

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's Message



Thanks to our Polar Star Bakers for a successful Norsk Museum Bake Sale

Hilsen Polar Star Lodge!

Polar Star has a very busy summer and fall schedule this year that started with the Museum Breakfast and will continue with the Swedish Day Parade through our Juletreffest in December. We are very lucky to have such fantastic bakers that will be very busy preparing for our Vasa Park fund raiser in September, our Heritage Weekend in October and our Høstfest in November. I'm Looking forward to seeing all of you in your Norwegian gear at the Geneva Days Parade on Sunday, June 22

Your President

Ken



Polar Star UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22

Geneva Days

Scandinavian Days

Parade step-off at

1:00 p.m. - Line up # 33

Stevens and McKinley

or

Logan and Center

Polar Star Pioneer Picnic

August 3rd - 1:30

See article on page 2

Scandinavian Days

at

Vasa Park

Sunday September 7th

see article on Page 4

Celebrating Norwegian
Immigration

200th Anniversary

Heritage Weekend

October 3-5

Preview edition on pages 3-

Polar Star Newsletter Deadline

Will be the 14th of every month. Please

submit all articles to Barb Johnson at

barbjjohnsonb@aol.com

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AUGUST LODGE EVENT
AUGUST 3, 2025

NORWEGIAN PIONEER PIKNIK



Kjeppepinne

Potluck Pølse Piknik begins at 1:30
St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Montgomery, IL
Please bring a picnic dish to pass,
your own table service, and lawn
chairs



Norsk Museum
Opening Day
Breakfast and Bake Sale
was held on June 7th



Lynn Sove Maxson will be
Featured at the Heritage Weekend on
Saturday, October 4th. She will be
demonstrating and presenting
"The History of Rosemaling"

POLAR STAR CULTURAL CORNER

by
Barb Johnson



Celebrating Norwegian Immigration 200th Anniversary Heritage Weekend October 3-5

The summer will pass quickly and we will soon be hosting the District 5 Heritage weekend celebrating the pioneer spirit of our ancestors who settled in the Fox River Norwegian Settlement located in LaSalle County Illinois. The final schedule of events and registration forms are now available on our web site - polarstarlodge.com. I encourage all of you to send in your registration forms this month so we know who will be attending. This edition of the the Culture Corner will be devoted to previewing the weekend activities. Registration form is on page

FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES

Friday – October 3 from 9:00-11:00

Immigration Textile Workshop

“Sheep, Spinning and Småkaker

Come early and enjoy a morning with the Polar Star and Cleng Peerson ‘Håndverker’ Club. Learn about the pioneer art of turning wool into yarn at Esther’s Place. Starting with visiting the farm and meeting the sheep, you’ll walk through the steps of dyeing, carding, and spinning the fibers. Then create your very own felted “småkaker” using yarn as “icing, learn how to needle felt, and leave with a sachet heart ornament.

Pre-registration required – 630-556-9655 - \$35.00



Fibers from real flocks
raised here in the USA...



And hand dyed right
here in our studio!



Esther's Place
201 W. Galena St.
Big Rock, IL 60511
630-556-9665

www.esthersplacefibers.com



Visit the “Friends of the Viking Ship” Museum Friday – October 3 – open 10:00-11:00

Good Templar Park – 529 E. Side Drive, Geneva, Ill



Stop in Geneva, Illinois and join the 10:00-11:00 tour of the ship. The “Viking”, an exact replica of the Gokstad Viking ship discovered in the 1800’s was built in Norway. Learn about its history and its connection to Illinois and the community of Geneva. Pre-registration required - \$7.00 donation taken at the door.

Vist the Fern Dell Museum

9 East Front Steet - Newark, Illinois

Open from 10:00 – 12:00



As you drive through Newark, Illinois on your way to Norway, Illinois, stop and walk through the Newark Illinois and area Historic association.

Four museums in the town of Newark, - two artifacts museums, Blacksmith shop, and a one room school house.

The Norsk Museum will be open Friday from 9:00 – 12:45



Check out the exhibits highlighting Norwegian immigrants, their lives, their accomplishments and their descendants.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
HERITAGE WEEKEND OPENING
“Celebrating Norwegian Immigration”
1:00 Velkommen til Norge Illinois



President Ken will welcome our guest to the Fox River Settlement and join the Culture Directors or Polar Star and Cleng Peerson Lodges as they present a program on “Norwegian American Women and their Influence on Illinois Communities”.





Arthur Andersen will help us look at “Norwegian Culture, History and Beauty Through Its Postage Stamps”



Karen Oswald will provide us with the history and voyages of the ship called “Viking”, the 1892 replica of the 900AD Gokstad viking ship.

Enjoy a traditional Norwegian boiled
codfish Friday night dinner
followed by “Norwegian Movie Night”



**Popcorn and
snacks
Included!**

Saturday October 4

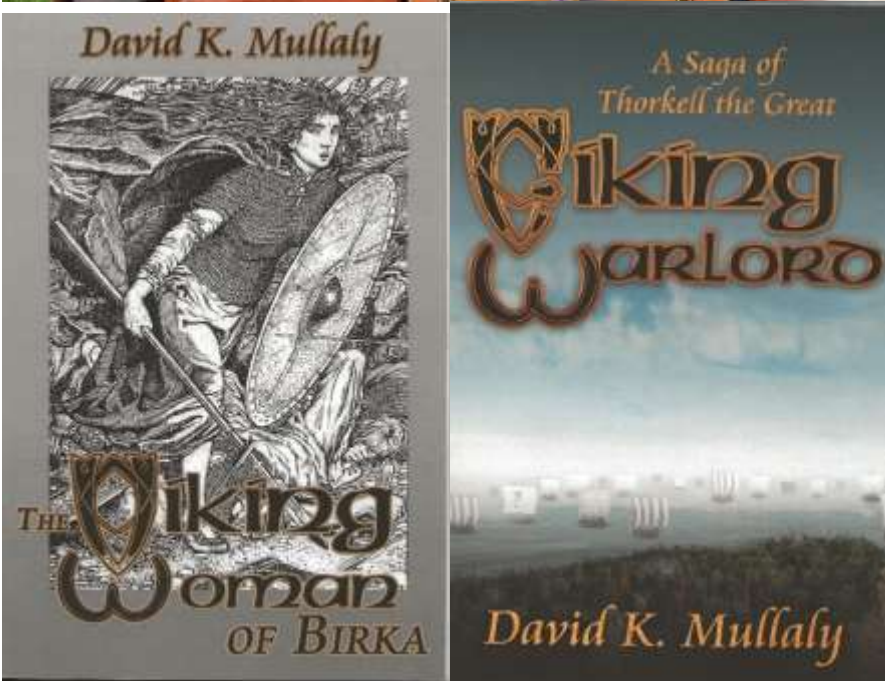


Visit the Norsk Museum 9:00-10:00
and
Participate in the “Sluppen” Around Norway
1 mile fun Walk – **pre-registration required**



**Walk through the village of Norway and learn about
the Fox Valley Settlement and their descendants**

Saturday Speakers



VIKING DAVE
ON SITE OCT. 4

A DISCUSSION OF
VIKINGS IN
HISTORICAL
FICTION

VIKING AGE
TRADING AND
SETTLEMENT

VIKING
ARTIFACTS AND
DISPLAYS

BOOK SIGNING

The History of Norwegian Rosmaling by Lynn Sove Maxson





REINDEER IN ILLINOIS

**LEARN ABOUT
RASING REINDEER
ON A RANCH IN
ILLINOIS. MEET AND
TAKE PCITURES OF A
LIVE REINDEER.**

Randy Espe

From

Whispering Pines

Coach Tom Sisulak will be on site Saturday morning to teach the basic skills of Nordic Walking



SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

HISTORY OF THE SLOOPERS AND THE FOX VALLEY SETTLEMENT

by Dave Johnson and Steve Tanda





MUSIC AND TRUE STORIES OF NORWAY, ILLINOIS by Rob Borchsenius

**The live production of the Fox River Settlement
“Slooper “Nelson 1840 Play**



NORWEGIAN BARN DANCE WITH FOLK DANCING AND MUSIC





HERITAGE WEEKEND CULTURE WORKSHOPS

Friday from 2:00-4:00

Stamping with Sof N District 5 leader Connie Aiello

Pre-registration required



SATURDAY 9:00-11:45 & 1:15- 4:00



Make a Sami bracelet with Dawn and Mandi pre-registration required

DROP IN “MAKE AND TAKE” NEEDLE FELTING

Friday: 3:00 - 4:00 & 7:00-9:00 Saturday: 10:15-11:45 ; 3:00 – 4:00 & 7:00 - 9:00



Learn to needle felt through the weekend with the Benson Sisters and take home the project

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 5, 2025

Start your Sunday with a Fellowship Norwegian “Kaffe” at the Stavanger, Illinois Lutheran Church from 9:30-10:30 a.m. with a Traditional Norwegian Service following before returning to the Norway Community Center for the Sloopers Society of America Annual Meeting, Norwegian Lunch, and 2025 Program Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the “Sloopers” arriving in America



**Slooper Society of American Annual Meeting
begins at 12:30 p.m.**



Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Culture Weekend October 3-5, 2025
"Celebrating Norwegian Immigration - The Sloop 200th Anniversary"

Weekend Registration Form

*Please complete **one form per person**. Forms and fees are **due by September 1, 2025**.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Lodge Name and Location: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make check out to: Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Mail with form to: Ken Johnson, Polar Star President, 501 West Ridge Street, Yorkville, IL 60560

Questions: Contact Barb Johnson at barb.johnson5@gmail.com or 630-632-2329

The Weekend Registration Fee includes coffee and treats at the Norway community center, all on-site speakers, and Sons of Norway lodge expenses for hosting the event. Additional costs are listed below.

Activity	Cost	Amount Enclosed
Weekend Registration Fee Circle each day attending: Fri Sat Sun	- Only 1 day = \$25 /person - 2 or 3 days = \$50 /person	
Friday Night Torsk (Cod) Dinner	\$20 /person	
Saturday American Pulled Pork Lunch	\$20 /person	
Saturday Night Chicken/Pork Chop Dinner	\$20 /person	
Sunday Sloop Norwegian Luncheon	\$20 /person	
Sami Bracelet Class	\$45 /person	
Stamping Norwegian Christmas Cards	\$40 /person	
Immigration Textile Workshop at Esther's Place. (offsite activity: only available Friday morning 9-11:30)	\$35 /person	
Total Amount:		

NOTE: Saturday Morning Fun Walk:

- Please use the **separate** "Sluppen" Registration form.
- We must receive the completed Sluppen form and Sluppen \$15 registration fee by June 30th to be eligible for medals.

The following **off-site activities** have a donation at the door, and are **not** part of this order form.

However, we do need to know if **and** when you plan to visit so that adequate staffing can be arranged.

Off-Site Activity	Day	Planning to visit? (yes or no)
Friends of the Viking Ship Museum Tour	Thursday, 11 to 12	
	Thursday, 2 to 3	
	Friday 10 to 11	
LaSalle County Genealogy Guild	Thursday, 9 to 4	
	Friday, 10 to 12	

Office Use:

Received on: _____ Amount enclosed: _____ check? cash? Confirmed on: _____

Sons of Norway Book Club

July Selections



July main read: *The Art of Compassion - a biography of Sigrid Undset* by Yola Miller Sigerson

Editor's Note: Sigrid Undset was the author of the Kristen Lavransdatter Trilogy. I wish I would have read this biography of her life before I read the series. Very interesting book about her life and writing.

July Mystery read: *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme* by Lars Mytting

Editors Note: This may be my favorite book that I've read in the Book Club. It is the story of three families in three countries connected by both WW I and WW II. The writing is so good, the characters and the connection to the landscape so real, interesting and symbolic. The story is a search for family and unanswered questions. It is also about grief, love and acceptance which is both heart breaking and hopeful. Definitely a must read!!

To be placed on the Zoom Book Club list cobtact Bill Brownig at
SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com

Vasa Park Scandinavian Festival

Sunday, September 7, 2024



“This will be the 45th Scandinavian Day Festival. Many years have passed and the festival has evolved but it remains loyal to its roots; the heritage of the five Nordic countries.”

The Festival planning team is working to select the entertainment and finding vendors to prepare those delicious Scandinavian foods and an assortment of Scandinavian goods for you. They are excited to bring to our 5 Nordic communities, and the Midwest, a vibrant and fun-filled Festival for 2025”



Editor's Note: Polar Star will be on site at the Scandinavian Day Festival selling our baked goods and Norwegian collectibles. See the event schedule on the Vasa Park Website

[Scandinavian Day - Schedule of Events](#)

GRATULERER MED DAGEN POLAR STAR



Gratulerer med dagen to District 5 President Cheryl

June 16- July 15

21.June - Jim Van Winkle

21. June – Connie Benson Kross

25. June - Jeanne Leifheit

29. June - Harold Broten

30. June - Sasha Betke

POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Montgomery, IL at 1:30 unless otherwise listed

JULY – Polar Star does not meet in July

June 22 – Geneva Days Scandinavian Days Parade

August 3 – Polar Star Pioneer Picnic 1:30

SEPTEMBER 7 - VASA PARK Scandinavian Festival - 9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 3-5 Norwegian Heritage Weekend in Norway, IL

NOVEMBER 2 - Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 7 - JULETFEST

Norsk Museum Opening Day Breakfast June 7th 2025





Save Your Canceled Postage Stamps

Track your 2025 Volunteer Hours!!!

Activity Volunteer Hours Tracking Sheet - Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Member Name _____ Phone _____ Service Year _____

This data is used for mandatory reporting that maintains Sons of Norway tax-exempt status, and for National Sons of Norway to lobby on behalf of Fraternal benefit societies. Annually, by end of January, submit your completed form to the Polar Star Secretary. Tusen takk.

- **Membership Activities** – Volunteer time spent on preparing, running or supporting projects/programs organized by Sons of Norway at a lodge, district or international level that were devoted to lodge business affairs, recreational/social events, training seminars, cultural classes, officer duties, etc. Include only volunteer time spent organizing, planning or working at/for the events. Do not include lodge meeting attendance time.

Member Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Lodge Meeting/Food (prepare food for pot luck; set/clean up; kitchen duty)													
Lodge Meeting Programs/Activities (plan/prepare/lead)													
Training/Seminars (plan/prepare/lead)													
Officer Duties													
Manage Newsletter/ Facebook/Website													
Board/Committee Meetings													
District or National Meetings/Training													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HOURS:													

- **Community Activities** – Record time that you volunteered in the name of / on behalf of Polar Star lodge, another Sons of Norway lodge, or SON district or international level at events focusing on community involvement/interest. Include only your volunteer time working at, planning for, or traveling to/from the event. Do not include time just attending.

Community Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Høstfest (prep/food/work)													
Fox Valley Norwegian Choir													
Vasa Park (prep/food/work)													
Norsk Museum (docent/manager/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/morgasbord/etc. (prep/food/work)													
Syttende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work)													
How to be a Viking (prep/food/work)													
Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead)													
Viking Ship (docent/manager/maintain)													
Red Hat Knitting													
Tubfrim													
Barnetirke/Norge Ski (prep/food/work)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:													

Revised 2019