

Sons of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Events held on the first Sunday of the month
Potluck at 1:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery,



President Ken and Cultural Director Barb are ready for Juletfest 2024

Dear Polar Star

I want to start out with a big "Thank You" for working so hard to make our Høstfest 2024 such a big success! I hope everyone is looking forward to our Juletfest. It's such a great time and the kids have so much fun. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and I can't wait to see you all in December! Don't forget to start baking so you'll be ready for the Julebaking contest 2024.

Tusen takk!
From your President
Ken Johnson



Tree trimming begins at 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Polar Star Events

December 1

FAMILY JULETFEST

Tree Trimming at 1:00 p.m.

Potluck at 1:30

See article on page 2 & 3

December 5

Juletrepynt Needle Felting Workshop

10:00 a.m

Esther's Place

In

Big Rock Illinois

See page 7 for details

Polar Star Newsletter deadline
14th of every month

Please submit articles to Barb
Johnson at

barbjjohnsonb@aol.com

Follow us on Facebook.

Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

POLAR STAR JULETREFEST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

Tree trimming at 1:00 p.m.

POTLUCK BEGINS AT 1:30



Plan to attend our Traditional Norwegian Christmas Celebration with your children and grandchildren. Bring your favorite Christmas dish to pass and your own table service.

Polar Star Cookie Baking 2024. Julebaking has become a fun tradition at Polar Star. This year we will bake our favorite Norwegian cookie to enter into our Polar Star Baking contest. To enter the contest, bake at least 3 dozen of your favorite Norwegian Christmas cookie recipe and place them in a cellophane covered container for tasting. The cookies will be judged by all of the guests in attendance who buy a judging ticket. President Ken will be selling tickets for \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00. He will also auction off each tin after the judging to the highest bidder with the proceeds donated to the Sons of Norway Foundation. The baker with the largest number of tickets will receive the Polar Star “Top Baking” award for 2024.



There **WILL BE** a POLAR STAR **ADULT GIFT EXCHANGE** this year (\$20.00 gift limit). Children will still receive their own gifts – so parents and/or grandparents please bring a wrapped gift with your child’s name attached to the gift so that the Julenisse will know who to deliver it to.

Juletrefest Schedule:

1:00 - Tree trimming, cookie decorating,

1:30 p.m. Potluck luncheon

1:45 p.m. Juletre sanger

2:00 Arrival of the Julenisse and gift exchange

Editor’s note: Please read the recommendations about participating in the Polar Star **Jólabókaflód** explained on page 7 of the newsletter.

Polar Star Sports and Activities

by Jerri Lynn Baker

POLAR STAR CULTURE CORNER..

by Barb Johnson

Tid for julebakst!

(Time to start Christmas baking)

Norwegian Christmas Cookies are a big part of holiday festivities. Historically, butter was an expensive treat that was sold off the farm to pay the bills, but during the holidays, even the poorest rural families kept butter at home for a variety of festive holiday treats. As the custom goes, each family would make 7 types of cookies, known as the 7 cookies of Christmas (*syv slags julekaker*).

What are your “Syv Slags” of julekaker 2023????

OPPSKRIFTER (RECIPES)



God jul og lykkelig bakst!

Please take a picture of your favorite Christmas cookies and write down the recipe on the attached recipe sheet for inclusion in our Polar Star Cook Book,

Fra Bestemor's Kjøkken



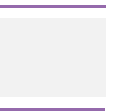
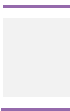
Navn på oppskriften _____

Serves _____ Temp _____

Ingredients

Instructions

Memories related to the recipe.



Jólabókaflód

by Barb Johnson

A Scandinavian Christmas Eve Tradition....

Jólabókaflód means “Christmas Book Flood”. This tradition originated during World War II when imports from foreign countries were restricted, but paper was cheap. Iceland’s population was not large enough to support a year- round publishing industry, so book publishers flooded the market with new books in the final weeks of the year. So, in Iceland, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve and the rest of the evening is spent reading your new book while eating your favorite chocolate!

As most of you know, your Culture Director loves Norwegian literature and encourages all of you to participate in this tradition. **Bring your favorite book written by a Norwegian or Norwegian American author and a large chocolate bar to the December meeting and take home a new book for your Christmas pleasure.**

For more information on Jólabókaflód:

<https://www.readitforward.com/essay/article/jolabokaflod-meet-favorite-new-holiday-tradition/>

December 2024 Book Club Selections

Main Read: “*Silent Patriot*” by Astrid Karlsen-Scott

Editor’s note: Astrid Karlsen-Scott is also the author of *Authentic Norwegian Cooking* a cookbook that I use most often.

Mystery Read: “*Forty Days Without Shadow*” an Arctic Thriller by Olivier True

Zoom Meeting/Discussion Date & Time: December 26, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

Sons of Norway Book Club 2025

Polar Star “boklesere” (book readers)....The 2024 schedule for the Sons of Norway Book Club has been finalized.

January 23, 2025 Book Club Selections

Main Read: *Vows (Olav Audumsson #1)* by Sigrid Undset

Mystery Read:

February 27, 2025 Book Club Selections

Main Read: *We are going to pick Potatoes: Norway and the Holocaust* by Irene Levin Berman

Mystery Read: *Sidetracked (Kurt Wallander #5)* by

To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send an email with your name, lodge name and contact information (phone number and email address) to SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com

Juletrepynt Needle Felting Workshop

December 5, 2024 - 10:00 - \$25.00

Esthers' Place

201 W. Galena Street

Big Rock, IL 60511

Call to register 630-556-9665

www.esthersplacefibers.com



Polar Star and Cleng Peerson members are invited to attend a “make and take” needle felting class to create needle felted Christmas ornaments.



Polar Star Culture Corner

by Barb Johnson

Have YOU completed your 2024 Culture Goals???????

How to Be A Viking

Just a reminder to keep working on your culture goals
To earn the Polar Star 2024 Culture award...

1. Read three books about the Viking era.
2. Read one book of your choice on Norsk Mythology
3. Make a Viking era dish to share with our group and turn in the recipe
4. Listen and review three different Viking era instruments and music

Complete this form and return it Barb Johnson, Culture Director by December 31,
2024.

Name: _____

A. What did you learn about the Vikings?

Book #1: _____ author _____

Book #2: _____ author _____

Book #3: _____ author _____

Which Book did you like the best? Write what you liked, a quote, a fact, a discovery, a meaningful passage etc.

B. What Norsk story or Myth did you learn about? What was the message?

Name of Book and author: _____

C. What Viking dish did you prepare? Be sure and attach your recipe

D. What instruments did you listen to? Which recording and/or performance did you like and why?

Vasa Park Fish Boil
Saturday October 5, 2024
Submitted by Carol Devito

Frank and I attended Vasa Park's annual Fish Boil last month. The weather was perfect, no jackets needed.

They served cod and potatoes (all boiled in pots in a fire pit over an open flame), peas, boiled onions, cucumber salad, pickled beets, rye bread and melted butter. For desert cherry and apple slices. The bar, of course, had aquavit as well as soft drinks, water, beer and wine.

A group of stringed instrument players entertained us with Norsk music while we ate our dinner.

When a tree dies on the property they have a wood carver come out and do his magic. There is a Viking that stands about six feet tall near the Fox River. The most recent sculpture is a troll (pictured).

They have many activities during the year.

March – fundraiser luncheon or dinner

July – Kubb tournament and picnic

August – food truck event

September – we all know what happens then – Scandinavian Day

October – Fish Boil

Every time we attend an event at the Park, something else has been improved. They are constantly taking care of the property and improving when finances are available.

Hopefully Frank and I will start seeing Polar Star members at future Vasa Park events.



Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Culture Weekend

“Celebrating Norwegian Immigration”

The Sloopers’ 200th Anniversary

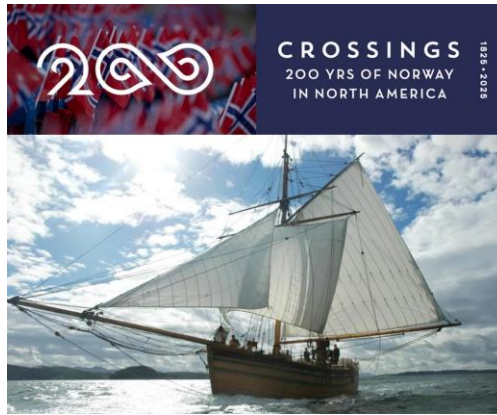
October 3-5, 2025



Norway, Illinois Community Building

3667 E. 2603rd Rd

Sheridan, IL 60551



2025 marks the 200th Anniversary of the first organized emigration of Norwegians to the United States. The single mast sloop, Restauration, left Stavanger on July 4, 1825, with 52 people on board. Often referred to as the “Sloopers,” they arrived in New York City harbor on October 9, 1825.

The coordinated undertaking for the 200th anniversary has been identified as **Crossings, Norway & North America, 1825 – 2025**. The Crossings Bicentennial in North America is managed by a group of dedicated professionals representing numerous organizations that include the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA), Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Norway House, *The Norwegian American* newspaper, with representation from Sons of Norway and the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Editor’s Note: Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and volunteer your time as we “Celebrate Norwegian Immigration” and the 200th Anniversary of the Sloopers arriving in America. The following is the working schedule for the 2025 Culture weekend being planned for the fall of 2025. The planning committee is focusing on providing participants with the history and culture of early Norweigan American pioneers that settled and established farms and communities on the prairie of LaSalle County , Illinois.

***Registration packets are being finalized by the committee and will be available by the end of the year. They will be emailed to everyone on the Polar Star mailing list as soon as they are available.**

Thursday October 2, 2025

Possible things to do on arrival day

- Spend the day in Geneva, Illinois. Visit "Friends of the Viking Ship" Museum at Good Templar Park – 529 East Side Dr, Geneva, IL; shop for Scandinavian gifts at "The Gift Box" (310 W State Street, Geneva); have lunch at "Stockholm's Restaurant & Brewery" (306 W. State Street, Geneva, IL)
- Visit Starved Rock State Park – Utica, Illinois
 - Visitor's Center Movie on history of Starved Rock
 - Scenic hike to falls or tram ride
 - Lunch in the Lodge
- Visit LaSalle County Historical Society (101 Canal Street, Utica, IL)
- Visit Fern Dell Historical Center (9 East Front Street, Newark, Illinois).
- Leland Historical Society/Museum (205 N. Main Street, Leland, IL).

Check in to hotel and Dinner on your own

Friday, October 3, 2025

Breakfast and Lunch on your own at Norway Store or other location

Participants may choose from the following options...

1) Spend the morning in Geneva, Illinois. Tour "The Friends of the Viking" museum (Pre-registration required) followed by Scandinavian shopping and lunch at The Stockholm's Restaurant and Brewery.

2) Attend the Immigration Textiles Farm Tour and Workshop 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Esther's Place – 201 Galena Street, Big Rock Illinois – pre-registration required

3) Spend the morning at Starved Rock State Park or visit local museums

1:30 Opening Program "Welcome to the Fox River Settlement"

On-Site weekend Programs/Presentations

- *Norwegian Stamps program
- *Norwegian ministry in Brooklyn, New York
- * Norwegian American Women
- *Norwegian Folk Costumes (Bunad) presentation
- *Norwegian animals – (Fjord horse, Norsk eld hound, Norsk skog katt)
- *Sons of Norway Book club with authors
- *Music and Stories of Norway, Illinois
- *Drop-in Juletreffest "make and take" craft center
- *Visit Norsk Museum
- *Nordic Walking

5:00 p.m. on-site Dinner

Evening Program: Norwegian Movie and/or Game Night at the Norway Community Center

Norwegian Games and Movie (Lutefish Wars) with free popcorn, bottled water/pop/snacks will be available for purchase.

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Saturday morning “Sluppen” Around Norway “Fun” Walk
(prepaid registration required – all ages encouraged)

Morning and afternoon and presentations – same locations as Friday

- ***“History of the Sloopers and their influence in Norway Illinois”***
presented by Norsk Museum Board members.
- History of the Viking Ship Presentation

Lunch on your own or pre-paid box lunch/or food truck

Evening Program: Pre-paid dinner followed by Norwegian American Barn Dance with authentic music and Norwegian Folk Dancing.

Sunday October 5

Norwegian Church Service with “Norsk Kaffe og Bakverk (coffee and pastries) at one of the Sloopers connected churches....

*Cemetery Walk may be scheduled after church depending on where the church service takes place.

*Norsk Museum will be open all day on Saturday and Sunday

12:00 p.m. Sloopers Annual Meeting

1:00 Sloopers Luncheon (pre-paid registration required)

Catered Lunch sponsored by Museum, Sloopers Society and Lodges

Program: “Fox Valley Settlement 1834” Play and Vesterheim photos of Re-enactment of the Sloopers leaving Norway in July 2025.

October 2025 Culture Weekend Information

Details on all the events and activities will be continuously updated on the Polar Star website and Facebook page.

Barb Johnson – Polar Star Lodge Culture Director

barbjohnsonb@aol.com

630-553-7389

CULTURE WEEKEND 2025 LODGING

Make reservations on your own. Blocks of rooms have been reserved in the following locations.

- 1) **Holiday Inn Fox River Resort at Sheridan, Illinois** - a block of 15 two bedroom two bath suites with full kitchen have been reserved. Property is only 1 mile from the Norway, Illinois event location.
Group Code: SON – Book by phone at 866-545-5112
- 2) **Holiday Inn in Yorkville, IL** rate of \$165.00 + taxes – two night stay required.
Yorkville, IL is located 18 miles northeast of Norway, IL. – a 20 minute drive.
Group Reservation Code: BJW (cut off date 8-15-25) 1888-465-4329

Additional Hotel Information:

Additional Yorkville, IL Hotels

1. Hampton Inn Yorkville
2. Super 8 by Wyndham

Ottawa Hotels

I – 80 Route 23 Exits

Morris, Illinois Hotels – I 80 Exit

Holiday Inn Express

Day's Inn and Suites

Quality Inn

Comfort Inn

Starved Rock State Park Lodge - 815-667-4211

One Lodge Lane

Oglesby, IL 61348

“Celebrating Norwegian Immigration” Adult Culture Weekend sponsored by

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Cleng Peerson Lodge 5-425

Norsk Museum

Slooper Society of America

POLAR STAR CALENDAR EVENTS

Desember 1 Polar Star Juletreffest - St. Olaf Lutheran Church – 1:00

2024 Polar Star Kitchen Committees

December 1: Polar Star Board Members



**Volunteers needed for 2025 Monthly Event Kitchen Committee
Contact Social Director Nany Andersen to sign up for your
month of choice.**

Polar Star Calendar 2025

January 5: Viking Music and Awards

FEBRUAR 2 - Polar Star Penny Social and “Souper” Bowl Competition

GRATULERER MED DAGEN POLAR STAR!

NOVEMBER (15-30) BIRTHDAYS

17. Alan Betker

18. Nancy Andersen

18. Josie Gehler



DESEMBER (1-15) Birthdays

8. Kelsey Danielson

14. Vi Skogen

14. Alfred Sundfor

19. Carol Vigsnes



**Eleanor Bates
will turn
101**

On January 1st

Please send her a
Happy New Year
Birthday Card

Eleanor Bates
The Holmstad, # 217
831 N. Batavia Avenue
Batavia IL 60510

In memoriam

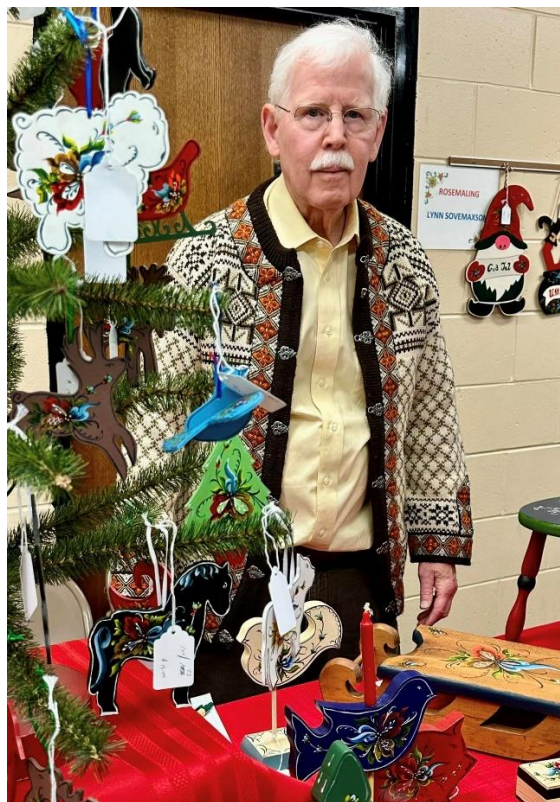


**Former Polar Star President
Donald D. Danielson**

12/3/1926 – 11/10/2024

Høstfest 2024

“The Culture”



Rosmaling



Hardanger



Polar Star Loppemarked

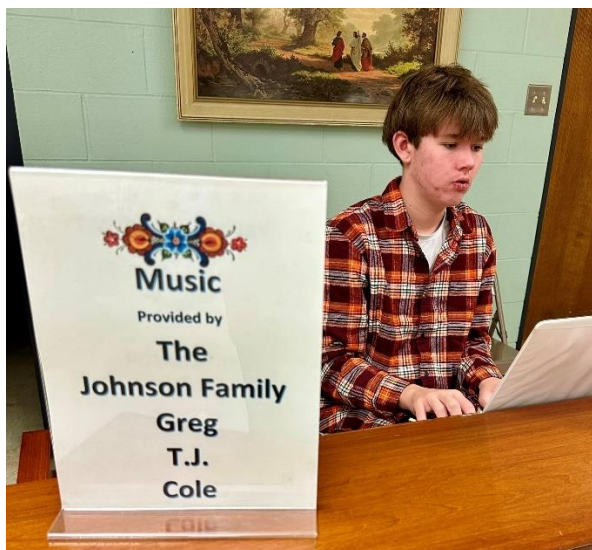


Lefse, Krumkake and Vafler Demonstrations



**Sami Bracelets
and rings**

The Music



The Food!







kaker og småkaker



smørbrød



The Fun



Don't forget to fill out your Volunteer hours and turn it in at the Dec. 5th Juletreffest

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/manage/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/smorgasbord/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/manage/maintain)													
Red Hat Knitting													
Tubfrim													
Barnebirke/Norge Ski (prep/food/work)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:													

Revised 2019

