



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge 1-008
St. Paul, MN

April 2026
Issue Number 26 - 04



Front Page News

April Program

At our April meeting, lodge members Lowell Johnson and Chris Bales will be sharing a presentation on woodcarving, and sharing some of their projects.

Lowell Johnson is a 15-year member of Synnøve-Nordkap, a former Board member and officer, including Past President. His interest in woodworking began when he inherited various tools and equipment after his father's death. He is proud to carry on a hobby that represents his Norwegian heritage and also is done in remembrance of his father and other family descendants known to have been skilled carpenters. His areas of interest in woodworking are varied, ranging from furniture making to smaller gift items and keepsakes. He is currently developing new skills in woodturning, by making items such as pens, bowls, bottle stoppers and various kitchen tools on his lathe. He completed the Sons of Norway Chip Carving Cultural Skills program.

Chris Bales is a 4 year member of Synnøve-Nordkap. His interest in woodworking actually began because of Sons of Norway. After he joined the lodge, he was looking at the website and the different member resources, and discovered the Cultural Skills program. The figure carving unit caught his eye, and he began researching figure carving on YouTube. He started out carving small figures (gnomes, pumpkins, ghosts) until he took a class on Scandinavian figure carving last summer. Today he is learning to carve larger figures and four years after joining the lodge, he earned his first pin in figure carving from the Cultural Skills Program that started his interest.

UPCOMING CONTEST

It was so much fun to have the Chili Cookoff Contest last year that we decided to tweak it by expanding it to soups rather than just chili. As mentioned in the March Brevet and at our March lodge meeting, we are planning a Tastiest Soup Competition for our lodge meeting on April 14. We will taste and vote for the evening's favorite, then continue to enjoy all the soups!

Some of our members signed up to bring their favorite soup, however, we could use a couple more soup entries.

Email Sharon Amann (slamann@comcast.net) to sign up to bring a soup or to contribute: dinner rolls, butter, honey, corn bread, or a salad as accompaniments to our delicious soups.



President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope you are in good health.

Our lodge is getting ready for the International Festival of Minnesota on April 10 and April 11.

Our April lodge meeting is going to be great. There will a soup contest, and Chris and Lowell are going to talk about woodworking.

I hope you all had a great Easter.

See you all soon,

Kathy Kaluza
Synnøve-Nordkap President

2026 Lodge Scholarship Applications Now Available

Applications for scholarships available from Synnøve-Nordkap for 2026 are now available on the Lodge website <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/>. Junior Lodge members as well as children or grandchildren of active lodge members are eligible to apply for language camp (deadline May 15th) scholarships for 2026. Information, applications, and links to language camp scholarships and additional Sons of Norway resources/scholarships can be found by following the above link. In-person camps are currently planned for Skogfjorden, a Norwegian language immersion camp, for summer 2026.

Synnøve-Nordkap also offers adult lodge members the opportunity to apply for the Nordic Experiences Scholarship on a year-round basis to help with the cost of exploring their cultural heritage from a regional folk school, local museum, or even language camp. Visit the above link for additional information and the application.



DISTRICT NEWS

Convention Delegates from our lodge are: Kathy Kaluza, Sharon Amann, LaRee Opdahl, and Andy Chrissis. Their names have been submitted to District Secretary Carolyn Townsend for record.

This year's Sons of Norway District 1 Convention will be in Willmar, MN, June 25 to 27. Non-Delegate attendees are invited and welcome to attend any of the sessions.

Visit <https://sonsofnorwaydistrict1.regfox.com/sons-of-norway-district-1-convention> if you'd like to register to attend.

This year's convention will coincide with Willmar Fest occurring June 24 to 28.

International Festival Returning

We will be participating in the International Festival of Minnesota this year, formerly known as Festival of Nations. The dates are Friday April 10th and Saturday April 11th. We will be needing many volunteers for setting up the booth and staffing the cafe. Please reach out to Kathy Kaluza or Pat Carlson if you have questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

Check out the official website at ifestmn.org for more information about the festival in general.

Lodge News (continued)

Several lodge members gathered in the Gustavus Adolphus Church kitchen on April 6 and spent the morning preparing krumkake to sell at our booth during the upcoming International Festival of Minnesota.



Sons of Norway Book Club

April books:

Main Selection

Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants — by Odd S. Lovoll

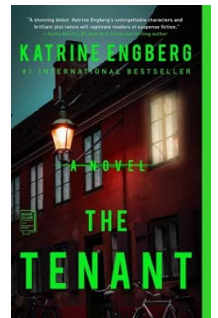
Synopsis: *Across the Deep Blue Sea* investigates a chapter in Norwegian immigration history that has never been fully told before. Odd S. Lovoll relates how Quebec, Montreal, and other port cities in Canada became the gateway for Norwegian emigrants to North America, replacing New York as the main destination from 1850 until the late 1860s. During those years, 94 percent of Norwegian emigrants landed in Canada.



Mystery Selection

The Tenant — by Katrine Engberg

Synopsis: When a young woman is discovered brutally murdered in her own apartment with an intricate pattern of lines carved into her face, Copenhagen police detectives Jeppe Kørner and Anette Werner are assigned to the case. In short order, they establish a link between the victim, Julie Stender, and her landlady, Esther de Laurenti, who's a bit too fond of drink and the host of raucous dinner parties with her artist friends. Esther also turns out to be a budding novelist—and when Julie turns up as a murder victim in the still-unfinished mystery she's writing, the link between fiction and real life grows both more urgent and more dangerous.



Discussions take place on the last Monday of each month at 8:30 PM Central & the last Thursday of each month at 7 PM Central. All members have the option of joining either meeting.

To Join the Sons of Norway Book Club: Email your name, Lodge name and number to: SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com



Image credit: dokaspar, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

A New Stave Church

During the Middle Ages, while builders across Europe were creating cathedrals made of stone and glass, in Norway arose a different type of church. Stave churches were built with wood and named after the post and lintel construction that was used to make them.

It is believed that at one point, there were anywhere from 1,000 – 2,000 of these structures around Norway. Today, fewer than 30 survive. However, one more will be added to the roster by 2030, if all goes to plan. What makes this project unique is that the plan is to create a new stave church using only the tools and methods that would have been originally used. No cranes or power tools, just pure craftsmanship and hard work. This labor of love has a team of over 1,000 people lending their time and talents to bring this vision to life.

The building site is in Setesdal, a valley in Southern Norway. While the area used to have the Hylestad stave church, it was destroyed in 1664. The new stave church will be built near that original site, using the Borgund stave church in Lærdal as its blueprint.

Those working on this passion project soon found out their enthusiasm was contagious, and interest was sparked both in and outside of Norway. The team believes this will ultimately lead to other business opportunities for the area and be an asset to the community.

Sources:

[A new stave church is rising in Setesdal, Norway « Adafruit Industries – Makers, hackers, artists, designers and engineers!](#)
[How to build a stave church](#)
[Stave church | Norwegian, Viking, Architecture | Britannica](#)

Medieval Ring Discovered

A shiny gold ring with a blue gemstone was recently unearthed in Norway's oldest city of Tønsberg. Archeologist Linda Åsheim from the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage was on a dig in the southeastern Norwegian town, which dates back to 871 C.E.

On the day that Åsheim dug up the ring, she happened to be the lone archaeologist on site, so there was no one to compare notes with. She told Popular Science "I was a bit uncertain if it was a genuine medieval ring, but the more I looked at it, the more certain I became."

The ring is in such great shape, it could have been created in modern times. The setting includes filigree ornamentation and a blue gemstone which has not yet been determined to be sapphire or blue glass.

Åsheim found the jewelry right below another layer of artifacts, which were carbon dated back to 1150-1250. This would place the ring in the medieval period, at about 800 years old.

A single piece of jewelry can reveal a lot about local society and history. A small ring made of lavish materials may have been worn by a woman of considerable wealth. It also tells us that Tønsberg, a town of tradesfolk, may have been more worldly than previously thought and could have had broader connections to Europe.



Image credit: Johanne Torheim, NIKU, via popsci.com

The Ice Front

by Don Halvorson

*Originally published by Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge in the September 2020 SynNor Brevet.
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For most Norwegians, the morning of April 9, 1940 was life changing. They woke up to a new reality: Norway had been invaded. The King and his family had left Oslo with the country's gold, and the Germans and their puppet government had taken control. Eventually, as the shock had begun to wear off, those who were trained to fight would quietly slip away to find their old units, hoping to fight another day. Other young men would melt into the mountains or make their way to England to be trained in the tactics of subversion and sabotage. For most of those left behind, there was the overwhelming need to resist but not the knowledge to do so.

The first sign of resistance was the underground press. This press provided Norwegians with real truth, not the flow of Nazi propaganda that was now found everywhere. Over the length of the occupation, three hundred illegal newspapers were started. Always in peril, they would continue to provide a strong spark for rekindling Norwegian nationalism and patriotic ideals.

Carefully hidden radios, tuned to the BBC, also provided a more realistic picture of what was going on outside Norway. Radio sets were also a vital tool for underground agents passing on strategic information to their military people in London. Those radios were often confiscated by the Germans but were continually replaced via an underground pipeline from England.

Although a 1942 Nazi ordinance mandated death for any ridicule shown towards a German soldier, Norwegians simply continued to ignore this decree with a tactic called the ice front. By isolating the Germans and their Nasjonal Samling lackeys from themselves, Norwegians coldly ignored them, allowing them to show their true feelings towards their captors and still keep from cleverly remaining out of harm's way. Evidence of this ice front was common everywhere. A German soldier sitting alone on a bus or tram would be left alone, no matter how many empty seats remained around him. Nazi-owned businesses were totally off limits. Norwegians refused to speak German, even though it was a widely spoken language in Norway at the time. Germans on the street asking for directions were always sent in the wrong way.



Symbolism was also used for bolstering morale. Red stocking caps were worn as a tribute to the king in exile. Carrying a matchstick in a breast pocket symbolized their flaming hatred for their Nazi oppressors. Many began wearing the royal monogram, H7, of King Haakon as pins or broaches on their clothing and brazenly painting the monogram on walls of buildings all over the city. A college student came up with the most inventive symbol, wearing a paper clip on a lapel or the cuff of a shirt, symbolically binding Norwegians together against the enemy. Sweet peas were also worn on their jacket lapels during the King's birthday, since peas in Norwegian, *erter*, also means to tease in English.



Using humor was also a popular way to poke fun at the Germans and their Nazi collaborators. Norwegians wrote down humorous episodes, passed on witty remarks to others, and told inside jokes at the expense of their antagonists. They created insulting personal ads, cartoons, and Christmas cards. They printed anti Nazi postage stamps, kept damning personal diaries, and wrote allegorical children's stories using their own folklore to mask the story's real intent. Using occupation humor and the ice front mentality against their oppressors was the Norwegians' way to cope with and rise above their 5 years of dominance and adversity.

Norwegian Civil Resistance of the Nazi Occupation: 1940-1945
<https://gns.wisc.edu/2019/11/11/norwegian-civil-resistance-of-the-nazi-occupation-1940-1945/>

Peer Gynt Dancers Update Dance Demo and Accordion Tunes

By Jana Velo

At our March meeting, the Peer Gynt Dancers welcomed accordionist Art Bjornjeld, who told stories about growing up in a family of accomplished accordionists. He played other instruments yet didn't accept the squeezebox into his heart until his 30s. Now he's performed for over 30 years at festivals, in schools and at the Twin Cities Nordic Ball.

We learned the Paper Plate Mixer that will be done at Syttende Mai, and also learned a new dance called "Tretur fra Strandvik", which involves a pretend tiff between dancers. Art can pick up most tunes by ear, so he spontaneously played both of these songs for us to dance to.



Coming up at our **April 4** rehearsal, we'll continue with this year's theme of Norwegian folk music. **Mary Klockeman**, Norwegian folk singer and cow caller, will visit us and sing some Norwegian stev or folk songs.

April 11th, our tween and teen dancers will perform on the Teen stage at the International Festival of Minnesota, after a long hiatus from Festival of Nations. This year, the youth dancers have their own stage in the cafe section. Peer Gynt will be on stage near the top of the 11 a.m. hour. Don't be tardy, as the set is a brief 10 minutes.



Norwegian Language Classes

Tuesday Class: April 14, 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Church before Lodge Meeting. "Norway Travel Hints"

Wednesday Class: April 15 & 29, 1:00-3:00 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 and 651-468-8913

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Hey, Everyone,

We really need your help. It seems many of you have given up landlines and/or use cell phone. Many have moved, and some have new email addresses.

We need to record those changes. I have had difficulty recently reaching members because we don't have those changes in our Directory.

Please contact Connie Chrissis at 651-276-7226 or cjchrissis@comcast.net

Hardanger Embroidery

The Hardanger embroidery group will meet on Friday, April 24 at 10:00 am 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. Or if you have other handcrafts you'd prefer to work on, please do — 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.*

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 Sheryl Hove at the next lodge meeting or by email. Forms are now available at synn-nord.org if you need one.

Sunshine News

To request Sympathy, Get Well, and/or Thinking of You cards to our Circle of Friends, please contact Sharon Amann by text 651-706-9700, phone 651-631-0399, or email slamann@comcast.net.

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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
Tuesday, April 14 5:30-6:00	Norwegian Language Lesson	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55116
Tuesday, April 14 6:00-8:00pm	Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55116
Wednesday, April 15 & 29, 1- 3:00 PM	Norwegian Language Lesson	SunRay Library 2105 Wilson Ave. St. Paul, MN 55119
Monday, May 4, 6:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (All lodge members are welcome)	Ramsey County Library - Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Dr. Maplewood, MN 55109