

GIANTS NEWS

Giants of the Earth Heritage
Center Newsletter

Volume X - Issue 4
November 2019

VELKOMMEN TIL ALLE

JULETREFEST

Fun for the whole family!

2-4 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS * DEMONSTRATIONS * FOOD * SINGING

FREE WILL DONATION

GIANTS OF THE EARTH HERITAGE CENTER
163 W. MAIN STREET SPRING GROVE, MN




Welcome

KATIE O'REGAN - DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Katie is very excited join the family of Giants of The Earth as Development Director. Katie comes to us with over 25 years of Organizational Development and non-profit work. Her career has brought her from Iowa to New York City, Chicago, Miami, Milwaukee and Door County. Born in Caledonia, Minnesota and raised in Northeast, Iowa, Katie is a fifth-generation farmers daughter of Francis and Leona Franzen O'Regan. She is happy to be back home and happy to be helping the board and all members ensure the growth and prosperity of Giants of The Earth.



Mission Statement: Giants of the Earth Heritage Center is dedicated to preserving the history and culture of the people of Norwegian Ridge, to assist in discovering genealogy and to educate succeeding generations in the language and culture of former days.

Gala

*Celebrating 10 Years
with Giants!*

Giants of the Earth's 10 Year

Anniversary

was celebrated on October 12th, 2019 in the Historic and Beautiful Ballard House!

Fellowship, Gourmet Dinner, Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert was followed by the opportunity to purchase original Artwork, Sculptures, Vacation Accommodations, Norwegian Treasures and numerous other valuable services and items with the proceeds so important to the future of Giants!



*Amazing food catered by
Kris Wedl*

These celebrations and fundraising dinners have contributed substantially to what together we have been able to achieve. For many this was their Fourth Gala! We recognize and thank them and all who joined us this evening. Many over the years have also been major sponsors, donors and auction winners. Your generosity truly makes this our major biennial fundraising evening possible and so richly rewarding. Again, we thank the members, attendees, sponsors, supporters and auction winners for their ongoing support and contributions which this evening raised over \$20,000!

Spring Grove's Giants of the Earth Heritage Center has had an amazing 10 years and we so thank the Members and Supporters for all of their leadership and contributions to what has been accomplished. This was our fourth Gala, the fourth time we have gathered together to honor and celebrate the mission and the ongoing evolution of Giants and the former Ballard House Hotel.



*Ole & Per and Polla came to visit.
Skits put on by Mark Schroeder, David
Storlie and Sara Kroshus*



*The crowd enjoying the wonderful food, good company
and an arousing auction.*

CELEBRATION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

- Acquired an historic building on Main Street
- Began renovation of second and third floors
- Totally restored the windows on first floor
- Reclaimed the original wood floors
- Replaced all the rotten exterior siding and chinked the limestone foundation
- Replaced and restored the original porch
- Upgraded the electrical to code
- Installed HVAC system
- Installed a security system
- Commissioned Sigmund Årseth and Sallie DeReus to decorate the walls of Immigrant Hall and the Visitor Center
- Built two decks
- Installed the Enger Garden
- Painted murals on exterior walls
- Commissioned a life-size bronze of Sigmund Årseth
- Immediately began programming to fit our mission
- Established an Endowment Fund that has grown to nearly \$100,000
- Established ongoing events that celebrate our heritage and introduces it to younger generations
- Created four exhibitions in spaces on the second floor
- Authored and finished our first Interpretive Plan
- Submitted grant proposals resulting in \$35,000 in awards
- Established the ongoing Sixth Grade Academy in area schools
- Initiated Barnetoget each Syttende Mai and Juletrefest in December
- Supported work of an in-house DNA expert to interpret results
- Provided venue for reunions and celebrations
- Served as fiscal agent for the Norwegian Ridge Birding and Nature Trail
- Continued to offer traditional genealogy assistance
- Were named to the National Historic Register
- Provided handicap accessibility
- Authored and adopted our second Interpretive Plan
- Created a Gift Shop
- Held four Gala fund raising auctions
- Founded Norwegian Ridge Language and Culture Camp
- Served as a Major participant in community events
- Hosted travel/historic research groups

FOR THE YOUNGER AMONG US



Did you know that Norwegian Ridge (Spring Grove) is run by numerous Nisser, Gnomes and Trolls? It takes a number of people to make our commu-

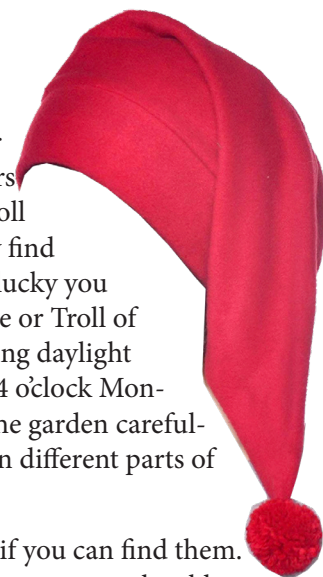
nity run smoothly. For years you may have seen many adults working to keep the street clean and the businesses running smoothly.

Recently it has been discovered that those people have had some hidden, secret helpers. You have to look carefully to see them at work. During spring, summer and fall they are hidden by the leaves on trees and bushes. However, in the winter you may just see their homes peeking out around the rocks, stumps and trees. They are creatures hiding in parks and gardens.

The caretakers of Giants' Pioneer Garden have discovered the doors and windows of their homes. Stroll through the garden and you may find them too. And, if you are really lucky you may even see a real Nisse, Gnome or Troll of your own. They appear only during daylight hours generally between 11 and 4 o'clock Mondays through Saturdays. Study the garden carefully as they move quickly and are in different parts of the garden throughout the day.

Stop by Giants this winter to see if you can find them. If you are very careful enough you may even be able to take a picture of one of these shy but important members of Spring Grove. Please stop in to Giants and let the staff know where you saw them and earn a finder's reward/treat for your efforts. If you don't see one come in and have your picture taken with one of the hats left behind when they scurry to hide themselves.

What a fun scavenger hunt which will run from December through February or until spring returns.

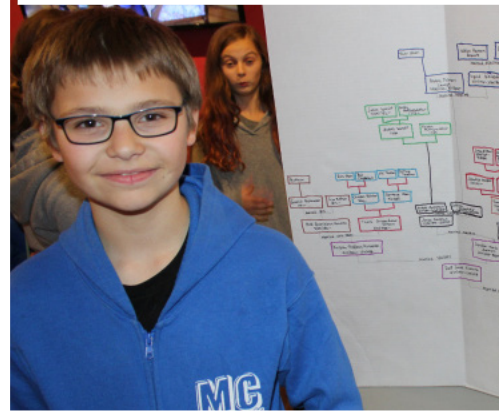
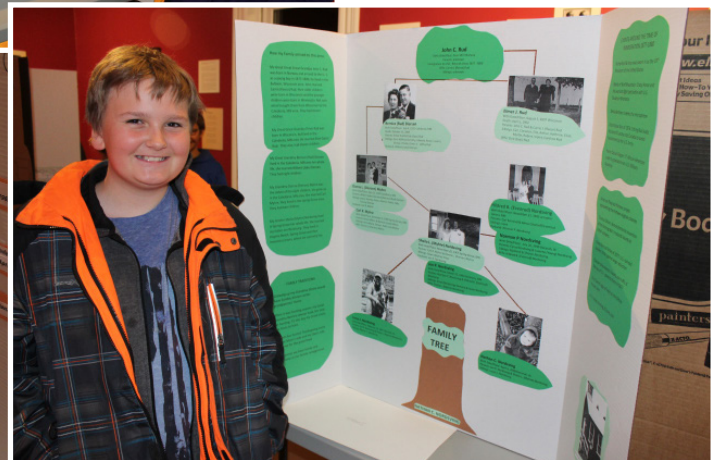
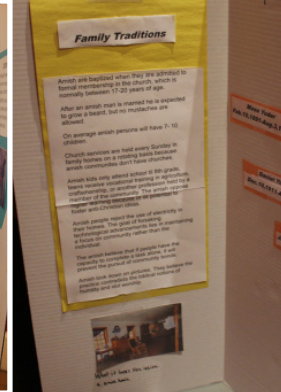
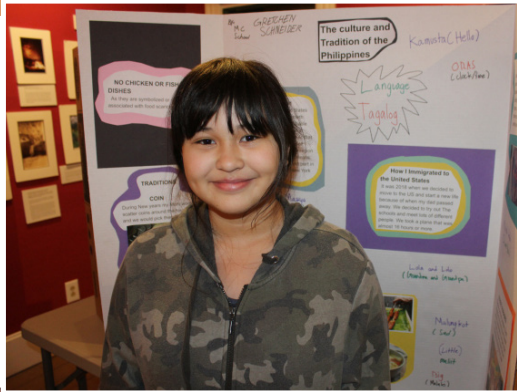


MABEL-CANTON 6TH GRADE ACADEMY

Photos from the reception that was held Tuesday, November 26 for the 6th graders, their parents and any other interested people.



Bill getting ready for the reception!



THE 6TH GRADE ACADEMIES CONTINUE

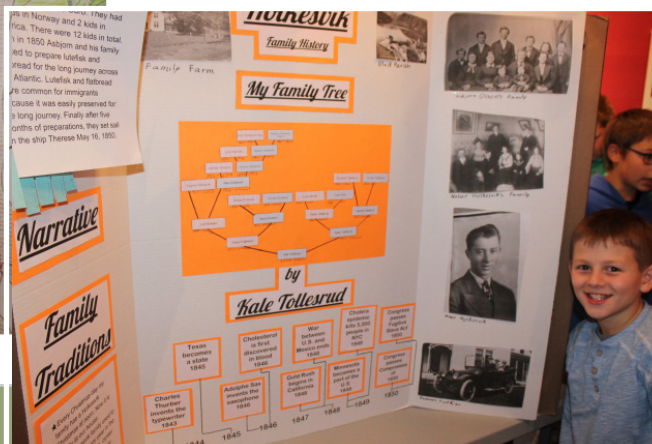
In September, Bill traveled to Mabel-Canton Elementary to introduce the 6th Grade Academy concept to this year's 6th graders in Mabel. The students listen carefully wholly unaware of the adventure they were about to begin.

For decades, the Minnesota Department of Education has required 6th grade students in Minnesota to study the history of their home, Minnesota. Giants mission statement also hopes to teach the students of the area about their immigrant story. While the program began in Spring Grove it has expanded to Houston and Mabel-Canton school Districts.

For 10 weeks, students learn about the 19th and 20th century history of North America. Students also explore world history which motivated people to immigrate to southeastern Minnesota. Once a week sessions are presented and students are mentored to discover their family's unique story.

A celebration is held at Giants and students display their work in our galleries. This year they displayed 22 trifold boards which tell their stories.

The next project is scheduled to begin in mid February with this year's Spring Grove students. Their work will be exhibited over Syttende Mai weekend. Well done, Bill!



Giants of the Earth Heritage Center

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Dr. Jim & Karen Gray
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Mike & Diane Schmidt
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Giants of the Earth
Heritage Center, Inc.
163 West Main Street
PO Box 223
Spring Grove,
MN 55974

507.498.5070

www.sgheritage.org

Hours:

Mon-Sat 10:00am - 5:00 pm

REMINISCING WITH DR. GRAY

THURSDAYS AT 2:00

JANUARY 9, 16, 23 AND 30

AT GIANTS OF THE EARTH HERITAGE CENTER
163W. MAIN STREET, SPRING GROVE MN

COFFEE AND TREATS PROVIDED

JAN 9.....THRESHING

JAN 16.....SILO FILLING

JAN 23.....TRACTORS & HORSES

JAN 30.....HANDLING LIVESTOCK

MEN AND WOMEN WELCOME

SHARE YOUR STORIES ~ BRING PHOTOS IF YOU WISH

UPCOMING CLASSES AT GIANTS

*ROSEMALING WITH BETTY DOWE

*RUGBRAIDING WITH AUDREY ALMO

MORE INFO COMING

10 Years Strong

HERITAGE
CENTER

THANK YOU

Last year Cynthia Gilbertson in memory of her mother Shirley Augustine donated money to have yellow tulip bulbs planted in our garden area. After a year of determining where other bulbs of the garden were planted, yellow tulip bulbs were put in the ground just before the first snow fall! Thank you to Saundy Solum and Steve and Linda Kemp for making it HAPPEN! We look forward to next spring's yellow bloom!

Linda Kemp planting yellow tulip bulbs>>>



Be a part of Giants Future!

HERE TO HELP YOU

Hours: Monday-Saturday from 10-5

Traditional Genealogy:

- Georgia Rosendahl
507.498.3318
rosefarm@springgrove.coop

Genetic Genealogy:

- Johnathan Storlie
319.400.3196
john@storlie.org

General Information:

- 507.498.5070 sgmnheritage.org
- Schedule your reunion
- Schedule family events/celebrations

Gift Shop:

- Your headquarters for books, socks, gifts, sweaters, Cookies in tins, much, much more

Second Floor:

- Photos and memorabilia displayed in exhibits

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Join or Give a Gift Membership:

- There are membership options to suit everyone
(See membership form on back page)

Volunteer:

- Welcome visitors
- Assist customers in the Gift Shop
- Be a communications expert – mailings, Facebook
- Be a kitchen nisse during Norwegian Ridge Language and Culture Camp in June, and/or during Juletefest
- Bake Norwegian treats for receptions and events

Be a Sponsor:

- Oral Histories
- Exhibits – Native Americans, Area Churches, Peter J. Rosendahl, Farming and Land Stewardship, Folk Music Interactive Exhibit, Learning the Land's Stories
- Folk Arts Classes
- Educational Programming: Norwegian Camp, Sixth Grade Academy
- Broadcast Quality Film of Norwegian Farm Families
- Be a Benefactor:
- Enroll in the Giant Legacy Society

CHARITABLE DONATION

As 2019 charges on to its end, we consider how we want to share our dollars among charities that are important to us. All gifts to Giants from any source are completely tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Giants is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. EIN: 26-4545682

Some folks have IRAs.

The IRA charitable rollover allows those over 70.5 to make a

direct transfer from an IRA to Giants without having to count the distribution as taxable income.

Thank you so much for your help. Your generosity makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission all year.

There is Great Need to Continue and Increase Giant's Vitality of Service

Giants of the Earth Heritage Center
163 West Main St.
Spring Grove, MN 55974

Pre-sorted Standard
NON-Profit Organization
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Spring Grove, MN 55974
Permit No. 10



www.sgheritage.org

Postal Patron

Give a Giants of the Earth
Gift Membership and get a
FREE card to send to your recipient!
(stop at Giants to pick it up)



SUPPORT GIANTS

Renew your Membership or give a Gift Membership!

Circle the membership you wish to purchase...

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Vaermor (Senior) \$35/year
Lars (Individual) \$40/year
Ola & Per (Family) \$50/year

PHILANTHROPIC MEMBERSHIPS:

Viking \$100/yr
*Georgia's Genealogy \$175/yr
**Genetic Ancestry \$175/yr
Giant \$250/yr
King Olav \$500/yr
Queen Sonja \$750/yr
King Harald \$1,000/yr

This is a renewal

This is a gift from:

_____ Please fill in name, address, phone and email info of recipient.

Date _____ Check # _____

Name _____
Please Print

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail with payment to:

Giants of the Earth Heritage Center
PO Box 223
Spring Grove, MN 55974

* Includes 2 1/2 hours of traditional genealogical assistance
** Includes DNA genetic testing kit and interpretation