



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

April 2021
Issue Number 21 - 04



Front Page News

April Lodge Meeting DNA Anyone?

Dixie Hansen, self-described DNA nerd and long time family historian, will be our special guest speaker at the virtual lodge meeting on Tuesday, April 13th. With 50% of her own roots in Norway, she will introduce you to the basics of DNA testing and how it relates to genealogical research. We will learn about the variety of consumer testing companies out there and why you might choose one over another. Or, should you test on multiple sites? Dixie will also explain, in not-too-scientific terms, what autosomal DNA is, review ethnicity results, shared matching lists and how to interpret them. DNA can both push the edges of your paper trail and clue you in when your records-based tree and your DNA results seem to be at odds with one another.

Please join us **via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 13th** to learn how DNA testing can be used as another tool in your genealogy toolbox. You will receive an email with details about how to join the meeting.

President's Letter

Spring has come to Minnesota, at last! I suspect it may have arrived in Norway as well. When I Googled "Springtime in Norway", I found a list of "10 Great Reasons to Go to Norway in the Spring!" I won't list them all here (you can find them at [10 reasons to go to Norway in spring | Top spring activities \(visitnorway.com\)](#)). The one that really sounded wonderful to me was **Reason # 2: The fjords in full bloom**. The description reads, *"This is a real once-in-a-lifetime experience! During a couple of weeks in May in the southwestern part of Norway (the exact time varies from year to year), tens of thousands of fruit trees are blooming by the fjords. Impressive snowclad mountain peaks frame the picturesque views – the same mountains that provide protection for the small areas that have fertile soil. With plenty of help from the fjords' reflection of the sun, they create unique microclimates that make the cozy villages perfect for fruit cultivation, especially apples and cherries."* Let's go!

I've always been proud to tell anyone that will listen, I am 100% Norwegian. Both of my parents were certain their families were completely of Norwegian descent. Of course, many people today are finding that what they "believed" about their ancestry may not be true. I'm looking forward to our April Lodge Meeting program to learn more about DNA and its relationship to genealogy. Please join us for what is sure to be a fascinating program. And . . . until I learn otherwise, I'm going to continue to proudly say "I'm 100 percent Norwegian!" In fact, I like saying that so much that it may prevent me from ever taking any DNA test! I'd be crushed to learn otherwise!

Lowell Johnson, Synnøve-Nordkap President



Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 3/2/2021

Members in attendance: Sharon Amann, Dianne Anderson, Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Pat Carlson, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeier, Lowell Johnson, Jean Knaak, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Ron Stow, Susan Stow, and Audrey Waage.

President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES-Lowell: Agenda was approved as mailed and minutes are approved by email before being printed in the Brevet.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Jean D: Treasurer reports were accepted as presented. Clayton Lance and Mary Beth Mutchler have the info for doing the audit. The D17 report should be filed by March 15.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- Connie: The Lodge Achievement Form and the Family Lodge of the Year Form have been filed, and we are awaiting results.

DISTRICT 1-Ron: District is planning a board meeting for May hoping that enough people will have had the covid vaccine. It will either be in person or via Zoom.

JR LODGE-Susan: Will email the dancers to get feedback on which dances to do at the May Washington Park event without having had any practice.

BREVET-Ingrid: Brevet is ready to go. Will add anything from tonight's meeting.

MARCH LODGE MEETING-Jean K: The program will be a PowerPoint presentation that tracks some of the early eating patterns in Norway, new Nordic gourmet food trends, and American adaptations of food that came with the emigrants. Attendees are asked to bring a favorite Norwegian food, to show a picture of Norwegian food that is special to you or unique, or to tell the group about your special favorite Norwegian food.

APRIL LODGE MEETING: Via Zoom, Dixie Hansen will provide some beginning information about using DNA in researching family trees.

BY-LAWS-Lowell: We will want to vote on the changes to the by-laws at the March meeting. They will then be vetted and approved at the International level. There was discussion regarding adding the words 'gender identification'. Lowell will get the updated version emailed to the Board. Ron said that changes to the by-laws must be read at the lodge meeting.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO WORLD CHAMPION/OLYMPIC SKIER JESSIE DIGGINS: Lowell has begun to look into the process.

SCHOLARSHIPS-Sasha: JoAnne Englund and Marilynn Erickson will join Sasha on the Scholarship Committee. Four applications for the language camp were received and reviewed: Freya Haugen, Netta Hillegass, Kaia Velo, and Anna Mutchler. Cost is \$395 per camper. We are receiving \$900 from District which leaves \$680 to cover. Sasha moved the Board designate \$680 to cover the scholarship applications. Chuck seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Post-secondary application deadline is March 15. The Scholarship Committee will meet to review, and their decisions will be presented to the Board at the April meeting.

NORWEGIAN SISTER CITY- Susan: Suggested that we have a sister city in Norway as other lodges do. Lowell thought we might want to contact the lodge he communicated with during the landslide in Norway, Christiania Lodge 8-004 in Oslo, Norway. Susan will check further into the benefits, how to maintain a relationship, and the goals of establishing the connection.

HOSTFEST TRIP/TRAVEL POINTS-Susan: Suggested that members could earn points toward the cost of a bus trip to the 2022 Hostfest by volunteering at lodge events with setup/takedown or where needed.

TUBFRIM-Mary Beth: Has a large number of stamps that she has been collecting over the years for our group. The District is no longer collecting the stamps, so she wondered if anyone knows of what can be done with them. Chuck said the Boy Scouts have a stamp collecting badge, and we might contact the North Star Boy Scouts. Susan said the Nordale's daughter is prominent in the Boy Scouts in our area. Mary Beth will check into it.

SUMMER PICNIC-Mary Beth: It may be a good kickoff if we paid for everyone's dinners at this August event where it will possibly be a return to meeting together. We could also make it a membership recruitment event. It was suggested that a request be made to District 1 for funds which they provide for this type of event. This topic will be added to the April agenda.

FUNDRAISERS 2021-Chuck: 1) Can we make waffles at the Buck Hill Nordic Fest this year? The event has been postponed until 2022; 2) Maybe we can have a waffle sale using the kitchen at the CSPA hall to make waffles, package, freeze, and have a drive-up to pick them up. Lowell suggested this might be done in conjunction with Syttende Mai. Chuck and Jean D will check on the logistics at the hall, and Lowell will check on the Washington Park requirements for the Junior Lodge May event.

GA CHURCH-Chuck: When we might return depends on what GA is doing for activities. The GA website states the church will be closed at least until Easter. Jean D will check with Pastor John on their plans to open up.

BUSINESS CARDS-Ron: Susan thought it would be nice if each Board member had cards to hand out when we meet new people who might be interested in joining. It is less costly to go through an online printer rather than Office Max. Vistaprint prices are a box of 250 for \$40 and two boxes for \$30 each. Complimentary comments were heard about Vistaprint. Chuck moved we order two boxes of 250 from Vistaprint: one for the regular lodge card and one for the Junior Lodge. Jean D seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Following the vote, there was discussion regarding making the cards easier to read and eliminating some of the wording. It was agreed that we hold off on ordering until the redesign has been approved via email by the Board.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, April 6 at 7p via Zoom. (cchrissis)

("Secretary's Report" continued from previous page)

Synnove-Nordkap Lodge Meeting #1-008 Tues, March 9 at 7 pm via Zoom

- President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.
- **Guest:** Jan Allen, friend of Lenore Jesness, who will be joining and become our lodge musician.
- **March birthdays:** Ron Stow, Curt Hogenson, Fred Matson, Connie Chrissis
- **Anniversaries:** Ron and Susan Stow
- **By-laws:** The bylaws were posted on our website for member review. One of the provisions before voting takes place, is any changes to the bylaws must be read verbatim. Lowell read the articles that contained changes. Chuck Draheim moved that the bylaws be approved. LaRee Opdahl seconded. Motion carried unanimously. They will now be sent to headquarters and then on to international for final approval. Chuck recommended we write a similar clause to be included in the district and international bylaws regarding the gender discussion. Lowell will mention this when he submits our bylaws to headquarters. Ron wonders if it is possible to do an online resolution to get this issue in for the international convention to consider.
- **Program:** Jean Knaak presented a PowerPoint showing some of the early eating patterns in Norway, Nordic gourmet food trends, and American adaptations of food that came with the emigrants. There were lots of pictures that were accompanied by entertaining stories. Members shared their favorites. Some had samples to show while others shared pictures or stories of their favorites.
- **Genealogy Tidbits:** Sheryl Hove invited everyone to join the Zoom meeting of the Genealogy Group the first Saturday of each month at 10am. She shared that she has created a family tree scroll and written a book, History of the Lande Clan, using Family Treemaker for her research. Pictures were shown of both.
- **April program:** Lenore mentioned our guest speaker will be Dixie Hansen who will speak to us and answer questions we have regarding ancestry research with DNA.
- **Door prize drawing:** Four names were drawn to win Norwegian and Swedish calendars: Sharon Kalmes, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Dianne Anderson, and Fred Matson.
- Meeting was adjourned. (cchrissis)

COVID-19 in Norway

A third wave of COVID-19 cases is inundating Norway. Emergency lockdown measures have once again been stepped up to try to curb cases, including working at home, wearing face masks, and a limit of two visitors within homes. Measures in Oslo are the most restrictive since the beginning of the pandemic and include school closures. However, vaccination rates are also on the rise.

Norway's COVID-19 by the numbers:

Total number of infections: 99,026

Total number of deaths: 676

Current number of hospitalizations: 291

Number of vaccinations administered: 989,062 (13.06% of the population has received one dose, 5.28% are fully vaccinated)

<https://www.lifeinnorway.net/coronavirus-in-norway/>

Junior Lodge Update

Peer Gynt Dancers will be rehearsing at Washington Square Park, in Stillwater on Sat., April 10th at 1:00, weather permitting.

Mark your calendars!

Our special Syttende Mai performance will be Saturday, May 15th from 2 - 3. Washington Square Park is on the corner of Churchill and Greeley in Stillwater, across from Lakeview Hospital. There is parking on Abbot and Everett streets. Mask up and bring your folding chairs. This is the final performance for four of our graduates: Josie Haugen, Liv Larsen, Alycia Regino and Claudia Stow. They are such great dancers and have been leaders in our junior lodge! We have ordered exceptional weather for the afternoon!

Saturday, May 15 from 2:00 - 3:00.

Washington Square Park on the corner of Greeley and Churchill, Stillwater, Mn.
Bring your own folding chair, and wear your mask, please.

We do hope you will come to this event!

Stay Engaged

During the pandemic, many regional folk schools have offered online classes, webinars, and other ways to engage in activities safely. As COVID-19 vaccinations rollout, more in-person classes and events are once again being offered.

- North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN is offering many recent webinars on their website. Online and in-person classes are also currently available. <https://northhouse.org>
- Marine Mills Folk School in Marine on St. Croix, MN has many videos and online classes available. <https://marinemillsfolkschool.org>
- Duluth Folk School in Duluth, MN offers in person but *private* classes for you and/or a small group in a wide variety of subjects. <https://duluthfolkschool.com>

Stay active, stay engaged, and stay healthy!

Immigration Stories and Family Artifacts

Norway House is looking for your help. They are looking for immigration stories to include in an upcoming exhibition. Please take a look, using the following link, to submit your story.

<https://www.norwayhouse.org/calendar/2021/gallery/red-river-girl-submissions>

Gamle Stavanger by Don Halvorson

The Old Norse word *Stafangr* was the first name given to the inlet of water where the city of Stavanger now sits, by the people who arrived there 10,000 years ago. Centuries later the inlet became known simply as Vågen.

Gamle Stavanger, known also as Stræn, is a historic area sitting on the west side of Vågen, hugging the inner harbor of the original city. This cozy neighborhood of small quayside houses and storefronts is the largest collection of wooden buildings existing anywhere in northern Europe. Individually owned, all these clapboard sided houses are immaculate and extremely well taken care of. Most of the houses are painted white, and many have their fronts decorated with flower boxes or small potted plants. A few of the houses are one story, while many more are two stories. Their roofs are all brown or red tiled. The shared lawns are small but tidy. Harboring an occasional tree or small terraced garden, lawns are often bordered with white picket fences or latticework. A flicker of individualism shows up here and there, with a glimpse of ornate wooden scrollwork, or more commonly, a number of brightly painted front doors. Narrow cobblestone paths connect the entire complex, and everywhere there appears to be a quiet feeling of pride in the community.

During the tourist season, large cruise ships are often anchored in Vågen harbor. During the day from late May to late August the tour guides stop there to show off this little known gem of their city. The community they walk through originally consisted of 173 buildings. Today that number has risen to 250 houses, shops, and museums. Most were built in the 19th or 20th Century; a few were built in the 18th Century after the city fire in 1760. The

oldest surviving building is thought to be the Blidersol House in Ovre Stardgata, which was first mentioned in a document in 1767.

The bulk of the original houses were built in the early 19th Century to provide housing for visiting seafarers, craftsmen, and cannery workers that began with the herring boom. In 1810, thanks to a shift in the ocean currents, herring began to arrive by the millions, just offshore of the Vågen. The run went on for sixty years.

During this run, Stavanger prospered and grew. So did the fortunes of many of the merchants and shipbuilders who took advantage of the boom. Incredible profits were made from the exporting of the fish. At first the

herring were merely salted before export. When technology expanded, a cannery was built.

In the 1870s when the herring disappeared, the focus turned successfully to shipbuilding, until iron replaced wood in the beginning of the 20th Century. The dockside buildings were still there as a place to stay for passing occupants, but slowly they slipped into a state of

disrepair. As the years began to pass by, the quayside neighborhood became more of an eyesore and had gained a somewhat questionable reputation.

After WWII the city leaders decided to tear down the wooden buildings along Vågen and rebuild with concrete. One person stood up against it. Einar Heden, Stavanger's city architect, for reasons of conservation, felt that these buildings should not only be saved, but also restored. In 1956 the city council voted to save Stræn. Today this small community remains one of Stavanger's most underrated attractions.

The History of Stavanger - Life in Norway <https://www.lifeinnorway.net/history-of-stavanger>
Gamle Stavanger: A Walk Around Stavanger's Wooden Old Town <https://www.lifeinnorway.net/stavanger-old-town>



Bulletin Board

Sunshine News

I am sorry to announce the passing of member, Susan Schafer on Thursday, March 18. She was very proud of her Norwegian heritage, and although health problems prevented her from participating in many of our Lodge activities, she and her family, daughter and Lodge member Emily Wallace, husband Brad and Grandchildren, were regulars at our dinners, especially enjoying the julebord.

She fought the good fight with a smile on her face. May she rest in peace.

Genealogy Group

Join the Zoom Genealogy Group meeting to learn how to begin researching your ancestry and the role that DNA testing plays in your search.

Next meeting: Saturday, May 1 from 10 am to noon via Zoom

We're Here for You

The Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors continues working to ensure that the lodge is prepared and financially secure when the COVID-19 health emergency eases enough for members to come together in person. The board is in communication with leadership at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church regarding use of their meeting space and the reopening of their building. Their building remains closed at this time. Lodge leaders also continue monitoring state health guidelines for social gatherings. Vaccine distribution is providing a sense of hope.

Be assured, when it is safe to do so, Synnøve-Nordkap will be here, as vibrant as ever, for members to meet for fun and fellowship. We can't wait to see you!



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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>
<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

Date	Event	More Information
Tuesday, April 6, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, April 10, 1 PM	Peer Gynt Rehearsal	Washington Square Park 815 S. Greeley St. Stillwater, MN 55082
Tuesday, April 13, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, May 1, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, May 4, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, May 11, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, May 15, 2 PM	Peer Gynt Dancers Performance	Washington Square Park 815 S. Greeley St. Stillwater, MN 55082

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.