

Sons of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Meetings on the first Sunday of the month – Potluck at 1:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery, IL

**President Ken's photo voted
#1 People's Choice Winner**



Hilsen Polar Star Lodge!

As most of you know, Barb and I should have been in Norway last month with our children and grandchildren. That trip has been placed on hold until it is safe to travel again but I had fun going through pictures that I took on our 2015 trip to enter into the District 5 photo contest. I don't usually take the family photos, but I did on this trip. Thanks to all of you who voted for this entry that will appear on the District 5 Deck of Cards as the Ace of Hearts.

Your President, Ken Johnson



**Polar Star Virtual
Walkers have
Returned from
Norway**
See page 7 for details

UPCOMING EVENTS
**No Events
Scheduled**

**Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month.**

Please submit all articles to Barb
Johnson at

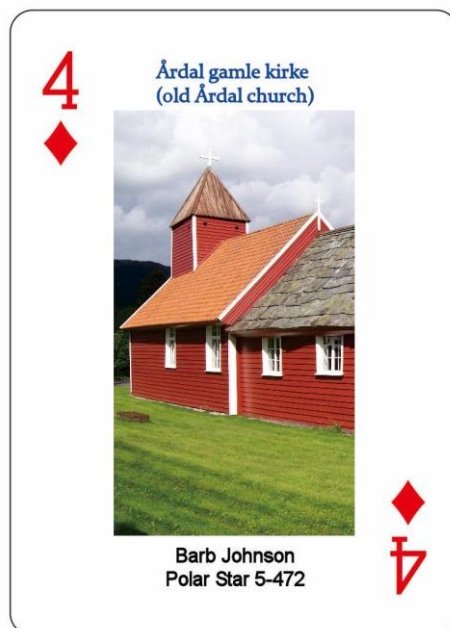
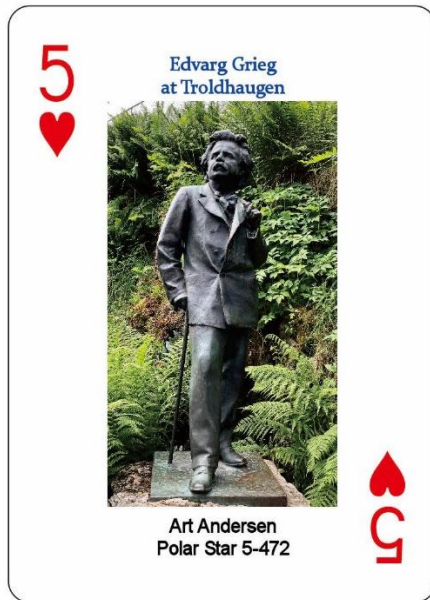
barbjohnsonb@aol.com

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**Sons of Norway – Polar Star
Lodge**

We're Back!!!! Polar Star Walkers

Polar Star D5 Scandinavian Photo Contest Playing Cards Selections



331 photos were submitted to the D5 Scandinavian photo contest. Three of our Polar Star photos were selected to be included in the District 5 deck of playing cards that are now available for purchase at \$14.00 per pack.

Send your order to: Mike Palecek, SofN D5 treasurer, 5747
Sandy Lane, Racine WI 53406 Questions: email:
mikep@sonsofnorwayracine.com



CULTURE CORNER

by Barb Johnson

Polar Star Social Distancing Språktime

The Polar Star Norwegian lessons with Inger Langsholt have started up again outside with social distancing at the Hinckley, Illinois, Public Library on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Join us as we continue to solve the “Mystery of Nils” as we complete Part 1 Language Culture Medal requirement.



Karen Oswald earns Part 2 Knitting Medal



Karen Oswald - Knitting Part 2 Elective 2 - Research the History of Norwegian Knitting

The craft of hand knitting has a long and world-wide history. Early fragments of knitting were found in Coptic burial grounds in Egypt, assumed to have spread from Syria as early as 256 A.D. Knitting was known in Europe from the 1200s. Imported silk knitwear, stockings, gloves, and fine silk jackets found their way into Europe in the 1500s and 1600s, perhaps carried by Arab traders into Spain and eventually France. By the 1700s, knitting had become largely a cottage industry in Europe. Knitting may have entered Scandinavia from another direction entirely. Hand-knit stockings were being exported from Finland during the Middle Ages. Patterns of traditional rose-painting on wood and

woven braids trimming Norwegian knitwear can be found in Russia, Estonia, Romania and others, perhaps dating from when the Mongols and Tartars left China and swept across India into eastern Europe, bringing oriental and Magyar traditions. There is debate about whether Scandinavian knitting first developed in Denmark, southern Sweden, or Norway. Knitting was practiced in Norway as early as the ninth century. Until the Middle Ages, the process of making wool fiber into yarn was done by hand, using a weighted stick called a spindle. Some sources note that the spinning wheel originated in India but didn't arrive in Europe until the late 1200s. At that time, in Europe knitting was associated with the poor but eventually it gained popularity as a way to create income, and by the 1600s was being taught in orphan houses and homes for the homeless. Knitted fragments found in some Norwegian graves were dated back to around 1500. However, the knitting technique only began to spread in Norway during the 1700s, with mittens and stockings as the most numerous types of knitted garments. Later, knitted wool jersey shirts became typical clothing for North Atlantic seamen. Traditionally for many years, a man's sweater would be black with a white pattern, and a woman's sweater in white with a black pattern. Items were homespun wool in undyed colors straight from the sheep, such as gray, natural white and natural black. The earliest items were probably knitted entirely in stockinette stitch from white wool, and colored (if it all) by boiling in a dye vat once completed. Eventually, Norwegians began using natural dyes from fruits and vegetables: navy, dark red, and dark green often on a natural white background. In the mid-1800s, local knitting traditions began with people making clothing items with patterns and borders that differentiated them from those of neighboring areas. Knitting became more widespread in the 19th century. Patterned jackets, sweaters, stockings, caps, etc were knitted in wool by country women long into the 1900s. The first two-colored sweaters were made during this time, for example in Setesdal and Fana. Fashion played a part in folk knitting, but Norwegians are practical people so they developed patterns that not only used colors, but also various purposeful stitch techniques. For example, a purl pattern worked into a stockinette stitch made the garment slightly thicker and a stranded pattern almost doubled the thickness. Cables and twisted stitches also added to the weight and warmth of a garment. Until the late 1800s, knitting patterns were spread only person-to-person or by copying knitted clothes or knitted samples. Patterns and pattern books were not available. In 1891 the Oslo shop Husfliden sold hand-knitted clothes from all over Norway. It hired designers, offered some written patterns, and taught classes. However, sales didn't begin to increase until a popular knitting pattern book was published in 1929, and 1930s international fashion trends spotlighted Norwegian knitted garments. Page 2 of 2 In the 1950s, the knitting boom continued. Homemade clothes were cheaper than store-bought, and children learned to knit at both at home and school. Production of yarn and patterns increased in volume, traditional Norwegian hand knitting was reintroduced into the international fashion houses, and sweaters knitted in multicolored patterns were even more popular. During 1960s and 70s store-bought clothes became cheaper due to mass production increases, so it became more expensive to knit clothing. But knitting was still taught in schools, traditional patterns were still popular, and many new sweaters and patterns were introduced. However, by the 1990s knitting was no longer mandatory in Norwegian schools, yarn was more expensive, and knowledge of knitting was decreasing among young people. Then in 2012, as could only happen with social media support, a sudden, sustained knitting revival took hold when a popular TV celebrity displayed a simple sweater she made for her daughters. Everyone wanted to knit this sweater, yarn supplies were emptied, and many young people learned to knit via YouTube. Today I can only imagine that with all our world-wide stay-at-home days due to the Covid-19 virus, renewed interest in hand knitting must still be continuing!

Polar Star BókaFlód

by Barb Johnson

Hopefully, this Social Distancing Summer you have devoted some time to reading three books to complete the requirements for Part Part I of the Norwegian Literature requirements. Here are four of the books that I have read this year that helped me earn my 2nd set of Literature medals.



1. Knife by Jo Nesbø

Harry Hole is back! Jø Nesbø's latest crime novel, "*Knife*" featuring Oslo's famous crime investigator has just been released in English. Harry is more damaged than ever and is probably not in any condition to investigate anything, but when a murder hits him personally he is pulled back into action. I have not been happy with Nesbø's last two novels, but this one I loved and couldn't put down! If you are a Harry Hole fan, I think you will like this one as much as I did!

2. Naiv.Super. by Erlend Loe is the book that inspired Presidential candidate, Pete Buttigieg, to learn Norwegian. I was curious about the content of a book that could inspire someone to learn Norwegian, a language that has certainly given me my share of challenges to learn. I read the english version first and then found the book written in Norwegian with vocabulary assistance in English! Perfect! It is a very simple book about a twenty-something Norwegian man who is trying to find purpose in life. I enjoyed it in both language

3. The Iron Chariot by Stein Riverton is credited with being the original Norwegian crime novel. Riverton's 1909 novel is written in the first person by a nameless author who narrates the story. He describes his shock when he discovers that a fellow guest at the Norwegian resort he is visiting is murdered and he was the last person to see the victim alive. Shortly after the murder he (the narrator) is disturbed by a noise that sounds like rattling chains that the locals describe as "the iron chariot" of death. An Oslo Detective is brought in to investigate the murder and the story continues. Norwegian Crime is my favorite genre so I definitely had to read this one. Although the genre has moved forward since this novel was written, I can honestly say I was quite entertained and would definitely recommend it!

4. Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson. If you have not read a Per Petterson novel, this should probably be your first. Petterson was the featured author in the Norwegian American and this book is listed as one of the top ten novels in Norwegian Literature. I am a fan of any novel set during WWII and this is one of the first ones that I read. Briefly the main character, Trond, suffers a personal tragedy and retreats from the world, until a chance encounter sets him off into memories of the past. In 1948, during a summer spent with his father in the countryside near the Swedish border, the 15-year-old Trond follows his friend into a field to steal horses, unaware of a shooting accident that has left a young boy dead. This book is a story of Norway during and after the second world war, of innocence lost and families destroyed. Petterson has a very interesting writing style and the book is definitely worth reading.

SKOGFJORDEN ADULT NORWEGIAN VIRTUAL LANGUAGE CAMP 2020

Skogfjorden Adult Camp will not be held on campus this fall, but plans are being made for a virtual event. This may be an opportunity for those of you who have shown interest to preview the content without the full price.

Visit www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org/Adult
Contact Sara at 800-450-2214 for more information



Polar Star Sports Page by Jerri Lynn Baker

I can not begin to put into words my pride at the effort all of you walkers have put into this virtual walk to Norway and back home. I spent several hours counting and checking and sending out some questions to some of you and this is what I have come to understand as our accomplishments not just for this walk, but for the medals we have earned in the effort. Thank you so very much for putting one foot in front of the other. I will be submitting this information soon to the "office". And I will be so proud when your medals arrive in my mailbox and then jumping for joy when I can hand them to you in person! Congratulations for all your hard work! Both [Diana Raimond](#) and [Jerri Lynn Baker](#) have enough miles to have earned the very new **Idrettshelt medal**.

I don't have much patience so I'm hoping the main office is ready for us! The following individuals are now working toward the new medal. They are Nancy Anderson, Ed Hatteberg, Barb Johnson, Frank Krawczyk, Karen Oswald, and Carol Vignes.

Here is the list of medals earned minus Diana and I mentioned above:

Al Bergh: **Bronze** and **Silver** Gangmerke

Phoebe Bergh: **Bronze** Gangmerke

Don Danielson: **Bronze** Gangmerke

Josie Gehler: **Silver** Gangmerke

Tom Harkins: **Bronze** Gangmerke

Ken Johnson: **Enamel** Gangmerke

Joni Koehler: **Bronze and Silver** Gangmerke

Viola Skogen: **Gold** Gangmerke

Carol Vignes: **Enamel** Gangmerke

Richard Vignes: **Bronze** Gangmerke

Kelly Welin: **Bronze and Silver** Gangmerke

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks so much,

Jerri Lynn Baker

New Sons of Norway Sports Medals

Members asked for new goals, and we answered!

Two beautiful new medals will be available **August 2020** in the Sports Medals Program.

Idrettshelt [*ee-dretts-hellt*]*—*the sports hero pin*—*is the 5th level within any sports medal category. Earn the *Idrettshelt* pin by doubling the point or mileage value of the **enamel** level in that category.



Hederspris [*hay-dersh-prees*] *—*the outstanding achievement award*—*is for completing bronze, silver, gold and enamel levels in any three sports medal categories.

Stay tuned to the [Sons of Norway website](#) for details on submitting points toward these pins!

A smile for you in the midst of these strange days.

Submitted by our poet friend, Curt Vevang.

Where Did Mrs. Hooper Go Wrong?

My sixth grade teacher came from Great Britain.
We learned our manners, spoken and written.

She taught that two words must follow thank you,
always *you're welcome*, no others would do.

But thank you today gets a strange retort:
no problem, de nada or even a snort.

Waitress and catsup are heading my way.
It's been a long wait, but, *thank you*, I say.

No problem she says, while strolling away.
And under my breath I quietly say.

No problem for her? I understand that.
I had the problem! - and there I just sat.

We live in an age where grammar's for naught.
It's all one can do to live as once taught.

Then one day last week, I heard a thank you.
How *no problem* slipped out, I haven't a clue.

Polar Star what have you been doing?

Submitted by Carol Devito

For a while I slowed down on making masks. Recently I hit the 250 mark. Through Wordfeud I started chatting with "Jamie" in New Mexico. She is a therapist for her school district. Her children are special needs and many of the families are poor. So, I started making masks for her "children". She is so concerned about her little ones not having any contact with her through this pandemic. She has a set of three-year-old twin boys who love the Sock Monkey. Two years in a row, a number of years ago, I attended the Sock Monkey Convention in Rockford, Illinois with a friend. Of course, each year I purchased a plain sock monkey. I had to sew the eyes and red pom poms on them, plus a patch to symbolize the theme of the convention that year. My poor little monkeys were just in my basement with no one to care for them. So, I decided to send them to Jamie for her twins. In the meantime, I had picked up airplane material and sock monkey material to make children's masks. Last week I sent the monkeys, 16 various size airplane masks and sock monkey masks for the twins and Jamie. Plus, a "Cubs" mask for Jamie – she is a fan. Thankfully the package was received without a hitch. She was so thrilled to get all the "stuff". (Hopefully one day the children

will be back in school so they can use the masks.) She is in the process of making plans to drop the sock monkeys and masks off at her "twins" home. I asked her to let me know what size masks she believes will work best with her children so I can continue making masks since she has 55 students. I also have cute little doggie material. It's good to be back in business.

Yesterday I met with my daughter and we went material shopping (more mask requests – yeah!). We purchased chemistry themed material. My son-in-law is a chemical engineer plus two of my grandchildren are into chemistry. Also purchased other material for other members of the family.

I am so thankful that my sewing machine keeps plugging along. It is over 50 years old. I cannot change the stitch length which is OK for what I am sewing. It is in a cabinet. In order to have it serviced I would have to remove it from the cabinet. I am so afraid that I would never be able to get it back in if I ever removed it. So, I just keep on being thankful that it works.

Gratulerer Med Dagen Polar Star!



AUGUST 16-30

- 19. Pat Baughman
- 20. Floyd Anderson
- 23. Penny Ray
- 26. Betsy Olson
- 30. Cindy Olso



SEPTEMBER 1-15

- 4. Frances Berg

POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Polar Star Events have been removed from our calendar until we can safely meet together.

DECEMBER 6 - JULETREFEST

