



# SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1 - 008

February 2024  
Issue Number 24 - 02



## Genealogy Corner

My participation in the genealogy group has given me new friends and enabled me to expand my genealogy investigation techniques. It has also inspired and focused both of our trips to Norway and Sweden, establishing our vacation patterns and destinations over the last twelve years to focus on ancestral home areas, here and abroad. We have been able to honor our previous generations' culture and times, and realize our greater family's place in local and international events and history. The genealogy group interaction generated communications, questions, and answers within generations still living, fostering deep family bonds.

Without the many hours of dedicated help from the group, I would not have been able to meet, in person, several cousins from Norway, Sweden, this country, and around the world. I would not have discovered the life stories, with DNA certainty, of my immigrant, Norwegian great-grandparents, their ancestors, their locations, their culture, and their lives. I would not have been able to stand in the house in Norway where my great-grandfather was born 169 years ago with the realization of the impact of their lives on mine with that warm, overwhelming feeling that this place, far removed from our current house in time and location, is home.

Dave Hegdahl

The genealogy group meets the first Saturday of the month. See the "Bulletin Board" on page 7 for information about the February meeting.

## **Tuesday, February 13, 6 PM**

### **Program**

You are the program! Members are asked to bring relics from their family that have a winter history. Many will also have a personal genealogy history. As an example, I am bringing buffalo mittens that are over one hundred years old. They go above the elbows and were used for driving teams in winter weather. Secondly, I am bringing a fur jacket that is the same type that was worn for Arctic exploration. We will use a portable microphone, so individuals can speak for 2 minutes or less. There will also be viewing time.

### **February 13 Meal**

Our meal at the February Sons of Norway Meeting will be not-to-be-missed soup choices and Lynn Hoffmeyer's famous homemade rye bread plus accompaniments. Lynn crafted his own recipe for this special bread. Rye bread is a very frequent Norwegian choice. We thank him for his many contributions to our meal events. Randy and Happy Youngs joined us last year from the lodge in Racine, Wisconsin. Besides Randy's chili and soup talent and their willingness to help, they have shown leadership in establishing our meal program. **The meal will be served at 6:00 pm, and the meeting will start at 6:45 pm.**

### **Join in Contributing to Meals**

To answer questions about our food plans, we are looking for volunteers to prepare the main dishes and to donate accompaniments and treats for our meetings. Those who provide the main dishes will not need to pay the \$5 fee at that meeting. Since we are only charging \$5 per person for the meal, it is necessary to have donations as we have always had for our meetings. Actual costs with receipts can be reimbursed for main dishes as needed. Please note that my research showed that the payment range is \$10 to \$16 per person in much of District 1 – again, our lodge is a good deal!! Please volunteer before you are asked.

Jean Knaak, Cultural Director

All are welcome at our monthly meeting at  
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church  
1669 Arcade Street  
St. Paul  
We hope to see you!



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## President's Letter

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Hi, all Sons of Norway members.

I hope everyone is in good health. I am feeling better.

Since our January meeting, I have been talking with my hair clients and told them about my new adventure as president. They are very excited for me and us. Some are interested in joining!

We have new ideas happening. I am happy about the small suppers before the meetings. I hope you will enjoy them, too.

If you have any ideas for our future events, please let me or the board know.

Thank you very much. Happy Valentine's Day!

Synnøve-Nordkap President, Kathy Kaluza

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## District News

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### District Convention

In August 2024, the Sons of Norway district convention will be held at the Holiday Inn on Hudson Blvd in Lake Elmo, MN. With the convention taking place so close to home, please begin to think about representing Synnøve-Nordkap as a delegate or simply as a lodge member at some of the convention activities and events. Watch future issues of the *SynNor Brevet*, the lodge website, and your email inbox for more information about how to get involved.

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## Secretary's Report

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### Secretary's Report

Beginning with this issue of the *SynNor Brevet*, the "Secretary's Report", which consists of Synnøve-Nordkap board meeting minutes and lodge meeting minutes, will no longer be published in the newsletter. Meeting minutes will, however, be available on the lodge website. This change will allow for more immediate publication of the minutes as well as provide additional space in the monthly newsletter for feature articles, photos, and information about lodge & district members & events. You will be able to find the "Secretary's Report" on the Synnøve-Nordkap website <https://synn-nord.org/contact/board-meeting-minutes/>. If, however, you want to continue to receive a paper copy of the meeting minutes, you may pick-up a copy at the next lodge meeting, or you may request one by contacting newsletter editor Ingrid Bjorum at [ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org) or 651-335-3526 or Dave Mutchler at 651-484-8872 or [dmutchler@q.com](mailto:dmutchler@q.com). Your continued support makes Synnøve-Nordkap the vibrant and thriving lodge it is today!

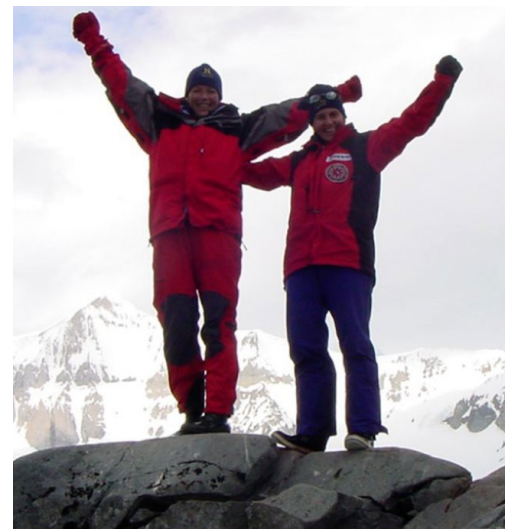


## JUNIOR LODGE UPDATE

Usually, our January meeting highlight is trying to toss frozen fish the farthest on a school field. This year the colder temperature and windchill brought us inside instead. Two games brought that competitive edge indoors. We had tossing the rubber dolphins into a basket and playing the ladder game. Points for both were combined to award our goldfish cracker and Swedish fish prizes. Our featured new dance involves a 12 step weaving pattern. It is somewhat complicated but really fun!

Stories about adventures and accomplishments of Minnesota skiers are so interesting. Leif Nordgren from Marine-on-the-St. Croix competed in two Olympics on the U.S Biathlon Team. Jake Brown of Eden Prairie has competed in U.S. Nationals after his skiing at St. Olaf. Paula Moltzan, who grew up near Prior Lake, finished 4th in downhill in the 2021 World championship in Italy. Jesse Diggins, Olympic gold medalist from Afton, won the Tour de Ski in Europe for the second time in cross-country skiing. Due to her leadership, Minnesota is set to host a cross-country World Cup event at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis in 2024 over the President's Day weekend.

Taking tales about all these accomplished athletes up another notch, and then some, is the arctic explorer Anne Bancroft of Marine on St. Croix. Anne is the first woman to cross the ice to the North Pole. In fact, she is the first woman to reach both poles. She was the leader of the first American women's east-west crossing of Greenland. Then she led the first all-female expedition to the South Pole. Along with Norwegian explorer, Liv Arnesen, they are the first women to cross Antarctica on foot.





## 2024 Lodge Scholarships

Scholarship applications for 2024 language camps and for the 2024-2025 postsecondary academic year from Synnøve-Nordkap are now available on the lodge website. <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/>

**Deadlines** for lodge scholarship applications are as follows:

**Language Camp - May 15, 2024**

**Postsecondary - March 18, 2024**

If you or a family member is interested in attending Masse Moro or Skogfjorden Norwegian language camp or will be pursuing postsecondary education, please take the time to carefully read the “Scholarships” page of our lodge website. Scholarship Director Jill Hanson has compiled and provided an abundance of information about financial assistance available to students. Please direct questions about lodge scholarships to Jill at: [jillhanson65@gmail.com](mailto:jillhanson65@gmail.com)

## Help Solve the Mystery of this Painting

Does anyone recognize this painting? It was donated several years ago for one of our lodge’s silent auctions. Neither Dave Mutcher nor Ron Stow were in charge of the auction at that time and cannot identify it. Ron has researched the farm depicted in the scene. It is the Tisthamar farm near Tistam Norway in the Sogn og Fordane district. Located on the Utfjord, the farm offers fishing outings for anglers. The name of the artist is a little hard to discern, either Håkon Hatlen or Watlen. Perhaps one of our members recognizes this name or the painting and can give background information about it. Our member who purchased it back then would appreciate any information you can provide.



## A Viking Ship Building Primer

by Don Halvorson

It is difficult to trace how the building of the Viking ship evolved. Only rock carvings have survived to tell the story. Two theories were originally proposed. One suggested that the earliest boats from the Stone Age were nothing more than skin covered vessels, similar to the Eskimo umiak, which was eventually replaced by light wood planking. Another theory countered that a Bronze Age dugout was eventually fitted with wooden planks lashed together on its sides, until the inside shell finally disappeared altogether. It was not until the ship-finds at Tune and Gokstad, that historians finally had a better picture of how the Viking ship was actually built.

The most common method of boat construction, called *carval* built, is a boat built from the inside out. The Viking ship was clinker built, assembled from the outside in. Wooden planks for the two sides of the hull slightly overlapped each other, then were riveted together with wooden nails. When both sides had been formed, the frame was built inside, as a reinforcement. The advantage of using this method was that only the finest wood could be used. The plank design added to its overall strength, allowing for a lighter frame, and made the boat easier to handle in open water. Both sides of the boat were identical, allowing it to move in either direction without turning around.

The type of wood used to build the vessel was determined by its surroundings. Boats built in the north used pine, while those in the south used oak. Straight trees were felled for hull planks, bent over trees for curved front and back planks. Once a tree was on the

ground, each plank was skillfully cut from the center of the log, using only an axe.

Pine planks were easier to bend into shape than oak. Green wood was better than aged wood. Often wood submerged in water could be kept green for several years until ready to use. Heating a green wood plank over fire would cause its fibers to loosen, making it easier to shape.

The first piece of a Viking ship was the keel. Made of oak, it was as long and straight as possible. It was shaped like a T or a V, so that the first planks of the hull could be riveted

to it. At each end of the keel, the stem and stern, two curved pieces were attached. Once the first planks are riveted to the keel, the planks for the sides were added. Working from the bottom up, each plank overlapped the one below it. The shells, when finished, were now strong enough by themselves. In the center of the deck, at right angles to the keel, was placed a heavier length of timber, called the keelson. This board was used to hold and support the mast. Next, the floor was laid. The frame was added last, and was merely a series of ribs, riveted at intervals, down the length of each side of the hull. To keep the boat from sinking, clumps of animal hair were stuffed between the length of the

planks, then covered with tar.

The large square sail was made of linen or wool and kept in place with leather strips. When not in use, it was dropped to the boat's floor. The rudder, roughly shaped like a giant oar, was cleverly designed by a pulley system that was navigated from inside the boat. Oars were purposely of different sizes. Those on the sterns were longer than those in the middle. The carved snake or dragon head on the prow of the boat was placed there as a deterrent to evil spirits who might spoil the sailing adventure.

<https://regia.org/research/ships/Ships1.htm>



### Sunshine News

Our Sunshine Lady is in need of a little sunshine herself these days. Two weeks ago, Mary Beth fell and broke her leg. Following surgery, she is recovering comfortably at home. Cards may be sent to her at:

Mary Beth Mutchler,  
3496 Nancy Place  
Shoreview, MN 55126

### Norwegian Language Classes

Tuesday Class: February 13, **5:30-6:00 p.m.**  
(Note time change)  
at Gustavus Adolphus Church before the Lodge Meeting.

"Sons of Norway Norwegian Language Lessons"

Wednesday Class: February 14 & 28, 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](mailto:sherylhove12@gmail.com)  
651-738-4908

### Health and Safety Reminder

If you are feeling unwell, please keep yourself and others in mind by staying home.

### For Information:

**Kathy Kaluza**, President: [pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)  
**Ingrid Bjorum**, Brevet Editor: [ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org)  
**Sons of Norway HQ**: [https://www.sofn.com/contact\\_us/](https://www.sofn.com/contact_us/)

### Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group will be meeting on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am to noon via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to all lodge members shortly before the meeting date.

### 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](mailto:burle103@aol.com)

### Nordic Experiences Fund

The Nordic Experiences Fund is a scholarship to which any member of Synnøve-Nordkap can apply at any time of year in order to assist with costs associated with learning or learning about Nordic crafts or heritage. For more information, please visit our website: <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/>



*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/>

Monday, February 5 4:30 PM - Light Supper 6:00 PM - Board Meeting (Please note date, time, and location)	Board of Directors Meeting (Members are welcome to attend)	Alternate Location & Zoom Contact Jean Knaak for more information or by February 2 to RSVP: 651-357-6139 or <a href="mailto:knaak002@gmail.com">knaak002@gmail.com</a>
Saturday, February 3, 10 AM - Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	Virtual via Zoom Information sent via email
Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade St. St. Paul, MN 55106
Tuesday, February 13 6:00 PM Light meal 6:45 PM Meeting & Program	Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Wednesday, February 14, 1 - 2:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	SunRay Library 2105 Wilson Ave. St. Paul, MN 55119
Wednesday, February, 28, 1 - 2:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	SunRay Library
March — Date and Time TBD	Board of Directors Meeting (Members are welcome to attend)	TBD