



SONS OF
NORWAY

Capital Viking

Where We Came From: Norwegian Immigration to America

Lodge Meeting: Friday, June 15

7 p.m. potluck dinner

8 p.m. program

9 p.m. business meeting

Please arrive at 6:45 with your dishes for the potluck.

At the **Norway House**, 3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA.

Directions: www.norwaydc.org/directions



Above: Immigrants arriving at Ellis Island, 1902

About the Program

There are more than 4.5 million Norwegian Americans according to the U.S. census, and we're the 10th largest ancestry group in the United States.

But most of us aren't immigrants; we're the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc., of Norwegians who arrived in the United States before we were born, and we only have second-hand knowledge of what it was like to immigrate to the United States or to live here as a immigrant.

This presentation will primarily focus on Norwegian immigrants who arrived during the busiest period of 1825-1925. We'll talk about:

- Why did Norwegians emigrate to the United States? Who chose to make the journey, and who stayed behind?
- How did our Norwegian ancestors get to the shores of North America? Where did they land, and what were their first days in this nation like?
- Where in the United States did Norwegian immigrants settle?
- What was their new life like? What kind of jobs and hobbies did they have? What was their home life like, their schooling, their churches, their communities?

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About the June Speaker

Clarissa Peterson is the great-granddaughter of Norwegian immigrants from Nordland, Troms, Oppland, and Hedmark. She grew up in Wisconsin and learned about Norwegian culture from her grandmother, Oljanna Cunneen, who was a rosemaler, Ole & Lena joke-teller, troll-maker, bunad seamstress, and a tour guide at Little Norway.

A member of Sons of Norway since 2009, Clarissa currently serves as the lodge's newsletter editor and webmaster, and previously served as treasurer.

She's involved in the lodge's Genealogy Interest Group and has received an Idrettsmerke Sports & Fitness Medal.



Right: *Norwegian-American community picnic in Wisconsin, circa 1873*

Amundsen Ship to Return to Norway

After over 80 years of weathering the ice of Cambridge Bay in Nunavut, Canada, the wreck of the Maud has just received federal approval from the Canadian government to return home to Norway.



You may remember that back in September of last year, the Newsletter Service highlighted the long story of this famous Amundsen ship and how she came to rest in Cambridge Bay.

Since then, investors with the group Maud Returns Home have been working with the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board to receive the necessary export permits to raise the wreck and ready it for a long journey aboard a barge to Norway, where the ship would be the centerpiece of a new museum in Vollen. After receiving a notice of refusal in mid-December, Maud Returns Home persevered with an appeal hearing in March, culminating in a reversal of the board's initial ruling in 2011. "The board recognized the shared heritage of Canada, Norway and the world, and after careful consideration of the criteria under the Act, determined that an export permit will be granted

for the Maud," said a statement released after the ruling.

Jan Wanggaard, manager of Maud Returns Home, couldn't be more thrilled about the outcome of the hearing. "That is great news for us, and we can now go ahead making plans and prepare ourselves for the great challenge to finally bring Maud home. It's a great responsibility we now take on and we will work hard to make this project something everyone can be proud of at the end of the day, both in Canada and Norway."

While most of the response in the Norwegian and Canadian communities has been positive after the board's approval, not everyone is comfortable with the plans outlined by Maud Returns Home. In an interview by the *Globe and Mail*, former mayor Syd Glawson said, "They have good intentions. But my belief - and I really believe this - is that when they try to move it, it's going to fall apart and all they're going to get is a pile of garbage. My concern is that when they discover this, they will just pack their bags and move on and leave everything where it is and leave the mess for Cambridge Bay." - *Sons of Norway Newsletter Service*

Norwegian Class Film Night

The Norwegian class recently met at the Norway House to watch the film *Buddy* and enjoy some snacks, including a Austrian cake made by Ingrid Fuegenschuh, wife of class member Norbert.



Left: Members of the Norwegian class. Snacks visible in the background.



Above: Cake.

Below: Swimming bears at Milwaukee County Zoo. We do not recommend swimming with bears while working toward your Svømmermerke sports medal.

Svømmermerke (Swimming) Sports Medal Program

Summer is the perfect time to get active with the Sons of Norway Svømmermerke (swimming) Sports Medal Program.

The Svømmermerke (Svum-eh-merk-eh) Swimming Medal Program awards Sons of Norway members for living an active lifestyle. For their swimming efforts members can earn bronze, silver, gold and enamel medals.



Download a record card from the Sons of Norway website to keep track of the distance in miles you swim. Requirements for a bronze medal are between 15-60 miles, depending on your age group.

Here's how the program works:

www.sofn.com/members/showPage.jsp?document=SportsMedalProgram.html

For more information, contact your sports director Greg Ovrebo at sports@norwaydc.org.

In Remembrance: Dr. C. Kingsley Brown

IN REMEMBRANCE (til minne): Our lodge conveys the love and concern of its members to lodge member Janice Brown and her family on the death of her beloved husband, Dr. C. Kingsley Brown. The Browns' four children include lodge members Allison Malone and Carolyn Figueiredo, along with Tom Brown and Bill Brown.

The Browns also have six grandchildren, Sarah Kurdilla, Colleen Malone, Andrew Malone, Ruthy Figueiredo, Jeffrey Brown, and Alec Brown. Janice is the sister of lodge members Judith Kee and Joyce Bierman.

Dr. Brown was born October 26, 1932, in Washington, D.C., and died March 22, 2012 at Charlottesville, Virginia. He was a mechanical engineer and a graduate of George Washington University, Wash. DC. where his father was a professor.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to Janice and family at 6 Horseback Lane, Palmyra, Virginia 22963.

by Frank Jones, Membership Care Chair

2012 Sons of Norway International Convention

August 22-25, 2012 in Fargo, ND

The 2012 Sons of Norway International Convention is open to ALL Sons of Norway members. Visit www.sonsofnorway2012.com to register now!

At the Convention: 2012 International Folk Art Exhibition & Competition

Sons of Norway is pleased to invite all members to participate in the 2012 International Folk Art Exhibition & Competition. All members, both amateurs and professionals, are encouraged to display their skills at Sons of Norway's largest folk art event as part of the International Convention in Fargo, North Dakota from August 22nd through August 25th.

Members can choose to compete, exhibit or both. Everyone who enters will receive a certificate of participation and a unique pin for their contribution. Members who enter the competition can win ribbons for First, Second, and Third places in a variety of categories, a People's Choice award and the Best In Show prize for the judges' overall favorite item.

For more information, complete rules and more, visit www.sonsofnorway2012.com/Folk-Art.aspx.

Via Sons of Norway Newsletter Service.



Sons of Norway Media Lending Library

a little in English...

Whether you're looking for some new music to play at your next lodge meeting, or a Norwegian film to watch over the weekend, the Sons of Norway Media Lending Library has what you're looking for!

Sons of Norway's media lending library offers a variety of films, CDs and slides. The library has many items for both children and adults, including over 300 CDs with everything from jazz to rock to Hardanger fiddle folk music. We also have over 150 films on VHS and DVD covering everything from feature films to documentaries and much more.

It's easy to use the library. Just get in touch via culture@sofn.com. You can check out up to three items at a time; the items are sent to you via UPS, you can keep them for a month, and the only cost to you is to send them back. Reserving items in advance is recommended.

To request a lending library selection or to learn more about what the Sons of Norway Media Lending Library has to offer, call (800) 945-8851 or visit the members section of the Sons of Norway website at www.sonsofnorway.com.

litt på norsk...

Enten du trenger musikk til ditt neste losjemøte eller en norsk film å se på over helgen, Sons of Norway har det som kreves!

Sons of Norways mediebibliotek tilbyr diverse filmer, CDer og 35mm lysbilder. Biblioteket har mange ting for barn og voksne, inkl. over 300 CDer med alt fra jazz og rock til hardingfelelåter. Vi har også over 150 filmer på VHS og DVD med alt fra langfilmer til dokumentarer og mye mer.

Det er lett å bruke biblioteket. Bare ta kontakt via culture@sofn.com. Du kan bestille opp til 3 ting hver gang; de sendes i posten, du får låne dem i en måned, og det eneste kostnaden til deg er å sende dem tilbake. Det anbefales at du reserverer ting på forhand.

For videre informasjon eller å bestille noe, sjekk ut www.sonsofnorway.com eller ring (800) 945-8851.

Via Sons of Norway Newsletter Service.

Pictured: Some of the titles available in the Sons of Norway Media Lending Library.



We also have many DVDs, VHS tapes and CDs in our lodge library at the Norway House!

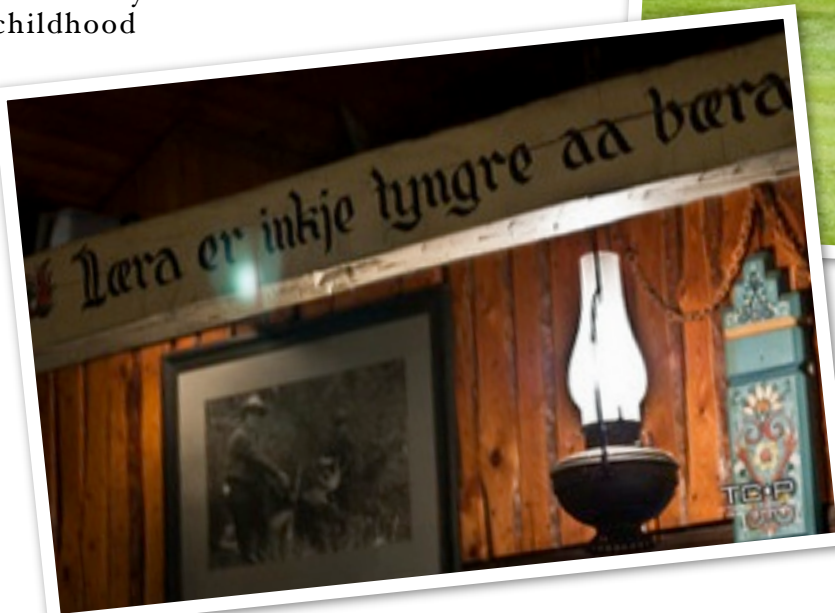
Little Norway

The Valley of the Elves

Have you visited Little Norway, a living history museum located in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin? If not, you need to visit soon. The owners recently announced that this summer is Little Norway's last season, with the last day on Oct. 29.

Little Norway began when Osten Olson Haugen, an immigrant from Telemark, Norway, settled on 40 acres during the 1850s. Mr. Haugen built a dwelling house and other buildings out of timber cut on the property. The Haugen family farmed the land until 1920.

In the early 1930s, a Chicago businessman named Isak Dahle was inspired by a recent tour of Norway and memories of his childhood



in Southeastern Wisconsin to replicate a Norwegian farm as a gift to his family. He christened it Little Norway and gave it the Norwegian name Nissedahle, meaning "Valley of the Elves," with "dahle" being a pun on the word dal, meaning valley, and his surname. Dahle opened

Little Norway to the public in 1937. It is the oldest privately-owned museum in the United States.

The museum consists of eight authentic Norwegian homestead buildings, as well as the largest private collection of Norwegian antiques outside of Norway. Among the treasures on display are Norse jewelry, original ethnic clothing and costumes, immigrant trunks, linen and wool weavings, hardanger, embroidered wall hangings, traditional Norwegian furnishings, rosemaled pieces, and authentic carved wooden spoons and ale bowls.

Visitors are taken on a tour of the buildings by guides wearing traditional Norwegian bunads (folk costumes). Over 2 million people have visited Little Norway since it opened in 1937, and it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Little Norway is owned and operated by Dahle's grandnephew Scott Winner, along with his wife Jennifer and their children Haley and Asher. "I'm proud that we've been able to keep it in the family," says Winner. "From my great-uncle to my grandparents to my parents, Little Norway has been a labor of love for us for more than 80 years."



Above:

*The main cabin once housed cattle and sheep, but is now filled with Norwegian and Norwegian-American artifacts, such as furniture, bunads, cookware, dishes, toys, and decorations. **Left:** A stabbur, or food storehouse.*



A **Stabbur** is a food storehouse, where you might keep grain, flour and smoked and salted meat (on hooks). The storehouse is on a raised foundation of heavy timbers, which provided ventilation under the floor to prevent moisture from penetrating the ground. The posts are designed in a way to prevent small animals from climbing up, and in addition, there is a gap of about 12 inches between the top of the steps and the entrance, to keep rodents from entering that way.

Norway Building

Perhaps the best-known attraction at Little Norway is the Norway Building which was built in Trondheim, Norway, for the Norway Pavilion at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (Chicago's World Fair). The building is modeled after a 12th century stavkirke (wooden stave church).

After the exposition, the building was purchased by a prominent Chicago business man and relocated by train to his vacation estate in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. After passing through multiple owners, the building fell into disrepair during the Great Depression. It was purchased by Little Norway founder Isak Dahle in 1935 and moved to Blue Mounds. The Norway Building is one of the few examples of original Norse stave church architecture outside of Norway as well as one of the few remaining buildings from the Chicago World's Fair.

The Norway Building is pictured on the previous page.

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Little Norway Guides

Special note from newsletter editor Clarissa Peterson: My grandmother, Oljanna Cunneen, was a guide at Little Norway until her death in 1988. I went there several times as a child, and accompanied her on tours. My favorite memory is that she would allow me to come with her on "hidden" back staircases between floors of the buildings, which allowed guides to maneuver in front of their tour groups in the small spaces.

Like many, it never occurred to me that Little Norway was a place that would not always exist. It was what first introduced me to Norwegian culture and history, and where I learned why I should be proud

to be Norwegian-American. I will always treasure my memories of visiting Little Norway.



Little Norway is located in Blue Mounds, Wis., about 20 miles west of Madison, and is open 7 days a week through October 29. Guided tours last between 45 minutes and an hour, and you can explore the grounds on your own afterward.

For more information, call (608) 437-8211, email info@littlenorway.com, or visit littlenorway.com. Tickets can be purchased through the website.

Pictured above: Little Norway guides, circa 1980s (photographer unknown). Clarissa's grandmother is front row, second from left (in red and white)

Left: Entrance to Little Norway (credit: [Richie Diester](#) via [Creative Commons](#)).

All other photos of Little Norway, credit: [Terry Christian](#) via [Creative Commons](#).

Naturalization Records in the National Archives

Summary of presentation at the 2012 National Archives Genealogy Fair by Patrick Connelly, National Archives, New York

By Christine Foster Meloni

Important Dates

Remember these important dates:

- **March 26, 1790** – The United States has come into existence and this is, therefore, when the government began to record naturalizations. So don't look for naturalization records before this date!
- **September 27, 1906** – The INS took over and then the records became better. The forms were standardized.
- **September 22, 1922** – Women were now able to apply for naturalization on their own. Before this date, they obtained citizenship through their fathers and their husbands. So don't look for the naturalization records of women prior to this date unless you are looking for a single woman who was not with her father. She could ask to be naturalized. But daughters and wives were given "derivative citizenship."

Interesting situation: Women born in the United States received citizenship at birth. But, if they married a foreigner who was not a US citizen, they lost their US citizenship because they had "derivative citizenship," that is, it was dependent on their husband's citizenship. (How unfair!)

From 1936 on a woman could repatriate.

The Process of Naturalization: Documents

1. Declaration of Intention (It expired after seven years.)
2. Petition for Naturalization – minimum of five years after the Declaration
3. Certificate of Arrival (after June 1906 to verify when the immigrant arrived)
4. Another document is the Oath of Allegiance – not a separate document but part of the Petition – sometimes not photographed because on the back of the Oath
5. Certificate of Naturalization – issued to the new citizen, rare to find one – Copies weren't

made, only the new citizen had a copy (You are lucky if your ancestor kept his/hers)

Note: Consider the witnesses on these documents. Chase them down! They might be relatives or otherwise relevant.

How do you find out where your ancestor was naturalized?

You may have to search in different places but you need to search in court records.

- court in county seat or another large city in the county
- state court
- federal court

It is best to start with federal courts, then state, and then county. Most county websites are quite good today. Request the record by mail. Give as much information as possible: name, date of naturalization, court of naturalization or place of residence, petition number, date of immigration, (missed others)

The National Archives has the records of the federal courts. The colonial records are in the archives of the various states.

Passenger Lists

Port of New York passenger lists are available from 1820-1957. All lists are in the National Archives.

Photos are required on Declarations after 1927 or 1928.

Name Changes

How could you change your name? Three ways: (1) by yourself, (2) at the county court house, or (3) at the time of naturalization.

AN ANNOYING MYTH: Names were changed at Ellis Island. No names were ever changed at Ellis Island because no names were ever recorded at Ellis Island. The officials knew many languages since so many immigrants did not speak English. They did not record names but simply checked the passenger lists that had been prepared at the ports of departure. Errors were made then at the ports of departure, not at Ellis Island.

Midsummer

Midsummer is the period of time centered upon the summer solstice. The solstice is when the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky. The day on which the summer solstice occurs is the day of the year with the longest period of daylight.

Many European countries have Midsummer celebrations. The exact dates vary between different cultures. Midsummer is especially important in the cultures of Scandinavia and Latvia where it is the most celebrated holiday apart from Christmas.

In Norway, Midsummer (Sankthansaften) is celebrated on June 23. In most places the main event is the burning of a large bonfire. In parts of Norway a custom of arranging mock marriages, both between adults and between children, is still kept alive. The wedding was meant to symbolize the blossoming of new life. Such weddings are known to have taken place in the 1800s, but the custom is believed to be older.

It is also said that if a girl puts flowers under her pillow that night, she will dream of her future husband. Your illustrious *Capital Viking* editor is going to try this and see if it works. Stay tuned for an update in the next issue.



Article adapted from Wikipedia:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midsummer#Norway>

Above: Bakkestranda in Skien. Credit: [Ernst Vike](#) via [Creative Commons](#).

Norwegian Class: Headhunters

Members of the Norwegian class went to Landmark E Street cinema to see *Headhunters*.

Headhunters is a 2011 Norwegian-German film directed by Morten Tyldum. It is based on the novel *Hodejegerne* (*The Headhunters*) by well-known Norwegian author Jo Nesbø.

Read more about the film at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Headhunters_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Headhunters_(film))

Pictured: George Edwards, Christine Meloni, Nicole Finch, and Norbert Fuegenschub.

June President's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope to see many of you at our summer lodge picnics which will be held rain or shine at our very own Norway House on Saturday July 21st and Saturday August 18th. The picnic dinners will start at 5:00pm but come early and stay late. Norway House will be open from 3-8 pm for your enjoyment. The lodge will provide the entrée for the picnics. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

We're proud that Unge Venner member Garrett Allen has been awarded the Astrid G. Cates Scholarship through the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Garrett graduates from Oakton High School this month and plans to study at the University of Virginia in the Fall. Lodge Secretary, Elizabeth Stone, presented Garrett with his award at the Oakton Awards Ceremony held on May 29th. Garrett was also the recipient of the citizenship award.

You should all have received a letter dated May 23, 2012 signed by Dan Rude, President of the International Sons of Norway Board informing you that the Washington Lodge has been temporarily sus-

pended by the International Board of the Sons of Norway for failing to timely report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Dan's letter referenced a copy of the Washington Lodge resolution passed by the Board of Directors. To our knowledge, none of our members received a copy of the resolution Dan referenced. Furthermore, I have not been given a written copy of the resolution.



Dan's letter was unclear about the requirement for a lodge audit. Several members have pointed out that it is not an Internal Revenue Service requirement that our lodge have a third-party financial audit performed for the years during the filing lapse as part of the procedure to re-obtain our tax

exempt status. Ralph Peterson said this was a requirement from the Sons of Norway International board. Several lodge members have expressed their belief that this is an unnecessary burden.

The only other option would be to fold our lodge and form a new lodge with a new name and "birthdate". We have not yet explored auditing firms since we've not been given a written copy of what is required.

Here is a little background about how we came to this situation. The genesis of the problem was the passage of the Tax Reform Act of 2006. Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 2006, the consequence for the failure of a tax exempt organization (Sons of Norway lodges are tax exempt under Internal Revenue code section 501(c)8) to file reports with the Internal Revenue Service for three consecutive years is the automatic revocation of the exempt organization's tax exempt status.

I believe that had Sons of Norway International provided us with advance warning in 2006 when the law was enacted or in 2007, 2008 or 2009 that there was a new law with dire consequences for failure to properly report to the In-

ternal Revenue Service, we would have been able to avoid automatic loss of our tax exempt status. We would have had sufficient time to obtain copies of filings and verify with the IRS that they were in possession of appropriate filings.

However, our organization is led by volunteers and not paid staff like the Sons of Norway headquarters. Our lodge was unaware of the new law and its dire consequences until the summer of 2010 when staff from Sons of Norway headquarters called to say that our lodge was on an IRS list of organizations that had not filed for 2007, 2008 or 2009 and that the absolute last date to file the 2009 return was October 15, 2010 or our lodge would lose its tax exempt status.

The lodge board discussed the problem at our September 2010 and our October 2010 board meetings. We were assured that the problem with the IRS had been resolved. Unfortunately, lodge leadership failed to verify with the IRS that they had received a proper filing for any of the years in question.

I learned in early 2011 that the tax problem with the IRS had

in fact not been resolved. Our tax exempt status was therefore automatically revoked.

There were about 30,000 tax exempt organizations across the country that lost their tax exempt status as a result of this new law. As a result, the Internal Revenue Service created a way for impacted organizations to apply to regain their tax exempt



status. Our lodge has now completed the package to submit to the IRS requesting that they reinstate our tax exempt status retroactively to the date we lost it (10/15/2010).

Meanwhile, the Board of the Sons of Norway International decided that our lodge should be temporarily suspended because our participation in the governance of the organiza-

tion would put the entire organization (and all fraternal benefit organizations) at risk. I had proposed to our district president that the board accept our lodge's voluntarily withdrawing from governance participation in the order (i.e. not sending voting delegates to the district convention).

We've been told that Sons of Norway International had no choice but to suspend our lodge.

A special meeting of the lodge was held on May 6th to discuss the action taken by Sons of Norway International. Ralph Peterson verbally conveyed the requirements mandated by Sons of Norway International to be

undertaken by our lodge before we could be reinstated as a lodge within the order.

I'd be happy to discuss the matter with you if you have further questions. I appreciate the offers to help I've received. If you have suggestions, I welcome your input.

Hilsen,
Kristin

Photos from Syttende Mai picnic

Lodge Calendar

June Lodge Meeting:

Norwegian Immigration to America

Friday, June 15, 6:45 p.m. arrival with potluck dishes
7:00 potluck dinner, 8:00 program, 9:00 business mtg
Norway House, 3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA

No June Board Meeting

Sons of Norway 3rd District Convention & Centennial Celebration

June 20-23
Virginia Beach Convention Center
www.3dsofn.org/convention/

July Lodge Picnic

Saturday, July 21, 5 p.m. at Norway House

Reading Circle

Tuesday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Member's home in Springfield, VA

August Lodge Picnic

Saturday, August 18, 5 p.m. at Norway House

Norwegian Language & Conversation Group

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

Other Area Events of Interest

Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU) Luncheon

Wednesday, June 6 at 12 p.m.
Pier Seven Restaurant in the Channel Inn,
650 Water Street SW, Washington, DC
Ten personalities in Sweden and Europe that every
Swedish-American should know about. Speaker:
Claes Thorson, Consultant and Partner at the GAIA
Leadership. For reservations, contact Marie-Louise
Bernal at 202-328-9852 or mlhber-nal@gmail.com.
www.scandinavian-dc.org/SACU-Jun6.pdf

Norwegian Church Service

Sunday, June 10 at 3 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd.,
Bethesda, MD
The service is in Norwegian. All are welcome.
"Kirkekaffe" after the service. For info, call Lasse
Syversen at 301-641-7908 or send an e-mail to:
lasse@flagship.com.

11th Annual Joint Midsommar Celebration

Sunday, June 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Carderock Picnic Pavilion, MD

Hosted by ASA, Drott Lodge, SWEA and the
Norwegian Society. Featuring Children's Games, the
Swedish Maypole & Dances, and Potluck Dinner.

<http://scandinavian-dc.org/PicnicFlyer2012.pdf>

6th annual Nordic Jazz Festival

June 22-30

Various locations, Washington, DC

Featuring eight concerts with artists from Norway,
Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.

www.norway.org/News_and_events/Culture/Music/Nordic-Jazz-2012/

Youth Camp at Land of the Vikings

July 1-7 for the 12-15 year olds

July 8-14 for 8-11 year olds

Land of the Vikings, Susquehanna, Pa

Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (through June)

Highland View Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD

Learn traditional folk dances of Denmark, Finland,
Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Newcomers are
welcome; no prior dance experience is necessary.

The Nordic Dancers Children's Group meets with
the adult group from 7:30 to 8:30 on the second
Wednesday of every month. For more info, contact
Chris Kalke at 301-864-1596 or ckalke@verizon.net,
<http://sites.google.com/site/nordicdancersdc/>.

Holiday Festival & Bazaar Volunteers Needed

We've started the Holiday Festival & Bazaar
planning for 2012 and will need volunteers in
order for this to be our best Festival ever --
culturally as well as benefitting the Lodge
financially.

In the months leading up to the bazaar,
volunteers can help with: publicity, inventory,
ordering, scheduling cultural performers,
logistics, pricing items, and many other tasks.

If you can spare a little time - or a lot - contact
Susie at bazaar@norwaydc.org.

District 3 President's Message

Fra Presidenten, Ralph Peterson

Morn morn alle sammen, this morning I am in Virginia Beach, just as I was 39 monthly Presidents letters ago. Thirty nine letters consists of a lot of words. I would guess almost 20,000 words. Had Mr. Neis, my college Journalism Professor, been reading these missives he probably would have commented on my excessive use of adjectives and Mrs. Kunkel, my high school English teacher, would have wondered about some of the abbreviations and my use or non use of commas. They would both have been pleased that our two editors didn't have to threaten me too often about getting my letter in on time.

Thanks to my good friend Roger Sean I now know the correct spelling of Leif Erikson. That was difficult for me to learn as one of my North Dakota neighbor's spelled their name Erickson. As spelling never was and still is not something I brag about, Roger along with Marci, Mary and AnneGrete have occasionally provided guidance on even mundane words that fooled my spell checker. Tusen Takk!

I went back and reread some of my old letters. I was surprised to see that in a 2009 letter I was impressed that our web site attendance was up to 65 visitors a day. So far in May 2012, we are over 338 daily visitors. I was very upbeat about the possibility that LOV would be soon pumping natural gas out of the ground. That hasn't happened and probably will not for a few more years.

The District Board has been setting goals on an annual basis and one goal that we reached at least twice was gaining 75 new benefit members each year. I don't know if that is a result of new products, more FBCs, better awareness of their needs by our members but in any event, reaching that goal was good for the order and certainly good for the members (and their families) who purchased the products. Let's hope that this trend continues.

The June 2008 letter spoke about membership. Annually we get enough new members to grow if we could slow down the number of members leaving. This has not happened for a few years but we seem to be achieving that with the 999 community

as the number leaving this year has decreased by over half from last year and has shown a steady decline for 3 years. This year the local lodges have been experiencing good numbers as well, through March their loss rate was 30% less than March 2011. Perhaps the best

thing to happen to D3 is that starting new lodges is no longer a huge surprise but rather something to expect. This is very a very good mindset to have as the new lodges bring great enthusiasm into the District and that rubs off on existing lodges.

Membership problems have been discussed at each of my District Presidents Council meetings. There are three problems that we all seem to agree on and they are "cliques, not wanting to change or try new ideas and lack of new leadership". The first two items are mentioned in almost every survey conducted of members leaving. The last is becoming more obvious as leaders are harder to find. We need to start our members in something other than the Presidents job. We need to make our new members feel at home and we need to provide them with good programs that will bring them back. We will always need new ideas (many of our new ideas come from new leaders) and term limits are a good way to promote them.

LOV has come up several times in the 39 past letters. Despite the loss in SON membership (read customers) in the immediate area I think that LOV can make it on its own. The trend to have special weekends like more rosemaling weeks, genealogy workshops, lobster fest etc and weeklong events like family camps and more will have a positive effect on the bottom line. We must also remember that LOV is a business and has to be treated as such with close daily and weekly analysis

continued on next page



of our operation. By the way, LOV is holding its second annual Lobster fest June 9. I hope that you can make it there for that event. Even if they should be out of rooms you can still come and eat.

www.3dsofn.org/eventscalendar/flyers/19c6c30d-4c81-46ef-b2b9-8ao6oed65b74.pdf

I hope to see many of you at the District Convention/Centennial celebration either as a guest or a delegate. It will be a great event. Check out the schedule here www.3dsofn.org/convention/index.html and if you can't make it to Virginia Beach don't forget to get a ticket on the Hurtigruten and Viking River Christmas Cruise. Info on both cruises is on the web site www.3dsofn.org/home.html

Thank you so much for everything over the past 4 years. I have enjoyed these opportunities to share my thoughts with you and my meeting with many of you in person over the years has been the "shining star on the hill" moment for me. I hope to continue those meetings in the future.

Tusen hjertelig takk
Ralph Peterson

July Reading Circle: Discussion and Potluck

Selection: *Hunger* by Nobel Prize Winner Knut Hamsun

The Reading Circle will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, July 24, at the home of Tim Christenson to discuss Hamsun's remarkable novel *Hunger*. The discussion will be preceded by a potluck. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by emailing reading@norwaydc.org or calling Tim Christenson at 703-644-4228.

Visit www.norwaydc.org/reading for more information on the Reading Circle.

Syttende Mai in Oslo

Nina Brambani-Smith, who teaches the lodge's Norwegian class, spent the month of May in her hometown of Oslo, where she attended the Syttende Mai festivities. Doesn't she look lovely in her traditional bunad?



Spread a Little Sunshine

Please keep our **new Sunshine Committee Chair, Frank Jones**, informed about members who are ill, undergoing surgery, recuperating, or homebound for an extensive period. We will send them best wishes from the lodge as a whole. Our members care about each other and like to reach out to their friends who may need a little sunshine in their lives. Contact Frank at 703-243-5770 or care@norwaydc.org.

Nordic Jazz Festival 2012

For the sixth consecutive year, the Nordic Embassies are proud to present the week long music festival Nordic Jazz. Between June 22 to June 30, Washington D.C. will be filled with modern jazz performed by the best jazz musicians of today representing Norway, Finland, Iceland, Denmark and Sweden.

Date	Band	Country	Venue
Friday, June 22	IPA	Norway	Twins Jazz
Saturday, June 23	Søren Møller	Denmark	Twins Jazz
Sunday, June 24	Goran Kajfes Subtropic Arkestra	Sweden	Twins Jazz
Tuesday, June 26	Björn Thoroddsen (intro), Håkon Kornstad, Søren Møller, Goran Kajfes Subtropic Arkestra	Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden	House of Sweden (Embassy of Sweden)
Wednesday, June 27	Iiro Rantala, Sunna Gunnlaugsdóttir Trio	Finland, Iceland	Embassy of Finland
Thursday, June 28	Håkon Kornstad	Norway	Twins Jazz
Friday, June 29	Björn Thoroddsen Trio	Iceland	Twins Jazz
Saturday, June 30	Sunna Gunnlaugsdóttir Trio	Iceland	Twins Jazz

Venue Information

- Twins Jazz - 1344 U St. NW, Washington, DC 20009
- House of Sweden - 2900 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20007
- Embassy of Finland - 3301 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

For more information, visit: www.norway.org/News_and_events/Culture/Music/Nordic-Jazz-2012/

Join Sons of Norway or Give a Gift Membership

Current Dues: Individual \$49.50
(International \$30 + District \$8.50 + Lodge \$10.00)
Spouse \$ 42.50
Youth: \$19.75
Your children & grandchildren: FREE!

Children 15 years of age or under who have a parent or grandparent who is a SofN member may sign up for a free Heritage Membership. Youth ages 16 through 23 who have a parent or grandparent who is a SofN member may be a free Unge Venner member.

For more information or to sign up online visit www.norwaydc.org/membership. If you don't have internet access, call (800) 945-8851.

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG)

The Roots Project is proceeding on schedule and the project's webpage will be launched soon.

The purpose of the Roots Project is to showcase lodge members' pioneer ancestors who emigrated to the U.S. and Canada from Norway.

For more information, contact Christine Meloni at genealogy@norwaydc.org.

The GIG will not be meeting in June, but stay tuned to the newsletter for any upcoming meeting dates.

Norwegian National Anthem, "Ja, vi elsker"

Do you have trouble singing along with the Norwegian national anthem, "Ja, vi elsker," when we sing it at lodge meetings? You can practice by singing along with this version, performed by Norsk Solistkor (Norwegian Soloist's Choir) in the Oslo city hall (Oslo rådhus). www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkhStVKawbk

Sons of Norway Centennial Sweepstakes: Hurtigruten's Cruise

As part of the Sons of Norway 3rd District centennial celebration, you can enter to win the trip of your lifetime.

The drawing for a winner of a cabin for two on Hurtigruten's premier Norwegian Coastal Cruise will take place June 23 at the District 3 Convention Banquet. You do not need to be present to win.

You can go from Bergen to Kirkenes (7 days) or Kirkenes to Bergen (6 days). The ticket must be used by 12/31/2013 and is based on space availability.

Donations are \$5 a ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets.

You can purchase tickets at June lodge events from lodge treasurer Bill DeRoche.

If you would like tickets sent directly to you, contact Nellie Larson (3rd District Sons of Norway) at nellarson@version.net, tell her where to send the tickets, how many you want and she will mail them to you.



Check out last year's winner's comments on his trip:

www.3dsofn.org/docs/2012HurtigrutenWinner.PDF

Pictured: Cruise ship in Kirkenes, Norway. Credit: [NRKbeta via Creative Commons](#).



Happy Birthday to our Members with June Birthdays

Photo credit: [Eliza Adam via Creative Commons](#)

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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About Capital Viking

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Address Changes

Did your email address, mailing address, or other information change? Please notify lodge database manager Clarissa Peterson at editor@norwaydc.org or 202-285-9585.

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www.norwaydc.org/officers/.