

SynNor Brevet

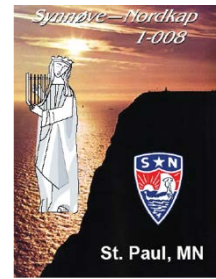


Synnøve-Nordkap

Lodge #1 - 008

September 2025

Issue Number 25 - 08

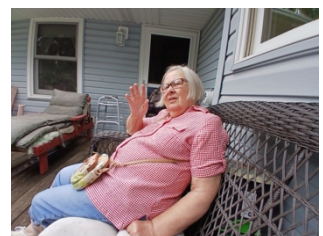


Front Page News

FELLOWSHIP • FUN • FOOD

On Monday, August 18, sixteen of our Lodge members experienced all the above-mentioned 3Fs on Ruth Gibson's deck. Even the weather cooperated. There were heavy storms with lots of thunder and lightning in the wee hours, but we all had lovely dry time with even a bit of sunshine that peeked through the clouds. Several members brought wonderful cookies, bars, fruit, and beverages to share.

Members attending were: Sandra Bestland, Dana Carlson, Pat Carlson, Char and Clay Lance, Kathy Kaluza, Jean Knaak, LaRee and Loren Opdahl, Susan and Ron Stow, Happy and Randy Youngs, Marilyn Erickson, Sharon Amann, and of course, the "hostess with the mostess"—Ruth Gibson. Thanks so much, Ruth, for providing the venue for us to enjoy one another for summer fun!



The Church Basement Ladies are always such a hoot! We mentioned the availability to this event at the Lodge Picnic on June 17, and all 14 tickets were snapped up. On Thursday, August 14th, we enjoyed a buffet lunch and matinee to see the newest rendition of this on-going group. Most of the cast were from the original actors of 20 years ago. The dialogue and songs are warmly funny and clever. Much of the fun is that we can see ourselves and our friends reflected in this Scandinavian humor. Good clean fun! Members attending: Pat Carlson, Connie Chrissis, Jill Hanson, Sheryl Hove, Kathy Kaluza, Jean Knaak, Jane & Gary Legwold, Dave Mutchler, LaRee & Loren Opdahl, Happy & Randy Youngs, Sharon Amann.

LOOKING AHEAD:

We have our Fall Kick Off meeting on September 9. Social meetings are still starting at 6pm with the wonderful Light Suppers prepared by Happy and Randy Youngs. The menu will be Bar-B-Ques, coleslaw, and pickles. Please remember to give them "High Fives" for being so faithful cooking and serving us this great food!

Desserts are provided by members who sign up with Pat Carlson and Dianne Anderson. Please contact them to volunteer to bring treats for the upcoming meetings.

Pat's phone: 651-373-0276, or speak with her at a meeting.

January & February Meetings????

We brought this subject up at the picnic, so this is just a memory jogger. January and February have weather concerns as well as the darkness factor. The Board has some thoughts:

- Not having January and February in person meetings, but having meetings in July and August
- Zoom those meetings (and we know that many of you do not have capabilities to do this...

We need feedback from you, the members, in order to make decisions. *Please give this thought, as we will be voting on this at the September meeting.*

President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope are all in good health. I hope your summer was good. This year's is going fast.

The next meeting is September 9th.

We have a lot of fun things to do ahead of us. Taste of Scandinavia is Saturday, November 1st. Please mark the day, we'll need a lot of help. Thank you!

See you all soon,

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!

Upcoming Lodge Programs and Events

Our September meeting will kick off with *Cleaning and Gleaning – Cemeteries with Alan Olson*.

Many of us visit and attempt to improve our family cemeteries, and it is largely an attempt. We will learn about the knowledge that can be gained from cemeteries for our genealogy records, how to clean up years of grime from headstones, how to straighten headstones, and a lot of cemetery information that is new.

Alan Olson is a White Bear Lake graduate, an engineering graduate from South Dakota State University, and is employed in the engineering field. He has recently become more active in Norwegian organizations. His interest in cemeteries started at Fort Snelling.



October Program: Why is Oct 9 chosen for Leif Erikson Day? Because the ship Restauration, coming from Stavanger, Norway, arrived on October 9.

Our own Leif Erikson was chosen as the Leif Erickson while a teenager for the first Leif Erickson Day. He will present his story, starting with his selection, his experiences in Washington D.C., and a clip of him speaking at this occasion.

These are two great programs, not to be missed!

Taste of Scandinavia is Saturday, November 1. Please mark your calendars and think about who you can invite to this annual event. The past two years have been stellar.

- The Scandinavian food favorites are abundant and delicious
- The dessert buffet is beyond belief
- The bake sale supplies tasty treats to kick off holiday temptations
- Bestefor's Closet provides items you don't even realize you need
- Our Silent Auction is always packed with amazing treasures.

We need someone to volunteer to take on the responsibility of this important fund raiser for the Lodge. Ron Stow will help train and assist, but he needs to step out of chairing this committee.

"Taste" is our major Lodge fundraiser. All of the food that is served is donated by membership. We cannot thank each of you enough for volunteering to bring food items, as well as donating Silent Auction items, and stuff (your stuff could well be some else's treasure) for Bestefor's Closet.

The Restauration Sails Away

By Luella Grangaard, International Board Chair

I was invited by District 8 Sons of Norway to participate in events commemorating 200 years since the initial launch of the Restauration in Stavanger, Norway July 3 & 4.

Many people in Norway participated in these events, including three generations of the Royal Family, dignitaries, politicians, Sons of Norway members and members of the public, who gathered to commemorate 200 years of organized migration to North America and to wish a safe passage to the crew of the Restauration. We also celebrated the strong ties between Norway and North America.

In Stavanger I was warmly received and hosted by members from District 8, Ryfylke Lodge and Eilert Lunde the lodge president and coordinator of Crossings 200 representing Sons of Norway in the Stavanger area. I sincerely appreciate everything they did to help plan my trip and guide me to each event. Fraternal Manager Jana Velo was also able to attend and photograph the events, as a representative of Viking magazine.

While in Stavanger, I had a chance to visit Sverd i Fjell (the three swords in the rock), the Maritime Museum where they had a display of the Restauration and Ledaal, the Kings residence. I enjoyed a visit and dinner with Eilert Lunde's family and board members of Ryfylke Lodge. I met over 60 members of Sons of Norway from various lodges in the area and enjoyed lunch with them. From there we went to Fiskepiren, the pier where the Restauration was docked to receive gifts from various organizations, including Sons of Norway Foundation. I presented a check on behalf of the Foundation and was able to say a few words on behalf of Sons of Norway and the Sons of Norway Foundation on the boat. That evening there was a celebration of the migration with a program and meal. At this event they tried to recreate the foods of 1825 including bread made on the ship with Madeira wine from a cask found floating in the Atlantic by the crew of the original Restauration.



The big day—the 4th of July—I was able to attend a service at the Domkirke (Stavanger Cathedral) with Eilert Lunde. There I was able to see the King, Queen, Crown Prince and Princess and the Princess and Prince. It was a lovely service. We then proceeded to the harbor to see the Restauration waiting to start its journey. Jana, Eilert and I boarded a ferry to Randaberg. From the ferry we again saw the whole Royal Family board small boats to take them to the Royal yacht, Norge. The ferry along with the Royal yacht and many, many boats escorted the Restauration out of the harbor. Even Eilert's son and grandchildren followed in their boat waving Norwegian flags. It was an amazing sight.

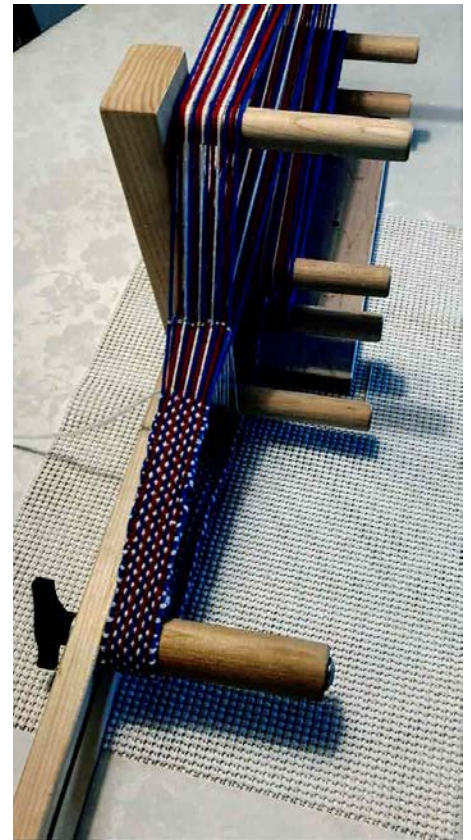
At Randaberg we docked and were met by the mayor, walked a red carpet and were part of the group including US consuls for Norway. We watched the Restauration once again dock, and ministers of Norway disembarked from the ship and I met the Minister of the Environment and the Stavanger Tourism representative. There was a beautiful locally sourced lunch. Then we were off to the concert hall for exhibits including Sons of Norway, music and later a musical program on the migration.

What an honor it was to represent Sons of Norway and to participate in all these events. It was an amazing opportunity. I can't wait to see the United States welcome the Restauration on October 9th in New York. This event is so important to all of us who have a connection to Norway on both sides of the Atlantic. I hope each of you have an opportunity to attend an event whether at your lodge, online or—better yet—for those in the U.S., attend one of the welcoming events for the Restauration and be a part of history.

Junior Lodge Update

A colorful bunad accessory for men and boys is called *Sokkebunner* or *Sokkeholder*, which translates to garters in English. When we think of a garter now, it has elastic to fasten a garment. Norwegian Men's bunads are with wool knickers to the knee, more often than with long trousers. The accompanying socks are handknit with an attractive cable pattern. They do not have any elastic at the top of the stocking to keep it in place, hence the use of sokkeholder. These traditional "garters" are woven in a variety of colors and tied around each leg under the cuffs of the knickers. Only the tassels and a short bit of the woven wool can be seen.

Early in the 1980's, members of the senior lodge volunteered to braid red, white and blue yarn to create some sokkeholder for the Peer Gynt boys. At one time, there were many boys in our dance group so that we had boy/girl dancing partners.



Somehow many of the pairs of braided "garters" have gone on to another time warp necessitating a need for new ones. Rather than braiding, all the Peer Gynt boys will be sporting woven sokkeholder this fall.

Our first meeting of the 2025-2026 season will be on Saturday, September 13th from 1-2:30 at our new rehearsal space in St. Paul. Check out our blog for news and updates.

<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com>

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



The Legend of Peer Gynt

by Don Halvorson

Originally published by Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge in the September 2019 SynNor Brevet.

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The folk tale character Peer Gynt first appeared in Peter Christen Asbjørnsen's 1845 collection, Norwegian Folk Tales, in a selection called Reindeer Hunting in Rondane. The story is believed to have sprung from the Nordre Håga farm in

Sørdorp parish near Vinstra in the region of Gudbrandsdal. The lives of Peder Lauritson and Per Olsen Håga, two men living in the farmhouse, seem to be the inspiration for the tale, but scholars can't seem to decide which man contributed more.

This story follows a common folk tale theme. Peer Gynt, a young, likeable but shiftless peasant farmer, decides to run away from his rural home and his constantly nagging mother, to look for adventure and find his own personal fortune. His first destination is the wedding of his neighbor's daughter, his once intended, who had passed him over for someone more responsible. Once there, he finds that his reputation has preceded him, and by most, he is treated with contempt or indifference. Only Solvieg, a beautiful newcomer, seems intrigued, until she is forewarned of his credibility. Totally enraged by the whole scene, Peer then drinks too much, steals the bride and charges up a nearby mountain and into the wilderness.

With that begins a series of incredible adventures. He first deserts the bride, and heads deeper into the unknown. He reaches the Hall of the Mountain King where he marries, and later deserts the Elf King's daughter. Next he stumbles across the Great Boyg, an enigmatic invisible wall that refuses him passage to the top of the mountain. Only the sounds of church bells and women's voices are mysteriously strong enough to break the Boyg's power.

Once on top of the mountain, Peer built a cabin in the middle of the woods, and one day to his surprise, Solvieg appeared, expressing her undying love for him. There they lived in their hidden existence, until the Elf's daughter and her homely son found them. When the two would not be driven off, noble Peer chose to slip away alone, at night, leaving Solvieg there to fend for herself.

From there he returned home to say farewell to his dying mother. Then he was gone again, traveling the world. He sold rum and Bibles, and spent time in America and China. He became an Arabian prophet on the edge of the African desert and ran away with a dancing girl, who stole his money as soon as he turned his back on her. Later he was crowned King of the Lunatics in an insane asylum and then became an archeologist in Egypt, where he solved the riddle of the Sphinx. Finally, he had all the money he wanted, but no happiness. It was time to go home. While returning to Norway, the ship he was traveling on sank in a storm. He and the ship's cook were the only survivors, clinging to a piece of wood that was barely large enough to carry one. Typically, Peer wrestled the cook off the board, so that he could save himself. Once he finally reached home, Peer returned to the cabin in the woods, where he found Solvieg faithfully waiting for him.

Henrik Ibsen and Edvard Grieg collaborated on the play and accompanying suite that told the story of Peer Gynt. At first, Grieg was reluctant to compose the music for what he considered such an irreverent play, but then later changed his mind. Happily for both artists, the play was an overwhelming national success, but received harsh criticism on the continent from Hans Christian Andersen. Grieg's composition was praised for its lyricism, and the wide range of changing styles that blended so well with the travels and experiences of Peer Gynt throughout the play. Ibsen's play was a satire on the contemporary Norwegian identity. It's setting was the Jotunheimen, the tall mountain chain where trolls, giants and elves are still believed to live.

PEER GYNT - theatre history

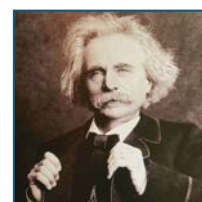
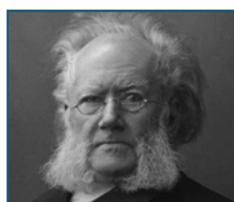
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Peer Gynt | work by Grieg | Britannica.com

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Peer-Gynt-by-Grieg>

Peer: Men, Myths, Legends | The Gynt Project

<https://thegyntproject.com/history/peer-men-myth-legend>



Henrik Ibsen (left)
and Edvard Grieg
(right)

Hardanger Embroidery

The Hardanger embroidery group will meet on Friday, September 19th at 10 at the home of our instructor, Dolores Jacobson. (161 Wedgewood Dr., Mahtomedi, MN.)

It would be a great time for new members to come and start their first project. You are most welcome to join in the fun!

We have plenty of fabric, thread, needles and patterns. *Please bring a pair of small, very sharp scissors.*

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

Sunshine News

It is with much sadness that I share news of the deaths of 2 of our much-loved and long-time members:

Joanne Englund

Joanne passed away on August 15, 2025. She was 95 years old. May Joanne's memory bring comfort to all who knew her.

A Memorial Service will be held on October 12, 2025, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Shoreview Community Center 4580 Victoria St. N. Program at 4:00 PM.

See obituary at
<https://www.twincities.com/obituaries/joanne-alfreda-ne-wickoren-englund/>

Erna McGuire

Long time Synnøve-Nordkap member Erna McGuire, age 102, passed away on August 18.

A Funeral service was held on Saturday, August 30 at Urland Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls.

See obituary at
<https://www.kandt-tetrack.com/obituaries/Erna-B-Mcguire?obId=44359323>

Cards have been sent to their respective families.

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 Opdahl at the September meeting.

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:

Kathy Kaluza, President:
kaluzakathy@gmail.com

Becky Foro, Brevet Editor:
rebeccajean_w@yahoo.com

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

SynNor Brevet
289 Karen Dr., Unit 403
Woodbury, MN 55129-5722

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
Tuesday, September 9, 5:30 - 6:00	Norwegian Language Lesson	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55116
Tuesday, September 9 6:00-8:00pm	Lodge Meeting	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
Monday, October 6, 6:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (All lodge members are welcome)	Ramsey County Library Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Dr. Maplewood, MN 55109