

July/August 2025



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 is now August; the days are still warm, but fall is getting closer. This is a big month for our Lodge – our annual picnic at Friendship Botanic Gardens and dedication of the new Viking statue in our Norway Garden.

Our July event was a tour of the Westchester Township History Museum, which is located in the Brown mansion. We had a private tour of the mansion and its exhibits, led by Museum curator Serena Ard. Our thanks to Jim Nelson for arranging this tour; Jim is on the Museum's board. Fourteen of us attended the tour. Serena was enthusiastic and informative; for example, we learned that Chesterton had many brick companies and also produced organs and pianos. Serena also has a program on Swedish immigrants in northwest Indiana, and she graciously agreed to give that presentation at our September 20 Lodge meeting. [Mark Zimmerman will still present his genealogy program to us, just at a future date.]

As mentioned above, our August lodge event is our annual Friendship Botanic Gardens picnic, which will be held on August 16. Our pot-luck meal will begin at 12:00 noon. We will dedicate our new Viking statue in our Norway Garden. Our thanks to Oleif Olsaker and Darlene Henderson (and her fellow wood carvers) for their leadership on the picnic and the Viking statue. The Lodge will provide the entre for the picnic, and the Gardens will again provide a shuttle to take us from the parking lot to our pavilion.

Again, enjoy the last month of summer, and look forward to our Friendship Botanic Gardens picnic on the 16th !

Takk for alt!!
Beste Hilsen
David Carlson Hirschey

Our August Lodge Activity

August 16

11:00AM - 2:00PM

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 EAST U.S. HIGHWAY 12
MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360

**Your entry fee is covered.
At the entrance, just tell
them you're with the
Sons of Norway group!**

Getting down to business - 6/16 Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Henderson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President David Hirschey at 1:08 PM.

Present were board members, Sue Strohkirch, James Nelson, Darlene Henderson, Oleif Olsaker, Mark Zimmerman, and Sidsel Lindborg.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Sue gave a treasurer's report noting that the case of 12 packages of lefsa were sold and more will be ordered before Christmas.

The Red Cup presented a bill for the amount of \$222.00 for their catering service in May. The board approved it and it will be paid. After discussion, it was decided to rotate and use other available local sources for future dinners. It was thought that a catered dinner at Christmas would also be good.

A check for \$100.00 was given to Robert Tylisz for his efforts and donations to Thor's completion and delivery.

Midsummer plans were finalized. Tables, chairs and a tent were reserved for our use.

Parking passes will be given to volunteer workers. Midsummer celebration at Chellberg Farm on June 21st will be open for the public from 1-3PM. Volunteers can do their set-ups at 11:00. Our lodge will be selling bottled water for \$1:00 and the Viking Ship Ornaments for \$5:00. Our Lodge pamphlets and SON membership forms will be available to the public. Sue will get names and contact information from those interested in SON.

James will confirm our scheduled tour at the Westchester Museum on July 26th.

Our annual lodge potluck picnic, in Friendship Gardens, is scheduled on August 16th from 11:00AM until 2:00PM. The dedication ceremony for Thor, our Viking, will be led by David Hirschey. Details will be in the August Newsletter.

Sidsel noted that she was able to contact members who were reminded their dues were past due.

Oleif contacted a local sign company about replacing our Norway Garden sign. The current wooden sign is falling apart. He got an estimate of \$222.00. A motion was made to replace the sign and also get a price to include sign backing.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50PM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 11, 2025 at 1:00PM. Attend in person at the Baugher Center OR contact David to be included in a conference call, (312) 925-5371.

Return the Ships to port!

If you have any viking ship ornaments, whether painted or blank, please bring them to the next meeting and we will store them for later use.



Best Wishes to Mel Sorensen, who was hospitalized in June.

Deepest Condolences to Kathy Hays on the loss of her husband, Jerry, on July 5th. Jerry worked at Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor plant for years and enjoyed tinkering and making rosaries in his spare time. Kathy and Jerry celebrated 59 years of marriage on June 4th. May he rest in peace.



French Toast (Norwegian Style)

Recipe from the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service:

Have a bounty of blueberries this season? We have an extra recipe to help you put them to good use!

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Beat together eggs, milk and sugar.

Add cinnamon, cardamom and the zest of an orange.

Stir well.

Dip the bread slices in the mixture and fry in butter over medium heat until golden brown.

Cut the orange segments out of the orange and cut into smaller cubes.

Serve warm with diced apples, liquid honey, a good dollop of sour cream and freshly made blueberry jam.

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:

- 3 slices of bread
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1.5 dl milk (2/3 cup)
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. butter for frying
- 1 orange
- 4 Tbsp. sour cream
- 4 Tbsp. blueberry jam
- 1 Tbsp. liquid honey

During Midsommar did you notice any crazy Swedes jumping around in a circle making floppy ears with their hands?

Well, it is time to introduce you to the amazing lyrics of Små Grodorna (the Little Frogs)! This is the classic song of Midsummer and is sung while dancing around the maypole. Be sure not to forget the dance moves, such as making floppy ears and tails with your hands as you hop around the maypole. Why ears (öron) and tails (svansar), you ask? Because frogs are lacking these body parts.

The English translation of these lyrics includes the lines: The small frogs, the small frogs are funny to see. No ears, no ears, no tails have they. Quack quack quack, quack quack quack, Quack quack quack quacka. The little pigs, the little pigs are funny to observe. Both ears, both ears and tails do they possess. Oh oink oink oink, oh oink oink oink, oh oink oink oink oink oink.



Blueberry squares with vanilla cream and crispy topping

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Mix the flour, granulated sugar and baking powder in a bowl. Cut the butter into small cubes and crumble it into the flour mixture together with the egg yolk. Crumble until the consistency resembles sand. Cover the dough with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for at least an hour.

Stir together blueberries, lemon zest, lemon juice and sugar.

Line an 8 x 8 inch square pan, or alternatively a 9 inch round pan, with baking paper on the bottom and sides.

Press 2/3 of the crumble base evenly over the pan. Set aside 1/3 of the crumble base.

Spread the blueberries evenly over the bottom of the pan. Do not include the juice; only the berries.

Make and spread small dollops of pastry cream evenly over the blueberries.

Stir in one tablespoon of brown sugar and one tablespoon of granulated sugar into the remaining portion of the crumb dough. Crumble the dough evenly over the cake.

Bake in the middle of the oven at 375 degrees Fahrenheit / 190 degrees Celsius for 45 minutes. Cool the cake to room temperature on the kitchen counter and then place it in the refrigerator for at least an hour before removing it from the pan and cutting it into fine pieces.

Ingredients for Crumble Base

- 1-1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 stick of butter
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. Sugar

Ingredients for the Filling

- A heaping cup of blueberries (or 200g)
- 1 Tbsp. lemon zest
- 1 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup sugar
- A little less than a 1/2 cup pastry cream



Getting down to business - 5/17 Lodge Meeting

Lodge Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Henderson, Secretary

May 17, 2025 Lodge Meeting Minutes:

Members were treated to a baked ham from Marianne and Oleif Olsaker and side dishes catered by The Red Cup Cafe, after which President David Hirschey called a short business meeting to order at 2:10pm. Members sang both the US and Norway's National Anthems, led by musician James Nelson. Hugh Hopkins introduced guests, Shirley Wallace and Bob Constable, both from Chesterton. Sue Strohkirch had available and sold packages of Mrs. Olsen's Lefse that she special bordered for members in honor of our lodge's 40th anniversary.

Cost was \$6.00 for a package of 10 pieces.

James Nelson expects to have confirmation of the Midsummer Celebration, on June 21st, from the local park dept.

Sue Strohkirch gave more Viking ship ornaments to members willing to paint them. They are to be sold in our booth, at the midsummer celebration. She asked that when they are finished, they be dropped off at her home before the 21st of June.

Members voted to enjoy a tour of the Brown Mansion Museum on July 26th, 10:30 til Noon. Jim will confirm the date and time with the Museum.

Watercolor Artist, Mark Zimmerman, donated one of his paintings, of our Norway garden, for a lodge raffle. Hugh Hopkins was the lucky winner.

David awarded several Membership Pins to members who were present. Darlene Henderson will mail the pins to members not able to attend.

David recognized Scandiana's Charter Members and asked Oleif Olsaker, Sidsel Lindborg and Darlene Henderson to share their experiences from 40 years ago, starting our lodge.

Jim Nelson provided an interesting program about the start of the May 17th celebrations in Norway and ended playing tunes on his "Selje Floyte" (willow flute)

Meeting and program ended at 3:15PM.

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Norway Garden awaits Thor's arrival

August's Translation Practice

Provided by the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service

På norsk

Har spart kakestykke fra kong Harald og dronning Sonjas bryllup i 1968

Kakestykket ble nemlig aldri spist, og det finnes fortsatt.

Kjell Karlsens orkester hadde det aerefulle oppdraget med å spille i bryllupet til davaerende kronprins Harald og hans kronprinsesse Sonja 29. august 1968. Bandet hadde også underholdt på forlovelsesfesten.

Karlsen, en legende i norsk musikkliv, var nemlig ikke så opptatt med slottsfesten at han glemte kona som spent ventet hjemme.

Han valgte rett og slett å ta med et stykke bryllupskake med hjem.

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– Det var jo såpass sent, så jeg hadde ikke lyst til å spise kake da, sier 89 år gamle Lill-Louise Karlsen i NRKs nye dokumentarserie «Folkets konge».

Dagen etterpå var hun heller ikke ivrig på å spise kake, så hun satte den i fryseren. Der ble den værende.

I NRK-serien viser Lill-Louise Karlsen og datteren Tone-Lill Karlsen (60) frem kakestykket.

Lukter vanilje

Datteren graver frem en plastboks fra morens fryseskap hjemme på Ullern. En hvit lapp er festet på.

– Her står det med pappas sirlige skrift: Bryllupskakebit fra kronprins Harald og Sonjas bryllup. Tone-Lill konkluderer med at det fortsatt lukter vanilje.

– Jeg lurer på om kongen og dronningen husker kaken? Hvis ikke kan de få dette, sier moren – før hun leende legger til:

– Nei, det får de ikke.

Døde før TV-premieren

Da innslaget til «Folkets konge» ble filmet på nyåret i fjor, visste ikke Lill-Louise at hun hadde kort tid igjen.

Når VG drar på besøk til datteren på Frogner i Oslo onsdag denne uken, forteller hun at moren likevel ikke tok for gitt at hun skulle få med seg TV-premieren.

– Jeg husker hun sa at «det er ikke sikkert jeg får med meg den».

Det gjorde hun heller ikke. 5. april i år døde Lill-Louise Karlsen, fem uker etter at hun hadde fått diagnosen bukspyttkjertelkreft.

Men 89-åringen fikk likevel se det ferdige opptaket av seg selv og datteren.

– NRK ordnet det sånn at vi fikk tilsendt en link. Det likte mamma.

Da lå hun på Ullern helsehus. Hun smilte veldig, forteller Tone-Lill.

Lill-Louise Karlsen ble enke i mai 2020, Kjell Karlsen gikk bort, 88 år gammel.

– De var så tette og hadde så mye kjaerlighet for hverandre. Det at begge forlot oss med så kort mellomrom, har vært heftig. Det er et stort savn, forteller datteren.

Da musikerlegenden Kjell Karlsen spilte i kronprinsbryllupet for 55 år siden, tok han med et stykke kake hjem til kona. Nå har datteren arvet klenodiet.

Hedret med medalje

Kjell Karlsen ble i 1999 hedret med Kongens fortjenstmedalje i gull for sin innsats innen norsk musikk.

– Det var stort. Mor var med far på Slottet den gangen, forteller Tone-Lill.



Just some of this cake's ingredients:

1 litre of cognac

1.5 litres of rum

10 kilograms of butter

10 kilograms of sugar

14 kilograms of flour

26 kilograms of different fruits

50 kilograms of marzipan

200 eggs

August's Translation Practice

Provided by the Sons of Norway Newsletter Service

På engelsk

Saved a piece of cake from King Harald and Queen Sonja's 1968 wedding

The piece of cake was never eaten, and it is still there.

Kjell Karlsen's orchestra had the honor of playing at the wedding of the then Crown Prince Harald and his Crown Princess Sonja on August 29, 1968. The band had also entertained at their engagement party.

Karlsen, a legend in Norwegian music, was not so distracted at the palace reception that he forgot about his wife who was eagerly waiting at home.

He simply chose to take a piece of wedding cake home with him.

"It was so late, that I didn't feel like eating cake," says 89-year-old Lill-Louise Karlsen in NRK's new documentary series "The People's King."

The next day she wasn't keen on eating cake either, so she put it in the freezer. There it stayed.

In the NRK series, Lill-Louise Karlsen and her daughter Tone-Lill Karlsen (60) show off the piece of cake.

Smells like vanilla

The daughter digs out a plastic box from her mother's freezer at home in Ullern [a borough on Oslo's west side]. A white note is attached to it.

"Here it says in her father's neat handwriting: Wedding cake piece from Crown Prince Harald and Sonja's wedding."

Tone-Lill concludes that it still smells of vanilla.

"I wonder if the king and queen remember the cake? If not, they can have this," says the mother – before she adds with a laugh: "No, they can't."

Died before the TV premiere

When the segment for "The People's King" was filmed on New Year's Eve last year, Lill-Louise didn't know that she had little time left.

When VG [newspaper Verdens Gang] visited her daughter in Frogner [a westside borough] in Oslo on Wednesday this week, she said that her mother still didn't take it for granted that she would be able to see the TV premiere.

"I remember her saying that 'I'm not sure I'll be able to see it.'"

She didn't either. On April 5 this year, Lill-Louise Karlsen died, five weeks after she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

But the 89-year-old was still able to see the finished recording of herself and her daughter.

"NRK arranged for us to be sent a link." Mom liked it.

She was in Ullern Health Center at the time. She smiled a lot, says Tone-Lill.

Lill-Louise Karlsen became a widow in May 2020, when Kjell Karlsen passed away, aged 88.

"They were so close and had so much love for each other. The fact that they both left us in such a short space of time has been intense. It is a great loss," says her daughter.

When music legend Kjell Karlsen played at the crown prince's wedding 55 years ago, he brought a piece of cake home to his wife. Now his daughter has inherited the treasure.

Honored with a medal

In 1999, Kjell Karlsen was honored with the King's Medal of Merit in gold for his contributions to Norwegian music.

"It was a big deal. Mother was with father at the Palace that time," says Tone-Lill.



Kjell
Karlsen

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!

It is time to CELEBRATE! Thor is finished and installed in the Norway Garden in Michigan City's Friendship Botanic Garden.

Join us for the official dedication on August 16.

The dedication and picnic will take place from 11:00AM - 2:00PM, so bring beverages and a dish to share, if you can.

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Concerned about the walk from the parking lot to Thor? Fear not, there will be golf carts on-hand to deliver you safely to the Norway Garden.

The photos, below, show the final steps and finishing touches:



Robert Tylisz and Treven Lostis, under Oleif Olsaker's watchful eye, carefully remove Thor from the delivery van and strap him in for his stroll through the garden. Additional thanks to David Pliske for helping Robert Tylisz prepare Thor's base for installation.



Ah, to sleep that soundly!

Ship runs aground while neighbor sleeps soundly

Johan Helberg woke up to quite the lawn decoration outside of his home, which lies at the edge of a fjord outside of Trondheim, Norway. The retired museum director was alerted by a panicked neighbor to the presence of a 443-foot container ship just yards from his front door. The neighbor heard the approach of the ship at around 5 am, quickly ran next door, and started ringing Johan's doorbell. Not accustomed to visitors at such an hour, Helberg ignored it. Only after a phone call did Johan step outside to see the ruckus that he had slept through. While the ship did cause damage to a cabin heating pipe, miraculously, no other harm was done to property or life.

Initial efforts to dislodge the vessel from the spot failed. However, five days later they were successful in towing the ship to a nearby harbor.

Reflecting on the whole ordeal, Helberg stated, "I doubt I'll ever experience anything quite like this again." But also, "I wouldn't have traded this experience for anything."

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Norway bans marketing of unhealthy foods to children

As of April 25, 2025, a new regulation went into effect in Norway. This regulation implemented by the Norwegian government prohibits the marketing of food and drink considered unhealthy directly aimed at children.

The goal of the regulation is to protect children up to the age of 18 and while it will still be legal for children to purchase such products, the marketing of those products will be illegal.

Unhealthier products such as energy drinks, ice cream, and candy are part of the ban, but there are other products where the nutritional content will dictate if it's banned for marketing or not, for example, different kinds of cereal.

Minister of Health and Care Services Jan Christian Vestre said, "We are committed to ensure good health for children and youth and that it should be easy to make good choices in everyday life. The government is implementing this measure because we are committed to protect our children and their health."

Although the regulation went into effect in April, the industry will receive six months to adapt to it.

Gratulerer med dagen

July Birthdays

(none)

August Birthdays

11 Sue Strohkirch
14 Paul Sams
15 Kathryn Rowberg
21 Barbara Djuvik
24 Sidsel Lindborg

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August Board Meeting

The August Board meetings will be held
at 1:00 PM on August 11th in the
Westchester Public Library's Baugher Center,
100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, IN 46304

What you need to know for the August 16th gathering

August 16, 11:00AM - 2:00PM (Note: Our picnic will end promptly at 2:00PM to make room for a wedding ceremony scheduled for the Gardens.)

Picnic and Dedication ceremony for Thor, our Lodge Viking. Bring beverages and something to share, if you're able.

Tell attendant at the entrance that you are there for the Scandiana/Sons of Norway garden dedication.

There will be golf carts or other transport from the parking lot to the Norway Garden for those who are concerned about the distance.

Bonus points for those wearing Viking attire!

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