



SONS OF NORWAY

# Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

May 2019

## Notes from Lodge President Jim Herman

We had our officer installation a bit late (thanks to weather) but made up for it with a very fun and lively March meeting. We were very fortunate to have Dee Bumpers, our Zone 6 Director, attend to preside over the installation. I am honored to be taking over as President and am very excited about the energy and enthusiasm in the Lodge (and especially the Board).

If you haven't read your May issue of the Viking, open it up and read the article on page 34, which features our lodge and includes three photos from 2018. Edvard Grieg is also mentioned on page 4 in the International President's article "Making Great Strides." Congratulations to all in helping our lodge strive to achieve and surpass its goals the past two years.

Some recent highlights:

\*It was nice to see Viktor Hovland, a Norwegian, finish as the highest ranked amateur in the Master's golf tournament!

\*Lodge member Karl Halvorson is on a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail (all 2000+ miles). He is posting on our Facebook site and was 100 miles in as of last week, meeting some interesting characters along the way (check it out!)

\*Our lodge continues to have members volunteer to answer phones at pledge drives for the Maple Knoll Village radio station, WMKV.org, 89.3FM. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Esther Charlton, Nelda Chandler and Susan Herman volunteered a total of 9 hours.

Upcoming, I look forward to our gathering on May 25 to celebrate our heritage on Constitution Day and I hope that you will be able to attend and celebrate it together.

Hilsen, Jim

## Membership News

What a great article about our lodge on page 34 of the May Viking. You all deserve a pat on the back for helping recruit new members for our lodge. Now we have to keep up the good work that began in the last two years. Please consider supporting the membership committee: if you know of anyone that might be interested in our lodge, forward their name and info to Esther.

Our newest members are Benjamin and Nikki Powers and their children Nathaniel (age 5), and Theodore (age 3). They live in Florence, Ky.

Ben writes:

Nikki grew up near Albany NY without any Norwegian heritage growing up. I grew up in SE MN. Lutefisk suppers are a staple at the local Lutheran churches during Yuletide and Syttende Mai. Evanger Lutheran Church near my grandparents' farm had Norwegian language services well into the 1960s. My maternal grandfather, Dalen Gunneson (b. 1918, d. 2013), was 100% Norwegian. He grew up speaking Norwegian at home, but spoke only English in public. His grandfather, Gregor Gunneson, immigrated to the United States from Telemark, Norway. While my great grandfather, Melvin Gunneson (b. 1890, d. 1986), was alive, lefse was a part of every meal at my grandparents' home. My younger sister, living in South Dakota, has the knack for making lefse. Nikki and I have yet to make a successful batch. My great grandfather spoke English, but Norwegian was his preferred language. We joined SoN so that our two small boys (Nathaniel and Theodore) can have the opportunity to better understand the Norwegian-American culture I grew up in.

## **The Dayton International Festival**

### **A World A'Fair**

**Friday, May 17 - Sunday, May 19**

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

The festival is held in the Dayton Convention Center which is at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main 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 receive a passport and get it stamped at each booth after learning 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 at the door. Contact Esther Charlton or Nelda Chandler for tickets.

We do need help at our booth during the festival. If you can help us run the booth, please contact Esther to discuss what times you are available. It is a lot of fun.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary  
513-923-3798 [esthersofn@aol.com](mailto:esthersofn@aol.com).

## **Birthdays**

### **May**

Nathaniel Powers[1], Arlene Norman[11], Nikki Powers[14], Liv Ramstad[15], David Bruestle[22], Marilyn Bossman[27].

### **June**

Lance Larsen[2], Clare Williams[7], Pamela Nelson[13], Karl Hoalst[14], Theodore Powers[19], Jon Skaggs[20], Gail McGinn[22], Dominic Sedler[25], Carol Luiso[28], Marilyn Lau[30].

### **July**

Tim Holmen[9], Benjamin Powers[11], Maria Luiso[13], Monica DuShane[13], Roy Solvik[16], Jorgen Jorgensen[17], Katherine Herman[23], Conor DuShane[25], Thomas Varland[29], Kristin Szava[31].

## **May Reading Circle & Board**

### **Meeting**

**Saturday, May 4**

2:00pm Reading Circle followed by 3:00pm 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](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com).

## **May Lodge Meeting**

### **Syttende Mai Celebration**

### **Norway's Constitution day!**

**Saturday, May 25, starting at 4:00pm**

Potluck dinner at Jim & Susan Herman's home, 3511 Monteith Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208.

Arrive any time after 4pm for appetizers / dinner at 5:00. Food, fellowship and singing to celebrate. Play kubb or cornhole! Meatballs & grilled salmon by Jim. Bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert. Beverages provided.

RSVP by May 22 to Susan Herman: 513-227-8790 or [susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com).

## **June Lodge Meeting**

### **Celebrate the Summer Solstice!**

**Saturday, June 22, starting at 3:00pm**

Potluck dinner and Swim (or play Kubb). Susie & Glenn Mikaloff's home, 7472 Stone Ridge Dr., Springboro, OH 45066. Bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, side dish, or dessert. Beverages provided.

RSVP by June 19 to Susan Herman: 513-227-8790 or [susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com).

## **Officer Installation**

Our March meeting was installation of officers and we were fortunate to have our Zone 6 Director, Dee Bumpers, drive up from the Knoxville, TN area to conduct the ceremony. Following installation, members had a great time sharing stories and information on our Norwegian roots, immigration, and family history.



## Presentation by the Dayton German Genealogy Group

This past Saturday (4/27), our lodge was invited to meet with the Dayton German Genealogy Group for a program and discussion on the history of German-Scandinavian migration. The presentation was delivered by Wright State University's Dr. Renate Sturdevant and addressed why so many with German heritage also have a good deal of Scandinavian in their genealogy. Nine of our members attended and we gladly shared a taste of Norwegian desserts with the group.

## Scandinavian Dance Presentation

Lea Anne & Tom Kangas from Columbus presented a wonderful program at our April meeting on Norwegian & Swedish Dances. Dressed in their Finnish traditional attire, they danced to 8 selections of different folk music from 8 regions across Norway and Sweden, and it was impressive to watch their moves and dance steps. At the end, those of us who dared to join them on a short piece had the chance to listen to their instructions and try out a few steps ourselves. It was a fun and informative program, and the Kangas' were terrific in sharing their expertise on these folk dances with us.



## This and That

\*\*Saturday, May 4 at 9:00pm on CNN: "Going to Norway". A six-part docuseries called "Chasing Life with Dr. Sanjay Gupta", the series explores secrets to living better in six different parts of the world, and Dr. Gupta went to northern Norway for this one. (Takk to JoAnn K. for sharing this info.)

Susan Herman, Social Director

## The History of Syttende Mai

By Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff

After many years in union with Denmark, Norway became an independent country in 1814. The Constitution of Norway was signed May 17, 1814 at Eidsvoll. Shortly thereafter Norway became involved in a short-lived war with Sweden. As part of the peace agreement, Norway agreed to a union with Sweden.

Until 1828 the Swedish king, Karl Johan, banned any celebration of May 17. It is now accepted that May 17 was installed as a National Day in 1836. The first children's parade took place in Oslo in 1870 at the initiative of the author Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. Only boys were allowed to participate in the parade, but in 1889 girls were included.

In 1905 Norway again became an independent country. In 1906 the new Norwegian royal family for the first time waved from the balcony of the royal castle as the parade passed by, a tradition upheld to this day. However, in 1910 when the queen's father died, and during the years of World War II, they were absent. During the war, any form for Independence Day celebration was prohibited.

The Independence Day celebration in Norway is non-military in nature. All over the country there are children's parades. Often the school band walks in front followed by the school banner followed by the children waving flags. Many participants will wear "bunad," the national costume, as will many of the people watching the parade. The largest parade takes place in Oslo where some hundred schools participate.



The children's parade passing by the Royal Palace in Oslo on Syttende Mai, 2017.

After the parade, there are often festivities for children and parents at the schools with games, hot dogs, ice cream and soft drinks. Others may invite friends for lunch or later for dinner after the parade. Koldt bord, cold buffet, is often served for lunch since many of the dishes can be prepared the day before. Dinner may be cold poached salmon or trout, or others may prefer to serve rømmegrøt and cured meats. Traditionally, eggedosis, whipped eggs and sugar with maybe a splash of cognac for the adults, has been served for dessert.

## **Sankthans, Saint John's Eve, or Midsummer Feast**

**By Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff**

This celebration takes place on the eve of June 24, the Feast of John the Baptist. According to the gospel of Luke, he was born six months before Jesus. It coincides with the Summer Solstice and is therefore often referred to as Midsummer Feast. Bonfires were often lit on St. John's Eve to celebrate St. John and served to repel witches and evil spirits.

Bonfires are even today part of Sankthans celebration. However, care must be taken to prevent the fire from spreading. In some communities the bonfires are placed in old boats that are sent out on water, either on lakes or by the sea. Ålesund is known for the tall bonfires which are built each Sankthans. The record of 47.39 meters was set in 2016.

Sankthans is often celebrated with friends. Traditionally, rømmegrøt and cured meats are served, but some may prefer to fire up the grill. For dessert maybe the first local strawberries of the season will be available.



Ålesund creates the world's tallest bonfires by building a tower of wooden pallets.



## Officers & Chairpersons

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\*\*Here is our Edvard Grieg website link. Once on the main page, click on the calendar link to view information/details and updates on our lodge events.  
**<http://www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html>**

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