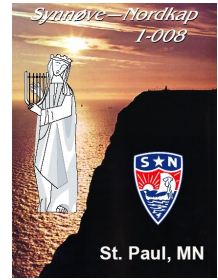




SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

November 2023
Issue Number 23 - 10



Front Page News



November Lodge Meeting with the Peer Gynt Dancers Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 PM

We are so lucky to have the Peer Gynt Norwegian Dancers perform for us at the November lodge meeting at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. We are sure to hear about their busy practice and performance schedule for the upcoming year, as well as about the folk songs and dances they will share with us. The group was officially chartered as a junior lodge of the Sons of Norway in 1981 but originated in 1979 and have travelled the country dancing and representing the St. Paul Sons of Norway. You can read more about the history of the group on their website. <https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/history/>

Wear your comfy shoes, because you may have the opportunity to join in a folk dance or two with the Peer Gynt Norwegian Dancers!

In addition to rehearsing their dances, the junior lodge members participate in a variety of activities during their monthly meetings. See page 5 to read about their recent activities.



President's Letter

God dag, alle samen! (Hello, everyone!)

Is it really November? Hunting seasons are either winding down (waterfowl, turkey) or revving up (deer and upland game). Back in my younger days, fall would find me in the woods, fields, or swamps seeking to harvest some of nature's bounty. Alas, those days are over, except I can still be found sitting in a deer stand hoping I can spot an elusive whitetail. I have harvested my share of deer during my hunting career, and now it's not so much about "bagging the big one" as it is just being out in nature. There is something calming about being out in the woods and just soaking up all the sights, smells, and sounds.

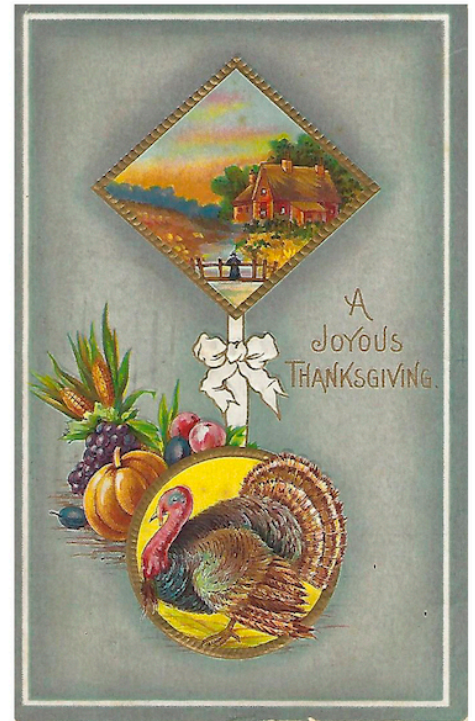
Thanksgiving is just around the corner; Christmas is not too far down the road, and the new year looms on the horizon. With the holidays comes Julebord, which I am looking forward to. This time of year finds most, if not all, of us breaking out our recipe books and preparing some of those Norwegian goodies that we associate with the holidays.

The Lodge is still in need of members to fill several open positions within the leadership group. The open positions are: Sports Director, Marshall, Historian, one Auditor, and one person for the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in stepping into any of these positions, please contact me at 612-414-5283 or cmdraheim@aol.com. Our lodge's election season is fast approaching, therefore filling the open spot on the Nominating Committee is of utmost importance.

Our biennial Sons of Norway District Convention will take place on August 19, 20, and 21 in Lake Elmo. If you are interested in being a delegate from our lodge, please contact me.

Synnøve-Nordkap will also be in charge of the silent auction at the district convention. We filled that role at the last, in person, International Convention in Bloomington. That gives us a huge head start on making it a huge success. Keep an eye on future issues of the *Brevet* for additional information.

President Chuck Draheim



Thanksgiving card from 1910.



Many Thanks for a Successful Event

Mange tusen takk! to our members and friends who donated so many wonderful items for the Silent Auction, for Bestemor's Market, and for the Bestefar's Attic. These activities were successful in raising funds for scholarships and other lodge activities. The exact amount will be made known at a later date.

As your silent auctioneer, I would especially like to thank the Maf Berg family for their generous contribution of Norwegian items. To those who donated hand-made folk art I say Takk skal du ha! Dolores Jacobson, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Lowell Johnson, John Knudson, you obviously put in a lot of hours making those items, as did those who donated those delicious baked goods.

And thank you, members and guests, who bid on and bought these wonderful items. Your purchases of auction and attic items, and baked goods help make Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge a success. Hipp, hipp, hurra!

Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008 Board of Directors, In Person and Virtual, 10/03/2023

Members in attendance: Jean Draheim, Lowell Johnson, Kathy Kaluza, Sharon Amann, LaRee Opdahl, Connie Chrissis, Jean Knaak, Mary Beth Mutchler, Dave Mutchler, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Chuck Draheim, Ingrid Bjorum, and Jill Hanson.

Chuck called the meeting to order.

Sharon asked for a Point of Privilege in which she asked Chuck to appoint someone to time our discussions to match the agenda so that we can get everything that's on the agenda covered. We have been piling up on Old Business and adding to New Business which is causing the meeting to run late. Chuck appointed Jean D. as timekeeper.

SECRETARY'S REPORT-LaRee: 243 active members;

Connie: Someone has suggested we have a sign-up list for guests at our lodge meetings so we can reach out to them with a welcome and invitation to join. It will be at the welcome table starting the next meeting.

Mary Beth: Memorial service for Lenore will be on Nov. 6 at First Lutheran Church. No time has been announced and will let us know when a time is known.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Jean D: October treasurer reports were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no checks presented for approval. Jean D. reviewed the pre-approved checks that have been written and are ready for the co-signing.

Upon request, Jean D. said she would obtain an invoice from GA church for the \$425 facility rental payment to be submitted for our grant request.

JUNIOR LODGE-Susan (absent): Junior Lodge has increased by two new members in September. They are Anya Bates, 1st grade, from Woodbury and Louisa Zobel, 2nd grade, who lives in Minneapolis. We look forward to having more new members join in October. Our project to sell at the Taste of Norway event is green felt Christmas tree ornaments to hang on a tree for the holidays. They will be decorated with sequins, pearls, and glitter glue. Also, each member will make their own Nisse ornament to take home.

At our Saturday meeting, Oct. 14th, I will register the names of all who can help at the Taste of Norway. We hope to have dancers and parents as helpers.

On that same rehearsal Saturday, there is a **Tribute to Norway** concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater. No reservations or tickets are needed, however there will be a free-will offering. This should be amazing!

DISTRICT 1-Ron (absent):

1. District 1 report: On October 13-14, 2023, the District 1 board of directors will meet at the Holiday Inn in Lake Elmo MN, site of the 2024 District 1 Convention. On November 8, 2023, the District 1 convention committee will have a Zoom meeting at 6:30 pm. By that time, we should have the initial formation of the Silent Auction Committee, for which Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge will be responsible for the 2024 District 1 Convention.

2. Lodge Silent Auction for Taste of Scandinavia: Thanks to Kari Hermanson, daughter of Maf Berg, we have received a large amount of items from Maf for the Silent Auction and Bestefar's Attic. Other members have donated, and I suspect more will come in at the October lodge event. I am recruiting helpers for set up and for dispersal of the purchased items.

3. If the agenda item about Background Checks comes up: At the spring meeting of District 1 board of directors, I was told, during discussion of the topic, by board members Carolyn Townsend and Jeanne Engelsmeier: "As long as an adult is not alone with kids and parents are welcome to be there, the lodge should be ok. Anyone with offenses has to notify others if there are children involved." (from minutes of April 21 2023 District 1 Spring Board Meeting)

BREVET-Ingrid: Asked for any questions about the Brevet that went out. Received positive reviews from members. She receives a monthly report from Wordpress on the activity of viewing on our website. The recent report stated there were 393 views by 153 different people.

SCHOLARSHIPS-Jill: Is watching for scholarship updates from Concordia, but so far none.

PROGRAM-Jean K.: The October meeting will have 3 parts, and Jean suggested we invite friends and family who might be interested in joining our lodge:

- 1) Amy Tuchenhausen, SoN Foundation Director, will speak on the Foundation;
- 2) Gary Legwold will present his waffle demonstration and books for sale;
- 3) The "Taste of Scandinavia" commercial will be presented again.

November meeting: Peer Gynt dancers;

December meeting: Juleboard -- Jean K. is still looking for input on entertainment during the event. Chuck will contact a musical resident in their community, and Sharon will contact Ruth Gibson about playing her psalmodicon.

Jean K. requested Chuck add time during our Oct. 10 meeting for the "Taste" commercial that was presented last month be presented again for promoting the event.

Chuck said he will give Jean K. as much time as he can for doing the commercial at the upcoming meeting.

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LODGE PHOTOGRAPHERS-Lowell: Chris Bales, Ingrid, and Lowell met. It was determined a photography team will be formed. At an upcoming meeting, a sign-up sheet will be passed asking for 5-6 members who would like to participate. A team leader will be designated. Their role is to capture candid as well as staged photos to be used in our newsletters and postings.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY-Chuck: Has located and shared with the Board a SoN template and thought it was a good idea to have in place for all Board members. Jean K. moved that the president prepare the Conflict of Interest forms for distribution at the next Board meeting. Jean D. seconded. Motion carried.

(Secretary's Report continued on page

4)

Lodge News

(Secretary's Report, continued from page 3)

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PARLIAMENTARIAN-Chuck: Sent Board members his reasons for requesting Jill, as a registered Parliamentarian, be appointed so that our lodge follows proper procedures. Jill summarized for the Board what Robert's Rules is, and she has agreed to be appointed.

Chuck asked if there were any objections to the appointment. Hearing none, Chuck declared that his appointment is approved.

"A TASTE OF SCANDINAVIA"-LaRee: Will present the sign-up sheet for workers at the meeting next week, and Jean D. will have the bake sale sign-up sheet available. Connie requested receipts be given to her for expenses related to the marketing of the event.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS EQUIPMENT-Chuck: Asked for ideas on what should be done with all of the FoN equipment we have. Let him know if we think of any, and it will be brought up at upcoming lodge meetings. He said we need to take an inventory of what we have. A suggestion was made that we check out MarketFest in White Bear Lake for selling waffles.

D-1 CONVENTION DELEGATES-Connie: Summarized Delegate Election as stated in the SoN Charter and Bylaws and said we should again plan on 4 delegates due to the size of the lodge. The actual determination will be finalized by Headquarters later this year. Chuck, as president, will supervise and enact the election of delegates. A suggestion was made that lodge members be made aware that they are welcome to attend the D-1 Convention even if they are not delegates. Ingrid will work on an article for the Brevet with the help of Ron and Connie.

FILLING OPEN ELECTED AND APPOINTED POSITIONS-Chuck: Open positions are Sports Director, Marshall, Historian, one Auditor, and one for the Nominating Committee. Contact Chuck with ideas of people who might fill them. There will be a slide presented at the next lodge meeting stating the need to fill these positions.

Chuck has asked that people NOT contact him through his gmail address as he uses it for work. Contact him by email at: cmdraheim@aol.com

Chuck adjourned the meeting. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Tues, Nov 7, 2023 at 7pm in person and via Zoom.

Synnové-Nordkap Lodge Meeting #1-008 October 10 at 7pm

- President Chuck Draheim called the meeting to order. Anthems were sung. Agenda was presented on the video screen
- **Members attending:** 42, **Guests:** 2
- **Birthdays:** Chuck Draheim and Andy Chrissis; Dana Carlson had a birthday in Sept., **Anniversaries:** None
- **Update to "Taste of Scandinavia" event:** LaRee explained the reason we've changed our fall fundraiser from Torsk & Meatball to the "Taste" event. She also reminded members of the Bestemor's Pantry (bake sale) selling cookies, bars, jams, pickled beets. **LaRee has a sign-up sheet for workers starting at 3pm on Oct 21.**
- **District 1 Convention:** The convention will be August 19-21, 2024 at the Lake Elmo Holiday Inn. Ron Stow has volunteered our lodge for handling the silent auction. He would like to have a committee formed. The plan is also to ask each lodge in the district donate.
- **Norwegian language class:** Sheryl Hove and Audrey Waage spoke about this lodge-sponsored class. It meets twice a month at the Sun Ray Library this month on Oct 11 and 25, and there is just a little bit of homework. They use an interesting book that is perfect for both beginners and those who have had some Norwegian lessons. The book is *The Mystery of Nils* and incorporates a lot of words we use in our daily lives.
- **Program Introduction:** Chuck introduced the program from the agenda and stated each part would be allocated 20 minutes for their presentation.
- **October is Foundation month:** Amy Tuchenhagen, Sons of Norway Foundation Director, presented a power point program that told of the mission of the Foundation and the ways grants can be used to help members, lodges, and communities. A "hat" was passed following her presentation, and Jean Draheim said we had collected \$230 from our lodge that was presented to Amy. The Sons of Norway Christmas ornament is available to purchase at www.sofn.com/ornament
- **Program:** Lodge member Gary Legwold talked about the making and rolling of lefse. He recommended King Arthur's Flour as the best for holding rounds together. After Gary demonstrated his technique for "the quest for rolling the holy round round", he asked for volunteers to give it a try. Kathy Kaluza and Andy Chrissis were the volunteers. Gary generously awarded both with an autographed copy of his book *Keep on Rolling*. Gary's books, lefse-making classes, and lefse accessories can be found on his website: www.lefseking.com.
- **Door prize:** Winner of \$10 was Sandra Bestland
- Meeting adjourned with desserts and beverages following.

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge to Participate in the District-1 Convention 2024

District-1 of Sons of Norway will hold its biennial convention from August 19th through 21st, 2024, at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. Our lodge will participate in several ways. Two of our members, Connie Chrissis and Ron Stow, are members of the District-1 Board of Directors, serving as District Treasurer and as District Sports and Recreation Director, respectively. The convention is being hosted by the Board of Directors of District-1, which includes lodges in the central states from Minnesota through Texas.

Synnøve-Nordkap will be represented by at least four delegates to the convention. Selection of these delegates will take place at the beginning of 2024. Our lodge board of directors will be seeking candidates for the delegation and also for alternates for each of the positions. Dear members, please consider being a delegate or an alternate for the District-1 convention.

Lodges in the Twin Cities area are being asked to take charge of various aspects of the convention. Our lodge, Synnøve-Nordkap, is heading up the Silent Auction fundraiser for the convention. During the upcoming weeks, a committee will be formed, made up of members of our lodge. The basic work description will be: to organize the silent auction; to ask lodges throughout the District to contribute items for the auction; to set up and supervise the space at the hotel where the items will be on display for bidding by the delegates and guests. Dear members, please be ready with your, "Yes", when you are asked to help with this worthwhile activity. Since the hotel is located within our Synnøve-Nordkap membership range, and in the wide-open spaces of Lake Elmo, Minnesota, this should be an easy way to participate. Besides, there is free parking!

As a leader in District-1, Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge will help set the tone for the convention which has as its theme: "New Land, New Life: 1825-2025, Creating Pathways to the Future." Our lodge's historical exhibit will be on display at the convention, yet another aspect of our lodge's contribution to the success of the 2024 Sons of Norway District-1 Convention.

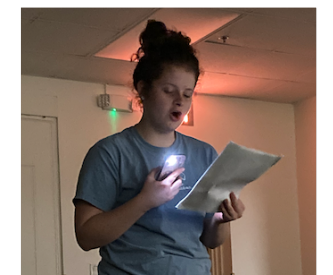
JUNIOR LODGE UPDATE

While junior lodge members were busy creating felt *Nisse* tree ornaments we heard about the 10 most favored *Nisse* crafty activities used to keep people alert. For example: snap the window shades, sour the milk, hide the keys, awaken the baby, step on the cat's tail, cause church bells to ring at odd hours, tilt pictures hanging on the wall, slam the oven door when cake is baking, or let water drip. Maybe there are *Nisse* at your house?

Our two new members picked up their Peer Gynt bunads today. We are so happy they have joined our junior lodge!

Freya (pictured left) wanted the lights turned out while she read spooky tales of ghosts haunting the Akershus Castle in Oslo, Norway. Then our dance director, Jana Velo, added to mysterious mood with how strange episodes have occurred at the Bærum abandoned factory building even up to the present day.

The Peer Gynt Dancers are looking forward to performing for our senior lodge on Tuesday, November 14th and at the European Christmas Market at Union Depot in St. Paul on Sunday, December 3rd at 2:00. We know you will enjoy their enthusiasm.



The Sami in World War II

by Don Halvorson

For a thousand years, the Sami, an indigenous people of arctic Scandinavia and the Russian Kola peninsula, had lived their lives in a world of relative peace and tranquility. They neither embraced nor rejected outsiders or invaders that came in contact with them. They simply tolerated them.

With the onset of World War II, all that would change. They were now forced to abandon their peaceful world and take part in a conflict that was well beyond their understanding, and in the end, would likely threaten their very existence.

It began with the Winter War, the Russian invasion of Finland, in 1939. In the beginning, German forces fought along-side the Russians. Then, in 1941, when Hitler invaded Russia, the Finns allied themselves with the Germans, hoping to regain their land lost during the Winter War. To the Finns and Finnish Sami, it became known as the Continuation War. For the first time in their history, Sami from both sides were forced to fight against each other. The Finnish Sami were especially committed to this war, since the land they were fighting for included their treasured homeland, Finnish Sapmi.

On April 13, 1940, the Norwegian Sami were pressed into service in Narvik by the German Mountain Marines. Isolated there after their destroyer fleet had been sunk by the Royal Navy, the 2,600-man unit was armed with captured Norwegian rifles and ordered to hold out there for as long as possible. Formerly employed by the Norwegian government as part of the ski cavalry, these Sami were detained there to guide the Germans through the unknown mountains and snowy terrain; and to provide those starving marines with reindeer meat from their own herds.

Conscripted Sami soldiers were invaluable. They were excellent skiers as well as guides, and were put to work as navigators and long-distance patrolmen. They could survive the arctic cold far better than those they were forced to serve. In the field, those who still spoke the Sami language became a valuable intelligence link with other



units containing Sami troopers. They also knew how to tame and harness the reindeer that were needed to transport men and material into areas of deep snow or extreme cold; to places trucks, trains, tanks, or convoys could not reach.

The Sami suffered greatly in occupied Sapmi during the war. In Russia, some 60,000 Sami who were not pressed into military service, were sent to temporary relocation camps in Sweden. Many did not return to their villages until long after the war. A number of Sami who were not relocated with the others, were sent to German prison camps. There they were not only treated cruelly by the Germans, who considered the Sami an inferior race, but were considered outsiders by the other Sami in the camps because of their unknown dialect. In north Norway, many Sami were used as slave labor in the building of a railroad that was used to carry iron ore from Sweden to Germany.

In 1945, with the war turning against them, the Germans began to retreat from Sami Norway, burning the land behind them. With the razing of their sedentary presence in Finnmark, the Norwegian Sami could not return there until long after the war. Rovaniemi, the capital of Sami Finland, was also burned to the ground. It would take decades to recover, and return Sapmi to what it was before the war. Yet, as it has always been, they were and would remain survivors.

<https://www.laits.utexas.edu/sami/dieda/hist/wwii.htm>

Sunshine News

The celebration of life for Lenore Jesness will be held at Monday November 6, 2023 at 11:00 with visitation beginning at 10. It will be at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, St Paul, MN

<https://epilogg.com/obituary/lenore-jesness-st-paul-mn-usa-9725>

Norwegian Language Classes

Tuesday Class: November 14, 6:30-7:00 p.m.
at Gustavus Adolphus Church before the Lodge Meeting.
"Sons of Norway Norwegian Language Lessons"

Wednesday Class: November 15 & 29, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
at SunRay Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119.
"Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" textbook and
"The Mystery of Nils" textbook (Available to borrow from our Library - contact Sheryl).

WELCOME to new members!

Sheryl Hove, sherylhove12@gmail.com , 651-738-4908

Hardanger Huldras

Hardanger embroidery patterns, fabric, thread and instruction are available to those who wish to learn this Norwegian needlework art form.

If you have already started Hardanger embroidery but wish to learn some new stitches, our patient, expert teacher can help you. Those who have never tried this before are most welcome too. All you need to bring is a small, very sharp scissors.

Our Hardanger Huldras group meets once a month at the home of our teacher, Dolores Jacobson.

For more information, please contact Susan Stow at burle103@aol.com

Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group welcomes all 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. All you have to be is curious. Plan to attend the Genealogy Group meeting on November 4th from 10 am to noon at the **White Bear Lake Library, 2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake.**

Calendar Sales

We will again be selling Norwegian & Swedish calendars, but the notecards are not available this year. The cost of a calendar is \$15.00. Orders can be placed from now until November 14, by emailing Mary Beth Mutchler at mbe43@q.com or calling her at 651-484-8872. Ordering deadline is November 14th.

Calendars will be available for pick-up at the Julebord on December 12 or at the Mutchler home. You are responsible for pick-up.

These are good stocking stuffers! You can shop and avoid the crowds.



Julebord

Dianne and Patti are beginning to plan for Julebord at our December lodge meeting on Tuesday, December 12. This year it will be a Christmas potluck. You are encouraged to bring a favorite Christmas food for sharing. Any favorite dish or dessert is welcome. It's not limited to Nordic foods.

For Information:

Chuck Draheim, President: pres.synn.nord@gmail.com

Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor: ingrid@steinmetz.org

Sons of Norway HQ: https://www.sofn.com/contact_us/

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, 2018
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/>

Saturday, November 4, 10 - Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	White Bear Lake Library 2150 2nd St. White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (Members are welcome to attend)	Draheim's and Zoom Contact Draheims for more information Call or text 651-210-0401
Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade St. St. Paul, MN 55106
Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 PM	Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Wednesday, November 15, 1 - 2:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	SunRay Library 2105 Wilson Ave. St. Paul, MN 55119
Wednesday, November 29, 1-2:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	SunRay Library
Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (Members are welcome to attend)	Draheim's and Zoom Contact Draheims for more information Call or text 651-210-0401