

Vesterheim

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN

Museum



Annual Report

May 1, 2010-April 30, 2011

Ambar with acanthus carving, Gudbrandsdal, Oppland, Norway, pine, circa 1800-1850.
Vesterheim 2011.006.013—Bequest from the Estate of Ruth Stafford Peale.

Message from the Executive Director

In this recap of our fiscal year from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011, you can see the museum staff was kept quite busy and had a productive twelve month period.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, Vesterheim was notified that the American Association of Museums (AAM) had renewed the museum's accreditation. It is impressive that Vesterheim was among the first museums accredited by the AAM in 1971, but it's even more impressive that it now has been re-accredited three times.

Guest musician, trumpeter Kai Robert Johansen from Sarpsborg, Norway, led Vesterheim's 2010 Syttende Mai parade and gave a trumpet performance in the Bethania Church. Sponsors of the this event were Marilyn and Jeff Roverud.

Between June and August 2010, Vesterheim held 19 folk-art classes in a variety of traditional arts including rosemaling, woodworking, weaving, and metalworking.

From Memorial Day, May 31, through Labor Day, September 6, 2010, Vesterheim offered free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families through the Blue Star Museums program, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families.

A major project on Vesterheim's property at 508 W. Water Street was completed— the façade was stabilized and the cornice was removed to make the building safe. The Downtown Properties Taskforce, which worked on the project, was led by Lindsay Erdman.

Of course one of the highlights of Nordic Fest was Vesterheim's *National Exhibition of Folk Art in the Norwegian Tradition*, sponsored by Kate Rattenborg of Decorah with additional support from Thrivent for Lutherans.

Owen and Naomi Bekkum, Madison, Wisconsin, gave a generous gift to be used for painting the exterior of the museum's Main Building. Among our best supporters, the Bekkums are notable in that they choose to give to projects that no one else might consider, like replacing the boiler in the Main Building, installing security and sprinkler systems in a number of the buildings, and sprucing up the museum exterior with a new coat of paint.

In June, Gundersen Lutheran Health System pledged \$25,000 for the next five years to support the museum's WOW Farm Program for area third graders. WOW stands for *Windowson the World* and is a dynamic partnership between Decorah Community Schools and Vesterheim.

Steve Grinna, Decorah, Iowa, joined the staff of Vesterheim as Director of Development. Steve served on Vesterheim's Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2006. A graduate of Luther College, Steve has worked in the financial services industry for 29 years.



Thanks to the generous gift of \$80,000 from Bonnie and Dan Huebner, Decorah, Iowa, the Pioneer Immersion Program, an innovative cooperative effort between the museum and area schools, was fully funded for the next five years. The program allows fourth-graders to immerse themselves in the history and culture of nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century immigrants.

Vesterheim was selected as one of the “unique travel gems” profiled in the AAA Travel Treasures section of its July/August 2010 issue of *Home & Away*. The piece features a intricately-carved drinking horn from the museum, along with information about Vesterheim’s collections and history.

The exhibition of fine art from Vesterheim’s collection, *The Norwegian Art and Craft Club of Brooklyn, 1938-1956*, opened on October 21, 2010, in the Hong Gallery. The exhibition was sponsored by Robert and Evy Alsaker in honor of A. Norman and Eldrid Skjold Arntzen.

In October, 2010, the Vesterheim Benefit Auction was held at the Hotel Winneshiek following the Gala Dinner. Museum visitors were able to view objects in the Hauge Gallery of the Westby-Torgerson Education Center from October 8 to 21.

The Madison Wisconsin Friends of Vesterheim annual gathering at the Attic Angels Center, hosted by Michael Bovre and Kathleen Orea Sweeney on November 7, was a huge success. Among those attending were Founders Council Members Owen Bekkum, Michael Bovre, Dr. Eugene Nordby, Phil Dybdahl, and Trustee Trygve Lønnebotn.



Vesterheim’s Norwegian Christmas Weekend—held on December 4 and 5 with free admission—brought alive the traditions of singing around the Christmas tree in a *juletreffest*; visits from the *julenisse*, a Christmas elf who roams through the museum complex; and *julebukker*, costumed folk who scare away evil spirits. Many local music groups create a festive atmosphere and artists demonstrate their crafts. Children especially love the hands-on crafts, making holiday ornaments and

decorations. The festive weekend was sponsored through a grant from Bank of the West, with matching funds from the Brenda and David Carlson family of Decorah and additional support from Decorah’s Sons of Norway Valdres Lodge.

In December, Vesterheim was notified of a bequest from the estate of Ruth and Eugene Wamstad. Their generous bequest to Vesterheim included their 80-acre century farm. This is the first time a gift of land has been part of a Vesterheim bequest and is an example of a creative way in which people can support Vesterheim in their estate planning. The sale of the property and the remainder of the museum’s portion of the estate amounted to \$865,000.

During the first week of January 2011, Vesterheim’s Museum Store, which was previously on the Main Building’s first floor, and the Folk Art Supply Shop, formerly in the Westby-Torgerson Education Center, were consolidated in a larger attractive space in the Education Center that is more visible to the public from the street.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum also launched the first of five new virtual galleries on its website at collections.vesterheim.org. Only 15-20% of Vesterheim’s

collections are on view in the museum's Main Building and Open Air Division. The rest are in one of the museum's storage facilities, like the Bauder-Landsgard Collections Study Center. The virtual gallery offers a way for people to see the objects not currently on display and find out more about them. Vesterheim really has incredible artifacts in its collections and the virtual gallery is a great tool for showing them off.

Vesterheim once again was pleased to announce that Decorah Bank & Trust Co. would sponsor Free Thursdays at the museum. This was the third year that Decorah Bank & Trust Co. sponsored Free Thursdays.

In January, Vesterheim received a generous donation from Dan Huebner, Decorah, to safely transport and temporarily house a gift of over 20 exceptional pieces of Norwegian furniture from the estate of Ruth Stafford Peale, wife of Norman Vincent Peale. The pieces arrived safely at Vesterheim and some of them date back to the 1700s. The estate gift has been in the making since the late 1960s, when then Executive Director Marion Nelson contacted Mrs. Peale. Over the years it involved multiple visits to the Peales' New York home and the efforts of several Vesterheim curatorial staff, Dr. Eugene Nordby of Madison, Wisconsin, Darrell Henning of Decorah, and Dan Huebner and his late wife, Bonnie.

Noel Vietmeyer, biographer of Norman Borlaug, presented the program *Norman Borlaug: the Norwegian-American Kid Who Gave the World Its Daily Bread* at Vesterheim on March 3 as part of the museum's "Free Thursdays" special events. Vietmeyer, an organic chemist and freelance writer, often traveled with Borlaug, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for a lifetime of work to feed a hungry world.

On March 26, 2011, the Chicago Area Friends of Vesterehim sponsored their annual Nordic Luncheon and Marketplace at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, Illinois. The event was co-chaired by Evy and Robert Alsaker, and since 2002, the group has raised a total of \$34,564 for various Vesterheim program and projects.

As Vesterheim's Executive Director, I was honored with a Partnership Panel Service Award for my years of service to Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA). SSNHA honored the best in heritage development during their annual Golden Silo Awards Luncheon on April 6. Regional partners gathered at the Sky Event Centre in Waterloo, Iowa, to honor the year's award recipients.

All in all, it was a remarkable fiscal year that came to an end just as planning for a Royal Visit in October 2011 was getting up steam. And we can be proud of our financial accomplishments, too, as the following pages will attest. There was an increase in overall revenues of about \$280,000 and an increase in net assets of approximately the same amount.

All these accomplishments are a credit to our tireless staff and dedicated trustees, of course, but the lists of names in this Annual Report underscore the fact that none of it could have happened without our members and friends, whose continuing support makes possible everything we do. Every person and organization listed here has earned our deepest gratitude.

Steve Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Johnson" clearly legible.

Executive Director

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum

Audited Annual Report for Fiscal Year

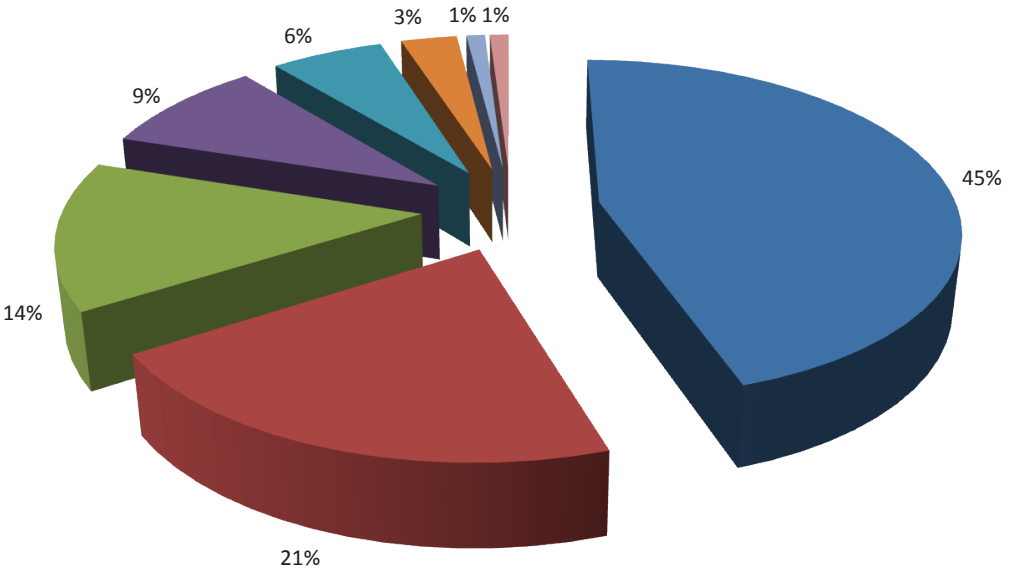
May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011

Vesterheim's April 30, 2011 year-end financial statements were audited by Wegner LLP, CPAs & Consultants and reflect a positive image for our institution. Below are highlights from the audited financial statements.

- The total assets for Vesterheim rose in 2011 to \$9,285,692, from \$8,586,085 in 2010.
- Outstanding pledges receivable balance decreased by 39% from the previous year.
- Long-term debt was paid off with the proceeds from the sale of farm land received from the Wamstad estate.
- The total revenue, gains, and other support increased to \$3,315,755 in 2011 from \$3,037,452 in 2010. Overall revenues increased about \$280,000 (primarily, contributions increased \$450,000, tour and tuition fees increased \$130,000, and investment return decreased \$300,000).
- Expenses, including collection items purchased, totaled \$2,009,667, about \$60,000 more than the prior year.
- There was an increase in net assets of \$1,306,088, compared to \$1,085,708 last year. There was also a positive cash flow from the operating activities in both 2011 and 2010.

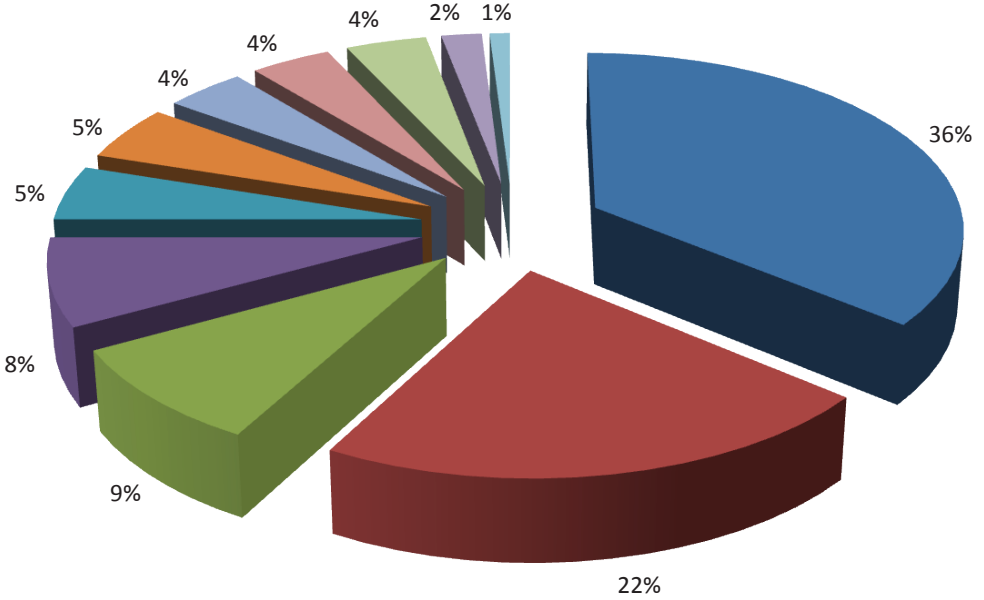
On the following pages are pie charts that reflect the revenue and expenses for our fiscal year.

Revenue



- Contributions
- Investment Return
- Tours & Tuition Fees
- Merchandise Sales
- Admissions & Memberships
- Events
- Rental & Other
- Gain on Sale of Assets

Expenses



- Payroll & Benefits
- Events, Tours & Classes
- Merchandise
- Depreciation
- Telephone, Postage & Utilities
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Printing & Advertising
- Professional Services
- Other
- Interest
- Collection Care

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as of January 2011

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Dr. David. W. Wright, Decorah, Iowa
Harriet Wrolstad, Minneapolis, Minn.

*Deceased

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Erlene Fisher, Senior Sales Staff
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Coordinator
Kathy Wilbur, Bookkeeper

VALHALLA SOCIETY

Current as of April 30, 2011

We invite our members and friends to help us preserve immigrant ethnic heritage by joining the Valhalla Society. When you state your intention to make Vesterheim a beneficiary of a planned gift, you will be enrolled in the roster of honor, and your name will be added to the plaque on the first floor of the museum's Main Building.

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David and Brenda Carlson
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Karlyn Nordgaard Cross*
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Audrey L. Erdman
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Edna Furreboe
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 Richard and Diane Halom
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 Kirsten Roverud Heine
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 James M. and Susan R. Honsvall
 Dan F. Huebner
 Harriet M. Husvedt Estate
 D. Scott and Jessica Ingstad
 Martin and Ruth Johnson
 Ruth Christine Johnson
 Steven and Barbara Johnson
 Ingrid and Russell Keune
 Rannveig M. Klinge
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 Connie Osmundson*
 Hamlet and Suzanne Peterson
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 Roland and Elizabeth Rasmussen
 Kate Nelson Rattenborg
 Kristin Robbins

David and Lee Rokke
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 Robert and Lucille Rosholt
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 Michael and Diane Schmidt
 Harold E. Segelstad
 Beth Selvig
 Robert D. and Rebecca D. Shaw
 Hazel S. Stoeckeler
 Morten* and Irene Tuftedal
 Harold S., Jr.* and Pamela A. Ulvestad
 Barbara Westby*
 Marwin O. and June Olson Wrolstad
 *Deceased

KRONEKLUBBEN MEMBERS*

Current as of April 30, 2011

KRONEKLUBBEN (Crown Club) recognizes those donors who have consistently supported Vesterheim in the past, helping to care for objects and educate the public every day. Membership in Kroneklubben is based on lifetime giving according to the following levels:
\$1 million+ Platinum Crown
\$500,000-\$999,999 Gold Crown
\$100,000-\$499,999 Silver Crown
\$30,000-\$99,999 Bronze Crown
\$10,000-\$29,999 Pewter Crown

Platinum (\$1,000,000+)

Dan F. and Bonnie J.* Huebner

Gold (\$500,000 - \$999,000)

J. Harry and Josefa H. Andersen*
 Owen Bekkum
 Donna Danielson Estate
 Charles Gulbransen*
 James A. and Elaine Halls
 Luther College
 Marion* and Lila Nelson
 The Government and People of Norway
 Ruth Wamstad Estate
 Barbara M. Westby*

Silver (\$100,000 - \$499,000)

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 Gertrude H. Berg*
 Brenda and David Carlson
 Decorah Bank & Trust Co.
 Amanda F. Duff*
 Evelyn Evenson*
 Helen M. Heitmann*
 Edwin R. And Joan T.* Hemphill
 Harriet M. Hustvedt*
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 Anna Rosendahl*
 Harold Segelstad
 Robert and Rebecca Shaw
 State Historical Society of Iowa
 Louise and Leland Sundet
 Sundet Foundation
 Helen (Molly) Sverdrup*
 John W. Thompson
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (formerly
 Lutheran Brotherhood & Aid
 Association for Lutherans)
 Vision Iowa / Iowa Department of
 Economic Development
 Ruth Wickney*
 Marwin and June Wrolstad

Bronze (\$30,000 - \$99,999)

Evy and Robert A. Alsaker
 Dr. Alf Altern*
 Anonymous
 Anonymous*
 A.N. Arntzen
 Bank of the West (formerly Community
 First National Bank)
 Helen Basler

Gladys Bertsch
 Eileen Borchers*
 Borgen Family Foundation
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 Lyle* and Jean Cary
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 Phil and Audrey Dybdahl
 Joseph and Ione Ellis
 Orton L. Enstad*
 Audrey and Lowell Erdman
 Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust
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 Fred Carlson Company, Inc.
 G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation
 GreenPoint Bank
 Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc.
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 Richard and Diane Halom
 David J. Hardy
 Jon and Mary Hart
 Hal A. and Patricia G. Hetland
 Humanities Iowa
 Institute of Museum and Library Services
 Iowa Arts Council
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 Alvin A. Johnson*
 Ruth Christine Johnson
 Russell and Ingrid Keune
 Trygve Lønnebotn
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 Carl McConeghey*
 David and Linda Brekke Mona/ David and
 Linda Mona Fund of the Minneapolis
 Foundation
 Milma Naeseth*
 Betty R. and David T.* Nelson
 Olive Nordby
 Mary Ann Olsen*
 Ham and Suzanne Peterson
 Sonja Peterson
 Kate Nelson Rattenborg
 Janice W. Relf*
 Rochester Friends of Vesterheim

Jeff and Marilyn Roverud
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
T. Eileen Russell
Tollef Sanderson*
Charlene and Gil* Schjeldahl
Michael and Diane Schmidt
Philip C. Smaby
Ingebor Husby Smith*
Ruth and Arne Sorenson
Dr. Robert F. Spier
C. Peter Strong
Daniel and Mary Ann Thurmer
Violette I. Twedt*
Ella Valborg Tweet*
Viking State Bank & Trust
Mike Voltmer
Mrs. G. H. Westby*
Dr. David W. and Peg Wright
Harriet S. Wrolstad

Pewter (\$10,000 - \$29,999)

99th Infantry Battalion
A & J Petersburg Agency
Marian Aaker
Mr. and Mrs. Maynard E.* Aaker
Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc.
American-Scandinavian Foundation
Nancy E. Anderson*
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Jack and Ellie* Anundsen
Russell and Jean Ashbaugh, Jr.
Phyllis A. Askildsen*
Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company
Augsburg Publishing House
Ray Aune*
Joan M. Barager Estate
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Naomi F. Bekkum
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Bruening Rock Products, Inc.
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John and Veronna Capone
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Helen Carlson*
Casper Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
City of Decorah
Karlyn N. Cross*
Clifford I. Cummings*
Deco Products Company
Edith* and Edward Delman
Sallie Haugen DeReus
Irving R. Eittrheim*
Richard M. and Nancy Enstad
Lindsay and Karla Erdman
James and Joy Erickson
Norman E. Erickson Estate
Ernest M. Espelie*
Eugene J. Nordby and Olive M. Nordby
Foundation
Evjue Foundation, Inc.
Edward H. and Sandra Fish
E. T. and Marjery Fjelde
Sanford* and Wilma Fosholt
Ella Ager Fossum
David Frew
Else Bettum Friberg*
Francis* and Geneice Gaasedelen
Gary Gandrud
Helen Garnaas
General Mills Foundation
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Gunnar A. Gundersen, M.D.
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Hagen & Kallevang P.C.
Newman T. Halvorson, Sr.*
Marilyn Hansen
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 Haugen Living Trust
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 Martha Marie A. Hoghaug*
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 Joseph and Mary Husby
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 Lee and David Rokke
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 neapolis
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 Lyle and Lucille* Sacquitne
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Robert Wellvang
Dr. Lorraine Westerberg*
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Winneshiek County
Sue P. Wrolstad
* Deceased

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