

SynNor Brevet

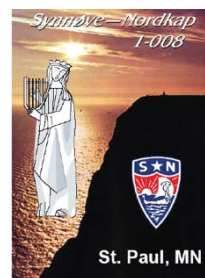


Synnøve-Nordkap

Lodge #1 - 008

June 2025

Issue Number 25 - 06



Front Page News

June Midsomer Picnic / Meeting

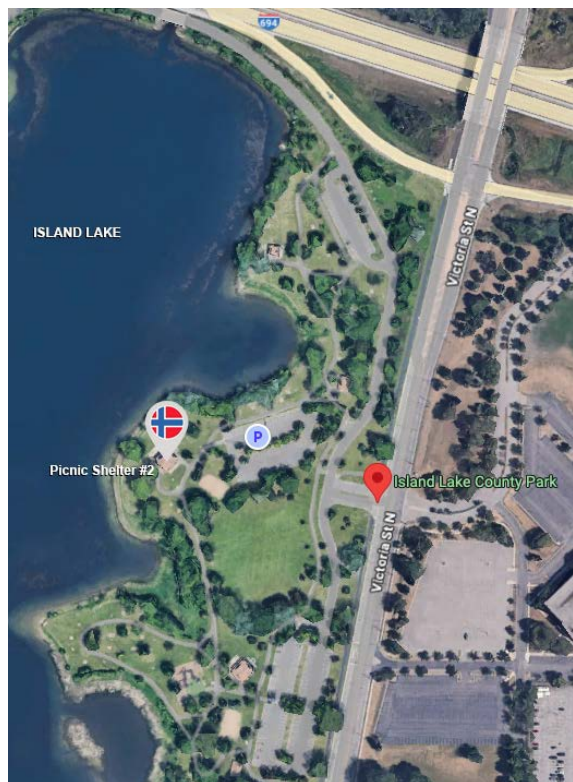
by Sharon Amann

We are looking forward to our Lodge's annual picnic on June 17. The food will be great; fried chicken, potato salad, ramen noodle salad, baked beans, plus trimmings, and, of course, dessert. Members will pay \$5, non-members will pay \$10. The Lodge will make up the difference. **Please RSVP to Connie Chrissis at cjchrissis@comcast.net or 651-276-7226 by Thursday, June 12.** We need a head count so we know how much chicken to order.



This is always such a special event because we have an extended amount of time to visit with everyone in such a pleasant setting. Susan Stow will have us dance around the May Pole, and there will be games to play.

We will be gathering at Island Lake Park, as usual, and we will eat at 6. Please come earlier to choose and set your table and then to socialize with everyone. It is your responsibility to bring your own plates, and flatware, as well as beverages. You are allowed to bring wine. We will provide coffee. **The park does not allow glass, so please make certain to keep that in mind when choosing your plates and beverage containers.**



Island Lake County Park

3611 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN 55126

You'll find our group at Picnic Shelter #2, which is to the right once you've come in through the park entrance. You'll see Norwegian flags to mark the way!

What You Missed...



If you missed our May meeting, you missed something really special! We had a triple header of a time. We celebrated Syttende Mai with hot dogs wrapped in lefse (compliments of Gary Legwold), were served fresh waffles with lingonberries and other assorted jams and cream, and honored Ruth Gibson for her milestone 100th birthday with birthday cake (See pictures). Lawrence Moe, PhD, gave a wonderful talk on the migration from Norway.

If you miss a meeting, you miss a lot! Lots of fun, fellowship, food and information.



President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope you are all in great health. I've been talking to the people in charge of the old Festival of Nations. It will have a new name, and more information to follow.

We're having a picnic! Please come to eat and have fun and fellowship. Call Connie to RSVP. Thank you.

Please go to see New Land, New Life on display at the Landmark Center June 10-30.

See you all at the picnic. Have a great summer, and then we'll see you all in September.

Kathy Kaluza, Synnøve-Nordkap President

Help Wanted!

Synnove-Nordkap Lodge Silent Auction Fundraiser

Our lodge, Synnove-Nordkap, is seeking a dedicated member to take over the management of the Silent Auction fundraiser at the Taste of Scandinavia event this fall. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to our lodge's community and help make the event a memorable success.

Please contact Ron Stow at 612-845-0393 for more details. He will be glad to assist you. Takk!

Membership Directory Updates

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We're trying to organize our Membership Directory, so we will ask you to verify and/or update your information at the picnic and at our September meeting. Please check out what is in our current directory, and then give us new information or any corrections. It seems that many have given up landlines, or have that plus a cell phone. Thanks in advance for your help getting this updated.

The Midnight Sun of Northern Norway

By Judy Stanke

(Originally published in the July-August 2012 SynNor Brevet — republished by permission of the author.)

The midnight sun is a natural phenomenon which occurs in the far northern latitudes, including parts of Norway, when the sun is visible for 24 hours continuously. The further one goes north, the more days per year this phenomenon occurs. During the winter, the opposite phenomenon, known as polar night, occurs in which the sun stays below the horizon all day long. To view some beautiful time-lapse photography of what the photographer calls "The Arctic Light" click here: <http://vimeo.com/24456787>



Midnight Sun above the North Cape (photo from www.nordkapp.no)

Approximate dates when you can see the midnight sun in Norway

Where:	When:
The Arctic Circle	12 June - 1 July
Bodø	4 June - 8 July
Svolvær	28 May - 14 July
Harstad	25 May - 18 July
Bardufoss	23 May - 19 July
Andenes	22 May - 21 July
Tromsø	20 May - 22 July
Bossekopp	19 May - 24 July
Vardø	17 May - 26 July
Hammerfest	16 May - 27 July
Berlevåg	15 May - 28 July
The North Cape	14 May - 29 July
Longyearbyen (Svalbard)	20 April - 22 Aug.



This is a unique year for all Norwegian organizations, marking the 1825-2025 celebration of the crossing of the Restauration from Norway to the United States. In 1925, the President of the United States spoke at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds as part of the program, and thousands of people attended.

New Land, New Life! Norwegian Immigration in Minnesota 1825-1925 is the title of the presentation panels developed by Synnove-Nordkapp. Now that we have the improved presentation panels, they are being shown in several locations. June 10-30 they can be seen in St. Paul at the Landmark Center in The Butler Room/Courtroom 326.

We have had some special opportunities thus far. Some of us attended special Syttende Mai celebrations, which were excellent. The King's Guard from Norway had wonderful performances. Tuesday Open House had a special day-long seminar on June 3, again featuring the New Land, New Life theme.

For the remainder of the summer, several lags are featuring special commemorative programming. One can also attend if you are not a member. Go to Fellesraad.com for more information.

There is a conference at St Olaf coordinated by the Norwegian-American Historical Association entitled *Crossings and Connections* from June 18 -22. There is information on the website, <https://pages.stolaf.edu/cc2025/>

If you wish to stay at home for something special, Nordic Spirit Classics, which is a program from California Lutheran, has an online program the second Friday of each month at 9:30 pm our time. You can get added to the Zoom link distribution list by emailing nordicspiritclassics@gmail.com. Links are sent the morning of the session.

The location for most information on special activities is the Crossings website! crossings.norwegianamerican.com

Hip Hip Hurra for Syttende Mai!

Laughter, music, colorful bunads of many different Fylke (counties), and plenty of hot dogs and ice cream were evident for the celebration of Syttende Mai. All this started after the 11:00 Norwegian church service at Mindekirken with a band leading a parade around the neighborhood directly after the service.

Before a short program rehearsal, our Peer Gynt dancers made a spirited Face time call to Emma who is at home recovering from surgery. We miss her and wish her well!

Our Director, Jana Velo, made a colorful upbeat announcement sheet for any families who show interest in joining the group in September.

The performance was excellent and very well received by a large audience. Almost all of the wooden outdoor dance floor was crowded with volunteers who wanted to try the *Farandole* line dance lead by Anders. Our dancers gave a rousing "Hipp, hipp hurra hurra hurra!" before leaving the stage.

As we are celebrating 200 years of Norwegian emigration on the ship *Restaurasjonen*, it was especially significant that there is a model of that sailing vessel suspended from the central aisle ceiling of Mindekirken's sanctuary. It was July 5th, 1825 when 52 Norwegians set sail from Stavanger on a three month voyage. Surprisingly, fifty-three people arrived as a baby was delivered en route.



The Peer Gynt Norwegian Dancers

invite you to...

BLI MED – JOIN US!



What we do:

- Meet one Saturday a month
- Learn about Norwegian culture, food, language, sports
- Dance at local events
- Offer scholarships to Norwegian camps and college

Families with kids 7-17,
join us in September!

Find more info here

Or reach out to:

peergyntdancers@gmail.com



Upcoming Local Events



Nordic Midsummer Fest

Nordic Midsummer Fest is a celebration of Nordic culture and heritage. The festival features traditional Nordic food, music, dance, and crafts. There will also be a variety of activities for children, including face painting, and games. The

festival is a great opportunity to learn about Nordic culture and to enjoy a day of fun and festivities.

Norway Day was held from the mid 1950's up until 2015 at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. Nordic Midsummer Fest will be picking up on the old traditional aspects of the Norway Day celebration and adding new interesting takes on our Nordic heritage. We will have all the Nordic food traditions, new Nordic Brews, Nordic music/entertainment, a Midsummer bonfire, Minnesota authors writing about the Nordic ways, children's activities, and local vendors creating new Nordic traditions including clothing, jewelry and Viking items. This is a family friendly event, so please stop by to be a part of this new Nordic event at Utepils Brewery in Minneapolis!

PLAN TO JOIN US ON OUR NEW DATE
Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 11am to 6pm
at UTEPILS BREWING, 225 Thomas Ave North
Minneapolis, Minnesota

FREE ADMISSION

Minnesota Twins

Norwegian Heritage Day

Prepare to experience the richness of Norwegian heritage as we celebrate the lively essence of Norwegian culture! Join the Minnesota Twins for "Norwegian Heritage Day" at Target Field on Sunday, August 10, as they take on the Kansas City Royals at 1:10 p.m.

This special "Norwegian Heritage Day" ticket package includes your ticket to the game plus an exclusive Norwegian Day Twins t-shirt!

<https://www.mlb.com/twins/tickets/specials/norwegian-heritage>



Viking Navigation

by Don Halvorson

Originally published by Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge in the July/August 2019 SynNor Brevet.

Printed with the permission of Synnøve-Nordkap and the family of Don Halvorson.

For the early Norseman there were no modern navigation tools. Yet, long before the Viking period had begun, people near the sea had set out in boats to travel and trade with others up and down the coast of Scandinavia. Their trade goods included flints, furs, sealskin, amber, antlers and grain.

Through time, as boat building continued to evolve, navigational skills remained unchanged. Much of what they knew was based on sensory observation, the ways of nature and the wayfaring experiences of those who had successfully gone before them. The Northmen understood the concept of the four directions. Lacking a magnetic compass, they watched the horizon and followed the sun's path across the sky. At night they studied the stars. They also understood how to read weather patterns, and how a passing high or low pressure would affect which direction to travel. When traveling along a coastline, they depended on recalled landmarks: an unusually shaped rock or the contour of a familiar hilltop. Along with sight, they used their other senses. In fog, they used their sense of hearing to determine how close they were to land. They listened for the chirping of birds and the sound of waves breaking against the shoreline. The sense of touch could be used to determine the speed and direction of the wind. For an experienced sailor, the sense of smell was important in deciding how close to land they were. A seasoned nose could pick up the scent of coastline trees, plants, even smoke or fire. Finally, seasoned Vikings used their developed sense of taste. It is believed that well traveled sailors had conditioned their taste buds over time to even recognize fresh water flowing from land into seawater.

Knowledge of nature played a large role in Viking navigation. Watching birds was especially useful. Many species were regional and did not travel far from land. Recognition of certain birds could be an indication that land was not that far away. Whales often were found in currents where fish were running. Spotting whales where they expected them to be found helped confirm that they were on course. Seafaring Vikings often carried ravens aboard. At sea they would release and follow them in hope of finding land.

A few navigational tools did exist. One was an elaborately crafted bronze weather vane mounted on the bow or masthead of the ship. It often depicted a mythological theme and was decorated with the



interlaced scrollwork so often found in metal pieces of this period. Its main purpose was to provide an exact direction of the wind, so that the helmsman could control the proper sailing angle and stay on course. The most



functional instrument was a sun board, best used on a clear day. This was a navigational sundial that depicted points of the compass instead of hours of the day. By taking a bearing from the board

when the sun rose in the east in the morning, or set in the west in the evening, travelers could maintain their course by merely checking their triangulation once a day. During cloudy conditions the Vikings used a sunstone, a piece of a calcite mineral crystal called cordierite. Found only in Scandinavia and Iceland, this rock changes color from yellow to blue when held at a right angle to the polarizing rays of the sun. It was originally sought after as a decorative stone in Viking jewelry, until someone discovered its true value as an invaluable Viking navigational aid. Once close to land another navigation tool, a plumb bob, was used. This was a pointed weight, suspended by a rope or string, dropped over the side of a boat to determine the water depth. But it was also an important tool for collecting samples of the shallow seabed, to discover through the use of the five senses, what lay just below the surface of this new land.



How Vikings navigated the World
scienordic.com/howvikings-navigated-world

Robert Wernick *The Vikings The Seafarers Time-Life Books* pp.54-55

Bulletin Board

Hardanger Embroidery

The Hardanger Embroidery group is taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting in September.



Logging Our Volunteer Hours

A reminder for everyone to keep track of Volunteer Hours for lodge-related activities for the year and fill out a form, returning it to LaRee Opdal at the summer picnic or at the September meeting.

Norwegian Language Classes

Tuesday Class: September 9. 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Church before the Lodge Meeting. We will share **Travel to Norway Hints and Phrases**.

Wednesday Class: September 10 & 24, 1:00-2:45 p.m. at SunRay Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119. We will study **Norwegian Fairy Tales** with Audrey Waage.

WELCOME to new members! You can join our classes at any time!

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

With sadness, we share this news about Sylvia Vaala's death. Sylvia was a former long-time member who really enjoyed her Norwegian heritage. In the past few years, due to health issues, she was no longer able to attend meetings. Click here for her full obituary: <https://thepetersonchapel.com/sylvia-ann-vaala/>

Sylvia Ann Vaala

November 25, 1947 – April 16, 2025



Sylvia Ann Vaala passed away on April 16, 2025 after facing an aggressive form of cancer. She was born on November 25, 1947 in Saude, Iowa and later made South Minneapolis her longtime home.

She was a dedicated volunteer at Minneapolis public libraries and was a familiar face on bike paths all across the metro. She stayed active and connected through a variety of groups—knitting circles, Norwegian language classes, the YWCA, Native Plant Society, and the Mindekirken Norwegian Language & Culture Programs. She loved researching and learning about numerous topics from art to plants to her family genealogy.

Sunshine News

Please contact Sharon Amann if you become aware of the death or illness of members so I can send a card from the Lodge.

H/651-631-0399,
C/ 651-706-9700.

Thanks in advance for keeping me informed.

For Information:

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

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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, 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/>

Date	Event	Location
Monday, June 2, 6:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (All lodge members are welcome)	Ramsey County Library Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Dr. Maplewood, MN 55109
Tuesday, June 17 6:00-8:00pm	Lodge Picnic	Island Lake County Park (Picnic Shelter #2) 3611 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN 55126
Tuesday, September 9, 5:30 - 6:00	Norwegian Language Lesson	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55116
Wednesday, September 10 & 24, 1:00 - 2:30 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	SunRay Library 2105 Wilson Ave. St. Paul, MN 55119