

March / April 2018



## NORDLYSET NEWS



President's Letter (Mike Palecek)

### Taking action

Tusen takk to Jeri Smith and Norm Monson, who wrote opinion letters last week to the Racine Journal-Times opposing a letter which criticized Norway's actions in World War II.

You can read these letters:

**Jeri Smith** - [http://journaltimes.com/opinion/letters/smith-norway-and-role-models/article\\_3e99add3-3c33-5d0c-aeee-b0e14c71c905.html](http://journaltimes.com/opinion/letters/smith-norway-and-role-models/article_3e99add3-3c33-5d0c-aeee-b0e14c71c905.html)

**Norm Monson** - [http://journaltimes.com/opinion/letters/monson-norwegians-have-heroic-history/article\\_bd519745-f2c8-5b30-be8d-15ee27a78bd8.html](http://journaltimes.com/opinion/letters/monson-norwegians-have-heroic-history/article_bd519745-f2c8-5b30-be8d-15ee27a78bd8.html)

**Mike Palecek** - [http://journaltimes.com/opinion/editorial/commentary-by-mike-palecek-norway-in-world-war-ii-hidden/article\\_06959b6d-412a-517f-aa5e-4b8ffb6a5ad.html](http://journaltimes.com/opinion/editorial/commentary-by-mike-palecek-norway-in-world-war-ii-hidden/article_06959b6d-412a-517f-aa5e-4b8ffb6a5ad.html)

**the original letter** - [http://journaltimes.com/opinion/letters/dekraay-norway-isn-t-the-best-role-model/article\\_d5c7f6b2-2472-5682-86de-7ee05d1bfc56.html](http://journaltimes.com/opinion/letters/dekraay-norway-isn-t-the-best-role-model/article_d5c7f6b2-2472-5682-86de-7ee05d1bfc56.html)

Tusen takk... Cheryl Miller, Connie Aiello, Buddy Thompson, and Victor Mitmoen for sharing Norwegian culture and krumkaka with the students and families at Jefferson Lighthouse School during their International Festival on February 8th. They gave out more than 500 krumkake, and one young girl begged for the crumbs to take home and sprinkle over ice cream.

Tusen takk... to everyone who made cookies for the SON District 5 cookie station at the Barnebirkie to fortify the youth skiers.

Tusen takk... to Chuck Johnson and Mette Baran for their efforts in bringing two Scandinavian foreign exchange students to talk at our February meeting. Their insight was delightful.

Speaking of taking action... a great way that YOU can strengthen Nordlyset lodge is by inviting a friend to the Prospective Member Luncheon at noon on Saturday, April 21, at Mike and Angelo's. Advance registrations are required. One of our lodge's strengths is the friendship among our members and that having more members makes us stronger. If you have guests at the luncheon, you can accompany them for free.

NATIONAL OFFICE



**SONS OF  
NORWAY**

**Nordlyset 5-183**

Nordlyset 5-183  
Sons of Norway Meetings  
Racine Moose Lodge  
Douglas Ave. & 4 1/2 Mile Rd.)  
THIRD WEDNESDAY  
of most months.  
Meal and social time:  
5:45 PM  
Meeting: 6:30 PM

National Office  
[www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)  
1-800-945-8851

MEMBERSHIP  
[fraternal@son.com](mailto:fraternal@son.com)



### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- \* COOKING & GENEALOGY CLASSES
- \* FOUNDATION BOWLING
- "FIELD TRIP" TO STOUGHTON IN MAY!

### Inside this issue:

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Cook-off Winners!

Our NEW webpage!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Movie at Parkside

Bowling

Barnebirkie

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEB MASTER AND WEB PAGE!

**[WWW.SONSOFNORWAYRACINE.COM](http://WWW.SONSOFNORWAYRACINE.COM)**



If you haven't visited our new Nordlyset webpage put together by William Simonson, it's time to check it out! Between newsletters, emails, and the website, you'll always know when and where something great is happening in our lodge.

Have you visited one of the Scandinavian countries and enjoyed a favorite photograph from that trip? You might wish to contact him about using it at some point on our opening page. Make sure you include the location. Of course there are plenty of photos of our cultural events, trips, dinners, and more. Most likely you'll find yourself in a picture if you are an active member. How about sharing our site with your family and friends? Our site will promote our upcoming new member's luncheon, and this is an amazing way to show others the fun we have.

### **MEMBER PROFILE.....WILLIAM SIMONSON**



My interest in computers and the internet began in 1997. After a presentation about my employer's future website, I discovered I knew nothing about computers, the internet, nor did I know what a website was. I discovered there was a whole new world in cyber space that would affect my future that I quickly needed to learn about. I bought a laptop and carried it with me everywhere I went. I spent my evenings reading *Windows for Dummies* and other tutorials and making a list of things I needed to learn if I was going to be literate. I discovered that finally I had found the perfect solution to storing, editing, and managing my photos.

I studied b/w film with Denise Zingg of Spectrum School of the Arts for about five years starting in 2006 and built my first website in 2012, mostly in response to my children asking me what I was doing with my free time. It turned out to be a great way to promote my photography shows at Spectrum Gallery and I was able to demonstrate to my children that I was doing something productive. In early 2017, I took over the development of the Spectrum website that had installed after getting a domain name. That website was, for all practical purposes, completed in the fall of 2017.

Coincidentally, I was looking for a couple of social organizations to join. A neighbor, Carol Gianforte, recommended that I join Kiwanis and the Sons of Norway. I visited both of these organization several time before joining Kiwanis in the September of 2017 and Sons of Norway in December of 2017. Both seemed to have friendly and enthusiastic members which I enjoyed. I had also looked at two other groups but didn't find the same friendliness.

I currently maintain my personal website, Spectrum School's website, and the Sons of Norway – Racine website. I do some maintenance for the West Racine Kiwanis website and I just started building a new website for a friend who is in the consulting business in Chicago.



## SPORTS MEDAL CATEGORIES

### General Fitness

Skiing

Swimming

Biking

Walking

Cheryl  
Green,  
Lodge Sports  
Director



## MEET OUR NEW LODGE SPORTS DIRECTOR

Have you considered earning a fitness medal? Have you thought to yourself that it would be something “younger” people would do? Have you read the requirements for a medal only to find out you actually could do this?

Go to [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) and sign in with your username and password. If you don't have that, it's easy to take care of. You check in and wonder how you'll find the sports information. Here's how!

Go to the red box in the upper right of your screen, click on MEMBER RESOURCES and locate Norwegian Culture. After you click on that, you'll look for Cultural Programming where you will see a list of activities including SPORTS MEDAL PROGRAM. That will give you your options for which pin(s) and level(s) you'd consider trying. Good luck!

We have a new lodge sport's director, Cheryl Green, who will give lodge members opportunities to explore their “athletic side.” When you complete requirements for any of the medals, she is the lady who will check your paperwork and send it in to the national office.

*An upcoming event will be our annual bowling tournament on April 8th at THE LANES which, in the past, has brought out many age groups. We hope even more will join in for our 2018 activity. Be prepared to sign up at our March meeting or read the attached flyer so you can RSVP to Cheryl NO LATER THAN April 4th. The cost is \$13 and covers two games, shoes, pizza, soda, and a donation to our SON Foundation.*

## THE BIRKIE? WHAT'S THAT?

Each February our lodge asks members to bake cookies for the Barnebirkie in Hayward, Wisconsin, but do you know what this activity is all about?

The American Birkebeiner began in 1973 with just 35 adult skiers participating in this competitive cross-country event, and now you will likely find at least a thousand people in many age groups skiing the course in hopes of a finish and a win.

Michaela Decker, our lodge member and District 5 Sports Director, attended the Birkie in late February and, of course, brought the cookies for the children's event appropriately named BARNEBIRKIE which includes children ages 3-13. There's no doubt the cookies were well received by hungry children!



This year District 5 received an award from the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation board for our 30 years of volunteerism and contributions to the largest annual cross country ski race in the USA. Many thanks go to those who have helped make this a success.

Michaela provided the photo of the young skiers lined up and ready to ski from Lake Hayward, over the International Bridge and finally up Main Street, a distance of 3 kilometers. A 1 km course was also available for some of the children. This non-competitive children's event will encourage the youth to live a healthy lifestyle and look forward to future competitive races in the junior adult divisions.



### 3RD ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



We had another fantastic chili cook-off with nine recipes competing for 1st place.



We have a “two-peat” as Randy and Happy Youngs took first place for the second year in a row. Other winners were Mike & Diane Palecek, Michaela Decker, and Jeanne Anderson.



The 5 judges had quite a challenge this year as they had a variety of tastes, and they were happy to announce that all nine dishes were represented on their ballots.



Congratulations!



### FEBRUARY VALENTINE'S LODGE DINNER

Many thanks to Mette Baran who found special guests for our February program and to the Johnsons for introducing them for our program. Mathilde is a foreign exchange student from Sweden and Regine is from Norway. Take a look at page 9 to learn more about them.



Mathilde and Regine



### VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER 2018 WITH GUESTS

Regine from Norway and  
Mathilde from Sweden



## CONDOLENCES.....

Mary Ann Helstad, wife of our lodge member Harry Helstad, passed away on January 17th after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. She loved attending meetings with her husband and looked forward to the annual meatball and lutefisk dinner in the Town of Norway, Racine County. Our sympathy goes to Harry and her children from her first marriage to Roy Le Tendre, who died in 2004.



### Sons of Norway Websites

—Nordlyset Lodge:

<http://www.sonsofnorwayracine.com>

—Sons of Norway District 5:

[http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/  
content/](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/content/)

—Sons of Norway International:

<http://www.sofn.com/home/index.jsp>

### Texas Hold 'Em

Contact Mike Palecek if  
you are interested in  
participating in Texas Hold  
'Em or the book club.

[sonracine@gmail.com](mailto:sonracine@gmail.com)



**UW-PARKSIDE**  
**March 25th (Sunday)**  
**5 PM**

### ***THE KING'S CHOICE***

Our Sons of Norway lodge is being given FREE seating to see the movie *The King's Choice* at UW-Parkside. The movie is related to Norway's King Haakon VII's decision to support a continuation of fighting the German invasion forces rather than giving in to German demands to surrender. Because of this refusal, the Norwegian royal family escaped from Norway as their country worked with the Allied side.

There will be a talk back following the movie, and Ola Hirth from our lodge who was a teenager in Norway during WW II, will participate in this part of the program along with Mike Palecek.

To take advantage of the free seating, you must remember to tell the usher that you are a SON member. Perhaps it's a good idea to carry your membership card with you.

**Directions:** From Hwy 31/Green Bay Road, turn EAST on Co. Hwy JR ( Petrifying Springs Road) and continue to drive to the Avenue of the Arts and turn North.

**Parking:** The Rita parking (Lot B) is an unmarked unmetered space. Call the Box Office 595 25640 if you have questions.

<https://www.uwp.edu/therita/visit.cfm>

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>MIKE PALECEK</b>	<b>886 5547</b>	<a href="mailto:mikepalecek@sonsofnorwavracine.com">mikepalecek@sonsofnorwavracine.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>MICHAELA DECKER</b>	<b>498 2086</b>	<a href="mailto:michaeladecker@wi.rr.com">michaeladecker@wi.rr.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>CONNIE AIELLO</b>	<b>623 252 8861</b>	<a href="mailto:cdaiello31@gmail.com">cdaiello31@gmail.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>SONIA GATZKE</b>	<b>554 6359</b>	<a href="mailto:sgatzke1@gmail.com">sgatzke1@gmail.com</a>
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	<b>HAPPY YOUNGS</b>	<b>633 0144</b>	<a href="mailto:happyvyoungs@msn.com">happyvyoungs@msn.com</a>
	<b>ROSEMARY (BUDDY) THOMPSON</b>	<b>654 4472</b>	<a href="mailto:pasallgas@yahoo.com">pasallgas@yahoo.com</a>
	<b>ERIC LENHART</b>	<b>497 7498</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>	<b>MICHAELA DECKER</b>	<b>498 2085</b>	<a href="mailto:michaeladecker@wi.rr.com">michaeladecker@wi.rr.com</a>
<b>COUNSELOR</b>	<b>OLA HIRTH</b>	<b>639 1000</b>	<a href="mailto:olaandshirley@hotmail.com">olaandshirley@hotmail.com</a>
<b>CULTURAL PIN DIRECTOR</b>	<b>CONNIE AIELLO ROBERTA YOUNGS</b>	<b>633 0144</b>	<a href="mailto:happyvyoungs@msn.com">happyvyoungs@msn.com</a>
<b>FOUNDATION DIRECTOR</b>	<b>ANN-MARI BALDUKAS</b>	<b>598 9994</b>	<a href="mailto:ann-mari_baldukas@att.net">ann-mari_baldukas@att.net</a>
<b>GREETER</b>	<b>ROSEMARY THOMPSON</b>	<b>654 4472</b>	<a href="mailto:pasallgas@yahoo.com">pasallgas@yahoo.com</a>
<b>HISTORIAN</b>	<b>HEIDI KOMISTRA</b>	<b>232 0992</b>	<a href="mailto:heidikomistra@gmail.com">heidikomistra@gmail.com</a>
	<b>KRISTIN HAHNER</b>	<b>644 3221</b>	<a href="mailto:kristinhahner@gmail.com">kristinhahner@gmail.com</a>
<b>MARSHALL</b>	<b>DIANE PALECEK</b>	<b>886 5547</b>	<a href="mailto:nubits2@hotmail.com">nubits2@hotmail.com</a>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>DIANE PALECEK</b>	<b>886 5547</b>	<a href="mailto:nubits2@hotmail.com">nubits2@hotmail.com</a>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	<b>CHERYL MILLER</b>	<b>456 0623</b>	<a href="mailto:cmiller187@wi.rr.com">cmiller187@wi.rr.com</a>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	<b>CHERYL MILLER</b>	<b>456 0623</b>	<a href="mailto:cmiller187@wi.rr.com">cmiller187@wi.rr.com</a>
<b>PUBLICITY DIRECTOR</b>	<b>VACANT</b>		
<b>CO-SPORTS DIRECTORS</b>	<b>ERIC LENHART &amp;</b>	<b>497 7498</b>	
	<b>CHERYL GREEN</b>	<b>994 7638</b>	
<b>SUNSHINE</b>	<b>JUDY NIELSEN</b>	<b>637 1065</b>	<a href="mailto:judy3605@gmail.com">judy3605@gmail.com</a>
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	<b>WILLIAM SIMONSON</b>		
<b>YOUTH DIRECTOR</b>	<b>MICHAELA DECKER</b>	<b>498 2085</b>	<a href="mailto:michaeladecker@wi.rr.com">michaeladecker@wi.rr.com</a>





	MARCH
6	Einer Lie
15	Mike Hagen
16	Victor Mitmoen
26	Andy Patch
29	Jeanne Anderson
	APRIL
1	David Palecek
9	Mette Baran
15	Margaret Gruenwald
19	Ella Fossum
21	Nicholas Baldukas
21	Tyler Hirth



**BOWLING PARTY....YABBA, DABBA, DO!**

**BOWLING FOR SON FOUNDATION**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

**The Lanes (on Washington Ave.)**

**\$13 includes the cost of the games, shoes, soda, pizza and a donation to the Foundation.**

**RSVP to Cheryl Green by April 4th**

**Phone: 994-7638**

**Email: [cherylgreen@regalbeloit.com](mailto:cherylgreen@regalbeloit.com)**

**Pay attention to the attached flyer in the email.**



### **NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON**

**WHEN? Saturday, April 21st, noon**

**WHERE? Mike & Angelo's**

#### **How can YOU help?**

- 1. Bring a potential member to the luncheon and YOUR meal is free.**
- 2. Volunteer to help the committee. (set-up, prepare name badges, be a greeter, check people in, help clean-up, help with displays)**
- 3. Be an advocate. TELL OTHERS about our lodge and *invite* them! (church, other organizations you belong to, neighbors)**
- 4. Do some baking! We love sharing krumkake and rosettes with our guests.**

**Do YOU need a newsletter mailed to your home?**

\*\*\*Our lodge address is: [sonracine@gmail.com](mailto:sonracine@gmail.com).\*\*\*

If you want a mailed newsletter, the annual fee is \$10. Please pay our treasurer, Sonia Gatzke. Send your check made out to

“Nordlyset Lodge” to her at

3821 Southwood Drive #107

Racine, WI 53406



**BOARD MEETINGS**

**Palecek Home at 3:30**

April 7

May 5

June 2

**Sons of Norway Mission Statement**

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.



Our Field Representative for  
Sons of Norway  
insurance and financial  
products is **Greg Ragan FIC.**  
He may be reached at  
**800-442-4146.**



**COMING EVENTS....MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

<p><b><u>MARCH 21</u></b></p> 	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</u></b> Rondi &amp; Dave Jenkins; *Cheryl Green &amp; Eric Lenhart; Victor Mitmoen &amp; Buddy Thompson</p>	<p><b>Program:</b> Marv Lundberg shares his experiences as an author <b>Dinner: 5:45</b></p>
<p><b><u>APRIL 18</u></b></p> 	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u></b> *Judy Nielsen; * Mary Ann Toutant; Ola/Shirley Hirth; Larry Nielsen , Michael Patino</p>	<p><b>Program:</b> Game Night! Trivia board game <b>Dinner: 5:45</b></p>
<p><b><u>MAY 16</u></b></p> 	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u></b> Rondi &amp; Dave Jenkins, Cheryl Miller, Michael Patino</p>	<p><b>PROGRAM:</b> Steve Sherry talks about being a reenactor with the Norwegian 15th WI Volunteer Infantry.  <b>Dinner: 5:45</b></p>





Special guests at our February meeting were exchange students Matilda from Sweden and Regine from Norway.

I asked them to respond to the three questions listed below, and I'm sharing their responses with you.

1. What have you and your host family learned from one another during your stay in America?
2. If you had a month to travel other places in the USA before you return home, where would you choose to go and why?
3. Think about your home high school. What do you wish American schools offered that you have in your country, and what do you like about your American school that you'd like offered in your home school?

**Matilde (Living in Ripon, WI) from Gothenburg, Sweden**

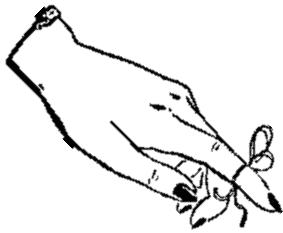


1. I am a Rotary exchange student and will live with three families during my stay, so I will have three different experiences. My current family consists of parents and their two daughters; they are awesome! I've ridden a school bus rather than using public transportation which I use in Sweden. I've tried lots of American fast food chains like Culvers (truly amazing).
2. I would like to go to some of the big, famous national parks like the Grand Canyon. I would like to see big mountains, waterfalls and forests. Nature is always unique, and one hasn't really seen it until one has been there.
3. I like the bands and other extracurricular activities as it gives many people the opportunity to try different sports and hang out with their friends. Something I miss about Swedish school is the responsibility given the student; parents and teachers seem to trust them more. I miss that high school students aren't separated depending on whether they want a higher education or one that is more practical that fits their interests.

**Regine (Living in Kenosha) from Ørnes, Norway**



1. My host family has learned more about my Norwegian culture. Some may think it's winter and snow all the time since I live so far north, but that's not the case. My host mom is Polish so we often bond for being European. My host family has introduced me to new food, sayings, and American schools.
2. My Norwegian family will come here in May and June and we will travel together to see more of the USA. We plan to visit Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, Colorado (I really miss seeing mountains), and travel the California coastline. I would also like to see Texas.
3. I like the school in the USA way more than my school in Norway because so much more is offered like clubs, more class choices, and lots of school spirit. In Norway if you want to do a sport, you would have to join a club. I come from a small town so when I go to classes, I'm with most of the same people all day except for math and language. This makes us very close. I also like that in my American school I get to see way more people, so I'm a bit torn about which one I prefer.

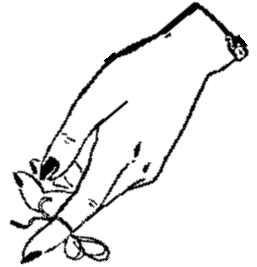


## LAST MINUTE REMINDERS!

1. Stephanie Byrd is teaming up with Connie Aiello to offer a **NORWEGIAN COOKING CLASS** in the teaching kitchen at MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI MEMORIAL UNION on Thursday, March 22 from 4:30–6:30 PM. The fee will be about \$20 and is open to MU faculty, students, and Nordlyset lodge members.

**Contact Connie: 623 252 8861**

!!



## IDEA SHARING WORKSHOP

2. District 5's Zone 4 (That's us!) is holding an idea sharing meeting on Saturday, March 17, in Port Washington. If you are interested in participating, contact Mike at 262 886 5547. Happy Youngs will be sharing information on "Developing Monthly Programs" with other lodges in eastern Wisconsin and Michaela Decker will be part of the team facilitating the day's sessions.

!!

