

1 | 2011 spring

news of norway

polar express

from the north pole
to the south pole
norwegians have
made their mark



From Conquering Polar Ice to Navigating an Iceless Future

dear readers,

In 2011, we celebrate two Norwegian polar explorers who opened both the Arctic and Antarctica to the world: The first person to reach the South Pole, Roald Amundsen, and his mentor, Fridtjof Nansen.

When Amundsen reached the South Pole in December 1911, he owed his success not only to his own careful planning and bravery, but also to Arctic survival skills he had learned from the Canadian Inuit years before. We cover both Amundsen's famous journey and his extensive preparation on pages 4–9 of this issue.

Many explorers followed in Amundsen's ski tracks. In 1994, Liv Arnesen, a Norwegian woman, reached the South Pole via Amundsen's route in 50 days — 49 fewer days than Amundsen. Earlier this year, Christian Eide became the fastest ever to the Pole, making the journey in a mere 24 days, arriving on January 13 — a fitting centennial tribute to Amundsen's pioneering expedition.

Today, Antarctica, a vast and mostly unexplored continent, is receiving increasing attention from the international community. The ongoing international research cooperation in Antarctica is learning much about Earth's climate history and possible future climate trends. Several countries have established research stations with sophisticated infrastructure and logistical support. Both Norway and the United States have research facilities serving a larger purpose than mere national interests. We know that there is much to learn from ice and sea studies, as well as geological research.

The Antarctic ice cap is melting, a development scientists are following closely. Their research will help predict the effects on sea levels and the global climate. This is crucial information to the countries that will be affected. The prospect of large populated areas and cities being threatened by rising sea levels in the long term makes it imperative to start thinking about how to adapt. It happens to be a personal concern for me, because my house on the south coast of Norway lies only a few feet above sea level.

As an Arctic country, Norway takes great interest in the High North. In addition to



the Norwegian land territory, our vast sea territory and related activities are the source of a large part of Norway's wealth. The rich fisheries and the deposits of oil and gas offshore are cornerstones of the Norwegian economy. The same is true for the other Arctic nations. International cooperation

*We see it as our responsibility
to try bring the world
together in a united effort to
adapt to climate change.*

is therefore important, particularly in the expanded form of the Arctic Council. The Council's next meeting, scheduled for May in Nuuk, Greenland, will provide an opportunity for politicians to establish common ground for collaboration in the Arctic.

We know that the Arctic is an extremely vulnerable natural environment, where the effects of climate change are manifesting rapidly. In 2010, for the first time in history, the ice in the Polar Sea broke up completely during the summer months. The consequences are dramatic. Fragile ecosystems are disrupted and most scientists now predict that the polar bear faces near certain extinction.

On the positive side, seafaring will see an up-turn with shorter sailing routes that will



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bring the world closer together. Increased shipping through these waters in turn will raise concerns about safety and protection for both ships and nature. All this is happening much faster than anyone predicted just a few years ago.

We Norwegians already see the effects of global warming. As a country whose wealth is built on harvesting and taming nature, we are acutely aware of the need to take the long view on sustaining and protecting these resources. Climate change affects the various countries of the world in very different ways. We see it as our responsibility to do our best to bring the world together in a united effort to meet and adapt to these challenges.

—Wegger Chr. Strommen
Ambassador of Norway to the U.S.

challenges and opportunities in the arctic

These days, talk of the Arctic seems to be on everyone's lips. What's all the fuss about?

by per andreas windingstød larsen

the melting ice cap

“Like the canary in the coal mine, the climate changes already evident in the Arctic are a call to action” (Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine).

From June to October last year, the small sailboat *Northern Passage* completed a journey considered impossible just a few years ago. Sailing through the Northeast and Northwest passages, Norwegian explorer Børge Ousland became the first person ever to navigate both of the fabled passages in one summer season.

“We are excited to have done this expedition, but it is also scary that it has been possible,” he said upon arrival in Bergen, Norway, alluding to the fact that melting polar ice helped make the journey possible.

The Arctic is getting warmer, and it is happening fast.

During the last few decades, average temperatures in the Arctic have risen at almost twice the rate experienced by the rest of the world. As a consequence, the ice cap is melting — at an alarming 10 percent per decade, according to NASA. January 2011 showed the lowest levels of Arctic sea ice on record, according to Kim Holmén, Research Director for the Norwegian Polar Institute.

With less sunlight-reflecting ice covering the Arctic Ocean, the ocean absorbs more sunlight (and therefore more heat) in a self-perpetuating process called the Albedo effect. Observing this vicious cycle, scientists have gone from discussing *whether* the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free during the summer to *when* it is going to happen. Combatting and adapting to climate change in the Arctic is a priority for the Norwegian government. It affects Americans, too: changes in Arctic temperatures affect global winds, altering weather around the world, according to Holmén.

people

We have all seen the picture of the polar bear taking refuge on a small ice floe, surrounded by water as far as eye can see. But the Arctic isn't just polar bears, water, snow and ice. At least four million people live in the Arctic region, and they already experience the consequences of climate change first hand. With warmer temperatures come coastal erosion, flooding, thawing permafrost and changes to the marine environment.

This presents great challenges to indigenous people such as the Inuits of Greenland, Canada and Alaska, and the Sami people of



ARNE NAEVRA/SCANPIX

northern Scandinavia, who have subsisted on the resources of land and sea in the Arctic for thousands of years. Norway acknowledges these challenges, and working with the indigenous peoples to respond to those challenges is a central part of the government's High North Strategy.

resources

With great challenges comes great opportunity. The receding ice cap is expected to reveal valuable hydrocarbon resources on the seabed of the Arctic Ocean. Although the extent of those deposits is not known, few dispute that the Arctic holds much promise for hydrocarbon extraction, although exploitation of these resources may be some time off and could well prove difficult.

Norway is committed to making use of these resources in a sustainable manner, and already operates the world's northernmost liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility at Melkøya off the coast of Hammerfest. From this Arctic island, LNG is exported to the U.S. and elsewhere.

geopolitics and cooperation

The jurisdiction of the seabed is governed by article 76 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the five coastal states abutting the Arctic Ocean (The U.S., Canada, Norway, Denmark/Greenland and Russia) are committed in their support for this legal framework. Almost all the hydrocarbon resources in the Arctic are expected to be found on the national continental shelves.

In the Barents Sea, where Norway and Russia did make overlapping border claims, the presence of hydrocarbons served as one incentive for the two countries to cooperate. In September 2010, Norway and Russia made an agreement on how to resolve the overlapping claims, signing the historic Treaty of Maritime Delimitation. The two countries will collaborate on developing agreements regarding how to drill for and share revenues from hydrocarbon deposits that stretch across the border. Maintaining and strengthening good neighborly relations with Russia is a priority in the Norwegian government's High North Strategy.

The challenges and opportunities that present themselves in the Arctic are too great to be met by one country alone, and Norway encourages and supports international cooperation on issues such as search and rescue, climate change and research — issues routinely discussed by the Arctic Council. ■

polar express

by kenneth krattenmaker



100 years ago, norwegians roald amundsen and crew won the race to the south pole

It is often said that you make your own luck. No better proof of that maxim exists than Roald Amundsen's victory in the race to the South Pole, a race he and his tiny crew won 100 years ago.

Certainly, Amundsen owed much of his success to that stalwart crew, a seaworthy vessel, naturally winterized pack animals and excellent supplies and provisions, but his foresight in bringing all of those magical ingredients together made it all possible.

As Amundsen himself wrote in his book, *The South Pole*, after the successful journey, "I may say that this is the greatest factor — the way in which the expedition is equipped — the way in which every difficulty is foreseen, and precautions taken for meeting or avoiding it. Victory awaits him who has everything in order — luck, people call it. Defeat is certain for him who has neglected to take the necessary precautions in time; this is called bad luck."

In other words, *I made my own luck.*

a man of firsts

By August of 1910, Amundsen was already an accomplished explorer, with a remarkable first to his credit: He was the first to navigate the Northwest Passage, which he did from 1903 through 1906, in his ship, *Gjoa*. Many had tried and failed before.

In 1910, he began preparations to achieve another first: first to the North Pole. But when word came that separate expeditions led by Frederick Cook and by Robert Peary had beat him to it, Amundsen changed plans. He set his sights on the South Pole, which had been approached — Ernest Shackleton had come within 97 miles in 1909 — but never attained.

Already in debt, Amundsen set to fundraising, but he did so under subterfuge: He told potential benefactors he was planning a scientific expedition rather than an attempt at record-setting.

But record-setting was his primary, if not only, goal; his true aim was to win the race to the Pole for Norway, plain and simple. (The fact that his expedition would return home having made few scientific observations of any kind bears this out.)

So in the name of scientific research, Amundsen amassed funds, securing donations from private investors, the Storting (the Norwegian parliament), and even the King and Queen.

"Victory awaits him who has everything in order — luck, people call it. Defeat is certain for him who has neglected to take the necessary precautions in time; this is called bad luck."

— Roald Amundsen

Money ran out, however, and Amundsen was forced to improvise. He allowed himself to go deep into debt in the belief that once he claimed the Pole for Norway, all would be forgiven.

be prepared

The explorer prepared for the voyage in a way that would impress any Boy Scout. He secured the use of the eminently seaworthy vessel *FRAM* (Norwegian for "ahead"), a three-masted schooner particularly well suited to navigate icy waters, previously used by his mentor, explorer Fridtjof Nansen. He replaced the engine with a diesel engine, which he thought would perform well in the Arctic cold, and which could be serviced by one man.

Amundsen hid the true reason for the voyage from even Nansen, fearing the older explorer might disapprove. Upon departure from Christiania on August 9, 1910, only two people besides Amundsen — his first mate and his brother — were aware of his intentions. A month into the journey, the ship stopped for minor repairs and provisions at Madeira, a Portuguese archipelago, and only then did Amundsen inform his crew of the true reason for the journey. They were stunned, but all agreed to carry on.

An expedition led by Capt. Robert Scott of the British Royal Navy had departed for

Opposite page: Amundsen on skis. Below: Amundsen (at left) and three of his men near the Pole, from a lantern slide hand-colored by Amundsen..



PHOTOS COURTESY FRAM MUSEUM, OSLO



The crew in a moment of repose.

the South Pole eight weeks before Amundsen's, but the head start was not quite the advantage it might at first seem. The race to the South Pole would require a long layover during the South Pole's dark and extremely cold winter. Thus, when Amundsen and crew reached the Bay of Whales on January 14, 1911, they were in for a long wait, and they began a new round of preparations.

They transferred 10 tons of supplies to shore, with nine men forming a base camp. From there they ventured out ever farther, building a series of depots, at 80°S, 81°S, and 82°S. They were less than 500 miles from the Pole.

Amundsen's selection of the Bay of Whales represented a bit of a gamble. The ice in that area was thought to be unstable, but the explorer's close reading of his predecessors' reports suggested to him that it was sufficiently stable for his purposes. And the Bay was an excellent source of seals and penguins, ensuring that Amundsen's men would remain well-nourished. He had learned the importance of proper nutrition during a previous expedition, when the ship's doctor had hunted for meat to help fend off scurvy.

The men used their winter layover well. They prepared tents for their pending trek. They significantly reduced the weight of their sleds by jettisoning unneeded supplies and by shaving down the sleds' frames wherever possible.

going to the dogs

Perhaps Amundsen's greatest act of foresight lay in his pre-journey selection of 97 of the finest Greenland Dogs to pull the sleds. Scott's expedition, in contrast, used ponies — which could not endure the cold as well — and motorized sleds, which were considered inefficient. Greenland Dogs are working dogs, well suited to hard work in

frigid conditions. Most of the 97 survived the ocean voyage to the Bay of Whales, but only a few of them would make it all the way to the Pole. (Amundsen also used specialized skills he had learned earlier from Canada's Inuit population; see companion piece on the following page.)

After the winter layover, when the sun began to reappear on the horizon, eight of the nine adventurers set out for the Pole, on September 8, 1911. But temperatures proved to be too low; the men were forced to turn back. The retreat was highly disorganized; the teams were split up and arrived at camp at wildly staggered times. The last team to arrive suffered from frostbitten heels. Many of the men blamed Amundsen for the poorly executed retreat, and one of his men, Hjalmar Johansen, as experienced an explorer as Amundsen, began to question his leadership.

Johansen and two others were quickly reassigned, tasked with the exploration of Edward VII Land, while the remaining five would make another try at the Pole.

They tried again October 19, 1911, five men, four sleds and 52 dogs. The goal was to make the round trip to the Pole within 100 days. They moved from depot to depot, making steady progress.

While the journey was relatively easy for the explorers — particularly compared with the Scott expedition, which is rarely mentioned without the modifier "ill-fated" — it was not so easy for the dogs. As planned, 24 of them were killed partway through the journey and fed to both the explorers and the remaining dogs. This reduced the amount of dog food the teams needed to carry, making the expedition lighter and more nimble, and perhaps a bit more depressing to our modern sensibilities.

They pushed on, and on December 14, 1911, the five explorers and 15 remaining dogs finally reached the South Pole, the first ever to do so, beating Scott's competing group, which had taken a different route, by 35 days. Amundsen and crew named their new camp Polheim ("Home on the Pole"), and left a tent and a note proclaiming their accomplishment.

They returned to their camp on January 12, 1912, five men and 11 dogs, 99 days removed from their departure, approximately 3,000 km round-trip behind them.

They returned to Norway as heroes. ■

On December 14, 1911, the explorers reached the South Pole, beating Scott by 35 days.

Amundsen, Passing the Time

You might think winter in the perpetual dark and unimaginable cold near the South Pole would be unbearable, but Roald Amundsen's diaries tell a different story. He's notably comfortable with the cold, for one thing. On May 8, 1911 he notes: "Fine weather. Slight S'erly breeze. -32° C [-26°F]. The air is noticeably sharper since the sun deserted us. It will soon start stinging the nose."

While the men worked hard during the day, constructing tents, carving storage areas in the snow and ice, and reducing the weight of their equipment, they often clowned around at night. "We are warm and comfortable too. What a difference from the scene inside here to the wasteland outside. Here it's full of life. People are living here. And my goodness, you can certainly hear this when you open the door. Laughter and commotion all over the place; joy and satisfaction. How we old men become children again."

With glee, Amundsen goes on to describe a wrestling match between a couple of his men vying for the top bunk. The cook, Lindstrøm, whom Amundsen lovingly calls "little Fatty," wins the race into the bunk by cheating. "The rest of us followed this scene with a storm of applause," Amundsen reports. "After a while, Fatty had to come down again as this time he didn't have enough room in his bed because of guns, gramophone records, a toolbox, etc. that had fallen down during his maneuver from his plentifully stocked shelf in the bunk. Naturally he was met with cheers. ... Good, magnificent Lindstrøm. I get fonder and fonder of him every day."

Another First?

After returning from the South Pole, Amundsen took up an interest in airplanes. He became the first to fly over the Arctic by way of the North Pole. In fact, during his journey he stopped at the North Pole, and many believe he is the first human ever to have reached the North Pole; doubt has subsequently been cast upon whether the Peary and Cook expeditions ever reached the North Pole.

If so, it's possible that Roald Amundsen was the first human being to make the Northwest Passage, the first to reach the South Pole, and the first to reach the North Pole. He made his own luck, repeatedly, and etched his name deep into the annals of exploration forever.

—K.K.

lessons of the inuit

*amundsen
in canada*



Above: Netsilik Inuit carrying spears several meters long. Below: Young Netsilik archer. Both lantern slides were hand-colored by Amundsen.

Roald Amundsen owed much of the success of his journey to the South Pole to the time he had spent some years before with the Canadian Inuit, who taught him how to survive a polar climate.

With the 48-ton sloop *Gjøa* and a crew of six, Amundsen was the first to navigate the Northwest Passage, in the years 1903-06.

The first winter of that journey was spent at a small bay on the south coast of King William Island, *Gjøa Harbour*. The bay's native name was *Uqsuqtuq* ("lots of fat"). When the expedition arrived, the area was deserted, but during the two years they stayed there the Norwegians came into contact with the nomadic Inuit — *Netsilik* — who populated the larger area. Through their meetings with the Inuit, Amundsen and his men learned many techniques for surviving and traveling in a polar climate: proper handling of dogs, dog sledding, igloo building, the best way to dress against the cold, and appropriate food and equipment for the climate.

In addition, he acquired through exchange and barter a comprehensive ethnographical collection of clothing and equipment from the Inuit that is today unique from this period. The collection is now in the Ethnographical Museum in Oslo,

but there are plans to return parts of it to *Gjøa Haven*, in Nunavut, in the near future. *Gjøa Haven's* population of roughly 1,000 still commemorates the Norwegian expedition that stayed there from 1903 to 1905, and the Fram Museum in Oslo has lately strengthened those memories in several ways, including donations of photographic material from the *Gjøa* expedition.

After the *Gjøa* expedition moved on from *Gjøa Haven* in mid-August 1905, it took only two weeks to navigate the remainder of the Northwest Passage. On August 26, they met an American whaler sailing toward them from the eastern end of the Passage and the expedition's goal was thus reached. However, the ice was against them and they became locked in for a third winter at King Point, by the mouth of the Mackenzie River. Amundsen spent most of the winter on a strenuous dog-sled trip to the nearest telegraph station, at Eagle City in the Yukon 1,300 kilometers (808 miles) away, to send telegrams announcing the expedition's success.

In July 1906, the *Gjøa* was able to move slowly east, arriving at Cape Prince of Wales on August 30, having navigated the entire northern sea border of mainland Canada.

The *Gjøa* expedition received a hero's welcome in mid-October when it reached San

Francisco, where Amundsen sold the ship to the Norwegian-American community (see article on the following page). ■

This piece was based on an article written by Susan Barr for the Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa.



PHOTOS COURTESY FRAM MUSEUM, OSLO

Amundsen Exhibition in Canada

The Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa celebrates the 100th anniversary of explorer Roald Amundsen's journey to the South Pole by launching, in collaboration with the Fram Museum (Oslo), a Roald Amundsen exhibition in Canada.

The exhibition *Cold Recall: Roald Amundsen's Three Years Among the Inuit*, consists of

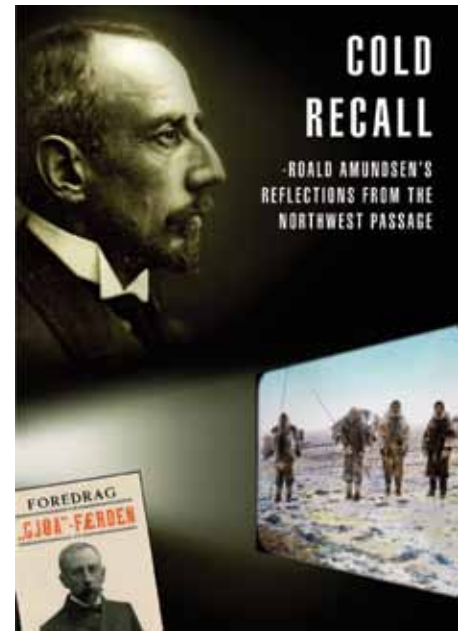


COURTESY FRAM MUSEUM, OSLO

Amundsen's very own photos from Gjøa Haven in the Canadian North (Nunavut). His photos mostly document the life of the Inuit and reflect the great influence of the Inuit's traditional clothing and ways on Amundsen's development as a polar explorer.

The Inuit have in large part been left out of Canadian-Norwegian polar history. With this new Roald Amundsen exhibition, the Embassy and the Fram Museum want to show that the knowledge Amundsen gained from living with the Inuit helped him win the race to the South Pole.

The Embassy has produced a catalog featuring photos from the exhibition, which opened at the Maritime Museum in Vancouver in March and will tour Canada for two years. The Embassy will, together with local museums and universities, hold seminars about the High North to discuss, with students and the general public, Norwegian High North policy and focus on the common



Norwegian-Canadian polar history.

—Else Berit Eikeland

Memories of Gjøa in San Francisco

In April 1906, San Francisco was devastated by an earthquake and fire.

In October of that year, with the city still reeling from April's calamities, a major storm hit the coastal waters of California. In its midst, the 47-ton sloop *Gjøa* was fighting to reach a safe harbor following her three-year journey to discover the Northwest Passage. The ship, a 70-foot former fishing boat built in 1872, had left Christiania (now Oslo) on June 16, 1903, piloted by Captain Roald Amundsen and a crew of six.

Now, at the end of a remarkable and often dangerous voyage, *Gjøa* was saved by a passing fishing schooner and towed to safer waters outside the Golden Gate Bridge. There, bar pilot Captain Magnus Andersen directed *Gjøa* to the safety of Bonita Cove, from where she was taken to an anchorage off Sausalito.

Captain Roald Amundsen and his crew had been the first in history to successfully navigate a ship from the Atlantic to the Pacific over America's northern rim.

In its coverage of this event, dated October 20, 1906, the *San Francisco Chronicle* described the journey as "the most remarkable voyage that has been undertaken by any navigator or accomplished by any vessel

since Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic."

Amundsen and his crew received a grand welcome from the people of San Francisco (which included a relatively large Scandinavian population), remarkable for a city that had been so devastated only 6 months ear-

"The most remarkable voyage since Columbus sailed across the Atlantic"

—S.F. Chronicle

lier. The grand St. Francis Hotel had burned during the fire and a banquet was held in a temporary structure on Union Square.

Amundsen sold the *Gjøa* to the Norwegian community, which donated it to the city. In 1909, the ship was placed near Ocean Beach by the Great Highway, where it remained until 1972. By then the vessel was in great need of repair, and concerned citizens from the Norwegian community were able to have *Gjøa* moved to its current location in Oslo.

Remaining on the site was only a small monument to Amundsen. In 1997, two ad-



GJØA PHOTO COURTESY FRAM MUSEUM, OSLO

mirers decided that the good captain needed more recognition. They convinced the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) to honor him with a large plaque depicting the navigational voyage of the Northwest Passage. Together with the Norwegian Consulate General, the Recreation and Parks Department, the SFAC held a dedication ceremony on Friday, April 14, 2000 at the site of the monument.

—Thor Steinhovden

Fridtjof Nansen

A Pioneer Spirit

Roald Amundsen isn't the only famous Norwegian explorer celebrating an anniversary in 2011. This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Fridtjof Nansen.

Nansen, Norway's first prominent polar explorer, was Amundsen's mentor, and he went on to distinguish himself in many other ways later in life.

As a young man, Nansen led numerous expeditions to arctic climes, gaining worldwide attention for Norway as a polar pioneer. When he was 27 years old, he crossed the inland ice of Greenland on skis.

Then he set his sights on the South Pole. Nansen knew that strong ocean currents from north of Siberia carried polar ice floes toward Greenland and Alaska, and he believed that his expedition could follow the same route. His plan met with numerous objections, which only made him more determined to try it. On June 24, 1893, Nansen's polar ship *Fram* left Christiania (now Oslo), cheered on by thousands of well-wishers, on a mission to the North Pole. The expedition never made it to the Pole, but it did reach 81° 34' N, a new record.

Nansen was also a pioneer in science. Within the sphere of zoology, his work on the central nervous system of lower marine creatures earned him a doctorate and helped establish modern theories

of neurology. After 1896, his main scientific interest was in oceanography; he conducted many scientific research cruises, mainly in the North Atlantic, and contributed to the development of modern oceanographic equipment.

As one of Norway's leading citizens, Nansen spoke in 1905 in favor of ending Norway's union with Sweden, and helped persuade the Prince of Denmark to accept the throne of the newly independent Norway. From 1906 to 1908, he served as the Norwegian envoy in London, where he helped negotiate the Integrity Treaty, which guaranteed Norway's independent status.

He could never accept such human tragedies as hunger and poverty, the plight of refugees, or the mistreatment of prisoners of war, so he campaigned for human rights. The "Nansen passport" saved the lives of thousands of refugees after World War I. In 1922, Nansen was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work.

In celebration of the Nansen legacy, the Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the United Nations Mission will sponsor two Nansen lectures, one in New York in June and in Washington, D.C. in September. Details to come on norway.org.

—Hanne Marie Willoch



COURTESY FRAM MUSEUM, OSLO

Winter Celebrations in Ottawa

A Close Finish on Giant Skis

Roughly 2,000 people made their way to Rideau Hall's Winter Celebration on January 29, where Norwegian Ambassador to Canada Else Berit Eikeland challenged His Excellency the Governor General David Johnston to a friendly competition.

The giant ski race was the highlight of the winter celebration hosted by the governor general, who took the Norwegian challenge in stride and captained his team with great energy and spirit.

The giant skis used for the race can be extended to hold up to 100 people, and have in the past been used by the Norwegian Embassy in an attempt to set the Guinness World Records for the longest skis and for the greatest number of people on one pair of skis. For this particular race, the skis were used in their original form and could hold teams of eight people each.

Among the hundreds of spectators who cheered for Their Excellencies during the race were Karin and Peggy Austin, Jack-rabbit Johannsen's grand-daughter and



TORUNN TVEIT GAASEMYR

Norwegian Ambassador to Canada Else Berit Eikeland (at front on skis at left) and His Excellency the Governor General David Johnston (at front on skis at right) prepare to race.

92-year-old daughter, respectively, who had come all the way from Montreal for this special occasion.

Before the race they met with the governor general and the ambassador to view items and artifacts on loan from the Canadian Ski Museum, showcasing Jackrab-

bit Johannsen's invaluable contribution to Canadian skiing. Jackrabbit Johannsen was born in Norway and immigrated to North America as a young man, eventually settling in Canada, where he became a pioneer and great promoter of cross-country skiing.

—Jan-Terje Storaas

world-class

norwegian technology

by henrik width

on display in the high north

Jackie Northam, NPR; Andrew Ward, *Financial Times*; and Bob Reiss at the F-16 squadron in Bodø.

Earlier this year, the Norwegian Consulate General, with support from the Norwegian embassies in Washington, D.C. and London, sponsored a visit to Norway for three journalists from the United States. Helping international media experience Norway firsthand and providing them opportunities to meet with Norwegian policymakers are important tools in the field of public diplomacy.

Previous press trips have centered on culture, design and tourism; this time the focus was on politics and economic issues.

meeting the foreign minister

The first stop on the tour was in Tromsø, where the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, met the journalists in conjunction with the Arctic Frontier conference. Støre answered questions regarding the High North and the Arctic, and gave the journalists a thorough briefing on Norway–Russia relations, the off-shore boarder line, NATO’s part in the north, climate and management of natural resources in the Arctic.

Støre discussed at length the Norwegian-Russian treaty of September 2010, which establishes the boundary between Norway and Russia in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean.

The treaty contains provisions that ensure the continuation of the extensive and fruitful Norwegian–Russian fisheries cooperation, as well as provisions concerning cooperation on the exploitation of any petroleum deposits that extend across the delimitation line.

A frozen truck at the Statoil LNG facility, Melkøya



The treaty marks the end of a process that started in 1970. The disputed area of overlapping claims constituted an area of 67,500 square miles, half the size of the Norwegian mainland or about the size of the state of Washington.

a state-of-the-art installation

Sporting orange overalls with Statoil logos emblazoned on the back, the journalists were guided around the liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility at Melkøya outside Hammerfest on a dark and windy day.

The combination of wild nature and world class technology can make an impression on even the most experienced traveler. 60 billion NOK (approximately 1 billion USD) has been invested in the Snøhvit (“snow white”) LNG field off the coast of Finnmark. The natural gas is produced 150 km offshore and piped to Melkøya, where it is compressed to a fraction of its original size and exported to the U.S. and Europe.

Øyvind Nilsen of Statoil provided a guided tour. After five years of construction, the Melkøya plant began LNG production in September 2007. Snøhvit is the first large-scale LNG facility in the Norwegian section of the Continental Shelf with no installations above sea level: No rigs or production vessels mark the field’s location. The production site is placed on the bottom of the ocean, 250 to 345 meters below the surface. The subsea installments are constructed in a way that will minimize damage if a fishing vessel were to collide with it.



STATOIL

Statoil LNG facility, Melkøya

The facility's presence has changed Melkøya, the world's northernmost city, in much the same way Norway was changed by oil and gas: The site has created several hundred new jobs in Hammerfest, a part of Norway previously marked by people moving away.

the plane truth

The journey's third and last stop was at the Norwegian Joint Head Quarters several hundred meters into the mountains just outside of Bodø and a visit to the Norwegian air force's F-16 squadron. The F-16 is an aircraft more than 30 years old; it will soon be replaced by the American F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

On the agenda at the Air Force were questions on how climate change and the natural resources in the Barents Sea create tension between Norway and Russia.

Maj. General Rune Jakobsen said that while tensions have occurred in the past, the relationship is good. He pointed to joint military rehearsals as an example of how the relationship between Norway and its big neighbor to the east has strengthened.

lessons learned

Author and journalist Bob Reiss from New York contributes to a political blog, Politics Daily, and is writing a book on oil extraction in Alaska. It was his first visit to Norway, a country he knew little about before the trip.

Having trouble believing his ears, he had to ask three times when told that oil companies in Norway pay 78 percent in taxes and still manage to turn a profit.

He says he regards Norway as a pioneer when it comes to creating laws and regulations on oil and gas extraction; he thinks the U.S. can learn a lot from Norway in this area.

Andrew Ward of *The Financial Times* and Hannah Devlin of *The Times in London* were fairly knowledgeable about Norway going into the trip, but had never seen a production facility close up.

Jackie Northam of National Public Radio has covered international crises and wars as a journalist but had never been to Norway. She is preparing a series of radio programs on the Arctic and the High North which will be distributed to the 35 million listeners of NPR later this year.

As Reiss reported on his blog, "Norway — home to only 4.5 million people — has become the fifth-largest exporter of oil and the third-largest exporter of natural gas on earth. Gas piped from the sea bottom north of Hammerfest, the northernmost city in the world, heats thousands of U.S. homes in winter after being shipped to Delaware.

"But the importance of Norway to the U.S. energy picture goes beyond supply. As Washington begins revamping offshore drilling safety rules in the wake of last year's Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the Norwegian system is being studied by regulators, oil companies and communities living near offshore finds."

The general idea of arranging a trip like this is to educate and create interest. It is not to control what is written or how the different elements are presented. As a country, Norway is not afraid of criticism if it is based on knowledge. Andrew Ward of *The Financial Times* values the visit this way: "It will provide a great basis for our future reporting on Arctic issues." ■

Andrew Ward, *Financial Times*, and Hannah Devlin, *The Times*, interviewing Øivind Nilsen, head of Statoil's facility on Melkøya.



HENRIK WIDTH

Norway–American University Essay Competition

Excerpts

For the third consecutive year, as part of its climate diplomacy efforts, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with American University, sponsored an essay contest. Students were asked to write either (1) the imagined diary of someone whose homeland is experiencing climate changes so dramatic that the person is forced to move or (2) a policy brief from a professional to the government of a country expected to experience an influx of climate refugees. Many excellent submissions were received; following are two notable excerpts. The winning essays can be read at norway.org.

The winners were announced at an event at American University on March 29, after this issue went to press. Scheduled to appear at the event were famed Arctic explorer Will Steger and Norway's Ambassador to the U.S., Wegger Chr. Strommen.

The winners of this year's competition, Kelly Hamrick and Ellen Mackall, will travel to Norway in the beginning of June to attend this year's Nansen Conference, which will focus on climate and migration. In addition, the winners will travel to Bergen for meetings with academics and students at the University of Bergen and the Chr. Michelsen Institute.

diary of a displaced person

June 4th, 2005

Dear Journal,

I can't live anymore within these barricades. They are meant to protect my village but I find them suffocating. These dark blocks are all that prevent the jaws of the sea from engulfing us completely.

They began to set them up a month ago. My house is perched on the coast, so that one is always aware of the Chukchi Sea. It rolls in and out, all throughout the day and all throughout the night. You hear it as a constant roar just below the din of day, and you hear it louder while everyone else is asleep. Its spray is cold and powerful, and with every lurch of the sea, it is closer.

June 17th, 2005



Arctic explorer Will Steger

© WILL STEGER FOUNDATION/JOHN HUSTON

Dear Journal,

My hand is trembling with worry as I write these words but I feel I must account for all that has happened today before tomorrow comes. Today was...horrifying. I thought for a long time before arriving at that word.

On Fridays my daughter arrives home before my wife and I. After her school day she comes to the house and puts away her things, then walks down the road to my sister's home and stays there until early evening. That is how Fridays have been for a long time.

On this particular, sad Friday, I arrived home from an unsuccessful hunt moments after my wife. Standing just beyond my wife was my daughter, and just beyond my daughter was a buckled heap of debris that was once our home. Aimmabvik. Our home.

My daughter had been sitting by the house, in the cold mud, since the school day ended. My wife and I rushed to her and held her, but she didn't cry. She was stunned into silence....

policy brief

To: Minister of Environment & Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, and Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Mr. Mukul Wasnik

As the myriad effects of climate change become more pronounced and grow in importance to the global community, India faces a challenge beyond and within its bor-

ders posed by rising sea levels and increased flooding. After Cyclone Laila of 2010, as well as destructive cyclones in the previous three years, it is clear that India's neighbor, Bangladesh, is being severely affected by not only natural disasters worsened by climate change, but also by the country's vulnerability to other impacts of climate change. Many Bangladeshis have been displaced from their homes due to environmental disasters and climate change, and India must be prepared for a potential influx of climate refugees from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is certainly not the only country faced with the problem of climate displacement. The Norwegian Refugee Council has estimated that over twenty million people worldwide were displaced by natural disasters related to climate change in 2008 alone, including 800,000 displaced by Cyclone Nargis in nearby Burma. Such hydro-meteorological natural disasters are only becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, which is also contributing to slow-onset disasters such as drought and rising sea levels; these combined will surely displace even more people.

While climate change is causing flooding in some areas, there are increased and more severe droughts in other places. There is also increased melting of ice and snow, and a rise in sea level due to the melting; increased meltwater flow from glaciers and thermal expansion of the oceans further contribute to the sea level rise. The IPCC estimates that there is potential for 150 million climate refugees by 2050.

The unique coastal geography of India's neighbor, Bangladesh, leaves it particularly affected by rising sea levels, as the country itself is a mega-delta.

As Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country in the world to cyclones, and the sixth most vulnerable to floods, the country has been affected by tidal floodwater levels that have risen upwards of six meters since 2004.... ■

Norway Caucus Q&A

With Sen. John Hoeven

On January 5, 2011, John Hoeven (R-ND) was sworn in as North Dakota's 22nd U.S. Senator; after serving 10 years as the state's governor. As Governor, Hoeven worked to build North Dakota's future by focusing on six pillars of growth: education, economic development, agriculture, energy, technology and quality of life. Under his leadership, North Dakota expanded and diversified its economy and gained nearly 40,000 new jobs. Sen. Hoeven is the newest member of the Senate's Norway Caucus.

How did you learn about the Friends of Norway Caucus?

My friend Bruce Gjovig of Grand Forks introduced me to the caucus. He's the leader of the University of North Dakota's Nordic Initiative, and he received the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, Knight of the First Class, from King Harald V in 2008. His enthusiasm for U.S.-Norway exchange and enterprise is contagious.

Why did you join the Caucus?

My hometown, Minot, is home to Norsk Høstfest, North America's largest Scandinavian festival. I've attended Norsk Høstfest for many years, and it's a great cultural celebration. About a third of North Dakotans claim Norwegian heritage, making it the state with the highest percentage of Norwegians. Plus, the University of North Dakota hosts more Norwegian students than any other university in America, as it has for about the past 15 years.

What are the areas of concern to your constituents as regards Norway? In what ways do they wish to have links to Norway?

Education has been a terrific link between North Dakota and Norway. UND attracts a significant number of Norwegian students

who study through exchange programs, including entrepreneurship and in medicine. In 2010, the university started to train Norwegian air traffic controllers. They'll take these skills back to Norway and apply them working for Avinor, which operates the country's airports.

“North Dakotans know their immigrant ancestors faced tremendous hardships, so celebrating their heritage is a way of honoring them and their homeland.”

—Sen. John Hoeven

What do you expect to achieve by being engaged in the Caucus?

Colleagues from several neighboring states belong to the caucus, so working with the caucus allows me to collaborate with members of Congress on education, trade and technology issues that face the Midwest.

In what areas do you think Norway and the U.S. should cooperate?

North Dakota and Norway share an interest in energy innovation, and both have worked to establish comprehensive energy plans. I'd like to see the United States explore a comprehensive approach to energy resources as well, and we can share ideas with Norway in the process.

How would you describe U.S.-Norwegian relations?

The United States and Norway have a long history of friendship and trade. We also share an interest in human rights protection,



which last years' Global Issues Dialogue between the United States and Norway in Washington, D.C., further underlined.

Who is your favorite Norwegian?

I admire the adventurous spirit, courage, and general Viking heartiness of Leif Erikson, who many believe sailed to the New World 500 years before Columbus.

Who is your favorite Norwegian politician of all time? Your favorite Norwegian artist?

Although he was never elected to office, I admire Gunnar Sønsteby, who served his country in the Norwegian resistance during World War II, and who works today to pass on the lessons learned in the war to younger generations, including UND students.

The "Norwegian Cowboy" Bjørø Haaland has performed his country music at Norsk Høstfest for more than 20 years. He's talented and entertaining.

Why do your constituents/Americans of Norwegian ancestry care about Norway now that they live in America?

North Dakotans are proud of their heritage and work to keep it alive for future generations. UND is home to a collection of more than 1,200 volumes of bygdebok, or compilations of genealogical, cultural and geographical information. It is also one of few schools in the upper Midwest that offers studies in Norwegian language and culture. There's a Norwegian culture summer camp at Lake Metigoshe, where people learn traditional dancing, cooking and music. Norsk Høstfest draws tens of thousands of people each year. North Dakotans know their immigrant ancestors faced tremendous hardships and made sacrifices, so celebrating their heritage is a way of honoring them and their homeland. ■

Anne Sewitsky

Director Finds *Happy*-ness Abroad

by pia dahl

This is a particularly good time for Norwegian cinema abroad. From dark comedies to documentaries and children's films, there has been rising international interest in Norwegian films. Having shown at numerous film festivals spanning the globe, films such as *A Somewhat Gentle Man*, *Home for Christmas* and *Pelle the Police Car* have been bought by producers in numerous countries.

One film that has caught critics' attention is Anne Sewitsky's feature debut, *Happy, Happy*, which won the narrative World Cinema Jury award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. The sole Nordic film out of 14 movies competing for the prize, *Happy, Happy* impressed with its combination of humor, warmth and authenticity. The director of Magnolia films in the U.S., Eamonn Bowles, characterized it as "a fresh breath of a film" with a "laugh out loud" quality.

Happy, Happy is set in the snowy back country of Norway, a place where the majority of time is spent with family, and solitude is a commonplace. We meet Kaja, endlessly positive and bubbly even though her husband Eirik prefers going hunting with the boys and does not seem interested in investing in their marriage, leaving Kaja and their son Theodor at home.

When handsome Sigve and his tall blonde lawyer wife Elizabeth move in next door



with their adopted Ethiopian son, the fundamentals start to shake for both couples.

Smiling Kaja works hard to please the new neighbors, revealing a desperation for friendship. Eirik remains withdrawn, revealing a near-complete lack of social skills. Things go a little differently than expected when Sigve and Kaja begin an affair, setting off a series of events that have the power to destroy or heal both families.

An interesting twist comes after Eirik and Sigve go on an energetic run and Eirik tries

to plant a kiss on Sigve's lips, reinforcing Kaja's growing suspicion that her husband may in fact be gay.

This endless and selfish pursuit of happiness by nearly all the characters doesn't seem to trouble anyone too deeply, but we soon learn that everyone is living with a few of their own lies, from the children who engage in cruelties undetected by the adults, to the cover-up of Elizabeth's recently concluded affair; the reason she and Sigve moved to the back country.

As the truth comes out, everyone is given a chance to make some changes. Although we may not agree with the choices made, we certainly understand how everyone dug themselves into this mess.

Sewitsky, born in 1978, recently graduated from the Norwegian Film School in Lillehammer. *Happy, Happy* is her debut as a feature film director. Sewitsky previously directed the short film *Oh My God!* (2009), for which she won an award in Generation Kplus at the Berlin Film Festival.

Happy, Happy has been sold to distributors in more than 15 countries and is competing for the \$150,000 prize at the Gothenburg Film Festival.

The movie will screen at the Avalon Theater in Washington, D.C. on April 11 and 12 as part of the international film festival Filmfest DC. ■



Just for the Halibut

Recipe by Geir Skeie

Norwegian Geir Skeie was profiled in the Spring 2009 issue of *News of Norway*. Winner of the 2008 Bocuse d'Or Europe and the 2009 Bocuse d'Or world final, Skeie is a *chef de cuisine* at Mathuset Midtåsen Solvold in Sandefjord.

He will bring his talents to Washington, D.C. in late June as part of the Nordic Food festival, sponsored in part by the Royal

Norwegian Embassy. Urd Millbury, Cultural Affairs Officer at the Embassy, said, "Nordic Food week is a wonderful opportunity to show the U.S. that Norwegian cooking isn't just lutefisk and Aquavit anymore."

His book, *World Champion: From Childhood to Bocuse d'Or*, is available through amazon.com. Part of the proceeds from each book sold goes to Sons of Norway.



COURTESY GEIR SKEIE

potato and leek soup with halibut, spinach and egg

2/3 lbs. potatoes (preferably fingerling, but you can also use root vegetables like Jerusalem artichoke, celery root, parsley root, etc.)
1 leek
1 tbs neutral oil
1 clove garlic
4 cups fish stock
1 cup cream
Salt and pepper

Dice the potato and the white part of the leek. Set aside the green part for making the leek oil. Fry diced ingredients in a pan with the oil until the leek is shiny and tender; do not let it brown. Pour over the stock and let boil until the potatoes are tender. Add the cream, pour mix into blender and blend until it has a smooth consistency. Add salt and pepper to taste. Can be served warm or cold.

leek oil

Remaining part of the leek (green)
1 cup neutral oil
½ tsp salt

Put all ingredients in blender and blend for about 3 minutes so the result is smooth and green. Bring to boil in a pot and sift. Let cool. Will keep in the refrigerator for about a month.

garnish

2/3 lbs steamed halibut (salmon or cod can also be used)
½ oz steamed spinach
4 soft boiled eggs

Prepare the garnish and serve as pictured.



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BJØRN JØRGENSEN

The Northern Lights in Tromsø, one stop on the media tour described on pages 10–11.



News of Norway is printed on forest-friendly paper. Number of trees saved: 12.39; total energy saved: 8,776,250 BTUs; greenhouse gas reduction: 1,147 lbs.; wastewater reduction: 5,263 gallons; solid waste reduction: 582 lbs.

news of norway

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events

minneapolis

Norway House Peace Initiative presents “Empowerment of Women Through Education and Economics” Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, founder of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, will be joined by Norwegian Parliament member Ingjerd Schou and Nyonga Rugumayo Amundsen, Chairperson of the Norwegian Polytechnic Society Millennium Group in a discussion of the importance of education and economics for women in the peace process. You will have the opportunity to join in the conversation moderated by Carol Engebretson Byrne from the Minnesota International Center. Free and open to the public. Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 7:30 p.m. McGuire Theater Walker Art Center 1750 Hennepin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55403 For more information: email: info@norwayhouse.net tel. 877-247-7439

san francisco

Norway Day Festival
Join us for the largest Norwegian festival in the United States, showcasing the best of Norwegian culture, food and music. Nearly 5,000 people attend the weekend event on the beautiful San Francisco waterfront. This is a fun, family-friendly festival with two stages of live entertainment, cooking demonstrations, and local vendors selling Norwegian crafts, clothing, food, and art. Enjoy delicious Norwegian food like warm waffles, shrimp sandwiches, and imported Norwegian candy and home-baked pastries and desserts. Watch live cooking demos to learn how to make some of this tasty food yourself. Admission: adults \$12, children \$3 See www.norwayday.com for schedule. To volunteer, email: volunteers@norwayday.org or call 415-627-7946 Sat., April 30, 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Sun., May 1, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion San Francisco, CA

toronto

Norwegian Documentary
Imagining Emanuel makes its international premier at Hot Docs in Toronto. This film by Thomas A. Østbye explores the concept of identity as we follow Emanuel’s life as an undocumented immigrant to Norway. Wed., May 4, 9:15 p.m. TIFF Bell Lightbox Reitman Square 350 King Street West Fri., May 6 1:30 p.m. Cumberland Four, Alliance Cinemas 159 Cumberland Street

vancouver

Cold Recall: Amundsen’s Reflections from the Northwest Passage
This exhibition features Roald Amundsen’s own photos and texts from his extended stay at Gjoa Haven in the Canadian North, 1903–05, as part of his expedition through the Northwest Passage. In connection with the exhibition there will be a speaker series sponsored by the Norwegian Embassy

in Ottawa. Please visit the embassy website for details. March 18–Sept. 16 TeeKay Gallery Vancouver Maritime Museum 1905 Ogden Ave. Vancouver

washington, d.c.

“The Race to the End of the Earth”
Wed., May 25–Sun., Aug. 21 This exhibit, produced and first exhibited by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, tells the story of the competing South Pole expeditions of Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott, explaining in detail why Amundsen made it and Scott did not. National Geographic Society 1145 17th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036-4707 <http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/>

Visit us on the web. See a full listing of events from around the country at norway.org/calendar.