



Norse Valley Lodge 5-491 Nytt Notes January 2025

Julefest Celebration...

We had over 40 in attendance on Saturday December 7th to celebrate Christmas at our last Lodge meeting of 2024.

What a fun evening!

A huge thank you to our main course chef, Corey Olson, who purchased and smoked the pulled pork in spite of being unable to attend the party due to be under the weather. The guests made some delicious casseroles and deserts so no one, but no one, went home hungry.

Lois Gruetzmacher and her guitar led us Christmas caroling and even without any adult beverages, we sounded pretty darn good.

Patrick shared a story of "Louisa's Christmas Errand" that took place in Granna, Sweden back in 1878.

The night was capped off with an appearance of a Norwegian Santa Claus Neisse bearing gifts of books for each of the 4 youngsters in attendance.

We also nominated and voted for our 2025 Board members. Some of the changes include:

Lodge Vice-President Lois Gruetzmacher

Lodge Social Director: Penelope Malcolm

Lodge Cultural Director: Erich Knapp





Upcoming Lodge Events!

Saturday January 18th 2025: 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 3009 North Meade Street in Appleton.

Local historian Tom Sutter present his Lantern Slides of 19th Century Norway. We will also swear-in new and returning Lodge Board members.

Saturday February 15th 2025: 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

February's program involves "How to Speak Norwegian" and a chili cook-off.

Saturday March 22nd 2025: Noon: March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New London.

An Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity:



Beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday February 5th, we are looking for Norse Valley members to volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton to pack food for the less fortunate.

Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash (lhash@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out at Feeding America on February 5th.

New Year Celebrations in Scandinavian Countries

Norway

Norwegians welcome the new year with the cry of “**Godt nyttår!**” Fireworks are the main feature of the Norwegian New Year’s celebrations. Often a public display takes place in the early evening so that the youngest children can also enjoy the spectacle. Warm cocoa helps to keep the crowds warm and no child is without a sparkler.

Later in the evening, the adults get their turn; dinner is generally eaten with friends and family and often consists of turkey or fish. Smoked salmon, pickled herring (*a tradition passed down in my family*), roast pork and baked ham grace Norwegian tables.

Later the group ventures into the winter night shortly before the clock strikes twelve.

Many Norway towns have concerts, balls and parties. Coastal communities hold “north to south” ship parades greeting the new year.

Denmark

The Danish yell “**Godt Nytår!**” at midnight in Copenhagen’s Amalienborg Castle Square, where up to 100,000 gather for concerts and fireworks.

Eating, drinking and dancing are the priorities. Hotels and restaurants offer special dishes for the evening and also present music shows and live performances. The Danes serve cod, stewed kale and sweet marzipan cakes.

Many Danes are glued to their televisions to catch the Queen’s New Year’s Eve speech.

When the clock strikes midnight, fireworks light up the sky. Many people set off their own but the display in Copenhagen’s Tivoli Gardens is considered the best. Indeed the New Year’s Eve show is the culmination of five days of fireworks in Tivoli Gardens which starts two days after Christmas.

A strange Danish New Year’s Eve tradition has people smashing plates on friends’ and neighbors’ doorsteps – the more shards you find greeting January 1st, the more popular you are!

Sweden

“**Gott Nytt År!**” Swedes love their New Year’s Eve fireworks, none more stunning than the annual display over Stockholm. Before midnight, drinks and dancing fill the city’s bars and restaurants. As clocks strike 12, singing, cheers and rockets fill the air.

Everyone gathers to watch a live television broadcast from the Skansen Open-air museum in Stockholm, where the bells chime and a New Year verse is read to the nation (curiously a Swedish translation of “Ring out wild bells” by the English poet Tennyson).

Swedes drink warming *glögg* (mulled wine) while snacking on saffron buns.

The next day, kebab pizzas help cure hangovers and TV airs classic Swedish films.

Finland

Midnight fireworks and celebrations take over Helsinki’s Senate Square on New Year’s as Finns shout “**Hyvää Uutta Vuotta!**”.

The Lutheran Cathedral's bells chime as thousands gather to welcome the year. Fireworks explode colorfully in the sky above tens of thousands of merry-makers, while music and dancing fill the crisp winter air. Festivities last late into the night.

Beyond the capital, unique New Year's customs live on in the Finnish countryside. The fortune-telling ritual of *uudenvuodentina* has locals melting tin over fires on New Year's Eve and interpreting the shapes it forms to predict events in the coming year.

Traditional New Year's foods play an important role as well. Bubbling champagne, delicate blini (think pancake) topped with caviar, and lavish roasted hazelnut-stuffed pheasant grace many Finnish dinner tables to ring in the new year.

Iceland

In Reykjavik and other Icelandic spots, look for bonfires to be lit between 8pm and 9pm on New Year's Eve.



Eating wise, the festivities start at 6 pm with the family's last meal of the year. Turkey is a popular choice.

Folks start gathering early in the evening, shoot off personal fireworks, and then head out for more parties. Bars and pubs stay open until around 5 am.

Attention Facebook Users

Be sure to Follow our lodge's Facebook page ([@norsevalley](#)) and check in regularly to Like and Share our posts if you happen to miss them in your feed.

The more our posts are Shared and Liked, the more exposure our lodge gets which is great advertising for us. Don't forget that our website [norsevalley.org](#) is a great place to find out about upcoming events and check out photos from past events.

Got a question? Send an email to norsevalley@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Judy Ghastin at judy62ghastin@gmail.com or 920-450-3584.