



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

November 2017
Issue Number 17 - 09



Front Page News

Veteran's Day Gene Hanson: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

In honor of **Veteran's Day**, member Gene Hanson, a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, will share history and stories about the Tomb at our Lodge meeting on Tuesday, November 14th.

Eugene, or Gene, Hanson grew up in Osakis, Minnesota – the Land of Lakes and Scandinavians. After high school, he attended St. Cloud State College and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1955. The Korean War draft was still in effect and he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He went to Fort Carson in Colorado to complete 16 weeks of infantry training.

After his infantry training, he was fortunate to be sent to Fort Meyer, Virginia and the 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard." The 3rd is the oldest regiment and its history dates back to the Revolutionary War. The 3rd started taking over the

Ceremonial Presidential Honor Guard duties in 1948.

Gene will share clips with us from three videos "Never Falter" – a short clip of some of the duties of the 3rd; "Voices from the Tomb" – which shows duties of the guards; and a video on his path to the Tomb of the Unknown. It is with pride that Gene can relate to his selection and time on the Tomb, and it is with deep humility for what it represents, especially on Veteran's Day.

Veteran's Day was originally called Armistice Day, and it celebrated the end of World War I (the Great War, the War to End All Wars) on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. We pay respect and thanks to the Unknown Soldier, those who serve and have served in the Armed Services, and their families on Veteran's Day.

Fra Presidenten

Dear Members,

Happy extended Fall...As I write this; it is still a warm and lovely Autumn. But, we all know what is lurking just around the corner—Thanksgiving! I'll bet you thought I was going somewhere else, huh? Well, I am thankful for each and every one of YOU, and our Lodge!

Thanks, also, to our very own Corrie Maki Knutson, the Director of the Foundation for the International Sons of Norway. She gave us such a great overview of how the Foundation works, and the good things it does. Our Lodge has gotten several grants for special projects from the Foundation, and several of our youth have received scholarships for both camp and college.

Tusen Takk go to Ron Stow for giving us a Lodge look-back as he showed us artifacts from some of Synnove-Nordkap's 115 year history. It was fun to sing Happy Birthday to our Lodge (us), and then have Birthday cake to boot. Ahhhh, the fun (and food) just never ends here.

More thankfulness is extended to all who participated in our annual Torsk and Meatball Dinner on October 14. We served 100 people lots of marvelous food! The Silent Auction was a tremendous success. The bake sale/market place did well. We even had some representatives from the Junior Lodge selling greeting cards. All in all, it was a terrific event.

I am really looking forward to fellow Lodge-member Gene Hanson's November presentation about being a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I only recently learned about the total sacrifices these dedicated men make. I encourage you to bring along veterans you know so we can honor them as we celebrate Veterans Day.

Now we can look a bit further ahead—towards December and our Julebord. Be thinking about what you will bring to our annual Christmas event. We will be signing up for those special dishes that all coalesce to making this event one that we never want to miss!

Blessings,
Sharon



**Update: Torsk and Meatball Dinner and Silent Auction / Marketplace on
October 14, 2017**

Our second largest fundraiser was again very successful. The dinner was enjoyed by 97 adults and 6 children. The Silent Auction and the Marketplace were also popular. We raised more than \$1900 for scholarships after deducting all expenses.

Submitted by Dave Mutchler, Secretary

Secretary's Report

Board Meeting Minutes, 3 Oct, 2017

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Ron and Susan Stow, Dianne Anderson, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Chuck and Jean Draheim, Naomi Hagen, Pat Carlson, Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler.

- After a warm-up question, we began by reviewing the September meeting. Everyone liked David Engen. It was good to be back at a meeting. The treats were excellent. Overall, everyone had very positive comments.
- For the October meeting, Sharon will order a half sheet marble cake with "Gratulerer med dagen" and "115" on top.
- We'll go with Norwegian colors rather than Fall colors. Bring your slippers for "Hygge". Naomi volunteered to take orders for SON Christmas ornaments, thereby saving members shipping costs of ordering online. Ron will have a brief quiz regarding our lodge history.
- Jean gave a brief Treasurer's report.
- We are grateful to Ingrid Bjorum's husband for his offer to help with the lodge website.
- We discussed the prices we should charge for the busserull fabric and patterns at the silent auction.
- Naomi discussed the upcoming programs. Gene Hanson has been shifted to November. We have the Julebord in December. She is thinking of book reports at the January meeting.
- Sharon mentioned the possibility of Stine making waffles at our booth at the Festival of Nations next year. She is actively seeking new venues. We passed a motion (Ron/Dave) for Sharon to contact Stine regarding this. Pat indicated that she does not want to take a week of vacation this year for the Festival, so we need to give her more management help.
- The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 7 in the Board Room at the Maplewood library.

Submitted by: Dave Mutchler, Secretary

Lodge Meeting October 10, 2017

- 53 members and guests attended our October meeting. Jean Draheim brought guest Shelly Mork. Maureen Austinson brought Marilyn Erickson, and Dan Halvorson came on his own. President Sharon Amann welcomed everyone, and we recognized new member Kristin Burge. Leslie Oliver also joined our lodge that evening; we welcome both of these new members to our lodge.
- We sang the anthems and did the pledge of allegiance, and the September meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.
- Susan Stow announced that Eileen Dahl had inherited her grandmother's house, complete with 2 boxes of Hardanger material. Susan invited anyone who is interested to learn Hardanger at the Stow's house tomorrow (Wednesday, October 11). The materials will be provided and Delores Jacobson will be the instructor.
- We celebrated the October birthday of Lois Schaaf, and the 33rd anniversary of Lowell Johnson. We also sang happy birthday to our lodge.
- Ron Stow discussed the 115th anniversary of our lodge, and had a quiz on our lodge history that was based on the two articles he wrote for recent newsletters. He showed quite a few relics from our past that showed up when the closet had to be cleaned out recently due to losing half of our space.
- Lowell Johnson awarded a gold walking medal to Dianne Anderson and received an enamel walking medal himself. He also announced two SON bike rides on Saturday, October 21 in Victoria, MN.
- Jean Draheim gave a brief Treasurer's report. We have more than \$9000 in our account with the Torsk and Meatball Dinner Fundraiser coming up.
- Sharon then adjourned the meeting and introduced Corrie Knudson, a member of our lodge and the Foundation Director for SON. Corrie showed a film and had a PowerPoint presentation on the Foundation. While she spoke, a collection was taken.
- We ended with some great treats from JoAnn Hogenson, Trudi Johnson-Richards, and Char Lance, including a 115th birthday cake for the lodge.

Submitted by Dave Mutchler, Secretary

The Altmark Incident

by Don Halvorson

On Norway's south coastal highway not long before you reach Stavanger, lies a small fjord, just inside the fylke of Rogaland, by the name of Jøssingfjord. On a high lookout overlooking the fjord below, stands a historic stone marker that tells the little known story of an incident that happened there a few months before the fall of Norway in the beginning World War II.

Known in history as the Altmark Incident, the story begins in the South Atlantic in December 1939. There, the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* and its support ship *Altmark*, were causing havoc with the British Navy by sinking British merchant ships and stowing their captured crews aboard as prisoners of war. Charged with the task of finding and destroying the *Graf Spee*, the British cruisers HMS *Exeter*, *Ajax* and *Achilles* eventually located the two German ships on December 13, 1939. Aware of their plight, the *Graf Spee* transferred its human cargo to the *Altmark* and raced for the Montevideo, Uruguay harbor to elude capture. Slipping the British blockade, the *Altmark* continued on its course, steaming east, making for Hamburg, Germany. Once there, the captured sailors would be interred in prisoner of war camps in Germany.

Staying out of the shipping lanes, the *Altmark* passed between Iceland and the Færoe Islands and finally entered Norwegian territorial waters off Trondheim on February 14. During that day, the *Altmark* was stopped and inspected three separate times by the Norwegian Navy, but because the inspections were brief, the prisoners remained undetected below deck. On February 16, the *Altmark* was spotted by a British reconnaissance airplane. The British Admiralty then dispatched the 4th Destroyer Flotilla to intercept and free the British sailors they now were certain were there.

That afternoon the flotilla spotted the *Altmark* and began closing in. Disregarding



Norwegian neutrality, the British attempted to force the *Altmark* out of territorial waters, and instead found themselves hampered by the Norwegian ships that had been shadowing her ever since she began moving along the coast. In the ensuing confusion, the *Altmark* slipped into the icy waters of the Jøssingfjord, hoping for sanctuary from the Norwegians.

Bowing under the weight of a formidable force and a directive from Churchill, the Norwegians buckled. After a small skirmish, the *Altmark* was run aground, and during a brief search, the 299 captured British sailors were discovered in a hold below decks. They were all released and transferred to the British destroyer *Cossack*. From there they were transported back to Leith in the U.K. The dead Germans were buried in Elksdal churchyard, Sokndal along the fjord. Later, during the war, those bodies were exhumed and reburied elsewhere.

The lack of resistance by the Norwegians was explained away as an attempt to maintain neutrality. But to Hitler, it was merely the last straw in honoring Norway's neutrality.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/72/a4507472.shtml>
http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/altmark_incident.htm
<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/worldwar1/p/altmark-incident.htm>

Historical Marker, Jøssingfjord, Norway

Sons of Norway Member Advantages

by Paul Dormody, Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor

The Sons of Norway offers lodge members many resources. Although monthly meetings and social get togethers are an important part of being a Sons of Norway lodge member, Sons of Norway was originally created as a fraternal group – that is, a group of people with a common heritage who pledged to help each other in the event one of them suffered an unexpected financial crisis. This is still one of the primary goals of Sons of Norway.

Because this continues to be a primary goal, Sons of Norway offers its lodge members additional resources. One of those resources is the lodge FBC – Financial Benefits Counselor.

My function as your lodge Financial Benefits Counselor is to offer to meet with you and your family to review your financial planning and estate planning. Here are a few facts:

1. Although many people say that they have done financial planning, many of those same people do not have a will. This is a critical piece of your financial picture and should not be put off. Here are 2 examples:

a) my younger sister age 65 died recently. Her family did their best, but she had not designated who in her family should receive several of her prized belongings. And, although she handled the finances in her family, even her husband did not know the password to her computer and their online banking records.

b) Last week we attended the funeral of my nephew, age 23. Our family and his family are devastated. He had no life insurance. He had no will. Not perhaps as critical

because he was single, but critical for a young married couple or a person with children.

2. Experts recommend that you review your life insurance every 3 years. Why? Because it is likely that your family finances and situation has changed significantly during that time. Why should you consider having your Financial Benefits Counselor do a review? Because even though you may have another financial planner, having a different and (hopefully) non-biased review can often uncover gaps that you and your planner may not have considered.
3. Do you have money in a CD? Are you taking distributions from a 401K. Would it be worthwhile to consider strategies that could increase your rate of return?
4. Do you have funds in (safe) investments that you do not anticipate needing and that you do anticipate passing to your heirs? Would you like to make sure those funds are maximized?

If any of these issues interest you, call me for a review. That is the reason Sons of Norway offers my services.

Legal Services: Many people put off getting a will because of they don't have an attorney or because legal services are too expensive. I can help.

The Equifax Hack: The Equifax hack has exposed over half of the people in the US to identity theft. I have an answer – **Identity Shield** -- that will work for you and ease your mind.

Feel free to give me a call anytime:
651-731-5358; pdormody@mwisa.com

Bulletin Board

Community Outreach

Ruth Gibson will coordinate our lodge bell-ringing this year. We will be at Mills Fleet Farm, Oakdale on Saturday, December 2. Shifts are: 10-Noon, Noon-2, 2-4. 2 people per shift preferred. Contact Ruth at 651-429-5572 or ruthylegibson@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Calendar Orders

We will be taking orders for the 2018 Paulstad Classic calendars at our November meeting. \$12.50 each, payable when ordering. Delivery at our December meeting. Think stocking stuffer! (Contact Mary Beth if unable to attend meeting.)

European Christmas Market

The Peer Gynt dancers will add some Norwegian flair to the European Christmas Market again this year. The dancers will perform in a heated tent on Sunday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m. The 4th annual European Christmas Market runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at Union Depot in downtown St. Paul for the first two weekends in December. This free event is based on the traditional, charming, and festive open air Christkindlmarkts that spring up in Germany, Austria and Scandinavia during the Advent season. Shop for unique, handmade holiday gifts and decorations from local vendors, drink Glühwein (spiced mulled wine), taste European inspired food and cheer on our own Peer Gynt Dancers.

<http://stpaulchristmasmarket.com/>

For Information:

Sharon Amann, President
651-631-0399 or slamann@comcast.net
Chuck Draheim, Vice President 651-433-2008
Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor ingrid@steinmetz.org

Welcome to new members Leslie Oliver and Kristin Burge!

♥♥ Online Brevet ♥♥

If you currently receive the Brevet in the mail, please consider viewing it online. The online edition has additional content and doesn't cost the lodge printing or postage fees! We may need to begin charging to receive a hard copy through the mail.

Norwegian Language Classes

- Tuesday, November 14, 6:30-7 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Church before SON meeting
- "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" book & "Ny i Norge" book Wednesday, Nov. 1 & 15
- See calendar for dates & locations
- WELCOME to new members!
- Please contact Sheryl Hove at 651-738-4908 or sherylhove@netzero.net for information.

Genealogy Group

- We welcome people of all nationalities. We can help you get started and guide you to resources to trace your ancestry.
- No December meeting.

Hardanger Embroidery Class

Free Hardanger embroidery class for lodge members. Contact Susan Stow burle103@aol.com or 651-439-7255 to register.

Camp & College Scholarships

- Camp: <http://synnove1.com/Scholarships.html>
- College scholarship info. posted in November
- More info. in online Brevet or contact: Sasha at saslanian68@yahoo.com or 612-720-1021

We Want Your Book Review

Naomi Hagan at the November meeting or contact her: by phone at 651-373-8801 or by email at nahagen4@gmail.com

Lodge History

115th Anniversary of Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge St. Paul – Part 3: The Present and the Future

by Ron Stow

As one of the oldest lodges in the Sons of Norway fraternal organization, Synnøve-Nordkap has a long, rich history of activities that carry on the traditions of our Norwegian immigrant ancestors. This has been demonstrated in the lodge's commitment to the mission statement of Sons of Norway: To promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.

In order to continue the traditions of our ancestors, our members have participated in a number of Cultural Skills Units which are fostered by Sons of Norway. These have included hardanger embroidery, wood carving, reading Norwegian literature, and cooking Norwegian food, among others. The Junior Lodge youth participate in folk dancing and knitting, as well. In the areas of physical fitness, Sons of Norway sponsors a Sports Medals program. Over the years, our fellow members have earned bronze, silver, gold and enamel medals in walking, swimming, bicycling, skiing and general fitness.

Synnøve-Nordkap's board of directors, as in the past, continues to provide quality programs at the lodge's monthly events. Story-tellers, musicians, dancers, and speakers have entertained throughout the years. Special events, such as the Torsk and Meatball Dinner, Julebord in December, Membership Dinner in April, Festival of Nations in May, and the Lodge Picnic in June, continue as lodge traditions. These activities, the fellowship, the fun and the food, belong to the fraternal part of Sons of Norway.

The organization also involves a financial benefits section and a foundation, which support lodges and individual members in a variety of ways, through investment and insurance products and with grants for special projects and for emergency

situations. Our lodge has received substantial revenue-sharing because our members have purchased Sons of Norway financial products.

Synnøve-Nordkap has indeed proven to be successful in a number of ways over the years. Being named District Lodge of the Year and Family Lodge of the Year, both on multiple occasions, are indicators of this. The lodge has, over the years, been able to maintain a strong number of its members, having done so through good recruiting of new members and maintaining the current ones.

However, this has changed in the past few years. This is happening throughout the Sons of Norway organization. This is a fact in all fraternal organizations, including ethnic-related and military clubs. Sons of Norway membership has been declining during the past decade.

This brings the question: What does the future hold for Sons of Norway and for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge? And the next question: What role can we members play to ensure that there will be a continuance of the traditions of this wonderful organization which was begun so many years ago by our immigrant ancestors?

Congratulations to Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge on its 115th anniversary. All the best to its current members and to those future members who will carry on its traditions, and will start new ones.

Gratulerer og ha det bra!

The future of our lodge falls in part on our junior lodge members, who represent our lodge at numerous events throughout the year.

Photo by Patrick Rohne



The mission of the 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.



Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008:

District 1 Lodge of the Year in 2013, Family Lodge of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2013, 2016

Visit Synnøve-Nordkap online: <http://synnove1.com/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>

<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

| Date and Time | Event | Location |
|---|--|---|
| Wednesday, November 4, 1-:2:30 | Norwegian Language Class | Stillwater Public Library, 224 3rd St. N., Stillwater MN 55082 |
| Friday, November 10, 10 am | Hardanger Embroidery Class | Contact Susan Stow burle103@aol.com or 651-439-7255 |
| Saturday, November 11, rehearsal 1-2:30, performance 3-3:30 | Peer Gynt Meeting/Rehearsal and Performance | Rehearsal: Bayport Public Library, 582 N. 4th St., Bayport, MN 55003 Performance: 105 Linden St. W., Stillwater |
| Tuesday, November 14, 6:30-7 | Norwegian Language Class | Gustavus Adolphus Church, 1669 Arcade St., St. Paul, MN 55106 |
| Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 pm | Monthly Lodge Meeting | Gustavus Adolphus Church |
| Wednesday, Nov. 15, 5:00 pm | Norwegian Language Book Group | SunRay Library 2105 Wilson Ave. St. Paul, MN 55119 |

Junior Lodge

A program about snakes or junior lodge? Hmm. Well, the dancers had to pass the room with the snake program in order to find our junior lodge room. Just saying, it was too much of a temptation. We lost some kids on the way to and fro. Who doesn't want to touch a snake? Eventually, they got to our meeting.

For a special feature in October we had a mini Norwegian language lesson given by Liv Larsen, who was a Skogfjorden credit camper last summer. She had photos of fruits and veggies to learn to pronounce with the sentence...Vil du sende meg _____? Will you pass me the _____? Then Liv asked Claudia Stow to help with the Skogfjorden camp song *Sommer kommer*. Tusen takk, Liv. Vi gleder oss for lekse!

There are some great Norwegian folk dance videos on Youtube now that we are trying to learn. Apparently, the *Halling* is one of the oldest dances. We looked at the video for an adaptation, *Parhalling* and then tried it out. This is probably the only time the kids have said that they really liked the music for a dance. Plus that, the acrobatics are just fun. We have a challenge to see who can learn to jump over his/her own foot by the next rehearsal.

Special thanks to Kaia and Netta Hilligass for our treats. An extra warm welcome to Maggie, Lizzie and William Landis who visited for the first time.



It's never too early to dream of summer! If you have children or grandchildren who might be interested in attending a Norwegian language and culture camp next



summer, the lodge scholarship page has been updated: <http://synnove1.com/Scholarships.html>. The deadline for camp scholarships is February 15th. College scholarship info will be posted in November with a March deadline. Scholarship Coordinator Sasha Aslanian is also looking for a few members to serve on the scholarship committee that will meet briefly in February and March to screen applicants for the board. Please contact Sasha at saslanian68@yahoo.com or 612-720-1021.

More History

Behind the Scenes at Festival of Nations

by Susan Stow

Imagine a Gothic church that was 60 feet wide with a central tower fifty feet high, even a rose window, three arches, and a porch with steps across the front as the major feature of the Market Square at the 1936 Festival of Nations. This feature was impressive and dominant in the design, however many groups didn't feel it was right to be dancing in front of a cathedral. So the decoration ideas evolved before the next event.

"Join the World Cruise" was the theme of the next Festival. Imagine being a world traveler walking up a gangplank on a wharf to enter the event. All the theatricals, and dancing that year were in the middle of the village square, because there wasn't a stage. Those who served food came out to sit in front of their cafes to enjoy the program. A town crier announced the year as 1850 when European immigration to Minnesota began to swell. Amazingly,

organizers managed to get a covered wagon and men on horseback to enter the area. Oxen were unhitched, an actual campfire was built, a fiddle and banjo began to play, while "pioneer" women cooked a meal over the fire. Then young girls in calico full skirts piled out of the wagon to sing American folk songs and perform square dances. "Americans were immigrants too" was a frequently overheard comment. Not so very different from comments in 2017!

At the following Festival of Nations in 1939, gardens of the world was the theme. Set designers outdid themselves creating a town hall complete with a garden in front at one end of the Market Square. Opposite that was a gigantic Dutch windmill with "planted" gardens of tulips all around. A special feature was a marble fountain garden in the very center. Red geraniums appear more frequently at Festival than any other blossoms. Garden clubs of St. Paul asked members to grow additional flowers to be used in the Market Square before they would be set outside in park flower beds.



We'd love your help in identifying the individuals and/or timeframe of these Festival of Nations photos.



Do you know anyone in this photo? Please let us know if you have any information about these photos.

(Festival of Nations history continued)

Every public school in St. Paul took part in the '39 Festival either by singing, folk dancing, cooking, creating posters or playing their instruments. There was no charge to schools or students as the International Institute provided materials.

Americans All, Immigrants All served as the theme of a series of 30 minute U.S. Office of Education programs broadcast on CBS radio during the winter of 1938 - 9. A feature about St. Paul and the Festival of Nations was planned for April. Questions from CBS had the International Institute scrambling: Chronological list of major immigrant groups, why they came, what was the chief occupation of each.

After the success of the radio feature on the Festival and St. Paul, organizers

capitalized on the theme of the chronological list of immigrants to create a parade in national dress to follow a young woman dressed as *The Spirit of the New World*. With a crown of wheat, and flowing white robe with a red and blue train, the spirit walked out to our national anthem. After she exited, the parade of immigrants began.

Reporting in retrospect, one would come to the conclusion that earlier committees truly outdid themselves in building complex sets and painting backdrops for the various segments of the Festival. Carrying over from that time are the elaborately painted European street scenes hung throughout the Festival today, plus the "houses" from around the globe that form the cafe.

More Lodge News

Call for Book Reviews!

Last January, a number of lodge members presented a book review about books with ties to Scandinavia and/or Scandinavian authors. Due to the popularity of this event, we're going to do it again this January's lodge meeting.

Please let Naomi Hagen know if you'd like to share your thoughts in a 5-7 minute presentation about a recent Scandinavian read with lodge friends. You can talk to her at the November meeting, by phone at [651-373-8801](tel:651-373-8801) or by email at nahagen4@gmail.com. She'll need to know the title of the book you want to present to make sure there are no duplicates.

You can find a great list of suggested books in the Cultural Skills section on the Sons of Norway member website. It's Unit #2, Reading Norwegian and Norwegian-American Authors. We'll also bring a few paper copies of the list to the November meeting.

Dianne Anderson will also be sharing some exciting news about a new Lodge Book Club at the November meeting, so come to hear all about it! Curling up with a good book... what a perfect way to enjoy winter hygge!





Lodge president Sharon Amann presents Lowell Johnson with the enamel "Gangmerke" sports medal for his achieving the highest level of walking.



Diane Anderson receives her gold walking "Gangmerke" medal from lodge sports director Lowell Johnson



Welcome new Synnove-Nordkap members Leslie Oliver (left) and Kristin Burge (right).