

CULTURAL EVENT

Sunday, November 2, 2008



Notes from the Social Director

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

Montgomery, Illinois

Special Guest Artist Karen Solgård with her Hardanger fiddles, Buen on the left and Olsness on the right.

Karen Solgård plays the Norwegian hardingfele (Hardanger fiddle) in the traditional way, telling stories and singing songs connected to the fiddle tunes. She performs the familiar waltz, Reinlander, and polka, and the lesser-known village dance music from deep in the mountains of Norway. This includes some of her own compositions and arrangements. She invites audience participation.

Karen Torkelson Solgård grew up on a farm north of Crookston, Minnesota in a musical family. Her mother and grandmother taught the children Norwegian folksongs and Karen, with two of her sisters, sang trios for events, festivals and contests. She excelled in music as a young girl, studied at the University of Minnesota School of Music in Minneapolis and pursued a career in cello for ten years before taking up Hardanger fiddle seriously.

The Cultural Event will be from 1:00 to 5:00 with performances at 1:30 and 3:00. There will be vendors selling Scandinavian items such as rosemaling, knit wear, gift items, wall pictures and wood carvings. Polar Star Lodge will be selling Norwegian food made by members. In addition there will be demonstrations of lefse making and wood carving. Final plans for this event will be discussed at the October business meeting when members can sign up to help with various jobs, such as setting up prior to and cleaning up after the event, serving as greeters, ushers, kitchen workers and food vendors.