



# SONS of NORWAY



Nov. 2022

Walworth County, WI

## Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Our meeting in November is going to be a Monday evening because our usual night is election day, and two of our members are election judges, so we will have it on Monday Nov. 7th at 6 p.m., Advia Credit Union, Elkhorn, easy access from Hwy. 12.

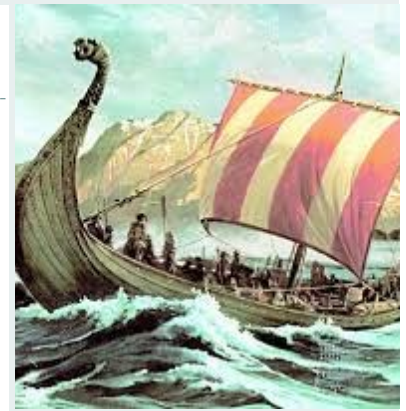
VP Norquist has seen a gentleman who has an interesting presentation about one of his relatives. He will be there in person to share it with us. Here is a synopsis: Richard Moen tells of his relative in "A Blind Man on the Prairie" a Norwegian immigrant who grew up blind on Koshkonong Prairie in the mid 1800s. Henry Hendrickson arrived with his family at age four in 1847, became educated at the school for the blind in Janesville, and was as mischievous as any boy. His steadfast pursuit of success, despite numerous obstacles and setbacks, reflects his Norwegian heritage. This presentation is based on his book, Out from the Darkness: An Autobiography of a Scandinavian Bartimaeus. I hope to see a lot of people there to give Mr. Moen a generous welcome for his travels.

Brr, it's late fall and we are gearing up for the Christmas Banquet. VP Kathy Norquist and I have secured Hawk's View Golf Club for the venue. Kathy and her friend were there for a luncheon this year and gave it great reviews. Another great thing about it is that it is easy access to our Illinois members because it's just on the edge of Lake Geneva. The menu will be baked whitefish, sliced pork loin with gravy, parsley steamed potatoes, green beans almondine and our Norske deserts. Cost will be \$28. We have the date and time **Dec. 4th (Sunday) at 1 p.m.**, so you won't have to travel in the dark to get home. To get there from the south from hwy. 12, take the Hwy 120 north exit. Go past the big sign for Hawk's View to the first left. Address is 7377 Krueger Rd. When you enter the property, keep going all the way down their drive to the end. To secure your reservation, email me at [norsemenofthelakes@gmail.com](mailto:norsemenofthelakes@gmail.com) or call me at 262-949-9191. **Deadline is Nov. 21.** See you there.

If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift that costs a maximum of \$10. Kathy has a new game to play.

### Elections for 2023-2024 Office

This is the year for elections. Our November ballot for a 2 year service is **Pres**, Corlene Bartels; **Vice Pres.**, Kathy Norquist; **Secretary**, Elaine Lundgren; **Treasurer**, Deb Weber; **Financial Secretary**, Dennis Westgor; **Social Director**, Barb Ogne; **Cultural Director**, Cathy Nolan; **Counselor**, Brian Ogne. Voting will occur at our November meeting.



### Gratulerer med dagen

#### November Birthdays

Nordeana Nimphius 3rd  
Amy Finnes Tacheny 20th

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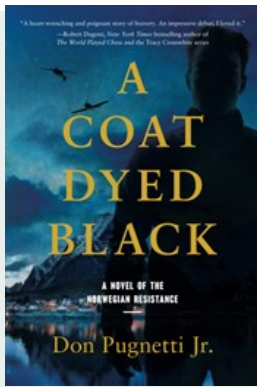
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#### CALENDAR

##### Next meeting:

November 7th, Monday, at the Advia Credit Union  
837 No. Wisconsin St.  
Elkhorn, WI

We will enjoy a pot luck supper, so bring your favorite dish. We may have visitors who do not know about the



By Don Pugnetti Jr.

Bjørn Erliksen lives a peaceful life on Norway's west coast and has never considered himself anything but a farmer. But when Nazi Germany invades, and his country's ill-equipped military collapses in less than two months, it falls on him and other ordinary Norwegians to fight back.

He escapes to England, trains with an elite Norwegian special forces army unit, and is smuggled back into his homeland as a commando. When Bjørn's resistance work eventually reunites him with a lost love, they join forces to carry out dangerous sabotage missions, all the while working in the shadows to evade the Gestapo. He weighs love against duty, wrestling with his own conscience as he is forced to commit unspeakable acts and unexpected betrayals. Can Bjørn survive long enough to see Norway's liberation and find his own peace?

Filled with thrilling historical details about a corner of Europe often forgotten in the story of WWII, *A Coat Dyed Black* illuminates the struggles and sacrifices of ordinary people compelled to do the extraordinary.

## Norsk Winterwear—More Than Just Warm

Sons of Norway Blog



Norwegian wool sweaters are something we associate with tradition, cozy warmth and, if we're lucky, the people who knitted them. But did you know that they were made to protect us not only from cold, but also to ward off malicious spirits?

First, a language nuance: a *genser* is a pullover-style sweater, and a *kofte* is a knitted jacket, often with shiny pewter clasps. Up until the 1800s these fortified garments were hardy work clothing; [kofter](#) were made for farmers and fishermen.

The patterns made by dual color strands not only protected the wearer from the cold, but also—it was believed—from malicious spirits. The superstition was that evil could sneak in at the hems of a person's clothing. To confuse any menacing forces, the sleeves, neck and lower hem of a sweater were adorned with intricate zigzag, checkerboard, X and V patterns.

**Here's a bit about each of the most prominent sweater patterns:**

[Setesdalskofte](#) also called a *lusekofte* (lice jacket), for the white V-shaped stitches that are regularly knitted into a darker color, to provide extra warmth. This pattern comes from Setesdal, a valley in southern Norway. The shoulder and chest feature rows of repeating Xs and diamond shapes and the borders are finished with red and green trim.



### **Mariusgenser**

Typically knitted in the colors of the Norwegian flag, the [Marius sweater](#) is a story of product-placement success. Skier, fighter pilot and movie star Marius Eriksen wore this sweater in the film *Troll i Ord* and his celebrity status helped the pattern take off.

### **Fanakofter**

The Fanakofter named for the municipality south of Bergen combines several motifs for the ultimate pattern mash-up: checkerboard, 8-pointed roses, and "lice" within stripes. This striking sweater is usually knitted in white and with a colorful yarn for the patterning.



[Selbuose](#) A motif in both the Fanakofter and Mariusgenser, the Selbu rose is an 8-pointed octogram,



sometimes perceived as a snowflake or star. Teenager Marit Guldsetbrua Emstad of Selbu (near Trondheim) knitted the first "snowflake mittens," and the pattern put her town on the map. No longer strictly for outdoor work or spiritual protection, Norwegian sweaters are a cozy mainstay that transcends all styles: skiers, royals, punk rockers and politicians have all been known to wear them.

# Nordic Countries Bid to Host Women's Euro 2025

October 12, 2022 by David Nikel

**Norway has teamed up with three other Nordic countries in a bid to host the women's European football (i.e. soccer) championships in 2025. But they will be up against tough competition.**

Global interest in women's football has never been higher. Earlier this year, more than 90,000 people filled Barcelona's Camp Nou to set a new attendance record. Then the European Championship tournament in England grabbed global attention like never before. Now the [Nordic region](#) wants to invite the world to a football festival. After confirming the intent to bid back in April, the football federations of Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway have now submitted a joint bid to host Euro 2025.

## Women's football in the Nordic region

[Women's football](#) has been popular in Norway and [Scandinavia](#) for decades. Norway won the World Cup in 1995 and have reached at least the semi-finals of the European Championships in 9 of the 12 tournaments, winning twice.



Norway's Ada Hegerberg won the first female Ballon D'or award in 2018

In 2018, Norway's Ada Hegerberg became the [first winner of the female Ballon D'or](#). Denmark's Pernille Harder placed second.

Sweden has also won the European tournament and Denmark reached the most recent final in 2017. Sweden was also the beaten finalists in the World Cup and reached the semi-final stage on three other occasions.

## The Nordic bid for 2025

Four [Nordic countries](#) Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway—with the support of Iceland and the Faroe Islands—have now formally submitted a bid to host the 2025 European Championships. In the event of a successful bid, Oslo's Ullevaal Stadium and Trondheim's Lerkendal Stadium would host games in Norway.

Other planned host cities include Stockholm, Solna and Gothenburg in Sweden, Helsinki and Tampere in Finland, and Copenhagen and Odense in Denmark. The final would be held at Sweden's 50,000-capacity Friends Arena. Lise Klaveness is president of the Norwegian Football Association. She said that women's football in the Nordic countries has so much to offer: "We offer to share with the rest of Europe our joint ambition to leave a long-lasting legacy of truly equal opportunities in football."

Karl-Erik Nilsson, president of the Swedish Football Association, said "together we are stronger" of the joint bid. "Together we will provide a unique experience for both players and supporters. All Nordic football associations agree about the importance of organizing major championships in our countries, and together we have great ambitions for the development of women's football. The UEFA Women's Euro in the Nordic countries will strengthen the women's football with a focus on sustainability, safety, and equal societies," he added.

## Strong competition for 2025

The region is no stranger to hosting major tournaments. [Sweden](#) hosted the World Cup in 1995 and European Championships in 1997 and 2013. The 1997 tournament was co-hosted with Norway, which also hosted the tournament by itself in 1987. And [Denmark](#) hosted the European Championships in 1991. One year later, Denmark also hosted the men's version of the tournament.

Despite this strong heritage and experience, the Nordic countries face tough competition in the bid process. France and Poland have confirmed their bids, along with a joint bid from Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

The decision will be made in December following the final bid deadline in the autumn.



Trondheim's Lerkendal Stadium will host games if the Nordic region wins the bid to host the 2025 European Championships

## Fears grow as more suspicious drones appear above Norway's offshore facilities

By Euronews with AP • Updated: 23/10/2022

News of unidentified drones buzzing in the skies above the North Sea in recent days has made Oslo increasingly concerned that the Kremlin might target its offshore facilities in a bid to intimidate its competition.

With Norway replacing Russia as Europe's main source of natural gas, military experts suspect the unmanned aircraft are Moscow's doings. They list espionage, sabotage and intimidation as possible motives for the drone flights. The Norwegian government has sent warships, coastguard vessels and fighter jets to patrol the offshore facilities. Norway's national guard stationed soldiers around onshore refineries that also were buzzed by drones.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre has invited the navies of NATO allies -- France, Germany, and the UK -- to help address what could be more than a Norwegian problem. Precious little of the offshore oil that provides vast income for Norway is used by the country's 5.4 million inhabitants. Instead, it powers much of Europe. Natural gas is another commodity of continental significance.

"The value of Norwegian gas to Europe has never been higher," Ståle Ulriksen, a researcher at the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy, said. "As a strategic target for sabotage, Norwegian gas pipelines are probably the highest value target in Europe."



The Sleipner A gas platform, Norway, Oct. 1, 2022 as a Coast Guard ship patrols around the platform. - Copyright Ole Berg-Rusten/NTB Scanpix via AP

### Russian research vessels or 'spy ships'?

Closures of airports and evacuations of an oil refinery and a gas terminal last week due to drone sightings caused huge disruptions. But as winter approaches in Europe, there is worry the drones may portend a bigger threat to the 9,000 kilometres of gas pipelines that spider from Norway's sea platforms to terminals in the UK and mainland Europe. Since the start of the war in Ukraine in late February, European Union countries have scrambled to replace their Russian gas imports with shipments from Norway. The suspected sabotage of the Nordstream I and II pipelines in the Baltic Sea last month happened a day before Norway opened a new Baltic pipeline to Poland. Amund Revheim, who heads the North Sea and environment group for Norway's South

West Police force, said his team interviewed more than 70 offshore workers who have spotted drones near their facilities. "The working thesis is that they are controlled from vessels or submarines nearby," Revheim said.

Winged drones have a longer range, but investigators considered credible a sighting of a helicopter-style bladed model near the Sleipner platform, located in a North Sea gas field 250 kilometres from the coast.

Norwegian police have worked closely with military investigators who are analyzing marine traffic. Some platform operators have reported seeing Russian-flagged research vessels in close vicinity. Revheim said no pattern had been established from legal marine traffic, and he is concerned about causing unnecessary, disruptive worry for workers. But Ulriksen of the naval academy said the distinction between Russian civilian and military ships is narrow, and the reported research vessels could fairly be described as "spy ships".

### Russia hits back, labelling Oslo's concerns as 'paranoia'

The arrest of at least seven Russian nationals caught either carrying or illegally flying drones over Norwegian territory has raised tensions. On Wednesday, the same day a drone sighting grounded planes in Bergen, Norway's second-biggest city, the Norwegian Police Security Service took over the case from local officers.

"We have taken over the investigation because it is our job to investigate espionage and enforce sanction rules against Russia," Martin Bernsen, an official with the service known by the Norwegian acronym PST. He said the "sabotage or possible mapping" of energy infrastructure was an ongoing concern.

Støre, the prime minister, warned that Norway would take action against foreign intelligence agencies. "It is not acceptable for foreign intelligence to fly drones over Norwegian airports. Russians are not allowed to fly drones in Norway," he said.

Russia's Embassy in Oslo hit back Thursday, claiming that Norway was experiencing a form of "psychosis" causing "paranoia". And Naval academy researcher thinks that is probably part of the plan. "Several of the drones have been flown with their lights on," he said. "They are *supposed* to be observed. I think it is an attempt to intimidate Norway and the West." The wider concern is that they are part of a hybrid strategy to intimidate and gather information on vital infrastructure, which could later be targeted for sabotage in a potential strike against the West.

"I do not believe we are heading for a conventional war with Russia," Ulriksen said. "But a hybrid war . . . I think we are already in it."

# Inside the Stunning Emanuel Vigeland Museum in Oslo

August 26, 2022 by David Nikel

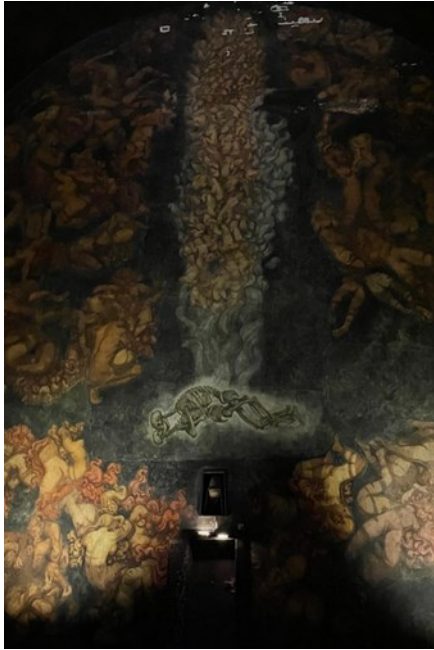
**One of Oslo's hidden gems, the mausoleum of the Emanuel Vigeland Museum is well worth the trip into the hilly suburbs.**

Many visitors to Oslo have heard of sculptor Gustav Vigeland. Those who haven't, soon do. But Gustav's younger brother Emanuel? He's much less known yet is responsible for one of Oslo's most surprising attractions.

While Gustav Vigeland lent his life's work and name to [Vigeland Sculpture Park](#), Emanuel Vigeland (1875-1948) made his name as a painter. He was known for his frescoes and stained glass, of which many examples can be seen in several Norwegian churches.

Emanuel erected what is now the museum in 1926. It was originally intended to be a future museum for his sculptures and paintings. However, he soon decided that the museum should also serve as a mausoleum and the windows were bricked up.

The interior walls and roof of this barrel-shaped building are completely covered with fresco paintings, one of the most stunning artworks on show anywhere in Norway. Since 1958 the museum has been open to the public and is presently open on Sundays.



Entrance and urn at Emanuel Vigeland Museum

## Introducing the Emanuel Vigeland Museum

Located on a tree-lined suburban street in the hills above downtown Oslo, the museum appears from the outside to be a windowless church.

Upon entry, you have to duck through a tiny door and are greeted by almost total darkness. The lighting inside is extremely low, but after a minute or two your eyes will begin to adjust and, WOW!

**Read more:** [An Introduction to Norwegian Art](#)

The enormous fresco named Vita depicts human life from conception through death. There are dramatic scenes and erotic scenes too. Around the room there are sculptures depicting birth, but they are hard to see given the low light. More on that later!

As you exit the mausoleum you have to bow your head to get through the small, low door. This serves a dual purpose. You are also bowing to the urn containing the ashes of Emanuel Vigeland, which sits just above the door.

Aside from the stunning visuals, the acoustics of the room are also remarkable.

Anything above a quiet whisper instantly ricochets around the room! The necessary silence adds to the atmosphere.

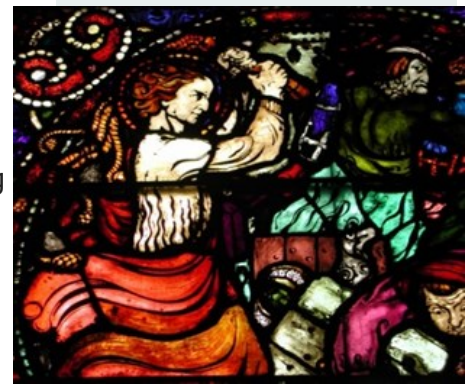
## Who was Emanuel Vigeland?

Emanuel Vigeland was born near Mandal in 1875 to cabinet maker Elesæus Thorsen and his wife Anna Aanensdatter. Emanuel's brother Gustav was born in 1869.

Emanuel studied at the Norwegian National Academy in Oslo, before studying in Copenhagen. He also spent time in France, Italy, Spain, and the UK. It *Continued on page 8* was on these travels that he developed a love for frescoes.

In 1909, Vigeland was commissioned to decorate the first Norwegian Crematorium with frescoes and stained glass. Much of his work is inspired by Christianity and his work features in many Norwegian churches.

Mostly known for his paintings, frescoes, and stained glass, he also produced sculptures. Perhaps the most notable of these stands in Nygårdsparken in Bergen.



Detail from stained glass in Oslo Cathedral. Photo: [Wikipedia](#).

## Visiting the museum

First things first, the photos you see on this page don't accurately reflect what you see. The room is extremely dark, and you need to be in the room for some time to let your eyes adjust. (Cont. page 8) (Cont. from p. 5) Even then, you need to examine the walls closely to fully appreciate the paintings. Flash photography is not permitted. But hopefully, these long exposure images will give you some idea of what to expect, despite their blurriness!

Bear in mind that there are strict rules inside the museum. Photography is permitted, but there is a strict no flash rule and you will also be asked to turn down the brightness on the screen.

Are you interested in visiting? The most important things you need to know are that the museum is only open for a few hours on Sundays and that tickets [must be booked in advance](#). (Cont. page 8)

## Danelaw Explained: When the Vikings Ruled in England

October 22, 2022 by [David Nickel](#)

**For almost 100 years, parts of north, east and central England were ruled by Norsemen. The area retains a strong Viking legacy to this day.**

If you've looked into the Viking Age in the past, you've likely come across the term Danelaw. (Think of Danelaw as a place, not a law.) This was used to refer to the areas of England occupied by Vikings from the late 8th century. Danelaw was created by treaties signed between Alfred the Great of Wessex, and the Viking warlord Guthrum, following Alfred's victory at the Battle of Edington in 878. Let's take a look at what led up to this point.

### From raids to settlement

Although the [beginning of the Viking Age](#) was a gradual shift, most people take the Lindisfarne attack as the start date. Although it wasn't the first attack on Britain, the [raid on Lindisfarne](#) was by far the most significant. We also have written sources, thanks to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and a letter from the monk Alcuin to shop Higbald. The vicious, surprise changed the way northmen were perceived not just in Britain, but throughout Europe. However, the Norse weren't just bloodthirsty warriors. Back home, they were simple farmers and fishermen, who struggled with the relative lack of arable land in Scandinavia.



Lindisfarne today

After 72 years, what the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* deemed the "Great Heathen Army" invaded England. Unlike on previous visits, they were not there to loot but rather to settle the farmland. To do that, they had to conquer the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia, Wessex, Northumbria and East Anglia.

Ten years after the invasion, the Norse had toppled the leadership of two of the four Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. A third was under heavy influence, while only Wessex remained truly independent. That was because the Wessex King Alfred had paid a substantial sum to Viking King Halfdan to turn around and return to York. However, another Viking leader, Guthrum, craved a kingdom of his own and had made no such deal with Alfred.

### Invasions of Wessex



Map of Danelaw around the year 886

In the middle of winter, Guthrum's army left their Cambridge base and marched to Wareham in Wessex. Without warning, Wareham became Norse. However, Alfred was able to raise enough opposition from across Wessex to lay siege to Wareham and prevent supplies reaching the settlement. Tiring of the stalemate, Alfred offered to negotiate. Alfred offered a similar deal to the one offered to Halfdan, which he accepted. However, Guthrum didn't give up.

After a few more failed attempts at invasion, Guthrum launched a surprise attack on Alfred and his court during Christmas celebrations in Chippenham. Guthrum's attack succeeded and although Alfred fled, some Wessex noblemen began to recognize Guthrum's power. Conflict continued, until Guthrum's and Alfred's armies met at Edington. Wessex came out on top, and Alfred once again offered terms.

### Creation of Danelaw

After being Christened, Guthrum would rule East Anglia as a friend of Wessex. Guthrum opted out of future attempts to conquer Wessex and even minted coins with the Christian name given to him by Alfred. The agreement eventually led to a treaty between Alfred and Guthrum, which outlined the political boundary between Wessex and the Scandinavian held territory.

For the first time, there was now a written agreement of an area where Viking laws and customs held sway. The area became known as Danelaw. The treaty also provided avenues aimed at reducing conflict and [increasing trade](#) between the two peoples.

### Settlement of Danelaw

Roughly speaking, Danelaw covered the area of England that is today comprised of these 15 shire counties: Leicester, York, Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln, Essex, Cambridge, Suffolk, Norfolk, Northampton, Huntingdon, Bedford, Hertford, Middlesex, and Bjarvik Viking Centre in York, England. *Photo: Wozzie / Shutterstock.com.*

Although the Norsemen did not intensively settle all of Danelaw, there were five important settle-

ments in addition to the center of power in Jorvik (York): Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham and Stamford.

These five towns became known as the five boroughs, each ruled by a different Viking Jarl. Each had a lot of independence, although the elite of Jorvik held overall control. For the next 80 years, the Norse and Anglo-Saxons lived side-by-side.

### Everyday life in Danelaw

We often hear about Danelaw in a historical and political context. But what about everyday life for people living under the Scandinavian rule?

While the era is associated with violence, everyday life for most people probably wouldn't have changed a great deal. People lived with their families, tended crops and livestock, or made items to trade.

Stamford in what is today Lincolnshire was a center of power in the Danelaw. That being said, there would certainly have been a lot of cultural mixing. People from Scandinavia moved in large numbers to Danelaw, in many cases marrying into families.

Viking rulers began to mint their own coins and make changes to the social structures that reflected how things worked in Scandinavia.

In fact, some scholars suggest that Danelaw provided better rights and more freedoms. Many legal concepts were compatible with the previous ones, while the poorest farmers tended to have more autonomy.

### The end of Danelaw

As generations passed, conflicts began to escalate between the Danelaw and Wessex once again. Settlers moved from Scandinavia during The Danelaw. During peacetime, Alfred had built up both his forces and defensive forts. His eldest daughter and grandson went on to play key roles in the conquest of Danelaw.

The five boroughs of Danelaw eventually fell. Jorvik changed hands several times. Danelaw came to an end in the year 954, when Eric Bloodaxe was driven out of Northumbria. After the restoration of Anglo-Saxon power, many of the laws and customs from Danelaw were retained. Its legacy can still be clearly seen today in the place names throughout the region. That being said, although Danelaw was no more, the story of the Vikings in Britain was far from over. They returned in the early 11th century, but that's a story for another time.



Statue of King Alfred the Great of Wessex, in Winchester, England

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## For the birds, and good fortune

The tradition of putting up a *julenek* (Christmas sheaf) at Christmastime goes back a few centuries. It was supposed to be a large cut of a farmer's best grain, and the last thing to be harvested in the autumn. Also called *kornnek*, *fuglenek* or *kornbånd* (grain sheaf, bird sheaf or grain band), the *julenek* could be made of wheat, oats, rye or barley.

It is unclear whether the practice is simply to feed and watch birds, allowing them to join the season's abundance, or if there are deeper superstitions behind it. As it goes with many traditions, the origin story has been watered down with time. It may be that farmers wanted to ensure a thriving crop in the new year, and were sharing their plentitude with a fertility spirit as a down payment on the next year's harvest. Late on Christmas Eve, the farmer tied a bushy bundle onto a pole and the number and type of birds that flocked to it on Christmas Day were thought to signify the success of next year's crop.

The *julenek* is a common theme on Christmas cards and was also commemorated by Adolph Tidemand in the painting *Juleskikk—Christmas Traditions*—as everyone gathers to watch the grain being hoisted atop the *stabbur* (storehouse).

In bygone years, feed grains would be hand-cut with a sickle, then bound and hung out to dry on a pole, or propped against each other in the field. Once totally dry, they would be stored in a granary. These two farmers look in good spirits [demonstrating the former method](#), but it does look like back-breaking work. Here is a demonstration of a [1950s binding machine in action](#).

Today, families might display their *julenek* in a [sheaf, wreath or braid shape](#) bound with a red ribbon, as shown by this barley producer, [Dyrk Mølle, in Nord-Østerdal](#). City and country folk alike carry on the *koselig* (cozy) tradition, and in the spirit of Christmas generosity, the festive *julenek* is hung on the front door or gate as an avian feast.



(Cont. from page 5)

Although the sign outside says 12-4pm, timed slots were available online from 11.30a.m. The entrance fee was 90 kroner (\$8.71), paid at the time of booking. Upon arrival, you just give your name, and you are granted entry. Tickets are not available at the door.

Another factor to bear in mind is getting there. The museum is on a very steep residential street. I walked up from ring 3 and almost instantly regretted it!

I recommend taking the T-Bane to Slemdal and walking from there. On the way back, you can walk downhill to the Grume-lundsveien bus stop on Holmenveien, from where you can catch a bus to the T-Bane station at Majorstuen.



## Ethnic Norwegians to Become Minority in their Own Country this Century: Report

by [Nadarajah Sethurupan](#) | @ | March 10, 2020

A report from the Norway's official statistics bureau that shows immigrants now account for nearly half of Norway's population growth, a trend that follows the agency's report that ethnic Norwegians will be a minority in the country by the end of the century.

Last year, 52,000 people immigrated to Norway, which nearly equals the amount of 54,500 children born in the country in 2019, [according to Statistics Norway](#).

The Norwegian statistics bureau identified stable migration as one of the main trends in population growth in Norway, while on the other hand, the declining births and an aging of the population are negative trends for Norway.

*Statistics Norway* also points to certain municipalities with rapidly falling populations, which serves as a major economic and population drag on those regions. Many young people leave for cities and other economically strong areas, leading to fewer children born and a sense of decline for those regions most affected.

Last year, net migration to Norway amounted to 25,300 people, but the country of 5.3 million has consistently seen its share of new-borns decreasing each year, with native born reaching a peak in 2009 with 61,800 births.

Due to these trends, the average age of Norwegians jumped by 0.23 percent to 40.5 years.

Given the increasing number of migrants in the country, there are worries about the decline in the ethnic Norwegians population. According to journalist Helge Lurås of the news outlet Resett, ethnic Norwegians are on their way to "become a minority in their own country".

Resett analyzed the data on newborn children with an immigrant background and compared them with the net migration data. There were 42,300 people with an immigrant background and 37,000 newborns with an ethnic Norwegian background. In conclusion, Resett found out that in 2019, at least 53 percent of children born in Norway had a foreign background.

The fertility rate of ethnic Norwegian women (1.50) compared to women with an immigrant background (1.87) is another unfavorable factor. Women with an African background have an even higher fertility rate, which stands at 2.6 children per mother.

The 2017 report of Statistics Norway, predicting that 52 percent of the population will have an immigrant background by 2100, seems increasingly likely. This watershed moment could even occur before then.

Currently, about 18 percent of the population in Norway has an immigrant background. In the younger age group, the percentage is even higher, exceeding 30 percent.

In the past, the Norwegian population was highly homogenous. In the late 1970s, ethnic Norwegians made up 98 percent of the population. Nowadays, except for Norwegians, the most numerous foreign groups are Poles, Swedes, Somalis, Lithuanians, Pakistanis, and Iraqis.

