



Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5  
Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio

The First Lodge in Ohio  
Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway  
December 2011



### December meeting: Julefest

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, our annual Julefest will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church on Pfeiffer Rd in Montgomery. The party begins at 3:30PM and dinner will be at 5:00PM. Bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert, the main meal will be provided by the lodge. Cost: 12 years old and above \$7.00, \$3.00 for those 11 to 5 years old, and free to children under 5. See website for more information or call Esther. RSVP to Esther Charlton.

### January Book Club

January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 at the Panera Bread store opposite Tri-County Mall. We will be discussing "The Hardy Norseman" by Edna Lyall. Call Carol Luiso for information.

### January Meeting

On January 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our lodge meeting at the Anderson Township Center at 1:00pm. where a Norsk film will be the highlight.

### President's Message

Dear Fellow Sons of Norway Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome New Member Kim Pillman to our Board. She has graciously accepted the position of Social Chairman and is very excited. Kim will be manning the Butikk at Julefest, please introduce yourself and let her know if you have any ideas or desires for future meetings. Velkommen Kim!



*Knut Erik Jensen entertained and educated us October 28<sup>th</sup> at Ascension Lutheran Church with a "Greig to Gershwin" evening.*

In October we had a special concert with Norwegian Pianist Knut Erik Jensen. Knut has played all over the world, at the Hostfest in Minot, ND and came highly recommended by all who have had the pleasure of hearing him. Not only is he an outstanding pianist, he narrates about the music, so it was a very enjoyable as well as an informative evening. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we hope to have him back next Spring.

The concert was Hosted at Ascension Lutheran Church, a big thanks to Per for all his help and being the Host of our event.

December 10, 2011 is our Annual Julefest Family Celebration! As in the past, we will be having a dinner, Norwegian items for sale at our Butikk, dancing around the Christmas tree and a special visit from a Nisse! (Elf). Mark your calendars now for December 10th and we look forward to seeing! January 19, 2011 we will be having a Norsk Film, (TBA). The meeting will be held at the Anderson Township Center at 1PM. We hope you can join us!  
Nina Downs

### **Calling All Bakers!**

It's that time of year. We will have a table of baked goods to sell again at Julefest, Saturday, Dec 10. If you would like to donate baked goods and Scandinavian baking is not your specialty, other baked goods are welcome.

Questions? Contact Carol Luiso at 513.683.3631 or [CHLuiso@aol.com](mailto:CHLuiso@aol.com)  
Tusen takk!

### **Lefse! Lefse! Get your Lefse here!**

Lefse will once again be available for purchase at Julefest. It is fresh homemade lefse from Countryside Lefse Company in Blair, Wisconsin. This is Old-world Norwegian Lefse. No instant potatoes. No machines used to roll. No shortcuts at all. Look for it at the bakery table!

### **Lebanon Carriage Parade**

We have heard of this special event from our lodge members that live in the Lebanon area. It is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year for the Lebanon Carriage Parade and Christmas Festival. On Saturday, December 3, at 1 p.m., and then again at 7 p.m., there is a parade of over 100 horse drawn carriages pulled by various breeds of horses. Neil Sorum, one of our lodge members has his carriage pulled by his own Fjord Horses.

During the day in downtown Lebanon there are over 50 food and craft vendors for your shopping pleasure and live entertainment, all in a festival atmosphere. If you are able to visit Lebanon on this day we are sure that you will enjoy yourself.

### **Church Basement Ladies Sequel: "A Second Helping" at La Comedia was a "hoot"!**

We attended the original musical comedy of "Church Basement Ladies" at La Comedia in Springboro about a year ago. The sequel took up where the last one ended at the East Cornucopia

Church of the Prairie in rural Minnesota with the same four distinct characters. They continue their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural church about to undergo changes in 1965. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young bride-to-be they share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the Pastor on course while enjoying and tolerating each other.

No matter your opinion as to whether this play was better or funnier than the last one the humor didn't disappoint. Remember the "leisure suit"? Oh, yes – Pastor Gunderson retires and returns for a visit wearing a leisure suit. Can you imagine the reaction of the elderly matriarch of the kitchen? The music was great and well performed and some heartwarming moments took place that brought tears to many of us. Good friends, good food and truly! Our group of 20 was recognized as one of the featured groups in attendance.

Do you know there are two more sequels? Yes! Away in the Basement: A church Basement Ladies Christmas AND The Church Basement Ladies in "A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement". We will keep a look-out for local performances!



### **Membership**

We are pleased to introduce Bill Neal as a new member of our lodge. He found our lodge website while he was preparing for a visit from his cousin Mette from Norway.

Kim Pillman, our new social director, has signed up her son Bryce to be a Heritage member.

All of you can help recruit new members for our lodge. In fact, if you recruit or give the gift of membership to Sons of Norway by December 10, you will receive a gift at our Julefest.

If you have any questions about the process of membership, please contact me.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary



## Membership Service Pins

As we have done annually, we will present service pins to those that have been in Sons of Norway. Pins are awarded for every five years of membership. This year we have members receiving pins for their service of 5, 10 and 15 years. If you have any questions about your length of membership please check with Esther.



*One of the many ferries, this one going between Hellsylt, and Geiranger.*

## Oh Lutefisk

[Sung to the tune of 'O Tannenbaum']

Lutefisk... Oh Lutefisk... how fragrant your aroma  
Oh Lutefisk... Oh Lutefisk... You put me, in a coma  
You smell so strong... You look like glue  
You taste yust like an overshoe  
But Lutefisk ... come Saturday  
I tink I'll eat you anyway.

Lutefisk ... Oh Lutefisk ... I put you by the doorway  
I wanted you to ripen up ... yust like dey do in  
Norway  
A dog came by and sprinkled you ... I hit him vit my  
overshoe  
Oh Lutefisk ... now I suppose  
I'll eat you as I hold my nose.

Lutefisk ... Oh Lutefisk ... how well I do remember  
On Christmas Eve how we'd receive ... our big treat  
of December  
It vasn't turkey or fried ham ... it vasn't even pickled  
spam  
My mudder knew dere vas no risk ...  
In serving buttered lutefisk.

Lutefisk ... Oh Lutefisk ... now everyone discovers

Dat Lutefisk and lefse makes-Norwegians better  
lovers  
Now all da world can have a ball ... you're better dan  
dat Geritol  
Oh Lutefisk ... vit brennevin (Norwegian brandy)  
You make me feel like young again.  
Lutefisk ... Oh lutefisk ... You have a special flavor  
Lutefisk ... Oh lutefisk ... All good Norwegians  
savor.  
That slimy slab we know so well ... Identified by  
ghastly smell  
Lutefisk ... Oh lutefisk ... Our loyalty won't waver.

Lutefisk...Oh lutefisk...When my poor heart stops  
beating  
The pearly gates will open wide, I'll see the angels  
eating  
From steaming platters of the stuff, and there will  
always be enough  
O piece of cod that I adore, O lutefisk forevermore!

## Preparing for Thanksgiving

*By Donna Marstrander, an American in Norway*

It's early November and I got one thing on my  
mind. Turkey. I'm headed to my local butcher shop  
hoping I can order a turkey. I give the butcher a  
quick wave through the door while looking down at  
the same time. I already know he has 3 small steps  
before you HIT the floor. I'll let you in on  
something. The real reason Norwegians always look  
down while walking is NOT that they are shy. It is  
self-preservation; looking out to see what they'll trip  
over next. OK so a few strides and I can now see the  
butcher and what he's doing. .... I kinda screamed,  
but not a full scream, kinda like a very loud murmur  
"OH! HELL NO" and take a few steps back.



After staring blankly for few moments, we talked about what is in the picture a Capercaillie (Tiur in Norwegian).



He said it's very tasty and coveted \$\$\$\$\$ by Norwegians and the largest game bird of all the Norwegian Forests. I mentally note too bad it's all dark meat.

Even Anders my purebred Norwegian husband thought it was very unusual to see that out in a butcher shop.

Tables Turned: Anders takes the same picture into work and tells everyone how this freaked out his American wife.

## Book Notes

Recently our lodge library acquired "The Devil's Star" by Jo Nesbo. This book is the third in a series about Harry Hole, a detective in Oslo. One comment from a reviewer "Nesbo weaves a complex plot while maintaining interest and clarity throughout the entire book." It makes one anxious to read the first couple of books in the series.



Jo Nesbo, who is now 51, is considered a crime novelist. As of September 2008, more than one and a half million copies of his novels have been sold in Norway, and his work has been translated into over forty languages. Besides being a novelist he is also the main vocalist and songwriter for the Norwegian rock band Di Derre. Before he began his writing career Jo worked as a freelance journalist and a stockbroker.

His first book was *The Bat Man* in 1997, but it is only available in Norwegian. *The Devil's Star* was the first of his books translated into English in 2008. Thereafter each of his books has been translated into English by Don Bartlett.

Jo Nesbo has received many awards. Some of these include, the best selling author in Ireland, and his current book is number one in Denmark. One award he has received several times is The Norwegian Booksellers Prize for the Best Novel of the year in 2000, 2007, and 2008.



*The good times just keep rolling for Norwegian author Jo Nesbø, whose crime novels keep ringing up more sales internationally. Now his seventh book featuring policeman Harry Hole will be made into a film directed by none other than Martin Scorsese.*

If you enjoy reading do come to our next Reading Circle, Saturday, January 7, 2:30 at the Panera on Kemper Rd in the Tri-County area. Contact Carol Luiso about your interest in the Reading Circle.

## Birthdays

### December

Lois Evensen[5], Susie Mikaloff[7], Kari Poe[8], Carole Hanson Burge[10], Esther Charlton[12], Yvonne Iversen[12], Leah Burge Sedler[12] Nicholas Chandler[13], Ed Charlton[13], JD Elvrum[13], Teresa Lowen[15], Neil Sorum[15], Carol Olson[16], Olivia Leigh Dillon[17], Konrad Nelson[29], Iver Bradley[30].



## January

Francis Kosobud[1], Rod Krokum[3], Carolyn Hahn Mack[4], Connie Holmen[10], Anna Reeder[11], Kelly Lawson[28], Margie Mays[29], Deborah Bowman[31].

## February

Luke Sutphin[1], Tillie Elvrum[5], Aaron Nelson[5], Patsy Bannick[6], Lee Luiso[12], Sylvia Casas[15], Bob Bowman[17], Linda Burge[17], Cassi Rice[19], Mark Kosobud[20], Helge Bjorvik[21], Jennifer Burge Reeder[26], George Bjorvik[28].



*Picture from Views and News from Norway.*

The sun was set to dip below the horizon on Sunday November 20th in Norway's far north, and not rise again until January 21. The season known as *mørketiden* (the dark time) is settling in, but it can actually offer some spectacular light as well.

## Thor Heyerdahl

An upcoming movie has put this explorer under the spotlight again.

Heyerdahl was born in 1914 in the small town of Larvik, on Norway's south coast. Following exhaustive studies of ethnographic and archaeological material from Polynesia, the American continent and southeast Asia, Heyerdahl advanced the theory that Polynesia had been peopled not from southeast Asia, as had previously been believed, but from America.

His hypothesis was coolly received, so Heyerdahl decided to demonstrate personally what he believed to be the truth of his contentions. The vessel he made for the voyage was a balsawood raft, an exact reproduction of the Indian rafts made in South America since prehistoric times. In 1947, Heyerdahl set off from Callao in Peru with a six-man crew,

sailing to the Tuamotu islands of Polynesia on the now world-renowned voyage of the Kon-Tiki.

The hazardous three-month voyage was not only a daring enterprise, it was also a scholarly achievement. The book that Heyerdahl wrote after the expedition, "American Indians in the Pacific" supports his theories with comprehensive material that gives credence to his claims. In his book Heyerdahl asserted that the first settlers of Polynesia came from Peru around 500 AD, and that a fresh wave of settlers arrived from the northwest coast of North America from 1000 to 1300 AD.

Heyerdahl returned to the ocean element when he in 1969 led the first Ra expedition, whose objective was very similar to that of the Kon-Tiki. In the reed boat Ra, named after the Egyptian sun god, the expedition left Safi in Morocco in an attempt to cross the Atlantic, and thereby prove that the papyrus vessels of the ancient Egyptians had been capable of crossing the Atlantic.

However, after a journey of 5,000 kilometres, the Ra started to break up due to faulty construction. The voyage had to be abandoned. The Ra II expedition, a repetition mounted one year later, was a success, reaching Barbados after a two-month voyage of 6,100 kilometres. The Ra II proved that boats such as the Ra could have sailed with the Canaries current across the Atlantic in prehistoric times.

In 1977 Heyerdahl undertook yet another voyage with a reed boat, this time too to test theories concerning the ocean routes of antiquity. The purpose of the Tigris expedition was to throw light on ocean trade routes and cultural contacts from about 3000 BC between Sumer in Mesopotamia and a number of other cultural centres in the Middle East, northeast Africa and the present Pakistan.

After the Tigris expedition, Heyerdahl became involved in research into the early history of the Maldivian Islands in the Indian Ocean. Furthermore, on Tenerife in the Canary Isles he discovered a sun-oriented pyramid which may well date from the time of the guanches, the indigenous peoples of the Canary Isles. Heyerdahl also led extensive digs at a huge site in Tucume, Peru, where 26 Andean pyramids were under excavation.

Thor Heyerdahl died on 18 April 2002, at the age of 87.

Remember to go to:

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

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## KALENDER

December 10th, Julefest

Reading Circle January 7th

January 21<sup>st</sup> Norsk film

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