



**Annual Report** 

January 1-December 31, 2012

# Message from the Executive Director

Vesterheim's *Annual Report* provides a look at our activities and accomplishments during the last fiscal year, a summary of our finances, and acknowledgment of the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that have helped support our mission.

As the national Norwegian-American museum and heritage center, Vesterheim continues to care for the most comprehensive collection of Norwegian-American artifacts in the world. We also share the legacy of this treasure through our special exhibitions, folk-art classes, annual events, youth programs, magazine, and tours to Norway. This year 13,000 visitors from 50 states and 35 foreign countries came to Decorah to be inspired by our amazing collection. Over 5,000 members received our bi-annual magazine Vesterheim, 300 students learned a folk art from outstanding instructors, and more than 2,600 college and school children participated in a variety of engaging handson learning activities.

None of this could have been accomplished without a dedicated staff and board of trustees, loyal members,

enthusiastic volunteers, and generous donors. In 2012 groups around the country held a number of friends events on Vesterheim's behalf, including the Twin Cities Friends of Vesterheim Nordic Brunch and the Chicago Area Friends of Vesterheim Nordic Marketplace and Luncheon. The events provided fun entertainment and Norwegian-American community connections while supporting the museum. The committee of the Deck the Tables open house and dinner teamed up with Decorah merchants this year to present Decorah—All Decked Out, a fantastic holiday event complete with carriage rides through downtown and carolers on the streets. Proceeds from the event supported the traveling exhibition, The World of Jan Brett, which will be on view at the museum in the fall of 2013.

Vesterheim exhibitions and visitor's experiences were enhanced in 2012 with four special shows. *Childhood* presented the lives of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century children. The annual *National Exhibition of Folk Art in the Norwegian Tradition* featured the best contemporary folk art in the country. Local artist Carl



Steve Johnson, Executive Director

Homstad presented his work to an overflowing crowd at the opening reception of his exhibition A Sense of Place: A Carl Homstad Retrospective. The Sámi Reindeer People of Alaska honored the Sámi families who came from Norway in the 1890s to teach reindeer husbandry to native peoples in Alaska. This exhibition was sponsored by Owen and Naomi Bekkum, was coordinated by the Sámi Cultural Center of North America and Báiki: the International Sámi Journal. It was guest curated by Faith Field, Duluth, Minnesota; Marlene Wisuri, Duluth, Minnesota; and Nathan Muus, Oakland, California, who welcomed museum members in person at a sneak preview event.

Front cover: Cari Mayo, Sámi North American elder leader, at the opening reception for The Sámi Reindeer People of Alaska.



Crescent Moon by Carl Homstad.



Nordic Marketplace and Luncheon in Chicago.



Pioneer Immersion Program.

Vesterheim made great strides in 2012 toward future planning and organization. After a good deal of hard work on the part of both trustees and staff, the board approved the museum's five-year Strategic Plan, which covers 2013-2017. The completed plan sets the museum's institutional goals and steps to monitor progress. A special thank-you goes to Dick Hemp, the Long Range Planning Committee Chair, and staff liaison Laurann Gilbertson. Under the leadership of Vice-Chair Lindsay Erdman, the board of trustees approved the creation of a Master Site Plan, an important and necessary step for deciding the museum's direction.

Also this year, the museum completed the multi-year projects funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant. The grant made it possible to hire a Collections Manager, Alison Dwyer, to catalog, photograph, and digitize items in our collection. From this work five virtual galleries have been created and are available on our website at vesterheim.org.

At Vesterheim, we are always excited when Scandinavians come and visit. In 2012, JPP, the world-renowned Finnish

folk musicians, specifically sought out Vesterheim to be included in their U.S. tour and then gave a fantastic concert in the museum's Bethania Church. Celebrity Norwegian and Swedish knitters Arne Nerjordet and Carlos Zachrison gave a presentation about their newest knitting projects. Norwegian Anne Elisebeth Skogen gave a storytelling performance With Restauration Through Hell Gate to the Promised Land, about the first Norwegian group of emigrants who arrived in New York in 1825 on the boat Restauration. And Svein Ludvigsen, County Governor of Troms, Norway, visited the museum's Board of Trustees to discuss developing even stronger relationships between Vesterheim and modern Norway.

Your contributions provide the financial support that keep Vesterheim strong. It is with sincere thanks and humble gratitude that we recognize every person and organization listed here.

V
Steve Johnson, Executive Director



Vesterheim magazine, Vol. 10, No. 2, 2012.



New online gallery at vesterheim.org.



Deck the Tables.



Visitors from Hales Franciscan High School in Chicago, Illinois, tour Vesterheim.

# **Vesterheim**

## **Norwegian-American Museum**

# Audited Annual Report for Fiscal Year

## January 1-December 31, 2012

Vesterheim financial statements ending December 31, 2012, were audited by the firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The firm gave Vesterheim an unqualified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance that a CPA firm can provide.

Below are items to note from the audited financial statements.

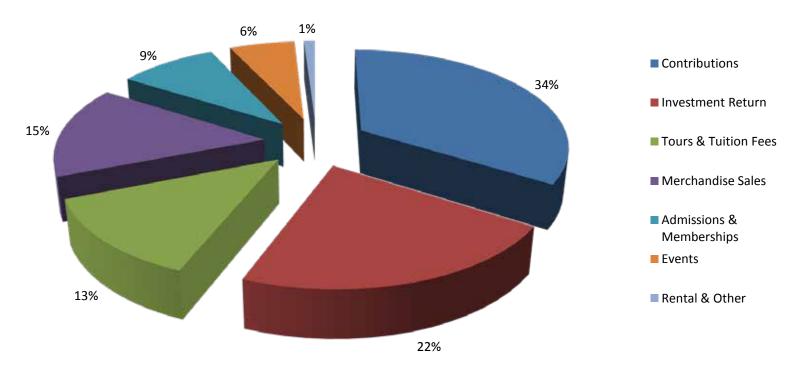
- The total assets for Vesterheim were \$8,929,640.
- The total assets increased \$216,349 from prior audit, primarily with investments.
- The total liabilities deceased \$63,944 from prior audit primarily due to paying off the line of credit.
- Total revenue, gains and other support amounted to \$2,242,312.
- The total expenses were \$1,962,019.
- The positive bottom line of \$280,293 included investment income and depreciation.

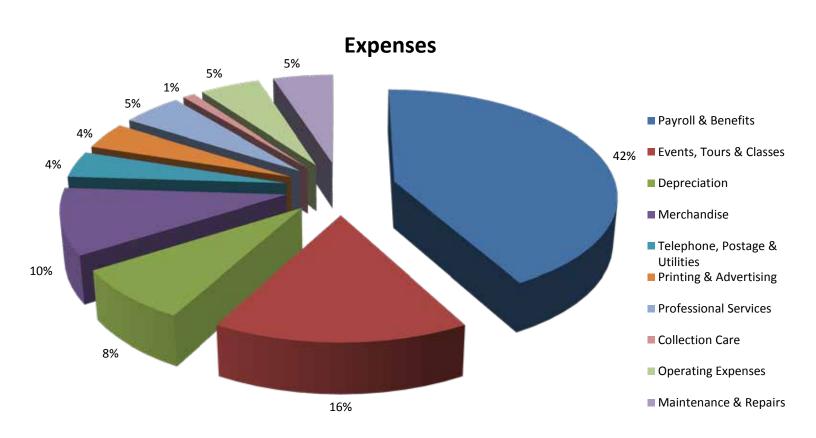
#### **VESTERHEIM NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM**

Revenue and Expenses Year Ended December 31, 2012

REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	Actual (Accrual Basis)
Contributions Change in value of beneficial interest in	\$729,828
remainder trust	38,469
Events	124,507
Admission, membership and publication fees	
Tour and tuition fees	282,160
Sales of merchandise	335,542
Miscellaneous Rental income	2,219
	21,226
Investment return Gain on exchange rate	499,120 53
dain on exchange rate	
Total revenue, gains, and other support	2,242,312
EXPENSES	
Wages and related expenses	811,275
Exhibits	9,632
Professional services	91,438
Operating expenses	48,945
Telephone and fax	8,862
Postage and freight	28,770
Utilities	51,954
Equipment repairs	84,141
Printing	62,224
Travel and development	9,915
Depreciation	162,248
Insurance	37,974
Advertising	27,381 12,426
Dues and subscriptions	12,426 277,090
Events and tours expense Classes expense	32,800
Cost of goods sold	194,376
Interest expense	2,212
Rental expense	6,042
Curatorial expense	1,519
Bad debt expense	-
Total expenses	1,961,224
Collection items purchased	795
Total expenses	1,962,019
Change in net assets	\$280,293

# Revenue





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as of December 2012

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Kathy Wilbur, Bookkeeper

#### VALHALLA SOCIETY

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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Ronald K. Wells Barbara Westby\*

Marwin O. and June Olson Wrolstad

\*Deceased

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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

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Dr. Lorraine Westerberg\*

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\* Deceased

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Endowment funds earn income annually, a portion of which is used for each endowment's stated purpose. The remainder of the income is reinvested to perpetuate the endowment.

We invite contributions to any of the listed endowment funds, or the creation of new named endowments. A gift of \$25,000 or more can create a new named endowment and can be an enduring way to honor or memorialize a friend or family member.

Building endowment funds is one of the most important ways to ensure Vesterheim's financial health. Each gift is an investment in the future of Vesterheim, one of America's most treasured cultural resources.

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The Dan and Bonnie Huebner Endowment for the Westby-Torgerson Education

Norwegian Arts and Crafts Endowment

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As of Dec. 31, 2012

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