



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

20th Anniversary

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

| Sept 2020

Notes from Lodge President

Kjære Venner:

I hope all are doing well. As you know, we are continuing to hold our Lodge meetings by Zoom. We are following the guidance of the SoN International office regarding meeting planning, which suggests we attend to state and local recommendations for gatherings while minimizing risk to our members, particularly those who may be vulnerable. As of now September and October meetings will be held by Zoom, with November to be determined. While this does not adequately replace our in-person events, our Zoom meetings have been well attended and have gone well. It is also very nice to see our members who are distant, as Zoom provides the opportunity for them to join us and get to know each other. I would like to continue 'Zooming' for our distant members when we resume in-person meetings, as well as allow our local members who can't easily travel to attend. We continue to have strong programs, including our most recent one, featuring Karl Halvorson sharing his Thru-hike adventures on the Appalachian Trail.

A couple of other items: we were not able to take advantage of a matching grant for Lodge donations to food banks, but we will be making a contribution from our Lodge nonetheless. I would also like to remind everyone about the availability of our District 5 card decks (details follow below). Without an in-person meeting in October, we will not be able to hold our auction to raise money for the SoN Foundation, but have come up with an alternative strategy (see Foundation article below).

Vær trygg og vel,

Jim

Birthdays

September

Kjell Evensen[3], Ordelle Hill[4], Nancy Vallette[6], David Bratten[9], Larry Welin[19], Chris Butterworth[20], JoAnn Krugh[26], James P. Herman[28].

October

Curtis Anderson[13], Judy Pieper[15], Susan Herman[16], Bryce Pillman[20], Nelda Chandler[25], Arlene Nelson[31].

November

Dario Sedler[1], Dianne Clark[5], Harold Shirkey[10], Glen Mikaloff[14], Trine Wernes[15], Michael Luiso[29].

Member's Norwegian memories

Here are some Norwegian memories from Sandy Nelson, another one of our charter members:

"First and foremost what I have enjoyed from being a member of the Sons of Norway is the understanding of what and why we did and ate as a kid growing up in a mostly Norwegian community in Wisconsin:

*Doesn't everybody eat lutefisk at Christmas?
(a complainer here and there)*

All adults talk with some Norwegian words in a conversation except the teacher, don't they?

Don't everyone's grandparents have a subscription to a Norwegian publication?

Doesn't everyone drink coffee when they grow up?

The list goes on. I thought these were ordinary things that everyone lived. It was living my heritage, only I didn't know it.

As an example, my grandfather, who immigrated as a married 23 year old with two daughters, would come to our house on the farm, grab a chair and sit under our Mountain Ash tree and read his Norwegian newspaper time and time again. I asked my parents why he did that and they didn't know why, but that he just likes to!

My trip to Norway gave me my answer. At the time of year that I was there, the Mountain Ash trees were in full bloom of the orange berries and they were strikingly beautiful among the evergreens. As we had several evergreen trees in and around our Mountain Ash, as well, I truly believe he felt a little bit of his "homeland" while reading his Norwegian newspaper under that tree. I have other moments of understanding like this.

The light has turned on many times while sharing experiences and learning the history behind many things through conversations and meetings of our lodge. I suppose it is nostalgic for me and so the good memories flow. I have learned to understand and appreciate Norwegian thinking and attitudes that existed yesterday and today. It is marvelous.

Of course, our Julefests are definitely a highlight!"

- Sandy Nelson

October is Foundation Month for Sons of Norway!

Our wonderful lodge makes an annual contribution to Sons of Norway foundation. The money we give is usually raised by our White Elephant auction, graciously hosted by Susie and Glenn Mikaloff.

Since we will not be having an in-person event this year, we are challenging our members to make a \$20 donation in honor of our lodge's 20th anniversary! Of course, any donation is greatly appreciated!

Sons of Norway uses this money to fund many wonderful opportunities and programs. Camps, Scholarships, exchange programs, disaster relief and Cultural Heritage grants for lodges are some of the many things our National Foundation supports with our gifts.

We have, ourselves been the recipient of such grants. In the past we have hosted opera singer Alisa Jordheim, and hosted a Norwegian culture program.

Donations can be made anytime now thru Oct. 18. Make checks out to "Edvard Grieg Lodge", indicate "Foundation donation". Mail to lodge treasurer Liv Ramstad, 2608 Ardmore Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45237.

More information can be found at sofn.com/foundation

Pam & Konrad Nelson, Foundation

Upcoming lodge meetings (virtual)

September, October and November lodge meeting planned topics are:

1) The Erie Canal: Immigrant Gateway to the West (in the early 1800s Norwegians traveled the canal, especially those who immigrated thru New York)

2) Norwegian emigration to the US, featuring the Norwegian Emigrant Museum (Utvandermuseet or 'Open Air Museum') in Hamar, Norway

3) Biking in and around Norway

More detailed information forthcoming by email, or check the Edvard Grieg Lodge website for future updates.

(<http://www.evensens.net/sons/sonscalendar.html>).

Takk to Kathy Skinner for originally planning to host in September. We hope to be able to plan a meeting in Tipp City sometime next year when we can meet again in person.

Recaps

At July's virtual 'social' meeting, a few members shared Fun Facts about Norway or family, and we all shared a bit about our family heritage.

Tusen takk and kudos to Karl Halvorson for his presentation on August 29. Not only did Karl begin preparing 2-3yrs in advance, training for his 2019 Appalachian Trail Thru-Hike Attempt, he then walked and hiked for around 80 days and almost 900 miles. In his presentation Karl kept us mesmerized and in awe of all the challenges one faces in attempting this hike, as well as in seeing the beauty along the trail. We had 21 attending this virtual meeting.



Member Susan Herman picked as Top Photographer for Playing Cards

In the 2020 District 5 Scandinavian Photo Contest, Clark Brekke and Susan Herman were picked as top photographers throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee for their excellent views of Nordic life. Their winning photos will be included in a playing card deck from Sons of Norway District 5.

Here is what their playing cards will look like:



J-hearts: Clark Brekke *

#1159 Boats docked on Geirangerfjord

Private pleasure boats at dock on a crystal-clear early summer morning.

10-spades: Susan Herman *

#1278 Otto the reindeer at Ersfjordbotn

Seeing reindeer for the first time, all of us were amazed at this one, nicknamed Otto by the townspeople. Leaving town to fly back to Oslo, just on the outskirts of town, Otto was in the middle of the road. We had to stop, wait, and drive around him. Saying goodbye to us? Taken on our family trip to Norway in 2016.

You can view all 331 photos entered in the contest here:

<http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/galleries/details/27-District-5-Scandinavian-Photo-Contest>

You can order the Scandinavian Photo Contest playing cards here:

http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/financial/district_5_merchandise.php

Thank you Karl, and we are so very proud of you!
Susan Herman, Social Director

Gratulerer til Jim Herman

Our Lodge President, Jim Herman, received word in early July that he was the recipient of the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology (ISPNE), for his work on understanding the biology of stress. The organization convenes each year, alternating between cities in the US and Europe. Jim gave a presentation to the organization on August 27.

Anders Sandvig: the dentist who founded Maihaugen



Anders Sandvig, born on May 11, 1862, grew up in Husdal on the west Coast of Norway. His father was a fisherman. Anders, however, suffered from seasickness and did not follow in his father's footsteps. Instead he became an apprentice to a goldsmith located in Kristiansund. At that time goldsmiths made the goldwork dentists used to fix the teeth of their patients. Because apprentices were often assigned to do this work, Anders became interested in dentistry. To learn more about dentistry he left the goldsmith and started working and studying dentistry with dentist Olsen, also in Kristiansund. He later moved to Kristiania, today's Oslo, to finish his education to become a dentist. On a trip to Germany to further his education it was discovered he suffered from tuberculosis and he returned to Norway and settled in Gjøvik where he had practiced before leaving for Germany. His doctors predicted he was so ill he would only have a few months to live. However, he miraculously recovered, even though he had been

close to death. He had heard that the climate in Lillehammer, a short distance away on the other side of Lake Mjøsa, was particularly healthy for patients with lung illness. In the winter of 1855 with only 10 borrowed kroner in his pocket, he moved to Lillehammer. The town did not have a dentist at that time and Anders was hired to serve as dentist for Lillehammer and the whole of Gudbrandsdalen.

As the only dentist covering a large area it was necessary for him to travel a lot. It was during these trips that he became interested in farm culture. He started collecting smaller items in 1887. His concern was that many of these items might be bought by commercial buyers and foreign museums. He exhibited what he acquired in the waiting room of his dental office. The first item he bought was a wooden beer mug with rich carvings of the apostles and of the birth of Jesus in the manger. In 1894 he bought his first building that was moved to the garden of his house. By 1901 he had collected six buildings that he outfitted with household furnishings. The collection proved expensive to maintain. Because the property was close to the railroad station and he was concerned about the risk of fire, he offered to sell the collection to the Lillehammer Town Council. After some "heated" debate, the Council agreed to buy the collection and it was moved to Maihaugen above the town. Maihaugen became a public museum with support from the government. Sandvig first became an unpaid curator at the museum. Eventually he became paid director, a position he maintained until his retirement in 1946 at age 84.

The mission of Maihaugen is to show how people lived from the middle ages until today. It includes farms of different sizes, several summer farms "sæter", a parsonage, the home of a military official, school, prison and a beautiful stave church. Sandvig was interested in the history of tools and assembled a large collection which was originally displayed in a separate wooden building.

After Sandvig died the museum collection has expanded. Many historic buildings have been added. Under Sandvig's successor, Sigurd Grieg, a new administrative building was completed. The tool collection got a new home in the fireproof building.

Maihaugen now has a collection of commercial buildings from Lillehammer. Many buildings that were scheduled to be torn down to make room for

new construction in the business district were moved to Maihaugen.

There is also a residential area consisting of typical single family homes from the nearly every decade of the 20th Century. The childhood home of Queen Sonja is part of the collection.

Probably less known is Sandvig's connection to this country. In 1925 he took the initiative to encourage Norwegian museums to donate articles to the Norwegian American museum, Vesterheim, in Decorah, Iowa. A total of 400 articles were donated, 153 of them from Sandvig's own collection. Although Sandvig traveled and lectured in Europe, he never visited the United States.

An article about Sandvig's connection to Vesterheim was recently published on their website:

<https://www.norwegianamerican.com/anders-sandvig-vesterheim/>

Elisabeth P. Sonoff, Cultural Chairperson

Ancient fishing artifacts found on Norwegian farm

Excerpt from Sons of Norway E-Post

In the 1930's, a farmer in southern Norway wanted to cultivate new land, so he set about draining a wetland near his farm. During the process, he discovered several strange items on the wetland: fish hooks and harpoons carved from bone, as well as killer whale bones and bluefin tuna bones. These discoveries eventually ended up in a couple of key museums in Norway. At the time, researchers were unable to piece together any theories related to the items.



In 2017, the story of the discovery sparked the interest of Svein Vatsvåg Nielsen, a PhD candidate

from the University of Oslo's Museum of Cultural History. He began studying the artifacts as part of his doctoral work and was able to date the items, as well as explain how they ended up in the wetland. This was all possible because the artifacts had been extremely well preserved in the soil.

Nielsen believes the objects were all from the same general time period: between 3700 and 2500 years BC. During that era, the sea level was higher than it is today, which gave merit to Nielsen's theory that the farmer's wetland field was in fact a lagoon where people from nearby settlements fished. If his theory was true, Nielsen believed there would be additional telling items buried in the wetland. Thus, he proposed an excavation of the site. In 2018, he and his fellow colleagues began to dig.

At first, the excavation was not providing the exciting discoveries he had hoped for, turning up only an arrowhead. However, after digging more than a meter into the ground, piles of bone appeared before them. The main finds included mostly bones from bluefin tuna, and more harpoons and fish hooks. Nielsen and his colleagues deduced that the tuna would follow smaller fish into the lagoon and fishermen would hunt them from boats.

These archaeological finds prove very important to Nielsen as he believes they give insight into the daily lives of the people that lived during that era. He states, "Usually we only see what people did on land, and just right around where they lived. We typically do excavations of a hundred square metres around homes. But as soon as people leave their residences, we have no idea what they are doing. They disappear into in the fog for us."

Because of the risky nature of hunting bluefin tuna from a boat with a harpoon, Nielsen believes there may be additional artifacts waiting to be found. For example, perhaps they will find a skull from an unlucky fisherman or an entire boat. Although they have not discovered findings like these yet, he knows that time is of the essence if they hope to: the drainage of the wetland changed the conditions and they are no longer ideal for preservation. As a result, the items found in the 1930's are actually much better preserved than items found more recently. Nevertheless, the researchers hope to take on a more thorough excavation of the site in the future to see what other unique items still lie undiscovered.

Officers & Chairpersons

President

James P Herman
513/533-3501
jpherman.edvardgrieg@gmail.com

Vice President

Adam Joseph Sokol
440/823-3735
sokol.adamj@gmail.com

Secretary

Sharon Smythe
937-438-9641
sasmythe43@aol.com

Treasurer

Liv Ramstad
(513) 543-9012
ramstad.liv@gmail.com

Social Director

Susan Herman
513/227-8790
susan.herman3501@gmail.com

Cultural Chairperson

Elisabeth P. Sonoff
859/261-5903
eponoff@sonoffconsulting.com

Newsletter Editor

Karl Halvorson
513/340-8338
karl.halvorson@yahoo.com

Membership

Esther Charlton
513/923-3798
Esthersofn@aol.com

Webmaster

Lois A. Evensen
513/281-8408
Lois@Evensens.net

Publicity

Open

Foundation

Pam & Konrad Nelson
513/779-7986
nelsonkap@cinci.rr.com

Tubfrim

Nelda Chandler
513/742-9504
nelda4325@gmail.com

Sons of Norway Edvard Grieg Lodge
C/O Esther Charlton
3798 Susanna Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45251