



Spring 2011

# Newsletter

*"When more women are involved in politics, there will be more peace."*

- Kjell Magne Bondevik

## Dialogue for Peace

*"Empowerment of Women through Education and Economics"*

Wednesday, May 4, 2011  
7:30pm

McGuire Theater  
Walker Art Center  
1750 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN

Free and open to the public;  
Reservations required

## Fundraiser Dinner

Benefiting the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights – US Foundation

Wednesday, May 4, 2011  
5:30pm

Skyline Room  
Walker Art Center  
1750 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN

Cost: \$125 per person

To register for either the Dialogue for Peace or the Fundraiser Dinner visit [norwayhouse.net](http://norwayhouse.net) or call 1-877-247-7439.

Norway House Peace Initiative presents

## Dialogue for Peace "Empowerment of Women through Education and Economics"



We are pleased to announce the former Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik as our keynote speaker for the upcoming Dialogue for Peace on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Walker Art Center. Along with the former Prime Minister, our distinguished panel includes two influential women from Norway: Nyonga Rugumayo Amundsen and Ingjerd Schou.

Peace Initiative, a program for Norway House, seeks to enhance people's understanding of others, learn from the positive work others are doing and encourage individuals to participate in increasing opportunities for peace. You will have the opportunity to join in the conversation moderated by Carol Engebretson Byrne, President of Minnesota International Center.

Peace Initiative, a program for Norway House, seeks to enhance people's understanding of others, learn from the positive work others are doing and encourage individuals to participate in increasing opportunities for peace.

The May event will provide a deeper understanding of the impact of education and economics for women in Third World countries; how this not only improves the quality of their lives, but improves the opportunities for peace. Come listen, learn, and join the dialogue.

### Peace Initiative Keynote Speaker

**Kjell Magne Bondevik** is the founder and President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights. He was Prime Minister of Norway 1997-2000 and 2001-2005, Minister of Foreign Affairs 1989-1990, Minister of Church and Education 1983-1986, and State Secretary of The Office of the Prime Minister 1972-73.

Mr. Bondevik was a member of Parliament from 1973-2005 representing the Christian Democratic Party, and was leader of the Christian Democratic Party 1983-1995. Mr. Bondevik is a Theological Candidate from Norway's Free Faculty of Theology. In 1979 he was ordained as a minister in the Lutheran Church of Norway. He served as the UN Secretary General's Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Horn of Africa during 2006-2007.



Keynote Speaker, former Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik

Continued on page 2

## Supporting Peace Efforts Around the World

*An evening with former Prime Minister of Norway Kjell Magne Bondevik – a dinner to support the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights US Foundation in May*

You are invited to join Norway House on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 when Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik will be the honored guest at a fundraiser for the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights US Foundation. Enjoy this unique opportunity of engaging conversation and incredible cuisine to support peace efforts around the world.

The Fundraiser Dinner is at 5:30pm at the Walker Art Center. Cost is \$125 per person.

The Oslo Center, Norway and the Oslo Center – US Foundation are “sister” organizations working in cooperation to develop consensus and collaboration among those who are causing conflict and those who are trying to solve those conflicts. The primary mission of the Oslo Center is conflict prevention and responsible leadership in fragile states and weak democracies. Much of the work performed by the Oslo Center is done quietly behind the scenes, utilizing Prime Minister Bondevik’s proven ability to build trusting relationships and rapport with fragile, emerging governments. The Oslo Center – US Foundation is the primary support organization for Oslo Center Norway (a privately funded organization) in the United States. For more information about the Oslo Center and Oslo Center – US Foundation go to: [www.oslocenter.no](http://www.oslocenter.no) and [www.oslocenter.us](http://www.oslocenter.us).

Following the fundraising dinner, guests are invited to participate in the Dialogue for Peace “Empowerment of Women through Education and Economics,” where Prime Minister Bondevik will be featured as the keynote speaker. The Dialogue for Peace takes place at 7:30pm in the McGuire Theater.

Reservations for the Fundraiser Dinner and Dialogue for Peace available online at [norwayhouse.net](http://norwayhouse.net) or 1-877-247-7439. For information, contact [info@norwayhouse.net](mailto:info@norwayhouse.net).

*Continued from page 1*

### Peace Initiative Distinguished Panel



**Nyonga Rugumayo Amundsen**, Managing Director of Global Consultancy and Chairman of the Norwegian Polytechnic Society Millenium Group, is the first African woman to complete a Masters degree in Biotechnology at the Norwegian University and is also the first African woman to sit as Chairman of a board in the 150-year history of the Norwegian Polytechnic Society.



**Ingjerd Schou** is a member of the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) for Østfold County. She was elected in 2009 and also served as an MP from 2001-2004. She served as Norway’s Minister of Social Affairs during Prime Minister Bondevik’s Administration from 2001-2004. Ms. Schou represents the Conservative Party in the municipal council in Spydeberg. She is a registered nurse and holds a master’s degree in Public Health Administration. She has served on numerous local, national and international committees, boards and delegations within health, transportation, banking and justice sectors.

### Peace Initiative Moderator



**Carol Engebretson Byrne** is the President of the Minnesota International Center. She currently serves on the Nobel Peace Prize Executive Steering Committee, the National Council for International Visitors Board, the Center for Hmong Studies Advisory Board at Concordia University and the board of the Center for International Business Education and Research at the Carlson School of Business. She was on the national board of directors of the World Affairs Councils of America (1998-2004), served on fact-finding delegations to Brazil, NATO, Northern Ireland and Morocco and is a former Humphrey Institute Policy Fellow.

### A Core Value in the Oslo Center’s Work is Gender Equality

Gender equality and thereby strengthening women’s rights shall be part of Oslo Center’s core values. This demands that all our activities be illuminated and measured from this perspective. This is particularly important in the work of interfaith and intercultural projects. Equality between the sexes, recognition of women’s rights and design and implementation of family law is one of the most important and most demanding challenges across cultures and religions. It is important that women participate in the planning and implementation of all OC’s activities so as to achieve the goal of gender equality. This means equal participation by women and men in all spheres of society.

### Peace Initiative Co-Sponsors



**THE OSLO CENTER**  
for Peace and Human Rights  
U.S. FOUNDATION



**Minnesota International Center**  
A World Affairs Council

**HUMPHREY SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
Driven to Discover™

## Letter from the President, Linda Mona



Norway House is energized and planning great things for you and our community.

Karen Owen Tuzcu and her committee have been working for many months to present a compelling Peace Initiative: "Dialogue for Peace" at the Walker Art Center on Wednesday, May 4. The presentation is free to the public. Former Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, is the keynote speaker. Thank you to Janet Dolan and William Moore for underwriting this event. Norway House has as an objective to assist and support other organizations, and Karen's team has mounted a fundraising dinner prior to the Peace Initiative

presentation with all proceeds donated to the U.S. Foundation of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights.

If you missed the Cantus concert at Mindekirken in March, you can still attend the Edvard Grieg Society concert in celebration of Syttende Mai at Mindekirken on Sunday, May 15. Thank you to Pastor Sundt for this collaboration and Lloyd and Anne Svendsbye for their financial support of this concert. Sharon Carlson has joined as our new chair of the Edvard Grieg Society Board.

Look for the information on the Midsommer fundraiser and celebration of Norway House and the honoring of distinguished Norwegian Americans. Nancy Otterness has assembled a group of volunteers to again entertain you on Tuesday, June 21 at Interlachen Country Club.

Welcome our new Director of Operations, Elizabeth Plaetz Lori. She supports Norway House in our pursuit of an updated brand communications - website, newsletter, social media and myriad other elements to keep our organization relevant and interesting.

Norway House is a reflection of the shared vision and efforts of a number of dedicated people who share a common goal. If you or your friends want to become involved, we welcome you.

## Norway House Dream on Ice

After years of searching for just the right location and situation, the Norway House Board chose a spectacular "homesite" on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The property is directly across from downtown Minneapolis, at the end of the Stone Arch Bridge and adjacent to the historic Pillsbury "A" mill. A park lies between the site and the river. Dewey Thorbeck's rendering of the "Norway House" building fit the dream, the site and our aspirations perfectly. The Board promptly authorized that a Letter of Intent for the purchase of a half city block be signed. Mike and Shirley Santoro and Janet Dolan and Bill Moore stepped forward and donated the earnest money funds. The first real steps were being taken.



Chairman, Jim Erickson

Unfortunately, the current economic situation has put the dream of former Consul General Thor Johansen, and all of us, "on ice". Ice that is freezing donor pocketbooks and the property itself. The site is part of a larger development parcel that has been foreclosed by the bank and will be in total limbo for some time. Our Letter of Intent is no longer valid, the property is out of our control and the vital lead donor (\$1 million+) has not been secured. Without the money, the Norway House Board will not be able to buy the property out of foreclosure, should that opportunity even arise in months to come.

The Board will keep everyone informed. Keep dreaming, and with Spring here, perhaps the "ice" will also melt around potential donors...one million dollars, anyone?

## About Norway House

Norway House is dedicated to providing a link for present and future generations of the Norwegian American community in the upper Midwest with the heritage, culture, and future of Norway.

Norway House serves as a:

- Convener – to call people together for a common goal
- Collaborator – to help others achieve success
- Platform – to serve as a common place for Norway House and other organizations to promote the Norwegian heritage

For more information, visit [www.norwayhouse.net](http://www.norwayhouse.net)

## 4 Ways to Support Norway House

- 1 **Attend or volunteer at upcoming Norway House events** - including Dialogue for Peace, the Syttende Mai Concert and Midsommer Celebration.
- 2 **Join the Edvard Grieg Society.**
  - Membership Levels
  - \$50 - Sustaining member
  - \$100 - Sponsoring member
  - \$500 - Standing Ovation member
- 3 **Underwrite program needs** - including printing, speakers, musicians, technology, and many more opportunities.
- 4 **Donate funding** (through cash or stock gifts) to support ongoing operational expenses for Norway House.

Donations may be made online at [norwayhouse.net](http://norwayhouse.net) or sent to:

Norway House  
PO Box 16208  
Minneapolis, MN 55416-0208

Your contribution will help Norway House support and develop extraordinary programs and bring us one step closer to making Norway House a reality. If you are interested in providing support and need more information, contact Elizabeth at [elizabeth@norwayhouse.net](mailto:elizabeth@norwayhouse.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### “The Norwegian Fiddle and Violin”

Featuring Andrea Een, Violin  
and Hardanger Fiddle &  
Sonja Thompson, Piano

Sunday, May 15, 3:00 pm, Syttende  
Mai celebration at Mindekirken

Cost: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the  
door. Reserve by mail, online at  
[norwayhouse.net](http://norwayhouse.net) or 1-877-247-7439.

This program, presented by The Edvard Grieg Society, will explore the connections found in the fiddle music of western Norway and the classical music for violin by Norwegian composers. Andrea Een will perform tunes from Vestlandet on the Hardanger fiddle, and with Sonja Thompson, she will perform selections from Grieg’s Slater, Opus 72 and Violin Sonata in G Major, Opus 13, as well as shorter pieces by Johan Halvorsen and Geir Tveitt.

## Get Acquainted with the Edvard Grieg Society

Functioning under the umbrella of Norway House, the Edvard Grieg Society was created to help promote the culture of Norway primarily through performances by artists of the highest national and international caliber featuring the music of its premier composer, Edvard Grieg, as well as other Nordic composers.

Now entering its fifth year, the organization is gaining wider visibility among individuals who have an appreciation for Nordic music. Embarking on a renewed mission to

define goals and meet new challenges, members of its Board met in January to focus on ways of bringing the Edvard Grieg Society into a new level of growth. Introducing the distinctive culture of Norway to an even broader spectrum of Minnesota communities remains a primary focus. As the Board pursues creative ways of exploring the wonderful riches of Nordic culture, it extends an invitation to music lovers to experience the unique diversity of Norway through performances and other musical events sponsored by the Edvard Grieg Society.

## Cantus Performed at Mindekirken, March 6

The beautiful sanctuary of Mindekirken was the superb acoustical setting for a concert featuring Cantus, the 21-voice Norwegian choir founded in 1986 in Trondheim, Norway under the direction of Tove Ramlo-Ystad. Known for its versatility and flawless a cappella singing, Cantus is one of Norway’s leading ensembles. Sponsored by Mindekirken in collaboration with the Edvard Grieg Society, the all-female choir performed a program of songs by a variety of Norwegian composers, including Edvard Grieg, Arne Nordheim and Knut Nystedt. The choir was on a two-week tour of the United States, concluding its itinerary with a performance at the American Choral Directors Association’s National Conference in Chicago. Special guest and world famous tuba player Øystein Baadsvik, joined Cantus on their American tour.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Norway House Midtsommer Celebration

Tuesday, June 21, 2011  
Interlachen Country Club - Edina, MN

Details to follow shortly.

For more information contact:  
[Elizabeth@norwayhouse.net](mailto:Elizabeth@norwayhouse.net)





Architect Dewey Thorbeck's sketch of the view of Minneapolis from the proposed Norway House site.

## Introducing Elizabeth Plaetz Lori, Norway House Director of Operations



In February, Elizabeth Plaetz Lori joined Norway House as the new Director of Operations. Elizabeth is responsible for brand and communication efforts and serves as a liaison and consultant to the Norway House board.

"I am thrilled with this new opportunity to work with Norway House. Philanthropy and volunteerism have played a significant role in my life. Growing up in a small community in southwestern Minnesota, I learned the true value and impact of collaborating within a community and how much can be accomplished together.

In the same way, the people of Norway House come together to make a positive impact on the global community. I am looking forward to building upon the momentum created by such a committed board and group of supporters."

Elizabeth brings to her role more than fifteen years of experience from both corporate and non-profit sectors in brand communications, event production and development. Most recently, she served as the Associate Director for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, directing fundraising and public relations efforts for the Midwest. Previously, she worked with Children's HeartLink, an international humanitarian non-profit focused on improving cardiac care in underserved countries, producing local and national fundraising campaigns and events. In addition to her new role with Norway House, she directs local efforts for the 2011 Friends of Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum on September 17.

She lives in south Minneapolis with her husband, Michael, and their two young children.

## Introducing Our Newest Board Member, Judy Y. Kirk

Norway House welcomes Judy Y. Kirk as the newest member of its Board of Directors. Kirk has provided leadership to the University of Minnesota Foundation, one of the largest foundations in Minnesota. In her career in philanthropy, she has worked in many areas of development and participated in the two largest campaigns in the University of Minnesota's history. In 1998, Kirk became Executive Vice President and COO, overseeing development activities, including major gift fund raising, foundation and corporate relations, planned giving, research and information systems. She was director of the Campaign Minnesota, the University's comprehensive \$1.3 billion capital campaign completed in 2003. In 2004 she was the recipient of the University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service.

Kirk is also active in the University Twin Cities community, serving on and the University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council and Executive Committee. She is President of the Minneapolis Rotary Foundation and President Elect of the Minneapolis Rotary Club.

## Norway House Board of Directors

**President/CEO** — Linda Mona  
**Chairman** — Jim Erickson  
**Vice President** — Jon Pederson  
**Secretary** — Jeff Mueller  
**Treasurer** — Herb Morgenthaler  
 Ruth Donhowe  
 Rev. Gary Hanson  
 John Haugo  
 Ken Hjelm  
 Judy Kirk  
 Orlyn Kringstad  
 Jim Olson  
 Nancy Otterness  
 Shirley Santoro  
 Rev. Lloyd Svendsbye  
 Robert Tengdin  
 Karen Owen Tuzcu

### Ex-Officio

Pastor Kristin Sundt

### Board Emeritus

Odell Bjerkness  
 Christian Skjervold

### Director of Operations

Elizabeth Plaetz Lori

## Affiliate Organizations

Augsburg College  
 Augustana College  
 Concordia College, Moorhead, MN  
 Concordia Language Villages  
 Humphrey School of Public Affairs  
 Lakselaget  
 Luther College  
 Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran  
 Memorial Church  
 Minnesota International Center  
 Norwegian American Chamber  
 of Commerce  
 Nordmanns Forbundet  
 Royal Norwegian Honorary  
 Consulate General  
 Norwegian Emigrant Museum  
 Oslo Center for Peace and Human  
 Rights - US Foundation  
 St. Olaf College  
 Sons of Norway  
 Vesterheim Museum



P.O. Box 16208  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Norway House is a bridge  
between the United States and  
contemporary Norway.

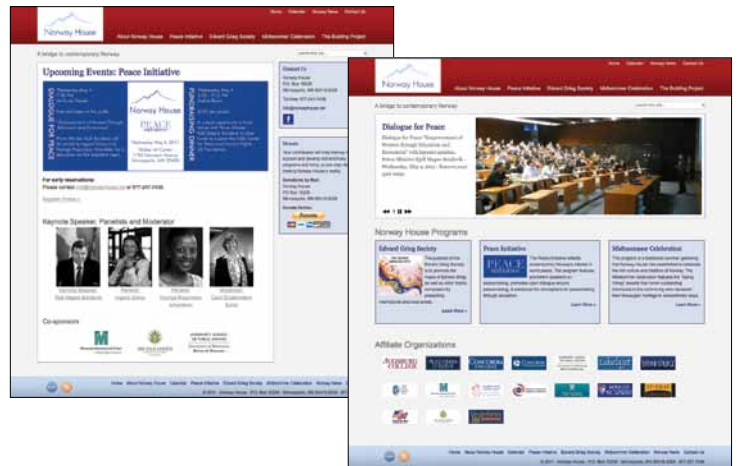
## Technology Upgrades for Norway House

Norway House is pleased to announce the relaunch of the website - [www.norwayhouse.net](http://www.norwayhouse.net). Explore the site to find details about Norway House programs, as well as news and events sponsored by our affiliate organizations. The website has been transformed to provide you with a simpler, more effective way to access information about all things Norwegian in the Midwest and beyond.

Sign up to receive newsletters and communications online... great for the environment and the budget. There will be opportunities to register online for Norway House events, as well.



Check us out at our virtual home, [www.norwayhouse.net](http://www.norwayhouse.net)... and find us on Facebook too!



Celebrate Norway's Constitution Day throughout the Twin Cities and Minnesota at events sponsored by the Syttende Mai Minnesota committee, Sons of Norway, Norway House, Mindekirken and the Royal Norwegian Honorary Consulate General.

Reserve your spot now for the Syttende Mai Minnesota Banquet on Tuesday, May 17th at 5pm. Contact Syttende Mai Minnesota Committee at [17maicommitee@gmail.com](mailto:17maicommitee@gmail.com).

For a schedule of events and specific details, go to [www.norwayhouse.net](http://www.norwayhouse.net).

