

# SynNor Brevet

Published monthly by

**Synnøve-Nordkap**

**Lodge #1-008**

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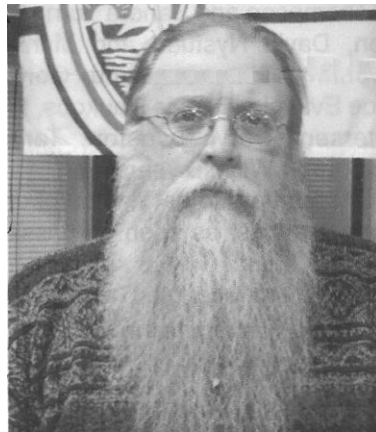


**March 2008**

**Number 8:3**

**Voice Messages: 651-762-7872**

## Back by popular demand!



Join us for our March 11 program, at which Rich Williams, Program Director for the Dakota City Heritage Village, will speak on "The Black Death in Norway." He will discuss Norway before, during and after the Black Death. His talk will focus on how the Black Death changed Norway forever. Before the Black Death, Norway was a large kingdom, fairly wealthy with many colonial settlements. Afterwards, Norway was so weak it was forced to merge with Denmark and gradually lost its identity as an independent kingdom. This is an area of Norwegian history that most people know very little about, but it is crucial to what happened to Norway in later years.

# Scandinavian Culture and News

## Rental Rates Soar in Oslo

High housing prices in the Norwegian capital are cutting many would-be home buyers out of the market and that in turn has pushed up rental rates. Demand for rental properties is on the rise, and so are the rents that landlords can charge their tenants.

Newspaper *Dagsavisen* reported that rents have gone up an average NOK 1,350 per month (about USD 250) for apartments in the Oslo area. Boligbygg, the agency in charge of managing property on behalf of the city, confirmed a record-high increase in rental rates.

Rates skyrocketed 16.4 percent in Oslo last year, averaging NOK 9,600 (nearly USD 1,800) per month for a rented apartment.

Lars Aasen of tenant association *Leieboerforeningen* warns “this is only the beginning,” and fears rates will continue to rise. “The high rates hit young people and immigrants the hardest,” Aasen said. “They now have few possibilities of finding affordable housing.”

Taken from: *the Aftenposten*

## Norway boosts stake in StatoilHydro

The Norwegian state is investing in one of its biggest assets, oil and gas firm StatoilHydro. A new round of share shopping will boost the state’s stake in the company to 67 percent.

Several Norwegian oil analysts applauded the move, saying that government Oil & Energy Minister Aslaug Haga is hitting the jackpot by purchasing StatoilHydro shares at relatively low prices.

“The share price has come way down lately (a result of falling stock markets worldwide), while oil prices have settled at a high level,” analyst Oddvar Bjørgan at ABG Sundal Collier told business news service E24, making the state’s purchase “a favorable move.” Martin Mølsæter, an analyst at First Securities, agreed. “Yes, I think the timing is good,” he said. “If you look at futures for oil prices, they’re very high. There’s never been such a big rebate on the (StatoilHydro) shares as now.”

The market also reacted well to the move, with StatoilHydro’s share price rising immediately on the news. The state, which currently holds 62.5 percent of StatoilHydro, plans to buy shares for a total of NOK 22 billion through its huge global pension fund, popularly known as the “Oil Fund” because it’s been fueled by the state’s oil revenues.

“There clearly is a positive effect when a buyer wants 140 million shares in a company,” said Bjørgan. The goal of raising the state’s stake had been signaled earlier, so it came as no big surprise in Oslo.

Taken from: *the Aftenposten*

## Tensions rise between Fishing and Oil Industries

A feverish quest for new sources of oil, fueled by high oil prices, is sparking territorial battles between Norwegian fishing interests and oil exploration firms searching for new reserves in the North and Norwegian seas. Skirmishes have been taking place for months off the coast of Norway, as fishing vessels and seismic vessels try to work in the same areas. Last year, three fishing boats tried to prevent a seismic vessel from conducting oil exploration in the seas off Vesterålen. Offshore territorial battles have gotten so intense that oil service and exploration firms have started paying fishermen large sums to leave the area.

Not everyone is agreeing to do so. Many fishermen claim the oil exploration firms are simply trying to bribe them to give up their livelihoods. They also complain that the seismic activity is scaring fish stocks away from formerly rich fields.

Most fishing vessels refuse to leave, fueling conflicts.

Reidar Nilsen of Norwegian fishing association Norges Fiskarlag, says “This can’t continue. The seismic vessels aren’t paying any consideration to the fishing vessels. They’re creating major problems and income loss for those fishing.” The fishermen have turned to the police.

“It’s a special case and apparently unique in Norway,” said Terje Gjertsen of the Sogn og Fjordane Police District. He confirmed the police are investigating.

Government oil officials claim the fishermen have priority and that seismic firms are ordered to accord them consideration, and to come up with possible solutions.

Taken from: *the Aftenposten*

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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,

I felt like I was in 11th grade history class at our last lodge meeting. Craig Zuidema did an excellent job telling those gathered about Roald Amundsen's history and achievement of the Northwest Passage and conquest of the South Pole. The things I learned were truly amazing. Many members commented to me on how much they look forward to coming to our lodge meeting to experience this history and culture. So I invite all of you to put March 11 on your calendar and enjoy Rich Williams explain how the Black plague affected Norway forever.

Our new membership dinner is coming upon us soon--it promises to be a fun evening. Tickets will be \$8. Per person with the exception of prospective new members and their sponsor. The date is April 8 at 6:30. Reservations and advance payment are required. You may call our lodge phone line at 651-762-7872 to make reservations and we will have your tickets ready at the door. BUT, you must also send your payment to Sharon Amann at 1575 2nd St. SW; New Brighton, MN 55112-3472, as this dinner will be catered by Magnolias Restaurant (as usual).

We also would like to organize a day trip this summer. Ideas so far include Norskedalen in Coon Valley, WI; the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant in Walnut Grove, MN; Folklorama in Winnipeg, Ont.; Farm City Days in St. Croix County in August; and a visit to the Kensington Runestone. We will need to begin to firm up an idea at our March meeting, as July or August would be the time but plans need to be made.

Pat Carlson is starting to organize the Festival of Nations and is looking for volunteers to work the booth and for cooking day. All volunteers will receive complimentary tickets to the event and will have a great time! There will be sign-up sheets at the March meeting.

Finally, five members volunteered to be delegates to the District Convention in Mankato June 12-14. They are Sharon Amann, Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler, Steve Roste, and Taffy Storck. Alternates are Mildred Hartleben and Lisa Mutchler. Thank you for volunteering to be delegates.

I want to thank Sharon Amann in advance to filling in for me at the March meeting, as I will be out of the country. Have a great meeting!

- Len

Our lodge extends heartfelt sympathy to the families of two members who died recently: Gayle Sandeen and Gladys Helsted.

Gladys Helstedt died of cancer January 5, in California. A memorial service will be held on Monday, March 24, at 10:30 AM at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton with visitation beginning at 9 AM. Her husband, Lowell, is a Synnove-Nordkap member. We are happy to have him back with us.

Gayle Sandeen was a 35 year member of Synnove-Nordkap lodge. She, along with her husband, Ozzie (Sandy), owned and operated Sandeen's Gift Shop on White Bear Avenue. She died January 30, a month after suffering a heart attack and stroke. Her funeral was Tuesday, February 5. A daughter, Kay Sandeen, is a member of our lodge.

Let's all be sure to  
welcome our new  
lodge members  
when we see them!

# Lodge News

## Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008 Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2008

Attendees: Len Carlson, Sharon Amann, Patti Carlson, Sue Halvorson, Rod Hale, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Clayton Lance, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Steve Roste

Len opened the meeting at 7 PM with recap of the February 12 meeting and the room setup. The speaker, Craig Zuidema, has requested a \$50 donation to the Sons of Norway Foundation in lieu of a fee.

Preliminary plans for the April 8 membership dinner and the program, which will focus on Lodge activities, were discussed. Sharon Amann will be in charge of the dinner.

There was a question concerning which elected positions constituted the Lodge Board of Directors. These are defined in the Sons of Norway Lodge Constitution as president, vice-president, recording secretary, membership secretary, treasurer, social director, and cultural director.

Rod Hale and Clayton Lance presented revisions to the by-laws. An additional membership category of affiliate members was discussed and then amended to the revisions. The revisions were approved by the board as amended. They will be read to the membership at the February 12, 2008 meeting and will be voted on at the March 11 lodge meeting.

Delegates for the district convention will need to be elected at the February 12 lodge meeting. The lodge will pay the delegate's registration plus \$50 per car for gas for up to 3 cars.

Len and Patti have begun planning for the Festival of Nations. There will be a menu change. Viking in a Blanket will replace Julekaka. Cooking day will be April 28 at Gustavus Adolphus Church.

There was only one applicant for the district scholarships for summer camp. Suggestions for a summer trip by the lodge were made. The March lodge program will be Rich Williams speaking on Norway and the black death. Dave presented the age demographics of the lodge for the past few years to help us focus on younger members in our recruiting of new lodge members. The date for the midsummer picnic at Island Lake Park was set for Tuesday, June 17. The April 1 board meeting will be at the Maplewood Library as the Roseville Library was unavailable for that date.

Submitted by: Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 4 at the Roseville Library, Hamline and County Road B.

## Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008 Lodge Meeting Minutes

### Lodge Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2008

President Len Carlson opened the meeting at 7 PM by reading the Sons of Norway Mission Statement.

The revisions to the 1969 By-Laws were presented by Clayton Lance. They will be voted on at the March lodge meeting.

Delegates for the District Convention in June were selected. The delegates are: Sharon Amann, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Steve Roste and Taffy Storck. The alternates are: Millie Hartleben and Lisa Mutchler. The lodge will pay for the delegate's registration and \$50 for gas for up to 3 cars for a total of \$900 maximum.

Patti Carlson had sign up sheets available for cooking day on April 28 at Gustavus Adolphus Church and shifts at the Festival of Nations on May 1 - 4. A new menu item this year will be a sausage rolled up in a piece of lefse and called a Viking in a Blanket.

Clay Keller announced that the language camp scholarship deadlines had passed and reminded members that the deadline for Sons of Norway Foundation scholarships is March 1, 2008. Applications are available from him or on the website [www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation](http://www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation).

A list of possible summer trips was read and members were asked to come up with additional ideas. These will be voted on next month.

Members were reminded of the membership dinner coming up in April. Magnolia's Restaurant will be catering the meal and the cost will be \$8. The Sons of Norway marketing department covers the cost of prospective member's dinners.

Len made mention of the "Viking for Kids" magazine which Heritage members receive and that lodge member Meredith Berg's recipe for Winter Fruit Salad was featured in the "Viking" magazine.

Ruth Gibson gave an update of the Adopt-A-School program at North Heights Christian Academy. On February 20 the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be having an activity with Dennis Rusinko of the Viking Age Club. At the end of March or the beginning of April the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be doing cooking activities. Volunteers will be needed for the cooking activities. Future activity plans include orienteering and Viking games. All of the students are also receiving a copy of each edition the "Viking for Kids" magazine.

A call was made again for volunteer hour sheets.

It was announced that the lodge has a new golden age member, Inger Marie Hendrickson.

The February birthdays are: Bob Barduson, Sharon Kalmes, Lisa Mutchler and Mary Beth Mutchler. Millie Hartleben and her husband are celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mary Beth Mutchler won the \$5 door prize and donated it back to the lodge.

Kathy Carlson led the lodge in singing "Nidelven".

The program featured Craig Zuidema who gave us an in depth talk about Roald Amundson's explorations in the Arctic and Antarctic.

We thank our servers for the meeting refreshments: Crystal Bloecher, Rod Hale and Taffy Storck.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

# Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday March 5	<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
Saturday March 8	<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
Tuesday March 11	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event</u> Program: By: Rich Williams "How the Black Plague Affected Norway"	7:00 PM
March-- April--- May---	<u>Future Sports Events:</u> Lodge Bowling Orienteering in Afton State Park Letterboxing in Chisago/Wash. County See next page for more information.	Watch for Further information
Sunday March 30	<u>Lodge Bowling Outing</u> At Minnehaha Lanes, 955 Seminary Ave., St. Paul (east of Lexington and north of University Ave.)	1:30 PM
Tuesday April 1	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> NOTE CHANGE: Maplewood Library 3025 Southlawn Dr. (E. side Maplewood Mall) In the <u>large</u> conference room.	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday April 8	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event</u> New Membership Dinner Catered by Magnolias; reservations and payment needed by Wed. April 2 to Sharon Amann, 1575 2nd St. SW; New Brighton, MN 55112-3472	6:30 PM
	<u>2008 S/N Convention Dates:</u> Dist #1 - June 12-14, Mankato, MN International - August 28-30, San Diego, CA	

Dear Friends,

**You are invited to Nordic Music Mini-Festival Saturday, March 1 at 7.00 PM!**

**Together with mezzo-soprano Julie-Marie Sundal, I will present Scandinavian songs by Jean Sibelius, Gösta Nystroem, Per Winge and of course Grieg!**

**With us on piano we have two excellent musicians, Eric McEnaney and Andrew Fleser.**

**The concert is arranged by The Edvard Grieg Society and will be held in Sateren Recital Hall at Augsburg College, 2211 Riverside Avenue South, Minneapolis.**

**For directions, [www.augsburg.edu/about/map.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/about/map.html) or call 612-330-1717.**

**For more information go to [www.norwayhouse.org](http://www.norwayhouse.org) and then click on Concert Info.**

**I hope to see you there. Welcome!**

**Sincerely,**

**May-Britt Forsberg Hovdenak**

## 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 - \*change \*Feb. 14 & 21; Mar. 20 & 27; Apr. 10 & 24; May 15 & 22**

**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.**

## "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](http://Vesterheim.org).**



# Letter from the Editor

In January, 2003, I reluctantly agreed to take on the responsibility of editing our lodge newsletter. I did so in spite of having neither the time nor the knowledge of lodge events because Sheryl Hove was stepping down after doing it on her own for a long time, and no one would come forward to replace her. I was careful to stipulate that I would need lots of help, and asked that a group of assistant editors and reporters be formed.

We began on a good note, with five copies of the program which we still use today, and enough volunteers to try the copies out. Unfortunately, that didn't last long, and soon it was only Karen Vinnes and myself left to do the editing and publishing of the newsletter. My sincere thanks to Karen for sticking with it for these past five years. You have been a big help, Karen!

Mary Beth has been an unseen and unrecognized helper with the newsletter as well. Without recognition or reward, she has used her extensive knowledge of our lodge members and events to serve as a "silent partner" in this effort, for which I am extremely grateful. She has written many items in our newsletter. Like then, I am still working and have many other interests. The newsletter and website take quite a bit of my time each month. With Mary Beth having stepped down as lodge president, and with my own eagerly awaited retirement this year, I am asking for more help if you want me to go on assisting with our lodge newsletter.

The Corner Library and other contributions by Trudi Johnson-Richards, the articles by Susan Stow, and submissions of pictures and information from Ruth Gibson, Sheryl Hove, Axel Torvi, Bob Barduson, Joanne Englund, and others have been very helpful. We need more of this kind of input to our newsletter.

I sincerely believe that a good lodge newsletter and website are vital to the health of our lodge. That is what has kept me going, but now your help is needed. Many of you have contacts and knowledge of the many Norwegian and Scandinavian events in the area. You attend various events each month. We need you to let us know of coming events, and to provide reviews of events that you have attended. This is your newsletter too!

We would welcome a brief article from our Cultural and Social Directors, special events chairpersons like the Membership Dinner, the Festival of Nations, the Mid-Summer Picnic, and the Torsk & Meatball dinner. We continually need new information and pictures to make this newsletter interesting and informative each month.

We could also use some advertisers in our newsletter to help defray the increasing cost of putting it out. In 2003, we had several (paying) advertisers. Now we have none. Can you help to get us advertisers? We charge only \$10/month for advertising, which is a bargain! (Our distribution is about 275 families.)

The bottom line is very simple. I am getting a bit burned out, and my support team is dwindling. If you want my continued help, it is time to pitch in!

-Dave Mutchler

The baker's mistakes are eaten.

The carpenter's mistakes are covered up.

The undertaker buries his mistakes.

But woe unto the editor: the people read his mistakes!

# The Local Scene



In early 2007 Sons of Norway launched the first Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest. The rules were simple—every new dues-paying member you signed up during 2007 gave you an entry into the contest. Then, this January, a winner was selected at random from all the entries and International President Ted Fosberg notified her personally.

Now, on behalf of all of Sons of Norway, hearty congratulations go out to Marcia Stein of Milwaukee, WI, for winning the 2007 Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest! As the winner, Ms. Stein and a guest will enjoy 10 fun-filled days in Norway that includes complimentary air and hotel, spending money and an exclusive excursion to Hadeland Glassworks near Oslo.

We wish Ms. Stein a wonderful trip and look forward to hearing all about it upon her return.

In the meantime, don't forget about the Norwegian Experience 2008 contest! For a second year Sons of Norway and Borton Overseas are offering you the chance to win the ultimate trip to Norway. Once again, the winner and their guest will select their adventure from a variety of tour options offered by Borton Overseas. Whether an active tour of the country, or the more relaxing pace of a cruise, is preferred Sons of Norway and Borton Overseas will work with the winner to provide a truly special experience.

In addition, the winner will experience a stay at the Solstrand Hotel & Spa situated on the Bjørnefjord south of Bergen. There they will enjoy private transfer between Bergen and Solstrand, two nights' accommodation in a deluxe room with a 180° panorama fjord view and a balcony. A spa treatment for the winner and their guest is also included.

Entering the contest is easy! All you have to do is be a current member of Sons of Norway who recruits a new, dues-paying member between January 1 and December 31, 2008. Please be sure to share this information with your lodge and encourage them to take part in the Norwegian Experience 2008 Recruitment Contest!

## **There have been a number of excellent events in our area in the last month with Norwegian interest:**

Ed and Penny Gilbertson, Rod Hale, Gene Hanson, and Lisa and Mary Beth Mutchler attended the **Karen Solgard concert** at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St. Paul on Sunday, Feb. 3. As usual, Karen did an excellent job of explaining the historical background of the pieces, and gave an outstanding concert.

On **February 8, Sissel** gave an outstanding concert at the Pantages theater in Minneapolis. Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler, Chuck and Judy Clausen, and Judy Linder were among lodge members that attended and enjoyed. Sorry if we missed anyone. Many people attended, so we know we didn't see everyone. Backed by an excellent musical group, she sang nearly all of the songs on her latest CD, "Northern Lights."

Dave, Mary Beth, and Lisa Mutchler, and Bob and Donnaræ Peterson attended "**East of the Sun and West of the Moon**," a play set in ancient Norway, at the Phipps Theater in Hudson, WI, on February 23. It continues through March 2, with show times at 7 PM Fri., 2 PM & 7 PM Sat., and 2 PM Sun.

# This and That

## The Corner Library

by Trudi Johnson-Richards

Johannes B. Wist (1864-1923) was a journalist and editor of the *Decorah Posten* from 1900 to 1923. **The Rise of Jonas Olsen** is an immigrant novel, business novel, political novel and a western, offering a rich view of Scandinavian immigrant life in the Upper Midwest. This book was originally published serially in the Norwegian-language newspaper the *Decorah Posten* in the 1920's. **The Rise of Jonas Olsen** illustrates an immigrant's struggle to preserve his identity and heritage while striving to become fully accepted as an American.

**Book I – Scenes from the Life of a Newcomer: Jonas Olsen's First Years in America.** Jonas Olsen came to America in the 1880's. He arrived with little money and less English. He was twenty years old. Jonas could not decide if he should go to Dekora, Jova (Decorah, Iowa) or Minneapolis. He chose Minneapolis. Familiar streets and places are mentioned—Cedar Avenue, Hennepin Avenue, Washington Avenue and Riverside. Jonas found the conflict between Norwegians and Swedes pretty much the same in Minnesota as in the old country.

**Book II – The Home on the Prairie: Jonas Olsen's First Year in the Settlement.** This is a story of immigrants who cope successfully (though not without difficulties) with American farming, small towns and urban life. Jonas and wife, Ragna, move to a settlement in the Red River Valley. Even though the settlers worked long hours, the church was a part of their life. A Norwegian-Lutheran congregation was organized. The first year on the prairie was difficult for Jonas and Ragna.

**Book III - Jonasville.** It was Christmas 1909. The Americans called the town Johnsville. Norwegians and Swedes in the settlement called it Jonasville. If you asked young people of Norwegian descent what nationality they were, they would immediately answer—not without some indignation to being asked—that they naturally were Americans. As a young man, Jonas had great faith in American ideals and attended Fourth of July celebrations and other patriotic events. In short, Jonas was proud to be an American. Jonas' appreciation of his heritage had grown with his years. He had not been so interested in things Norwegian in the early years of Jonasville. The first large Seventeenth of May celebration was organized in 1911 and was a great success.

**The Rise of Jonas Olsen** provides unique insight into the politics of the period of the highest rate of European immigration from the 1880's to the years after the First World War.

The Corner Library has two copies of **The Rise of Jonas Olsen**: donations from Norm Vinnes and Ardyce Davies.



## We Need Your Heritage Recipes

Last year we asked for your favorite Norse recipes so we can keep them and share them.

Many of our “vintage” members are among the few who still make the old familiar specialties. We encourage you to share these recipes so we can have a Lodge Heritage Cook Book.

So far only one recipe has been turned in. Please submit them on paper or by e-mail to [slamann@juno.com](mailto:slamann@juno.com).

Sharon Amann

1575 2nd St SW

New Brighton, MN 55112-3472

Ole was walking down the road when he spotted two friends, Elvis and Torvald, working with spades on the edge of the city park. Ole noted that Elvis would dig a hole and Torvald would follow behind and fill in the hole. Ole was puzzled by this operation, so he asked Elvis and Torvald to explain. “Vell,” said Elvis, “ve’re a three man crew, but dat guy who plants da trees is sick today.”

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NORWAY

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 (All area codes are 651 unless otherwise specified).

**Upcoming Activities**

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**Norway & the Black Plague - Tues. March. 12**

**New Membership Dinner - Tues April 8**

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**More Info Inside**

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



**St. Paul, MN**

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.