

## **B. F. Mini-Bulletin**

April 2008

- ❑ Just a reminder of registrations for the May 3 annual meeting of **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad** coming due. It's \$14 per person by April 15 or \$16 per person until April 26. Mail checks to R. Lee Brown, 2210 Spruce Trail, Golden Valley, MN 55422. Guests are welcome, but they must register and tell with which lag they wish to be identified.
- ❑ **Bodil Arnesen**, a Norwegian soprano, and pianist Sonja Thompson will present a program tomorrow evening, **April 4, at 7:30 p.m.** at Sateren Recital Hall, Augsburg College, located one block off of Riverside Avenue at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Minneapolis, MN. Parking at Fairview-University parking ramp. For directions, [www.augsburg.edu/about/map.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/about/map.html) or call 612-330-1717. The concert is presented by the Edvard Grieg Society and Norway House.  
Ms. Arnesen has given concerts and recitals throughout Norway, Europe, the United States and the Far East, including several recordings. Born in Harstad, Norway, she completed her studies at Togaland Conservatory and became a top prize winner of the prestigious Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition in Helsinki, Finland. Next she took first prize at the HRH Princess Astrid Music Contest (Norway), and awards in the Munich ARD Competition, the Shell Prize and the BP Fellowship Prize. She won the first Kirsten Flagstad Prize and was acclaimed as a European Music Prize Winner in Dresden, Germany.
- ❑ Check out the Fellesraad print ad in the April issue of the **Viking** magazine, published by Sons of Norway.

- ❑ **Tom Hanson will speak May 3** at the Fellesraad annual meeting. His picture and biographical information arrived while the March **Bulletin** was ready to be mailed. Both he and your Fellesraad president, Marilyn Somdahl, were on hand to hear Norway's foreign minister, Jonas Gahr Store, speak March 26 at the H.H. Humphrey Institute about "Norway and the United States in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." An announcement was made that evening that when the Norwegian diplomatic staff leaves the Royal Consulate General in Minneapolis later this year, Gary Gandrud would become an honorary consul to serve along with Walter Mondale as the honorary consul general.



Hanson accompanied Roger Moe to Norway in an effort to keep the Consulate in Minneapolis with **Consul General Rolf W. Hansen** and successive Norwegian diplomats in place. He will share his experiences as a former foreign service officer, the importance of these relations, and those experiences he had while attached to Norway. He is a retired Foreign Service Officer, having served with the U.S. Department of State from 1973-1994. His foreign postings included East Germany, France, Norway, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and the former Soviet republics of Georgia and Estonia. He has worked on the foreign relations committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Most recently he served as Director for NATO and European Affairs at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, D.C.

Hanson's roots are in Sogn and Hallingdal, Norway, and he has had an interesting career ever since college days. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, he holds graduate degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the Institute of Advanced International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland; and the National School of Administration (ENA), Paris, France.

- ❑ If you can't attend the Fellesraad meeting, **Hanson will be speaking** first at the Norwegian Memorial Church (East Franklin and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. S, Minneapolis) following the 11 a.m. "waffle" lunch **Tuesday, April 8**. A suggested donation of \$5 includes the lunch and the program at 12 noon. Try it; you'll like it. Our Fellesraad VP Marilyn Sorensen heads the planning committee for those events.