Dear Fellow Members:

Friday April 13 was a lucky day for NAHA, as over 60 members, guests and representatives of Norwegian American groups joined our first-ever New York City event. I am especially appreciative of the generosity of the Consel General, Sissel Breie, in opening her home for our outdoor reception and Siri Hustvedt who graced the event with readings from her book and reflections on the lifetime work of her father Lloyd on behalf of NAHA.

Two of our Board members with deep New York ties, Karen Davidson and Cynthia Rubin, took on the assignment of planning this event, with tremendous results. I believe everyone attending felt pleased and honored to be included and left with warm feelings toward NAHA, though their hands and cheeks may have been a little chilly.

For us, this type of event helps strengthen bonds with the broader Norwegian American community and sister organizations. It is also an opportunity for leaders and staff to meet face-to-face with members from a different area of the country. It offers information about our organization's collections and our acquisition policy. It was a “friend raiser” not a fund raiser, and many people left with a new found friend.

Our NAHA staff members are often asked to present about NAHA. We welcome this opportunity as well. We are doing our best to build bridges, expand our connections, and tell our story so others may join us. Thanks for your support of these efforts!
Clockwise from upper left:

1. Consul General Sissel Breie welcomes attendees and highlights the importance of remembering our shared heritage.

2. Brian Rude introduces NAHA guest speaker, Siri Hustvedt.

3. Members listen to Siri Hustvedt read excerpts from “The Sorrows of an American”.

4. Siri reads passages based on her father’s memoirs.
NAHA in New York

On the clear and seasonably warm spring evening of April 13th, over 60 members and friends of the Norwegian-American Historical Association gathered on the Manhattan rooftop terrace of the home of Royal Norwegian Consul General Sissel Breie.

The event was the brainchild of NAHA board members Cynthia Rubin and Karen Davidson, who sought to bring together our East Coast members for an evening of social camaraderie and cultural enrichment. Ms. Breie graciously offered the use of the Consulate’s apartment as a venue, as well as the time of Consulate staff members who helped coordinate the registration and logistics for the evening.

NAHA member and featured speaker Siri Hustvedt presented a moving reading from her 2008 book “The Sorrows of an American”, which proved to be the highlight of the evening. The readings she selected were based in large part on the memoirs of her father, former NAHA Secretary Lloyd Hustvedt. Many listeners closely related to her description of the hardscrabble life on the North Dakota prairie during the Great Depression.

In addition to Ms. Hustvedt’s reading, NAHA President Brian Rude gave those attending a brief introduction to NAHA’s mission and current projects. Consul General Sissel Breie kicked off the evening by welcoming the attendees and emphasizing the close cooperation and ties between contemporary Norway and those who share historical roots with the Scandinavian regions.

The NAHA board of directors and staff were well represented by our President Brian Rude, executive committee members Karen Davidson and Liv Hustvedt; board members Betty Bergland, Blaine Hedberg, John Nilson, and Cynthia Rubin; and administrative director Jackie Henry. The invitation list included St. Olaf College New York Alumni Club members interested in Norwegian culture, and the Consulate rounded out the guest list by including representatives from various Scandinavian cultural groups in the city.

NAHA members journeyed to the event from as far away as Silver Spring, Maryland, Connecticut and New Jersey.

Tusen takk to all who attended the event and especially to the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York for their generous support. We hope to make this a regular gathering in the regions of the county where members congregate.


For more information on Siri Hustvedt’s writing career, including excerpts from her book, visit her web page at www.sirihustvedt.net.
Next of Kin of 1918 U.S. Coast Guard

The following is an excerpt of a longer article prepared by Robert M. Pendleton. Printed with his permission.

Shortly after the declaration of war with Imperial Germany (Central Powers), on April 6, 1917, the USS Coast Guard Cutters Algonquin, Ossipee, Manning, Seneca and Tampa, were directed by President Woodrow Wilson to serve in cooperation with the U.S. Navy. The vessels were refitted and assigned to duty as Ocean Escorts to allied merchant and military convoys operating from Gibraltar to England and return.

The USS Coast Guard Cutter Tampa was fated to be the worst loss suffered by U.S. naval forces in action during the Great War of 1914-1918.

Tampa’s commanding officer, Captain Charles Satterlee, U.S. Coast Guard, was a U.S. Revenue Cutter Service veteran of the Havana, Cuba blockade during the Spanish-American War of 1898. During the interwar years 1899 through 1917 he served on numerous Revenue Service and Coast Guard cutters including one tour of duty ashore.

On December 9, 1915 Captain Satterlee, U.S. Coast Guard, assumed command relieving Captain B.H. Camden aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Miami at Coast Guard Depot, Key West, Florida. On February 1, 1916 the Miami was officially renamed U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Tampa in honor of the City of Tampa, Florida. Shortly after Tampa’s arrival at Gibraltar as Ocean Escort to Convoy O.M. 89 she was dry docked for much needed repairs from August 12 to September 15, 1918. On September 16 she was awarded a pennant by the U.S. Navy for outstanding Ocean Escort work.

On September 17 she was assigned as Ocean Escort to Convoy H.G. 107, comprising 32 merchant vessels for the voyage from Gibraltar to Liverpool, U.K.

Within a day the Commodore of the convoy received a secret wireless transmission message from Admiralty S. W. I. stating that “....I am to acquaint you that Convoy H.G.107 consisting of 19 ships left Gibraltar on 17th September, escorted by USS Tampa...The destination of USS Tampa is Milford [Haven] and she should be so informed. She should detach herself from the convoy when in the vicinity of Milford [at Captain Satterlee’s discretion]”.

At Milford Haven, Wales, an O.M. Convoy was nearly assembled for return to Gibraltar with Tampa scheduled as its Ocean Escort.

On Thursday, September 26 Captain Charles Satterlee officially requested and received permission to detach Tampa from Commander Gordon L. Simner, Commodore of Convoy H.G. 107, when the vessel was abeam the Isles of Scilly, Cornwall.

On the evening of September 26, 1918 the Tampa detached herself from Convoy H.G. 107, proceeding alone on a course for Milford Haven, Wales. At 7:30 p.m. the German Imperial Submarine UB 91 sighted the Tampa just as dusk was setting in. At 8:15 p.m. UB 91 fired a single torpedo from 496 meters, hitting the Tampa amidships. Following the explosion of the torpedo, a second explosion was witnessed. At 8:25 p.m. UB 91 surfaced to search for wreckage or men. KaptLt. Wolf Hans Hertwig, captain of UB 91, reported nothing was found.

The USS Tampa’s crew consisted of 11 Coast Guard officers, 100 Coast Guard ratings, 3 U.S. Navy officers and 1 U.S. Navy rating; returning as passengers bound for England there were 10 Royal Navy ratings and 5
Cutter USS *Tampa* Casualties Sought

Admiralty Dockyard workers. The grand total of souls perished was 130.

On April 22, 1999 the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral James M. Loy approved the unanimous recommendation of the Coast Guard Headquarters Military Board of Awards, that authorized the posthumous award of the Purple Heart Medal to the 111 Coast Guard officers and ratings who perished in the sinking of the USS Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* in European waters on September 26, 1918.

On Memorial Day, November 11, 1999, at the Coast Guard World War I Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, after the wreath-laying ceremony to honor veterans, the Honorable Rodney E. Slater, Secretary of Transportation, and Admiral James M. Lo\y, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, presented posthumous Purple Heart Medals to the next of kin that were present.

_Bona fide_ next of kin of the remaining Scandinavian-American Coast Guardsmen that have not received their Purple Heart Medal are invited to contact Robert M. Pendleton at rmpd92@yahoo.com for additional information. The men's names and known biographical information are listed as follows:

**Hans Hansen, Quartermaster, U.S. Coast Guard**

Date of Birth: October 7, 1900

Aged: 17 years, 11 months, 19 days

Place of Birth: Christiania, Norway

Next of Kin: Mrs. Anna Hansen (mother), Hevitmolle, Sweden.

Memorial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

**Harald Haughland, Seaman, U.S. Coast Guard**

Date of Birth: July 24, 1892

Aged: 26 years, 2 months, 2 days

Place of Birth: Bergen, Norway

Next of Kin: Mr. Hellemund M. Haughland (father) Bergen, Norway

Memorial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

**Hans Ivar Johanson, Machinist First Class, U.S. Coast Guard**

Date of Birth: October 18, 1887

Aged: 30 years, 11 months, 8 days

Place of Birth: Bohusland, Sweden

Next of Kin: Mrs. Fredericka Anderson (mother), Arslat Tassone, Bohusland, Sweden.

Memorial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

**Ludvig Andres Larsen, Master at Arms, U.S. Coast Guard**

Date of Birth: June 21, 1891

Aged: 27 years, 3 months, 5 days

Place of Birth: Kristiansand, Norway

Next of Kin: Mr. Syvert Larsen (father), Oddernes, Kristiansand, Norway

Memorial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

**Harald Tonnesen, Coxswain, U.S. Coast Guard**

Date of Birth: May 14, 1881

Aged: 37 years, 4 months, 12 days

Place of Birth: Kristianssand, Norway

Next of Kin: Mrs. Anna Christina Carlson (sister) 177 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Memorial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

A grandniece of Harald Tonnesen has been identified and is currently being vetted and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard in order to receive Harald Tennesen's posthumous Purple Heart Medal.

On May 12, 2012 Captain Charles Satterlee, USCG will be awarded the posthumous Purple Heart Medal in a ceremony to be held at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Museum in New London, Connecticut. Accepting the award in his honor, will be Captain Satterlee’s grand niece, who was identified as Captain Satterlee’s next of kin through the efforts of Robert M. Pendleton of Ocala, Florida. Robert has made it a personal mission to locate the living relatives of the Scandinavian-American Guardsmen who lost their lives.
While preparing in the spring of 2011 for an upcoming presentation I needed one last photograph. I chose from the Anders B. Pedersen papers an appealing late 1890s cabinet card of an unidentified family clad in Eskimo furs, posing in Larson’s studio, Hudson, Wisconsin. The identification provided on the backside of the image simply stated, “Missionaries to Alaska. Relatives of Grandpa and Grandma.”

At the conclusion of presentation given last July at the 7-Lag Stevne hosted by Sigdalslag in Fargo, North Dakota, Howard and Ruth Berg stepped forward. He informed me that the subjects of the unknown photograph were his relatives, Rev. Tollef Larson Brevig and family. We exchanged emails and Howard promised to send copies of his collected genealogical research regarding the Brevigs. As the summer faded into fall I emailed Howard but received no response. I tried again at the end of the year, but again got no response.

In late February 2012, Ruth Berg called to tell me that I was not forgotten, but sadly Howard had passed away the previous September. She promised to mail the photocopies he had arranged for NAHA. Within the week a package arrived (see “New Additions to the Archives”) which provided many clues to the photograph in question.

Tollef Larson Brevig, was born in Sigdal, Norway, on August 16, 1857, and with his parents immigrated in 1867. He attended Luther College from 1872 to 1876. In 1891 he married Julia M. Johnson from Hudson, Wisconsin. In 1894 he received a call to be a pastor, missionary, overseer, postmaster and teacher at Teller, Alaska. With their only child, Carl, the three left for Alaska in May and arrived at the Teller Mission and Reindeer Station on August 1. The following years were rewarding, but also tragic. Carl died March 2, 1896, and shortly thereafter his sister, Dagny, was born on April 17.

Granted his first furlough in 1898 at the height of the Alaskan gold rush, Brevig and his family left Teller on August 10 and sailed for home. Consulting the published writings of Rev. Brevig, Apaurak in Alaska; Social Pioneering among the Eskimos (Translated and compiled by Dr. Walter Johnshoy, Dorrance & Co., Philadelphia, 1944), I located several anecdotes that provide a glimpse of the family’s journey home and the Eskimo furs worn in the photograph. Incidentally, the frontispiece image in the book is the same photograph.

Our boat made a call at Dutch Harbor on Amaktu Island to replenish its coal supply. We entered the harbor late in the evening and, as it was very cold, we had put on our fur clothing. On the other side of the dock there rode at anchor two large steamships enroute from San Francisco to St. Michaels, with more
to Alaska, by Jeff Sauve, Associate Archivist

gold seekers. The dock was entirely packed with men who were anxious to hear any news from the north. When they saw us in our fur clothes they believed that we were Eskimos. We heard a woman say, “Look at the poor Eskimos. Where do you suppose they come from, and where might they be going?” And to encourage her error we conversed with each other in the Eskimo language.

While in Seattle, 2½ year old Dagny met with many surprises from the “civilized” city including street lights, commenting, “Look, plenty moons.” On the wharf she saw horses, or to her “large reindeer.” Rev. Brevig wrote, “With sparkling eyes she looked about and repeatedly asked, ‘Suna una?’—‘What is this?’ People everywhere stopped to look at her. Fur garments were not frequently seen then in Seattle as in later times.”

The arduous journey home to Hudson culminated on September 10, 1898. Rev. Brevig recounted the scene:

Mrs. Brevig anxiously ran ahead to the entrance of her old home and knocked violently upon the door. Within we heard Mr. Johnson say to his wife, “And lock the back door.” Then Mrs. Brevig spoke, and immediately we heard her mother cry, “It is Julia.” Whereupon the front door was quickly opened. Her parents were just at that moment reading the letter which announced our arrival in Seattle.

During the days ahead, the Brevigs donned their Eskimo furs and stood motionless for several minutes in front of Mr. Larson’s camera. To the Eskimos, Rev. Brevig was called “Apaurak,” meaning “Father of All,” and Dagny was called “Oblomit” meaning “Dawn” or “New Day.”

By September 17, Rev. Brevig sent a short letter to his cousin, Anders B. Pedersen, Rothsay, Minnesota, presumably including the recently taken family photograph. Within the letter, Rev. Brevig wrote, “We had a successful trip home, as we avoided sea-sickness and had no storms. The trip lasted 27 days and 5000 miles, and that one must call speedy.” A few lines later, he provided an interesting aspect to the photograph, “She [Julia] is expecting her delivery soon and until that happens I will stay in Hudson.” Daughter Leonora was born not long after the photograph was taken.

Mrs. Julia Brevig died in Teller in 1908; Dagny Brevig married Donald Nimmo and settled near Kennebunk, Maine, in the mid-1950s. Together the two operated Nimmo Grocery Store at Goose Rocks Beach. She passed away in 1987. After 1917, Rev. Brevig left Alaska and served in several church positions until 1927 when he retired. Late in life he moved to Van Nuys, California, to live with his daughter, Mrs. Leonora Reed. Rev. Brevig passed away October 14, 1935. The obituary in the Pacific Lutheran Herald, Parkland, Washington, said in part:

Pastor Brevig was always a willing and self-sacrificing worker. By the grace of God he had attained a special mastery of himself, and he was the most patient among men. In the northern field he has had several successors, but none have served as long a time nor more faithfully and patiently. He was indeed a father, “Apaurak,” among the northern tribes.
I am always amazed by the variety of subjects to choose from when assembling the quarterly newsletter. The archives, of course, supply a treasure trove of resources but frequently something arrives from a source outside of our walls that begs to be brought to the attention of our members. The story behind the USS Tampa is one such instance. A few months ago we received a request from Robert M. Pendleton to help identify living next-of-kin for these five men killed back in September 1918 during the final months of the Great War. Mr. Pendleton was kind enough to assemble the information related to the history and mission of the USS Tampa, as well as his personal effort to make sure its crew members were recognized for their sacrifice by presenting the Purple Heart Medal to surviving family members. We hope one or more NAHA members can identify a cousin, great-uncle or other long lost relative and connect with Mr. Pendleton. I will let you know of any successes related to this endeavor.

Dr. Odd Lovoll informed us that the Norwegian language edition of his book, “Norwegian Newspapers in America: Connecting Norway and a the New Land” is scheduled for release on May 23, 2012. The release will be celebrated at a public event to be held at 6:00 p.m. at Litteraturhuset in Oslo. The event is sponsored by NAHA-Norge on the initiative of its president Terje Mikael Joranger in cooperation with Spartacus Forlag and the Fritt Ord Foundation. The Norwegian title is “Norsk aviser i Amerika“.

While no means my vocation, helping others with genealogy research is certainly an avocation near and dear to me. In the past several months, and with the help of our very talented volunteers, we’ve been able to connect the dots for several individuals, who are now new members. In doing so, I’m becoming well acquainted with the depth of resources available in our archive collections, in the Rowberg obituary files, the extensive collection of bygdeboker, Norwegian-language historical newspapers and family research housed in the St. Olaf College library; and information available online, and in many instances, for free.

Finally, I am pleased to introduce a new feature of the NAHA Newsletter, the Member Spotlight. In the past 18 months, as I’ve become personally acquainted with the individuals who comprise the membership of NAHA, I am constantly intrigued by their unique stories and experiences with the organization. Our inaugural Spotlight member, Valborg Fletre Linn, has grown up with NAHA. Valborg, her two siblings and her parents, Helen and Lars Fletre, were Norwegian immigrants from the mid-1950s. I had a chance to meet Valborg in person when I traveled to New York earlier this month. This is the first in what I hope will be a regular series highlighting NAHA members.
What do you find is the most valuable aspect of your membership in the Norwegian-American Historical Association?

I enjoy getting the NAHA published books, adding them to my home library and sharing them with friends and family. I like staying in touch with goings on in the community through the informative newsletters.

Recently you approached NAHA about contributing some family materials when the time is right. Can you describe the thought process you went through in determining which items would be donated to NAHA and when?

NAHA has already received several boxes of materials from and about my parents and their involvement in the Norwegian-American community in Chicago. My parent’s choice of NAHA to be the safe keeper of their archives and my ability to see online that those archives are well documented, protected and valued led me to decide that I should continue the tradition. There are treasured items that will always stay within our family. However, there are some treasured items that require special attention to keep them archivally safe and available for future historians. My parent’s letters fall into the latter category.

Can you describe the materials you plan to donate to the Norwegian-American Historical Association, and how you hope they will be used?

I plan to donate the original handwritten correspondence between my parents, letters written in English (as their common language, he being Norwegian & she being Swedish) from 1932 through 1934: from the time they met in Chicago till their marriage and beginning life together in Norway. I still hope to make a book about my father’s artworks and my parent’s lives, which will include some of the letters. The correspondence is fascinating on many levels: their mutual interest in art, literature, poetry & politics; how they dealt with the difficult times of the depression; their optimistic hopes for the future. It goes beyond their specific heritage. They wrote beautifully and it is a story of universal appeal. My mother entrusted the letters to me after my father’s death. I read them & discussed them with her. Several years ago I typed them all and combined them with original photos from the time, so everyone in my family has digitized copies to keep and read. The handwritten originals need to be in an archival/academic environment where they will be protected for the use of many generations to come.

Can you describe the long association your family has had with NAHA?

As long as I can remember, I heard NAHA discussed in my family. My parents were always proud of who they were and where they came from. As immigrants, my sister, brother and I were taught to be proud of who we were: assimilate but always celebrate our heritage. My parents were active in NAHA and other Norwegian-American associations, including DeLiSa (Det Literraere Samfund). My mother was involved in numerous research projects for several of Odd Lovoll’s publications for NAHA. She was very active in the community and also wrote articles for Vinland.

As a Norwegian immigrant yourself, what do you think is the most valuable role NAHA can play to contemporary Norwegian-American immigrants?

NAHA can help keep the history of contemporary Norwegian-American immigrants alive by listening to & sharing recent immigrant’s stories, as it has done so well in documenting 18th, 19th & early 20th century stories. Post WWII immigration is soon becoming history. We first generation post-war Norwegian-Americans can share our stories of what it was like growing up & wanting acceptance during the ‘50s through the present... issues we coped with during those times as we became Americans while maintaining our pride in heritage. Current immigrants have newer stories to tell. We are a global society now. Norway is dealing with issues of accepting immigrants into their communities. We are a world that is very connected by e-mail and the internet. People can listen to, and learn from, each other.
New Additions to the Archives

The Archives continue to benefit from the generosity of members and friends who have made important donations. Although we aren't able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation, large and small. We welcome additional donations of Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, and community and congregational materials. Families can be sure that their donations will remain open for family consultation in the NAHA archives. They can also be certain that family treasures will not be discarded in a hasty move or by future generations who may have lost touch with their Norwegian-American heritage.

Recent additions to the manuscripts collection include:

Tollef Brevig biographical materials. Added to Collection P0539, Family Histories and Genealogies. Includes photocopies of several articles about Brevig, a Teller, Alaska missionary, including: “Pioneering in Eskimo Land” and “Shall We Bring the Gospel to the Eskimos?” Donated by Ruth Berg.


Local History/Canada Collection (P1523). Copies of numerous sources and publications donated by Ken Domier, Edmonton, Alberta, including:


We have also recently accepted the donation of the following Norwegian-American family histories, memoirs, and organizational histories:

Beito, Gretchen Urnes. Collected Family Histories. Added to Collection P0539, Family Histories and Genealogies. Includes:


- Bliss, Joy V., Rosanne E. Bliss, & G.L. Dybwad. Pitching My Way through World War II: Letters Home to North Dakota (2010). Added to Collection P0409, World War II Papers. Features over 300 letters by Pfc. Vernon E. Ellingson to his parents and sister back in North Dakota while serving with the U.S. Army. During 3 ½ years of service, he was a message clerk in

- Gary DeKrey, Archivist
- Jeff Sauve, Associate Archivist
the European theatre under Gen. Patton. Purchased by NAHA.

Available through The Book Stops Here, 1108 Rocky Point Ct. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123-1952. www.bookstopshere.com

**Figi, Matthew L.** A Tribute to Norwegian Parents Ambjorn and Oline Urness: The First Three Generations in America (1985). Ambjorn Peterson (1821-1907) born in Hafslo, Sogn, Norway, and Oline Johannesdatter Molland (1824-1907) immigrated to the U.S. in 1856 and eventually settled in Iowa County, Wisconsin.

**Hetland, Lytton Oliver III.** Family Histories/Essays: Aunt Ida [Ida Gusti Moen]; Grandpa Called me Bucko [Oliver Olaf Moen]; Fun on the Farm [grandparent’s farm, Fosston, Minnesota]; A City Slicker’s Experience in a One Room Country Schoolhouse [Moen Country School, Fosston, Minnesota]; and Life Begins in Audubon, Minnesota. Added to Collection P0539, Family Histories and Genealogies. Donated by Kim Myers, Marysville, WA.

**Holm, Monte and Dennis L. Clay.** Once a Hobo...The Autobiography of Monte Holm (1999). Added to Collection P0539, Family Histories and Genealogies. Chronicles of a 13-year-old boy from Clarkston, Washington, who was forced from his home and became a hobo. Donated by Alice Kirn.


**Svendsbye, Lloyd A.** I paid all my Debts... A Norwegian-American Immigrant Saga of Life on the Prairie of North Dakota (2009). Added to Collection P0539, Family Histories and Genealogies. The family narratives are those of Anders and Gudrun Svendsbye and Thor and Gjertru Birkelo. Donated by author with supporting family research files, including Ellis Island and Big Meadow Township, Williams Co., N.D.

Available from Lutheran University Press. PO Box 390759, Minneapolis, MN 55439. www.lutherupress.org
Save the Date

NAHA Biennial Members Meeting

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 20, 2012 at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota

Look for the full program and registration details in the September newsletter and or the NAHA website in late August.