



# Valhall Lodge Nyht

Sons of Norway Lodge # 5-168 Jan, Feb. Mar. 2025

[www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)

[www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)

[www.facebook.com/sofnrkfdValhall5168](https://www.facebook.com/sofnrkfdValhall5168)



## Kalender



### January 2025 – No lodge Meeting

**Saturday, February 8, 2025 - Program: Norwegian Archeology**

**Stockholm Inn. 2420 Charles St. Rockford, IL 61108**

10:00 AM Breakfast buffet or order off the menu (Dutch treat)

**Saturday, February 15, 2025 -District 5 Information Event**

**Who?** Any member of the 5th District What? Latest information and updates from the home office, the District 5 Board of Directors, and our local lodges

**Why?** Our district leaders and membership have asked for the latest news from the home office, including the SofN Foundation.

**Where?** This activity will be held **via Zoom** from the comfort of your home; we look forward to seeing you!

**When? 9 AM Central Standard Time**

\* As the agenda finalizes, it will also be shared via the FFFNews. Stay tuned!

Tusen takk, Cheryl Wille- Schlessler President, D5 608-219-4464 (Please leave a voice message.)

[cwschlessler200bc@gmail.com](mailto:cwschlessler200bc@gmail.com)

**Saturday - February 15 – Saturday Cultural Class – 10 am – 1pm**

Goodwill Industries Community Room - 3068 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL 61114

**Saturday - March 8, 2025**

**Stockholm Inn. 2420 Charles St. Rockford, IL 61108**

10:00 AM Breakfast buffet or order off the menu (Dutch treat)

**Program: Echoes of our Ancestors** is a narrated slideshow about a heritage journey by Sons of Norway Fraternal Manager Jana Velo

**Saturday - March 15 – Saturday Cultural Class – 10 am – 1pm**

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## Member Benefit: Grants and Scholarships

Did you know that Sons of Norway members, their children, and their grandchildren are eligible for college scholarships? Opportunities range from supporting enrollment at any major US college to assisting with travel to Norway and other countries. There is even a scholarship for a cultural class for members age 40+!

Our lodges may also receive awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 for children's programming, new equipment, or cultural events. **Deadline to submit applications March 15, 2025**

Learn more at [www.sofn.com/foundation](http://www.sofn.com/foundation)

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## Celebrating Mordag February 9, 2025



In Norway, Mother's Day or Morsdag, is celebrated on the second Sunday in February, as a day to appreciate and honor mothers and mother figures.

Morsdag was first observed in Norway on Sunday, February 9, 1918. A warm hug is always the best gift.

A little-known fact: A Mother's Day tradition is wearing a carnation. A colored carnation signifies a mother is living. A white carnation is worn to honor a deceased mother.

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**Message from Sports Director Clara Solak**

**BIRKIE TIME!**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE BARNEBIRKIE SUCCESSFUL!**

The Fifth District of the Sons of Norway will be assisting with the **Barnebirkie** children's cross country ski race for ages 3-13 in downtown **Hayward, WI, on Thursday, February 20, 2025**

There are many ways to help us out! We have a cookie goal this year of 900 dozen! So we need those donations!

*There are several drivers in southern Wisconsin heading up to Barnebirkie transporting cookies.*

If there are any donated cookies in Central Illinois or beyond they would have to make their way up to me in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Too far away? Monetary donations for the D5 Legacy Foundation are greatly appreciated.

Funding from this Foundation helps to support cultural activities, including Barnebirkie! As always we need volunteer /workers in the cookie tent - please contact me if you are able to help in any way (event and/or transport).

**Volunteers also need to register with Birkiebeiner.**

Contact me at [Clara.Solak23@gmail.com](mailto:Clara.Solak23@gmail.com).

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**Heading up to Hayward to help?** *Volunteers should make their reservations now.* District members volunteer to work in the registration area before the race, and they pass out cookies at the end of the course. Members also meet and greet adult skiers later in the day at the EXPO CENTER held inside Hayward High School. It is exciting to interact with skiers from across the world at this International event. I am kindly asking our members to consider baking for this event.

Please refrain from the use of nuts in any of the cookies you make due to allergy concerns in our youth participants. The kiddos enjoy all kinds of cookies, but the most popular are chocolate chip varieties. They also enjoy frosted sugar cookies. Some racers like homemade raisin oatmeal cookies, too! Baking one of your family's favorites is certain to be a winner!

After the cookies are distributed in the Celebration Tent, the excess is moved to Hayward High School where the classic skiers come to obtain their timing chips and bibs. These skiers look forward to seeing our smiling faces, but mostly, they enjoy the homemade cookies made by our Sons of Norway members! Adults savor spice cookies and healthy varieties: molasses, Snickerdoodles, ginger, peppercaker, and cardamom. Oreo cookies are also popular.

Thank you for your support in helping to make the Barnebirkie a memorable event for the littlest skiers of all.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY....

**Volunteers must register at the American Birkebeiner Foundation website.**

[\(Become a Birkie Volunteer | American Birkebeiner\)](#)

### *Continue to SAVE YOUR STAMPS !*

#### ***Stamps For The Wounded***

[Stamps for the Wounded](#)

Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) has been helping veterans since 1942. SFTW is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to U.S. veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW sends stamps, covers, supplies and literature to enable veterans to begin, or continue to collect stamps. Stamp collecting is an activity that provides comfort, meaningful activity and social connections ... it is not physically challenging and very stimulating.

Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) relies on donations to provide stamps and supplies to veterans. SFTW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

For more information Pick up a brochure or go to <https://www.stampsforthewounded.org/>

Drop your stamps off at any lodge gathering.

## Condolences

To the family of Christian Anderson



1947 - 2024

Chris, a member of Valhall Lodge since 2007 passed away on Nov. 10, 2024

Chris is survived by his daughter Anja C DePauw of Knoxville, TN And Step-mother (Lodge member), Dorothy Anderson of Rockford, IL



## Sons of Norway January – April 2025 Zoom Book Club Selections

### January 23, 2025 - Book Club Selections

**Main Read:** The Rocks Will Echo Our Sorrow:  
The Forced Displacement of the Northern Sami -  
Author : Elin Anna Labba

**Mystery Read:** The Rabbit Factor (Series 1)

Author: Antti Tuomainen

*Zoom Meeting / Discussion* – January 30 – 6:00 pm CST

### February 27, 2025 - Book Club Selections

**Main Read:** We Are Going to Pick Potatoes:  
Norway and the Holocaust –  
Author: Irene Levin Berman

**Mystery Read:** Sidetracked

Author: Kurt Wallander #5

### March 27, 2025 - Book Club Selections

**Main Read:** King Harald's Saga

Author: Snurri Sturluson

**Mystery Read:** The Raven – (Minnesota Trilogy  
#3) Author: Vidar Sundstol

### April 24, 2025 – Book Club Selection

**Main Read:** Norse Mythology Author: Neil  
Gaiman

**Mystery Read:** The Iron Chariot – The Classic  
Norwegian Mystery

To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send  
an email with your name, lodge name and  
contact information to

[SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com](mailto:SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com)

## Gratulere Med Dagen

### January : Januar

Hailey LaPonsie 2  
Greg Ragan 3  
David Olafsen 8  
Patricia Farney 9  
Adam Schrober 10  
Jayne Ragan 13  
Sydnee Forrester & Christina Fairchild 15  
Richard Fairchild & Arlene Pederson 16  
Wenke Hansen 18  
Teddy Ropp 19

### February : Februar

Hailey Davis 2  
Linden Griesbach 5  
Randy Farney 10  
Richard Pederson 17  
Vicki Rudh-Jones 19  
Beth Johnson 24

### March : Mars

Wanda Berke 6  
Jennifer Johnson 8  
Jayne Brod & Barb Palm 10  
Karen Drager & Michael Jones 15  
Richard Jewell 20  
George Hagen 25  
Ray Pederson 26

### Sons of Norway Mission Statement

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.



## CREAMY RICE PUDDING

- Serves 8-12 -

### INGREDIENTS:

6 cups milk  
1 cup (white) rice uncooked,

### DIRECTIONS:

Heat to the boiling point  
(in a 4½ quart Dutch oven or pot)  
Stir in the rice, cover, and simmer for about  
20 – 60 minutes, until the rice is tender and the milk is  
absorbed.

### While the rice is simmering:

8 oz cream cheese, softened  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
2 tsp vanilla

Cream the sugar, egg, and vanilla into the  
cream cheese.

When the rice is done, stir the cream cheese mixture in  
to the rice and cook for another 5 minutes.

If you want to add raisins, add 1 cup

Sprinkle 1 tsp nutmeg on top of the rice pudding in a  
serving bowl. Serve warm or cold.

Adapted from the

“ Rice Cheese Pudding “ recipe in the cookbook: Wonderful Ways  
to Prepare Cheesecakes by Jo Ann Shirley, 1979 p. 89  
Ref. Nordlyset Lodge Newsletter- Jan 2025

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Little Ole was sitting at the kitchen table doing his homework. He had a puzzled look on his face as he considered the assignment that was due—writing an essay about his origin. He turned to question his mother. “Mama, vere did Grandma come from?” he asked. “Da stork brought her,” answered Mama Lena. “And vere did yew come from?” asked Little Ole. “Da stork brought me,” his mother answered. “And vere did I come from?” Little Ole inquired. “Vell, son, da stork brought yew, tew,” Mama Lena replied. With a scowl on his face, Little Ole picked up his pencil, turned to his school tablet, and began writing his essay: “Dere have been no natural births in our family for t’ree yenerations.”



**Sons of Norway Rockford**

**Valhall Lodge 5-168**

Christina Fairchild – Editor

226 W River St.

Rockton, IL 61072

If you know of a member that is ill at home, in the hospital, lost a family member, fell on some hard times, needs some encouragement or passed away contact Valhall's

**Sunshine Person: LeeAnn Harp email [leeannaharp@yahoo.com](mailto:leeannaharp@yahoo.com)**

The Valhall Lodge Newsletter is published every three months. Submit items of interest you would like to post in our newsletter to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. When you attend a Norwegian event that would be of interest to your fellow lodge members, please add your editor's name & address to their mailing list. Also, please notify the editor of a member passing so they may be acknowledged in our newsletter.

**Editor: Christina Fairchild 226 W River St. Rockton, IL. 61072** Phone (815) 624-4478

E-mail [cfairc56@gmail.com](mailto:cfairc56@gmail.com) If you have an e-mail address; please let us know what it is.