



SONS of NORWAY

April 2019
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

Finally, spring is beginning to show us some mercy from the cold of winter. Blessings and prayers go out to all who have suffered loss of livestock from the blizzards out west as well as those who have losses due to the devastating floods.

Our next meeting, at the Atrium (Sherwood Lodge) in Williams Bay April 9th @ 6 p.m. will have an interesting program. Guest speaker Greg Ragan, Financial Benefits Counselor, will be there to explain the benefits offered by our national organization. Additionally, member Doris Wild will present a lecture on the transition from paganism to Christianity in Norway as well as a primer on Stave Churches. It sounds very interesting and I hope to see you all there. As usual, we will have a pot luck first; so bring your appetite too.

Corlene Bartels



Gratulare Med Dagen

Diane Olson	2nd
Luann Copeland	16th
Lillian Landru	18th
Elaine Lundgren	19th
Anne Hope	30th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Book Review	2
Cruise Ship Stranded.....	2
Nordic Sport in Utah	3
Folklore: Nisser & Trolls ...	3
NZ Terror Tie to Norway ...	4
Norwegian Elkhound.....	5
DNA & Vikings	6

KALENDAR

- April 9th: Meeting at 6 p.m. at Sherwood Lodge in Wms Bay, potluck & guest Greg Ragan. Lecture on paganism to Christianity & Stave churches.
- May 14th: 6 o'clock meeting at Sherwood Lodge in Wms. Bay, potluck & movie "The Stavig Letters" (second attempt)
- June 15th Heg Memorial Park: Lodge & Zone 4 Meeting
- Aug.18th outing to Stoughton

Membership Committee News



Norsemen of the Lakes now has a **Facebook page** and an **email** address. In our effort to grow our members and revitalize our lodge, a FB page has been created so people can find us in a brand-new way. In addition to having the page available, people can "friend" our page so they can see posts made to the page every time they log on. Also, anyone who has a page can "share" posts from our page to a friend's page, either privately or openly. That way every FB user can spread the word that we are here and want company to enjoy together.

One feature of FB is that we can post an event, like our meetings. Then you can click the "interested" button and it will remind you before the event. We can even send out invitations with RSVPs, giving us a good idea how many people will be attending.

To find us, just do a FB search for Norsemen of the Lakes. Additionally, people can email norsemenofthelakes@gmail.com for information about our lodge, meetings, or any other questions.



Book Review: The Doll House By Corlene Bartels

A Doll's House is a three-act play written by Norway's Henrik Ibsen. It premiered in Denmark on 21 December 1879.

The main character in the play is Nora Helmer and her husband Torvald Helmer is critically ill. The doctor tells her that Torvald will not survive unless he is taken to a more temperate climate to heal. But they haven't the money and her husband doesn't believe in going into debt. Nora secretly gets the money anyway in the form of an unconventional loan, and that is the beginning of a twisted tale that challenges the notion of the times that the wife is the stalwart of the home and the husband her master. In essence, she is expected to be like the doll in a dollhouse: perfect in all respects. But when her secret is revealed, she learns that it's not for her that he is concerned, but for his image.

A Doll's House, is a masterpiece of theatrical craft which, for the first time, portrayed the tragic hypocrisy of Victorian middle class marriage on the stage. The play ushered in a new social era and turned contemporary life on its head.

Playwright Henrik Johan Ibsen was a major Norwegian often referred to as the "father of modern drama." Ibsen is held to be the greatest of Norwegian authors and one of the most important playwrights of all time. His plays were considered scandalous to many of his era. Ibsen's work examined the realities that lay behind many facades, possessing a revelatory nature that was disquieting to many contemporaries.

You can get this short play from your local library in book or audio form.

VIKING CRUISE SHIP STRANDED OFF NORWAY



The evacuation of passengers from a cruise ship off the western coast of Norway has come to an end as the vessel safely makes its way to Molde harbor, Viking Ocean Cruises said in a statement.

Rescue teams airlifted 479 people from the vessel after it was stranded in stormy seas Saturday with 1,300 passengers and crew on board.

The Viking Sky cruise ship, which regained engine power on Sunday March 24th, traveled to Molde accompanied by two supply ships and one tug assist vessel. There were 436 guests and 458 crew still remaining on the ship.

Passengers were on a 12-day Northern Lights cruise that departed from Bergen, Norway on March 14. The ship was visiting different Norwegian towns and cities before arriving at its final destination of London Tillbury, England on March 26.

The Viking Sky left Tromso on March 21 at 10:20 p.m. local time, according to Marine Traffic. It's estimated time of arrival at Stavanger shows March 24 at 1 p.m.

Twenty people sustained injuries on the vessel, which was being tossed about by wind and waves, Viking Ocean Cruises said. All are being treated at medical facilities in Norway, or have

already been discharged.

"Throughout all of this, our first priority was for the safety and well-being of our passengers and our crew," Viking Ocean Cruises said in a statement, thanking Norwegian emergency services and local residents for their support.

Two American passengers who were airlifted off the Norway cruise ship told CNN affiliate Dagbladet about the frightening scene on board.

"Furniture would slide across the room, slide back and with it came people and glass. It was a very dangerous situation frankly," Jan Terbruegen said.

Speaking at the Scandic Hotel Alexandra, where many of the evacuated passengers are staying, Terbruegen described seeing the ship drifting toward rocks before being evacuated.

"We could see that we were getting blown in toward some rocks. That was the most frightening thing I think. But luckily that wasn't our destiny," Terbruegen said.

Beth Clark, another American passenger, said she was hoisted 100 feet in the air onto a Coast Guard helicopter from the ship. She praised the Norwegian Coast Guard, Viking Sky crew and others for help with the evacuation efforts.

Courage, Confidence and Character Gained through Nordic Sports

Barneloppet (youth ski race) season is gone for this year, but the future looks bright for these up and coming stars as young Sons of Norway members who live in snowy regions are looking forward to next season. Should the seeds of competition be planted, their dreams of an Olympic or World Cup podium could become a future reality.

The good news: There's an entity as enthusiastic as Sons of Norway is about fresh air, fitness and embracing Nordic sports that is helping make those dreams come true.



USA Nordic Sport, based in Park City, Utah, is providing such inspiration, with its mission to build youth skiers' "courage, confidence and character." The organization, under the leadership of Executive Director Billy Demong, first American Olympic gold medalist to win the coveted Nordic Combined event, is building a fast-growing network of training camps, competitions for jumping and Nordic combined, and more.

"It's not all my doing – we have a passionate and dedicated staff, including other former Olympians, who have poured tremendous energy into awareness of the sport along with top-shelf training," said Demong. "Further, there are legions of coaches and parents whose contributions cannot be overestimated. It's truly heartwarming to be part of this dedicated group."

USA Nordic is raising the bar when it comes to building sustainable Nordic sports programs and maintaining forceful momentum for growth. The organization is already a nationwide resource for ski clubs and has a non-stop schedule of activities taking place across the country. Coming up in January and February are a number of ski jump competitions in the Midwest, including Minneapolis and towns in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan.

What's next for USA Nordic? "We're focused on even more growth of our youth programs for 16-20-year olds and building tournament opportunities for them. That is prime time for providing a pathway to World Cup and Olympic competitions."



NISSER: These beings are actually still very important in modern society. In the Scandinavian Christmas tradition, there is no Santa in the shape of a fat, bearded guy who lives at the North Pole. Instead, we each have our own Nisse, living in the barn (that is to say, if you are a farmer, or living in the countryside), who is like a guardian for the household. These creatures are typical pranksters, but can easily be befriended, and around Christmas they have the same function as Santa in Western traditions.



TROLLS: The troll comes from Norse Mythology, inspired by the cruel giants who were the main enemies of the gods, known as jotner/jotuner/jötunn, who lived in the mountains of Utgard. They have a human like appearance, but they are incredibly ugly and huge, and every story about them tells of how stupid they are. In the old tales, there were trolls of all kinds, some living in the high mountains, in castles carved out of the stone, in deep forests, and some even by the shore. Upon the arrival of Christianity around the 1300s, the stories changed. The trolls were able to smell the blood of a Christian man, and basically they stood for anything of the old times, which the new religion condemned. Oh, and if they every came in contact with sunlight, they turned to stone.

NEW ZEALAND MOSQUE GUNMAN CLAIMS NORWAY'S BREIVIK INSPIRED TERROR ATTACK



Extremists around the world have sought to emulate Breivik ever since his deadly attacks in Norway which left 77 people dead in 2011. The Christchurch attacks bore several of the features of Breivik's: mass shootings, multi-cultural victims, a racist manifesto published online and inscribed weapons.

In a 74-page document posted on Twitter just before the attack, the Christchurch shooter said he "took true inspiration from Knight Justiciar Breivik", using terminology reminiscent of that used by the Norwegian extremist.

"I have only had brief contact with Knight Justiciar Breivik, receiving a blessing for my mission after contacting his brother knights," wrote the shooter.

A lawyer for Breivik, Oystein Storrvik, told *Verdens Gang* newspaper that "it seems unlikely" the Christchurch attacker had been in direct contact with Breivik, given the strict controls imposed on him in prison.

Breivik killed 77 people on July 22, 2011 when he set off a van bomb near government offices in Oslo, then opened fire on a Labour youth camp on the island of Utoya.

He said he killed his victims because they embraced multiculturalism. The now 40-year-old Norwegian had also posted a more than 1,500-page manifesto in which he called on others to follow his example.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison described the Christchurch attacker as an Australian "extremist, right-wing, violent terrorist".

For Norway, the Christchurch attacks brought back memories of the Breivik attacks, its most violent event since World War II.

"It recalls painful memories," Prime Minister Erna Solberg said. "Anyone who has ever lost a loved one, whether it's because of terrorism or not, understands what these families are going to go through," Vanessa Svebakk, a Norwegian who also holds New Zealand citizenship and who lost her 14-year-old daughter in the Utoya attack, told AFP.

"But for those of us who have lost someone because of terrorism, the feelings are even stronger."

Tore Bjorgo, the head of the University of Oslo's Center for Extremism Research, said "there are clearly a lot of the same ideas behind" the two attacks.

They include, among other things, "the idea that European civilization is threatened by immigration in general and by Muslim immigration in particular, and that it is legitimate for some people to resort to extreme violence to stop it," he told AFP.

"There are pretty clear indications in the (Christchurch) manifesto that we're dealing with a white supremacist," said Jean-Yves Camus, a French expert on far-right movements.

"The manifesto goes further than what Breivik wrote in his own text. Breivik didn't describe himself as fascist," he said.

Like Breivik, the Christchurch killer compared himself in his manifesto to Nelson Mandela, saying he even expected to win the Nobel Peace Prize one day.

Both attackers share "this narcissism, this grandiose image of themselves," Swedish terrorism researcher Magnus Ranstorp told AFP.

Breivik, who now goes by the name Fjotolf Hansen, is serving a 21-year-sentence that can be extended indefinitely. He is held in isolation without internet access, and his limited contacts with the outside world are closely monitored, at times blocked.

"If the correspondence could inspire acts of violence, then we are allowed to stop it," Espen Jambak, the deputy head of the high security Skien prison where Breivik is incarcerated, told AFP.

"We feel we have good control" over his correspondence, he said.

Breivik's attacks have already inspired other extremists in the past. On July 22, 2016, exactly five years after the Norway attack, a young man with mental health issues and said to be obsessed with Breivik killed nine people in a Munich shopping center before committing suicide.

"There have also been other terror plots inspired by Breivik at more or less advanced stages, in Poland, the Czech Republic, France and the United States," said researcher Bjorgo. Each attack risks triggering new ones.

The New Zealand attack "was clearly devised to inspire others, both those on the extreme right and Islamist extremists," Utoya survivor Bjorn Ihler told AFP.

"That it was filmed live indicates there was a deliberate strategy to create a narrative that can be used by extremists on both sides."

THE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND ISN'T A HOUND AND DOESN'T HUNT ELK



The Norwegian Elkhound was originally used to hunt moose and other big game. The name of this ancient breed is a complete misnomer; they weren't meant to hunt elk, and they aren't hounds. In Norwegian, *Norsk Elghund* means "moose dog," and in German, *elch* means "moose" — probably part of the reason for the confusion in English.

Linguistic history aside, the Elkhound has phenomenal stamina. While hunting, he would jump forward and back and around the moose, bear, or wolf, keeping it in one place and barking nonstop until the hunter arrived.

While most people who live with a Norwegian Elkhound today don't hunt outside the refrigerator, think about his fearless and active noisemaking strategy before you choose to bring an Elkhound into your life. Norwegian Elkhounds are known for barking, and although the trait can be trained out of some, you can't bet on it.

What this background means to the average dog owner is that exacting obedience work just isn't in the picture. He'll be fine in basic obedience and he makes a great family dog, but understand clearly that pleasing you is not the highest item on his to-do list. This is no Golden Retriever, so go get your own slippers. Toys are generally of no interest. He loves chasing balls, but

you can forget about him bringing them back to you.

That's what happens when you share your heart and home with an independent thinker. He'll want something in return for obedience work — which he sees as pointless — and you can forget a pat on the head as his reward. If you want to motivate your Elkhound in training and form a partnership, you'd better have a steady supply of treats on hand. Once an Elkhound bonds to you, though, you'll be an inseparable pair as far as he's concerned.

Norwegian Elkhounds are strong-willed enough that they can take over a home if they're allowed half a chance. They love the dominant role, and without proper training and socialization, this can become a problem. Training can be difficult, and they need a firm and consistent owner.

Naturally, they prefer a winter climate with lots of snow to play in. A true adventurer, the Elkhound wants his adventure to occur outdoors. Long daily exercise is a necessity, so if you're not ready to turn your couch potato ways into those of an outdoorsman, think twice — if you can't keep up, you'll soon be met with a house full of destroyed belongings that met their fates as he found ways to expend his endless energy. Not surprisingly, the Elkhound excels at fast-moving performance events such as agility.

