

SynNor Brevet

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**Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1-008**



January 2008

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Voice Messages: 651-762-7872

<http://home.comcast.net/~synnove1> or <http://clik.to/synnove1>

Join us for
this 30-min.
film at our
January
meeting!



In 1889, the year Washington achieved statehood, Norwegian immigrant Thea Christiansen Foss arrived in Tacoma on the newly opened Northern Pacific Railroad. With transportation limited to train, horse-drawn buggies and boats, Thea quickly recognized a business opportunity in the growing demand for water travel. Beginning with an initial \$5 purchase of a rowboat, the marine transport business she and her husband Andrew founded on the Tacoma waterfront has grown over more than a century into the largest, most modern fleet of tugs on the West Coast.

Through her life and work, Thea Foss became a pioneer archetype for women in the first half of the twentieth century. In 1931, Thea became the inspiration for a fictional character in Norman Reilly Raine's famed "Tugboat Annie" stories published in the Saturday Evening Post. These popular tales led to three Hollywood motion pictures and a 1950's television series.

"Finding Thea" separates the woman from the myth. It combines rare archival footage, photos, and clips from the 1933 Tugboat Annie film starring Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery with contemporary reflections of her legacy along Washington State's waterfronts.

Scandinavian Culture and News

History of Trolls

Far to the north where the winter storms whip the weather-beaten coast, you will find a long and narrow country. Here you see dark forests with moonlit lakes, deep fjords surrounded by mighty snowcapped mountains, and long rivers with cold streams cascading down the mountain sides.

Nowadays this country is covered by snow and ice only six months a year. A long, long time ago, however, there existed a massive glacier that brooded over the entire country for thousands of years. As the climate gradually warmed and the glacier slowly retreated to the north, man to the south of the glacier followed in its wake. Looking at this country and finding it to be magnificent, they considered themselves to be the first inhabitants. People settled there and named it Norway. They were themselves called "nordmenn" (men of the north).

It did not take them long, however, to realize that on this land there were various other creatures hiding out in the forests and mountain sides. People did not know what these creatures were, but they were generally believed to have supernatural powers, and they came to be known as "trolls." The trolls would come out of their hiding places only after sunset, and they would disappear before the morning sun arose in the east. Direct exposure to the sun could cause them to crack, turn into stone and possibly burst. On occasion the trolls would evidently forget to hide from the sun, and rock formations can today be found in various places with troll-like features. The trolls had very distinct features. They had long crooked noses, only four fingers and toes on each limb and most of them had long bushy tails. Some were giants and some were small. Although they were shaggy and rough-haired, and most looked very frightening, they were also known to be good-natured and naive. So naive in fact that even shy peasant boys could, on occasion, easily trick them.

The ability to transform themselves counted among the trolls many supernatural skills. The fairy maidens - called "hulder" could transform into incredibly attractive young ladies. However, they could not get rid of their tails. Hunters and farmers sons who were lured to the mountains by these fairies, would usually check for tails on their new-found beauties. If a farmer would provoke a troll, his livestock might be subject to disease or harmful sickness. A good relationship with a troll could be rewarding.

So, it is advised to keep a good standing with the trolls, since you never know when you will meet one yourself. The next time you go to the dark forest or mighty mountain, remember, they probably mean no harm. But be aware, in the twilight hours, you are no longer alone.

Borrowed from: Vennelag

Godt Nyttår

May your blessings be many,
Your failures be few
As you embrace the future
With hope born anew.
May you live day to day
With nothing to fear.
God bless you and keep you
Throughout the new year
Clay Harrison

New Benefit for S/N Members

Sons of Norway is proud to announce a brand-new member benefit, "Norwegian for Reading Comprehension." This unique online course focuses on reading Norwegian for general understanding. The program covers the many historical forms of the Norwegian language, and teaches innovative reading strategies for understanding anything from modern web pages to old immigrant letters.

This course is not quite like any other. Unlike traditional language-learning programs, this course will not teach you to understand spoken Norwegian, or to speak or write sentences of your own. Instead, the goal of this program is to help you read texts written in any form of Norwegian for basic comprehension. The intention is not to train you to translate every single word with total precisions, but rather to identify the key concepts, and come to solid conclusions about what a text means.

To get started, sign in to the "Members Login" section of www.sonsofnorway.com. Once you're in, go to "Member Resources" and choose "Learn Norwegian."

From S/N newsletter service

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM At First Lutheran Church
463 Maria Avenue (at 8th Street East, 2 Blocks North of Metro State University)
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 Voice messages: 651-762-7872 (See back cover for officers)
Web Page: <<http://home.comcast.net/~synnove1>> or <<http://klik.to/synnove1>>
Sons of Norway International: <<http://www.sofn.com>>

Lodge News

Dear Members,

A big thank you to Leonard Carlson, who has agreed to serve as President of Synnøve-Nordkap in 2008, and to all the other volunteers willing to step forward and take responsibility for an office or other leadership role. Please support them in their endeavors and be willing to help when needed and asked to do so. We work hard to make Synnøve-Nordkap a worthwhile organization, and to do that requires the help of many. Look kindly upon one another, be thankful for the talents of our members, and appreciate the time and effort it takes to run an organization made up of volunteers. We are all brothers and sisters working for the common good of this lodge.

Peace,

Mary Beth
Counselor

Audrey Huset sent a note of thanks to lodge members for remembering her with a bottle of Kristian Regal lingonberry juice.

On December 17, our lodge sponsored a Christmas story telling and crafts event at our Adopt-A-School, North Heights Christian Academy. The pictures below are from that event, courtesy of Axel Torvi. Thank you to those who helped out: Ruth Gibson, Meredith Berg, LaRee Opdahl, Jeanne Pearson, Axel Torvi, and Lois Wandemacher.



Our December program featured Rose Arrowsmith Decoux, fellow lodge member and professional storyteller, as Nisse Kajsa, three hundred thirty-three years old and with stories to tell! Her Scandinavian legends of nisses and trolls, Christmas Eve magic and the julebokk were delightful.



Lodge News

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2007

Attendees: Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Sharon Amann, Ruth Gibson, Sue Halvorson, Sharon Kalmes, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Clayton Lance, LaRee Opdahl, Steve Roste.

Old Business

The bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Bylerly's worked well for everyone involved. The office of lodge president is still open.

We have not met our lodge goals. We did not meet the goal of 5 new members for 2007 because new members have not offset the number of members that have passed away. We also have members who don't renew on time that further decrease the number of lodge members. We also have not met our goal of revising the lodge bylaws.

Plans for the December meeting were refined.

Ruth reviewed the Adopt-A-School activities for December 17th at North Heights Christian Academy.

New Business

Tentative programs for the first 6 months of 2008 were discussed. Lodge bylaws need to be revised before the 2008 convention. Committees for the various lodge activities need to be formed and start working. The scholarship process for the lodge needs to be reworked. Recruitment of new members was discussed briefly with the emphasis on attracting younger adults.

Submitted by Sue Halvorsen, Assistant Secretary

NOTE: The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wed., Jan. 2 at the Roseville Library, Hamline and County Road B.

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008 Lodge Meeting Minutes

Lodge Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2007

The annual Julebord and December Lodge Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 starting at 6 PM with gløg and hors d'oeuvres. About 100 enthusiastic people attended including our Norwegian Santa (Chuck Clausen) and his wife, Judy.

At 6:30 our president, Mary Beth Mutchler, welcomed everyone including our guests for the evening.

Karen Vinnes led us in the Norwegian Table Prayer and we proceeded to the buffet table with generous portions of good Norwegian food provided by the members we wanted to remember at this time of year.

After the buffet dinner we had a brief meeting at which several members offered to deliver the gifts of sparkling juice to members.

On Saturday, January 12, there will be a Joint Committee luncheon at the Fred Babcock VFW post in Richfield for the cost of \$10. See page 6 for specifics.

On January 19, there will be a meeting dealing with membership at SofN headquarters. See page 5 for more info.

There having been no candidates for the office of President, Len Carlson has offered to take on the job for one year. We thanked him for doing so.

The members voted to accept the entire slate of officers for 2008.

Several membership pins were given out: For 5 years Sharon Kalmes and Margie Peterson. A 10 year pin was given to Kathy Carlson, John and Joanne Nordale, Bob Smith, Marge Pedersen, and Peter and Sharon Windey. A 15 year pin was awarded to Wayne Bjorum and Shirley Brekke. Curt Hogenson was awarded a 20 year pin.

A golden award for 30 years was awarded to Ruth Gibson. LaRee Opdal presented a special pin award to President Mary Beth Mutchler for serving three years as president. She was also given a standing ovation for her dedication to the job.

Ron Hale awarded sports medals to Char Lance for cycling and Clayton Lance for fitness and cycling awards.

We were then entertained by the delightful Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux, who is a professional storyteller and had us entranced with her delightful renditions of three Norwegian Christmas stories. One of the best lines from her presentation was "what one has to do without, there is no reason to think about."

We then ended the evening with a table laden with delicious desserts. It was a fun evening and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Submitted by Bev Dougherty, Assistant Secretary

Calendar of Coming Events

<u>Wednesday</u> January 2 *Note day change	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Roseville Library Corner of Co. Rd. B at Hamline In the meeting room to the left of entrance	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> January 8	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge & Social Event</u> Installation of Board for 2008 Program: 30-minute documentary movie "Finding Thea" (see cover for more info.)	7:00 PM
<u>Saturday</u> January 12	<u>Junior Lodge Peer Gynt Dancers</u> At Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1616 W. Olive in Stillwater Susan Stow: 651-439-7255 New members are welcomed!	1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
<u>Saturday</u> January 12	<u>Metropolitan Joint Committee Luncheon</u> Celebrating the founding of SoftN At Fred Babcock VFW Post in Richfield (see page 6 for more information)	Noon
<u>Saturday</u> January 19	<u>Membership Training Session</u> Sons of Norway Headquarters Call Sharon Amann or Mary Beth ASAP if interested in attending.	9:00 AM
<u>Sat. - Sun</u> <u>February</u> 2-3	<u>City of Lakes Loppet</u> Urban Cross-Country Ski Race Theodore Wirth Park For info: cityoflakesloppet.com	
<u>Tuesday</u> February 5	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Roseville Library Corner of Co. Rd. B at Hamline	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> February 12	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge & Social Event</u> Program: TBD	7:00 PM

"Peer Gynt" at the Guthrie Theater

January 18 - March 2

Tickets are \$69 - \$24
Mark Rylance stars in the Guthrie's new adaptation of "Peer Gynt", created by author, Robert Bly
Tickets are: \$69 to \$24
For more information, call: (612) 377-2224 or online at Guthrietheater.org.

Telespringar Dance Workshop

First Friday Scandinavian Dancing

Telemark "Sving" Workshop

January 4 and February 1

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Learn from Carol Seraland and Bruce Bostrom with Karen Solgard playing the Hardanger fiddle.

Tapestry Folk Dance Center
3748 Minnehaha Ave. So.
Minneapolis

\$7 tapestry member/ \$9 non-members
For info, call (612)722-2914

"Coming out of the Woodwork"

Vesterheim Symposium on Norwegian Folk Art

April 18 - 20, 2008

Inviting all woodworkers & knifemakers to share traditions. Learn and create techniques, old and new.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American

Museum in Decorah, Iowa

Registration by March 28

(536)-382-9681 or

Vesterheim.org.

2008 S/N Convention Dates:

District 1 - June 12 - 14, 2008

Mankato, Minnesota

International - August 28 - 30, 2008

San Diego, California

Synnøve-Nordkap Norwegian Language Classes:

1. "Norwegian in Five Minutes a Month" series - class 6:30-7:00 PM on Tuesdays before Lodge meetings. Schedule begins in January 2008. No meeting if meal is scheduled.

2. "Norsk, Nordmenn og Norge" class on Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Sun-Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave. near McKnight & Ruth Sts. Meet twice a month - Beginning in 2008 - Jan. 17 & 24; Feb. 21 & 28; Mar. 20 & 27; Apr. 17 & 24; May 22 & 29

For information, contact class co-facilitators:
Sheryl Hove 651-738-4908 or Crystal Bloecher 651-774-8545
New participants are invited to join the classes.

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POSTAGE

STAMPS FOR

TUBFRIM

The Local Scene

The Metropolitan Joint Committee of Lodges is hosting a luncheon to celebrate the founding of the Sons of Norway on January 12, 2008, at noon at the Fred Babcock VFW Post in Richfield. The VFW Post is located on Lyndale Ave. So. between 67th St and Lakeshore Drive. Following the musical entertainment, lunch will be served.

All meals are \$10, which includes beverages of coffee or tea and includes the gratuity. Sandwiches include cole slaw.

Choices of meals includes:

- chef salad
- french dip sandwich
- pork tenderloin sandwich
- hot turkey sandwich
- grilled chicken with cottage cheese and fruit

Questions (952) 920-2602

RSVP to Caroly Hagen, 5720 Olinger Road, Edina, MN 55436, with a check and your choice of meal by January 4.

Walter F. Mondale to be Norway's Consul General in Minneapolis

Former US Vice President Walter F. Mondale has, at the request of Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, agreed to be Norway's Honorary Consul General in Minneapolis.

“I am delighted that Vice President Mondale has agreed to our request. Mr Mondale's personality, unique experience and roots in the Norwegian-American community will help to further develop the longstanding and important relations and shared interests between Norway and the Midwest,” says Mr Støre.

Over the next few weeks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will, together with Mr Mondale, establish the practical framework for his tasks and the continued work to set up the Consulate General in Minneapolis so that it is able to maintain and further develop the important ties between Norway and the Midwest.

“With a new organisation, and Walter Mondale as Honorary Consul General, the Consulate General will facilitate the important research, education and business cooperation between Norway and the Midwest. I am confident that Mr Mondale, with his ties to Norway and broad background, will promote our shared Norwegian-American history and culture in the Midwest,” says Mr Støre.

Walter Mondale (79) was US Vice President from 1977 to 1981, and presidential candidate for the Democrats in 1984. He was US Ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996. From 1964 to 1976, he represented Minnesota in the Senate. He has also been Attorney General of the state of Minnesota. He has close ties to Norway. His family originally comes from Mundal on the west coast of Norway. He has, for many years, been a member of the Executive Committee of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, which holds annual conferences with the support of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. He has a law degree and has worked as a lawyer for many years. Mr Mondale is married, has three grown-up children and is living in Minneapolis.

Author: norway.com

Source: norway.org

Our December program also included our Christmas Julebord, with fine Scandinavian delicacies provided by our members, and the awarding of membership pins and sports medals.



This and That

The Corner Library

by Trudi Johnson-Richards

On September 12, 2006, the Synnove-Nordkap Lodge heard Reidar Dittman tell of his personal experiences as a member of the Norwegian Resistance during World War II. Our members listened intently as Mr. Dittman told in detail how he was arrested for leading protests against Germany and wound up being sent to a German concentration camp.

Gayle Knutson, a local filmmaker, created a short film "Prisoner 32232" that chronicles Dittman's early life in Norway and fighting the Nazi movement through Europe. The film's title refers to the number Dittman was issued when he spent 30 months at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in the mid-1940's.

The film opens with Dittman's voice, recalling the "continuous gray existence" of Buchenwald. In 1940, he was arrested by the Nazis while leading a group in singing patriotic Norwegian songs at an anti-Nazi gathering in Norway. The German police mistakenly considered him an organizer and Dittman was blacklisted.

Reidar Dittman would be arrested a total of three times, the last of which while a student at the University of Oslo. After that arrest, Dittman was sent to Buchenwald. In the film, he speaks about the hierarchy of prisoners at the camp, from the Norwegians, to the Soviets, to the Jews. At that point in the war, Dittman recalled, the Jewish prisoners were not ever processed, they were sent directly from the packed train cars into the gas chambers.

Raidar Dittman was eventually liberated and received a scholarship to St. Olaf College, where he would become not only a graduate but also an esteemed professor. St. Olaf's art and dance departments are housed in the Dittman Center, named in his honor.

Gayle Knutson is a 25 year veteran of the film and television industry. Gayle grew up in a small town in northwestern Minnesota. She lives with her husband, Jim, daughter, Casey, dog Skippy and cat Rosie in Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota. She directed the powerful short film "Grandfather's Birthday" winner of more than 20 awards worldwide. She also produced and directed television commercials, public service announcements, broadcast programs and corporate films and videos. "If There Were No Lutherans...Would There Still Be Green Jell-O" is her first short documentary and is part of the permanent film collection at the Library of Congress.

The Minnesota History Center has included "Prisoner 32232" in its Minnesota Greatest Generation project. It also has been accepted into the permanent film collection at the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

New Books Donated to The Corner Library on December 11, 2007. Peter and Sharon Windey donated **The Shetland Bus** and **The Sledge Patrol** written by David Howarth. Both books tell about a World War II epic of escape, survival and victory. JoAnn Ronning donated **Sons of Norway Song Book** which previously belonged to her grandmother.

Bible Lessons

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

Lot's Wife: The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Johnny interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was DRIVING," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

Did Noah Fish? A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

Higher Power: A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

The Lord Is My Shepherd: A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse.

Little Bobby was excited about the task. But, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

4493 Evergreen Drive
St. Paul, MN 55127



SONS OF NORWAY

Greg Hovland
Field Staff Representative
MN Lic. #46818

Business: (651) 429-2304
Fax: (651) 429-2365
E-mail: ltcfinancial@msn.com

www.sonsofnorway.com

**Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008
Sons of Norway
3496 Nancy Place
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126-8005**

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2008 OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT Len Carlson 651-253-1943 612-821-4609 lcarlson@sofn.com
 VICE PRES./ MEMBERSHIP Sharon Amann 631-0399 slamman@juno.com
 SECRETARY Sue Halvorson 489-1952 sahalvors@comcast.net
 MEMBERSHIP SEC. Trudi Johnson-Richards 482-0096 trudijr@visi.com
 TREASURER Clayton Lance 730-5567 clance12@qwest.net
 SOCIAL DIRECTOR Patty Carlson 233-3307
 Shirley Brekke 774-2154
 CULTURAL DIRECTOR Steven Roste 647-9547 sjroste@hotmail.com
 COUNSELOR Mary Beth Mutchler 484-8872 mbe43@comcast.net
 TRUSTEES Joanne Ronning 488-2182
 Taffy Storck 222-2857
 Meredith Berg 715-386-6680
 MARSHALL Curt Hogenson 698-5783 jchogie@unique-software.com
 ASSISTANT MARSHALL Ron Kvaas 481-9868
 SPORTS DIRECTOR Rod Hale 636-4284 hale780243@aol.com
 HISTORIAN Lenore Jesness 778-1421 lj@usfamily.net
 MUSICIAN Donarae Peterson 483-4998
 GREETERS Jack and Bev Dougherty 735-0903 doughandsow@usfamily.net
 NEWSLETTER EDITORS
 Dave Mutchler 484-8872 dmutchler@comcast.net
 Karen Vinnes 483-1103 knvinnes@comcast.net
 PUBLICITY: Leif Erickson 439-5040 lericks@presscenter.com
 NEWSLETTER MAILER: Beryl Boe 222-7076
 ADOPT-A-SCHOOL COORD. Ruth Gibson 429-5572
 SUNSHINE Judy Cullen 771-9891
 LIBRARIAN Trudi Johnson-Richards 482-0096 trudijr@visi.com
 GENEALOGY Cathie Reasoner 646-8483 harrie1030@netzero.com
 Fred Matson 777-6108 norhemian@comcast.net
 NORSK CLASSES Sheryl Hove 738-4908 sherylhove@netzero.net
 Crystal Bloecher 774-8545
 WEBMASTER Dave Mutchler 484-8872 dmutchler@comcast.net
 FOUNDATION Ron Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com
 SCHOLARSHIP Clay Keller 310-9667 claytonk@aol.com
 JR LODGE/PEER GYNT DANCERS Susan Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com
 AUDITORS Bob Smith 222-6888 / Ed Gilbertson 732-2356 /
 Linda Holmstrom 770-8989

(All area codes are 651 unless otherwise specified).

**SYNNØVE-NORDKAP
SONS OF NORWAY
LODGE #1-008
First Lutheran Church
463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-762-7872**



Upcoming Activities

**"Finding Thea" - Tues. Jan. 8
Feb. Lodge meeting - Tues. Feb. 12**

More Info Inside

The Mission of Synnøve-Nordkap is to promote, preserve and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members. Visitors and new members are always welcomed.