



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

November 2019

Notes from Lodge President

Kjære venner,

A happy Fall to everyone. Susan, Liv and I had the pleasure of attending the District 5 Leadership Conference last week in Cedar Lake, Indiana. It was a very informative and inspiring experience for all of us. It was great to meet the leadership of our District, and also good to see that other Lodges in District 5, big and small, have many of the same opportunities and challenges that we have. We will be sharing some ideas with the Board and the Lodge at our November meetings.

It is never too early to mention our joyous Julefest celebration in December. It is a highlight of the Lodge year and I encourage all to attend along with family and friends. Norwegian and Norwegian-themed food and entertainment will abound.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of Charlotte Ellingson last week. Charlotte was a valued member of the Lodge and served on the Edvard Grieg board as Foundation Director through 2018. We will miss her terribly, and extend our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Hilsen, Jim Herman

Membership News

We have several new members to welcome into our lodge. With these new members we have met our recruitment goal for this year. This will be the third year in a row for that great accomplishment.

Carol Stone has rejoined Sons of Norway and our lodge after a few years away. Her aunt and uncle, Adelheid and Robert Price, Sr. were charter members of our lodge.

We also have Angel and Harold Shirkey as new members. They are still in the process stage so more about them next newsletter.

Nelda Chandler had surgery for a shoulder replacement on October 9. After two weeks in rehab at Mapleknoll, she is now home for a slow recovery period.

We are very sorry to report the passing of Charlotte Ellingson. Besides membership in our lodge she had been a member of the Grieg Lodge in Portland, Oregon. She was also a member of the Frida Hansen Lodge, Daughters of Norway. Charlotte had been our foundation secretary and enjoyed coming to the Reading Circle. She even spent a day helping at our booth at the Viking Festival back in 2007.



If you have any questions about how someone becomes a new member contact me. We always welcome new people into the lodge.
Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Birthdays

November

Dario Sedler[1], Dianne Clark[5], Evelyn Rewerts[10], Harold Shirkey[10], Glenn Mikaloff[14], Thomas Johncox[15], Trine Wernes[15], Michael Luiso[29], Shelby Sansom[29].

December

Lois Evensen[5], George Kaufman[5], Lyndsey Heatherton[6], Susan Mikaloff[7], Esther Charlton[12], Leah Sedler[12], Nicholas Chandler[13], Ed Charlton[13], Aida Storetvedt[26], Konrad Nelson[29].

January

Aimee Russell[4], Connie Holmen[10], Anna Reeder[11], Michelle Sutton[16], Anders Russell[26] Kelly Lawson[28].

Recap of Lodge Events

If you missed the September lodge meeting, what can I say?! It was a unique and exciting program presented by Bryce Carlson, PhD about his trek across the North Atlantic. The first American to row solo and unassisted, he took us through his journey to prepare for such an undertaking as this, shared pictures, videos, and spoke about his trials, what he had to overcome all along the way, successes, all the way to the greeting he received where he landed in England. Lots of questions were asked by all in attendance!



Bryce Carlson, PhD

A very special Tusen Takk to Susie and Glenn Mikaloff for hosting our Fall Dinner and Auction for Foundation at their home in October. A big thank you to Glenn for being the auctioneer! See results from our auction under the Foundation

heading. The main dish “Får i kål”, a wonderful treat for the tastebuds, was provided by the lodge.

Special thanks to Elisabeth and Raymond Sonoff for preparing the Får i kål, as well as the applecakes for dessert!



Fall Dinner and Auction attendees



Elisabeth Sonoff preparing Får i kål

November Reading Circle & Board Meeting Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019

2:00 pm Reading Circle followed by 3:00 pm Board Meeting.

All members are welcome at either or both meetings.

Location: Forest Park Library (meeting room)
655 Waycross Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45240

Contact Susan Herman, 513-227-8790 or
susan.herman3501@gmail.com

November Lodge Meeting

November 16 at 2:00pm

Lefse and Lompe making demonstrations and sampling. Watch, learn and practice making these traditional Norwegian specialties.

Also Adam Sokol will give a short presentation on his first trip to Norway this past August!

Symmes Township Branch Library (meeting room)
11850 Enyart Road, Loveland, OH 45140
Invite and bring a friend or family member!

RSVP to Susan Herman by Nov. 13th, 513-227-8790 or susan.herman3501@gmail.com

Join us for Julefest 2019!

December 14th at 4:00pm



Mason United Methodist Church
6315 S. Mason-Montgomery Road
Mason, OH 45040

4:00pm for appetizers and browsing the Norsk Butikk (great gift shopping) and baked sale/lefse sale (great eating)!

5:00 pm dinner: Meatballs, potatoes, gravy, lefse and beverages provided by the lodge.

**Bring a side dish to share if you are able: appetizers, salads, vegetables or desserts all welcome.

**Bake sale items appreciated for the sale.
Charge for Age 12 and up is \$5.00, 6-11 is \$3.00, smaller children free.

Invite and bring a friend or family member to Julefest this year!

And, please RSVP to Esther Charlton by December 11 with what you are bringing.
513/923-3798 or esthersofn@aol.com

Susan Herman, Social Director

Knitting Group

November 7th, 12:00pm



We have started a cultural project of knitting small red baby hats to deliver to the AHA for distribution at local area hospitals. Our next meeting, for those in the greater Cincinnati area, will be Thursday, November 7th, 12:00pm at the home of Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff. Light lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Elisabeth at: epsonoff@sonoffconsulting.com and she can send you her address.

Don't live within driving distance? You can still knit on your own, at your own pace and join us by helping with this project.

Knitters, crocheters, and more: 2nd Monday of each month, 5-7pm

The Scandinavian Society Nordic Knitters meet on the second Monday of each month and we've been invited to join them. They will be working on individual projects from 5-7pm at Wyoming Community Coffee at 434 Springfield Pike, 45215.

I went in September, knew no one and still had a good time! Since it is a coffee shop you can get drinks and sandwiches if you want. I'll be there and hope to see you there, too.

Happy knitting, Liv Ramstad

Norwegian Christmas Traditions

Jul, or jol as it was named in old Norse, has been celebrated in Norway for more than 1000 years.

Originally it was an offering event to celebrate the Mid Winter Day on January 12. After Håkon den gode (Håkon the Good) attempted to introduce Christianity to Norway, the celebration was moved to December 25, the same date as the rest of Europe celebrated. Today, Norwegians celebrate on Christmas Eve.

The Norwegian celebration is a mix of old and new customs. The one tradition that has changed little over the years is the food.

Food Traditions:

In many parts of the country a pig was slaughtered for Christmas. Having fresh meat at that time of the year was special. At other times of the year the meat served was either smoked or dried, the only way available for conserving meat in old times. Lutefisk is also served in many homes for Christmas dinner. In coastal areas, families may have fresh cod for their dinner. Pinnekjøtt (Stick Meat). Lamb ribs are salted, dried and sometimes smoked. After soaking in cold water overnight, the meat is steamed over birch sticks until tender. Although it was most popular on the West coast, it is gaining in popularity in other parts of the country. Today turkey is served for Christmas in many homes.

Dessert might be ris krem (Rice Cream). Rice porridge is often served for lunch on Christmas Eve. Leftover porridge is sweetened and mixed with whipped cream and flavored with vanilla and served with a berry sauce. Multer (Cloudberries) served with heavy cream or mixed into whipped cream is another favorite if you are lucky enough to have either picked or been able to buy these special Nordic berries.

In the old days brewing good strong beer for Christmas was an important job. The farmer was in charge of growing good grain for the brew, while the wife did the actual brewing. The quality of the beer she made was very important to the reputation of the farm wife.

Baked goods were an important part of Christmas traditions. In the old days, before stoves with ovens became available, around 1850, the baked goods were made in special irons over a fire in the fireplace, on a griddle, or fried in lard. When cast

iron stoves came on the market, cookies that we are familiar with today were baked. Traditionally there should be at least seven different varieties, but which seven they are is subject to much discussion even today. Every family has their favorites. Not everybody keeps this tradition going today. In a recent poll, 38% of those interviewed did not bake for Christmas.

The Christmas tree was introduced in Norway around 1820 from Denmark. The green tree was meant to symbolize the eternal and the balls used for decorations symbolize our globe. A bright golden star topped the tree. Many families still buy a live tree for Christmas, but today many types of artificial trees have found their way into Norwegian homes. In older times, families would join hands and walk around the Christmas tree while singing the familiar Christmas songs and hymns, just like we do at Julefest. In a recent poll, 98 % of those interviewed still had some kind of Christmas tree, but only 30% walked around the tree.

Presents are an important part of Christmas. In earlier days, the rich gave presents to the poor. The servants and farm workers were given Christmas presents as part of their wages. Later the children might be given something useful such as clothing, or maybe skis or skates. Today presents for young and old are piled high under the tree, just as they are in this country.

In recent years it has become popular to decorate houses and properties for Christmas as we see in this country. Earlier, shops and streets may have been decorated with lights and other decorations.



The picture above is from the main street in my home town Lillehammer. The decorations were first introduced in 1930 by my grandfather who was the town architect. Until 1979 the garlands were made with pine boughs. After that, plastic garlands were

introduced because pine was getting too expensive and few knew how to make them. Nothing lasts forever.

God jul to all, Elisabeth Sonoff

2020 Norway Calendars

We have Norway 2020 calendars for sale. They are \$12.00 and will be available at our next two lodge meetings. If you would like a calendar mailed to you, email Esther with your request. After you receive your calendar, you can send a check including the postage.

Foundation

In October, our lodge auction for the Foundation raised over \$400 which will be sent to the International Office in Minneapolis to be used towards scholarships, grants, and humanitarian aid. Tusen takk to those who donated items or \$\$, to all of you who attended and brought new or gently used items, and to all who were winning bidders! There were handmade knitted items, lots of unique items donated from or purchased in Norway which provided nice bidding competition, some things old or new...! If you missed it this year, join us in the fun next year and bid for a great cause.



Fall Dinner and Auction attendees

Baked Goods for Sale at Julefest

As we do each year at Julefest, we will be filling a



table with Scandinavian or American baked goods to sell. Many look forward to seeing the beautiful cookies, cakes and breads as well as purchasing them to give as gifts or share with family and friends at the holidays. If you enjoy baking and would like to donate baked goods, please bring your labeled items to Julefest on Saturday evening, Dec. 14 between 4-5pm. Any donations will be very much appreciated! Contact Susan Herman (susan.herman3501@gmail.com) with any questions.

Decorate a table at Julefest



Each year it is fun to see how creative and lovely our dining tables are decorated by fellow members. If you would like to decorate the center portion of a table for Julefest, please contact Sharon Smythe (shanannohio@gmail.com) by Nov. 30. The tables are 5' round, and the lodge provides plastic tablecloths, paper dishes, napkins, cups, and silverware.

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