

Norway DC Newsletter

Norwegian Holiday Festival & Bazaar

Fairfax Elks Club
8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50), Fairfax, VA

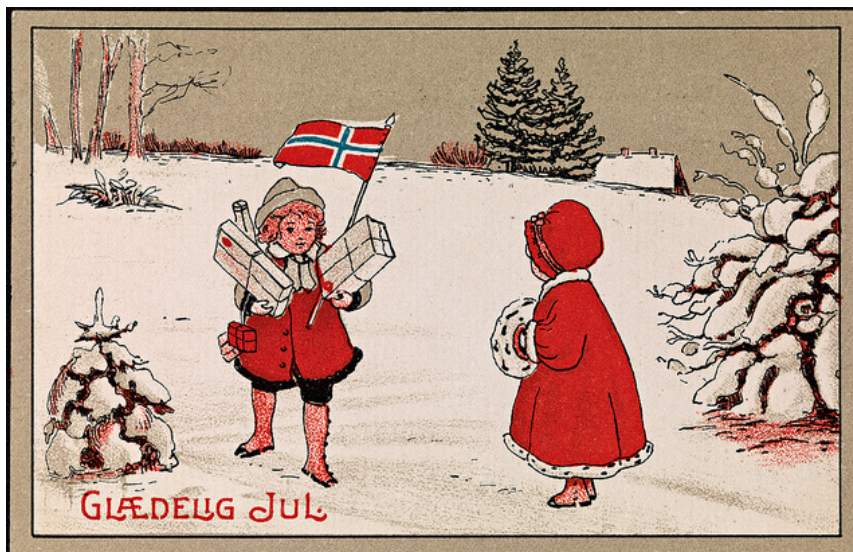
Friday, November 30

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 1

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Come to the Norwegian Holiday Festival & Bazaar to celebrate your Norwegian heritage!



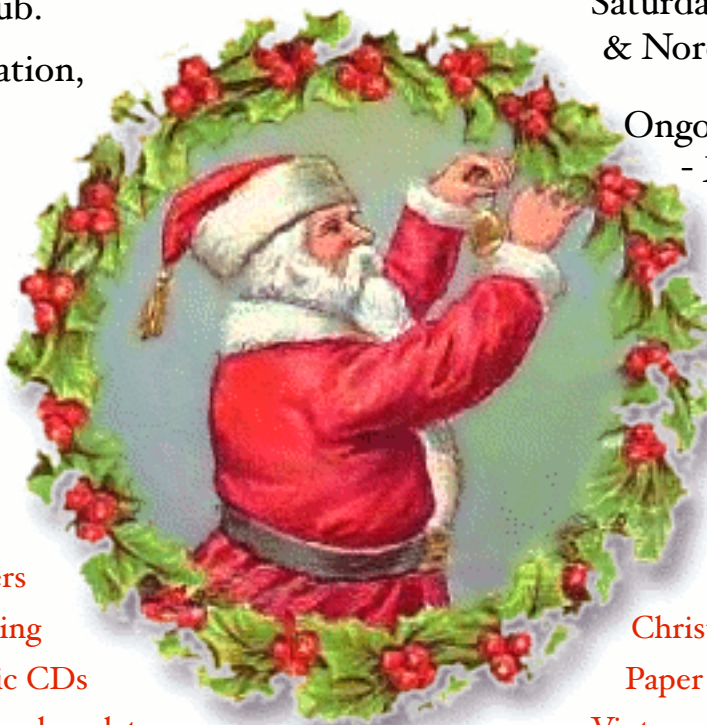
Admission to the bazaar is free. Lunch menu will be available from the Elks Club.

For more information, contact bazaar@norwaydc.org.

God jul!

Items for sale:

Baked goods
Cooking appliances
Scandinavian sweaters
Hats, T-shirts, clothing
Books, movies, music CDs
Lefse and Norwegian chocolate



Schedule

Saturday - Fiddler 10:30-12:30
& Nordic Dancers 1:00-2:00

Ongoing Friday & Saturday
- Meet the Lundehunds

Tasty treat demos:
Lefse, krumkake
and waffles!

Rosemaled giftware
Linens and tablecloths
Traditional solje jewelry
Crystal and pewter gifts
Christmas ornaments and decor
Paper products & 2013 calendars
Vintage & unique "Scandinavi-ana"

Christmas in Norway (Jul)

Jul or jol is the term used for the Christmas holiday season in Scandinavia.

The major day of celebration in Norway, as in most of Northern Europe, is December 24. Although it is legally a regular workday until 4:00 p.m., most stores close early. Church bells toll in the Christmas festival between 5:00-6:00 p.m., and many people attend the church service thereafter. In some families the Christmas story from Luke 2 will be read from the old family Bible.

The main Christmas meal is served in the evening. If children are present (and they have behaved well the last year), "Julenissen" (Santa Claus) pays a visit, otherwise gifts are stored under the Christmas tree.

December 25 is a very quiet and relaxed day. Church services are well attended. The old tradition of a very early morning service before breakfast has been replaced in most areas by a service in the later morning. Afterward many families get together for a large festive meal.

December 26 is also a day of many festivities. Cinemas, night clubs and bars are full, and there are lots of private gatherings and parties, where all kinds of traditional Christmas cookies and sweets are enjoyed. Fatty, tasty dinners are also part of it.



A Norwegian Christmas, 1846 painting by Adolph Tidemand.

The time between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve is called romjul. During this time children in some parts of Norway dress up as "nisser" and go "Julebuk" – "Christmas goat" – in their neighbourhoods and sing Christmas carols to receive treats, much the same way as in the American Halloween. January 6 (13th day of Christmas) is the official end of Christmas.

Christmas Food

On Christmas Eve, traditional dishes are served, based on regional differences in cuisine and accessibility.

In Western Norway and Northern Norway, Pinnekjøtt

jøtt (steamed, salted and dried ribs of mutton) is the more common dish, whereas in Eastern Norway, pork rib roast is more common. In the north both

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Pinnekjøtt and especially Lutefisk is very common, but Lutefisk is more and more common the more north you get.

Other traditional foods exist as well, without enjoying the same amount of popularity, such as Smalahove (mutton head), Lutefisk, fresh boiled cod, rakfisk, medisterkaker and medisterpølser (dumplings and sausages made of minced pork meat), and more recently turkey.

Eating porridge, a type of rice pudding with extra cream, a one-time staple of Norwegian cuisine, with a single almond in it, is a widespread custom, and whoever gets the almond wins a prize, which is usually a marzipan

pig, but sometimes also a chocolate or a candy. A bowl of porridge is, according to tradition, also put out to the unpredictable Nissen, the Norwegian equivalent of a guardian spirit.

tional beer, Christmas beer, which is darker, stronger and has more flavour than the common Norwegian lagers. Breweries also produce a special soda, known as julebrus. Aquavit is also a common digestif to accompany the heavy, and often fatty, meals.



Making krumkake. photo credit: [Lynn D. Rosentrater via Creative Commons](#). Gnomes photo credit: [Aimee Ray via Creative Commons](#)

Tradition prescribes seven kinds of julekaker, pastries and coffee bread associated with Christmas. However, no authoritative list exists, and there are great variations. Gingerbread and gingerbread

houses are common, and decorated with sugar frosting, ginger bread cookies are sometimes used for decorating win-

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dows and the Christmas tree as well.

Julebukking

Julebukking is a Christmas tradition of Norwegian origin. Between Christmas and New Year's Day, people wearing masks and costumes (Julebukkers) go door to door, where neighbors receiving them attempt to identify who is under the disguise. Julebukkers will often disguise their voices and body language to further the masquerade. Offering people holiday treats and something to drink is customary. Once identities are known and the food is eaten, the Julebukkers continue to the next home.

In one version of Julebukking, people go from door to door singing Christmas songs. After they have sung, they are usually awarded with candy. Another tradition requires that at least one person from the visited household join

the band of Julebukkers and continue to the next household.

The tradition of the Christmas buck (Julebukk) is believed to have originated in Norway, where pagans worshiped Thor, the god who traveled in his

Christian missionaries modified the tradition and divorced its meaning from Paganism. The Yule Goat became one of the oldest Scandinavian and Northern European Yule and Christmas symbols and traditions. In Scandinavia, the figure of the julebukk is used as a common Christmas ornament. It is often made out of straw, has a red ribbon around its neck, and is found under the Christmas tree.

Though the practice of Julebukking may be dying out, it is still observed in areas in America with large populations of people of Scandinavian descent, such as the rural areas of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and in Petersburg, Alaska and Ketchikan, Alaska.

Photo: Julebukker, Norwegian.



Christmas Foolers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1908.

Contents of this article from [Wikipedia](#).

chariot drawn by two goats. During the Yule holiday, they would disguise their appearance by dressing in a goatskin and go from house to house carrying a goat head.



Illustration: Julekort, ca 1894 by Aadne Stray. Ornament photo credit: [David King via Creative Commons](#).

Bazaar Volunteers Needed

Additional help is most needed on Friday morning from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., to unpack merchandise and distribute it to the appropriate tables. If you are not available during that time slot, your help would be welcome at any other time as well, during the bazaar hours as well as with loading/unloading on Thursday evening Nov. 29 and Saturday evening Dec. 1.

If you can volunteer, please email Joyce at joycelaw@cox.net or call her at 703-503-8423.



Santa Claus's Reindeer

In the Santa Claus tale, Santa Claus's sleigh is pulled by flying reindeer. These were first named in the 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas", where they are called Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Dunder, and Blixem. Dunder was later changed to Donder and—in other works—Donner (in German, "thunder"), and Blixem was later changed to Bliksem, then Blitzen (German for "lightning").

Photo credit: Peter Nijenhuis via [Creative Commons](#). Content from [Wikipedia](#).

Calendar

Norwegian Holiday Festival & Bazaar

Friday, Nov. 30, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. &
Saturday, Dec. 1, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA
To volunteer, contact bazaar@norwaydc.org.

Juletreffet (Holiday Party)

Sunday, December 16, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Norway House. Bring fingerfood to share.
Bring a wrapped gift for the JuleNisse to present to
your child. The Julenisse will visit at 3:00 p.m.

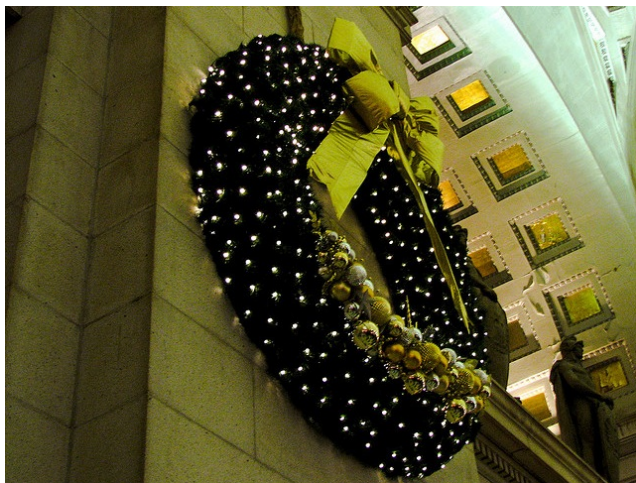
Norw. Language & Conversation Group

Every Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Norway House

Other Area Events of Interest

SWEA Swedish Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, Dec. 1, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saint Lucia procession at 5:00 p.m.
House of Sweden, 2900 K St NW, Washington DC
Swedish crystal, textiles, artwork, food and much
more on sale. Raffle with amazing prizes. Swedish
cafe with home-baked goods and traditional Swedish
delicacies. Children's activity room with Swedish
crafts. Entrance \$2.00. Contact: Suzanne Edam at
sweapr@gmail.com or 202-546-7266.
www.swea.org/washingtondc



*Union station holiday decorations in 2008. Photo credit:
[Matt Dailey via Creative Commons](#).*

Traditional Advent Service and Lucia Procession

Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 p.m.
Augustana Lutheran Church, 2100 New Hampshire
Ave., NW, Washington, DC
Service is in Swedish, officiated by the Rev. Mona
Svensson from the Swedish Church in New York.
Mrs. Karin Höglund, Deputy Chief of Mission, Em-
bassy of Sweden, will extend Christmas Greetings to
the Swedish Community. After the service, you are
invited for "kyrkaffe" in the social hall. The Swedish
congregation is collecting unwrapped toys to be dis-
tributed to children in a Washington shelter! Free
Parking in Reeve's Government Building on the north
side of U St, between 14th & 15th St (enter from U
Street, NW and mention the 'Swedish Church Serv-
ice' as you drive in). Or take Metro's Green Line to
Cardoza. Info: Eva Hess at evahess@comcast.net or
301- 229-7636. SwedishChurch.org.

Norrbotten NEO

Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 pm
House of Sweden, 2900 K St NW, Washington DC
Ensemble of seven musicians: flute, clarinet, percus-
sion, piano, violin, viola and cello. Free admission.
Tickets at embassyofsweden.eventbrite.com.

Christmas Tree Lighting at Union Station

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Union Station West Terrace, Washington, DC
This year, the tree lighting ceremony will be held out-
side the West Hall, on the porch facing 1st street by
the west exit of the Union Station Metro station.
Union Station is still affected by the earthquake of
2011, and due to ongoing renovations the tree could
not be erected inside the station this year. The Nor-
wegian Embassy will serve treats and gløgg to warm
the audience during the ceremony. The Children's
Chorus of Washington will be singing Christmas car-
ols, and the tree will be lit by U.S. Under Secretary of
the Navy Robert Work. Santa Claus will be on hand
with treats for the children.

All You Can Eat Swedish Julbord

Friday, December 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
IKEA, College Park, MD
Tickets are \$12.99 adult/\$4.99/child, with a discount
if you have an IKEA FAMILY card. Seating is limited,
purchase tickets at the store restaurant ahead of
time.

(events continued on next page)

Scandinavian Christmas Festival

Saturday, Dec. 8, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Lucia at 5:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Bazaar at 5:30 p.m. (Parish Hall)

St. James Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD

American Scandinavian Association of the National Capital Area. Grand raffle. Coffee, Glögg, cake and cookies included as part of admission fee. Dancing around the Christmas tree. A visit by Santa and the Nordic Dancers. \$6.00 per adult, \$3.00 ages 2-12, free under 2. \$20.00 max. cost per family. Contact: Gerry Schueman, 703-734- 0319, gerry@schueman.com.



Photo credit: [Hermi G via Creative Commons](#).

Norwegian Church Service

Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

7730 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD

The service is in Norwegian. All are welcome.

“Kirkekafe” after the service. The service will be followed by a juletre fest for the children. Contact: Lasse Syversen at 301-641-7908 or lasse@flagship.com.

St. Lucia Program and Jul Fest

Sunday, Dec. 9, 4:00 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church (Parish Hall)

11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD

Drott Lodge of the Vasa Order of America. Traditional Lucia pageant, Swedish Christmas music, followed by Festive Swedish Christmas Party with dancing around the Christmas tree, a visit from Santa, activities for children, a reception of Swedish foods and seasonal treats and merriment for all.

A Scandinavian Christmas

Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium,
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD

Music from Andrea Hoag, Loretta Kelley & Charlie Pilzer. God Jul! Light the candles, feast like a Viking as this internationally recognized trio bring the heart of Scandinavia to you in their 3rd Annual Scandinavian Christmas celebration. \$15 advance donation, \$20 door, Student with ID: \$10 advance / \$15 door. Contact: 301-960-3655.

www.imtfolk.org.

Scandia DC 3rd Saturday Dance (Holiday Party)

Saturday, December 15, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

The Greenbelt Community Center,
15 Crescent Road; Greenbelt, MD

Located in the Dance Studio located on the lower level of the building. No Teaching. Open dancing from 7:00 - 10:00 pm. Cost of the Dance Party, \$7 payable at the door. Featured Fiddlers: Göran Olsson and Loretta Kelley (leading the Spelmannslag). Contact Linda@scandiadc.org, or call Linda Brooks or Ross Schipper at 202-333-2826.

www.scandiadc.org.

5th Annual Nordic Christmas

Monday, Dec. 24 at 3:00 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church

2100 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC

The Norwegian Church Service, the Swedish Lutheran Church, the Finnish Lutheran Church, the Danish Church, and the Icelandic Church Abroad invite you to a Nordic celebration at the Augustana Lutheran Church. We will sing lots of hymns and carols, some of them in Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, and Danish! Musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, from the local Nordic community will enhance the service with their talents. Ginger-snap cookies and mulled cider will be served after the service. Metro: Green Line to Cardozo.

Parking: V St, Vermont Ave, Florida Ave, and 16th St. Free, covered parking is also available in the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center (DC Government) on U St NW between 14th & 15th St.

Contact: lasse@flagship.com, 301-641-7908.

http://www.norway.org/News_and_events/Christmas-2012/DC-5th-Annual-Nordic-Christmas/

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Nordic Cool 2013

February 19-March 17, 2013

Kennedy Center,

2700 F St NW, Washington, DC

Ticketed events at the Kennedy

Center. International Festival of Theater,

Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Literature, Design,

and Film to highlight the cultures of Den-

mark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden

as well as the Territories of Greenland, the

Faroe and Åland Islands. Tickets are now on

sale to the public.

www.kennedy-center.org/programs/newseas/nordic_cool.html.

Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C.

Most Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., through June

Highland View Elementary School,

Silver Spring, MD

Come and learn traditional folk dances of

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Swe-

den. Newcomers are welcome; no prior

dance experience is necessary. The Nordic

Dancers welcome children and their parents

to participate on the second Wednesday of

every month from 7:30 to 8:30. For more

information, contact Chris Kalke at

ckalke@verizon.net or 301-864-1596.

sites.google.com/site/nordicdancersdc/

Address Changes

Did your email address, mailing address, or other information change? Please notify

database manager Clarissa Peterson at

editor@norwaydc.org or 202-285-9585.

Contact Us

Norway House

3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030

Website

www.norwaydc.org

Find Us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/123693707650322/

Directions to Norway House

3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030

**** Please park in the Christ Lutheran Church parking lot (entrance directly across the street from the Norway House).**



From Beltway or I-66:

Go west from Beltway on 66. Take Exit 60, Rt. 123 (Chain Bridge Rd.) south toward Fairfax. Proceed about a half mile. Turn right on Rt. 50 west

(also Rt. 29, Lee Highway, and Fairfax Blvd.). Stay in the right lane. Just after the 3rd traffic light, turn right on Meredith Dr. (which is between a Merchants Tire store and a Texaco gas station). Turn left immediately behind the gas station into the church parking lot.

From Rt. 50/29: Go west from the Beltway about 5.33 miles. After crossing Rt. 123 (Chain Bridge Rd.), stay in the right lane. Just after the 3rd traffic light, turn right on Meredith Dr. (which is between a Merchants Tire store and a Texaco gas station). Turn left immediately behind the gas station into the church parking lot.

From far western suburbs: From I-66 East, take Exit 52, Rt. 50, east, toward city of Fairfax. Proceed about one mile. Turn left at Fairfax Blvd., which is where Rt. 29 joins Rt. 50 (which itself angles left). Turn left after a Texaco station onto Meredith Dr. Turn left immediately behind the gas station into the church parking lot.

Metro & bus: From Ballston Metro station (on the Orange Line), take either the 1C or 1Z bus toward Inova Fairfax Hospital. The bus will go down Lee Highway/Fairfax Blvd. (Rt. 50/29). Get off about 40 min. later at Meredith Drive (after Warwick Ave.).

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