

# Aurland Newsletter

## Past and Present

Volume IX Issue 1 Ann Romo, Editor annromo04@yahoo.com

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From the editor: 2008 is already here! We had snow early this year so we had a white Christmas in Minnesota.

**Mindekirken** is a Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis that has both Norwegian and English services each Sunday. The church was formed to provide Norwegian services as long as people could understand Norwegian and to promote Norwegian cultural activities. Find some history on page 2 and a church bulletin on page 3. We will continue more about Mindekirken in the next issue.

**Connecting cousins** has been our theme over the years. On page 4, see a recent discovery of finding that Lars' great-grandmother was from Aurland. See her ancestry chart on page 5.

**Julebukking!!** Some of you older folks might have heard of it or done it in your youth. It is alive and well in our area. An article by Kathleen Stokker appeared in the Vesterheim's publication that came out last month. See it on pages 6-7.

Millie's search for **Ray's lost relatives** has gone on several years. She found one some time ago, but Jean Marthaler helped her out and found the other one recently. Find the story of her search starting on page 8.

Back in 2005 in Volume VI, Issue 2, we printed Olaf Kringhaug's translation of **Martin Ulvestad's *Normædene i Amerika*** about Goodhue County, Minnesota. In this issue we have printed the section about Dane County, Wisconsin including the map of the southern part of the state from 1895. Find it starting on page 11.

**Gordon Eddy** has been so generous again with sharing his stories from **Black Hammer**. For this issue he has written about the "Onstad" second generation heritage. Find it starting on page 14.

On page 18, see two new books available: ***Soga om Flåm*** and a bilingual book: ***Legend of Siljatjern Seter***.

### 14th Annual Aurland Stevne Urland Church Rural Cannon Falls, MN July 27th, 2008

A busload of Norwegians will be attending with Rasmus Sunde as their leader.  
More details in the next issue

### NORWAY CALLING YOU HOME IN 2008!

Our Sogn/Voss/Valdres tour has become a significant annual heritage tour, and will be offered July 29-August 10 in 2008, with trans-Atlantic air space by Scandinavian Airlines (SAS).

At the beginning, the group spends two nights in Oslo in order to adjust to European time and to get to know the capital of Norway. On day 4 the group travels through the Hallingdal Valley to Aurland/Flåm by the famous Sognefjord. A total of five nights will be spent in Flåm/Aurland/Undredal/Gudvangen and Voss, making heritage visits in those areas possible, as well as side trips to Hardanger, Bergen and other areas. The Nærøy Fjord in Aurland was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2005. A helicopter lift from Undredal to Nedberge and Kappadal, a part of the World Heritage area, is again being planned for August 5.

Days 6 and 7 will cover Stalheim, Vik, Leikanger and Luster with two nights in Sogndal. On Day 8 the group will visit Lærdal and the Valdres Valley with two overnights in Fagernes before returning to Gardermoen Airport--and home via Copenhagen.

Brekke Tours has now developed a sophisticated Nordic Heritage network in North America and Norway, making it easier to locate ancestral farms and living family in Norway. Jean Marthaler, Ann Romo and Millie Ohnstad are significant contributors to this network.

We invite you to visit our website for travel specials,