



January 2019

Norsemen of the Lakes

Fra Presidenten

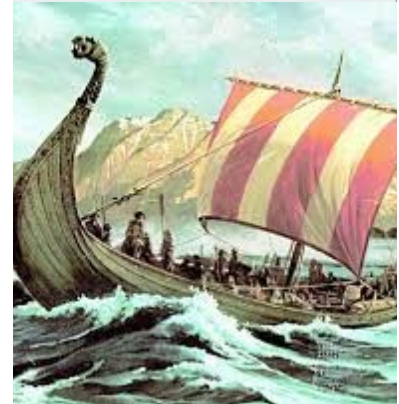
As we watch 2018 fade into the distance, I see many blessing we have received this year. As President Brian Ogne, who has served this lodge for 10 years, steps down, I would like to thank him for all the good things he has done for us. It is a lot of work to be president, and I hope I do you proud and have your support in carrying the Norsemen of the Lakes into 2019.

I have decided to try to have meetings in Jan. and Feb. and hope those of you who are not working during the day will attend. I decided to try some afternoon meetings during these short, cold winter days and hope some will enjoy them. Our next meeting will be at the **Advia Credit Union in Elkhorn Jan 8th at 3 p.m.** You don't need to bring anything as I will provide cookies and Barb will bring the coffee. I also want to warn you that I may have to be in AZ during Feb. to be with my dad who is 91 and needs a little caring for. That is one of my blessings, to be able to "do" something for a parent who has done so much for me.

Corlene Bartels

FINDING YOUR SCANDINAVIAN ROOTS

If you have watched "Finding Your Roots" on PBS, you know that Henry Louis Gates, Jr. helps celebrities trace their genealogies. He says, "I believe that the more each of us understands about where we came from, the more richly we can live our lives." I can identify with this, having traced my Norwegian roots. Two years ago, on a trip with our lodge, I spent a little time at Livsreise in Stoughton. They have lots of resources to help you find your Norwegian ancestors. I was even able to find a picture of the ship they came over on called the Protector, pictured here. I encourage each of you to find time to search for your roots, if you haven't. I hope, in the future, to locate some distant relatives still in Norway and correspond with them. You can even earn an SON cultural skill award for this. Go to www.livsreise.org for more information on genealogy and <https://www.sofn.com/> for information on cultural skills.



Gratulare Med Dagen

Marra Andreas Jan. 26

Catherine Nolan Jan. 23

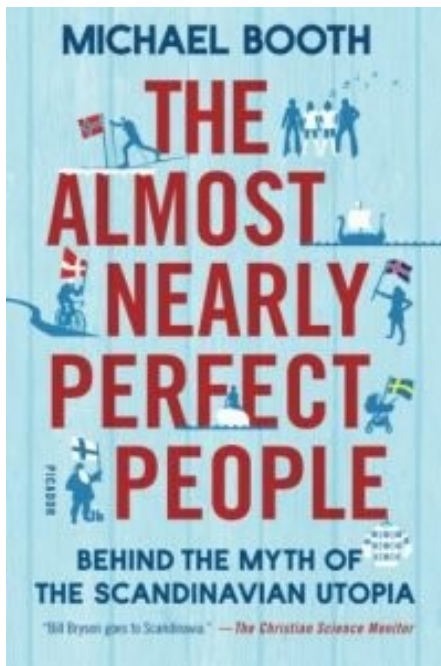
Trevor Wilson Jan. 27

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KALENDAR

- Feb. 12 meeting at Advia Credit Union 3 P.M.
- March 12 meeting at Sherwood Lodge-pot luck and movie The Stavig Letters



THE ALMOST NEARLY PERFECT PEOPLE

“A witty, informative, and popular travelogue about the Scandinavian countries and how they may not be as happy or as perfect as we assume, *The Almost Nearly Perfect People* offers up the ideal mixture of intriguing and revealing facts” (Laura Miller, Salon).

Journalist Michael Booth has lived among the Scandinavians for more than ten years, and he has grown increasingly frustrated with the rose-tinted view of this part of the world offered up by the Western media.

In this timely book he leaves his adopted home of Denmark and embarks on a journey through all five of the Nordic countries to discover who these curious tribes are, the secrets of their success, and, most intriguing of all, what they think of one another.

Why are the Danes so happy, despite having the highest taxes?

Do the Finns really have the best education system? Are the Icelanders as feral as they sometimes appear?

How are the Norwegians spending their fantastic oil wealth? And why do all of them hate the Swedes?

In *The Almost Nearly Perfect People*, Michael Booth explains who the Scandinavians are, how they differ and why, and what their quirks and foibles are, and he explores why these societies have become so successful and models for the world. Along the way a more nuanced, often darker picture emerges of a region plagued by taboos, characterized by suffocating parochialism, and populated by extremists of various shades.

They may very well be almost nearly perfect, but it isn't easy being Scandinavian.

IN MEMORIUM

Skip Schuren, the husband of Jan Schuren, one of our members, died on Dec. 22, the result of a fall at their home. A number of our members may remember Jan. She has been a long time member, although she doesn't attend meetings regularly. If you wish to send Jan a card of condolence, her address is 5654 Parliament Ln. Delavan, WI 53115. Even weeks after a loss like this, a card of remembrance is often welcomed.

47 VALUABLE MUNCH WORKS GONE ASTRAY

It is the Munch Museum in Oslo that is responsible for the works. When the newspaper a year ago asked for an overview of which works of art in the extensive Stenersen collection have disappeared, the answer they received was 26. In an overview of disappeared works of art that Dagbladet presents today, Thursday, the newspaper reveals that at least 47 works of art are missing.

Six Munch works that the Munch Museum did not know were missing are among the disappeared works of art. This relates to the graphic works “Omega crying”, “The death of Marat”, “Crying young woman by the bed”, “Portrait of Mrs R”, “Tiergarten-Berlin” and the painting of a child, “Åge Christian Gierløff”.

The Munch Museum took over the responsibility for the art collection in 2010 from the municipality of Oslo. The collection was originally bequeathed by Rolf E. Stenersen.

Elisabeth Munch-Ellingsen, who is a great-granddaughter of Edvard Munch's brother, reacts to the fact that a large number of works of art are AWOL.

–“This whole caretaking of such valuable paintings, both artistically and economically, is truly scandalous. I do not necessarily think about the financial, but that it is a valuable heritage. The public receives a gift and a responsibility, and then the responsibility is not upheld,” Munch-Ellingsen states.

The Director of the Munch Museum in Oslo, Stein Olav Henrichsen, cannot say anything about why the registration of the works has been deficient. He believes the handling of the collection must be viewed in the light of a symptom of a larger question about how we as a society safeguard our art and cultural heritage.



Holmenkollen City Event . Better brush up on your knowledge of North Norwegian dialects.

NORTH NORWEGIANS HALF PRICE AT SLALOM IN HOLMENKOLLEN

DURING THE WORLD CUP IN PARALLEL SLALOM IN HOLMENKOLLEN ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, THE ORGANIZER WILL GIVE HALF PRICE TO NORWEGIANS WHO PASS AN INFORMAL DIALECT TEST.

The aim is mainly to enhance engagement around the World Cup event in Parallel Slalom in the Norwegian capital, and partly to be a stunt in favour of Narvik's World Championships application for 2027.

In collaboration with the Alpine World Championships in Narvik 2027, we want to show the world what a fantastic atmosphere Norwegian supporters can create. Also, skiing is more fun with lots of people in the stands. Therefore, we give all the North Norwegians tickets for half price for the event on New Year's Day, given that they pass a slightly informal dialect test, says CEO of Holmenkollen Ski Festival AS, Kristin Vestgren Sæterøy to the newspaper Fremover.

She does not provide any details of how this dialect test will be conducted, including any requirements for knowledge of the flowery language such as "Hæstkuk" or "Ka farsken".

The first World Cup event in parallel slalom in Holmenkollen on New Year's Day was held this year. About 7,200 spectators met up in the infamous "Kollen fog" to attempt to experience – what unfortunately ended up being a bad day

Elves

Said to inhabit the realm of Alfheim, under the rule of the Goddess Freyr, the Elves were tall, slim demi-gods with pale skin and hair, who were more beautiful than the sun.

On the whole the Elves kept themselves away from the affairs of humans, appearing only occasionally to either cause or cure illnesses, based on their whims. They were a very fluid race and did not subscribe to the normal gender roles of humans. Elves were often portrayed as morally ambivalent.

Some sources distinguish Elves into two different groups – Dökkálfar and Ljósálfar – Dark Elves that are 'blacker than pitch' and Light Elves that are 'lighter than the sun'.

This is disputed by many scholars, and the Dökkálfar could either be an attempt to introduce the 'good vs evil' concept or they may be Dwarfs under another name.

Either way, it's clear that the Ljósálfar are what we have come to know of as Elves.

A YEAR WITH EXTREME VARIATIONS WEATHER-WISE

“Now the cold weather comes for real” sounded the headlines that introduced the weather in 2018. The winter came fully in January with temperatures down to 20°C (68F) degrees below and forced Norwegians throughout the country to search for their woolen underwear, mittens and winter hats. It has not been as much snowfall since 2007 as it was in January of this year.

Hanne Heiberg is a researcher in the Climate Service Department of the Norwegian Meteorological Institute. She says that the winter of 2018 was experienced as very long since February, March and early April was very cold.

Winter and cold provided soap-slippery roads, and during January, the emergency room in Oslo reported over 48 fall injuries a day, which is abnormal.

And the City of Oslo received over 10,000 complaints of inadequate ploughing and use of sand, despite the fact that 7,000 tons of gravel and sand were scattered on about 100 kilometres of pavement.

ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF SNOW

The amount of snow, however, increased the joy of skiing and facilitated for a marvelous winter holiday in February. The perfect ski conditions also paved the way for visitor records at a number of Norwegian alpine resorts.

The cold front from Siberia created an extreme cold and made March unusually teeth chattering. It presented problems for the early elite series start in football, which kicked off as early as on March 10th this year.

“The temperature is now typically one degree above what one expects as normal during the winter months. While January was 1.6 °C

degrees above normal, February was 0.8 degrees colder and March was 2.8 degrees colder than normal, which is considered as very cold,” Heiberg elaborates.

“Mars was the coldest month since 2013,” she adds.

RECORD HEAT

The winter was almost not allowed to retire before spring and summer heralded their arrival. May 1st, it was snowing in the capital, but a week later it was measured 26.7 °C degrees at Brusdalsvatn in Ålesund municipality. It was the start of a very pleasant and long summer in the whole of Norway.

May caused a record in ten counties. The heat wave led to drought and large forest fire hazard. Early in June, 269 forest fires were registered, which were almost as many as 2017 put together.

Oslo had its first tropical night in 15 years during the night before June 11th, when 20.1 degrees was recorded as the lowest temperature. The Night before July 30th there was also registered a tropical night in Tromsø for the very first time, as the lowest temperature was 20.8 degrees in 24 hours.

This year’s fantastic summers exceed the most. During the summer in Norway, heat records were registered at over 40 measuring stations and there was recorded more than 30 tropical days with temperatures above 30 degrees. Last year, only one such day was registered in the whole of Norway.

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"We had nice weather week after week after week, and especially May and July were very hot," says Heiberg.

She states that global warming increases the chances of heat records in the future and says that we are heading towards a warmer climate, which can provide longer summers and shorter winters. According to Heiberg, 28 county maximum temperature records were set this year.

The extreme heat was to the taste of the sun lovers and bathing nymphs but hit the farmers hard. The heat led to an extreme drought, which was declared the worst since 1947, and led to the worst grain crops in more than 50 years.

Heiberg adds that one cannot expect such a hot summer next year, as the temperatures in Norway fluctuate from month to month and year to

year.

– This year is a perfect example of this, she concludes.

EXTREME WEATHER

After a dry summer, the autumn has been far wetter. In September, the storm "Knud" (Canute) ravaged large parts of southern and eastern Norway. Over Oslo there were measured wind gusts of over 30 metres per second, trees broke off like matches and in excess of 50,000 households were bereft off electricity. "Knud" caused major damage to both property and other infrastructure.

So did the large flooding that hit Western Norway, including Hordaland and Sogn & Fjordane, and especially the areas around Skjåk and Vågå. The cause of the flooding was heavy rain and snow melting due to abnormally high temperatures in the mountains.

The rainfall continued in Western Norway, and Bergen could adorn itself with a rainfall record at the end of October. The previous record was 1,397.6 millimetres dating from November 2006 through January of 2007 and was knocked down into the Wellington boots by a total of 1,399.2 millimetres from August through October 2018.

After a mild November, it is prudent to hope for a white Christmas and cold winter in 2019, so that the skis many got as a Christmas gift come in handy in the New Year.