

**Old Trondhjem News  
Trondhjem Community Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046**

# **TrondhjemCommunity Preservation Society**

## **Board of Directors**

**President - Merle Fossum  
Vice President – Ramona Pumper  
Secretary – Elna Hansen  
Treasurer – David Saxerud  
Dallas Berg  
Elvah Fossum  
Mildred Johnson  
Charlene Hamblin  
Sandy Valek**

## **Committee Chairs**

**Maintenance/Repair – Dallas Berg  
Museum – Joyce Pflaum & Mildred Johnson  
Membership/Nominations – Elvah Fossum  
Special Events – Sandy Valek  
Legal Counsel – Nancy Halvorson Norton  
Newsletter Editors – Lee Topp &  
Charlene Hamblin**

# OLD TRONDHJEM NEWS

APRIL, 2007

TRONDHJEM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SOCIETY P.O. BOX 259  
www.trondhjempreservation.org

LONSDALE, MINNESOTA 55046

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## Greetings from Old Trondhjem!

### **SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR MAY 20**

Our celebration this year will begin at 2:00 PM with entertainment by THE UNCALLED FOUR. After the program, we will have our annual business meeting and then move to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, goodies, and visiting.

We are very much looking forward to being entertained by THE UNCALLED FOUR, a local group of barbershop quartet singers. In the group we'll hear Merle Dahl, tenor; Noel Stratmoen, lead; David Legvold, baritone; and Bill Johnson, bass. THE UNCALLED FOUR began as "Donna's Boys" (Donna Paulson) and got their start on the Northfield musical theatre stage, and sing standard barbershop tunes. Don't miss this really fun event!

Our annual business meeting will feature a discussion of a new fellowship hall and the other usual business. In addition, we will be taking nominations for board openings from the floor. We are very grateful for the service of these and other dedicated officers!

Donations of baked goods for the coffee fellowship following the meeting will be most gratefully accepted!

#### **Other upcoming events to note:**

- **Ice Cream Social - July 29, 2007**
  - **Historical Church Tour - October 5, 2007**
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### ***Message from the President.....***

Marilyn Sellars and her combo presented a great program of music for Valentines Day at the old church on Sunday February 11. It was a fund raiser for our capital campaign to construct a new reception hall and museum next to the old church. Marilyn contributed her talents to the campaign and we had a full house for the afternoon concert. I think everyone had a good time and enjoyed the coffee and cookies and fellowship afterward. As it turned out, we needed to cancel the evening concert at the request of Marilyn and her manager due to the cold weather and that was probably a wise decision.

Everyone who attended the concert saw the newly redecorated fellowship hall. Over a period of two months this winter, with the help of many volunteers and some contractors' contribution of

their labor plus paid labor and materials, we repainted and re-carpeted the entire hall, and replaced the floor covering in the kitchen and bathrooms. This followed a decision of the board to delay any new construction of the future reception hall until the capital campaign has run its five year course. We heard many compliments on the fresh and updated look.

Big changes are coming to our board of directors this year. Elna Hansen, our secretary, has served in that role for about 17 years and has decided to retire from the board when her term expires in May. David Saxerud, our treasurer has served on the board for many years and is also retiring. Elna has contributed enormously to the success of our work to preserve this historic building. (Cont'd. on next page)

*(Message from the President, cont'd.)*

She has maintained contact with our members and responded to hundreds of contributors over these years. David stepped into the treasurer's role from president and has ably served there since Al Johnson retired from the treasurer's job. Fortunately, the third person whose term is up for election, Sandy Valek, has agreed to run for re-election at our annual meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. As part of this change, we will also miss the help on the board of Judy Saxerud who has been a faithful secretarial assistant to Elna, and stayed in touch with our web page manager.

Now we need interested and able members to come forward and volunteer to serve on the board. If you are willing to come to a meeting at the church and gather with other enthusiastic board members one Tuesday evening each month, please

let us know before May 20<sup>th</sup>. The fact that you would be elected to the board does not mean you would automatically be in one of the officer roles because the board itself elects its officers each year after the annual meeting in May. Other duties of board members may involve working with volunteers to clean or care for the building, typing and mailing information, or helping with other details of maintaining our organization. If you treasure our national historic site and would enjoy some hands-on experiences, please consider volunteering to run for election to the board. You can call Ramona Pumper at 507-645-8358 or call me at 952-894-3562 or email me at [merlefossum@comcast.net](mailto:merlefossum@comcast.net).

We are all looking forward to seeing you at the Syttende Mai celebration on May 20.

*Merle Fossum, President*

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## **NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

**Submitted by Joyce Fossum Pflaum**

The weather is cold outside as I am writing this. It makes me feel very thankful for the automatic thermostat that keeps the gas furnace running automatically and the temperature at a constant level. What are your memories of a warm or cold winter? I remember homes were usually warm during the day, but cold and drafty at night. Insulation was usually paper between the walls. The wood-burning kitchen cook stove kept the room nice and warm while we were around to add more wood at regular intervals. However, there was no one adding wood at night, so the kitchen was very cold by morning. There were days when there was a thin layer of ice on the water pail. (Water was carried into the house from a well outside where it was pumped by hand into an open pail. This pail of water was used for drinking water, filling the reservoir at the far end of the stove, or washing hands. There was a large dipper hanging on the wall next to the water pail.) Some homes had heaters that would burn distillate – a liquid fuel. These heaters would be turned down very low at night, but they did give off a small amount of heat. In the morning, they would be turned up and would

quickly heat up the nearby area. This was a good place for the children to get dressed for school in the morning.

Fuel did not just flow through a pipe into your home as it does today. The wood had to be cut into useable lengths, and then each was chopped into four or more pieces. This was a year-around job completed in spare time. The wood pieces were stacked in neat stacks near the house. Each home had a wood box kept on a porch or in the kitchen. This box had to be filled on a regular basis, usually a job for one of the kids.

During the depression years there were often bachelor men who would work for room and board. This was one of the jobs that they would be hired to do. In the Trondhjem area Ole Christian Johnson Luken and Ole B. Berg were men that were hired to do odd jobs. In the Webster area Louie Jandt from New Market would work for room and board.

The church was heated by a large stove located in a back corner. It was very warm near the stove, and cooler in the pews farther away. Sometimes each farmer was asked to donate so much wood for the winter, and some years one or two men were paid to furnish wood. The janitor on a given Sunday would arrive at church early to get the fire burning and the church heated by the time the other members arrived. (Cont'd. on next page)

*(Museum & Historical article cont'd.)*

The people arrived in their horse pulled wagons or sleighs, kept warm by sitting on hay and covered with blankets. Perhaps they also had oven-warmed stones under the blankets to give added heat.

I am thankful for the opportunity to get into a warm car and arrive at church warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and dry on a rainy day.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2006 RECEIVED  
AFTER THE WINTER NEWSLETTER:**

- 236.KENNETH & JOYCE MADOLE
- 237.REV. HOWARD & REV. JANET WHITE-  
Capital campaign
- 238.DAVID & KAREN JOHNSON-In memory  
of REV. NILS N. NJUS & ERIK, PAUL &  
NILS JOHNSON
- 239.VAL KUCERA
- 240.DAVID & ARDIS ASP-Capital Campaign
- 241.CAROL BERG-In memory of MENS  
& EDNA & ARLEIGH BERG
- 242.MARY ANN JOHNSON-In memory of  
BOB QUINNELL
- 243.MAURICE & CECILE MARCHAND &  
FAMILY-In memory of REV.  
CLIFFORD  
JOHNSON
- 244.MAVIS & MERLE FOSSUM-Capital  
Campaign in memory of LEE FOSSUM
- 245.DALE & BETTY QUIST-In memory of  
LEE FOSSUM & DUANE "COOK"  
PFLAUM
- 246.HARRIS & RUBY HAGEN
- 247.DOUGLAS & PATRICIA FOSSUM-In  
memory of LLOYD & AGNES  
FOSSUM
- 248.BARBARA BERG-In memory of  
RALPH & DONALD BERG
- 249.ELVAH FOSSUM-Capital Campaign
- 250.RAMONA PUMPER-Capital Campaign
- 251.LEONARD & ELIZABETH TUMA-In  
memory of LUDMILLA TUMA
- 252.WENDELL HALVORSON-Capital  
Campaign
- 253.DAVID PAULSEN-In memory of  
ROBERT & CLARA PAULSEN
- 254.KEITH & CHERYL HUSO-In memory  
of REV. CLIFFORD JOHNSON

- 255.ROBERT & PRISCILLA JANES-In  
memory of HELEN JANES HILL  
& CHARLES HILL
- 256.DON & YVONNE PAVEK-In honor of  
ARLYS & DARRELL WEISE 50th  
anniversary
- 257.REV. GENE & MARGARET HEGLUND-  
In honor of ARLYS & DARRELL  
WEISE 50th anniversary
- 258.JOE & LORNA DOCKEN-In honor of  
ARLYS & DARRELL WEISE 50th  
anniversary
- 259.JOYCE PFLAUM-In honor of ARLYS &  
DARRELL WEISE 50th anniversary
- 260.MERLE & MAVIS FOSSUM-In honor of  
ARLYS & DARRELL WEISE 50th  
anniversary
- 261.DAVID & JUDY SAXERUD-Capital  
Campaign
- 262.ELMER & RAMONA PUMPER-In honor  
of ARLYS & DARRELL WEISE 50th  
anniversary

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2007:**

- 1.NAOMI QUINNELL-Capital  
Campaign
- 2.EDYTHE & ORVILLE PETERSON  
-Capital Campaign
- 3.RUSSELL ANSETH-In memory of  
EVELYN
- 4.L.G. Or C. GEMSEY-Capital  
Campaign
- 5.REINHOLD & LORRAINE LEMKE  
-In honor of ELVAH FOSSUM'S  
95th birthday

We hope to see you at Syttende Mai  
On Sunday, May 20!!

And remember to visit us  
on the web at:

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

# My Contribution to Help Restore Historic Old Trondhjem Church

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please Accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To be Given  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

We will gladly send an acknowledgement of your gift to someone you choose, if you would like. Simply write the name and address below, of where you would like an acknowledgement sent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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