



Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5  
Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio and Kentucky

The First Lodge in Ohio  
Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway  
April 2010

### **April meeting**

April 17, 2010 at 3:00 PM will be our Annual White Elephant Auction at the home of Glenn and Susie Mikaloff, 7472 Stone Ridge Dr, Springboro, OH 45066. Bring your white elephants (and/or other gently used items). This is a fundraiser for our Lodge and is always a lot of fun! Main dish is provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP to Susie at 937.748.8121.

### **May meeting**

17 Mai this year is on Monday and will be celebrated at the home of Kari Poe, 579 Belle Meade Farm Dr, Loveland, OH 45140. The festivities begin with games for the children and a parade to the gazebo with Norwegian flags waving. Please bring a dish to share. Time TBA.

### **June meeting**

Our Annual Summer Solstice Pool Party will be on June 19, 2010 at 3:00 PM at the home of Glenn and Susie Mikaloff. We will not have a meeting in July.

### **President's message**

Hello to all and Happy Spring!

I hope that the newsletter finds you well and enjoying the longer, warmer days that spring brings us. I know my family has been enjoying working in the yard and cleaning off the grill for BBQing!

First, I would like to send Get Well Wishes to several members of our Lodge who've been having health issues and hospital stays – we wish you well and hope you have a speedy recovery.

I'd like to say thank you to Anders and Donna Marstrander for hosting our last meeting where we learned so much about the Beowulf movie (available from Lodge Library) that Anders and Siri Timo

worked on last year. It was a very educational and entertaining meeting.

As we head into Spring/Summer our Lodge is coming up on our busiest and most exciting time of the year. Our lodge will be sending four members to our Districts Annual Convention in June. Those representing the lodge are Anders Marstrander, Esther Charlton, and Nina Downs, and Carol Luiso will be attending as an alternate. We wish them a safe trip and a wonderful time as they represent us at the convention.

We also have several fun meetings coming up. In April we will have our White Elephant Auction which is always A LOT of fun and our major fundraiser for the year. In May we will celebrate Syttende Mai and celebrate our Norwegian heritage, and in June we will have our annual pool party and Summer Solstice celebration. These are great opportunities to share with our friends and families the wonderful aspects of a Sons of Norway membership. Can I challenge each of you to invite one new person to one of these upcoming events? There is nothing more exciting than welcoming new people into our lodge family.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming meetings – it's going to be a very busy and fun-filled spring!

Respectfully,  
Jerry Elvrum

### **Nelda**

After successful knee replacement surgery on March 23, and three days in the hospital, she went to a rehab center for a week. She is now home and recuperating.

## Kari



Hi everyone,

My mom continues to improve. She is being moved from the rehab center at Bethesda North Hospital, to The Lodge on Union Cemetery road. We are first on the waiting list for a private room (probably by mid-week).

We took mom out for lunch today for Paul's birthday, and she did pretty well. It was nice to get her out of the hospital - it's been almost three weeks since her accident.

I want to thank everyone for the kind words, cards, email, flowers and many visits to my mom. There are no restrictions on visiting hours at The Lodge, and mom's therapy sessions won't consume her entire day as they have at BNH, so feel free to stop by and say hello to her.

We appreciate continued prayers as she continues to heal, and hope for her to come home soon.  
The Watts Family

## Scandinavian Folk Dancing Workshops

When: May 2 & 23 and June 6 & 13

Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Location: TBA

All are invited to these free, fun meetings! Harry Khamis, International Folk dance Instructor, will lead us to learn Scandinavian folk dances. No prior experience is needed and you do not have to come with partner. We'll start from scratch and during the workshops we will learn basic, traditional dance forms- all in a fun, dancer-friendly atmosphere.

Please wear casual, comfortable clothing and shoes that are good for pivoting on the floor.

The workshop will last a few hours with dance lessons and several breaks in between. Each session we learn more and review & practice the previous session's dances. You do not have to attend all the sessions even we do hope that you will. Bring something to drink and if you wish, please bring a snack that we can leave out on the table.

Information and RSVP:

Reija Huculak

(513)221-0057

[rhuculak@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rhuculak@cinci.rr.com)

## A Musical Journey Around the World

This is the title of this year's Dayton International Festival, which will take place the third weekend of May (14-16). This huge festival, which averages 15,000 people for the weekend, takes place at the Dayton Convention Center. Tickets purchased prior to the festival are only \$5.00 but they will be \$7.00 at the door. The lodge will have tickets available for those wishing to attend the festival.

Last year was our introduction to the festival and we were impressed by the variety of entertainment and foods from all over the world. We had a booth with a nice display of Norwegian culture focused on Edvard Grieg.

With the theme of the festival this year being music we will feature the Hardanger fiddle at our booth. In fact we will have two booths together so that we can sell gift items, mugs, t-shirts, etc along with letting people know about Sons of Norway.

You may check out the many details of the festival at their website [www.aworldafair.org](http://www.aworldafair.org).

We will need help in our booth. If you can help for a couple of hours during the weekend, contact Esther Charlton [esthersofn@aol.com](mailto:esthersofn@aol.com). Those that volunteer will get in to the festival free with a special worker pass, in that way you may enjoy the festival before or after helping at our booth. Here are the hours of the festival, Friday 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Once you express your interest to help and what time is best for you, we will make out a schedule so that everyone is not helping at the same time. If

enough people volunteer, we should be able to manage two hour shifts. If you any questions, call Esther at 513/923-3798



*Why visitors to Norway are advised to bring a camera and prepare for a lot of pictures. From Norway Post*

## Ashville Viking Festival

This is the seventh year for the festival and it just keeps growing. Our lodge will again have a booth and sell Norwegian gift items as a fundraiser for our lodge.

The Norseman, a 40 foot replica Viking longship will be at the festival and on Friday April 23, will sail on the Scioto River in Columbus. Check the festival website, [www.ashvillevikingfestival.com](http://www.ashvillevikingfestival.com) for details about sailing on the Norseman. Last year, Fred Sanborn took his grandsons on the ship, and they had a great time. Ashville is a small village about 20 miles south of Columbus. Admission to the festival is a canned good for their food pantry. If you have any questions about the festival, contact Esther Charlton for more information.

## Membership

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the three newest members of our lodge.

Rod Krokum has known about our lodge for years. In fact he came to a lodge meeting back in 2004 and also attended the two concerts we hosted by the Habbstad family. He and his wife came to our February meeting on Sonja Henie and decided it was time to join Sons of Norway.

Willie Smith found our booth at the Dayton Festival last year and talked with those in the booth and became interested in the culture of Norway. He decided to join Sons of Norway.

Karen Gutzwiller's brother Robert Jorgensen, who joined the lodge in January, has recruited his sister. Karen came to our February lodge meeting as Robert's guest and joined at our March meeting.

Karen brought her friend Debbie who plans to join soon.

If we all think about recruiting a friend or relative, we will bring more members into our lodge to enjoy our Norwegian culture and heritage.

Just a little reminder, When you receive your notice that your membership is due please remember to pay it promptly. If not paid within 60 days the computer automatically drops you from the membership. You can renew online, or call the 800 number (800-945-8851) to renew.

If you know someone who might be interested in membership, let me have their contact information. I will send materials regarding Sons of Norway membership and our lodge.

Thanks, Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

## Reading Circle

The next **Reading Circle** meeting will be Saturday, May 1, 2:30 p.m. at Panera Bread in the Deerfield Town Center off Mason Montgomery Road, in Mason.

We will be discussing the book *We Die Alone: A WWII Epic of Escape & Endurance* by David Howarth.

The Library Journal stated it was "one of the most remarkable survival stories ever written". Some of us have read it and found it's a page turner! Several copies are available through the Cincinnati Library system.

We always enjoy hearing about other Norwegian-related books, too.

Everyone welcome!

If you want more information contact Carol Luiso. 513.683.3631 or [CHLuiso@aol.com](mailto:CHLuiso@aol.com)

## Facts (and fiction) from Nordic Mythology and Norwegian History

It will be April when this gets published, and another 9<sup>th</sup> of April is coming up. This year it will be

70 years since the German troops invaded Norway in World War II. Rather than take you through the historic events of the spring of 1940 I'll share with you how the war affected my immediate family. Any inaccuracies are because I probably didn't pay enough attention in my younger years, I have tried to make up for that later.

When the German forces invaded Norway my father was living in Oslo, he was 24 years old and was just about to finish his studies at the University in Oslo. He reported for duty and took part in the fighting north of Oslo (Stryken). The fighting was hard and there were casualties on both sides, but most on the German side. The Norwegian forces held a hill side and were able to hold off the mostly larger German force for some time. Eventually they were forced to retreat, but they took up fighting again further north. The unit my father was assigned to was dismantled when they were in Snertingdal (near Gjøvik, by Lake Mjøsa). From there he had to ski all the way back to Oslo on his own. He later claimed that it was a nice trip, all though a bit long.

His older brother, Jacob, joined the resistance later that summer. Exactly what jobs he had for the resistance movement is not clear to me. However, in the summer of 1942 he was arrested by the Germans after trying to spy on the Gestapo head quarters in Oslo. He was held in Norway for about ½ a year before he was sent to a "Nacht und Nebel" (night and fog) camp in Natzweiler, Germany. He died there in 1944.

From what I understand my father also took part in the resistance, but on a smaller scale than his older brother. One thing he did was to deliver illegal newspapers, and thus help spread uncensored news about the war.

My mother was 13 years old when the country was invaded. She would start in high school during the war and have told several stories about how the German occupiers would control the schools and teachers. Both her parents were teachers at elementary / middle school level; I can vaguely remember stories about how they in a subtle way injected "forbidden" information in their teachings. They had to be careful, since some of the children came from families with ties to "Nasjonal Samling" – the Norwegian Nazi party.

Due to the age difference, my father's experience is more dramatic than those of my mother. They would both suffer from rationing of food and other

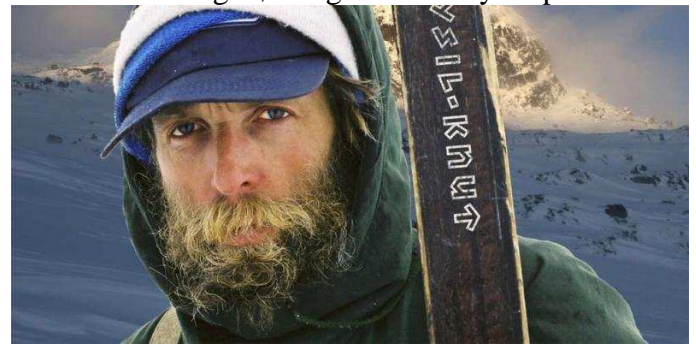
resources as well as the highly reduced flow of accurate information.

I think that one of my father's cousins stated it very well when he wrote 60 years later: "The war was a clear divider of time. Time was now either before, during or after the war. It brought me directly from childhood to adulthood. The war created a sense of unity that did not have any age or generation division."

Anders Marstrander

## Caveman, From News and Views

Sverre Nøkling lives a primitive life mostly on Norway's *Haukelifjell*, in the mountains between Oslo and Haugesund. A Norwegian filmmaker, Fridtjof Kjæreng, discovered Nøkling while out enjoying the mountains himself back in 1998, and started following Nøkling over a 10-year period.



The result is a film called *Snøhulemannen* ("The snow hole man"), which opened at Norwegian cinemas last week. It's had mixed reviews, but prompted Nøkling himself to take a rare trip back to civilization, to make the rounds of TV studios for interviews.

He told one talk-show host on Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) that he rather likes all the attention, and the movie project clearly provided some diversion from his daily, otherwise solitary life. He has chosen it himself, however, and also said he yearns to return to the quiet of the mountains after a trip to town.

Nøkling, now 58, made the decision to give up a conventional lifestyle back in the early 1980s. He has since roamed from cave to cave over both *Haukelifjell* and *Jotunheimen*, eking out an existence by living off the land and others' castoffs. His lifestyle all but ridicules the consumption-driven culture that engulfs most people. Nøkling claims that

it's entirely possible to live simply and leave the smallest possible environmental footprints.

He confides that his mother never gave up trying to get him to move back to civilization, and take over her apartment. He refused. When she died, she left it to him anyway, but only on the condition he live in it. It apparently remains empty.

Nøkling has money in the bank and doesn't have to live like a hermit in the wilderness. He simply enjoys it, without encouraging others to come be his neighbours. But he's apparently not alone. Reaction to his story in one outdoors magazine suggested there are others like him, wandering in the wilderness but also occasionally "helping themselves" to cabins and provisions owned by others.

### **From Alene:**

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

Government surveyors came to Ole's farm asking if they could do some surveying. Ole agreed and Lena even served them a nice noon meal. After their surveying was completed, they came back to Ole and said, "You were so kind to us, we wanted to give you this bad news in person instead of by letter. Ole replied, "What's the bad news?" The surveyors stated, "Well, after surveying, we discovered your farm is not in Iowa, but is actually in Minnesota!" Ole said, "That's the best news I've had in a long time. I was just telling Lena this morning, I don't think I can take another Iowa winter."

### **Birthdays**

#### **April**

Sonja Kinney[1], Katherine Sanders[2], Braden Watts[8], Angela Holmen[10], Logan Opals[13], Sarah Rudie[13], Robert Price, Jr.[18], Donna Kent[25], Robert Price Sr.[26], Walter Varland[27].

#### **May**

Taylor Luiso[9], Vicki Petreman[15], Dan Beckman[18], Erik Hamre[28].

#### **June**

Lance Larsen[2], Clare Williams[7], Fred Sanborn[9], Siri Timo[11], Pam Nelson[13], Randy Treer[15], Susan Price[18], Willie Smith[20], Joyce Kosobud[23], Foster Opals[23], Jerry Elvrum[24], Kjetil Marstrander[24], Carol Stone[25], Domnic Sedler[25], James Lee[27], Carol Luiso[28].

### **Norwegians are readers**

This week, hundreds of thousands of Norwegians are devouring murder mystery novels, good old-fashioned detective stories and what they call *påskekrim* (Easter crime). The Easter holidays in Norway are most associated with spring skiing, trips to the family cabin, lamb roasts and ham, oranges, and crime fiction, according to newspaper *Aftenposten*.

A new study called *Bokundersøkelsen 2010*, conducted by Norway's publishers' and book dealers' associations, showed that 90 percent of all Norwegian men and 97 percent of Norwegian women had read at least one or more books last year. Fully 48 percent of the women said they had read more than 10 books last year. It's not just crime fiction that turns Norwegians into page-turners – literature, biographies and political topics sell well, too, judging from the vast selection available in local book stores.

An "avid reader" was described in the survey as someone reading more than 30 books a year. Ten percent of Norwegian men fit that description, as did 16 percent of Norwegian women. And these figures come in a country where newly published hard-bound books routinely cost more than NOK 400 in the stores (nearly USD 70).

The study showed that not only do Norwegians read, they are most likely to choose a book when giving someone a gift. Nearly 80 percent of parents are also likely to read aloud to their children at least three times a week. Books are also the most common gift given to children.

So Norwegians seem to grow up with books. "The most important thing is that we top the charts internationally with our reading," Randi Øgrey of the book dealers' organization *Bokhandlerforeningen* told newspaper *Aftenposten*. "We have 640 book stores in Norway, we have book clubs and more books are being sold in grocery stores. Fewer people think books are expensive."

The advent of electronic books and competition from other media doesn't worry Øgrey. "Our goal is to maintain this high level, no matter what the format," she told newspaper *Dagens Næringsliv (DN)*. Views and News from Norway/



Thousands turned out for the grand opening of the new Holmenkollen Ski Jump in Oslo on Sunday. PHOTO: Views and News

Remember to go to:

website: [www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html](http://www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html)

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## KALENDER

April 17th White Elephant Sale  
17<sup>th</sup> of May

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5  
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