



SONS OF NORWAY

# Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

*- First Lodge in Ohio -*

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

January 2018

## Notes from Lodge President Susan Herman

Greetings as we welcome in 2018. Some of you can possibly relate to this: I was doing my best to stay on top of things this Christmas season, but things didn't quite all fall in to place like I had hoped and I am now way past the deadline we set to submit articles for this newsletter. The good news, for me, is the time spent with my family enjoying traditions we have maintained thru the years: we always have a blast making lefse together; the sylte keeps getting better each year; surkål was made with purple cabbage for a change up and made for a beautiful sight on our plates with frikadeller (kjøttboller) and gravy; we put together three 1000 piece puzzles (the first being an amazing 'all edge pieces' puzzle won at Crazy Bingo in August), and shared stories and reminisced. As the end of December and 2017 neared, I truly counted my blessings for family, friends, health, shelter and food.



Tusen takk to Susie and Glenn Mikaloff for hosting our October auction meeting to raise funds for the Foundation. Glenn did a fantastic job as 'auctioneer extraordinaire' and there were frequent bidding wars

going on! We had a great array of food and drink, and raised \$300 that evening (and an additional \$33 at Julefest). It was a fun evening for a good cause. The Board voted at our meeting on November 4 to send \$400 to the SoN Foundation.

Our November meeting on Veteran's Day was small in numbers but we had interesting discussions on Norway and WWII. A few of us read short excerpts from the District 5 book 'Hidden Heroes'. Carol Luiso read a story she wrote about Kari Poe's memories of living in Norway during WWII. Carol had interviewed Kari (a beloved member who passed away in 2013) as part of earning a cultural skills pin. Others shared stories or experiences of family members they remembered or were told about.

Julefest! For me, Julefest was a culmination of the year and such a wonderful evening of friendship, food, laughter and singing. It was fantastic seeing 'old' friends we know and making new ones and welcoming new members. We heard from several of you who could not make it this year, and you were truly missed. (more on Julefest on page 4)

In December our lodge submitted a Culture and Heritage grant for a "Concert of Scandinavian Songs" by Alisa Jordheim and should hear in March or April if it is awarded.

In ending, I wish to thank all the members on the Board who have served this past year, shared ideas and given of their time. Also to everyone who helped me navigate when I had so many questions! Thanks to you members for your presence and friendship in Edvard Grieg Lodge. I am honored to serve as Lodge President and look forward to this coming year. We hope that you will share, with any member of the Board, any thoughts or ideas you have so that we can create programs and activities that may be of interest to you, your families and others.

Godt nytt år, Susan

## Upcoming Meetings

### January lodge meeting

Saturday, January 20, 2:00pm

Location: Friendship United Methodist Church, 1025 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, OH 45215. We will use the Southwest door in the West parking lot. Look for the Norwegian flag by that door.

Gwen Elliott, Director of Community Festivals & Events at the Cincinnati Museum Center will be giving a presentation on renovations and exhibits at the museum.

RSVP to Jim Herman, Social Director at [jpherman.edvardgrieg@gmail.com](mailto:jpherman.edvardgrieg@gmail.com) or 513-919-5218. Bring a snack to share. Beverages provided by the lodge.

### February

No lodge meetings have been scheduled for the month of February for the past couple years. We are considering a 'social' gathering to watch some of the Winter Olympics, so look for more info to be posted on the website or by email.

### March lodge meeting

Saturday, March 17, 11:30am

Location: IHOP, 9540 Colerain Avenue, Cincinnati 45251

Brunch to welcome New Members (for all members to meet, greet, and eat together).

## Birthdays

### January

Francis Kosobud[1], Connie Holmen[10], Anna Reeder[11], Kelly Lawson[28].

### February

Richard Vinnece[7], Lee Luiso[12], Adam Sokol[14], Sylvia Casas[15], Linda Burge[17], Mark Kosobud[20], Karl Halvorson[21], James D. Herman[22].

### March

Nancy Cooper[2], Robert Charlton[11], Elisabeth Sonoff[12], Larry Bannick[17], Kathy Johncox[19].

## Membership News

Wow! There are many wonderful words to describe the influx of new members to the lodge in the last two months, 'Awesome', 'Great', 'Magnificent' are just a few of many. We received eight new members. This is more at one time since the year the lodge was formed.

In November, Nina Downs has rejoined the lodge and Peter Lovaas joined at the urging of his aunt in Colorado.

Then, at Julefest, six membership applications were submitted. Siri Anderson has rejoined, Marilyn Bossman, came to Julefest a couple of years ago and then came to our November meeting, and decided to join at Julefest. Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff called a couple of days before Julefest and said she and her husband wished to attend and she would join. Elisabeth was born in Norway and has written a book on Norwegian baking. She had been a member of Sons of Norway years ago in another city.

Brandi Norman and her daughter Peach both joined. They then decided to give the gift of membership to Peach's grandma Arlene Norman. Peach had the honor of being selected to work in the Girl Scout office in Stavanger for a year. She presented a wonderful and delightful, program on her experiences for the lodge last March. Peach now attends Albion College in Michigan and is on their equestrian team.

Nina and Siri had both been very active members in the past. Nina has been social director and lodge president. Siri first joined when she lived in Mason but when she moved to Dublin on the North side of Columbus, distance became a problem.

Do welcome all these new members when you see them at lodge meetings.

We have reached out to the new members to give us some information on themselves and their Norwegian connection. If because of timing/deadlines the info did not make it into this issue of the newsletter we will get it into the next newsletter.

Esther Charlton,

Membership Secretary

## **New Member Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff**

Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff grew up in Lillehammer, Norway. After graduating from high school, she attended the Teacher's College of Home Economics in Oslo, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree. She also has a Master's Degree and Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Food Science at Cornell University. At Cornell she met and married her husband, Raymond.

After living many years in Connecticut, Elisabeth and Raymond moved to Kentucky to be close to their daughter and her husband. She loves to bake, which to her is the best way to release stress. Much of what she bakes is published in her book: *Baking the Norway Way: Cakes, Cookies and Crackers*

## **Membership Service Pins**

At the end of 2017, these people listed received their service pins which will be mailed to them with the newsletter. We appreciate their dedication to Sons of Norway and Edvard Grieg Lodge.

5 year pins = Nancy Cooper & Arlene Goodison

10 year pins – Curtis Anderson, Judy Pieper, Teresa Lowen, & Trine Wernes

15 year pins = Diane Flautt & Ordelle Hill

## **SoN new Simplified Dues Structure**

Sons of Norway International delegates voted at the 2014 and 2016 International Lodge Meetings to proceed with a simplified dues structure for U.S. members only, effective Jan. 1, 2018. The vote to implement the Simplified Dues Resolution sets the rule for the entire organization, and will put into effect the will of the International Lodge, your elected representatives.

Individual membership will be \$60 and family memberships (all members who reside at the same mailing address in a single family residence) will be available for \$95.00 for the household.

For more detailed information, go to:

[https://www.sofn.com/simplified\\_dues\\_structure/](https://www.sofn.com/simplified_dues_structure/)

## **Sons of Norway D5 bowling tournament starts soon!**

From January thru April you can help the Sons of Norway Foundation by bowling and having fun!



Rules: A \$5 donation (per person) to the Foundation is required. Bowl, record your scores, send in results and have fun!!

Categories include: youth 12 and under, youth 12-17, adult females, adult males and WII bowlers.

Please send in your score sheets and checks (made out to Sons of Norway District 5) to: Michaela Decker

1247 Center St Racine, Wi 53403

Phone # 262-498-2085

## **Foundation**

Do you have an idea that needs funding?

Help is available. The support is available through grants and scholarships.

The distribution and awards for financial support can help students achieve goals that result in knowledge of cultural projects. These grants and awards when completed enrich communities of Norwegian culture.

For more information contact Corrie Maki Knudson at (800) 945-8851. She will be able to help you with resources.

## Julefest recap



Thanks to all who attended this year's Julefest. It was great to see so many familiar and new faces, enjoy the fellowship and especially the great food. As always the fare was amazing, amped up a bit this year by the addition of Kjell Evensen's sylte and gravlox. We were fortunate to also be able to add some new features to our program (finding the almond in the Johnsons' delicious rømmegrøt, and making woven heart decorations), and add in some new musical 'numbers' performed in a somewhat passable version of Norwegian.

74. Jeg er så glad hver julekveld

Jeg er så glad— hver ju - le - kveld, for da ble Je - sus  
 født. — Da ly - ste stjer - nen som en sol og eng - ler sang så søtt. —

<p>JEG ER SÅ GLAD HVER JULEKVELD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeg er så glad hver julekveld, for da ble Jesus født. Da lyste stjernen som en sol og engler sang så søtt.</li> <li>Det lille barn i Betlehem, han var en konges sønn, som kom fra himlens høye slott ned til vår arme jord.</li> <li>Nå bor han høyt i himmerik, han er Guds egen sønn, men husker alltid på de små og hører deres bønn.</li> <li>Jeg er så glad hver julekveld, da synger vi hans pris. Da åpner han for alle små sitt søte paradis.</li> <li>Da tenner moder alle lys, og ingen krok er mørk, hun sier stjernen lyste så i hele verdens ørk.</li> <li>Jeg holder av vår julekveld og av den Herre Krist, og at han elsker meg igjen, det vet jeg ganske vist.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Text: Marje Wasselen English Text: Unna &amp; Sørensen</small></p>	<p>I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth. Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.</li> <li>The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed. For he came down from the heaven above to help a world in need.</li> <li>He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today, and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.</li> <li>I am so glad on Christmas Eve, his praises then I sing. He opens then for every child the palace of the King.</li> <li>When mother trims the Christmas tree which fills the room with light, she tells me of the wondrous star that made the dark world bright.</li> <li>And so I love each Christmas Eve and I love Jesus too, and that He loves me every day, I know so well is true.</li> </ol>
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In addition to the fun, we were honored to receive several new members to the Lodge (see listed in Membership article). A great time was had by all, and we hope to see all of our attendees again next year, along with old and new members who couldn't make this year's festivities.



*Peach Norman and Sharon Smythe decked out in their Bunads*

Of course these things don't happen by chance, and we have a lot of folks we need to thank: Karl Halvorson for his great layout designs of the room space; those who helped set up and take down, unload and load cars full of boxes and bags; those who decorated tables and those who brought baked goods for the sale; the great kitchen crew (Pam and Konrad Nelson, Susie and Glenn Mikaloff); Carol Luiso for donating tree ornaments; Brandi Norman for taking photos; Pam Nelson for food preparation and donating all the table gift bag favors; Esther and Bob Charlton for manning the Norsk Butikk; Carol Luiso at the Bake Sale table and those who helped her out (Adam and Kathryn Sokol, Sonja Kinney).



*Liv Ramstad enjoying some Norwegian Julefest treats*



A special thanks to Sharon Smythe (donating the marzipan pigs for each table's winner and lucky almond finder) and Liv Ramstad (donated and cut out the woven hearts) for the new 'traditions', and Susan Herman for general coordination of the event (and leading our musical entertainment). For anyone or anything I may have forgotten, please accept my thanks, as there are many 'behind the scenes' tasks that are needed and taken care of by nisse to make Julefest happen.

God Jul,

Jim Herman, Social Director

## Lodge Library Books

Information about our lodge library for all members (and especially for those who are new to Edvard Grieg): if you go to our website at

<http://www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html>,

scroll down to just above the chart of "Our Most Recent Lodge Newsletters", and you will see "Lodge Library". Click on it and you will discover books that are in our library. Esther Charlton is working on the more recent additions given to the lodge to add to this list. If there is a book you are interested in reading, please contact Esther at [esthersofn@aol.com](mailto:esthersofn@aol.com)

## Behind the Christmas Tradition: the Julebuk

*From Sons of Norway ePost*



On lille julaften (December 23), Norwegian families typically decorate the juletre (Christmas tree), adorning the branches with handmade woven baskets, lights, Norwegian flags and figures made from straw. One of the traditional straw ornaments is the julebuk, or Yule Goat.

Many of Norway's Christmas symbols stem from pre-Christian times, and the Yule Goat is no exception. It was believed that the last sheaf of harvested corn contained the power of that year's harvest. This cut of grain was saved and made into a festive goat for Yuletide and was thought to keep evil spirits at bay.

The role of the Yule Goat changed over many centuries and became incorporated into the Christmas holidays. At one point in time, the julebuk distributed gifts after checking whether people had been on their best behavior. In the 1800s, revelers would go julebukking, roaming from door-to-door costumed as goats, playing pranks and demanding treats from their neighbors. This practice continues today albeit with a wider variety of costume choices.

Old World Wisconsin, a living history museum outside of Milwaukee, incorporates traditions from various ethnic groups into their An Old World Christmas event. This year, in a nod to Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish traditions, their farm staff built a 12-foot julebuk (pictured), similar to the outsized Yule Goats that adorn town squares in Sweden. Using a wooden frame covered in straw and large sections of red ribbon, they created what they think is the largest Yule Goat in the U.S. The julebukking tradition also continues in Seattle, with an annual event at the Ballard Elks Club.

With its many interpretations, the julebuk has proven to be a lasting symbol, with a hoof in the ancient and one in the modern. It now has its own hashtag, #julebuk, oft-referenced in a hot Norwegian Twitter debate around which is better: trick or treating American-style, or julebukking.

## Lodge T-shirts Still Available

There are still lodge T-shirts available for purchase. If anyone is interested in ordering and purchasing lodge T-shirts, please let us know quantity and sizes by sending information to Susan Herman [susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com) (513-227-8790)

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