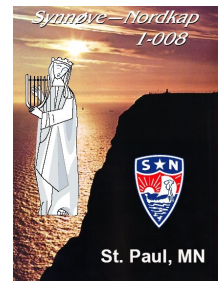




# SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1 - 008

April 2022  
Issue Number 22 - 04



## Front Page News

### April In-Person Lodge Meeting Lars Walker and the Viking Legacy

The Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that lodge members will be meeting **in person on Tuesday, April 12th, 7:00 PM**, at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. Lars Walker will be the special guest and presenter to discuss the Viking tradition of democracy and its influence on our republic. Lars is an author and translator and is all-around fascinating. You can read more about Lars Walker here: <http://www.larswalker.com/default.html>.

As we come together once again, our lodge's tradition of kindness and respect will be essential as members meet to share their common interest and love of Norwegian heritage and culture, but also have their own thoughts on risk of illness. Our meeting place, Gustavus Adolphus, continues to recommend face coverings for everyone in the building. A light snack will be available.

So, let's get together and share in the hope that spring provides.



## President's Letter

So maybe, like me, you have heard that Easter in Norway means that it is time to read a crime novel. As my kids would say, "Yes, it's a thing." But, how did that get started? It doesn't necessarily seem fitting to the Easter holiday, which is also a very big "thing" in Norway. Each year the country celebrates Easter with many Norwegians heading to cabins ("hytte") and skiing (both cross country and downhill). Norway sets aside time for the Easter holiday and that time also includes time to read crime/mystery novels.

The origin, it seems, is from 1923 when two young and struggling Norwegian authors, Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie, came up with a brilliant idea. They, along with their publisher, Gyldendal, put out a novel at Easter. However, the real genius came when the Sunday before Easter their advertising got front page attention in the newspaper *Aftenposten*. The book's title, *Bergen Train Looted in the Night*, drew much attention, and most people didn't realize it was fiction! The stunt drew widespread attention and the novel was a huge success. "Many consider this novel to be the first Easter crime and the very origin of the tradition", says Bjarne Buset, information manager at the Norwegian publishing house Gyldendal. In the novel, two young students ski from cabin to cabin during Easter. The fact that Easter is closely associated with the Norwegian cabin ("hytte") and skiing is also part of the reason the tradition has taken roots.

Another tradition tied to Easter in Norway, that I was not familiar with, is eating oranges! Apparently, this is very popular and very common.

So, if you celebrate Easter, perhaps you can find a little time curl up with a crime novel and an orange (hey, would that be a novel orange?). If you would like to read more on this Norwegian custom the link to the article is included below!

**Crime Time: Norwegian Easter Equals Brutal Murders:** <https://www.visitnorway.com/typically-norwegian/easter/crime-time/>

**Easter in Norway:** <https://www.visitnorway.com/typically-norwegian/easter/>

Happy Easter

Lowell Johnson, President



## 2022 District 1 Convention and Folk Art Competition

There is still time to enter the Nordic Folk Art Competition, which will be held at the Sons of Norway District 1 Convention in June. Any project you have completed since June 2018 is eligible and can be entered for exhibition only or for competition. You must register by May 1. Contact Ron Stow for additional questions: [stowronald@gmail.com](mailto:stowronald@gmail.com)

District 1 Convention Info: <http://sofn-1.org/convention-news/>

Folk Art Guidelines: <http://sofn-1.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FolkArtInformation2022.pdf>

Registration Form: <http://sofn-1.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FolkArtEntryForm2022.pdf>

# Secretary's Report

## **Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008 Board of Directors, Online via Zoom, 3/1/2022**

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

President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT-Jean D:** Reports were accepted as presented. Jean K made the motion we pay the expenses for Dr. Moe's honorarium, Susan's junior lodge expenses, and Dave's Brevet printing expenses. The third check for the ad for the District Convention will be discussed later in this meeting. LaRee seconded. Motion carried.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT-** Nothing from Connie, Mary Beth, or LaRee to report.

**DISTRICT 1-** Ron:

District Convention:

- 1) Ad: Cost for a half page color ad is \$175. Dave is looking for a good picture on the kids dancing to feature. Ingrid offered to help. Dave moved we approve the one-half page ad for the District Convention ad. Connie seconded. Motion carried.
- 2) Potential resolutions (suggestions): After discussion of what is required and accepted, Ron motioned that we have a brief positive statement inspired by the human rights record of Norway. Jean K seconded. Motion carried. Lowell will establish a committee to come up with a suggestion for District 1 involving the topic of human rights that will be ready for the convention. The suggestion was made and it was agreed that it be ready to be presented at the next Board meeting to be done in time to get it to the convention.

**JR LODGE-Susan:** Received letters from Scandia thanking the Peer Gynt Dancers for their performance. May 14 has been reserved at the Washington Square Park in Stillwater for their Syttende Mai performance. Awards for the Olympic Challenge will be coming in March. Awards will be presented to the tune "We Are the Champions" as they receive them. Susan has requested to spend approximately \$85 for sports medals. Jean D moved Susan purchase sports medals for \$85. Audrey seconded. Motion carried.

**MARCH MEETING-Jean K:** Rick Steves, a Norwegian travel writer, will be featured in a Vesterheim YouTube presentation. His travel philosophy encourages people to explore less-touristy areas of destinations and to become immersed in the local people's way of life.

**APRIL MEETING-Jean K:** If our meeting will be in person, Lars Walker, will present a program on Vikings. Jean D will check with Gustavus Adolphus church regarding their current regulations. If GA will allow it, we will have an in-person meeting in April.

## **COOKIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION-**

Jean D checked with GA church and SOKOL about renting their facilities. The cost for both is \$25 per hour. Susan tabled the discussion for tonight and will bring more information to next month's Board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Midsummer Fest-Ron:** Sent information to Board members about the upcoming opportunity to have a Nordic waffle booth at this event. Booth space rental is \$225 with an additional \$25 for electricity. Ron will confirm that we are interested but was not sure of the deadline. If he finds the deadline is March 15, he will contact the Board. Otherwise, the opportunity will be discussed and voted on at the April Board meeting.

**Foundation Director-Gary:** Suggested we have a goofy talent show involving the Board for our October meeting as that is Foundation month. Members would be encouraged to give a donation.

**Sports Director-Audrey:** Talked about the 'Walk in the Park' on the third Thursday this month (March 17). She is interested in the athleticism as well as the social aspect for getting to know one another. This month we will meet at the entrance to the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum in Roseville's Central Park at 1:00pm. Attended a curling event and suggested that is something we might try.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, April 5, 2022 at 7p via Zoom. (cchrissis)

(Continued on page 4)

## Lodge News

(Secretary's Report, continued from page 3)

**\*\*\*On March 8**, Lowell emailed the Board: Sasha has received this renewal offer from Zoom. Since we will not have another Board meeting prior to the renewal date I am asking you to please let me know if you approve of this expense via email. Please reply this week if possible. If approved, we will renew and either pay Zoom directly or reimburse Sasha for the expense.

After receiving responses, Lowell replied: Thank you for your responses to my previous email. We have approval from the majority of Board members. Sasha and Jean will work together to renew the subscription and make payment for the discounted offer of \$119.00.

### **Synnové-Nordkap Lodge Meeting #1-008 March 8 at 7 pm via Zoom**

- President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all.
- **March birthdays:** Marilyn Erickson, Fred Matson, Ron Stow, Connie Chrissis
- **March Anniversaries:** Ron and Susan Stow
- **Members attending:** 35
- **Walk in the Park:** Audrey Waage promoted her monthly walk which will occur on the third Thursday of each month. The location might change. It would be an opportunity to get together socially while getting out and walking. It might include bringing a bag lunch or stopping somewhere for lunch. On Thursday, March 17, we will meet at the entrance to the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum (Central Park in Roseville), 2525 Dale St. North. Email Audrey with any questions: h2alo@yahoo.com.
- **Scholarships:** Sasha Aslanian reminded everyone that the deadline for post-secondary scholarship applications is March 18. The applications for college or trade school training for children or grandchildren can be found on the Lodge website under the scholarship heading.
- **Program:** Jean Knaak introduced a Vesterheim video presentation by Rick Steves, a Norwegian-American and popular public television host, whose presentation focused on traveling to Norway and traveling, in general, to challenge our cultural assumptions. He showed many interesting slides while telling his stories. Website: <https://www.ricksteves.com>.
- **Return to in-person meeting:** Lowell asked members in attendance if they are ready to get together at our April meeting. A majority gave it a hearty thumbs up.
- **Genealogy tidbit:** After Fred Matson presented the question, people shared the stories they have heard on why their ancestors came to America.
- **Door prize:** Sasha Aslanian was the winner of a Sons of Norway cap.  
(cchrissis)

## JUNIOR LODGE UPDATE

There are many junior lodge members who are earning an awesome number of points each month toward their next level Idrettsmerke pins. Anna Kneeskern is competing on the Skimerke enamel level and Killian Stow bikes from Stillwater around the old bridge route through Wisconsin and loops back over the new St. Croix Crossing bridge earning Sykkelmerke points. We will present the pins in May at the Washington Square Park Syttende Mai performance.

Both Freya and Josie Haugen received their folk dancing cultural skills pins, although Josie is now studying at Luther College. Some of those who started the rosemaling cultural skills unit before the Covid hiatus wish to complete that, so in April Joanne Brown will come to guide us in the last two steps. Others may choose to do a Viking craft project instead of the rosemaling.

Netta Hillegass and Kaia Velo turned in their Olympic Challenge Question paperwork to receive the embroidered Norwegian flag award. The flag can be ironed on a backpack, jacket, cap, sweatshirt to show their Norwegian spirit! More flags will be awarded. (See photos on page 7)

Everyone really seemed to be having fun learning the two new dances in preparation for our **Syttende Mai performance on May 14th, 2:00 - 3:00 PM**. Write the date on your calendars to join the celebration at Washington Square Park.



## Little Norway, Scotland

by Don Halvorson

In the early months of 1940, after the German forces overwhelmed Denmark and Norway, hundreds of civilians, men, women and children, chose to leave their homeland and become refugees. Hidden aboard small fishing boats, collectively called The Shetland Bus, they sailed west, to Lerwick in the Shetlands Islands, where they were quickly processed. Next they traveled to the northwest coast of Scotland and the safety of Moray Firth. From there they continued on to the small coastal town of Buckie. While most settled into their new home, others left to join the scattered Free Forces units reconnecting elsewhere in Scotland. Throughout the summer and autumn of 1940, the exodus to Scotland continued. Some risked the winter crossing, while most traffic declined until the following spring.

After its large influx of refugees, Buckie became affectionately called Little Norway. Early on, the Scots and Norwegians realized that, apart from their religion, they shared much in common. Both were country folk and had similar living conditions and a way of life. Furthermore, for many, fishing was their trade. In time some would intermarry. At war's end, some would return to their home country; others would stay.

By 1942, Buckie had established a Norwegian Consulate, a Seaman's Church, and a reading room on its main street. There, the newcomers could get a coffee and sandwich, relax, and worship on the Sabbath. Smaller in number, the Danes were also an accepted part of the Buckie community. In 1943 the community was honored by a surprise visit from King Haukon.

The children of the refugees went to boarding school at the Drumtochy Castle, a

nineteenth century mansion near Kincardineshire, 100 kilometers from Buckie. The exiled Norwegian Government purchased the castle during the war, and sold it in 1946.

Eventually, a project was begun to preserve the memory of this wartime community. Some people from the town of Buckie, the District Fishing Heritage Center and Peter Reid of Robert Gordon University came together to gather existing data, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings - anything that would keep these peoples' stories alive for posterity. Many of the stories they discovered were simply about a flight to freedom, but others were more complex.

One intriguing story found in the archives involved an unknown Danish woman and her male companion who had arrived at the Port Gordon Railway Station, a mile and a quarter from Buckie, on the evening of September

29, 1940. Curious authorities asking questions eventually discovered that the pair was part of a potential German spy cell bound for London. The woman herself was a mystery. According to identity papers, her name was Vera Erikson. Later records revealed that she was born Vera Schalburg in Siberia, to a Danish father and aristocratic Polish-Ukrainian mother, who returned with her family

to Denmark after the Russian revolution. Later influenced by her older brother's involvement in the *Frikorpset Denmark*, Denmark's Nazi organization, Vera was recruited by Germany's intelligence unit, Abwehr. From Scotland, the three co-conspirators were transported to London where they were jailed in Old Bailey. The men were tried, convicted, and put to death. Vera was detained until the end of the war and was deported to Germany. Soon after, she simply disappeared, never to be seen again.



[www.littlenorway.org.uk/stories](http://www.littlenorway.org.uk/stories) - LITTLE NORWAY

## Bulletin Board

### Mark Your Calendars!

Island Lake Park has been reserved for our Midsommer picnic on Tuesday June 21. More information to follow.

### Genealogy Group

Join the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Zoom Genealogy Group meeting to learn how to begin researching your ancestry and the role that DNA testing plays in your search. New comers are always welcome.

The Genealogy Group will be meeting on Saturday, April 2 from 10 am to noon via Zoom.

### Hardanger Huldre

Hardanger Huldre group will meet on April 28th. We will meet at 10:00 AM at Dolores Jacobson's at 161 Wedgewood Drive in Mahtomedi.

### For Information:

**Lowell Johnson**, President:  
[pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)

**Ingrid Bjorum**, Brevet Editor:  
[ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org)

### It's a Walk in the Park!

"It's a Walk in the Park"

Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 1:00 pm

The Muriel Sahlin Arboretum, Central Park  
2525 Dale St N, Roseville MN 55113

If you have any questions please contact the lodge Sports/Recreation Director Audrey Waage [h2alo@yahoo.com](mailto:h2alo@yahoo.com).



### Norwegian Language Classes

Classes are cancelled until further notice.

Please contact Class Facilitator Sheryl Hove at [sherylhove12@gmail.com](mailto:sherylhove12@gmail.com) or 651-738-4908 for information



## Meet Our Member – Audrey Waage

Are you members looking for an outdoor activity to enjoy now that spring is here? Check out the monthly “Walk in the Park” event scheduled on the third Thursday of each month. This gentle walk is the brainchild of Audrey Waage, our lodge Sport and Recreation Director.

Audrey joined Synnøve-Nordkap five years ago after being invited to the lodge’s membership dinner by Ron Stow, whom she had met in Norwegian language class at Mindekirken Norwegian Church in Minneapolis.

Having grown up in a very Scandinavian community in Douglas County, Minnesota, Audrey’s love for all things Nordic was enhanced at the rural Norwegian Lutheran Church. Her Norwegian father and her Swedish mother also promoted traditional values of their heritage.

Audrey has been married to her husband, Dan, for 51 years, with four sons and nine grandchildren. They have lived in Missouri, Louisiana, and Germany. After living in Alexandria, Minnesota, where the family enjoyed camping and sporting activities, Audrey and Dan moved to Maplewood in 2015. Here they enjoy the many opportunities available in the metro area.

Among those activities, Audrey sings in the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir and is a volunteer with the Red Cross. A lover of books, her favorite pastime is reading, something she wishes to do more freely in the Norwegian language.

As mentioned above, Audrey has jumped right into activities in Synnøve-Nordkap. As Sport and Recreation Director, she sees her role is to “organize and promote activities that will enhance the physical quality of life for our lodge members, which in turn will result in a social and mental health benefit as well.”

Mange tusen takk to our member Audrey Waage.



### Junior Lodge

**Left:** Netta Hillegass receives Olympic Challenge patch from Susan Stow.

**Right:** Freya Haugen receives folk dancing cultural skills pin.

*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	Location
Saturday, April 2, 10 AM - Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, April 5, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, April 12, 7 PM	Monthly Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade St. St. Paul, MN 55106
Thursday, April 21, 1 PM	"It's a Walk in the Park"	Muriel Sahlin Arboretum Central Park 2525 Dale St N Roseville MN 55113
Tuesday, May 3, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, May 7, 10 AM - Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, May 10, 7 PM	Monthly Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Saturday, May 14, 2 -3 PM	Peer Gynt Performance	Washington Square Park 815 S. Greeley St. Stillwater, MN 55082
Tuesday, June 21 - 6 PM	Midsommer Picnic	Island Lake Park 3611 Victoria St. N. Shoreview, MN 55126