



SONS of NORWAY

August 2019
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

Too soon we have to say goodbye to summer, but autumn is quite the best season. Too bad it is followed by winter. (Sigh)

There will be a Sons of Norway leadership conference in Indiana Oct 18-20. I will be attending, but I'd like to know if anyone would like to attend with me. The cost including registration, room and meals is \$320, but \$100 scholarships are available. I will attach some information, and if you're interested, please let me know.

Barb Ogne is looking for someone to replace her as treasurer. So we are opening that job up to volunteers. If we are going to maintain Norsemen of the Lakes, we will all need to do what we can to sustain it. Please let me know if you are game to fill this position.

Please note our next meeting will be at the Atrium in Wms. Bay. **262-949-9191 norsemenofthelakes@gmail.com Corlene**

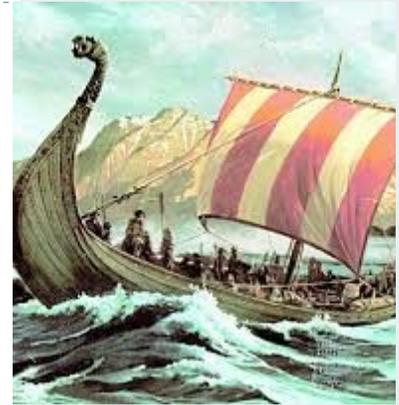
Membership Committee News

Remember the membership drive breakfast is planned for **Oct. 5th at 9 a.m.** at Perkins in Delavan. I can't tell you how important this is. We desperately need more members if we are to stay alive. Please ask friends and acquaintances at church or any other places you frequent if they might be interested. It is imperative that we each bring at least one prospective member. So put it on your calendar and make an effort to find people who might be interested!!!

Oct. 19th is the Williams Bay Centennial, where we have reserved a table for recruiting. I still have not had anyone volunteer to man this table. It is a great place to meet people who many be interested in joining us. Please call me to volunteer as I cannot attend, and I think this could have terrific results in membership. I'll provide everything you need; you just have to cast your net and pull them in.

Posters: I have hung posters at the following places, but if you know of another good place, I'll send you a poster. Library & Advia CU Elkhorn; Advia CU Wms. Bay; First Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran, Elkhorn; First Evangelical and the library in Walworth; Our Redeemer Lutheran, Delavan; Sugar Creek Lutheran & Bethel Methodist, Sugar Creek.

Our Kalendar: Be sure to check out our Kalendar for future meeting activities. We have some pretty good stuff to look forward to. For Sept., invite anyone you know who loves needle arts and crafts.



Gratulare Med Dagen

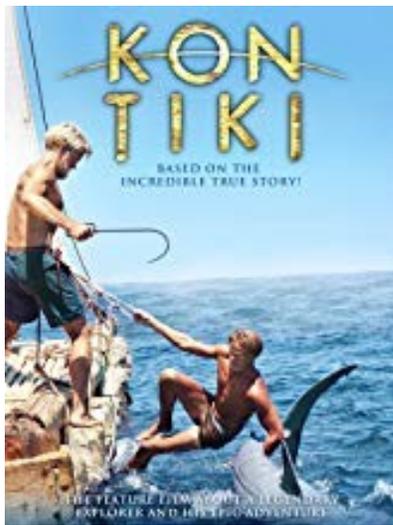
Bob Peterson	8th
Ashley Wilson	17th
Cole Pepper	23rd
Carol Anderson	27th

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KALENDAR

- Sept. 10th meeting at **The Atrium, Wms. Bay at 6 p.m.** Smorgasbord & Guest presenter Olga Fast & friends, Hardanger demonstration. (Note location change)
- Oct. 5th, Membership Breakfast at Perkins, Delavan. Bring a prospective member.
- Oct. 8th special meeting: genealogy workshop at Elkhorn Area Middle School 6 p.m.
- Nov. 12th The Atrium, Wms. Bay 6 p.m.. Guest presenter: Cheryl Schlessler, The Norway Building Rises Again
- Dec. 10th Christmas Dinner TBD



MOVIE REVIEW

The Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl crossed the Pacific Ocean in a balsawood raft in 1947, together with five men, to prove that South Americans back in pre-Columbian times could have crossed the ocean and settled on Polynesian islands. After financing the trips with loans and donations, they set off on an epic 101-day-long trip across 8000 kilometers, while the world was waiting for the result of the trip. The film tells about the origin of the idea, the preparations, and the events on the trip. The "Kon-Tiki" was named after the Inca sun god, Viracocha, and "Kon-Tiki" is an old name for this god. Heyerdahl filmed the expedition, which later became the Academy Award winning documentary in 1951, and he wrote a book about the expedition that was translated into 70 languages and sold more than 50 millions copies around the world. Heyerdahl believed that people from South America could have settled Polynesia in pre-Columbian times, although most anthropologists now believe they did not. Anyway he proved that it was possible by using only the materials and technologies available to those people at that time. The trip took 101 days over 4,300 miles across the Pacific Ocean before the "Kon-Tiki" crashed onto the dangerous reefs outside Raroia in the Tuamotu Islands on August 7, 1947. All crewmen survived, and the "Kon-Tiki" was taken back to Norway. She is now featured in the Kon-Tiki Museum.

Available in English on DVD at the library and on Netflix .

Flying Wind Turbine Tested in Waters Off Norway

by David Nickel

The Alphabet-subsiary Makani completed a test off the Norwegian coast. It is hoped the airborne turbine could be used in some of the world's deepest waters.

The Alphabet-owned Makani with support from Shell tested a flying wind turbine off the coast of Norway this week. The carbon-fiber kite tethered to a buoy aims to test the feasibility of deep-water power generation far offshore. There had been concerns about how the device would deal with the salt water environment, but the team was pleased with the results.

"The tests we conducted last week proved that it works. That's the giant step forward. Now we'll come back to adapt the systems for the overall marine environment that we'll want to commercialize in," said a company spokesperson.

How the turbine works

The airplane-like kite completed its first demonstration 10km off the coast of Norway in water around 220 meters deep. The device measures around 26 meters across and has eight rotors attached to it.

They spin in the wind, generating electrictly. The machines are designed to take advantage of more reliable wind currents at higher altitudes. The kite is secured to the buoy by a cable and flies in a loop. It



required less material to install than a traditional offshore wind turbine, with the added advantage that it can operate in deeper water.

Commercial potential still some way off.

Makani sees potential for the technology to provide electricity for hundreds of millions of people. There are vast parts of the planet's oceans that aren't suited for traditional wind turbines. The water is simply too deep. While floating platforms for conventional turbines exist, Makani believes its technology would be significantly cheaper.

It's an interesting option, in particular for Norway. Today the country generates most of its own electricity via hydropower, but exports massive amounts of oil and gas. Finding new sources of energy to replace the declining oil and gas volumes will be important part of Norway's economic future.

Other parties interested in the power could be floating offshore oil platforms and small island nations. However, industry analysts believe large-scale operation is at least five years away, possibly ten. Small-scale solutions suitable for disaster relief or isolated communities could be ready much sooner.

The Makani team plans to return to Norway next year to hold a test for a longer period of time. They hope to test the device in different kinds of weather and with a direct link to the power grid.

Who is behind the project?

Makani grew out of an Alphabet division that develops experimental new technologies. Alphabet is the parent company of Google, founded in 2015, in a restruc-

Norway Detects Big Radiation Leak From Russian Sub

By David Nikel

Norwegian authorities have detected radiation 800,000 times higher than normal near the location of a Russian submarine that sank in the Norwegian Sea thirty years ago.

Norway's Institute of Marine Research has discovered high levels of radiation from a sunken Russian submarine. Samples show radioactive caesium leaking from a ventilation pipe. A fire on board the nuclear-powered submarine killed 42 people in 1989.

The findings came as Norwegian remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) technology was used for the first time earlier this week. The ROV examined and filmed the damage on the submarine hull where the warheads are located.

No immediate concern

The highest level of radiation found was around 800 Bq per litre, compared to the typical Norwegian Sea levels of around 0.001 Bq per litre. However, lead researcher Hilde Elise Heldal said the findings were "not alarming".

The Arctic water quickly diluted the radioactive particles, and there are few fish because the submarine is so deep down. The wreck is located at a depth of 1,680m (5,512ft), approximately half-way between Tromsø and the southern tip of Svalbard.

"We took water samples from inside this particular duct because the Russians had documented leaks here both in the 1990s and more recently in 2007," she said. Other samples taken displayed less radiation, indicating that radioactivity is released dependent on ocean currents.

"Good documentation of the levels in both seawater, sediments, and in fish and seafood is needed. We will therefore continue checking both 'Komsomolets' especially and Norwegian waters in general," she added.

Fire at sea

The Komsomolets, also known in Russia as the K-278, sank in the Norwegian Sea with its nuclear reactor and two nuclear warheads still on board.

After the fire began, the Komsomolets was able to reach the surface where it stayed for a couple of hours before sinking. Of the people who died, only four were of a direct result of the fire. Most of the others died in the cold water awaiting rescue. A total of 25 crew survived.

Experts are concerned about other sunken subs

A 2017 report from a collaborative effort between the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority and the Russian Energy Safety Analysis Centre stated that "The sunken Russian nuclear submarine K-159 is of great concern."

The K-159 sank in storms in 2003, but came to rest just 248 meters below sea level in an area north of Kola Bay that is an important fishing ground. The Barents Observer reports that the total load of uranium-235 in the two reactors is 50 to 60 kilograms.



Shelter for the Dead in Mythology

The concept of life after death is mentioned often in Norse mythology, and there are several stories about journeys of the dead and souls in Norse Sagas. It reflects some of the deepest beliefs of the Norse people. For example, the Vikings were convinced that if they died as heroes in a battle, they would be granted access to Valhalla where Odin ruled.

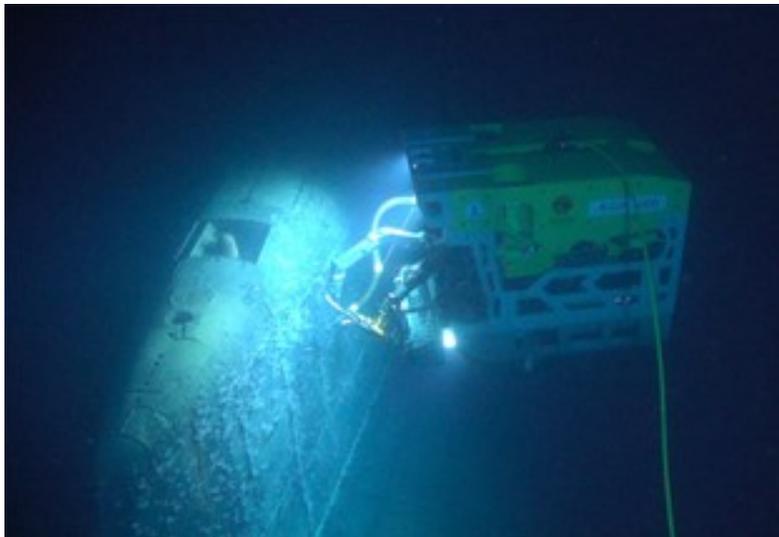
Valhalla was regarded as a reward for the hardest struggles, wounds and finally death. Knowing they would enjoy this gigantic and majestic chamber of the fallen heroes, warriors and mighty chiefs, motivated Vikings to become fierce warriors and they certainly didn't fear death.

As the leader of the dead, Odin is often mentioned in association with being responsible for the souls of the deceased. The Norse deity Odin can be regarded as a counterpart of the Roman Mercury Psychopompus. As a personification of the wind, Odin uses his wings to carry disembodied souls when they are leaving the mortal sphere. He is often seen embodied as a raven.

One of the most important events gods, humans and all living creatures must face and deal with is Ragnarok, an unavoidable doomsday. Ragnarok is the doom of the gods and apocalyptic record of the coming comet that will damage the Earth.

The concept of fate dominates Norse mythology and to the Norse people, fate was a fact of life, something that could not be avoided. The Norns (illustrated above) were goddesses who ruled the fates of people and determined the destinies and lifespans of individuals.

Described in the *Eddas* (1250) a collection of Old Norse poems, Ragnarok is going to be a horrifying period when life on our planet will perish. People must be prepared for huge earthquakes, fire and water, with steam and flames reaching high heavens.

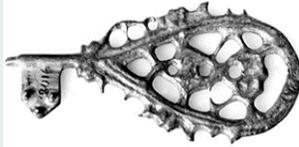


The Symbolic Key to a Viking Woman's Independence

By [ThorNews](#)

A large number of ornate keys from the Viking Age (c. 800-1066 AD) have been found in female graves and as individual findings. Bronze keys made with superb craftsmanship were used as a status symbol by women and were often small works of art worn on a belt around the waist.

The key from Heggum farm (Old Norse: Heggheimar) is 9.5 centimeters long and ornamented with intertwined animal figures. It was found in a burial mound and may have belonged to a powerful housewife. The day she got married, she got the keys to the farm doors and treasure chests as a visible sign of her position and power.



Women's Work Duties

A Viking woman's responsibility was "inside the doorstep," the man's outside. Her work duties were housekeeping and making food, including drying and smoking fish and meat, working wool, spinning yarn and sewing and weaving. Pregnancy, breastfeeding and raising children also took up time in a woman's life. In practice, it was probably the women who looked after the elderly.

She also had to perform heavy work like carrying water and participate in haymaking. In addition, she would have had knowledge of herbs to make medicine for the sick and wounded.

When the man went hunting, fishing, on Viking raids or got sick, the wife had responsibility for the operation of the whole farm, which in wealthy families also included many trelles (slaves).



Replica: A push key padlock from the Viking Age was found on the Björkö island in Lake Mälaren, Sweden. (Photo: [historicallocks.com](#))

The married woman was seen to belong to the family she had grown up with and for that reason never quite became an integral part of her husband's family.

Right to Divorce

If a marriage did not work out, both wife and husband could demand divorce. The Icelandic sagas describe a wide range of divorce laws which testifies to a quite advanced law system. The woman could, for example, demand a

divorce if the husband had settled in a new country, or had not gone to bed with her in three years. The most common causes of divorce were that her husband failed to provide for the household or was violent. If he had beaten his woman three times, she could leave him. To carry out the act, she had to summon witnesses and proclaim herself divorced – first at the front door and later at the couple's bed.

We do not know the divorce rate in the Viking Age, but the right to divorce, property and inheritance shows that women had an independent legal status. Usually infants and small children followed their mother, while the older children were divided between the parents' families, depending on wealth and status.

Unfortunately, the Viking women's rights lapsed with the introduction of Christianity.



Silver figure of a woman, perhaps the goddess Frigg or Freya, found at the Tissø lake, Denmark. (Photo: National Museum of Denmark)



The Helm of Awe is one of the most powerful protective Viking symbols used not only for the purpose of protection from disease, but even to encourage all people who might suffer from depression or anxiety. It's also a popular tattoo in Norway today.

In Norse myths it is said that the Helm of Awe symbol was worn between the eyes to cause fear in your enemies, and to protect against the abuse of power. The Norse word for this very important symbol.

in English, *Ægishjálmr* or *Aegishjalmur* is translated "helm of awe" or "helm of terror." The meaning of the word awe is to strike with fear and reverence; to influence by fear, terror or respect; as, "his majesty awed them into silence."

The Helm of Awe is mentioned mythologically in Norse poems such as the Poetic Edda. The poem, called *Fáfnismál*, tells of the havoc-wreaking dragon *Fafnir* whose powers come from the symbol of the Helm of Awe:

The Helm of Awe
I wore before the sons of men
In defense of my treasure;
Amongst all, I alone was strong,
I thought to myself,
For I found no power a match for my own.



Trondheim's Nidaros Cathedral

by David Nikel

Everything you need to know to plan a memorable visit to the world's northernmost medieval cathedral in Trondheim, Norway.

A real icon of the city and the country as a whole, Nidaros Cathedral draws huge numbers of people from all over the world. Regardless of your religious beliefs, there's plenty to see and do in and around the cathedral.

Where is Nidaros Cathedral?

Nidaros Cathedral is located in the compact city center of Trondheim, Norway. It is named after the former name of the city, Nidaros, which served as the capital of Norway during much of the Viking era. It holds a special place in the history of Norway, beginning its life as a simple wooden chapel built to stand over the tomb of Saint Olav, the Viking king who played a big role in the introduction of Christianity, and would go on to become the patron saint of Norway.

In the picture below you can clearly see the cathedral and the river, and if you look closely you can follow the river all the way to the fjord, past the old colorful wharves of Kjøpmannsgata and Bakklandet.



The picture above is also useful for pointing out the main features. The cathedral itself is clearly visible, as is the carving-packed west front, which I'll talk about shortly. You can also see the Archbishop's Palace in the bottom right corner.

The West Front

Without doubt the most eye-catching part of the cathedral is the western facade, not just for the numerous intricate carvings but also for the large public square with benches that offers a great view. Yet despite its appearance, the iconic face is not as old as you might expect. Only five statues from the Middle Ages have survived, with many of the deteriorated remains on display in the museum. The west front was entirely restored by a large team of sculptors 1905 to 1983 to bring it to the spectacular condition of today. It was the largest art project in the history of Norway. The sculptures, which depict both historic and religious figures, are based on historical records, a print from the 17th-century, and also on guesswork and pure fantasy.

There are many stories behind the people and creatures immortalized in stone. Perhaps the best known is actually one of the most difficult to see. At the very top of the north tower, the winged archangel Michael is depicted fighting evil in the form of

a dragon. According to the sculptor, the archangel's face is modelled on Bob Dylan, who at the time was a leading voice in the movement against nuclear weapons and the Vietnam War.

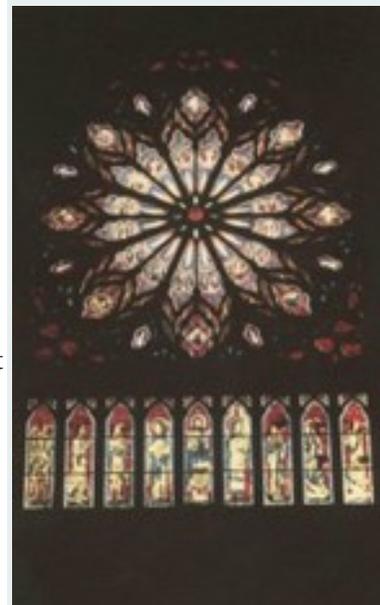


Also present are masks, angels, gargoyles, and a large collection of animal life, said to represent the divine work of God's creation.

The church is also known for its stained-glass windows, in particular the rose window on the western facade. This was designed in the early part of the 20th-century along with other new windows during the extensive renovations. However, when part of the Archbishop's Palace was excavated in the 1990s, fragments of colored glass were discovered that archaeologists say proves the cathedral did, in fact, have stained-glass windows in the Middle Ages.

Inside the Cathedral

Many visitors don't set foot inside the building itself. If your time in Trondheim is limited or you are just interested in churches for their architectural merit, then that's fine. But if you're more interested in the religious aspect of the cathedral, grab a ticket and step inside. Although the interior is kept fairly dark, you can still admire the Romanesque and Gothic architecture. Features to look out for include the octagonal shrine, two altars, and the medieval chapter house. One of the more intriguing elements of the cathedral's interior is the crypt, now home to a collection of marble gravestones. The vault is accessible via a narrow, steep staircase and is definitely not a recommended experience for claustrophobics!



During high season (June to August), you can also climb the 172 steps up the main tower for an additional fee. The views over Trondheim's center are said to be unbeatable.

Hiking to Nidaros

It might be lesser known than Spain's Camino de Santiago, but the Pilgrim Way of Norway still attracts pilgrims (and keen hikers!) from all over the world. As they did throughout the Middle Ages, pilgrims make the journey over the Norwegian mountains on one of several routes from within Norway, but also from Denmark and Sweden. The journey is a lot more comfortable today, with lodgings and clearly marked trails provided. During the summer, Nidaros Cathedral welcomes pilgrims with a



special daily service every evening, while travelers can receive the St. Olav's letter, proof of their journey.

St. Olav's Festival

The cult of Olav was so strong that it survived the reformation and the anniversary of his death remained the most important national day throughout the Middle Ages, and up to the 19th-century. Even after Norway's constitution day became the country's prime celebration, the day remembering St Olav (known in Norwegian as *Olsok*) remains important.

In and around Nidaros Cathedral, St Olav's Festival takes place every year attracting people from all over the world. A medieval market, concerts, reenactments and guided tours are just some of the many varied activities on the calendar. *Olsok* celebrations are also held at Stiklestad, where Olav was said to have fallen. Budget has been set aside by the government to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the Battle of Stiklestad in 2030.

Practical information about visiting

Nidaros Cathedral is open all year round, although opening hours are extended during the summer season. Outside those months, the cathedral can close to visitors as early as 3pm. Unlike many other tourist attractions, the mornings can often be the busiest time, but not because of church services.

The two *Hurtigruten* ships that call daily at Trondheim (northbound and southbound) both arrive in the morning. That said, if there's another cruise ship docked in the city, you can expect the cathedral to be busy all day.

Entrance to any one of the cathedral's three attractions (the cathedral itself, the museum, the crown regalia) costs 100kr (\$11.16), and a combination ticket is available for 180kr (\$20.08). Discounts are available for children under 16, students with valid ID, and families (two adults and up to three children). Tickets can be bought at the visitor center, where you'll also find an interesting gift shop and a cafe. However, I would recommend you head to the nearby Ni Muser (it's just behind Trondheim Art Museum) for your coffee instead, especially if you also want a bite to eat.

5 Fun Facts About Oslo

1. Oslo residents are Norway's healthiest

According to official government statistics, the city of Oslo has many people with good self-assessed health, good dental health, and healthy lifestyle habits. Only 19% of the population is overweight (BMI 27+), which compares favorably to the national average of 28%. The survey also found that Oslo locals drink less sugary soft drinks than average, and the numbers walking at least 30 minutes per day are also better than average.

2. Most of Oslo consists of forest

Oslo might be the capital but that doesn't mean the Norwegian love of nature and the outdoors doesn't apply here! Vast untouched forest surrounds the urban core and can be reached on public transport in under half-an-hour. Known simply as *Oslomarka* (the Oslo forest), the forest is protected against most forms of development and is home to species such as lynx, wolf, beaver, moose and roe deer.

3. Oslo is the European Green Capital for 2019

Norway might be one of the world's biggest producers of oil and gas, but its capital city is in the middle of implementing a green revolution. City bosses plan to slash emissions by an ambitious 95 % by 2030. This despite the fact that Oslo is one of Europe's fastest growing cities.

4. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo

Oslo's distinctive brown city hall plays host to the award ceremony of the Nobel Peace Prize every autumn. The recipient is selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, as per the wishes stated in Alfred Nobel's will. With some exceptions, the Prize has been awarded annually since 1903. It is given to those who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses".



5. City of Islands

While the city center and most residential areas are on the Norwegian mainland, Oslo counts many islands within its city limits. Several of these can be visited by passenger ferry, which runs around once per hour during the busy summer season. Many locals own or rent small cottages on the islands and spend their July vacation there. The islands also offer plenty to interest the tourist. Historical ruins, nature trails, and beaches are among the highlights, while a kiosk on *Hovedøya* serves up waffles, coffee and ice-cream to keep you sustained.