SynNor Brevet

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

November 2026
Issue Number 26 - 11

SONS of NORWAY

Front Page News

Taste of Scandinavia

Our Lodge hosted our annual "Taste" on Saturday, October 24, 2026, and what a super event it was. Just walking into Luther Hall took your breath away. The layout was carefully planned with wide aisles to give guests better access to both the savory food as well as the dessert buffet. The tables were laid with red, white, and blue table cloths as well as centerpieces and condiments. People were able to make bids on Silent Auction items, buy goodies from the Bake Sale tables, and hunt for treasures at Bestefor's Attic before we started serving everyone. The variety of Scandinavian choices at the savory table were: open-face sandwiches, lefse, cheeses, herring, crackers, cucumber salad, beet salad, beet pickles, rutabaga & carrots, red cabbage, red potatoes with butter and dill, fruit soup, and meatballs in gravy.

And, let's not forget the Dessert Buffet that featured rosettes, almond cakes and rhubarb cream, krumkake, spritz, sandbakkles, kringla, rice pudding with lingonberries, waffles with lingberries and cool whip, and rommegrot.

We had the added attraction of our Junior Lodge dancers who always charm everyone with their practiced steps and lovely bunads. Not only did they delight everyone with their fancy footwork, but they also helped serve beverages to our guests and helped clearing tables.

A huge and heartfelt *THANK YOU* to all the volunteers who showed up and worked and worked to make this event a smash hit! No matter how good food is, how many classic items are in the Silent Auction& Bestefor's Attic, or how many yummy items at the Bake Sale, if we don't have hard working volunteers, it will not work. You all showed up, so it was, indeed, a marvelous success!

November Meeting

Our speaker is Joe Grodahl, CEO of Giants of the Earth in Spring Grove. Many of you raved about him and about being hosted while you visited Giants of the Earth.

The light supper for our November meeting will be Turkey Burgers, coleslaw, jello, and pickles. We are so blessed to have Happy and Randy Youngs who are so creative and dedicated as they step up each meeting to cook and serve us. Yay!!!!

Silent Auction

Thank you to our members who made the Silent Auction and Bestefor's Attic a success at the Taste of Scandinavia event. Tusen takk to members who donated items for the auction. Mange tusen takk to Chris Bales and his wife Lucy for their help in setting up items for auction. Chris did a great job collecting the payments for items and totaling the results. Mange takk to Lowell and Bev Johnson for assisting with boxing up and storing the unsold items. Thanks to Connie Chrissis for her help with the sales at Grandpa's Attic. And thanks to those members who bid on and purchased items. You all made it a success.

President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope all are in good health.

I want to thank each and every one who worked and donated, and made and cooked all the food and desserts for Taste of Scandinavia. Thank you, thank you! It was a great night for all who came.

The November meeting is going to be fun with Joe from Giants of the Earth. Hopefully we are going to play Norwegian Jeopardy. We did that on our bus trip, it's fun!

Kathy Kaluza
Synnøve-Nordkap President

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

November 17, 2026, Vestland (Minnetonka) Lodge's Taste of Scandinavia. Doors open at 6:00, Taste begins at 6:30. Silent auction and vendors. Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. Adult tickets $12

November 21, 2026, Mindekirken Lutefisk Dinner, 3 seatings: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30.
$28 Advanced Sale Tickets are available at mindekirken.org or call the church at 612-874-0715 & press #8

December 5, 2026, Lutefisk Dinner. Seatings at 4PM and 5:30PM. $25 adult tickets. St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1 North Rd, Circle Pines, MN 55014, (763)784-2558, office@stmarkcp.org

January 16, 2027, Lutefisk Dinner, seatings Noon, 2PM, 4PM, and 6PM. $26, adult tickets. First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421. Tickets go on sale Saturday, Nov. 14. Cheryl (651)633-0679, https://www.flcch.org/lutefisk-meatball-dinner

Did you hear the news?

At this summer's District #1 Convention, Synnøve-Nordkap was named Family Lodge of the Year for both 2024 and 2025! Here are photos of our awards, and Junior Lodge Director Susan Stow and Lodge President Kathy Kaluza with one of the awards.





Thank you!

Kjære Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge
Scholarship Commitee,

Jeg heter Martin Zobel. I am writing to say *tusen takk* for helping me get to Skogfjorden last summer. It was my second year of spending one week up there. My whole experience was awesome! I lived in a *hytte* called Hamar with friends I met the summer before. My favorite meal was *ertesuppe* (pea soup) and *pannekaker* (pancakes).We celebrated Norway being in the world cup and I got to play a *fotball* (soccer) match against the French village Lac du Bois. My norsk is getting stronger. I think it's really cool that you support kids like me.

Tusen takk!

Martin "*Harald*" Zobel

Kjære Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge
Scholarship Commitee,

Jeg heter Louisa Zobel and I am writing to say *tusen takk* for helping me go to Skogfjorden for two weeks. It was my second two week program. I had a lot of fun at camp. Some of the activities I did were *innerbandy, badstua, fotball* and *strikking*. My absolute favorite part of camp was *strenggrupe* (language group). This year I was in the second level (*rødstreng*) where we learned about different dialects. Skogfjorden has become an important part of my life. I love going there because I always make new friends and see old ones, too. I love learning Norwegian. I know you don't have to support kids like me but it really means a lot to me.

Vennlig hilsen

Louisa "*Siv*" Zobel







Above, left to right:
"Harald" outside of Hamar.
"Harald" having fun on the Binders.
"Siv" headed to the kiosk to buy candy!
"Siv" and her friend from Peer Gynt dancers.

Right:
"Siv" and "Harald" sharing some sibling moments at Skogfjorden.



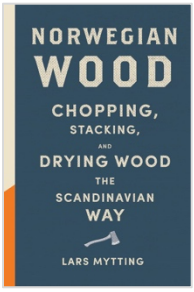


Sons of Norway Book Club

November books:

Main Selection

Norwegian Wood
by Lars Mytting

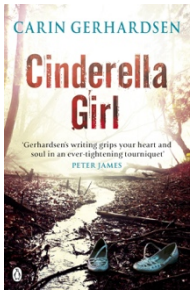


The author, Lars Mytting, writes, "The factual material in this book represents the distilled wisdom of encounters with people who are passionate about wood, enthusiasts as well as professional researchers. I have benefitted greatly from my conversations with experts in the fields of combustion and silviculture. . . . Along the way I've tried out most of the techniques I've been introduced to. I've dried finely chopped oak in our kitchen oven, struggled to build a beehive woodpile, miscalculated the trajectory of a felled pine. And I've been on a quest to discover the soul of the wood fire." With his help, you'll begin your quest to discover the joys of wood and wood fire.

An intriguing window into Scandinavian culture, the book also features interesting facts and anecdotes and inspired prose. The US edition is a fully updated version of the Norwegian original and includes an appendix of US-based resources and contacts.

Mystery Selection

Cinderella Girl
by Carin Gerhardsen



Three-year-old Hanna wakes up to find she has been abandoned. Her family is gone. The house is locked. She is trapped.

Meanwhile, a teenage girl has been found murdered aboard the *Cinderella*, a cruise ship which sails between Sweden and Finland.

Detective Chief Inspector Conny Sjöberg visits the girl's home to deliver the tragic news. But as he investigates, it becomes chillingly clear that the girl's younger sister will meet a similar fate - unless the police can crack the case and trap this elusive and vicious killer.

And all the while, somewhere in Stockholm, a little girl waits to be found and rescued...

Cinderella Girl is the nail-biting second book in the critically acclaimed Hammarby Series. Fans of Jo Nesbo, Camilla Lackberg and Henning Mankell will be gripped by Gerhardsen's characters and stories.

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.
(Due to Thanksgiving, this month's Thursday discussion has been moved back a week to November 19.)
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

Norwegian Culture and News

Citizenship in Svalbard

Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic that lies about 600 or so miles north of mainland Norway. Norwegian sovereignty over the island began in the 1920's with The Svalbard Treaty. It is unique in that it is part of the Kingdom of Norway yet operates under its own laws when it comes to immigration and citizenship.



Due to its isolated location and limited resources to support its population, Svalbard has stringent guidelines around residency and citizenship. While a visa or work permit is not needed to live there, transplants must prove they can support themselves with employment and housing. For foreign nationals living and working in Svalbard, if they want to move to mainland Norway, they need to obtain the required work permits and visas to do so. If they want citizenship, they need to follow the requirements for that including eight years of residency, but time living in Svalbard may not count towards that requirement. However, the Norwegian government continues to look at this issue to see if adjustments should be made.

Viking Age Tapestries

by Don Halvorson

Originally published by Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge in the March 2021 SynNor Brevet.
Printed with the permission of Synnøve-Nordkap and the family of Don Halvorson.

A tapestry is a large decorative textile piece that evolved from the ancient technique of basket weaving, primarily used as a wall hanging or furniture covering. It often told a story or celebrated an event. Although tapestries turned up in southern Europe as early as 3,000 BC, it would be centuries before they would appear in the North.

By the Ninth Century, a number of Vikings had given up raiding for trading. They traveled south to the Caspian Sea, and east to Asia and the Silk Road, bringing back to the North exotic goods: spices, wine, jewelry, silk and brocades. The invention of a larger sized loom took textile production out of the home and into a workshop of skilled weavers, making it possible to create larger, higher quality woven materials.

Few early tapestries from the North have survived. The oldest was found at a ship find, uncovered in a large burial mound on the Oseberg farm in Vestfold. The deceased was a female, high born judging from the belongings buried with her. Among the grave goods unearthed were a number of interesting fabric fragments. Badly damaged and covered in mud, they appeared to be part of a tapestry. Dated from the Ninth Century (c. 834), the fibers of the fabric appeared to be of the highest quality, but restoring the tapestry would take years.

This tapestry consisted of two parts, a left side and right side. The images are part of a procession. Many figures are shown, most of them women. There are also Valkyries, warriors, a horse drawn carriage and gods of all shapes and sizes. A larger figure in a horned helmet remains a mystery. Helmets with horns would not appear until Wagner's 19th Century opera, De Ring des Nibelungen. The Oseberg tapestry is important because its content is pagan. The later pieces are mostly secular.





The Rolvsøy tapestry (c.900) was found in a chamber grave at Haugen. Only a small portion remains. The pieces have a wool warp and a linen weft. The images are of a boat standing next to seven figures, five men and two women.

The Baldishol tapestry (c.1040-1100) was found in the demolished Baldishol Church in Hedmark in 1879. Before it was discovered, it had been used by the church's bell ringer, stuffed into a hole in the floor to keep out the draft. There are two pieces, each with a wood warp and linen weft. The left side of the design is believed to be the month of April; the right side, is the month of May. This suggests that the tapestry was once part of a calendar. Its style is Romanesque, reminiscent of the early medieval art of central and northern France.



The Overhogdal tapestry (1040-1170) was discovered in Jamtland, Sweden in 1909. Of the five pieces found, four were created with the soumak weaving technique. Measuring about one meter in width, these long, narrow tapestries are a narrative of multiple animals and figures, all crammed together and passing in review across the length of the fabric. The fifth piece is a shorter, double weave piece in the decorative style. All the pieces are done with a linen and hemp warp and wool weft.

The Skog tapestry, (late 12th Century) was discovered in Halsingland, Sweden in 1912. It was created nearly a century after the end of the Viking Age. Obviously Christian at this time, its similarities to earlier Viking pieces are strikingly familiar. A debate exists to this day about its content. The three men portrayed in the narrative could be the Three Kings or three Norse gods. This tapestry appears to be a testament to the skeptical acceptance of their new Christian religion.

Viking Age Tapestries: 4. The Inventory - The Viking Archive

Norwegian Chatter and New Friends

By Jana Velo



At our October practice, the Peer Gynt Dancers welcomed another new member and had a visiting exchange student from France. We learned some Norwegian vocabulary on how to introduce yourself and say where you are from, and also talked about our pets. Then we warmed up with the song ***hode, skulder, kne og tå*** (head, shoulders, knees and toes) with the actions to match.

The kids had a fun time serving coffee, busing dishes and dancing at the **Taste of Norway** event. We appreciate the senior lodge's support so much and are happy to give back by volunteering and bringing bake sale items!

For the November meeting, we'll try a craft related to a versatile staple of the Norwegian kitchen: **the potato**! We will also cover some classic Peer Gynt dances to prepare for our November performance at Boutwell's auditorium in Stillwater, MN.





We'd like to invite senior lodge members to attend our **November 21st** performance at Boutwells Landing auditorium in Stillwater. We are performing from **2:00 to 2:45 pm**. The auditorium is located at The Gables Care Center at 13575 58th St N, Oak Park Heights, MN 55082 It is located behind Walmart, just off Highway 36. There is an elevator or stairs as you enter The Gables. The auditorium is downstairs, and to the left.

On December 5th, the dancers are performing at the **Minneapolis Christkindl Market** at 1 p.m. Location: 350 N 5th St. (North Loop Green), Minneapolis MN 55401. Bundle up and join in the fun! The market has booths with beautiful gift ideas and delicious food and hot drinks for sale.
www.minneapolischristkindlmarket.com

Norwegian Language Classes

Tuesday Class: November 10, 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Church before Lodge Meeting. "**Norway Today**" facilitated by Sheryl Hove

Wednesday Class: November 11 (only one Wednesday class this month because of Thanksgiving), 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of Sheryl Hove, 12 W. Sandra Lee Dr., St. Paul, MN 55119 (location change due to library closure on Veterans Day). "**1111 NORWEGIAN WORDS**" facilitated by Audrey Waage

To join the class, contact:
Sheryl Hove, sherylhove12@gmail.com
651-738-4908 and 651-468-8913

NEW WEDNESDAY CLASS TEXTBOOK (provided)!
"1111 NORWEGIAN WORDS in 85 Short Stories"

- With Spaced Repetition and Parallel Text
- First Chapter: "Everyday Life" ("Hverdagsliv")
- First Story: "Jan's Morning" ("Jans Morgen")
- Right page: English. Left page: Norwegian.
- New words are Bold and all 1,111 words are included at the end of the book in the Vocabulary Index in the Appendix, with Pronunciation Guide, Numbers and Grammar.

Sunshine News

Our sympathies are extended to LaRee Opdahl. Loren passed away on September 30th; his Celebration of Life was on October 30th. They have both been active and long-time members of Synnove-Nordkap. Eleven members of our Lodge attended.

A "Speedy Recovery" card was sent to Lori Quello.

For Directory Updates:

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

Hardanger Embroidery

The Hardanger group's next meeting will be on Friday, November 20th at 10:00am 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 provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries.



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, 2024, 2025

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, November 10, 5:30-6:00	Norwegian Language Lesson	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55116
Tuesday, November 10, 6:00-8:00pm	Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55116
Wednesday, November 11 1:00- 3:00 PM (only 1 Wednesday class this month)	Norwegian Language Lesson	See page 7 for location
Monday, November 30, 6:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (All lodge members are welcome)	Ramsey County Library - Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Dr. Maplewood, MN 55109