

LUREN



**SONS OF NORWAY-
CIRCLE CITY LODGE #5-614
CARMEL, IN**

May/June 2024 Issue

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 its members.

Greetings from the Vice-President

Greetings to all in Circle City Lodge.

Summer is fast approaching and the schedule is getting busy. In March, we had Dr. Daron Olsen with us and spoke on Vikings, it was an excellent presentation. Our pitch in was quite an assortment of food and we had about twenty five in attendance.

Our April meeting gave us a smorgasbord of fine food and followed by Dr. Trond Seland's presentation on Lighthouses. We appreciated his mix of the purpose of a lighthouse and scripture verses. The April event was enjoyed by thirty six people with several being guests.

Next on our schedule is our Syttende Mai celebration. It will be on May 18th at noon (had to move out one week due to Church scheduling). Please send your reservation in so we know how many to expect. This will be a prepared meal NOT a pitch in. Following the meal, will be a piano concert by Dr. Greg Martin of U Indy.

Last, but certainly not least, is our District Five Convention. It will be held at Crown Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Airport, the date is June 19th-22nd. Our delegates have been chosen but all can attend. Go to www.sonsofnorway5.com and click on "convention tab" to get all of the information you might need. It will be a great time of learning and fellowship.

See you May 18th,

Stan Pederson

Vice President

Dear Don,

Thank you for stopping by to drop off enrichment items last week. Our staff were thrilled to receive them!

From your friends at the Indianapolis Zoo.

Sincerely,
Ed

Fascinating Facts About Norway

- The world's longest road tunnel is in Norway.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo.
- The world's most remote island is a Norwegian territory.
- Norway has a land border with Russia.
- Kirkenes is farther east than all of Finland.
- Norway is home to Hell.
- Norway introduced salmon sushi to Japan.
- Income and wealth of all residents is on public record.
- The first U.N. Secretary-General was Norwegian.
- There are two versions of the Norwegian language.
- Modern and ancient skiing were invented in Norway.
- Norway rocks the Winter Olympics.
- Europe's biggest herd of wild reindeer live in Norway.
- Norway has a volcano.
- Norway isn't called Norway.
- Norway gave the world the cheese slicer.
- Oslo is Norway's most diverse city.
- Norway's domestic power usage is 98% hydroelectric.



Calendar of Events

18 May
10:15 a.m. Norsk Klasse

12:00 Syttende Mai Celebtation
noon

8 June
10:15 a.m. Norsk Klasse

12:00 Pitch-in Meal
noon

Program: My Genealogical
Researching Three Countries-

Jeff Dodge

19-22
June District Convention-Crowne

Plaza Hotel (near Indpls Airport)

Getting to Know Jean Bittner

As a recurring feature of our newsletter we ask members to tell their life story.

This month we are featuring Jean Bittner. Please submit yours next month.

My father was from Tredvestrand and my mother was from Sandefjord. My father, Gunnar Arne Andersen, was the youngest child of his family. He emigrated from Oslo at a very young age. The eldest would inherit all the family's land, house, barn, animals, etc. so there was no need to wait around.

I was born in New York in March 1936. Shortly after that we left for Skien (Norway), since my grandmother wanted her son near to her and wanted to see her grandchildren.

When I turned 4 years old, we left Oslo on the last passenger ship the day before the Nazis invaded Norway. The seas were turbulent, and fear was felt by everyone. I remember seeing the Statue of Liberty and the joy and relief of everyone.

In June 1940 I first met Burton Bittner. His mother told my mother that he would be sitting next to Arne, my brother, in 1st grade at Public School # 147. I still remember that moment. Little did I know we would wed in 1961!

I was widowed with one son and a child on the way. Burt saw me on the bus one day he said it was love at first sight. Ha Ha! He forgot seeing me in Andrew Jackson High School, St. Albans, New York City as a teen.

My first husband was a minister who died unexpectedly after 4 years of marriage. He fell in love with me and the music I played. My dad bought a baby grand piano in 1940, and I took lessons when I was 4 years old to 19 years old. I also took pipe organ lessons from Dr. Jacob Ehm from ages 15-19. I signed a contract for 2 years at the age of 17 at a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Jamaica (NY). I mastered the preludes and fugues by J. S. Bach.

I was confirmed in a Norwegian Evangelical Church in St. Albans. The two synods were so very different. Burt and I married in 1961, and, as a Navy sailor, he left for his tour of duty in Cubi-cubi, Nasipit in the Philippines. He later caught up with his navy buddies and all had married and had children. Burt loved having my two boys and me all in one sacred wedding. My sons were so blessed to have Burt as their father and were legally adopted by him.

The Navy years were fabulous. We were in the Philippines, Newport (Rhode Island), San Diego (CA), Norfolk (VA), Bath (ME), Indianapolis, Wiesbaden (Germany), and Boston (MA). We literally saw most of Europe while overseas as well as Egypt, Israel, and Spain.

I have so many wonderful memories, especially of Sons of Norway in Bayridge (in Brooklyn). It was there I first danced to live music on the feet of my dad. Great for a 4 year old! As a teen I invited my friends to attend, and they loved the dances and music from Norway.

It took many years to be in Sons of Norway again, but the Circle City Lodge brought much joy! I loved the people and opportunities that became available. I was the Cultural Director, then President, and went to the district convention and later became the Cultural Director for District 5. I achieved earning my Gold Medal in the Cultural Skills program – the 7th one to do so. The cultural skills program was offered many years before that, so I was proud to be one of the few who achieved this award.

I was chosen to represent Indiana at a dinner in Chicago honoring King Harald and Queen Sonja in 1995 where I wore my bunad and Burt had just received his from the tailor in Norway. The Queen was pleased since it was the one that represented her area.

I was fortunate to travel with six from our Circle City Lodge on a ski-dance program to Norway. In 1993 I attended the 50th anniversary of the sabotage of the heavy water production area where we met with Claus Helberg and marched across the bridge carrying the white torch. Claus was one that was honored. He was the Queen's guide for hiking and skiing along with her dear friend, the Queen of Denmark.

Because of Sons of Norway, I studied knife-making and many aspects of woodworking (kolrosing, chip carving, figure carving, and acanthus carving). The acanthus was the most challenging. I also studied hardangersøm embroidery.

Soon many of you will be going to Norway. We were on four Hurtigruten cruises one in each of the four seasons. The October cruise will delight you with the beautiful sky, and the food is excellent.

Burt and I were blessed to have a son - Douglas - and a daughter – Kaaren - who were both healthy. They gave us wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

My confirmation in June 1949 was so meaningful for my whole life. Until COVID I've vacationed in different states with some of the confirmands and we met bi-annually, but now only 3 of us remain. Jens, Arthur, and I were the closest in Sunday School, Confirmation, and Luther League. It is amazing to think how many times we spent together even away from church activities. I chose to try to live my life according to Micha 6:8 which reads: "To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with my God".

ROMMEGROT (Cream Mush)

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks butter or margarine
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1 quart whole milk
- 1 cup half & half
- 1/4 to 3/4 cup sugar

Directions:

Melt butter, add flour, stirring constantly. Let boil for awhile. Heat milk and half & half. When milk starts boil, add to the flour mixture. Let cook stirring constantly, until it thickens. Add sugar to taste, melt butter for the top and serve with cinnamon and sugar.

Makes 14 servings, 3 ounces each.

I like to use a 16 ounce carton of sour cream in the above recipe, which tastes closer to rommogrot, a sour cream porridge.

Circle City Lodge Officers

President:	Nancy Andersen	317-626-5237
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Sports Director:	Susan Alden	317-460-8891
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Read past issues of LUREN at:

www.sonsofnorway5.com

Check out our facebook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/473869819402515>

Check out SOFN Website!

<https://www.sofn.com>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKXhY-3CTVE)

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