



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

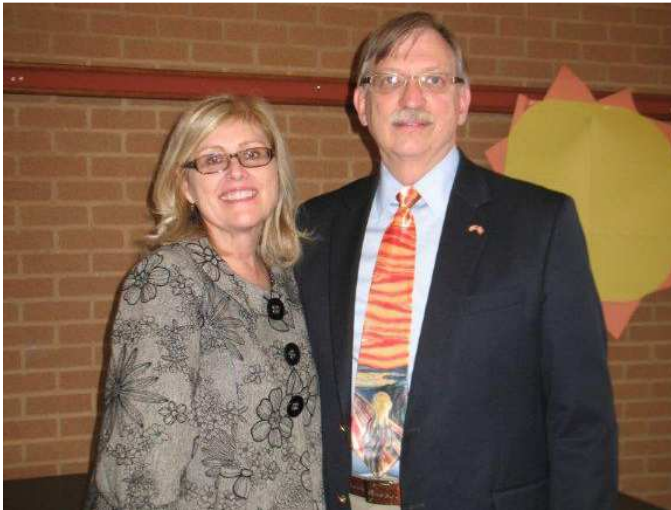
- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

April 2015

From the President

For those of you that attended our March lodge meeting, we certainly enjoyed a very interesting presentation by Dennis Flessland. Dennis is one of 33 Consuls for Norway in the United States. We heard about some of the interesting situations in which he was involved as a Consul.



Dennis and Jan Flessland

There are some great lodge events in the next few months. On Sunday, April 19, we will be at Paul and Laurie Johnson's new house. It is a timber frame home with Norwegian influences.

Then on Sunday, May 17, there will be the annual potluck to celebrate Syttende Mai at the Mikaloff's. Spring is also the time for festivals. The last weekend of April is the Ashville Viking Festival. The third weekend of May (15-17) is the Dayton International Festival.

There is more information elsewhere in the newsletter about the lodge meetings and festivals. Bring a friend to one of our events.

We are always on the search for new lodge members. If you know of someone that would be interested in our lodge, do bring them to a meeting

or give us their name and we will send them information about Sons of Norway.

Esther Charlton, President

Birthdays

April

Sonja Kinney[1], Katherine Sanders[2], Braden Watts[8], Logan Opals[13], Sharon Smythe[22], Walter Varland[27], Laurie Johnson[30].

May

Dan Beckman[18], Rachel Jorgensen[22].

June

Lance Larsen[2], Clare Williams[7], Fred Sanborn[9], Pam Nelson[13], Karl Hoalst[14], Dominic Sedler[25], James Lee[27], Carol Luiso[28].

April Lodge Meeting

Sunday, April 19 – 3 p.m.

Take a Sunday afternoon drive to Oregonia to tour Laurie and Paul Johnson's new timber frame home and learn how their home was built. The Johnson's have added a Scandinavian decor.

Please bring either an appetizer or dessert. We'll have time to visit with our fellow lodge members and guests.

You won't want to miss this meeting!

Location: 2765 North Waynesville Rd, Oregonia, OH 45054

Call Laurie at 513.932.8291

or plj2605@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP

Ashville Viking Festival

April 25, 10a.m.-7p.m. & April 26, 10a.m.-5p.m.



This is the 12th year for the festival in Ashville, which is about 20 miles south of Columbus.

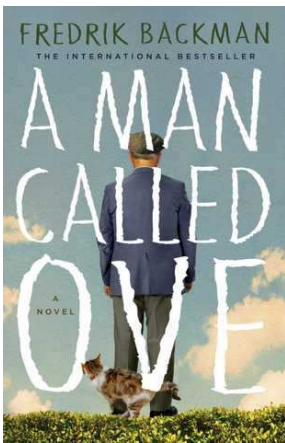
This is an outdoor festival, so it's a great opportunity for a day trip if the weather is good. There will be a variety of entertainment, including music, dance, sword play, and jousting.

Our lodge participates in the festival with a booth promoting Sons of Norway and our lodge.

Here is their website for more information on the festival: <http://www.ashvillevikingfest.com>

Reading Circle

May 2, 2:30-4 p.m.



Our book choice for the meeting on Saturday, May 2, is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.

An editorial review stated: "If there was an award for Most Charming Book of the Year, this first novel by Swedish blogger, turned overnight sensation would win hands down".

The story is about Ove (OH-veh), a 59 years old widower who has just been arbitrarily retired after 30 years in the same job. His world now revolves around his home and neighborhood housing complex where he rules the roost making sure that all local rules and regulations are followed. While many think that he is just a rude and grumpy man, he is a very kind person.

The book has received rave reviews and has more humor than many of the Scandinavian books we've read. Several copies are available through the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Library.

We meet at Panera Bread (across from Tri-County), 405 E. Kemper Rd. Cincinnati 45246. Join us for the discussion. Everyone welcome!

Any questions? Contact Carol Luiso
513.683.3631 CHLuiso@aol.com

A World A'Fair

May 15-17



This is a wonderful international festival at which over 30 ethnic organizations have cultural exhibits. Many of the booths feature food from their countries.

The theme of this year's festival is "Architectural Wonders of the World". We plan to focus on the Stave churches as part of our booth's cultural display.

The festival is held in the Dayton Convention Center, which is in downtown Dayton. There is a parking garage with a walkway to the convention center.

Your children and grandchildren will greatly enjoy the festival. They get a passport and then go around to all the booths and have it stamped when they answer a question about the culture of that country.

The lodge will have advance festival tickets for sale at a reduced price of \$5.00. The ticket price is higher if you get them the day of the festival. Contact Esther or Nelda for tickets.

We do need helpers at our booth for the festival. If you can help us during the festival please contact Esther to discuss what times you are available.

You may check the festival website www.aworldafair.org for more information.

Syttende Mai Celebration

Sunday, 17 May – 4 p.m.

Susie and Glenn Mikaloff have graciously invited us to their home again this year to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day. The signing of the Constitution took place in Eidsvoll 201 years ago!

Notice Syttende Mai is on a Sunday this year. Bring a favorite dish to share for our potluck meal. RSVP to Susie at 937.748.8121 and if you need directions.

Summer Solstice Celebration

Midsummer Fest Pool Party!

Saturday, June 13 – 3 p.m.

Bring the family...children, grandchildren for a fun afternoon at the Mikaloff's in Springboro.

This is the 16th year Susie and Glenn have hosted. Glenn will grill his famous "Bjorn Burgers" and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

We'll celebrate Edvard Grieg's birthday, a couple of days early. Grieg was born in Bergen, 172 years ago on June 15, 1843.

Mark your calendars for the **second** Saturday of June.

RSVP to Susie 937.748.8121
g_mikaloff@email.msn.com or
Carol 513.683.3631 CHLuiso@aol.com

Overgang: Completing an Education and Beginning a Career

By Alisa S. Jordheim



When I am asked what I do, I usually respond with something like: "I am an opera singer who is also a scholar and author on Scandinavian song and diction, and I have a doctoral degree in voice." This is usually followed by bewilderment on the part of the inquirer. The freelance

career of an opera singer, especially in the United States, is one of transience and instability, but it is also exhilarating and rewarding. I have written in detail about pursuing an operatic career in America, and you can find a copy on my website, www.alisasuzannejordheim.com for more information. My purpose here is to explain why there is more to what I do than just singing opera and what my long-term career goals are as a result of my education and experiences.

After growing up as an only child in a musical family (my parents are music teachers at Lawrence University), I chose to attend Lawrence University from 2004-2006 and then transferred to the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) to pursue more fully my career goal of becoming a professional vocalist. My paternal great-great grandparents were farmers who immigrated to North Dakota from Hemsedal. My family is very proud of its Scandinavian heritage and rightly so! During my first years at CCM, my paternal grandparents traveled to the fatherland in Norway and brought back for me the music to Grieg's song "En svane." I was immediately struck by the song's gorgeous harmonies and moved deeply by its lyrical melody and melancholic poetry. It was at that moment I knew I had to learn more about the music of my ancestors.

I chose to include a group of Grieg songs on my senior recital program (including "En svane"), which, unbeknownst to me at the time, would inspire my desire to share this Nordic repertoire with more audiences. It also made clear what would become my cognate field for my Doctor of Musical Arts degree (DMA) – Scandinavian Song and Diction. After I obtained my Bachelor of Music degree from CCM in 2008, I stayed at CCM to pursue my Master of Music degree while continuing to study Scandinavian song and diction. Also during that time, I became a certified nursing assistant and worked for a health care company providing in-home care to patients in Cincinnati, and music and health care continue to be among my primary passions.

I greatly value thinking and learning, and I believe my upbringing greatly influenced my love of academics and study. Because of this, as well as the opportunity to keep studying with my voice teacher, I chose to pursue my DMA degree at CCM where I

was given a voice teaching assistantship. The degree program enabled me to create my own cognate field (specialization) of Scandinavian Song and Diction, as well as to accumulate teaching experience and to continue to develop my own vocal artistry. My DMA coursework took two years to complete, and during those years, I was thrilled to find a phenomenal Norwegian tutor in Trine Wernes via correspondence with Esther Charlton. Trine was instrumental in my learning of Norwegian language and pronunciation in preparation for my Scandinavian song recitals and time abroad.

After completing my DMA coursework in 2012 (I still had some performance requirements to complete but was allowed to leave campus), I accepted a year-long studio artist position with Florentine Opera in Milwaukee, and I applied for and was awarded a Fulbright Foundation grant and an American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship for study of Scandinavian Song and Diction in Norway during the 2013-2014 academic year. While in Norway, I worked with Dr. Wencke Ophaug (a phonetician and native Norwegian) on transcribing Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish song texts into the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) with an aim to aid non-native singers in performing this repertoire. Also, being given the opportunity to visit the land of my ancestors in Hemsedal and meeting relatives in Norway was an experience I will cherish always. Both my year with the Florentine Opera and my residency at the University of Oslo as a guest researcher were invaluable, life-changing experiences, and they enabled me to work for extended periods of time in two environments I deeply value – artistic creativity and academic study.

Much has happened since my return to the United States in June of 2014. I have completed all requirements for my DMA degree and will graduate as Dr. Jordheim from CCM on May 1, 2015; I have obtained an agent in New York City who assists me in arranging performances and auditions internationally; and I have published an article on Scandinavian Song and Diction in the NATS Journal of Singing. The article is just the first of many documents I hope to publish on my study of Scandinavian Song and Diction, and now that I am done with my DMA degree, I will be able to devote even more time to such projects.

I started my DMA degree in 2010, finished my coursework in 2012, and completed all requirements for the degree in January 2015. It has been a long and challenging journey completing my various degrees, but there was never a moment when I thought I wouldn't obtain my goals – I am Norwegian after all, and we Norwegians are determined! As I mentioned at the beginning, the career of an opera singer in America is unstable; however, I plan to continue working as an opera singer, teacher/scholar, and nursing assistant in the Midwest or in NYC. This is a time of exciting and uncertain transition for me, but I can't wait to see what the future brings! I do know that exposing audiences to the remarkable music of Scandinavia will always be a part of my vocation, and I am so grateful for the Grieg Lodge's support of my endeavors – tusen takk!

- Alisa S. Jordheim, 3/19/2015

A Room with a View Holmenkollen's Penthouse *article by Viking e-post*



Oslo's famous Holmenkollen ski jump has turned its glass observation room into a trendy apartment for two. The ski jump penthouse apartment was featured on the worldwide accommodation leader, Airbnb, with a competition for two lucky winners to spend the night. The only requirements asked was that contestants write, in 100 words or less, why they would like to stay in this unique setting. The competition went viral and the [pictures are extraordinary](#).

At 318 feet high it's pretty easy to feel a little nervous but for many the views and uniqueness of the experience are alluring enough. "It was a

wonderfully quirky idea that came to life,” said Jeanette Hansen, who is in charge of Holmenkollen operations. After hosting the Ski Jumping World Cup this month, the apartment will get transformed from an observation deck to a one bedroom, half bath, fully furnished apartment. Amenities include kitchen and linen essentials, free parking, wireless internet and breakfast.

“It's a great way to showcase one of the top tourist destinations in Norway to a world of travelers,” Hansen said. There is no doubt that this will do just that. Two winners will get one night each (with a guest) and have an experience of a lifetime. All expenses paid for travel, food, activities and of course, lodging. The listing on Airbnb describes the space as such: “Set at the top of the ski jump where champions prepare for flight, the apartment’s floor to ceiling windows give you one of the best views imaginable of Oslo, snowcapped mountains and endless forest.” There is no doubt guests will love the views and enjoy the rest of what Holmenkollen has to offer.



Holmenkollen has been hosting ski jumping competitions for over 100 years including, most notably, the 1952 Winter Olympics. Recently renovated in 2010, [Holmenkollen](#) is the world’s most modern ski jump. The site offers visitors a variety of experiences including the world’s oldest ski jumping museum, guided tours to the top (250 steps up), sporting events and competitions year round, a ski simulator, zip-lining and a full service café.

Holmenkollen has been around for a while and continues to do well with upgrading and staying in tune to modern time. With creative ideas like this one who knows what coming next?

Ole & Lena Humor

Ole and Lena had never been camping and they heard about a nice campground near Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Lena was worried about the toilet facilities, so she wrote a letter to the campground owner. Where Lena lived, it was common for people to say “L.C.” or “Lavatory Commode” instead of “toilet”. Being rather prim, Lena didn't want to say toilet or Lavatory Commode, so she simply asked in her letter if the camp has an L.C.

The campground owner read Lena's letter and puzzled about the initials L.C. finally decided it meant LUTHERAN CHURCH and wrote back to Lena the following letter:

"I am happy to inform you there is a local L.C. located nine miles north of the camp ground. I realize this is kind of far if you are used to going regular. It is really a nice one...it seats 250 people. The last time my wife and I went was 6 years ago and it was so crowded we had to wait 20 minutes to be seated. Some people like it so much that they bring their lunch and make a day of it. There is going to be a fund raising dinner in the basement of the L.C. and they're going to use the money to buy more seats. It pains me that I can't go more often like I know I should, but it gets more difficult when you get older, especially in the winter. So, you come down and stay at our camp, and maybe we can go with you the first time and sit with you and I'll introduce you to all the nice folks around here, because, after all, this is a very friendly community."

Norway Trivia



In Norway, The Lærdal road tunnel on road E16 is the world's longest road tunnel, total 24.5 kilometers (15 miles). It is an ordinary two-lane undivided highway. To reduce mental strain and claustrophobia the tunnel has three large caves with blue or green light. The tunnel was built as part of an effort to make the main road between Oslo and Bergen unaffected by winter storms.

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