



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

January 2021
Issue Number 21 - 01



President's Letter

Happy New Year, Synnove-Nordkap Members!

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation for the faith and confidence you have shown by electing me president of our lodge. I am honored to hold this office and to follow the great leadership of those presidents that have served before me. Our history and reputation within the Sons of Norway organization is significant, and I will do my very best to uphold that tradition while also seeking to forge new directions and shape a bright future for us! As we embark on a new year and a new term for our officers, I want to tell you about a few of my goals:

1. To resume in-person lodge activities when safely able to do so. We will once again share the rich experience of our Norwegian culture and fraternal business while experiencing the social connections with one another, which we so enjoy!
2. To conduct a Strategic Planning Process to gather membership input to establish 2-5 year goals
3. To have fun! - I believe most of us have joined Sons of Norway because we find the culture and company of our fellow members to be very enjoyable! Let's create a culture of "fun" together in Synnove-Nordkap!

I hope to see you all on our next "Zoom" Lodge Meeting on Tuesday, January 12th.

P.S. - My photo is me posing with the closest relative I was able to locate in Norway. Some say there is a striking resemblance!

Lowell Johnson
Synnøve-Nordkap President



Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 12/1/2020

Members in attendance: Sasha Aslanian, Dianne Anderson, Ingrid Bjorum, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, Susan Stow, and Ron Stow.

President Chuck Draheim called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT-Connie Chrissis: Approved as printed in the Brevet.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Jean Draheim: Report accepted as presented.

HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORTS

No reports of anyone knowing people with Covid-19 or other illness at this time.

JR LODGE-Susan Stow

There's a Peer Gynt Zoom meeting scheduled for Sat, Dec 12 at 1pm. The following week the supply packages for the 5 point stars and patterns for making homemade wrapping paper will be sent out.

SCHOLARSHIPS-Sasha Aslanian

Sasha has revised the Nordic Experience application. It will be updated on the website, and she will write something up for the January Brevet. Sasha is looking to recruit a couple of lodge members to serve on an advisory committee for scholarships. The committee will help with the camp and postsecondary scholarships, and Sasha will bring Nordic Experience applications to the Board for action.

Jean mentioned that the Marine Mills School offers classes that we might like to do for our Lodge. Ingrid said that she has collected a list of Nordic classes and is adding a place to our website that shows what is available for members. She asked that people send her things they come across that she can add.

JANUARY MEETING-Ron Stow

Suggested that our January meeting be about the classes that are available and the new skills that people can acquire in the New Year. The way our scholarships work can also be explained. Jean said she can share about her experience with the classes she took with the help of a Nordic Experience scholarship.

NOMINATIONS-Ron Stow

There is no candidate for Vice President. Ron offered to step in for one year pro tem.

CONDUCTING OUR ELECTION-Ron Stow

The D-63 report with a list of next year's officers has to be in by the end of December. We need to have our election at next week's meeting. The ballot will be included in the upcoming Brevet, and the vote will be by acclamation (meaning approving without a written ballot). We will have a show of hands for the vote. A two-thirds majority of the people present at the Lodge meeting is needed to approve the ballot.

FUNDRAISING NEEDS/IDEAS-Jean Draheim

Tabled after discussion.

BOARD PAYMENTS-Jean Draheim

Suggested that we might want to defer stipend payments to Board members this year due to the unusual circumstances caused by COVID-19. She also suggested that we might want to think of permanently discontinuing this practice. Ron moved that we suspend stipend payments to the officers this year. Sasha seconded. Motion passed.

TRANSFER OF POWER MESSAGE FROM CHUCK DRAHEIM

"My best wishes to President-Elect Lowell Johnson. The last two years have been rewarding, interesting and, for the last many months quite challenging as we have navigated through the murky waters of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It has been an honor to serve as your president and I am extremely grateful for all of the support I have received from the board and the membership in general."

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, Jan 5 at 7p via Zoom. (cchrissis)

Lodge Meeting for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008 Tues, 12/8/2020 at 7 pm via Zoom

- President Chuck called the meeting to order.
- **Dec birthdays and anniversaries:** None were mentioned by members present.
- Minutes were approved as printed in the Brevet.
- **Changes to the slate of nominations:** Cultural Director: Jean Knaak, Sports/Recreation Director: open (Ron Stow pro tem)
Directors-at-large: Lynn Hoffmeyer, David Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler
- **Official vote:** Ron Stow made the motion that we accept the Board of Directors slate as presented to be elected by acclamation. LaRee Opdahl seconded. The motion passed unanimously by lodge members present. The Board is elected. Our vote did not include the list of Appointed Officers.
- **Dec 8 is the start of the 125th anniversary celebration** of the Sons of Norway. There are postings on Facebook and on the Sons of Norway website to view.
- **Lowell Johnson** thanked everyone for our vote of confidence in him. He will have a more official statement in January.
- **Chuck Draheim** thanked the Board of Directors and lodge members for the support he has received over the past two years, and he offered his best wishes to our new president, Lowell.
- We had a show and tell from members of gingerbread creations including houses, needlework, stories, woodwork, and ornaments. (cjc)

Nordic Experiences Scholarship

Three years ago our lodge established the Nordic Experiences Scholarship Fund to encourage members to pursue a class or project that would deepen their connection to their heritage and perhaps inspire other lodge members to do the same. For three years we didn't hear from anyone! Surely some of you must have seen a class at Vesterheim or a family weekend at Skogfjorden that caught your eye?

In November 2020, the board made two changes which we hope will spur more applications.

1. We've eliminated the March deadline and will consider applications on a rolling basis
2. We have posted a cap on the fund to indicate we've budgeted for this and expect members to use it! (We anticipate grants to be in the \$200-\$500 range, with an annual cap of \$1000)

Finally, we had our first applicant, Jean Draheim, who will tell you a bit about what she did (see below). You can find the Nordic Experiences application on our scholarship page on our website. <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/>

Lykke til!

Sasha Aslanian, Synnøve-Nordkap Scholarship Director

My Nordic Experience

By Jean Draheim

It seemed that no one wanted to be "the first" to apply for a scholarship. I decided to be the "ice breaker" to get the ball rolling.

I had never taken a class from Marine Mills Folk School because of time conflicts. Then the pandemic hit and I, like so many others, had nothing but time on my hands. I found two classes that had a Nordic theme that interested me: a needle felted Santa and a Saami-inspired bracelet.

I contacted Sasha, sent a brief description of the classes, and described how I could share the process and my new knowledge with the lodge. I was awarded the fees for both classes and signed up on-line. The school would send me kits with all of the materials needed to complete the projects. There were a few things that I needed to supply--paper clips, scissors, and glue--but nothing that we didn't have laying around the house. The forms were easy to fill out and the payment was made using a credit card. Within a couple of days, the two kits arrived. It was like an early Christmas!

In both kits, there was information telling me how to go to the instructors' web sites and watch demonstrations about the projects. It proved to be a wonderful tool. I wouldn't have tried to make the project without attending the

class, but it helped give me the confidence that I knew what I needed to do.

When the class time came, I had my computer set up, had all the materials and tools ready, and got dressed up (Zoom social gatherings are a big deal!), and signed in. Each class had six students and the instructor. After we all introduced ourselves, the

instructors began showing and explaining the techniques. Both encouraged us to ask questions right away and let them know if we were having trouble keeping up with the steps. There was a break half way through the sessions to stretch our legs and refill our beverages. At the end of each session, I had a completed project. The Santa has had a place of honor on our entertainment center and I have worn the bracelet almost every day.

I want to encourage anyone who has a skill that they want to learn, a project to undertake, or a creative itch that needs scratching, to consider applying for a Nordic Experience scholarship. Here are some places that are offering online classes: The Marine Mills Folk School, American Swedish Institute, [North House Folk School](#), [Vesterheim Folk Arts School](#), and the [Ely Folk School](#).

Take some time to learn how to make krumkake, paint rosemaling, speak Norsk, chip carve, make canoe paddles, straw ornaments, gnomes, learn to dance--the options are endless. Now, get out there (virtually) and have some fun!!



January Lodge Meeting on Tuesday, January 12



Learning During the Pandemic

Have you taken advantage of extra time during the pandemic to take a class or work on a new skill? The theme of our January lodge meeting will be "Learning During the Pandemic." We'll hear from our college scholarship winners who bravely began college during the pandemic. Lodge members will also share some of the learning opportunities they've found online and invite you to share yours!

Please join us for a warm and inspiring conversation, find some new ideas and enjoy lodge fellowship. You should have received an email with information about connecting to the lodge meeting via Zoom.



2021 Lodge Officers Elected

At the December 8th lodge meeting via Zoom, lodge members present voted unanimously in favor of the slate of nominations as presented in the November newsletter. These elected board officers, along with appointed officers, will be installed at the January 12th lodge meeting, also via Zoom. All officers are requested to attend this Zoom meeting for the installation.



Winter Solstice in Norway

The shortest day of the year in Norway usually occurs on December 22. In 2020, it happened on the 21st when the sun rose in Oslo at 9:18 AM and set at 3:12 PM. On the next day, the sun went down a whole three seconds later. This was the beginning of winter.

In Northern Norway, above the Arctic Circle, this time marks the midway of the "mørketid" (time of darkness), when residents of that area spend the entire day without sunshine from the end of November until mid-January. The Winter Solstice can be an exciting time as people look forward to daylight and longer days and the eventual midnight sun in June.

Just as the custom of setting bonfires celebrates the 24-hour sun in June, Norwegians also burn them in December in hopes of soon seeing daylight. The superstition of the early days called for bonfires to ward off evil which tended to rise at solstice time.

In the Old Norse language, the word "yule" referred to the stretch of days on both sides of the Winter Solstice. The modern Norse term "Jul" translates as "Christmas". This tied together the old pagan rituals of the Vikings with the Christian traditions to which they were converted, often by missionaries such as Synnøve, after whom the women's lodge of the Daughters of Norway in St. Paul was originally named. Among the superstitions of the pagans, which carried over to Christian times, was the idea that you should not brew beer on the day of the Winter Solstice. If evil spirits would get into the brew it would certainly run out before Christmas.

The period of "Yule" would last three weeks. Everyone was expected to observe a time of peace. The same is wished nowadays when we say to each other "God Jul".

Junior Lodge

Eighteen Christmas bags were delivered to our Peer Gynt dancers in mid-December. Usually at that time of year, we would be together baking Norwegian cookies for junior lodge members to take home as a gift from Synnøve-Nordkap. This year, I copied the directions to make a 5 pointed Christmas straw star and included components to assemble it. Also in the bag were some treats. Each was delivered to their doorstep.



Synnøve-Nordkap Scholarship Applications Available

Information about and applications for both the 2021 Language Camp Scholarship and the 2021-2022 Postsecondary Scholarship are available on the lodge website. <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/> Application deadline for the Language Camp Scholarship is February 15, 2021. Application deadline for the Postsecondary Scholarship is March 15, 2021. Please visit the site for details or contact Sasha Aslanian, Synnøve-Nordkap Scholarship Director, with additional questions via email: sasha.aslanian@gmail.com.

Norman Borlaug, Food Security, and the Nobel Peace Prize

Of Norwegian heritage, University of Minnesota graduate Norman Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his research on crop improvement resulting in increased food supply worldwide. The University of Minnesota continues to build on Borlaug's legacy of research to feed the world while protecting the environment. While Borlaug is lauded to have saved a billion lives, the struggle to feed the world continues. Please read more about Norman Borlaug, his legacy, and the World Food Programme's 2020 Nobel Peace Prize award by visiting the following websites: <https://www.twincities.com/2020/12/24/james-m-bradeen-building-on-borlaug-to-feed-the-future/> , <https://www.twincities.com/2014/02/26/crop-researcher-norman-borlaug-to-be-honored-with-statue-at-u-s-capitol/> , https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Borlaug#Honors_and_awards



Norway's UNESCO Sites

by Don Halvorson

In 1972, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted a mandate designed to preserve the world's heritage. With this referendum, they established a list of World Heritage Sites, and Norway has eight of those sites. Each one has met at least one of the ten criteria on the selection committee's list.

The Bryggen in Bergen became the first chosen Heritage site in 1979. This popular tourist



destination is a trip back through time into the world of medieval merchants and tradesmen that once made up the powerful Hanseatic League.

In 1981, two new sites were added. The Urnes Stave Church at Ornes is the oldest and most decorated stave church in Norway. It dates from 1130 and succeeds two other churches built on that same site. The other is the mining town of Røros where copper and sulfur pyrite were extracted in north central Norway for 333 years, from 1644 to 1977. It was completely rebuilt after the Swedish army destroyed it 1679. Røros today has become a popular year round tourist destination.

The Rock Art of Alta became an addition in 1985. Discovered in Finnmark, North Norway in 1972, these extraordinary pictographs and etchings are the oldest found in Scandinavia. Like other sites found in Europe, these drawings depicted animal prey who were magically believed to inspire hunters' success in their quest for food.

Vegaøyan, the Vega Archipelago was the next World Heritage site chosen in Norway in 2004. Consisting of dozens of islands just south of the Arctic Circle, fishing and

harvesting of eider ducks are its main industries. It was picked for its unique natural habitat and its enduring lifestyle in such an inhospitable environment.

In 2005, two more sites were selected. The two western fjords, Geirangerfjord and Nærøfjord, are at the beginning of Norway's breathtaking fjord country. These fjords fit one of the basic criteria for a World Heritage site: a space of land and water that contains multiple areas of exceptional natural beauty. The Struve Geodetic Arc is a series of survey triangulations running from Hammerfest, Norway to the Black Sea. Stretching over ten countries, they help determine the size and shape of the planet.

The newest site, the Ryukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage site, was added in 2015.

Ride the Gaustabanen and Krossbanen and spend some time in Telemark's two industrial towns, Ryukan and Notodden. They exhibit an example of industrial and social reformation that began its change in the beginning of the 20th Century. Rjukan was also the site of the German heavy water plant that was sabotaged by Norwegian Resistance troops during WWII.



There are other nominations for future World Heritage sites. In north Norway there are the Lofoten Islands, and the Laponian Area, Tysfjord and Rago National Park. In the Arctic Ocean, there is the Svalbard Archipelago. The Norwegian possessions, Jan Meyan and Bouvet Islands, are a part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge System, an underwater mountain range in the Atlantic Ocean. Also on the list are the Viking monuments at Vestfold on the west side of the Oslo fjord and the Hyllestrand Quernstone Quarries on the west coast at Sognfjord.

UNESCO World Heritage sites in Norway - The NorwegianAmerican <https://www.norwegianamerican.com/unesco-world-heritage-sites-in-norway>

Bulletin Board

Genealogy Group

Need some great help finding your roots? Plan to attend the a Genealogy Group meeting. The group welcomes new members of the lodge who would like to begin researching their family tree or to receive help if they have already started their family tree.

The Genealogy Group will be meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 10 am to noon via Zoom.



Stay 6 feet from others.



← 6' →



STAY SAFE LODGE MEMBERS

Member Directory

Synnøve-Nordkap member directory is available on our website. You can reach the page by clicking on the link below. The directory itself, however, is password protected. If you are an active lodge member, you can request the password by contacting Connie Chrissis at cjchrissis@comcast.net.

<https://synn-nord.org/contact/member-directory/>

Lodge Health and Safety

As we all continue to deal with COVID-19, lodge members are in the process of reviewing a document which will remain with the lodge as we move through this challenging time together. This document will coincide with CDC and Minnesota health and safety guidelines regarding in-person gatherings, food safety, and our high risk lodge population.

For Information:

Lowell Johnson, President:
pres.synn.nord@gmail.com

Ron Stow, Vice President Pro Tem:
stowronald@gmail.com

Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor:
ingrid@steinmetz.org



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, 2017, 2018
Visit Synnøve-Nordkap online: <https://synn-nord.org>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>
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Date	Event	More Information
Tuesday, January 5, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 12, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, February 2, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, February 6, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, February 9, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom

Synnøve-Nordkap Brevet staff wishes all of our lodge members peace and good health during these challenging times until we can meet in person again.

