



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

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

Meeting Schedule

June Annual Summer Solstice Pool Party

Saturday June 19th at 3:00PM, at Glenn and Susie Mikaloff's home, 7472 Stone Ridge Dr. Springboro Ohio, 45066. Bring swim suits and shades. Please bring side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP Susie Mikaloff 937-748-8121 or

ninadowns@fuse.net.

July no monthly meeting, see Reading Circle info.

August Meeting—Runestones

Saturday August 21st. Speaker Michael Lindner, VP of The Scandinavian Club of Columbus, at Jerry and Tillie Elvrum's home in Maineville.

September Meeting

Travel highlights from Norway, Russia, and Antarctica by Tom Varland. Colerain Ave. IHOP.

President's Message

Summer is here and it's a very exciting time for our Sons of Norway Lodge. May was a busy and fun month for our lodge. The weekend of May 14th, 15th, and 16th the lodge participated in the Dayton International Festival. I would like to thank Esther Charlton and Nelda Chandler for their efforts in organizing our booth. They attended multiple meetings in Dayton in the last year, and prepared the way for a very successful event. Mange Takk to all our volunteers that made the festival a fun way to celebrate our Norwegian heritage. We talked to many people about Sons of Norway, the Edvard Grieg Lodge, and what we do...we talked to many people of Scandinavian descent that had no idea there was a lodge in their area. This is an excellent event to publicize our lodge. We look forward to

seeing growth in our lodge membership because of this event.



President Jerry Elvrum(middle) congratulating Pam and Conrad Nelson on their recruiting efforts during White Elephant Sale meeting..

Please join me in wishing Anders Marstrander, Nina Downs, Carol Luiso, and Esther Charlton safe travels to the Sons of Norway District 5 Convention in Wisconsin. Anders, Nina, and Esther will be representing the lodge at convention – they will be attending workshops, panels, and will be voting on matters important to Sons of Norway Lodges in our region. Carol will be attending the convention as our alternate. We look forward to their update when they return.

If you haven't attended a lodge meeting in awhile I encourage you to join us for our June Summer Solstice Party. This party is graciously hosted by Glenn and Suzie Mikaloff every year. They open up their home and beautiful pool for an afternoon of food and fun. Don't worry...you don't have to put

on a swimsuit if you don't want to, but you do have to come prepared to have a good time! And if you have children or grandchildren, this is the perfect time to get them involved in our meetings...Sons of Norway isn't always about Lefse and Lutefisk!

Remember, there will be no lodge meeting in July, but we'll see you in August. Enjoy your summer!
Jerry Elvrum

Meeting recap

The April meeting is the popular and fun event called White Elephant Sale. Held since the beginning of time at Susie and Glenn Mikaloff's home, this event not only brings some needed revenue to the Lodge, (necessary to fund Juletefest) but also is the funniest event in our schedule. Glenn the consummate auctioneer and Susie the inspired hostess makes this a "can't miss" event. Go the follow-up this month to enjoy their hospitality.



Picture from White Elephant Sale, the master of ceremony and her owner Glenn.

The May meeting was the fabulous 17th of May dinner meeting at Kari Poe's home. Always a benchmark event of the year, anticipated as much as Juletefest, this meeting announces that summer is here (in spirit). Kari's recent trip to the hospital, and recuperation made this event extra special. Kari was nearly 100%, and as always a fantastic hostess. We all shared a breath of relief for one of our favorite charter members.

Dayton International Festival

For our first effort at having a booth at the festival, we were quite successful.

We stamped "Mange Takk" on the passports and explained what it meant. We may have stamped as many as 1000 passports.



Jerry and JD bonding in Dayton

A big round of thanks goes to all those that helped in the booth during the weekend: Teresa Lowen, Donna Marstrander, Rod & Lenora Krokum, Nelda Chandler, Tim & Connie Holmen, Jerry, Tillie & JD Elvrum, Rob Jorgensen and Bob Charlton. We all had fun manning the booth and taking time to eat our way around the world.

Many people stopped to find out about Sons of Norway and we have a list of those wishing further contact.

We had merchandise for sale as a fundraiser and the Fuzzy Vikings were the #1 hot item. Another hot item was the "Uff Da" mugs. We explained Uff Da to many, many people. As we now have some carry over merchandise, it will be put out at an occasional lodge meeting in place of our monthly raffle. There will be a catalog for you to get an idea of things you would like to order for the future. This will help take the guesswork out of the ordering process.

Tillie took a lot of photos of the festival and the potluck at Kari's and you may see them. There is a link to them on the message board of our lodge website.

Hopefully, next year many of you will have the time to come to festival, enjoy the food, entertainment and cultural exhibits.

Esther



Norwegian Expressions by Sandra Nelson

Probably the Norwegian expression best known to Norwegian Americans is Uff da which seeks to convey: disgruntlement.

“Da” means “then”.

“Uff da” means, “uff, then”.

“Ja da” means “yes, then”.

“Nei da” means “no, then”.

Uff da is waking yourself up in church with your own snoring.

Uff da is looking in your rear view mirror and seeing flashing red lights.

Uff da is trying to dance the polka to rock and roll music.

Uff da is losing your wad of gum in the chicken yard.

Uff da is having Swedish meatballs at a Norwegian dinner.

Uff da is eating hot soup when you've got a runny nose.

Uff da is walking into a room and wondering what you wanted.

Uff da is discovering that your male dog is pregnant!

Uff da is NOT being a Norwegian.

Uff da is when you step OVER it.

Fy da is when you step IN it.

Facts (and fiction) from Nordic Mythology and Norwegian History

Birkebeinere (Birch Leggings) was the name given to a group of soldiers who have become legendary in Norwegian history. Technically they were not soldiers to begin with, but rather a group of people joined together in the time of Civil War in Norway (1130 -1240).

This Civil War was a result of several pretenders to the Norwegian Crown. One of them was named

Eystein Meyla, and his followers were given the derogatory name of “Birkebeinere” – Birch Leggings to indicate how poor they were. They turned it around and adopted the name for themselves. The name Birch Leggings hinted in a not so subtle way to them being poor and not able to afford proper clothing, but had to wrap bark from birch trees around their legs.

I am not going to dwell too much into the Civil War this time. The background was unclear laws of succession to the Crown, and the two major factions rallied around their candidate.

What has made Birkebeinerne famous is the tale of how they rescued the young king by taking him from Lillehammer to Trondheim. Young king Haakon was only about two years old and a prime target for assassination by the other side. If he could be killed, the Birkebeiner side of the war would not have a royal candidate to rally around. A group of Birkebeinere wrapped the young king in warm clothes and carried him on skis across the mountains to Lillehammer. By doing so they saved his life, and he later became a very important ruler of Norway who contributed to the shaping of northern Europe in his time. King Haakon’s capital was in Bergen, and his great hall (Haakonshallen) is still there and I am sure that most of you who have been to Bergen have seen it. King Haakon’s rise to be the undisputed king of Norway is also the base of the play by Henrik Ibsen; The Pretenders (Kongsemnerne) from 1863.



The painting by Knut Bergslien has made this trip famous (see picture). This picture of two Birkebeinere carrying the young king is well known and reproduced on posters, jewelry, various souvenirs etc. Each year there is also a cross country (or should I say cross mountain) ski race called Birkebeiner-rennet. There is also an annual bicycle race from Trondheim to Oslo called Birkebeiner-rittet. In the USA there are annual cross country skiing events honoring the Birkebeiner tradition.

Reading Circle

The next meeting for our **Reading Circle** will be Saturday, July 10 at 2:30 p.m.

We'll meet at the Panera Bread store near the Deerfield Town Center. The address is: 5095 Deerfield Blvd in Mason.

It will be your choice of a Norwegian-related book for this meeting.

Everyone invited!

For information, contact Carol Luiso @513-683-3631 or CHLuiso@aol.com



17th of May in Oslo. From News and Views of Norway, picture from NRK.

Membership

We have a couple of new members to welcome this month, and they are related to each other. David Johnson was given the gift of membership by his parents. Then he recruited his mother Laurie Johnson into the lodge. Both David and his parents have been to several lodge meetings during the past year. David found our lodge by way of Tillie's Facebook page.

Rachel Jorgensen, daughter of Rob Jorgensen is now a Heritage member. She has already been to a couple of meetings/events with her father.

Our membership has been at 125 members for the last few months. Let us see if we can nudge it up to the next plateau of 130 members.

In addition to our lodge website which has gained us new members, there is now a lodge Facebook page. We did have several people stop by our booth at the Dayton Festival and wished for further follow-up information on our lodge. With all of these resources, plus the good old word of mouth, let's be ready to welcome some new members.

If you need a membership application, or know of someone that might be interested in Sons of Norway, do let me know of them.

Many thanks,

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary



Not a "faked" picture, be prepared with your camera when you visit Norway.

La Comedia Play, by Linda Burge

An afternoon with the "Church Basement Ladies" made for a hilarious day for nearly thirty of our lodge members recently!

The matinee play, held at the La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro, was exceptionally funny! It provided so many laughs and brought back fond memories for those who grew up in Midwest Lutheran Norwegian churches.

Set in the mid-1960's, the play revolved around the women who ran the church basement kitchens. They were the group who provided meals for the congregation following funerals, weddings, fund raisers and Lutefisk dinners and any other reception needed.

Lutefisk and lefse, rommegrot, punch, dessert bars, jello molds...all these brought back memories of our days growing up in the Lutheran church. For those of Norwegian heritage the innuendos regarding Lutheran ways, great food and treasured memories was especially fun.

Our group of nearly thirty was recognized as one of the featured groups in attendance. Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota natives brought us back to our roots of happy days spent in the church. We reveled in the humor and were amazed at the connection we all felt.

The "Church Basement Ladies" will be playing at La Comedia into July. We highly encourage it to our Lodge members. And...the selection of foods offered at the buffet was extremely good.

Make arrangements to attend if you can. You will truly enjoy. Originated in Minneapolis, we are lucky to have this play available to us in Ohio.

As those special "Church Basement Ladies" might say...it was a hoot!

A special "tusen takk" to Sandy Nelson and Carol Luiso for organizing this special event for our Lodge membership!



Sons of Norway at 17th of May event.

Birthdays

June

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

July

Janice Ohlsen Betscher[7], Tim Holmen[9], Elaine Varland[10], Maria Luiso[13], Marlne Opsahl Kennedy[15], Roy Solvick[16], Jorgen Jorgensen[17], Judy Merrick[19], Gary Morem[26], Beth Monson[27], William Halverson[28], Anders Marstrander[29], Tom Varland[29], Anders Juel[30], and Kristin Szava[31].

August

Sandy Nelson[12], Diane Person [12], Austin Scherbarth[13], Diane Flautt[14], Jean Crocker-Lakness[15], Eric Karam[15], Helen Hippert[22], Benjamin Downs[27], and Melanie Petreman[29].



The New York Times recommends the "Stunning Lyngen Alps" in Northern Norway as one of the "31 places to Go in 2010", and asks "Who needs a penthouse suite when you can book a lighthouse on a private island ? "The US newspaper writes that with an acclaimed new opera house and plenty of high-end dining options, [Oslo](#) is already a must-visit urban destination. But this year the focus should be on the wilds of the Norwegian countryside. With its dazzling Nordic light and dramatic landscape, Norway is perhaps the most unexplored and exotic corner of [Europe](#).

- Having convinced the world that its fjords and southern coastline make the country a great summer getaway, Norwegians have begun showcasing its charms as a winter destination

The paper says that specialized trekking and ski tours can open up pristine areas of the north like the stunning Lyngen Alps, with high-speed boats to shuttle across the fjord to ski trails that would otherwise be inaccessible.

And the country's indifference to trendy boutique hotels and splashy resorts — long the lament of global tourism professionals — is just what appeals to a more discerning clientele. "Who needs a penthouse suite when you can book a lighthouse on a private island?" writes New York Times correspondent Andrew Ferren.

(NRK)

Remember to go to:

website: www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html

Officers:

President

Jerry Elvrum
513-683-5826
Elvrumjtj@aol.com

Vice-President

Nina Downs
513-608-0364
ninatdowns@fuse.net

Secretary

Tillie Elvrum
513-683-5826
Elvrumjtj@aol.com

Treasurer

Anders Marstrander
513-398-4285
Anders@Marstrander.com

Adopt-A-School

Donna Marstrander
513-398-4285
dmarstrander@gmail.com

Tubfrim

Alene Rice
513-771-4378
Clocks@zoomtown.com

Membership

Esther Charlton
513-923-3798

Newsletter

Per Flem
513-791-8942

Social Director

Nina Downs
513-608-0364

ninatdowns@fuse.net

Webmaster

Lois Evensen
513-281-8408

Lois@evensens.net

KALENDER

Saturday June19,Summer Pool Party

Saturday August 21, Runestones

**Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5
Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio**

C/O Esther Charlton
3798 Susanna Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45251

Esthersofn@aol.com Perflem@rectomolded.com

Publicity

Siri Timo
614-389-2518

Siri@Columbus.rr.com

Raffle Chair

Nelda Chandler

nelda1961@cinci.rr.com

Foundation

Carol Luiso
513-683-3631

CHLuiso@aol.com

Cultural Chair

Susie Mikaloff

937-748-8121

G.Mikaloff@email.msn.com