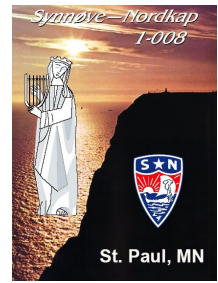




SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

June 2021
Issue Number 21 - 06



Front Page News

The Power of Silver: Traditional Norwegian Jewelry Special Virtual Lodge Meeting — June 8 at 7 PM

For our June meeting we are pleased to have a special program on silver. Norwegians have treasured the beauty of silver, not only as adornment or decoration, but also for many other qualities. Many of us treasure Solje as our special Norwegian jewelry, however silver is so much more than jewelry.

There were a number of beliefs surrounding this powerful metal. Silver showed the prosperity of a family so was highly desired. According to folk belief, silver could cure sickness in humans and livestock, improve crops, and protect against storms and evil spirits.

Traditional Norwegian jewelry was not just an ornament. It was worn by both men and women and held ones clothes on before modern items like zippers and Velcro. Brooches were much more than simple shirt fasteners. A complete bunad costume included silver of the design appropriate for that region. Learn about some of the different styles of silver jewelry as well as identification by area of Norway.

Our presenter will be Laurann Gilbertson. She holds a BA in Anthropology and an MS in Textiles & Clothing, both from Iowa State University. She was the Textile Curator at Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, for 19 years and is now the Chief Curator.

You will receive an email with additional details and information about how to join the **Zoom** lodge meeting at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 8.**

President's Letter

Hello, did you know it will soon be Midsummer? Actually, the Midsummer (or Midsommer) celebration comes on the first day of summer even though the name implies a later meteorological timing! According to [TripAdvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com), "Midsummer is Scandinavia's most popular seasonal festival after Christmas. A traditional celebration of the Summer solstice, Midsummer is the longest day of the year (June 21). The celebration of the Summer solstice is a very ancient practice, dating back to pre-Christian times. The Scandinavian Midsummer traditions stem from pagan times, showing the defeat of darkness to the powers of the sun god. This was the midway point of the harvest season in agrarian times, and as such, it was considered important to try to affect good fortune and good luck on Midsummer, with much emphasis on warding off evil spirits and negativity."

Like they do in Norway, I hope you and your families will enjoy this summer (it doesn't have to be on June 21) celebrating with others with good foods. Traditional foods for Midsummer in Scandinavia are potatoes with herring or smoked fish, fresh fruit, and perhaps some schnapps or beer for the adults. Bonfires are a big part of the celebration, and I know I will soon enjoy a few small recreational backyard fires these summer evenings. Have a great Midsummer - and a wonderful summer! To learn more about Midsummer <https://www.tripsavvy.com/midsummer-in-scandinavia-1625968>

See you soon! - Lowell

Meet Our Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our four post-secondary scholarship winners! Jessica and Zachary Post, grandchildren of Sheryl Hove, are graduating from Eagan High School. Jessica will attend Century College to train to be a paramedic. Zachary will attend Drake University with a major in Data Analytics and Finance. Josie Haugen, a seven year member of Peer Gynt Dancers, is graduating from Stillwater High School and will head to Luther College to study music this fall. Liv Larsen, a Peer Gynt Dancer for ten years, is graduating from St. Paul Academy & Summit School and will spend a gap year studying photography at Fana Folkehøgskole near Bergen, Norway before heading to Grinnell College in the fall of 2022.

We'll get a chance to visit with our scholarship winners and hear about their studies at an upcoming Lodge Zoom or picnic. Thanks to our Board, Scholarship Committee, and whole Lodge for supporting our young people!

Pictured left to right: Jessica Post, Zachary Post, Josie Haugen, and Liv Larsen



Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008 Board of Directors, Online via Zoom, 5/4/2021

Members in attendance: Sharon Amann, Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Jean Knaak, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Ron Stow, Susan Stow, and Audrey Waage.

Vice-President Ron Stow called the meeting to order.

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

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT-Mary Beth (Sunshine): Gene Hanson has been in poor health and has resigned from the Sports Director position; LaRee: There are 247 active members; Connie: Would like to email Lodge Meeting Minutes to one member who has attended for proofing before sending to Brevet.

DISTRICT 1-Ron: The spring Board meeting will be Thursday and Friday at Cragun's on Gull Lake. Ron will be bringing the stamps that Mary Beth has been collecting.

JR LODGE-Susan: Susan reminded everyone of the upcoming performance of the Peer Gynt dancers in Stillwater at Washington Square Park from 2-3pm. There is some parking available at Lakeview Hospital's sleep deprivation clinic that day since the clinic will be closed. Sasha made some Norwegian flag face masks for the performers to wear.

BREVET-Ingrid: The May draft should be out in the next day or so. Will note that there will be a June Lodge Meeting. There will also be an announcement about the need for a replacement Sports Director.

MAY LODGE MEETING-Jean K: The May meeting will be on blacksmithing including the Viking Era. Doug Swenson operates a traditional blacksmith shop that recreates the time period of 1885-1910, and he has special interest in Viking era blacksmithing. He does custom tool making, historical reproductions, and conducts classes at his Goose Prairie Forge near Hitterdahl. Jean encouraged members to invite people who might be interested in Scandinavian blacksmithing.

For the June meeting, Laurann Gilbertson, chief curator at Vesterheim, will be talking about the significance of silver to Norway's history.

Jean asked us to consider if we want to do some Zoom meetings in the cold winter months. If so, we have to plan ahead to have them arranged.

SUMMER PICNIC-Mary Beth: The site at Island Lake Park has been reserved for August 10 for 50 people but that number can be changed. There was discussion about sourcing the food. Several members will check into the ideas and get back to us at the June Board meeting. Ingrid will put a notice in the Brevet of the date. We will defer to Lowell for the latest expectation on wearing masks.

DOOR PRIZES-Sasha and Lynn: Sasha has copies of John Moe's *Hilarious World of Depression*, and we will award two copies at the May meeting. She will also donate one to our library. Lynn has created candleholders that he would like to donate as door prizes.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, June 1 at 7p via Zoom. (cchrissis)

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge Meeting #1-008, Tues, May 11 at 7 pm via Zoom

• President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.

• **Guests:** Bruce and Judy Engebretson, brother and sister-in-law of Mary Beth Mutchler, from Madison, WI; Darlene Williams from Vennekretsen Lodge in Anoka.

• **May birthdays:** Sasha Aslanian, Jean Knaak

• **Anniversaries:** None

• **Peer Gynt performance on May 16:** Susan Stow reminded everyone about the dance performance at Washington Square Park in Stillwater between 2 and 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

• **Program:** Jean Knaak introduced tonight's speaker, Doug Swenson, about blacksmithing including the Viking Era. Doug operates Goose Prairie Forge, a traditional blacksmith shop that recreates the time period of 1885-1910, and he has special interest in Viking era blacksmithing. He does custom tool making, historical reproductions, and conducts classes.

• **Genealogy Tidbit:** Fred Matson told the interesting story about how he found out through genealogy research that he is his own cousin. The next Genealogy Group meeting via Zoom will be June 5 from 10 to 12pm.

• **Door prize drawing:** Two names were drawn for a copy of John Moe's book, *Hilarious World of Depression*: Don Halvorson and Darlene Williams. Lowell Johnson's name was drawn for a pair of Lynn Hoffmeyer's handmade candleholders. (cchrissis)

Junior Lodge Update

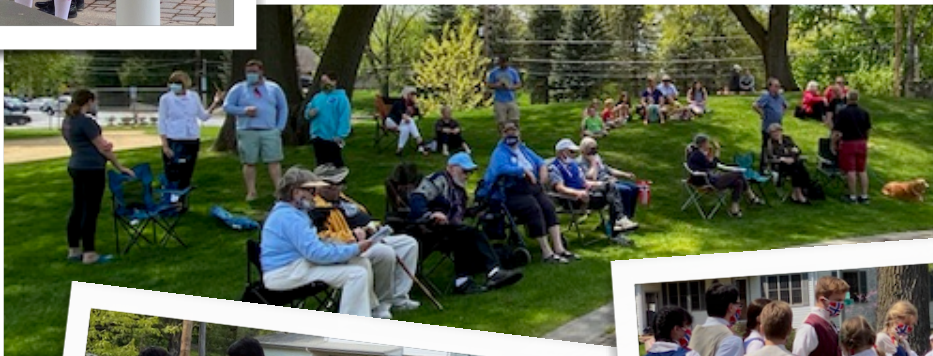
We hoped for warm, sunny weather for our Syttende Mai performance on May 15th, and that is exactly how the afternoon unfolded. Washington Square Park was just the right spot for our celebration with seating on the knoll surrounding the dancing area. Our goal was to make the atmosphere as festive as possible with Norwegian pennants flying in the breeze and flags everywhere.

Lodge President, Lowell Johnson, opened the program with a warm welcome from our St. Paul Sons of Norway. Our five senior dancers were the announcers for portions of the program. They each told how long they had been involved in Peer Gynt and shared their favorite activities and performances.

Our “impromptu performance” was spirited! Since we had not rehearsed for 14 months, we chose the most familiar dances that most everyone knew. In April we had rehearsed at Washington Square Park to get familiar with the site. For the youngest dancers and the new members, I told them to look at our lead dancers if they were not sure about the steps. The youngest dancers are so darling; we all knew they were doing their best.

At the end of the program, the seniors received a Tusen Takk certificate and special blue ball point pen gift engraved with “Tusen takk, (their first name)”, and then “Peer Gynt Norwegian Dancers” on the second line. All of the dancers also received a generous gift from Sasha Aslanian, Liv Larsen’s mother, who sewed Norwegian flag masks for everyone in the troupe! It was a massive project and we can’t thank her enough for her support.

Mange tusen takk to our senior lodge members who came for the afternoon festivities. Your presence and recognition means so much to our youth group.





August Lodge Picnic



Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 10th at 6:00 PM when the Synnøve-Nordkap board of directors will host the annual lodge picnic. We hope you will plan to join us at Island Lake Park in Shoreview as we meet for our first in-person lodge event since March 2020.

Watch your email and the July/August issue of the *SynNor Brevet* for more details, RSVP instructions, and any COVID-19 precautions that may be in place as the date approaches.

Meet Our Member – Ingrid Bjorum

Despite being of Norwegian ancestry, Ingrid Bjorum did not grow up with many Scandinavian traditions. Once she had children of her own, she wanted to make their heritage a part of their lives. She dove right in, making *lefse* together with her two daughters over the Christmas holidays. They went on to cook other Norwegian foods, learning a lot about Norwegian culture and history together along the way.

Ingrid's daughters were members of the Junior Lodge's Peer Gynt Dancers. Now that they are grown, they continue to cook and bake together during the holidays. Ingrid finds that making *lefse* by herself is a nice, relaxing project. "It's become almost meditative for me." She branched out this winter and made *lomper*, too.

As a self-described casual knitter, Ingrid has set a personal goal to practice Nordic knitting a bit more.

Ingrid was an off-and-on member of Sons of Norway until 2008 when she decided to be a "full-time" member. Perhaps inspired by her father who has been a Sons of Norway member for over 20 years, she has taken another dive into action. Ingrid is now on the lodge's Board of Directors, serving as editor of the *SynNor Brevet* newsletter, website manager (webmaster), and recently signing on as lodge librarian. Concerning the latter, Ingrid is looking forward to again being able to get back to Gustavus Adolphus Church to get a better look at the lodge library. She eagerly wants to share the lodge collection with members.

When asked for her impressions of the lodge, Ingrid replied, "I continue to be amazed that Synnøve-Nordkap is such a vibrant and active lodge. Its members are always busy and are involved in many aspects of Norwegian culture. Members are also so kind, supportive, welcoming, and willing to help."

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge thanks you, Ingrid, for your fine work with the lodge newsletter and the website. Those media are so vital to the success of the lodge. *Mange tusen takk!*

Ingrid with Sons of Norway International President Ron Stubbings



Norway's Hardanger Fiddle

by Don Halvorson

One of the most enduring icons of Norwegian cultural heritage is the Hardanger fiddle. Its origin is uncertain. Most music scholars agree its beginnings are in the mid 1700s. This is puzzling, since much of the music played by the fiddle was composed much earlier. Some believe that it is a descendent of an older *fidel* mentioned from medieval Norway. The Jaastad fiddle, an instrument with a maker's mark of 1651, is generally believed to be the oldest Hardanger fiddle in existence. But there is no proof that the dating is correct.

Musical traditions in Norway are dependent on the region from which they come. At first it came from the Hardanger valley. But as the fiddle became more popular, production of these instruments became more widespread, and the music tradition spread to Hallingdal, Telemark, Setesdal, and other parts of southern Norway.

The *hardingfele* is a cousin of the violin but has structural differences. It is slightly smaller than a concert violin and made of thinner wood. It has a shorter neck and a higher arching top. The f-hole is longer and more prominent, too. Its face was historically made of spruce with the sides and back of maple or black alder. The fingerboard and tailpiece were originally faced with polished cowhorn. The pegs were carved from pear or apple wood. Modern fiddles are decorated with inlaid mother of pearl or bone. Often the scroll is topped with a carved lion, dragon, or woman's head. There are eight or nine strings on the fingerboard. The four top strings are played like a violin. The underneath, or sympathetic



strings, are used to enhance the sound of the instrument by creating a low droning sound.

Researchers have uncovered over one thousand old songs written for the Hardanger fiddle. They were written primarily for listening or dancing. They could be played for *gammaldans*, such as waltzes, schottisches, or polkas. Mostly they were associated with *bygdans*, Norwegian regional dances, *springar* and *ganger*.

The status of the Hardanger fiddle changed immeasurably during Norway's Romantic Period. Folk enthusiasts began to arrange new music to use with the fiddle. Composers, including Edvard Greig, began using elements from old fiddle music in writing their new romantic compositions. Ole Bull, the internationally known composer and violinist, happily challenged himself and learned how to play the old fiddle. His interest in the *hardfingfele* was instrumental for the fiddle's rise in popularity among the Norwegian public. It also brought fame and fortune to an accomplished Hardanger fiddler from Telemark

named Torgier Augundsson, affectionately known to many as the Miller Boy.

When Norwegian emigrants crossed the Atlantic to America, they brought their fiddles with them. The founding of The Hardanger Violin Association of America in 1914 kept the interest in the fiddle alive between the two World Wars,

but as the music became more Americanized, and the fiddlers became fewer, its interest faded. Then in 1980, with a renewed interest in traditional Norwegian and Norwegian-American culture, the Hardanger fiddle emerged once more. In 1983, the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America was created in an attempt to revive and promote the fiddle, its music, folk history, and rich ethnic heritage.

Julane Lund *The Hardanger Fiddle* Vesterheim Publication Vol. 7, No. 9, 2009
Hardanger Fiddle Association of America www.hfaa.org

Bulletin Board

Volunteer Opportunity

Synnøve-Nordkap is looking for a new **Sport/Recreation Director**. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Ron Stow stowronald@gmail.com

Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 10 am to noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. We will help you get started organizing your information and teach you how to start researching your ancestors.

The Genealogy Group does not meet in July and August.

What Do You Think?

Minnesota winters can be brutal. Assuming in-person lodge meetings resume in September 2021, would you like to meet virtually via Zoom in January or February 2022 to avoid going out on a winter weeknight? Or, if it's safe from a public health perspective, would you prefer gathering in person, regardless of the season? Tell us what you think. Send an email with your comments to ingrid@steinmetz.org.

New Land, New Life

The *New Land, New Life: Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota* historical panel exhibit, created by Synnøve-Nordkap, will be on display at Norway House in Minneapolis from May to August. Check the Norway House website for details. norwayhouse.org



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

Coming Back Together

The Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors continues to monitor the current state of the COVID-19 health emergency along with local, state, and federal guidelines regarding social gatherings. In-person lodge meetings are set to resume on Tuesday, September 14th at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. It is important to note, though, that pandemic conditions can and will change over time, but you will be notified of meeting and event modifications if necessary.

Please also note that Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors will continue to meet over Zoom for its monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in joining the next Zoom board meeting, please contact any board member.

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, June 1, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, June 5, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, June 8, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, August 3, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, August 10, 6 PM	Lodge Picnic	Island Lake Park 3611 Victoria St. N. Shoreview, MN 55126
Tuesday, September 7, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, September 14, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Church 1669 Arcade St. St. Paul, MN 55106

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.