

SynNor Brevet

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Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1-008



December 2010
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WEB SITE: <http://synnove1.com>

Voice Messages: 651-762-7872



Join us on Tuesday, December 14 for our annual Julebord holiday meal. Plan to come at 6:00 PM for the hors d'oeuvres and glog, followed by the pot-luck meal at 6:30. See page 6 and 7 for more information.

Scandinavian Culture and News

Christmas in Norway

Pre-Christmas is a special time in Norway, as the shorter and darker days makes for a very cozy time of year. Smoke can frequently be seen from the many chimneys around the country, and a soft candlelight is streaming from many homes during the cold month of December.

As in many European countries, most Norwegian towns and cities offer Christmas fairs and markets, seasonal concerts and other performances during this time. Oslo has many great events and markets open to the public. Bergen is famous for it's Gingerbread Town, holiday concerts and other festivities. The wooden town of Røros is a truly magic place to visit during the Christmas month, and Tregarden's Christmas House in Drøbak is a must-see as Scandinavia's only permanent Christmas shop. Hadeland Glassverk outside Oslo also has an all-year Christmas Shop where visitors can purchase handmade glass from local artisans.

According to Travel & Leisure Magazine, December issue 2009, Tromsø is one of the best places in the world to spend Christmas. A chance to view the Northern Lights and to say you've been to the Arctic Circle for Christmas. Visitors can enjoy dogsledding, great food, and a mountaintop cable car.

St. Lucia Day

Santa Lucia's Day, December 13th, is the first day of the Christmas Celebration in Sweden, Denmark and Norway, and is also known as the shortest day of the year - Winter Solstice - under the old Gregorian calendar. It is one of the few saint days observed in Scandinavia. It was not until after World War II that the modern celebration of Lucia was imported to Norway from Sweden, and became adopted on a larger scale. It is now again observed all over the country. Lucia is mostly observed in kindergartens and schools. However, it has in recent years also been incorporated in the Advent liturgy in the Church of Norway, where visitors can view processions.

From: Norway.com



Christmas in Norway

In Norway, as nowhere else, white is the color of Christmas. It is seen in sometimes record-breaking snowfalls, but also in the Norwegian custom of pure white twinkling light displays that everywhere cheer the soul through the long nights of December.

Norwegians have celebrated "the holidays" long before it was named as such. Pre-Christian Nordic tribes were known to have burned the first Yule logs, and also decorated with holly and ivy to warm them through what would have been an otherwise stark winter.

Not surprisingly, Christmas in Norway today is the most popular holiday of the year. It is a wonderful mix of modern traditions and ancient superstitions that still survive, for example, in their version of a Julenissen, or Santa Claus, a Christmas gnome.

The origins of Julesnissen are found in the unpredictable nisser of ancient times, who are infamous for playing tricks on the unsuspecting. Even today, in parts of rural Norway, families may leave out a bowl of risegrøt or Christmas rice porridge for them on Christmas Eve just to keep on their good side.

Meanwhile, in the weeks leading up to Christmas there are countless parties to attend and at home, lots of cleaning and baking to do - especially in households that still provide the customary julekaker, the seven different types of Christmas cakes or cookies.

Another popular home holiday project is the creation of the traditional paper Christmas baskets that some families carefully make by hand for Christmas tree decorations.

As Christmas finally arrives, the big event is always on Christmas Eve, when gifts are exchanged and the holiday meal is served. Depending on the region, a Norwegian Christmas dinner may feature a lutefisk, cod or halibut dish, while in other areas lamb or savory pork ribs with crispy crackling (Svineribbe) is the main attraction.

From: CliFF.com

KV

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://synnove1.com>>
Sons of Norway International: <<http://www.sofn.com>>

Lodge News

Fra presidenten

Dear Members,

God Jul to you and yours! I can hardly wait for the Julebord. This is one of our Lodge's favorite and most attended events. I think it all comes down to, "If you feed them, they will come." In our case, if we share and serve Scandinavian food, our members will drive through storms and climb over snow drifts to celebrate Julebord. I certainly hope that will NOT be the case, however.

As 2010 draws to a close, I am reminded of the many places and times we were privileged to "visit" via our programs. Denny Rusinko brought us to the Viking Era and enlightened us with tales and the culture of that time. Karen DePaul opened our eyes to a mostly-hidden landscape right outside our meeting windows. We so enjoyed her presentation that many of us met for a Fall walk through Swede Hollow as she shared wonderful stories and pictures of life in the Hollow that seemed miles from the hustle of the city.

We can't forget Norway either. Peggy Larson stirred us with haunting mountain calls that was a effective method of communicating long before cell phones. Odell Bjerkness acquainted us with the king's nanny, and Darby Nelson brought us back to modern Norway kayaking in the fjords. Phil Hill showed us how our immigrant ancestors loved this, their new homeland, enough to engage in war to preserve it. Howard Amundson brought back fun and not-so-fond memories of home remedies that we all experienced while growing up. And then Janet Letnes Martin had great fun leading us to laugh at ourselves and our family memories.

December signals the end of the year and also the end of my two years as Lodge president. I will now slide into the Counselor's role as we welcome both the new year, 2011, and our new President, Ron Stow. With his leadership, we can look forward to wonderful times and events.

Blessings,
Sharon

Membership Pins

Congratulations to the following members who will receive pins for years of lodge membership. Pins will be awarded at our Julebord on December 14. Recipients, please join us to receive your pins as we recognize your continued support of our lodge.

40 years	Robert Berndt	Dean Strand	Roger Bosmoe
Audrey Huset	Joanne Berndt	Nancy R. Johnson	Yanina Carlson
Harold Broman Jr	Mary A. Nelson	Len Carlson	Donarae Peterson
Bruce Benschine	Eunice Baker	Jo Ann Ronning	
Liv Eggen-Benschine	Lyle Baker	Clayton Lance	5 years
			Ron Kvaas
35 years	25 years	10 years	Clayton Keller
Martha Mullen	Cecile Malack	Karen Siefried	Dorothy P. Hanson
Barbara Swedenburg	Astrid Anderson	Crystal Bloecher	Stephanie Storck
Jerry Stanke	Sheryl Hove	Loren Opdahl	Janet Hovland
	Delvert Oftedahl	LaRee Opdahl	Fred Matson
30 years		Gloria Blomstrand	Betty Bjorndal Felix
Claris Ginkle	20 years	Roger Bailey	Libby Hanson
Leslie Berg	Harry Thomsen	Barbara D. Johnson	Craig Hanson
Meredith Berg	15 years	Lisa Mutchler	Lola Thomson
Marion L. Johnson			

If you cannot attend, please contact Membership Vice President Ron Stow at 651-439-7255 or BurlE103@aol.com .

Lodge News

Board Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2010

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Patty Carlson, Rod Hale, Sue Halvorson, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Sharon Kalmes, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Kathy Stevens, and Ron and Susan Stow

Old Business

The Torsk and Meatball Dinner was recapped and suggestions for 2011 reviewed. The slate of officers for 2011 was presented. Julebørd planning was discussed. Rod Hale gave a report on the Summit Avenue Walk.

New Business

Patty Carlson gave a brief over view of the time line for the 2011 Festival of Nations.

Submitted by: Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 7** at the **Roseville Library, 2180 North Hamline, Roseville, in the community program room.**

Lodge Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2010

57 lodge members and guests attended the October lodge meeting. Our visitors were Zone 2 director Dennis Rusinko, Char Kobernick, Warren Creager and Bob Creager.

The minutes were approved as printed in the Brevet. Mary Beth Mutchler gave the treasurer's report.

A financial report for the Torsk and Meatball Dinner, the silent auction and bake sale was given. A sign up sheet for bringing food to the Julebørd was available. Salvation Army bell ringing will be December 11 at Byerly's on Suburban Avenue in St. Paul.

Sharon Amann presented the 2011 slate of lodge officers and entertained nominations from the floor.

Greg Hovland gave a brief financial talk. Dennis Rusinko, Zone 2 Director, reported on the International Convention and stated his goals for the upcoming year.

Jan Hovland, Ardyce Davies, Dave Hegdahl and Jean Draheim are celebrating November birthdays. No one present was celebrating a November anniversary. Sherry Miller won the door prize.

Darby Nelson gave an interesting presentation chronicling his kayaking trips to northern Norway and the Sognefjord. He illustrated his talk with many picture slides of the beautiful scenery.

Thank you to Jan Hovland, LaRee Opdahl and Jeane Pearson for the delicious treats.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

Genealogy Group Meeting Minutes, Saturday November 5 at Stillwater Library

We had a very good meeting, with 14 members in attendance. Cathie Reasoner has agreed to lead us, and there is a good mix of experienced helpers and relative new-comers to genealogy research. We have identified some members of the lodge outside our group that will be contacted if we need help with Norwegian translation. We are assembling a list of group members and their phone numbers, emails, areas of interest, family names and heritage, etc. This information will be available on our web site, but will be limited to members of our group for privacy and security.

With the very good turnout, it looks like Saturday mornings are going to work out well. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, which will normally be announced in the Brevet. Interested members should contact Cathie Reasoner at 651-646-8483 or harrie1030@netzero.com .

We will meet next on **Saturday January 8** at the Roseville library. (See calendar on next page.)

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday Dec. 7	Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting ** Note! Roseville Library, 2180 North Hamline, Roseville, in the community program room.	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saturday Dec. 11	Salvation Army Bell Ringing Byerly's at 1959 Suburban Ave. Near Ruth St.	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday Dec. 14	Synnove-Nordkap Social Event Juleboard & Membership pins Plan to come early! See pages 5 & 6 for info.	6:00 PM
Sunday Dec. 19	Annual Julekonsert presented jointly by the Nor- wegian Glee Club of Mpls. & the Norwegian Lu- theran Mindekirche Choir at the church. See page 8 for more information.	1:30 PM
Tuesday Jan. 4	Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting Maplewood Library conference room; 3025 South- lawn Dr. (W side Maplewood Mall)	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saturday Jan. 8	Genealogy Group Meeting at the Ramsey County Roseville Library, Co. Rd. B at Hamline Everyone is welcome to attend; lunch to follow.	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Tuesday Jan. 11	Synnove-Nordkap Social Event Mark Anderson of the Minnesota Historical Society will discuss the Norwegian artifacts they have.	7:00 PM

Denim Shirts with our lodge name are available in sizes: S M L XL 2X, 3X, 4X (These are men's sizes, or unisex if you prefer.)

Two styles of embroidered logos are available:

1. The 2 crossed flags logo is \$20 or \$25 for 3X & 4X.
2. The SoN official logo is \$25 or \$30 for 3X & 4X.

If you have friends in other lodges who are interested in purchasing shirts, have them follow the instructions below **PLUS the name of their lodge.**

Please remember, no shirts will be made up unless the money/check accompanies the order. **Checks should be made out to KAREN KLEFSAS.**

Be certain to include the size of the shirt and your choice of logo.

Mail your choice of Logo, shirt size, and check to:

Sharon Amann
1575 2nd St. SW
New Brighton, MN 55112

Norwegian Language Classes

- (1) "Norwegian In Five Minutes A Month" series. Class 6:30-7:00 PM Tuesdays before lodge meetings. . No class Dec. 14.
Future date: January 11: Lessons 16 & 17.
- (2) "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" Class 6:30-8:00 PM Thursdays, 1/month.
Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., between McKnight Rd. & Ruth St.
Date: Dec. 16: Chapter 20, p. 329. Future date: January 13.

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.

Mindekirken Events::
924 E. 21st St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 874-0716

**Sat. December 4 -
Christmas Cookie Bake Sale, White
Elephant Sale & Rommegrot Lunch**
- 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Norwegian specilaty cookies, Fattigman,
rosettes, sandbakkelse, berlinerkranser,
krumkaker, etc.
Warm Rommegrot, Julekake and coffee
Quilts, knit items, misc. Gift items

Sunday, December 12 - 11:00 AM
Santa Lucia Pageant presented
within the Norwegian service

Sunday, December 19 - 1:30 PM
Christmas Choir Concert
Norwegian Glee Club &
Mindekirken Choir

Ingebretsen's Events:
1601 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-9333

Saturday, December 4 - Saami Day
Talk with local Saami community, learn
their culture, history & art.

Saturday, December 11 - Santa Lucia Day
11:00 - 1:00 PM Music and pepparkakor
Meet Ewa Rydaker, author of *Lucia
Morning in Sweden.*

**A Scandinavian Christmas"
with the Minnesota Orchestra,
Dec. 11, 12 and 13.**

Info:
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

**"The wreaths will be hung and
the hall will be aglow with the
magic of Santa Lucia, complete
with a candlelight procession ...
a feast of sweet surprises. Nor-
dic sweaters welcome!"**

Lodge News

The following slate of officers is proposed for 2011, and will be voted on at the December meeting. If anyone else would like to be considered, please call Sharon Amann. (Changes are printed in bold.)

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

December 11 at Byerly's on Suburban Ave.

9-11 AM Clayton & Char Lance

11AM - 1 PM Jane & Andy Urness

1-3 PM Loren Opdahl & _____

3-5 PM _____

5-6 PM Dave & Lisa Mutchler

Two people needed at each time slot.

Contact Dave Mutchler to volunteer;

Julebord Helpers

**Call or email Sharon Kalmes to volunteer;
651-771-0851 or sharon1073@msn.com .**

Note that we need more clean-up helpers.

Setting up - starting between 4:30 and 5:00 PM

1. Shirley Brekke
2. Susan Stow
3. Jeane & Lauren Pearson
4. Jane & Andy Urness
5. Linda Holmstrom
6. Ron Kvaas
7. Sharon Kalmes

Helping to organize food (basically being the last to eat at dinner)

1. Shirley Brekke
2. Sharon Kalmes

Clean-up after dessert and coffee

1. Kathy Kaluza
2. Sheryl Hove
3. Bev & Jack Dougherty
4. _____ *
5. _____ *
6. _____ *

***** We need more clean-up helpers. *****

Thank you very much!

Position	2010	2011
President	Sharon Amann	Ron Stow
Vice Pres./Mbrshp.	Ron Stow	Kathy Stevens
Recording Secretary	Sue Halvorson	Sue Halvorson + Trudi Johnson-Richards
Membership Sectry.	Trudi Johnson-Richards	Trudi Johnson-Richards
Treasurer	Mary Beth Mutchler	Mary Beth Mutchler
Cultural Director	Kathy Stevens	Jeane Pearson
Social Director	Patti Carlson & Sharon Kalmes	Patti Carlson & Sharon Kalmes
Counselor	Mary Beth Mutchler	Sharon Amann
Trustees	Meredith Berg (1) LaRee Opdahl (2) Wayne Bjorum (3)	LaRee Opdahl(1) Wayne Bjorum (2) Kathy Kaluza (3)
Marshall	Ron Kvaas	Ron Kvaas
Asst. Marshall	Chuck Draheim	Chuck Draheim
Sports Director	Rod Hale	Rod Hale
Historian	Lenore Jesness	Lenore Jesness
Musician	Susan Stow	Susan Stow
Greeters	Bev Dougherty Jack Dougherty	Bev Dougherty Jack Dougherty
Publicity	Leif Erickson Jana Stow	Leif Erickson Jana Stow
Foundation/ Scholarship	Clay Keller / Rod Hale	Rod Hale
Junior Lodge	Susan Stow	Susan Stow
Adopt-A-School Coordinator	Ruth Gibson	Ruth Gibson
Newsletter Editor	Dave Mutchler	Dave Mutchler
Asst. Newsltr. Ed.	Karen Vinnes Mary Beth Mutchler	Karen Vinnes Mary Beth Mutchler
Mailer	Beryl Boe	Beryl Boe
Norsk Classes	Sheryl Hove Crystal Bloecher	Sheryl Hove Crystal Bloecher
Auditors	Bob Smith Ed Gilbertson Linda Holmstrom	Bob Smith Ed Gilbertson Linda Holmstrom
Sunshine	Judy Cullen	Judy Cullen
Librarian	Trudi Johnson-Richards	Trudi Johnson-Richards
Genealogy	Cathie Reasoner Fred Matson	Cathie Reasoner Fred Matson
Webmaster	Dave Mutchler	Dave Mutchler

More Lodge News

Junior Lodge Update


At the November Junior Lodge meeting we had “språktime” or language lesson time. The vocabulary focused on birthday terms and a little rhyme for children. Gratulere med Dagen, or Happy Birthday was at the top of the list. We talked about the cake with candles or “kake med lys”, “fest” or party, and of course presents or “gave”. The rhyme was “Tåmmeltått, Slikkepott, Langemainn, Fingerring, Vesle Petter Spillemainn” naming each finger on one hand.

Junior Lodge members are starting their work on the beginning folk dancing medal with the youth cultural skills unit. We already know more than the required song dances, figure dances and couple dances. Now it is a matter of recording what we know on the application and completing one elective activity, which we think we can accomplish by next April.

Thursday, November 18th the Peer Gynt Dancers performed for the St. Croix Valley Syttende Mai Society. The children were marvelously enthusiastic in their dancing and the audience thoroughly enjoyed their half-hour program.

In December we look forward to performing for the Norse Federation at Luther Seminary and our annual baking day on the second Saturday, December 11th from 1-2:30.

- Susan Stow

<p>The Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis And Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirke Choir</p> <p>Present their</p>  <p>Annual Julekonsert</p>	<p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th 1:30 PM</p> <p>Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church 924 East 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN</p> <p>Freewill Offering / Refreshments after the concert</p> <p>INFORMATION: Call the church 612-874-0716 Or Call 651-291-8639 or E-mail: carstonian@hotmail.com</p>
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Benefit News

Get a Bigger Check From Social Security



Choosing the right time to collect benefits can boost your income by thousands of dollars a year.

Although you can collect Social Security benefits as early as age 62, you may not want to. Your retirement benefits will be reduced by 25% or more for the rest of your life. And if you continue to work, your benefits could be further reduced – or even wiped out completely – if you earn more than the prescribed limit.

In 2010, you lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you earn over \$14,169. The same limit is expected to apply in 2011. A more generous earnings cap applies in the year you reach your normal retirement age: You lose \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn over \$37,680 in 2010 during the months leading up to your 66th birthday. Once you reach your normal retirement age, the earnings cap disappears. Other types of income, such as pensions, interest and dividends, do not reduce your Social Security benefits.

For more information on estate planning, schedule a complementary Sons of Norway financial review.

Reference: Kiplinger's Personal Finance, December 2010

Greg Hovland

Financial Benefits Counselor
651-429-2304

ltcfinancial@msn.com
www.LtcFinancialServices.com

This and That

(We are always interested in members submitting articles on books they have read or movies or plays they have seen.)

The Corner Library by Trudi Johnson-Richards

Legend of Siljatjern Seter: Life, love and faith on a Norwegian mountain dairy by Gunlaug Nokland is actually two stories. In the first half, Mette, a young woman in Norway, takes a break from her city job and works as a dairy maid on a dairy farm in the fjords. She gets into the rhythms of farm life as well as develops a relationship with Morten, the handsome owner of the farm. Along the way they have various adventures, and eventually fall in love. Mette discovers the love of her life, helps solve an ancient mystery and renews her faith in God.

In the second half of the book, Morten's bachelor Uncle Torkel dies, and while cleaning out his house, the couple finds a collection of old letters from ancestral branches of the family that emigrated to America. Mette and Morten eventually trace some modern day American relatives, and come to America for a visit to North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. They gain insight into the hardships faced by their ancestors. They are in a unique position to understand the epic achievements of those who left such a life and came to the American frontier, and what they accomplished.

The book has a section of photographs of old farm items, including cooking utensils, furniture and daily life on the farm. The book is printed in English and Norwegian. There are many recipes for old-style Norwegian classics like lefse, etc. that were made in the "old days." The book was printed in 2007, hardcover 448 pages.

The author Gunlaug Nokland lives on a farm in Vest-Agder in Southern Norway. As a child, she learned spinning, weaving, dyeing wool and linen production from her maternal grandmother and later studied textile production of wool, linen and cotton materials.

On November 9, 2010, Sherry Miller, Synnove-Nordkap member, donated Sonner AF Norge, SANGBOG, a songbook in Norwegian. Sherry said the book was in her family, Olaf Dahlby and Mabel Dahlby. The book was copyright 1926 by The Supreme Lodge of the Sons of Norway. The forward is written by Carsten Woll, Minneapolis, 1 Juli 1926.



God
Jul



Every Member Matters

Sarasota Sarasota, FL 3-539 recently included a fantastic item about member involvement in their Pelikanen newsletter that makes an excellent point:

WHO MAKES THE LODGE A SUCCESS ?
Even though my typewriter is an old model, it works quite well, except for one or two keys. I have wished many times that it worked perfectly. It is true that there are forty-six keys that function well enough, but just one key not working makes the difference. Sometimes our lodge is somewhat like my typewriter; not all the keys properly work properly. You may say to yourself, "Well, I am only one person. I won't make or break the group.", but it does make a difference because a lodge, to be effective, needs the active participation of every member. So the next time you think that you are only one person, and that your efforts are not needed, remember my typewriter and say to yourself, "I'm a key person in the lodge, and I am needed very much!"

The deadline to submit items to the Brevet for the coming month is normally the 20th of the previous month. Please keep this time frame in mind, and keep those news items coming!

Thanks,
-Dave dmutchler@q.com or 651-484-8872

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008
Sons of Norway
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Shoreview, Minnesota 55126-8005



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 Linda Holmstrom 770-8989



God Jul Og Godt Nytt Aar

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



St. Paul, MN

Upcoming Activities

Annual Julebord - Tues. Dec. 14
Genealogy Group Meeting - Sat. Jan. 8
Norwegian Artifacts - Tues. Jan. 11

More Info Inside

The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge welcomes visitors and new members.