Research and Higher Education Tora Aasland in the Twin Cities and expressed my commitment to working with my colleagues in the Caucus to bolster the connection between our two nations.

How do you describe the nature of United States-Norwegian relations?

The United States and Norway have long had a strong relationship, founded on cooperation on important bilateral and regional issues, as well as on shared values. Our countries are engaged on every level, including on economic, security and cultural matters, in a relationship that reflects a shared commitment to further strengthening our relationship. The strength of our friendship allows our two nations to openly engage on issues for which we might not share a common perspective, and work together to build common ground on issues of great importance to our citizens.

Norway holds a strategic position within the European community, and through its membership in NATO and the European Economic Area, Norway is a voice of reason in security matters that impact both its region and the world. In addition, Norway is a global leader in providing humanitarian aid to crises around the world, in aiding refugees, and in promoting human rights around the globe. I commend the Norwegian government for the important and life-saving work it is engaged in around the world.

As a Minnesotan, I and many of my constituents feel a particular bond to Norway, as so many ancestors of Minnesotans come from that great country. The strong links that have formed between Minnesota and Norway extend to business partnerships and social connections. Minnesotans also share with Norwegians the strong desire in helping to alleviate the suffering that is a daily struggle for so many around the world. Both Minnesotans and Norwegians feel compelled to act in the name of peace and democracy around the world, and I am proud there is such a strong Norwegian influence in Minnesota.

Midwest youth from Lutheran colleges like Augsburg College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Norwegian communities, including Fargo, North Dakota and Minnesota, travel to participate in climate talks in Copenhagen in December. Delegates are flanked by Will Steger (at right) and Nicole Rom, Executive Director of the Will Steger Foundation (left)

Youth from Norway and the Midwest Fight for the Climate

by arild strømmen

Polar explorer and environmentalist Will Steger has brought youth from Norway, the United States, and Canada together on Arctic expeditions and climate research. Now, the Will Steger Foundation is embarking on a new kind of expedition, one that does not involve skiing and sled dogs but brings the youth voice to international talks on climate change.

"We are supporting an outstanding group of 12 youths aged 20-26, from across the Midwest, to be our eyes and ears at the climate conference in Copenhagen, Denmark," said Nicole Rom, the executive director of the Will Steger Foundation. "As correspondents at the talks, our delegates will have a front-row seat to significant climate policy discussions. Though various channels, they will explain and educate like-minded youth, students, general public, and journalists in the difficult and often confusing negotiations."

In Copenhagen, they will also work collaboratively with Norwegian youth, led by 2008 Ellesmere Island Expedition, Tobias Thorleifsson. They will also connect with Norwegian students in the sciences who recently completed a Summer Institute program at the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the Will Steger Foundation.

"I am honored to continue to work with Norway around our educational efforts, from working with Norwegian students here in Minnesota, to educating youth from across the Midwest on solutions to climate change. And Norway is a leading example," Will Steger said.

The Midwest delegates hail from Lutheran colleges including Augsburg College in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Norwegian communities, including Fargo, N.D., and Minnesota. "We are really excited to be continuing our relationship with Norway and supporting the next generation of leaders. Delegates will bring the voice of the Midwest – and the energy and vision of the next generation of climate leadership – to the U.N. climate negotiations to ensure that we seize the unprecedented opportunity to put America on the path to a clean energy future," Rom said.

The Norwegian government has stated that Norway is to be an international leader in environmental policy. To that end, Norway is working to achieve a more comprehensive, ambitious international agreement on climate change that will take effect after the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2008-2012) expires. Norway is also continuing to fulfill its current obligations and reduce greenhouse gas emissions both nationally and internationally.

"We are in the countdown to the climate summit in Copenhagen. If we are to bring global warming under control, it is vital that the world's leaders succeed in reaching a new global climate agreement," stated Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development Erik Solheim.

In Norway's view, specific targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must be established. Norway's own target is to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 30 percent of its 1990 emissions by the year 2020.

Norway is working to incorporate emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in a new international climate agreement to provide incentives to reduce emissions from these sources. Norway has therefore proposed the establishment of a global REDD mechanism.

Both the Arctic and Antarctic play a vital role in the global climate system. Norway is working to ensure that the polar regions are monitored closely, and that knowledge about climate change in these regions is used to improve decision making in the area of climate change.

Read more:
www.willstegerfoundation.org

The Flying Culinary Circus –

on a delicious journey around the world

by ida marie skeie

"Our core idea is to promote Norwegian food, heritage, and skills, and to help Norwegians that live abroad to present the best taste of Norway," says Mathias Bugge, a chef with the Flying Culinary Circus. "And, we want to be the first, well known team of traveling chefs in the world," he adds.

The Norwegian young chefs of the Flying Culinary Circus comprise a traveling catering company that cooks for clients anywhere in the world. The team came together in New York in 2005, and was inspired to create a concept that did not exist at the time. "We had so much fun together and saw the opportunity in the market for a new approach when it comes to cooking, both in how to present the food in new ways and having fun by including the guests when preparing the food. Among the guests have been the royal families of the UK, Spain, and Norway at Buckingham Palace, dinners at Hollywood actors' houses, and in Kuala Lumpur," Bugge says.

"We prefer to use traditionally Norwegian food and recipes with a little twist. Norwegian seafood is something Norwegians are proud of and which has great quality. Sometimes we bring fresh anglerfish, halibut, king crab, or scallops. The Norwegian cake 'the world's best' and 'veiled farmgirls' are always well-liked desserts."

Guests are entertained in the kitchen and at the table by the chefs, each of whom has a particular passion. Mathias Spieler Bugge is a sauce and soup expert. He was a chef at Bagatelle, which several years was voted Norway's best restaurant. Trond Svendgård is a fish and shellfish connoisseur, who won gold in the French Bocuse D'Or, usually referred to as the unoffical world championship for chefs, and owns three successful restaurants. Tor Jørgen Kramprud Arnesen is a specialist in herbs and vegetables. He hails from one of Norway's most exclusive resorts, The Per Gynt-Gården. Hans Kristian Larsen's passion is meat. He was the chef at Mel Gibson's Moonshadows restaurant from 2000 and 2002, travelled as a chef through Thailand and Australia for a year, and also worked at Bagatelle.

ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Chefs of The Flying Culinary Circus, Trond Svendgård, Tor Jørgen Kramprud Arnesen, Hans-Kristian Larsen, Mathias Spieler Bugge.

Read more:
www.fccircus.com

Norwegian stockfish poached in olive oil, with bacon & brown butter sauce

Ingredients

1 lb stockfish (or substitute stockfish for lightly salted cod)
1 quart olive oil
3 ounces bacon
5 ounces butter
8 quail eggs (or 3 regular eggs)
Petit pois/peas
Fava beans
2 new potatoes
1 quart sunflower oil

Preparation

1. Soak the stockfish for 7 days. Change the water every day, to drain salt. Trim off the skin and bones. Cut it into chunks. (Do not soak cod).
2. Place the fish into a deep pan and sprinkle salt on top. Pour the oil over.
3. Bake in the oven at 320 degrees F for 6-8 minutes. The fish is done when it gets flaky (when the meat/fibers start to separate).
4. Dice the bacon in small cubes and sear until crispy. Add butter and cook until the butter turns brown.
5. Boil the quail eggs for 1 and a half min. (or regular eggs for 7-8 minutes). Peel and cut in half or quarters.
6. Blanche the peas and the fava beans in lightly salted water for 1-2 min. Then cool in ice water. Peel and serve whole. Before serving, heat up in butter with salt, pepper, and a few drops of lemon juice.
7. Wash the potatoes and slice in paper-thin slices. Boil water and salt it until it tastes like sea water. Dip the potato slices in the boiling water for a few seconds and put them on paper to dry off.
8. Heat the sunflower oil to 350 degrees. Fry the potato slices in the oil until they turn crispy.
9. Arrange on plate as shown in the photo.

the places we live

by pia dahl

PHOTOS BY JONAS BENDIKSEN

"I love working on stories that get left behind in the race for the daily headlines – journalistic orphans," said Norwegian photographer Jonas Bendiksen. "Often, the most worthwhile and convincing images tend to lurk within the hidden, oblique stories that fly just below the radar."

We meet Bendiksen outside National Geographic's headquarters in Washington, D.C. He has spent most of the day editing pictures for the April 2010 issue of National Geographic magazine, featuring freshwater sources in the Himalayas. He is concerned about the melting of the glaciers in the area and the consequences it will have for the millions of people who are dependent on these sources for their daily water supply.

Having spent months of his life living in slums on three continents, the photographer understands what the lack of basic commodities such as water, electricity, and sewage has on the quality of life. In the fall of 2009 he showed "The Places We Live" at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The exhibit was the culmination of a three-year project documenting households and families in the slums of Kibera (Nairobi, Kenya), Dharavi (Mumbai, India), the *barrios* (Caracas, Venezuela), and the *kampongs* (Jakarta, Indonesia). "The neighborhoods pictured in the exhibition are some of the densest and poorest places on earth. My goal was to capture the vast range of ways the inhabitants experience their surroundings – from the destitute to the ambitious and surprising," Bendiksen said.

Spending time in the slums allowed the 28-year old to get close to the dwellers and see beyond statistics and common perceptions of poverty. "In the exhibit I wish to humanize the statistics, to show the single human over an anonymous number."

Through his installations he provides a three-dimensional experience of daily life in a slum. Projecting photographs on four walls simultaneously as interviews and stories from the inhabitants play over loudspeakers, the audience comes to understand the hardship of living under extremely challenging conditions. We hear the frustration of not being an official part of the cityscape and lacking access to the same amenities as the rest of the population, and see the sparse conditions they live under. At the same time, we are made aware of the variation of destinies within the slum; we sense a dignity and resourcefulness not often associated with slum dwellers. New light is shed on the stories of individuals within the slum and the residents as individuals become multifaceted.

For the first time in history, more people live in cities than in rural areas. More than 1 billion people, one third of urban dwellers, reside in slums. The United Nations predicts that the number of slum dwellers will double within the next 25 years and that cities will face tremendous challenges to accommodate this influx of people.

"The Places We Live" is an official program of the 2009 World Habitat Day, an annual event established by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT). Norway is a donor and in October, 2009, pledged $1 million for the newly established Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development.

Jonas Bendiksen is the only Norwegian or Nordic to be part of the renowned photographic cooperative Magnum. Bendiksen's works have been featured in international publications such as National Geographic, Newsweek, Geo, and Vanity Fair.

For a complete and updated calendar of events please visit **www.norway.org**

new york

architecture

Detour
NEW YORK, NY, December 4, 2009 - January 19, 2010

Detour showcases innovative architecture and design situated in the unique beauty of Norwegian landscapes. The exhibit in New York is a collaboration between Parson, the New School for Design, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Architectural League. On January 19 the closing of the exhibit will be marked by a symposium called "Art, Architecture, Cities and Landscapes" at the Guggenheim featuring prominent Norwegian and international architects and designers.
Info: www.norway.org

Snøhetta Exhibit
NEW YORK, NY, February 3 – April 4, 2010

The exhibit at Scandinavia House marks the 20th anniversary of the renowned architectural firm Snøhetta, which is behind the library in Alexandria, Egypt and The Oslo Opera House. Snøhetta strives to achieve harmony between the architectural structures and their surroundings. In most of the projects a close collaboration with artists has been of crucial importance. Snøhetta's architecture is eco-friendly, sustainable and of high quality. Current projects such as the research project Glitne convey environmentally friendly, competitive architecture and the utopian, gigantic Ras Al Khaimah Gateway Project in the United Arab Emirates speaks volumes about versatility.
Info: www.scandinaviahouse.org
(212) 879-9779

theater

A Streetcar Named Desire directed by Liv Ullmann
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, NY, Through December 20, 2009
Starring Cate Blanchett, the Sydney Theatre Company brings Tennessee Williams's 'A Street Car Named Desire' to the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The play is directed by Liv Ullmann, whose soul-baring performances in the films of Ingmar Bergman defined an era. Special events: December 3, Belle Rêve Gala, December 7, Artist Talk with Liv Ullmann.
Info: www.norway.org

visual arts

Thomas Pihl Exhibit
NEW YORK, NY, through December 23, 2009
Heiberg Cummings presents new works by Thomas Pihl. The paintings consist of layer upon layer of semi-transparent acrylic paint that the artist pours onto the canvas with calculated control. The result is a seemingly smooth surface that on closer inspection reveals tiny imperfections and flaws that are intrinsic elements of each work. In the new paintings less and less of these imperfections are evident and the first impression of perfection almost fulfils expectation.
Info: www.hcd3.com

Elin Halvorsen and Ingun Dahlin Exhibit
NEW YORK, NY, through January 4, 2010
Trygve Lie Gallery, at the Seamen's Church in New York presents the work of Elin Halvorsen whose painted abstract quilt works together with Ingun Dahlin's figurative ceramic sculptures.
Info: www.trygveliegallery.com or (212) 319-0370

Lars Laumann Exhibit
NEW YORK, NY, February 19 – March 27, 2010

BY LARS LAUMANN

Lars Laumann will exhibit his collaborative video work with Benjamin Huseby titled 'You Can't Pretend to Be Somebody Else, You Already Are' at Foxy Production.
Info: www.norway.org

film

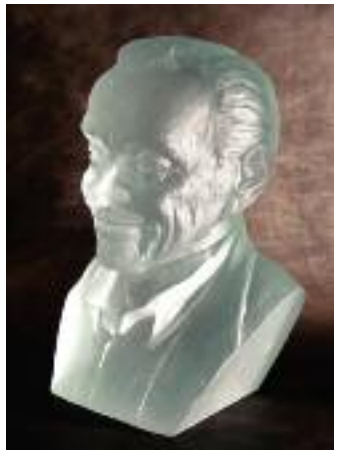
Knut Hamsun Film Series
NEW YORK, NY, Tuesdays through December 8 at 2:30 pm
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Knut Hamsun's birth the New York Public Library screens films based on the author's books.
Info: www.nypl.org

Liv Ullmann Film series
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, NY, Through December 6, 2009
BAMcinématek celebrates Liv Ullmann's incredible film career with a film series.
Info: www.bam.org

florida

visual arts

Tone Ørvik
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
December through early Jan, 2010



Sculptor and Glass artist Tone Ørvik is known for her expressive feminine figures, and for using glass as medium when creating portraits. At this exhibit she will show portraits in *bas relief* that she casts in crystal glass. At the Florida International Glass Invitational at Habatat Galleries.
Info: www.toneorvik.net

texas

music

Pianist Knut Erik Jensen
AUSTIN, TX, April 24, 2010
Norwegian pianist Knut Erik Jensen plays music by Edvard Grieg at the University of Texas.
Info: www.knuterikjensen.com

visual arts

Kjell Pahr-Iversen
HOUSTON, TX, May, 2010

Norwegian painter Kjell Pahr-Iversen exhibits his works at the Gremillion Fine Art Gallery in Houston. Pahr-Iversen is an acclaimed contemporary artist, whose paintings can be seen at the National Gallery of Art in Norway.
Info: www.norway.org

washington, dc

exhibit

Deeper than Light
WASHINGTON, DC, Feb-May 2010

In the summer of 2004 the Norwegian research vessel G.O. Sars set out for a two-month expedition to explore the marine life of the northern Atlantic Ocean above the mid-Atlantic Ridge. A team of international scientists and students observed a wide range of organisms and their habitats, and collected biological samples. Deeper than Light is a travelling exhibit showcasing impressions, images and results from this relatively unknown and inaccessible frontier. At the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, at the Ocean Hall.
info: www.mar-eco.no/exhibition

literature

Sigrid Undset
BETHESDA, MD, April 21, 2010
An evening of poetry reading from Nobel Prize in Literature-winner, Sigrid Undset's (1882-1949) only prose book 'Youth' held at The Writer's Center.
Info: www.norway.org
or www.writer.org

norwegian christmas at union station 2009

Christmas Tree Lighting

Norway presents a 32-foot tall Christmas tree as a symbol of friendship between the United States and Norway. The Children's Chorus of Washington will perform holiday songs on December 3. The event is held in collaboration with The White House Commission on Remembrance, in recognition of the Norwegian-American 99th Infantry Batallion (Separate) and the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.
When: Tree up through December.
Where: Union Station, Main Hall.

Norwegian Giant Model Train Exhibit

The start of the model train marks the kick-off for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. Trains are hand made replicas of current and historic Norwegian trains and wind their way through Norwegian mountains and fjords.
When: Runs daily through January 3, 2010, from 10 am–7 pm. Closed on November 26, December 25, and January 1, 2010
Where: Union Station, West Hall

Norwegian Menu at Center Cafe

Norwegian Embassy chef Lars Ulstein has prepared a sumptious Norwegian menu, served at Union Station. It consists of a gravlax appetizer, cod and lamb entrees, and a creamed rice dessert. (Each dish can be ordered individually).
When: December, daily 11:30 am – 8:30 pm (Closed during special events. To confirm availability you may call (202) 682-9555).
Where: Center Café, Union Station

Norwegian-American Holiday Bazaar

Norwegian-American organizations host a shopping extravaganza featuring traditional crafts from Norway, including hand made items, jewelry, calendars, trolls, dolls, holiday ornaments, pewter items, sweaters, and food, like traditional waffles.
When: December 4, 11 am – 7 pm and December 5, 9 am – 3 pm.
Where: The Elks Club of Fairfax, 8421 Arlington Boulevard (Route 50), Fairfax, VA.

Jazz concert: Håkon Kornstad and Ingebrigt Håker Flaten.

One of the leading musicians on the blossoming European avant-garde/ electronica scene, tenor saxophonist Haakon Kornstad, teams up with fellow Norwegian musician Ingebrigt H. Flaten on bass for some high energy jazz.
When: December 7, 6 – 7 pm
Where: The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Theater Lab. Free

Concert with trumpetist Tine Thing Helseth

Tine Thing Helseth is among the most talked-about and talented Norwegian trumpeters. She will be performing a classical repertoire with Steffen Horn, one of Norway's most promising young pianists. This is their United States debut performance. The 22-year old just released a new album. The title of the album is her all-time favorite Christmas hymn, *Mitt hjerte alltid vanker* (My heart is ever present). She has won *Spelemannsprisen*, the Norwegian equivalent of a Grammy Award.

When: December 13, 6.30 pm
Where: National Gallery of Art, The West Garden Court. Free.

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PHOTO BY ARILD STRØMMEN

The team at the Honorary consulate in Minneapolis: Honorary Consul Gary Gandrud, Consular Officer Christina Carleton, Honorary Consul General Walter Mondale, Director of Innovation and Business Development Anders Davidson, and Director of Higher Education and Research Ellen Ewald.

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inside:

"Science Week underscores the close connections between Norway and the United States," said Honorary Consul General Walter Mondale at the conference in Minneapolis this fall.

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Four chefs – calling themselves *The Flying Culinary Circus* – share a recipe for Norwegian stockfish poached in olive oil, with bacon & brown butter sauce.

page 8-9

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington keeps a close connection with today's Norway through its academic offerings – especially through peace studies.

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Having spent months living in slums on three continents, Norwegian photographer Jonas Bendiksen understands what effect a lack of water, electricity, and sewage has on life.

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