

# SynNor Brevet

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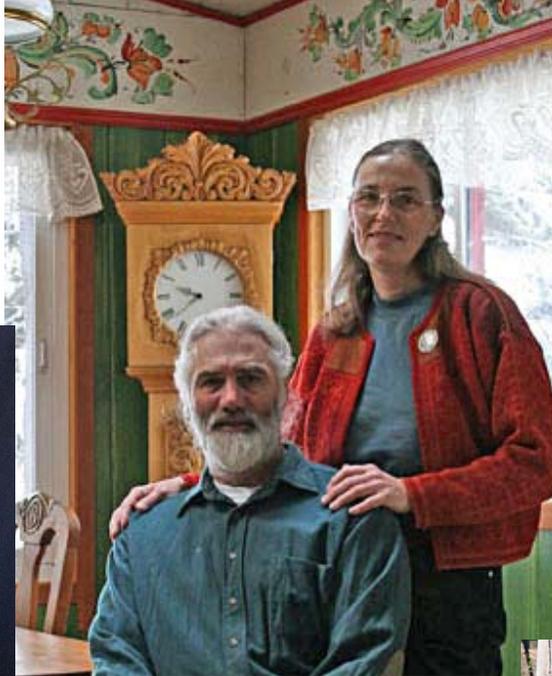
**Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1-008**



**July 2009  
Number 9:7**

**WEB SITE:** <http://synnove1.com>

**Voice Messages: 651-762-7872**



**Join us for our July 11 outing to the Norsk Wood Works in Barronett, WI, where Else Bigton and Phil Odden will show us their farm, featuring their carvings and woodworking and their herd of fjord horses. See page 6 inside for more information about this fun day trip.**

# Scandinavian Culture and News

## Culture in Norway

Situated far from centers of culture such as Florence, Rome and Paris, Norway has often been isolated from major European cultural trends and developments. Yet a strong culture was flourishing here from at least the ninth century.

Findings from burial sites indicate that the Vikings were great ship-builders with a strongly-developed artistic tradition represented in crafts, wood carving and jewelry. Significantly, these skills were also passed on to those parts of Europe which they occupied. The beautifully-decorated stave churches built after Christianity was introduced into Norway also underscore the artistic abilities of the Norwegian people. The Gothic cathedral of Trondheim, known as Nidarosdomen, represents a golden age of Norwegian cultural development. It was the last monument to be erected before the dark era in which nearly half the population was wiped out by bubonic plague and Norway ceased to be an independent state.

During the union with Denmark, Copenhagen functioned as the capital of Norway, so that not only the written language, but also Norwegian culture and artistic life became strongly influenced by Denmark. In Copenhagen Norwegian artists found work opportunities which were simply not available to them in Norway. Ludvig Holberg staged his early plays there, whilst Copenhagen's University was the only institution at which Norwegians could undertake academic studies. As a result, when it was finally reinstated as an independent nation, Norway had relatively little of the cultural life so typical of other European capitals during the 19th century. However, a vigorous culture was developing in the regions, embracing architecture, decorative arts, music and folk tales. Furthermore, when Romanticism experienced its breakthrough in Europe, Norwegian artists found ready inspiration in the breathtaking landscapes of their motherland. Subsequently the second half of the 19th century witnessed a new era of rich artistic development and the work of Henrik Ibsen, alongside the paintings of Edvard Munch, became a part of international cultural history.

During the course of the 20th century Norway, like many other countries, was affected by many foreign (and particularly since World War II, American) cultural influences. This development, taking place against a background of widespread determination to uphold and support the uniqueness of Norwegian culture, has created an interesting mixed expression in contemporary Norwegian artistic life.

In recent decades the Norwegian cultural sector has prospered and a number of literary and performing artists – particularly in the fields of contemporary dance, fine arts and music – have won international acclaim for their work. It is hoped that in the future their achievements will be recognized alongside the more high-profile activities of Norway's scientists and adventurers who have hitherto been responsible for putting Norway on the world map.

From: [culturalprofiles.org.uk/norway](http://culturalprofiles.org.uk/norway) kv

## What Souvenir Tourists Want

The Italians love trolls. Germans can't resist anything with a moose. Russians like things with gold. The Spanish want Vikings. The British buy tea-towels and Americans take home T-shirts and caps.

Russians and eastern Europeans are coming to Norway in greater numbers than before.

"The Russians especially like decorative plates to hang on the wall, the more gold the better," says Stine Steen at Visit Oslo. "The French are best known for buying lots of post cards. With big French tour group in town, the stores often run out of stamps."

The latest figures from tax-free sales show that tourists from the United States spend more in Oslo than anyone else. Even so, Oslo's tourist trade has noticed that American purchasing power is lower. Tax-free sales in Oslo are down 10 percent, compared to 20 percent in the rest of the country.

"Americans are unsure of what will happen to the economy and they are taking holidays in their home country, if they go on holiday at all," says Sissel Guleng at Global Refund.

"It looks like the bulk of tourists will increasingly come from Russia and China," she says.

From: Aftenposten web desk

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM At First Lutheran Church  
463 Maria Avenue (at 8th Street East, 2 Blocks North of Metro State University)  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 Voice messages: 651-762-7872 (See back cover for officers)  
Web Page: <<http://synnove1.com>>  
Sons of Norway International: <<http://www.sofn.com>>

# Lodge News

## *Fra presidenten*

Dear Members,

Summer has finally arrived—it must have been all of us hearty folk that braved the chilly rain to celebrate Midsommer on Tuesday, June 16 at our picnic that broke the grip of our very cool spring. One of our members reminded me that the rain was greatly needed and was indeed something for which to be thankful. We had a large turnout and enjoyed much good food and fellowship. It was a joy to have all three of our scholarship recipients with us: Emma Wunrow, Allison Kapsner and Jessica Urban. Al Linder also entertained us with his button box as he set our toes tapping and bodies swaying. Thanks so much, Al, for sharing your talent with us!

Next on our Fun & Fellowship List is the day trip to Norsk Wood Works in Barronett, Wisconsin. It will be a full day as we gather at Ron and Susan Stow's house for coffee and divide into carloads. From there we will convoy to the Turtle Lake Casino for lunch, and then on to Norsk Wood Works farm. Please call me to RSVP at 651-631-0399. (Please call after 6 PM.)

I wish you a great summer and look forward to resuming our regular meeting schedule starting in September.

Blessings,  
Sharon

### The Lefse Challenge!

OK, fellow members, it's time to answer the Lefse Challenge--to the person who sells the greatest number of packages of lefsa goes the spoils: a free package of frozen lefse! The lefsa is from Countryside Lefse in Blair, Wisconsin, and is the same excellent lefse that we sell at the Festival of Nations.

We still have more than fifty packages of frozen lefse left. There are 24 pieces of lefse in each, totaling four full rounds per package and making this an excellent buy at \$6 a package.

So far the leader is Karen Vinnes, with 25 packages sold! (She got the very good idea of posting a sign in their condo lobby, and the rest is history.)

### Norwegian webcams

For a website that has links to most of the webcams in Norway, try the following link:  
<http://www.webcamsinnorway.com/webcams.php> .

# Lodge News

## Board Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2009

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Patty Carlson, Ruth Gibson, Rod Hale, Sue Halvorson, Clayton Lance and David Mutchler.

### Old Business:

Plans were finalized for the June Mid-Sommer picnic. Ruth Gibson graciously offered to make coffee for the lodge membership at the picnic.

Plans for the day trip to Norsk Wood Works in Barronett, Wisconsin were discussed. Sharon announced that Marv Lang would be speaking to the lodge at the September meeting about Peter Wessel Tordenskiold. She also indicated that the Joint Lodges group is promoting attending the play Away in a Basement – A Church Basement Ladies' Christmas. The play runs from November 5, 2009 to January 24, 2010. No date has been set.

### New Business:

Dave Mutchler made a motion and Sharon Amann seconded it to reimburse Patty Carlson for her gel mats that were lost at the Festival of Nations.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 4 in the conference room at the Shoreview YMCA on Lexington Avenue south of I 694. Just south of Target, its address is 3760 N. Lexington Ave. **NOTE: YOU WILL NEED TO BRING PICTURE ID TO GAIN ACCESS!**

## Mid-Sommer Picnic, June 16, 2009

60 members and guests attended the June Mid-Sommer Picnic despite the pouring rain.

### Old Business

Sharon Amman had signup sheets for the summer lodge trip to Barronett, Wisconsin on July 11 to visit the Norsk Wood Works. We will have a tour of the carving studio and also be able to view the Norwegian Fjord horses that are raised by the owners. Lunch will be at the Turtle Lake Casino before we visit the farm. Depending on the number of members going, we will either carpool or use vans. Call Sharon if you would like to go on the trip.

### New Business

Sharon proposed having an additional fundraiser that would be a silent auction at the Torsk and Meatball Dinner. Members were asked to think of items or services they could donate. Services could include things like genealogy help, translating, and Kransekaka.

LaRee Opdahl presented information about Hardanger needlepoint classes at Needlepoint Cottage in White Bear Lake.

Our three scholarship recipients, Emma Wunrow, Jessica Urban and Allison Kapsner, described what their educational plans are and how the scholarship money would be used. Each recipient thanked the lodge for the scholarship that they received.

After the lodge meeting Al Linder entertained the lodge members with his delightful accordion music.

We thank Ruth Gibson for providing coffee on a cool rainy evening.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

# *Calendar of Coming Events*

<u>Saturday</u> July 11	<u>Day Trip to Norsk Wood Works, Barronett, WI</u> Stop for lunch on the way, then visit woodworking/carving galleries and fjord horses in a charming farm setting. See <a href="http://www.norskwoodworks.com">www.norskwoodworks.com</a> for more info. Call Sharon Amann at 651-631-0399 for reservations.	
<u>Sunday</u> July 12	<u>78th Annual Norway Day</u> Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis	10:00 AM To 4:00 PM
<u>Fri-Sat</u> July 12-13	<u>Nisswa Stammen Scandinavian Fest</u> Nisswa Pioneer Village in Nisswa, MN For info, contact Paul Wilson at 1-218-764-2994	7:00 PM on Friday 10 AM on Saturday
<u>Saturday</u> July 18	<u>Lutefisk Golf Outing</u> Brooktree Golf Course, Owatonna, MN Info: 507-451-5841	
<u>Thurs-Sat</u> July 23-25	<u>Nordic Fest Celebration; Decorah, Iowa</u> 43rd Annual event features Crafts, food, sports, torchlight parade Visit: <a href="http://www.nordicfest.com">www.nordicfest.com</a>	
<u>Tuesday</u> August 4	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Conf. Rm.; Northwest Family YMCA 3760 Lexington Ave. N, just So. Of Target (651) 483-2671; BRING PICTURE ID!	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> Sept. 1	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Location: TBD	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> Sept. 8	<u>Synnove-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event</u> <u>Marv Lang talk on Peter Wessel Tordenskiold</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Saturday</u> September 12	<u>Lodge Orienteering</u> Lake Maria State Park, Monticello, MN \$8.00 (or share for \$4.00) Reserve a spot with Rod Hale 651-636-4284 by Thursday, September 10th.	Noon
<u>September</u> <u>16-19</u>	<u>2009 Solørlag Stevne</u> Holiday Inn, Willmar, MN Representing descendents from the Hedmark area, there will be genealogy labs, assistance, seminars, crafts & vendors Contact: Joanne Sorbel @ <a href="mailto:djsorbel@aol.com">djsorbel@aol.com</a>	

## Ingebretsen's Summer Events:

Rosemaling & Jewelry Artist, Lois Mueller

Friday, July 3 -- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

She will demonstrate her rosemaling work and bring a selection of Thulite from Norway.

Scandinavian Day - Saturday, Sept. 12

At Midtown Market, E. Lake & Hiawatha.

Ingebretsen's Wedding Fair- Sept. 19

Norwegian Dog Sweater Style Show - September 26

Check: [ingebretsens.com](http://ingebretsens.com)

## Decorah Nordic Fest

July 24-25

This year's Nordic Fest honors the Sami. The Dancing Reindeer Herd from Milltown, WI will be at Vesterheim with their friendly reindeer. Vesterheim and Upstart Crow's original children's theater production will be "Land of the Midnight Sun", and exploration of the the Sami people and their way of life.

Continue sending in you lodge biographies to Rod Hale; we need more to try to publish them! We're planning on another night of stories in October, so get yours to me now. Don't you want to see your name in print or in the big lights?!

### Norwegian Language Classes

- (1) "Norwegian In Five Minutes A Month" series. Class 6:30-7:00 PM Tuesdays before lodge meetings; no classes June, July, August; resuming in the Fall.
- (2) "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" text. Class 6:30-8:00 PM Thursdays Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., between McKnight Rd. & Ruth St. No classes June, July, August

For information, contact class co-facilitators: Sheryl Hove 651-738-4908 or Crystal Bloecher 651-774-8545. New participants are invited to join the classes.

# Upcoming Lodge Activities

## July Day Trip: Norsk Wood Works

Saturday July 11, 2009

The pictures on the cover give you the idea of what sort of things to expect at the charming farm of Phil Odden and Elsie Bigton. We will begin the day by meeting at the home of Susan and Ron Stow in Stillwater at 10:00 AM for a quick bite to eat and to get organized into cars. Then we will travel to Turtle Lake Casino for lunch, then on to Norsk Wood Works in Barronett, Wisconsin for a tour of the shop, studio, and show room and for a fjord horse driving demonstration by Phil.

See <http://www.norskwoodworks.com> for more information, and call Sharon Amann at 631-0399 after 6 PM to make reservations. Hurry, as there are 23 reservations to date with a limit of 30. The deadline for reservations is July 4.

## Our thanks to Clay Keller for leading our scholarship activities

At its May Board meeting, the Lodge approved two, \$500 college scholarships and one, \$200 scholarship for Skogfjorden, Concordia Language Villages Norwegian camp.

Jessica Urban and Allison Kapsner were repeat recipients of the Lodge's college scholarships. Jessica, a student at the University of St. Thomas, is a third-generation member of Synnøve-Nordkap, following in the footsteps of her late grandfather, Ken Nelson, and her mother, Rebecca Urban. Allison, the granddaughter of Ardyce Davies of the Lodge, is pursuing her degree at the University of Michigan. Both recipients provided the Board with strong evidence of their academic achievement, service contributions, and career goals, making the selection an easy matter.

Emma Wunrow, a former member of the Junior Lodge's Peer Gynt Dancers and granddaughter of Lodge members Rosana and Gary Wunrow, will be attending Skogfjorden for two weeks. A matching District 1 scholarship will also support her second year at the camp.

All were present at our Midsummer picnic, and are pictured below.



Allison Kapsner



Jessica Urban



Emma Wunrow

# Mid-Sommer Picnic

The June 16th lodge Mid-summer picnic didn't exactly follow the biblical pattern of Noah's Ark, but first the rain came, forty minutes, then forty minutes more, as the weather service tallied 2/3 of an inch.

Then the members came, two by two, almost all under umbrellas, until the shelter and the tables were almost all full, and one corner was full of umbrellas. There was a low hum of pleasant greeting and conversation. Soon the two buffet tables were filled with such great food to be shared, and an unbelievable watermelon carved like a Viking ship from the Blomstrands. There was a pot of coffee, and hot sloppy joes on the counter.

While Dave scrambled to look for an indoor grill, Clayton Lance did the impossible task of firing up the charcoal over a bed of water in the outdoor grill, for a few that wanted to brave the rain to cook outdoors. It reminded us of the old Seebee motto-- "The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer!"

It was great to listen to our three scholarship winners tell of their goals. Sign-ups for the July 11th Norsk Wood Works trip were announced.

Al Linder treated us to his great accordian music to close the evening. Thanks, Al!

Thanks to all of our generous members who provided such a wonderful feast.

Editors note: and thanks to Axel Torvi for this great write-up of our picnic!



# Summer Vacations

At least two of our member families took trips to Norway this summer. Ron and Susan Stow spent time in Bergen, Lillehammer, and Ålesund, and had a great trip. Sharon and Ron Kalmes are still in Norway, and have been in Bergen, Balastrand, and Fjearland. The picture below of Sharon is from Mount Floyen in Bergen.



## Benefit News

### An Hour Well Spent



Last week I was visiting with a couple who thought they had everything in-order, but were open to spending an hour to review their situation. After I gathered their information I asked them about the large amount of money they had in their savings account. Did they need to keep that much in savings, not earning much interest? No they said, we have plenty of income to live on, we just never thought about it before. I suggested that they put some of the money in our new “Single Premium Deferred Annuity” and get a decent return on the money, which they did do. Also during our review I found that someone had sold them a Long-Term Care insurance policy that had not kept up with inflation and would not have done them much good if they needed to use it. They decided to take out an additional policy to make up the difference and keep pace with inflation.

They also made an appointment with their attorney to update their wills. All of this was accomplished because they decided to spend an hour reviewing what they thought was all in-order.

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# This and That

(We are always interested in members submitting articles on books they have read or movies or plays they have seen.)

**THE CORNER LIBRARY** -By Trudi Johnson-Richards

**A Viking Saga – Son of Thor** is an exciting Northern adventure movie. Helgi was a ten year old boy who witnessed the mass murder of his entire village, including his parents. Helgi escaped and later met his uncle Rurik, who raised Helgi like his own child. As a grown man, Helgi set sail on a voyage that brought him face to face with the monarch responsible for the tragedy. Years later, while sailing with his new fellow villagers on a trading mission, he runs into the two kings who slaughtered his old village. Now is the time for vengeance. He plots revenge against these men. How will the final battle turn out?

This exciting color Danish-American swashbuckler stars Ken Vedsegaard, Peter Gantzler, Julie Olgaard and Erik Holmey. The soundtrack is English and Danish Dolby Digital Stereo. The 82 minute movie was released October 24, 2008 in Denmark; November 1, 2008 in USA. The movie was directed by Michael Mouyal.

This film won five awards at film festivals, including the Washougal International Film Festival, the First Take International Film Festival, the Bare Bones International Film Festival (Bonehead Certificate for Best Feature-Family Film) and the Accolade Editing Competition (Honorable Mention for Editing). Although the film won awards, reviews included comments regarding low production quality, a generic public TV channel stuff and lack of consistent camera focus

This is a special combination: **A Viking Saga – Sons of Thor** DVD and the CD Musical Soundtrack. The original music is by Mark Allen. The CD has 12 songs which are worth listening to. This CD can be played again and again!

Erna McGuire donated the DVD and CD **A Viking Saga – Son of Thor** on May 12, 2009 to the Synnove-Nordkap Lodge Library.

She also donated a CD entitled “**In a Monastery Garden**” by Norwegian Rodney Tory Borgen (formerly Tormad Borgen Rogne) who whistles his favorites. This 2002 CD by “**The Norwegian Whistler**” is for all music lovers who find whistling a fine art of music.

And from Patti Carlson:

Two Norwegians from Minnesota, Sven & Ole, walk into a pet shop near Superior. They head to the bird section and Sven says to Ole, "Dat's dem.."

The owner comes over and asks if he can help them.

"Yah sure, ve'll take four of dem dere little budgies in dat cage up dere," says Sven.

The owner puts the budgies in a paper bag. Ole and Sven pay for the birds, leave the shop, get into Sven's pick-up and drive to the top of some big cliffs near Lake Superior.

At the cliffs, Sven looks down at the 1000 foot drop and says, "Dis looks like a grand place."

He takes two birds out of the bag, puts them on his shoulders and jumps off the cliff. Ole watches as Sven falls all the way to the bottom, killing himself dead.

Looking down at the remains of his best pal, Ole shakes his head and says: "By yumpin' yiminy, dis budgie yumping is too dangerous for me."

VAIT!!! Dere's MORE!

Moments later Knute arrives up at the cliffs.

He's been to the pet shop, too, and walks up to the edge of the cliff carrying another paper bag in one hand and a shotgun in the other.

"Hey, Ole. Vatch dis. " Knute says. He takes a parrot from the bag and throws himself over the edge of the cliff.

Ole watches as half way down, Knute takes the gun and shoots the parrot. Knute continues to plummet down and down until he hits the bottom and breaks every bone in his body.

Ole shakes his head and says, "And I'm never trying dat parrot-shooting either."

BUT VAIT!!! Dere's MORE , you betcha!!

Ole is just getting over the shock of losing two friends when Lars appears.

He's also been to the pet shop and is carrying a paper bag, out of which he pulls a chicken.

Lars grasps the chicken by the legs, holds it over his head, hurls himself off the cliff and disappears down and down until he hits a rock and breaks his spine.

Once more Ole shakes his head. "First der was Sven with his budgie yumping, den Knute parrotshooting .and now Lars, heng-liding ....."

Dats all. Dere ain't no more!

	Planning to move? Overwhelmed by "stuff"?
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**Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008  
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SONS OF NORWAY  
LODGE #1-008  
First Lutheran Church  
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**Upcoming Activities**

**Day trip to Norsk Wood Works - July 11  
78th Annual Norway Day - July 12  
Nordic Fest Celebration - July 23-5**

**More Info Inside**

The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge welcomes visitors and new members.