



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

| Jan 2022

Notes from Lodge President

Godt nytt år! I hope all are well and looking forward to a healthy and safe 2022. I am happy to report that our lodge continues to weather the pandemic storm, and has been able to make it through 2021 with a full meeting schedule, highlighted by an in person Julefest in December. We had a mixture of in person meetings and Zoom get-togethers, including a successful hybrid in person-Zoom meeting on genealogy in November. I would like to thank the Board for all their hard work throughout the year, working through our challenges to offer our members meaningful programs and events. I am also grateful for everyone's patience with the need to use Zoom and/or distance and mask. These are trying times and I am happy that as a lodge we understand the importance of keeping our members safe.

We look forward to 2022 with a new slate of programs; continuing our cooking Zoom; and having pop-up socials when the weather gets warm again. We are going to start our winter meetings by Zoom in January but will hopefully resume 'hybrid' in person events in spring, allowing our distant members or members not wanting to travel to participate along with those of us that can get together. I look forward to seeing you all this year.

I would also like to draw your attention to a new District 5 Creative Leadership Class offering, led by Mike Palecek. I'm teaming up with Mike, Dana Kelly, and Corey Olson to offer a Creative Leadership course focusing on Sons of Norway lodge leadership. This 8-week course begins on February 5 & 8 (participants can take either the Saturday morning or Tuesday evening Zoom course). The course will wrap up at the end of March. There is no reading needed for the course. The leadership skills in this course will apply to all walks of life, but the discussion and examples will focus on leadership in local Sons of Norway lodges. If you are interested in participating, the course will start with sessions offered on Saturday,

February 5 (9:00-10:30 AM CT/10:00-11:30 ET) and Tuesday, February 8 (6:30- 8:00 PM CT/7:30-9:00 PM ET). I will be happy to supply additional detail if you are interested.

Jim Herman

Birthdays

January

Aimee Russell[4], Anders Russell[26, Kelly Lawson[28].

February

Nancy Johnson[2], Ava Powell[2], Richard Vinnece[7], Lee Luiso[12], Adam Sokol[14], Sylvia Casas[15], Mark Kosobud[20], Karl Halvorson[21], James D. Herman[22], Myron Hetzler[23].

March

Elisabeth Sonoff[12], Larry Bannick[17], Kathy Johncox[19].

Membership

We welcome Erin Rykhus as a new member in our lodge. Here is some background on Erin and her Norwegian connection:

My paternal great grandmother came with her family from the Trondheim region in 1869 when she was four years old. My paternal great grandfather came from Dovre with an older brother in 1879 at the age of 17. They met near Tracy, MN and married in 1884. I was fortunate to travel the Hurtigruten route with four family members in 2015, and visited the Rykhus farm in Dovre in 2019.

If you know of someone that might be interested in Sons of Norway, do pass along their name to me so that I can contact them.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Membership Service Pins

Sons of Norway rewards members for years of service, with service pins for every five years of membership. At Julefest these members were honored for their years of membership:

5-Year Pins – David Bruestle, Katherine Herman, Kathy Johncox, Nancy Johnson, Kathy Skinner, Adam Sokol, Elsabeth Sonoff, Richard Vinnece.

10 Year Pins – Karl Halvorson, James D. Herman, James P. Herman, Susan Herman, Aida Storetvedt.

15 Year Pins – Tim & Connie Holmen, Lee, Maria & Michael Luiso.

20 Year Pins – Sonja Kinney, Lance Larsen, Carol Stone, Kristin Szava.

Recap of Lodge Events

We began our genealogy basics class at our November hybrid meeting. It was a great turnout with seven of us in person at the Sharonville Library and five members via Zoom.

I quickly admit I am no expert on genealogy, but my presentation was to show links on where you can go to find information that might be useful in your search and to share some resources that perhaps you didn't know about. There will be more to follow on genealogy at our January meeting.

Our social Zoom cooking/baking classes with Elisabeth Sonoff met on November 19 and December 17. The topics were "Pies" and "Christmas recipes" (something your Mom, Grandmother or other family member made and passed down). Everyone who wanted to shared recipes and the conversations were lively!

Julefest 2021: It was a special time celebrating together again after two long years. Thanks to all who attended and helped in any or many ways! After a year off, I felt rusty in the planning, preparing, and hoping it all comes together parts. Next year will hopefully be more normal. We realized there would likely be fewer members participating at Julefest as we continue to navigate with masks, restrictions, concerns and the like. It was wonderful to have 24 members and 19 guests, with the youngest being around 2. What a joy to have all ages again at Julefest!



Kransekake Julefest '21

Members & Guests at Julefest '21





Jim Herman mashing potatoes



Karl Halvorson receiving 10 year membership pin



Members wearing their Bunads



Butikk Table



Bake table



Julefest '21 Centerpieces



Kids Corner Crafts Table



Laurie Johnson dishing out Rømmegrøt



Julefest '21 Food Table

Julefest '21 Singing



Julefest '21 Nisse Gifts





Julefest '21 Nisse Sarah Fessler & Henry Halvorson

Cooking/Baking- Zoom Social

Friday, January 21 at 1:30pm

Contact our Social Director if you are interested and would like to join us for this or future cooking/baking meetings.

February

Zoom Board Meeting

Saturday, February 5 at 2:00pm

All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Social/concert

Thursday, February 10 at 7:30-9:00pm

The St. Olaf Choir, a 75 member collegiate choir from Northfield, MN, will be performing at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains at 8th & Plum Streets, Cincinnati, OH. Anton Armstrong is Conductor, only the 4th in the choir's history. Founded in 1912, by Norwegian immigrant F. Melius Christiansen, this choir has set standards of choral excellence and serves as a model for choirs of all levels.

Tickets are \$50 and non-refundable. Current Edvard Grieg Lodge members will receive \$20 towards their ticket price from the lodge. Purchase your tickets online at:

<https://www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org/concert-season-2021-2022>

or contact Susan Herman by January 12 for more information.

March

Regular lodge meeting

Saturday, March 12 at 2:00pm

Hybrid meeting: in-person and Zoom

Invite and bring a friend or family member!

Symmes Township Library (meeting room)
11850 Enyart Rd, Loveland, OH 45140

Susan Herman, Social Director

For questions, Zoom link, or more information on any of these events please contact me:

513-227-8790 or susan.herman3501@gmail.com

January 2022

Lodge meeting

Saturday, January 15 at 2:00pm

Zoom option only. The link will be emailed to members a day or two prior.

Genealogy continued: More exploration on finding information. We will also be sharing letters, items, or stories from family members.

Norwegian Handicrafts

Tæger binding -- Binding with Roots



Tree roots are very elastic and have been used to make household items for a very long time. Very stable shapes are created by binding roots together. This old technique is very similar to sewing.

Remnants of baskets made from roots have been found in the Oseberg Viking ship in which Queen Aase was buried in 834. Another old root binding item dating back to the fifteen hundreds has been found in Old Town Oslo.

Several types of roots are used for root binding. Birch roots have been most used in Norway. They are soft and elastic and well suited for binding. Spruce roots have been used for coarser items, but they split easily. Birch roots are collected from peat bogs. They can be collected from the time the sap starts moving in the spring until arrival of frost. The best roots are found in nutrient poor soil and can be up to 15 meters (about 50 feet) long. In rich soil the roots grow thicker and shorter. The roots have to be carefully dug up. A hook without sharp edges can be used to loosen the roots from the soil. The bark must be removed shortly after being dug up before the roots dry out. Care must be taken in removing the bark in order not to scrape the underlying root. Roots are then dried and can be stored for later use. The dry roots are soaked in water before starting a project. Roots no thicker than a pencil are used for decorative items. For very fine items the roots should be no thicker than one millimeter. Only two tools are needed for root binding: a knife and a "pren" (awl) which is used to make holes to thread the binding roots through. The pren was often made of bone. If made of steel it can cause discoloration of the root.

A binding work is built up by using roots with different functions: inserts and binding. Inserts are made by forming un-split roots into a spiral which is tied to the previous insert with split roots. The inserts are in Norwegian called "støttetæger" (support roots), the split roots "bindetæger" (binding roots). The awl is used to make a hole in the previous insert into which the binding root is threaded. By applying different binding techniques, different types of patterns can be produced. They can be tightly bound together as seen in the bottom of a basket, or in open, see-through patterns.



taegerbinding

Many different types of items were produced by the binding technique. According to Signe Irene Berg who gives courses in root binding:

"They did not have plastic bags, but things to carry and store items in was needed even a long time ago."

Traditionally many of the items produced by root binding were used to store foods, transport and serving of food such as bread baskets, serving trays and "sendingskurver". Sendingskurv is the name of the baskets in which guests brought their contribution of foods to celebrations such as christenings, confirmations, weddings and funerals.



They are the most commonly found root binding items found. They could be open or lidded and were often made with elaborate patterns. The patterns might be representative of a certain region of the country. Farm women considered their baskets to be a status symbol and often had their initials woven into the basket. Other types of baskets were made for specific uses such as bread baskets, forms for butter and cheese, and lidded baskets for keeping treasured belongings.

Root binding was practiced through the middle of the nineteenth century. However, at that time peddled rattan became commercially available and replaced birch roots for basket making. Around 1900 the Norwegian Handicraft Association tried to revitalize root binding with limited results. However, in 1956 the museum secretary, G. A. Norman, at the Sandvig Collection (Maihaugen) took the initiative to arrange a course in root binding in Lillehammer. Several handicraft consultants attended this course and more courses were given throughout the country. It was suggested that the technique could be used to make items in line with present uses such as brooches, ear rings, napkin rings, egg beakers, and even cases for your glasses.



Sara-Solvang-Brooch

There are relatively few people practicing root binding today, but some farm associations still arrange courses. It is also getting more difficult to find areas where the root can be dug. Many of the places where roots were dug in earlier years are now overgrown or have over the years emptied of

suitable material. It is to be hoped that there will be sufficient interest among younger people to continue the tradition of root binding.

Elisabeth P. Sonoff, Cultural Chairperson

Norwegian Tabby Takes the World by Storm

Excerpt from Sons of Norway E-Post



Meet Jesperpus (“yes-per-poose”), Norway’s famous adventure cat! This large, fluffy tabby bunks with his human family in the municipality of Løten, in Innlandet County in eastern Norway. He spends his days riding on one of his many horse friends or out on the hunt with his younger cat brother, Kasper. He also loves to hike in the mountains and go swimming. However, his primary passion is snørekjøring.

In the sport of snørekjøring, better known to North Americans as skijoring, a human skier swoops over the snowscape, pulled along by a strong and fast animal or vehicle. As far as we know, Jesper is the only cat in this field dominated by dogs and horses! It started when a video of Jesper and his human Aina Stormo on a ski trip went viral in 2013. Harnessed by a thin lead, Jesper races ahead, clearly a determined and focused athlete. When he gets tired, he gives Aina a special signal – he flops down in the snow and refuses to move. She then scoops him and up and he enjoys a well-deserved rest, riding the rest of the way on her shoulders, the cold Nordic wind swirling through his fur and whiskers.

You can find out more about Jesperpus on his blog, <https://www.jesperpus.com/blog/>

Photo credit: <https://www.jesperpus.com/blog/>

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