



Mission Statement: The mission of Sons of Norway is to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.



Fra Presidenten

Greetings. It now is May, and spring is in its glory. The daffodils and hyacinth in Sue's and my garden are in full bloom. For viewing flowers, we recommend the Brincka-Cross gardens in Michigan City (for daffodils) and the Shirley Heinze Land Trust/J. Timothy Ritchie preserve at Violet Avenue in Chesterton (for trillium).



Our April 26 lodge meeting went well. Many thanks to the lodge members who presented their Scandinavian desserts and recipes. The modern electric griddles make preparing krumkake and lefse much easier, compared to using a gas (or wood) stove. We learned some new ideas and preparation tips which will be useful in the future.

This May is a special month – it is the 40th anniversary of our lodge, and our lodge meeting falls exactly on May 17, which is Norwegian Constitution Day. To celebrate our lodge's anniversary, our May lodge meeting will be catered by the local Red Cup café. We will celebrate the history of our lodge and also hand out membership pins.

Again, I hope you can attend our lodge meeting on May 17. Happy Syttende Mai !

Takk for Alt!!.

Beste Hilsen, David Carlson Hirschey, president



Did our logo change?

Yes and no. The logo on this month's newsletter is the original outline drawn by member Warren Wold, which made its debut in the May 1986 newsletter. Over the years, in the days before computers, it was photocopied, taped, and repaired by many editors. Several years ago, the color was added, but its overall shape continued to take a beating. With our 40th anniversary as motivation, the original outline was restored and the colors transferred. The original lettering didn't fare as well, so the script we've used since February 2025 has been retained. Hope you enjoy!

Our May Lodge Meeting

May 17

12:00PM - 4:30PM

Baughner Center at Westchester Public Library,
100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN

May Program

Our lodge is 40!!!
Happy Syttende Mai!

Getting down to business - 4/21 Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Henderson, Secretary

April 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order by President, David Hirschey at 1:10PM. Members present were Sue Strohkirch, James Nelson, Mark Zimmerman, Darlene Henderson, Oleif Olsaker, Kathryn Rowberg, and Sidsel Lindborg.

The March meeting Minutes were approved by motions from Jim Nelson and seconded by Oleif Olsaker. Treasurer, Sue Strohkirch, reported that the required 990 form was completed and reported to the home office. The board voted unanimously to gift an honorarium to chain-saw carver, Jeff Postma for his donation of the log and time to help create Thor, our Viking. Motions were made by Jim Nelson and seconded by Mark Zimmerman to approve the honorarium. All members approved the motions. Mark Zimmerman will share his artistic talent and produce Certificates of Appreciation for each of the Woodcarving Seniors who worked on detailing Thor.

The board felt that the March Hobby Program was well received. It was suggested that next year a similar program involving family heirlooms be considered. It was noted that having programs that involve more members are more enjoyable for all.

Editor, Ann Thorvik, donated and sent to the lodge about 50 little wooden Viking Ships that members could paint and use for our booth sales at the Midsummer Fest. They will be passed to willing members at the lodge meeting.

Darlene Henderson presented information about lefse purchases for interested members. Orders will be taken from members at the next lodge meeting.

Sidsel Lindborg will call the 2 members whose dues are 30 days overdue.

David Hirschey held a short discussion regarding implementing and making available Zoom meetings for members not able to join meetings in person.

Darlene Henderson related an email from Justine Sams noting that because they were dealing with Paul's current health issues, they would not be able to attend any meetings at this time.

District secretary, Darlene Arnesen, noted in her last newsletter that there are now 3 options where your used postage stamps could be sent. (See May newsletter, page 6, for details)

While cleaning out old files, our certificate from Vesterheim Museum was resurrected reminding us that our lodge is a life member of Vesterheim in Decorah, Iowa. Darlene will keep the certificate in the secretary's permanent file.

Darlene also told members of the passing of long-time member and carver Donald Johannesen.

Plans for our May meeting were discussed. This will be our lodge's 40th anniversary celebration. Many ideas and suggestions are being considered.

James Nelson will contact The Red Cup for catering our celebration dinner. Ann will print a lodge history written by Nancy Tuznik in the newsletter. Mark suggested we have copies of the history made and have available to give to any new members. A variety of program ideas were discussed and Jim volunteered to also give a short history of May 17th.

Several ideas for the dedication of our Viking ceremony during our annual summer picnic in Friendship Gardens were discussed. Mark volunteered to handle the invitations to local dignitaries. Darlene will contact the Michigan City Mayor, and Jim will contact the President of the Chesterton Garden Club. Other plans will be made available as they are confirmed.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 12, 2025 at 1:00PM. Attend in person at Baugher Center OR contact David to be included in conference call, (312) 925-5371.

Celebrate Syttende Mai with us!

Syttende Mai, Norway's national holiday, is usually celebrated in public with massive parades of school kids, russ (high school seniors) wearing blue and red coveralls, adults donning bunader (folk costumes) and marching bands. It's a day for expressing cultural pride, excitement for spring and for appreciating the founding of an independent Norway. If there isn't a parade in your town, there are plenty of ways to have your own 17th of May celebration. Here are some elements that make for a festive get-together:

Décor

One thing that you see everywhere on Grunnlovsdagen or Constitution Day are Norwegian flags and red, white and blue decorations. Incorporate these colors into your party food, or if that's not possible, decorate with flag toothpicks and buy red, white and blue napkins.

Attire

Typical dress for all ages is a bunad, or national folk costume, but don't stress if you don't have one; people without costumes can dress nicely and pin red, white and blue ribbons onto their lapel, or wear the Norwegian colors in another way.

Music

Put on some Norwegian tunes or sing a few yourselves. The national anthem, Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet is a favorite, along with Norge I Rødt, Hvitt og Blått. Look on YouTube for playlists of Norwegian music, traditional or modern.

Gratulerer med dagen!

A typical activity on Syttende Mai is congratulating one another on Norway's independence, expressed by saying "Gratulerer med dagen!" (Congratulations today!) or "Hurra for Syttende Mai!" (Hooray for the 17th of May!). Repeat this to everyone you see throughout the day.

(Information from Sons of Norway Newsletter Service)

As part of our 40th Anniversary celebration at the May 17 meeting, President David Carlson Hirschey also will be awarding membership pins for the following milestones to:



10 Years:

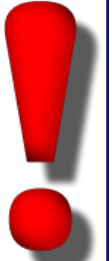
Cheryl Short

35 Years:

Marlene Kissman

40 Years:

Jack Anderson
Ann Berg
Barbara Djuvik
Hugh Hopkins
Andrew Johnson
Sara Johnson
Sidsel Lindborg
Dennis Lindborg
Vera Malwin
Daniel Paulsen
Patricia Paulsen



We look forward to seeing you there!

Food

Syttende Mai is a banner day for kids in Norway, as they are usually allowed to consume as much soda, hot dogs and ice cream as they want. Some people will buy food along the parade route, or eat at home.

Brunch before the parade is popular, with a cold buffet that may include smoked salmon, trout, cured meats, scrambled eggs, porridge, salads and champagne. Later in the day there will be coffee and bløtkake, a layered cream cake with fresh fruit- often using blueberries and strawberries to make a flag on top. Heart-shaped waffles and kransekake (a tiered almond ring cake made of ground almonds, sugar and egg whites) may be decorated with Norwegian flag toothpicks. The beauty of the koldtbord (smorgasbord) is that everything can be made in advance, regardless of the time of day. Combine any of your favorite Norwegian foods and encourage your guests to try new things!

Activities

If there's no parade for you to walk in, at some point, get outside or at least get moving. Once you've stuffed yourself on party food, go for a hike, play lawn games, or dance! Hurra for Syttende Mai!



Sosekjøtt & Spring Mashed Potatoes

From the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service:

As winter fades into spring, temperatures start to rise, and outdoor activity increases, try this delicious, hearty dish that is sure to fill you up.

Photo from North Wild Kitchen

To make the stew, start by cutting the meat into large chunks, about 1 1/2 inches (4 cm). Season well with salt and pepper.

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In a large, heavy-bottomed pot or dutch oven, heat 1 tablespoon of butter over medium-high heat, until hot and bubbling. Brown the meat in 3 batches (to avoid overcrowding), turning with tongs, for about 3-5 minutes per batch; add one tablespoon more butter with each batch (adding more if necessary). Transfer the meat to a large plate and set aside.

In the same pot, add the 6 tablespoons of butter and melt over medium-high heat. Add in the flour, whisking to combine. Cook for about 5 minutes or until the mixture has turned dark brown, whisking often to ensure it doesn't begin to burn. The darker the color, the darker the stew will be. Slowly pour in the beef stock, whisking until blended.

Add in the browned meat, onion wedges, and bay leaf. Bring to a simmer. Lower the heat and cover with a lid, cooking for 2 hours until the meat is tender. Remove the lid, return the stew to a gentle simmer, and cook for 30 minutes more until thickened slightly. Remove from the heat.

While the stew is cooking for the remaining 30 minutes, prepare the spring mashed potatoes. In a large pot, cover the potatoes with cold salted water and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until the potatoes are barely tender when pierced with a knife. Drain the potatoes and return them to the pot. Add the 3 tablespoons butter, along with the milk, and mash until creamy. Season with salt and pepper. Gently stir in the green peas, dill, and spring onions.

Serve the spring mashed potatoes immediately with the warm sosekjøtt.

For the sosekjøtt:

- 2.2 pounds (1 kg) chuck steak or shoulder steak (hørygg/bog)
- 3 Tbsp. butter, for frying
- 1 large onion, cut into thin wedges
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 5 Tbsp. flour
- 4 cups (1 liter) beef stock
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper

For spring mashed potatoes:

- 1-1/2 pounds (about 700 g) starchy potatoes, peeled and cut in half
- 3 Tbsp. lightly salted butter
- 1 cup (240 ml) milk
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup (150 g) green peas
- 1 bunch dill, chopped
- 2 spring onions, chopped

Getting down to business - 4/26 Lodge Meeting

Lodge Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Henderson, Secretary

April 26, 2025 Lodge Meeting Minutes:

After a potluck luncheon, the meeting was called to order by lodge president, David Hirschey at 2PM. Members sang the Norwegian and US National anthems.

Ruth Maxwell's daughter, Jennifer Maxwell, was introduced as a guest visiting from Auburn, Indiana.

Member sang Happy Birthday to Ruth as it was her birthday. Other April birthdays (Lee Nedreau, Marti Pizzini, Ann Thorvik, and Donald Smedstad) were also recognized.

Darlene Henderson presented information regarding available lefse products. Sue Strohkirch took member orders for Mrs. Olson's Lefse. Lefse orders will be brought to the May meeting for distribution.

Darlene gave a short progress report about Thor, the Viking.

Darlene Arnesen's latest newsletter had information about 3 sources that are collecting stamps. They will be listed in our next newsletter. Our lodge has been sending our stamps to the Convent at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. The sale of the stamps to collectors allows the Sisters to help many who are in need.

Ann Thorvik donated 50 wooden Viking ship ornaments that were passed around to members to be painted, colored, or decorated. They will be offered for sale at the local midsummer celebration in June.

David Hirschey briefly touched on plans for our May 17th celebration meeting. It will also be our lodge's 40th anniversary. Our dinner will be catered by Chesterton's Red Cup Restaurant. David will also award Membership Pins to some of the members. Invitations to our celebration will be sent to Sons of Norway dignitaries.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

The program included food demonstrations by the following members who shared their favorite Scandinavian recipes with samples to enjoy.

David Hirschey, Lefse

Darlene Henderson, Heart shaped waffles with cloudberry jam

Sidsel Lindborg, Krumkake

Sue Strohkirch, variety of Norwegian cookies



Marianne Olsaker demonstrates proper Swedish utensil technique.



Kathleen Dommer grabbing some lefse for the road.

Ruth Maxwell with the cardamom that makes her rice pudding extra special.



What's happening in District 5... and beyond?

Donate Cancelled Stamps

Darlene Arnesen, our District Secretary, has updated the list of willing recipients for stamp donations, below. Locally, if any Scandiana members have questions, please see Darlene Henderson, our resident stamp expert, and she'll help instruct you on how to participate.



The options that we explored and recommend lodges consider:

- Sisters at St. Mary's College in Nortre Dame, South Bend, Indiana

<https://www.cscsisters.org/big-dividends-little-stamp/>

If you have any questions about buying or donating stamps, please address them to: stamproom@cscsisters.org. Mail stamps to: Mail stamps to: Sisters of the Holy Cross Stamp Room, 200 Rosary Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556-5053

- Stamps for the Wounded <https://www.stampsforthewounded.org/>

Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to U.S. veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW sends donated postage stamps and other philatelic material and supplies to wounded, ill, and isolated veterans. If you have any questions, please feel free to Contact Us through the web form, by email, or via postal mail. The following kinds of donations are needed: Used postage stamps saved from the mail; Stamps, covers and other items from stamp collections; New and gently used philatelic supplies (album pages, mounts, hinges, stock books, perforation gauges, tongs, etc.); Philatelic literature (catalogues and reference books but not philatelic magazines or newspapers); and cash donations to help with operating costs. How To Send Donations to Us by U.S. Postal Service: Stamps for the Wounded, P.O. Box 297, Dunn Loring, VA 22027-0297

- Another Option in Norway STAMP COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CONTINUES. After 01/01/2023. everything will be sent directly to: Skanfil Auctions AS, Postbox 2030, 5504 Haugesund. Take note of the package with "TUBFRIM". We hope that everyone will continue the good fundraising work that is made as income for the TUBFRIM Fund and the National Association for Public Health. Skanfil Aukstjerner AS is part of the Skanfil group, with headquarters in Haugesund and branch offices in, among other things, Oslo, Bergen, Sarpsborg and Trondheim. Skanfil is the country's largest collector's company with stamps as their main product. But not only that - the company also turns coins, banknotes, postcards, art and most of the items worth taking care of. This also allows for donations of such objects for income for the TUBFRIM fund. <https://skanfil.no/tubfrim/>

- TUBFRIM and Skanfil Auction

<https://skanfil.no/tubfrim/> Send stamps to: Skanfil Auctions AS, TUBFRIM-fondet, P.O. Box 2030, 5504 Haugesund, Norway. Feel free to contact us by tubfrim@skanfil.no or call us on tel. 52 70 39 40 / 924 90 761 if you have any questions. Skanfil Auctions AS is part of the Skanfil Group, with headquarters in Haugesund and branch offices in Oslo, Bergen, Sarpsborg and Trondheim, among others. Skanfil is the country's largest collector's company with stamps as its main product. But not only that – the company also sells coins, banknotes, postcards, art, and most items worth preserving.

2025 Norwegian Immigration 200 years – Part Three

by Jim Nelson

Why did Norwegians emigrate?

A rigid class system kept many Norwegians locked into underprivileged social strata. Here is the social breakdown of Norwegian society through the 19th century and into the early 20th century:

The **upper classes** made up less than 2% of the population. They were wealthy landowners, doctors, commercial ship owners, civil servants (including sheriffs, public clerks, judges, magistrates, church clergy) and the owners and operators of mines and factories.



The **middle classes** included skilled craftsmen, independent (land-owning) farmers and petty bourgeoisie (small business owners, shop owners), comprising nearly 50% of Norway's population.

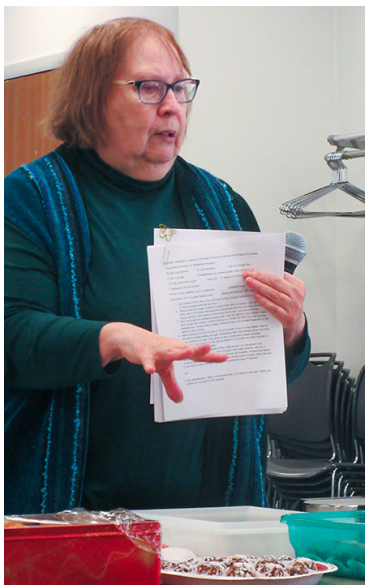
The **lower classes** also made up close to 50% of the population. These included: landless farm laborers and their families; domestic servants, day laborers and a large number of paupers. One-third of the farming population were husmenn (crofters or landless farm laborers) and servants. In the 1850s, 2% of Norwegians were homeless beggars.

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Upward social mobility was virtually impossible, forcing a large portion of Norway's population to live at a subsistence level. Those who chose to stay in Norway moved to the few cities in search of jobs as laborers or domestic servants. Those who wanted to farm emigrated to the US and Canada.

Norwegian society today is dramatically changed. The first parliament was created in 1884 and the Labour party began in 1887, the first political voice for the middle- and lower-class majority of the population. Norway and the four other Nordic countries have developed and adopted the Nordic Model, which integrates free market capitalism and a public welfare system focused on health, education and infrastructure. Norway now has 11 political parties represented in the Storting and one of the highest standards of living in the world.

More APRIL Meeting Photos



Sue Strohkirch providing clear instructions on her cookie recipe.

PLENTY TO SHARE!



David Carlson Hirschey with his platter of lefse.

May's Translation Practice

Provided by the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service

På norsk

Anne-Cath. Vestly: Hun var barnas talsperson og fornyet norsk barnelitteratur

Det store gjennombruddet til Anne-Cath. Vestly kom med boken om Ole Aleksander Filibom-bom-bom i 1953. Gjen-nom de rundt 50 bøker hun skrev frem til 2004 introduserte hun nye perspektiver på barn og barndom og familie- og samfunnsliv.

Forsker Agnes-Margrethe Bjorvand ved Universitetet i Agder (UiA) mener Anne-Cath. Vestly fortsatt er relevant.

Barn skal både høres og synes

Hun forteller at bøkene til Vestly først og fremst passer aller best for aldersgruppa fire til sju år. Barn liker best å lese om noen som er like gamle som eller litt eldre enn seg selv, sier Bjorvand.

Hva er det nye i Anne-Cath. Vestlys syn på barn og barndommen?

Bjorvand forteller videre at i Vestlys bøker tas barn på alvor. Barna er en viktig del av samfunnet og demokratiet. De får ansvar, de lyttes til, og de anerkjennes. Barna blir sett på som likeverdige med voksne.

– Alle bøkene handler om det å være menneske, et menneske som lærer å samhandle med de rundt seg. Bøkene er fundert på verdier som fellesskap, respekt for andre mennesker, likestilling og det at alle fortjener en ny sjanse.

Vestly var mer enn en forfatter

– Dere skriver at Vestly er «dronningen av norsk barnelitteratur». Hva innebærer egentlig det?

– Hun skrev og fortalte for barn i over 50 år. Hun var med på å få fart på barnelitteraturen etter andre verdenskrig.

Anne-Cath. Vestly var også mye mer enn forfatter. Hun var en kulturpersonlighet og en autoritet man lyttet til.

Hvis foreldre og besteforeldre i dag vil lese Vestly-bøker for barna, hvor bør de begynne?

– Begynn med de bøkene du selv har likt. Voksne blir bedre formidlere hvis vi selv liker boken vi leser høyt. Dessuten kan det være lurt velge en serie som har en hovedperson på omtrent samme alder som den man skal lese for.



Forskeren anbefaler å velge bøkene om Ole Aleksander eller Lillebror for 4-5-åringen og Guro eller Aurora for 6-7-åringen. Alle norske barn bør få bli kjent med for eksempel Lillebror og Knerten og mormor og de åtte ungene.

May's Translation Practice

Provided by the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service

På engelsk

Anne-Cath. Vestly: The children's spokesperson who reinvigorated Norwegian children's literature

Anne-Cath. Vestly's big breakthrough came with her book about Ole Aleksander Filibom-bom-bom in 1953. Through the 50 books she wrote up to 2004, she introduced new perspectives on children, childhood, family and social life.



Researcher Agnes-Margrethe Bjorvand at the University of Agder (UiA) believes Anne-Cath. Vestly is still relevant.

Children should be both heard and seen

Bjorvand says that Vestly's books are best suited for the age group of four to seven. Children like to read about some-one who is the same age as or a little older than themselves, says Bjorvand.

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What is new in Anne-Cath. Vestly's view of children and childhood?

Bjorvand goes on to say that in Vestly's books, children are taken seriously. Children are an important part of society and democracy. They are given responsibility, they are listened to, and they are recognized. Children are seen as equal to adults.

"All the books are about being human, a person who learns to interact with those around them. The books are based on values such as community, respect for other people, equality and the fact that everyone deserves a second chance."

Vestly was more than an author

You write that Vestly is the "queen of Norwegian children's literature. What does that really mean?

"She wrote and told stories for children for over 50 years. She helped to boost children's literature after the Second World War. Anne-Cath. Vestly was also much more than an author. She was a cultural figure and an authority to be listened to."

If parents and grandparents today want to read Vestly books to their children, where should they start?

"Start with the books you yourself have liked. Adults become better communicators if we ourselves like the book we read aloud. It may also be a good idea to choose a series that has a main character who is about the same age as the person you are reading to."

The researcher recommends choosing the books about Ole Aleksander or Little Brother for 4-5-year-olds and Guro or Aurora for 6-7-year-olds. All Norwegian children should be introduced to, for example, Little Brother and Knerten and Grandma and the Eight Children.

Source:

<https://www.forskning.no/barn-boker-litteratur/anne-cath-vestly-hun-var-barnas-talsperson-og-fornyett-norsk-barnelitteratur/2366712>

Viking Watch

The Scandiana and Michigan City Senior Center woodcarvers continue their work on a new viking statue for the Norway Gardens within Michigan City's Friendship Botanic Garden. The new viking is being fashioned from a Northern White Pine log that began as 7 feet tall, 24 inches in diameter, and weighing about 400 pounds!



What a difference a month makes!

It has been a big month for Thor! While there is still some detailing to be done, the carvers are hopeful they can finish by mid-May.

Left: Lee Nedreau
Below: Richard Brooks



Oleif Olsaker went to the gardens to select and prepare an area to display the Viking.

Carvers are discussing the best way to secure Thor to a base once in the garden. A protective coating of timber oil will be applied once Thor is in place in the garden, as it needs plenty of fresh air to dry.

Thor's dedication will take place on August 16th when our lodge celebrates our annual picnic in the gardens. Local dignitaries will be invited.

Also, The Beacher is going to write a follow up story with photos at the dedication.

Child's Play: 40th Anniversary Fun - Word Search

Scandiana - 1985 Lodge Officers

B S M X U D P K O T T D E S A
J S Z G I E W F A D J E C C T
C N K U P S L I N D B O R G H
H T G R R A T E Z O J Y H S O
R U F P W C U E J A R U L Y R
I Z D E E P H L K O S F V W V
S N P D P P J E S A H N M I I
T I L E B E A K R E L N N Q K
I K I R Z A E U E B N D S H P
A Z S S O C L L L L K W A E O
N W K E L M H M L S L A Z H N
S W E N J R H W P I E E L A L
E O Q R F S Y C E M S N Y Y V
N L G O T T E R S E N I G L U
G D F I W O O L S A K E R H N

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| JChristiansen | RPedersen | SLindborg |
| GOttersen | OOlsaker | EPaulsen |
| SZurcher | EJohnsen | EKaldahl |
| GPaulsen | JKelley | DPliske |
| ADjuvik | EEllis | AThorvik |
| NTuznik | WWold | |

The original suggestions for our lodge name:

Did your parents ever tell you what you were ALMOST named? Here's an early list of 38 names that were suggested for our lodge:

Stavanger Fjord Lodge, Stavangerfjord, Stavanger Fjord, Stavanger #1, Leif Erickson, Club Håager, Mjosa (N. largest lake), Glomma (longest river), Dyre Vaa (fairytale figure), Nordics, Værbitt, Høyfjell, Midnight Sun, Ole Rolvaag Chapter, St. Olaf Hakkan, Blåveis, Thor, Ibsen, Little Norway in Indiana, Burns Fjord, The Indiana Elskers, Dunes, Olaf's Lodge, Hagar's Club, Knute Rockne, Knute Rockne Fellowship, Beautiful Mountain (in Norwegian), Bergen House, Rett Frem, Nordlyset, Northern Lights, North Star, Northern Star, Indiana Norge, Vikings, Viking Lodge, Hoosier Viking, and Scandiana.

Springtime Poetry

From Jim Nelson: Here's a Norwegian poem about spring. I first came across it when I was 16 and listened to a choral setting done by Edvard Grieg. The poem was written by Aasmund Olavsson Vinje (1818-1870) around 1865. The English title for the poem is "The Last Spring". He died only five years after it was written, at the age of 52. Here's my English translation to Vinje's original, in Telemark dialect.

Vaaren

Enno ein gong fekk eg vetren å sjå
for våren å røma;
Heggen med tre som der blomar var på.
eg atter såg bløma.
Enno ein gong fekk eg isen å sjå
frå landet å fljota,
snjoen å bråna, og fossen i å,
å fyssa og brjota.

Graset det grøne eg enno ein gong
fekk skoda med blomar.
Enno eg hørde at vårfuglen song,
mot sol og mot sumar.
Enno ein gong den velsignad eg fekk,
at gauken eg hørde.
Enno ein gong ut på åkren eg gjekk,
der plogen dei kjøyrde.

Enno ein gong fekk eg skoda meg varm,
på lufti og engi,
jordi å sjå som med lengtande barm,
at sukka i sængi ,
vårsky at leika der til og ifrå
og skybankar krulla.
So ut av banken tok Tora til slå
og kralla og rulla.

Eingong eg sjølv i den vårlege eim,
som mettar mitt auga.
Eingong eg der vil meg finna ein heim,
og symjande lauga.
Alt det som våren imøte meg bar
og blomen og plukkad'.
Federnes ånder eg grudde det var,
som dansad' og sukkad'.

Difor eg fann millom bjørkar og bar,
i våren ei gåta;
Derfor det ljod i den fløyta eg skar –
– meg tyktest at gråta!

Struggling
with Telemark
pronunciation?
Ask Jim for
tips!



Springtime decor from Sue Strohkirch

The Last Spring (trans. Jim Nelson)

Once more I was able to see winter give way to spring.
Flowering hedges and trees I once again saw in bloom.
Once more I was able to see the ice drift from the shore,
the snow to soften, and the waterfall to well up and flow.

In the new green grass I once more beheld blossoms.
Again I heard the spring song of birds, singing to sun and summer.
Once more I was blessed to hear the cuckoo.
Once more I walked in the field where they pushed the plow.

Once more I could gaze my fill into the air and the meadow;
the soil to see, which silently sighs in its newly-made bed;
the spring sky to dance about, and cloud-banks to climb.
Then, in the clouds, little Tora would toss and crawl and tumble.

One day I myself, in the birth of spring, which nourishes my eyes – one day I will find a home and soothing waters.
All that spring brought to me, and the flowers I plucked,
I fancied were my ancestors' spirits, dancing and sighing.

There I found, among birch and pine, a riddle in spring;
therefore the willow flute I carved sang; I thought I would cry from joy.

Scandiana's Origin, as told in 1989 during the Fifth District's 75th Anniversary celebration

Scandiana Lodge 600 began in September 1984 when a group of Norwegians from northern Indiana gathered for a cup of coffee and began to explore the possibility of establishing the first Indiana Sons of Norway lodge. At a pre-organizational meeting in December, Jim Holms, a director of the Fifth District from Lansing, MI and Joe Thompson, field representative from Black River Falls, WI, explained the purposes and goals of Sons of Norway. The core of about 70 people attending that meeting voted to establish a new lodge with yearly dues set at \$15. They also decided to hold one social meeting a month, and began a survey of members to see who to nominate for officers, and to see what interest groups should be started first.



The Institution dinner was set for May 25, 1985 at the Red Lantern Inn in Beverly Shores, IN. Fifth District President Clifford Feggestad was in charge of the ceremony, assisted by Chicago Sons of Norway Drill Team and other officers from the District and International lodges.

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The task of naming our lodge was now of primary importance. Beginning with three appropriate names, an elimination process was begun, with the name Scandiana unanimously chosen. Our name represents the combination of Scandia (our roots) and Indiana (our home). The next task was to find a centrally located site for the monthly meetings. The Chesterton, IN public library was chosen because of its availability on the chosen meeting night and its accessibility to all members.

The membership chose Nancy Tuznik as their first president, a logical choice as she had put in hundreds of hours helping the lodge get started. Then on November 9, 1985, the lodge was chartered by District President Clifford Feggestad with over 100 charter members. Nancy was elected as a District Director in 1988.

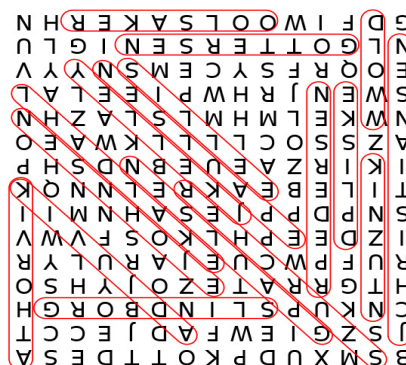
Although a new lodge, its members have taken part in officer seminars, volunteered at Ski for Light events, and attended District conventions. Scandiana is sponsoring a folk dancing group from Norway, and has a group of its own that meets regularly. Rosemaling classes have been held, and holidays observed in various ways. A huge banner has identified the marchers from Scandiana in Arlington Heights' (IL) Syttende Mai parade. There have been ski days, and St. Hans Dag observance with a bonfire on the beach. Scandiana chose to have two Sister Lodges, Trolhaugen 417 and Vennskap 516, with whom they share activities.

No cheating, but IF you need help with the word search, rotate this page for the answers.

Editor's Note:

With apologies to Sara Johnson, I got carried away with our 40th anniversary, Syttende Mai, and SPRING's arrival that your story ideas have been bumped to June's newsletter.

-Ann



ANSWER KEY

Scandiana - 1985 Lodge Officers

Gratulerer med dagen

May Birthday

18th Bruce Johnson



Former Scandiana woodcarver, Don Johannesen

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May Board Meeting

The May Board meetings will be held
at 1:00 PM on May 12th in the
Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center,
100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN 46304

What you need to know for the May 17th meeting



May 17

12:00PM - Baugher Center
meeting space is open

1:00PM - Dinner is served,
Lodge meeting and monthly
program follow

4:30PM - Baugher Center
meeting space closes

Host: Michael Leland

Please bring:

Your own table service

Food will be provided by Chesterton's Red Cup Restaurant.

Wear your bunad or Nordic attire (or your Sunday best) for
the celebration!

Program: Jim Nelson will provide a brief history of Syttende
Mai and will play a few tunes.



Extending our deepest condolences

Don Johannesen, former member and Scandiana woodcarver, passed away on April 2, 2025 at age 90 from pneumonia. He was a storyteller in wood, creating scenes from sagas and folk stories. Years ago, his "Scandinavian Folk Art in Wood" exhibition was on display at the University of Notre Dame. He moved to New England in retirement. Our condolences to Betty and his family.