

# SynNor Brevet

Published monthly by

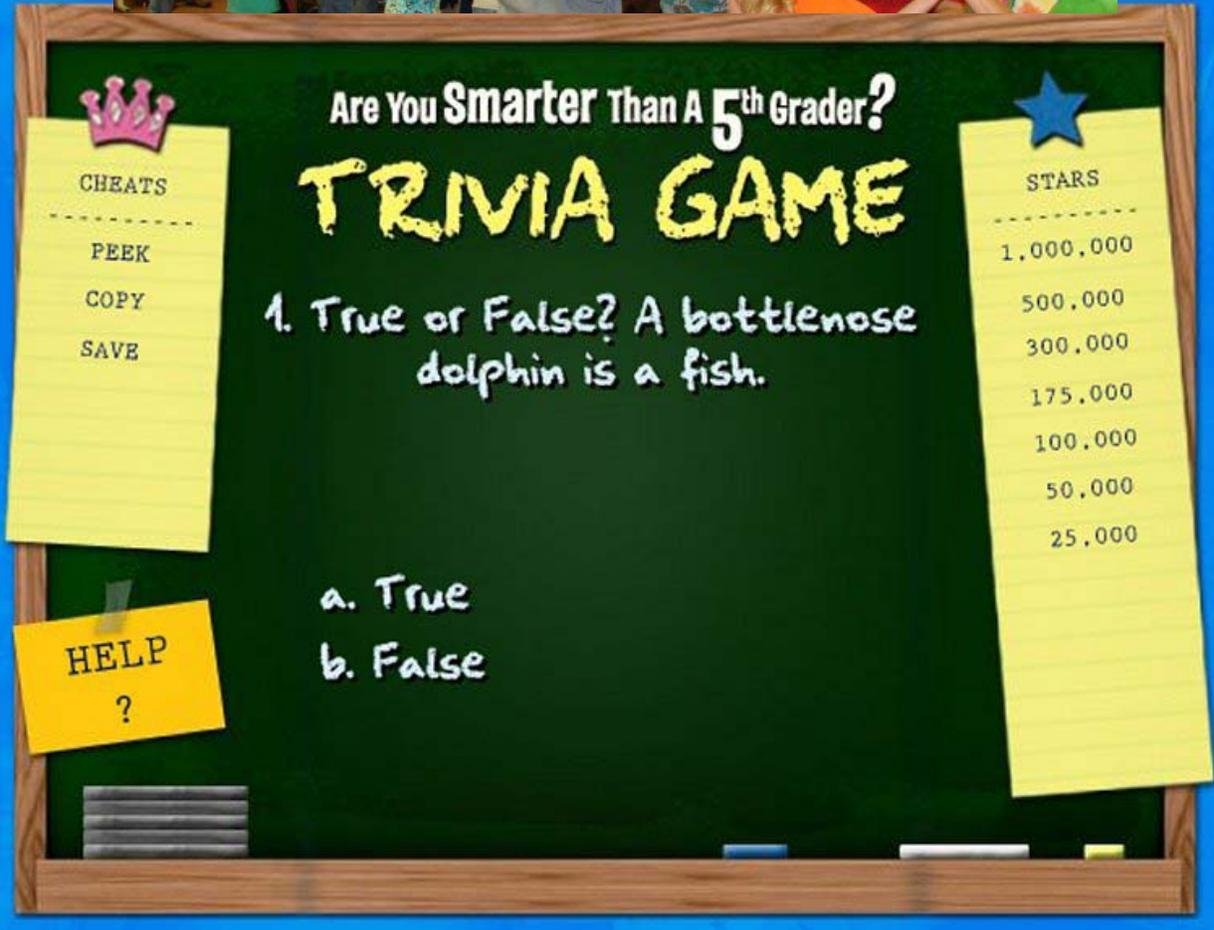
**Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1-008**



**November 2009  
Number 10:9**

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

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



**Join us for our November 10 meeting for an evening of fun! Our Junior lodge has challenged us to a game of questions about Norway. The topics are facts, people, geography, history, and Norway Today. They've been studying, so maybe we should too!**

# Scandinavian Culture and News

## “Fighting Norwegians”

Editor note: This article was recently found in an old file and thought it might be of interest. We are retyping it here.

### St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press Rotogravure Section April 2, 1944

“Story of 100 men who held a tiny garrison on Norway’s largest island possession, Spitzbergen, for more than an hour against a strong German fleet’s bombardment has been revealed for the first time by the Norwegian high command.

Led by the huge German battleships Scharnhorst and Tirpitz, an attacking force headed for Barentsburg, a mining town on the Arctic outpost. With three four-inch guns and small arms, heroic defenders put up prolonged, skillful resistance. Three Nazi destroyers were damaged, one so severely it retired from battle. Following an hour’s bombardment, Germans landed troops on both sides of the town. Hopelessly outnumbered, Norwegians destroyed guns and withdrew, pursued by German infantry and planes. Several hours later, after destroying most of the town, Nazis returned to their ships and sailed away.

Retaliation came late in December when the Scharnhorst attempted to raid a Russia-bound convoy. The battleship was destroyed by blasting torpedoes of the Norwegian destroyer Stord and the pounding guns of British home fleet units.”

KV, NV

ST. PAUL SUNDAY PIONEER PRESS ROTOGRAVURE SECTION, APRIL 2, 1944.

## Fighting Norwegians

Story of 100 men who held a tiny garrison on Norway’s largest island possession, Spitzbergen, for more than an hour against a strong German fleet’s bombardment has been revealed for the first time by the Norwegian high command.

Led by the huge German battleships Scharnhorst and Tirpitz, an attacking force headed for Barentsburg, a mining town on the Arctic outpost. With three four-inch guns and small arms, heroic defenders put up prolonged, skillful resistance. Three Nazi destroyers were damaged, one so severely it retired from battle. Following an hour’s bombardment, Germans landed troops on both sides of the town. Hopelessly outnumbered, Norwegians destroyed guns and withdrew, pursued by German infantry and planes. Several hours later, after destroying most of the town, Nazis returned to their ships and sailed away.



Participants in garrison defense were these Norwegians.



## Norwegian Rural Tourism

At Per Gynt Gaarden, close to the small town of Vinstra in Gudbrandsdalen, you will find middle-ages ambience as the farm’s heritage goes back to the 14th century. You may sit at a traditional long table while an award-winning chef prepares a gourmet meal of soup made with hand-picked caraway, fresh meat of moose, smoked salmon and homemade sour cream. Each guest room has its own unique atmosphere, with traditional furniture, modern art and family photos side by side.

Those who seek a simpler alternative or just want to pick up some fresh cheese can visit one of the farms participating in a program called, “Norwegian Rural Tourism and Food from the Farm.” A rooster symbol signifies membership in the program and guarantees quality products and service. You can stay overnight on the farms, buy traditional goat’s milk cheese, tasty cured meats and preserves, pick berries or hunt and fish for your own food. In Norway, visitors are free to fish along the coast, by boat or from the shoreline.

In three northern counties and Svalbard, 45 restaurants have teamed up to present an “Arctic menu,” serving “innumerable culinary temptations from north Norway’s abundant pantry.” The object is to serve both traditional and more modern dishes based on ingredients and produce from the region.

The Arctic menu even offers indigenous Sami fare, featuring a wide range of exotic dishes based on fish, berries, reindeer meat and other game. Sami fare was normally prepared with simple means, often over an open fire. Only small amounts of seasoning were used. The Storgammen Restaurant in Karasjok and Fjellprodukter in Kautokeino in the county of Finnmark are two restaurants that serve mainly Sami cuisine.

According to Nils Harald Moe: “We have to provide our guests with an explanation and an experience. We should be able to tell them something about our bread and in so doing provide them with an account of the old White Sea trade with Russia that supplied us with corn good enough to allow the dough to rise. We should be able to tell them about the voyages to Bergen made by cargo vessels overloaded with stockfish, cod-liver oil and skins that were exchanged for flour and spices. We want to give something of our heritage and the local customs, food and culinary traditions.”

From: *News of Norway* 2/2009

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,

I hope you have all remembered to study for our November meeting—the Senior Lodge vs the Junior Lodge competing with questions about Norway past and present. This will be a great way for the Senior members to get to know the Junior members. I can hardly wait!

I am still remembering our wonderful Torsk & Meatball dinner on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. As usual, the food was delicious and our volunteers did an excellent job. I want to again thank the faithful members who came Friday morning to cook and set up the dining room as well as the cooks, kitchen assistants, servers, wait staff, and the clean-up crew on Saturday. Many of those positions overlapped, and several folks worked many, many hours to make this dinner a wonderful success

The Silent Auction was an added bonus to the dinner for both the Lodge and for the people who were able to purchase lovely treasures. Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler proposed this idea, and then they followed through by handling all the details. We all owe them “Tusen Tak!” When you come to the meeting you will hear exactly how successful this venture was.

Blessings,  
Sharon

### SYNNOVE - NORDKAP LODGE HAS TALENT !

This year we will again have a Cultural Skills night. The date has not yet been determined. If you have a skill or hobby that you would be willing to display or demonstrate, please contact me at a lodge meeting or my e mail Unicorn670@comcast.net

Kathy Stevens

(Kathy is our new Cultural Director; let's all welcome her by making her job easy!)

Our congratulations to fellow lodge member Eivind Heiberg on being named the new CEO of Sons of Norway. Eivind replaces John Lund, who recently retired.

We thank the following members for sharing some of their heritage at our October meeting.



Ron Stow



Karen Vinnes



Norman Vinnes



Ruth Gibson



Ardyce Davies



Jeane Pearson



Jack Dougherty

# Lodge News

## Board Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2009

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Patty Carlson, Ruth Gibson, Sue Halvorson, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Clay Keller, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Kathy Stevens, and Ron and Susan Stow.

### Old Business:

The status of the planning for the Torsk and Meatball Dinner and silent auction were discussed. Susan Stow explained the format of the November lodge meeting being presented by the Junior Lodge. Sharon Kalmes will be having people sign up to bring food and help at the December Julebord. Clay Keller will be inviting Norwegian exchange students to the Julebord. October is Foundation Month and Clay Keller will be seeking contributions for the foundation. Other options were discussed to raise moneys for the foundation. The lodge will be bell ringing for the Salvation Army the first Saturday in December.

### New Business:

Items needed by the lodge for the church kitchen were reviewed. Suggestions for programs in 2010 were discussed. Patty Carlson said that the Festival of Nations is April 29 – May 2, 2010 and that she will attend a planning meeting in December. There are still openings for lodge officers for 2010. David also needs help with the newsletter and the web page. Kathy Stevens attended the meeting to learn more about the Cultural Director responsibilities and then agreed to become the lodge Cultural Director.

Submitted by: Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 3 at the home of Don and Sue Halvorson, 170 Skillman Ave E., Maplewood 55117.

## Lodge Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2009

55 members attended the October lodge meeting. There were no visitors.

Sharon Amann opened the meeting by asking that the September minutes be approved as printed in the Brevet. Clayton Lance gave the treasurer's report. Clay Keller asked for donations for the Sons of Norway Foundation and gave examples of how our lodge and lodge members have benefited from the foundation. Len Carlson announced that Eivind Heiberg, a member of our lodge, has been appointed as the new CEO of the Sons of Norway. He also spoke about the Sons of Norway financial products.

### New Business

Sharon announced Kathy Stevens as our new Cultural Skills Director. Ron Stow outlined incentives being given for the recruitment of new lodge members. He would also like to set up volunteers to mentor new members at their first meeting to make them feel welcome. He had a signup sheet available for current members to become a mentor.

Dave Mutchler again is asking for help with the newsletter. He would like editors to be responsible for different pages. It is too much work to edit the newsletter and to have to provide all of the content for it. He welcomes any articles that members would like to contribute. Articles and pictures are due the 20th of each month.

### Old Business

The price of the Torsk and Meatball Dinner has been lowered to \$15. There will be one seating at 5 PM. A silent auction will be held at the dinner. Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler are in charge of the Silent Auction. Mary Beth is also taking reservations for the dinner. Signup sheets were available for prep day and working at the dinner.

The Junior Lodge will be in charge of the program for the November meeting, Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader with your knowledge of Norway? Sharon Kalmes started signing people up to bring food and to help with setup and cleanup at the December Julebord. Signup sheets were available for Norwegian 2010 calendars and the Salvation Army Bell Ringing on December 5.

Susan Stow led us in singing the Happy Birthday Song in Norwegian to Laura Sherman and Chuck Draheim who celebrated October birthdays. Les and Maf Berg celebrated their anniversary. Char Lance won the door prize.

Rod Hale emceed the presentation of a second night of lodge member's ancestor biographies. Lodge members presenting interesting and informative biographies were Ron Stow, Ruth Gibson, Ardyce Davies, Jack Dougherty, Jeane Pearson, and Karen and Norm Vinnes.

We thank Ardyce Davies and Jane and Andy Urness for providing the delicious treats.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

# Calendar of Coming Events

<b>Saturday</b> October 31	<b>Genealogy Group Meeting and Tour of Minnesota Genealogical Library</b> Call Sheryl Hove or Dave Mutchler for more info.	10:00 AM To 12 Noon
<b>Tuesday</b> November 3	<b>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</b> Sue & Don Halvorsen's house, 170 Skillman Ave. E, Maplewood 55117; it's W. of 35E & N. of Roselawn between Jackson & Adolphus Sts.	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> Nov. 10	<b>Synnove-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event Jr./Sr. Lodge Challenge!!</b> Who can answer the most questions about Norway?	7:00 PM
<b>Friday</b> Nov. 20	<b>60th Annual Lutefisk Dinner</b> at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave, St. Paul MN. Seating times are 4, 5:15 and 6:30 PM, Child care is provided. Menu is lutefisk, meatballs, lefse, Yukon Gold potatoes, vegetable and dessert. Adults \$18, Youth age 15 and younger \$5. Tickets: Russ Edhlund at (651) 698-1260.	
<b>Saturday</b> Dec. 5	<b>Salvation Army Bell Ringing</b> Byerly's off 94 between Ruth and White Bear	9:00 AM To 5:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> Dec. 8	<b>Synnove-Nordkap Lodge &amp; Social Event</b> Julebord	6:00 PM
<b>Sunday</b> December 27	<b>Joint Lodges</b> "Away in a Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas" at Plymouth Playhouse	2:00 PM

The deadline to submit items to the Brevet for the coming month is normally the 20th of the previous month. Please keep this time frame in mind, and keep those news items coming!

Thanks,

-Dave [dmutchler@q.com](mailto:dmutchler@q.com) or 651-484-8872

## Nordic Lights Film Fest

Nov. 20-22, Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave, Mpls.

Info at [nordicfilmfest.com/twincities/](http://nordicfilmfest.com/twincities/).

### Norwegian Language Classes

- "Norwegian In Five Minutes A Month" series. Class 6:30-7:00 PM Tuesdays before lodge meeting in November. No class in December.
- "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" Class 6:30-8:00 PM Thursdays. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., between McKnight Rd. & Ruth St. November 12 and December 17.

For November 12 meeting, chapter 18.

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.

### Ingebretsen's Events:

1601 E. Lake St., Minneapolis-612-279-9333

**Saturday, Oct. 31 - 10:00-2:00PM**

Chip Carving demo by Walter Grittner

**Friday, Nov. 6 - 1:00-3:00PM**

Sample Scandinavian breads, pastries  
From Jenny Lind Bakery, Red Wing

**Saturday, Nov. 7 - 10:00-2:00 PM**

Scandinavian Music Day

"Dag" Rossman, storyteller 2:00-4:00

**Lefse class: Nov. 10 & 24 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Drop-in Hardanger: Nov. 12, Dec. 10 9:30-11:30 AM**

**Saturday, Nov. 14 - 10:00-12:00 noon**

Lefse demonstration, Gary Legwold

**Saturday, Nov. 21 - 10:00 5:00 PM**

Dale Sweaters & Yarns Show

Ruth Olson painting demonstration

"Life in Longfellow," Eric Hart, author

**Saturday, Nov. 28 - 1:00 & 2:00 PM**

Storytelling by Terry Foy, author  
Of "Da Night Before Kris-moose"

More on website: [ingebretsens.com](http://ingebretsens.com)

### Mindekirken

**The Norwegian American Church**

924 E. 21st St., Mpls

For information call: 612-874-0716

### Annual Treasure Chest Sale

Saturday, November 7

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Silent auction, new gift items, knit items, Hardanger embroidery, imported foods, chocolate and home-baked cakes, breads and lefse

Lunch available at 11:00 AM

Reservations will be given out at door.

Open-faced sandwiches, Bløtkake, and coffee

### Filmaften Fall Schedule:

Friday, November 27 7:30 PM

### Christmas Concerts:

83rd Concordia Christmas Concert  
Orchestra Hall, Mpls, Dec. 10, 6:00  
and 8:30 PM. Tickets 1-800-292-4141

Magnum Chorum: A Scandinavian  
Christmas, Dec. 19, 7:30 PM, chapel,  
Univ. St. Thomas, ticket info at  
[www.magnumchorum.org](http://www.magnumchorum.org).

# Lodge Activities

## *Welcome to Synnøve-Nordkap's Newest Members*

Welcome to our newest lodge members! We are delighted that you have decided to be a part of our great Sons of Norway Lodge. In the coming months, we hope to become acquainted and share some of the wonderful opportunities Synnøve-Nordkap has to offer.

Marit Kucera, 30 St. Albans Street S., Apt. 5, St. Paul, MN, 55105, 651-222-2483

Frank Jondal, 1664 Helena Rd. N., Oakdale, MN, 55128, 651-739-7990

John Frank McGuire, 259 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., So. St. Paul, MN, 55075, 651-455-4557

Marcella Strand, 2184 Mohawk Rd. E., No. St. Paul, MN, 55109 651-770-2159

Jean Marie Verner, 4044 Cranbrook Dr., White Bear Lake, MN, 55110, 651-426-2826

Richard Wilson, 1070 Ivy Ave. E., St. Paul, MN, 55106

Kirsten Spreck, 12855 103<sup>rd</sup> St. N. Stillwater, MN, 55082, 651-430-9432

John Mjolsness, 355 Maria Avenue, #16, St. Paul, MN, 55106, 651-207-6463

Howard Van Steenburg, 1258 East Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55101, 651-772-0446

Cora Coburn, 12973 Harriet Ave. S., Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-736-8484

Riley Coburn, 12973 Harriet Ave. S., Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-736-8484

Laurie Larson, 6461 35<sup>th</sup> St. N., Oakdale, MN, 55128, 651-330-4101

Claire Ann Thoen, 799 Winthrop St. S., St. Paul, MN, 55119, 651-738-0549

Karen Eide, 1103 Timber Way, Stillwater, MN. 55082, 651-439-8252

Matthew Linder, 11108 12<sup>th</sup> St. N., Lake Elmo, MN, 55042, 651-436-3584

Jana Stow, 4041 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407, 612-209-0114

Jennifer Stow, 1451 So. Greeley, Apt. 202, Stillwater, MN, 55082, 651-275-4033

Remember, guests are always welcome at Synnøve-Nordkap! Share the richness of our Norwegian heritage with friends, neighbors and relatives.

## *Norwegian Folk dancing for Adults In Synnove-Nordkap*

Do your toes start tapping when you hear the fiddle in Norwegian music? Are you thinking that it looks like great fun when you see our Peer Gynt children dancing at lodge? Maybe the time is right to explore an adult Norwegian Folk dancing experience and see where that leads us. Dancing is a way to have exercise and fun at the same time.

There is a new cultural skills medal program with Norwegian folk dancing now that we could explore too. Your ideas are most welcome as we formulate this activity. Do you know of a facility that would be big enough to do some folk dancing? Is your rec. room big enough? If we could find a place that is free, that would be the best. Which night of the week suits you?

These are some of the initial thoughts. Let me know if you are interested, or if you have a rehearsal spot to suggest.

– Susan Stow, Burle103@aol.com

# Lodge Events

## Torsk & Meatball Dinner and Silent Auction a Big Success!

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to those who helped with Prep and Set-Up Day before the Torsk & Meatball Dinner. It was a challenge to deal with the room not prepared, but everyone pitched right in and the room set up was done in record time! Thanks to Sharon Kalmes, Curt & Joanne Hogenson, Jeane Pearson, Lenore Jesness, Frank & Laura Sherman, Ardyce Davies and Sharon Amman, as well as Ray and Pastor Chris from the church who helped to get the room in order. - Karen Vinnes

In addition to the list above, we thank the following people for helping to make the Torsk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, October 24 a success by volunteering for Cooking Day, or for serving, cooking, clean-up, etc. They helped the lodge make more than \$700 on the dinner/fundraiser alone.

Joanne Englund  
Clay & Clair Keller  
Ron Kvaas  
Char & Clayton Lance

Collin & Kathy Mutchler  
Lisa Mutchler  
Mary Beth & Dave Mutchler  
Jerry & Trudi Johnson Richards

Taffy Storck  
Axel Torvi  
Andy & Jane Urness  
Karen Vinnes

The Silent Auction at our Torsk and Meatball Dinner was also a big success, raising more than \$875 and resulting in some spirited bidding on some of the items. Our thanks to the donors who helped to make this fundraiser a success:

Sharon Amann  
Joanne Berndt  
Len & Kathy Carlson  
Chuck Draheim  
Joanne Englund  
Frank Murphy Fashions  
Ruth Gibson  
Rod Hale  
Sue & Don Halvorson

Svein Husvold  
Frank Jondal  
Sharon Kalmes  
Clay & Clair Keller  
Ron Kvaas  
Marit Lee Kucera  
Lisa Mutchler  
Mary Beth & Dave Mutchler  
LaRee Opdal

Jeane Pearson  
Kay Sandeen  
Judy & Jerry Stanke  
Susan & Ron Stow  
Axel Torvi  
Jean Verner  
Karen & Norman Vinnes



# Our Lodge Activities

## Sixteen Years of Progress with Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge, #1-008, St. Paul, Minnesota

Dynamic activities characterize the core of Synnøve-Nordkap's progress in the last sixteen years. These activities focus on service to others, learning about Norwegian heritage, celebrating Norwegian culture, wellness with programs and lodge trips just for fun. In 2002 Synnøve-Nordkap celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are especially proud of being awarded District One "Family Lodge of the Year" in 2006 and again in 2008!

Serving others, in Synnøve-Nordkap terms, involves our elementary school partnership with North Heights Christian Academy. Members from our lodge spent many hours volunteering at the Science Museum of Minnesota at the Viking exhibit. Others have volunteered to demonstrate at the Scandia Fest at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, ring bells for the Salvation Army each Christmas season, or visit lodge shut in members. Members enjoy helping with the Ski for Light program too.

Learning more about Norwegian heritage is part of the ongoing study of Norse before each meeting and an additional language lesson mid-month. Synnøve-Nordkap has a genealogy group seeking their family histories through digitalarkivet.no via the computer. More experienced lodge researchers have been helping those just starting. Many members brought family treasures for a Norwegian style "Antiques Roadshow" to find out more about the history and value. All this research has led to two wonderful programs sharing fascinating biographies of our Norwegian ancestors.

Celebrating Norwegian culture with Synnøve-Nordkap has meant celebrating the author Henrik Ibsen with a Syttende Mai program, children's parade and speeches near the Ibsen statue in Como Park. Our lodge has commemorated Leif Erickson's discovery of the North American continent in October for many years at the statue across from the Minnesota State Capitol building. We share our Norwegian culture at the Festival of Nations at the St. Paul River Centre every year. Two popular festivals for our lodge are the Torsk and Meatball Dinner in October, plus the Julebord in December.

Wellness is an important factor in Synnøve-Nordkap. The lodge has hiked in the woods with orienteering goals, or in a state park following a letter boxing trail. Many members are fulfilling hiking, skiing, biking and fitness medal programs. Activities just for fun are part of the congeniality of Synnøve-Nordkap. We relish our summer trips together to the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, MN, the Nordic Fest and Vesterheim in Decorah, IA, the Ibsen Play at the Lanesboro, MN theater, the Peer Gynt ballet at the Ordway Theater in St. Paul, MN, and an excursion to see fjord horses and the Odden's wood carving studio near Barronett, WI.

Synnøve-Nordkap supports youth programs through college, and Skogfjorden Norwegian Language Village scholarships. We are proud to have a very active junior lodge which was chartered in 1981. The children, ages 7 -18, meet monthly to learn language, crafts, and culture. The Peer Gynt Dancers of the junior lodge perform locally throughout the year with the highlight being The Festival of Nations in May.

Our members keep informed through the monthly Syn-Nor Brevet, the online version of the Brevet, or from the Synnøve-Nordkap website <http://synnove1.com>. There's always something interesting planned whether it is service to others, learning about Norwegian culture, celebrating Norwegian heritage, wellness activities, junior lodge fun or time to enjoy the wonderful members of Synnøve-Nordkap.

- Susan Stow



## Benefit News

### Failure to plan is a plan for failure

November has been declared **Long-Term Care Awareness Month** because even the U.S. Congress recognizes the importance of making people aware of the risks and costs associated with long-term care. As a professional committed to helping people protect themselves against the risks of long-term care, I encourage you to take this topic seriously. It can impact you and your loved ones.

**Some things I believe you need to know about long-term care:**

1. **You're probably not covered.**
2. **Government programs aren't designed to pay for all your long-term care needs.**
3. **Long-term care doesn't mean nursing home care.**
4. **Your age and health make a big difference in what protection costs.**
5. **Why not find out how much long-term care insurance protection costs?**

There is no cost or obligation to find out how much long-term care insurance protection costs and what savings and discounts you qualify for.

Why not find out now? It's an important first step to take.

Call me today at **651-429-2304**.

Make Long-Term Care Awareness Month the time you start planning.

**Greg Hovland**  
**Financial Benefits Counselor**  
**651-429-2304**  
**ltcfinancial@msn.com**  
**www.LtcFinancialServices.com**

# 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

**Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest** by Matt Haig is a sparkling juvenile debut by a writer who understands how children think—his sense of fantasy is playful and sinister (ages 8-12). Anyone who reads the extensive and hilarious cast of characters at the novel's opening will not be too surprised that Samuel and Martha Blink's parents are suddenly killed before the end of chapter one. Following this accident, Samuel and Martha, who has become mute with grief, are sent to Norway to live with an aunt they have never met.

Aunt Eda lives along with her elkhound Ibsen. Set in her ways, mourning the mysterious disappearance of her husband Henrik, Samuel says it so well "a person buttoned right to the top." One of the first things she gives to Samuel and Martha is a list of rules. The most important one? Never---Under any Circumstances—Go into the Forest.

Living as she does at the edge of the mysterious, menacing forest, Aunt Eda underestimates its appeal for children. When Martha, fascinated by the dark woods strange, dark beauty, wanders off, Samuel (with Ibsen at his side) must gather all his courage in order to find her. Armed only with Professor Horatio Tanglewood's book *The Creatures of Shadow Forest*, Samuel has to discover the secrets of good and evil in order to survive the woods many traps. He finds there is an eerie world populated by trolls, truth pixies and other fantastical creatures. Martha must find her voice if the children are to have any hope of outwitting the forest's evils and the wicked Changemaker who orchestrates them. And even Aunt Eda has to break her own rules to find and save those she loves most. There are 26 characters in the book. Some are mean and some are somewhere in between.

A reader review rated **Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest** Excellent! Five Stars! The book is published in the U.S., UK and Germany and an audio CD is available from Scholastic.

Matt Haig lives in the UK and this is his first novel for young readers. Matt visited Norway to stay with relatives since he was six years old when he had his first taste of reindeer soup. When he was eleven, he got lost in a forest because his dad took the wrong map. Inspired by Norwegian folklore and his own boyhood summers in Norway, Matt Haig's novel is a superb, brisk plotted fantasy that will appeal to both kids and his growing numbers of adult readers. The author's love for the Norwegian setting is evident. His first two books were for adults, **The Dead Fathers Club** and **The Last Family in England**.

**Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest** is available in Ramsey County, Minnesota, Libraries.

## GARDEN SNAKES CAN BE DANGEROUS...

Snakes also known as Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis*) can be dangerous. Yes, grass snakes, not rattlesnakes. Here's why.

A couple in Sweetwater, Texas, had a lot of potted plants. During a recent cold spell, the wife was bringing a lot of them indoors to protect them from a possible freeze. It turned out that a little green garden grass snake was hidden in one of the plants. When it had warmed up, it slithered out and the wife saw it go under the sofa. She let out a very loud scream. The husband (who was taking a shower) ran out into the living room naked to see what the problem was. She told him there was a snake under the sofa.

He got down on the floor on his hands and knees to look for it. About that time the family dog came and cold-nosed him on the behind. He thought the snake had bitten him, so he screamed and fell over on the floor. His wife thought he had had a heart attack, so she covered him up, told him to lie still and called an ambulance. The attendants rushed in, would not listen to his protests, loaded him on the stretcher, and started carrying him out.

About that time, the snake came out from under the sofa and the Emergency Medical Technician saw it and dropped his end of the stretcher. That's when the man broke his leg and why he is still in the hospital.

The wife still had the problem of the snake in the house, so she called on a neighbor who volunteered to capture the snake. He armed himself with a rolled-up newspaper and began poking under the couch. Soon he decided it was gone and told the woman, who sat down on the sofa in relief. But while relaxing, her hand dangled in between the cushions, where she felt the snake wriggling around. She screamed and fainted, the snake rushed back under the sofa.

The neighbor man, seeing her lying there passed out, tried to use CPR to revive her. The neighbor's wife, who had just returned from shopping at the grocery store, saw her husband's mouth on the woman's mouth and slammed her husband in the back of the head with a bag of canned goods, knocking him out and cutting his scalp to a point where it needed stitches. The noise woke the woman from her dead faint and she saw her neighbor lying on the floor with his wife bending over him, so she assumed that the snake had bitten him. She went to the kitchen and got a small bottle of whiskey, and began pouring it down the man's throat. By now, the police had arrived.

They saw the unconscious man, smelled the whiskey, and assumed that a drunken fight had occurred. They were about to arrest them all, when the women tried to explain how it all happened over a little garden snake! The police called an ambulance, which took away the neighbor and his sobbing wife.

Now, the little snake again crawled out from under the sofa and one of the policemen drew his gun and fired at it. He missed the snake and hit the leg of the end table. The table fell over, the lamp on it shattered and, as the bulb broke, it started a fire in the drapes. The other policeman tried to beat out the flames, and fell through the window into the yard on top of the family dog who, startled, jumped up and raced into the street, where an oncoming car swerved to avoid it and smashed into the parked police car.

Meanwhile, neighbors saw the burning drapes and called in the fire department. The firemen had started raising the fire ladder when they were halfway down the street. The rising ladder tore out the overhead wires, put out the power, and disconnected the telephones in a ten-square city block area (but they did get the house fire out).

Time passed! Both men were discharged from the hospital, the house was repaired, the dog came home, the police acquired a new car and all was right with their world.

A while later they were watching TV and the weatherman announced a cold snap for that night. The wife asked her husband if he thought they should bring in their plants for the night.

And that's when he shot her.

Our thanks to Kathy Stevens for this gem!

**Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008  
Sons of Norway  
3496 Nancy Place  
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126-8005**



**Time sensitive material;  
please deliver promptly!**

**Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
St. Paul, MN 55126  
Permit No. 412**

**2008 OFFICERS & Committee Chairs**

**PRESIDENT** Sharon Amann 631-0399\* slamann@comcast.net  
**VICE PRES./ MEMBERSHIP** Ron Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com  
**SECRETARY** Sue Halvorson 489-1952 sahalvors@comcast.net  
**MEMBERSHIP SEC.** Trudi Johnson-Richards 482-0096 trudijr@visi.com  
**TREASURER** Clayton Lance 730-5567 clance12@qwest.net  
**SOCIAL DIRECTOR** Pat Carlson 226-0697 (cell) pat.carlson@state.mn.us  
 Shirley Brekke 774-2154  
**CULTURAL DIRECTOR** Steven Roste 247-1524 sjroste@hotmail.com  
**COUNSELOR** Len Carlson 651-253-1943 lcarlson@sofn.com  
**TRUSTEES** Taffy Storck 222-2857  
 Meredith Berg 715-386-6680 maf914@sbcglobal.net  
 LeRee Opdahl 738-6072 laopdahl@hotmail.com  
**MARSHALL** Curt Hogenson 698-5783 jchogie@unique-software.com  
**ASSISTANT MARSHALL** Ron Kvaas 481-9868  
**SPORTS DIRECTOR** Rod Hale 636-4284 hale780243@aol.com  
**HISTORIAN** Lenore Jesness 778-1421 ljes@usfamily.net  
**MUSICIAN** Susan Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com  
**GREETERS** Jack and Bev Dougherty 735-0903 doughandsow@usfamily.net  
**NEWSLETTER EDITORS**  
 Dave Mutchler 484-8872 dmutchler@q.com  
 Karen Vinnes 483-1103 knvinnes@comcast.net  
**PUBLICITY:** Leif Erickson 439-5040 lericks@presenter.com  
**NEWSLETTER MAILER:** Beryl Boe 222-7076  
**ADOPT-A-SCHOOL COORD.** Ruth Gibson 429-5572  
**SUNSHINE** Judy Cullen 771-9891  
**LIBRARIAN** Trudi Johnson-Richards 482-0096 trudijr@visi.com  
**GENEALOGY** Cathie Reasoner 646-8483 harrie1030@netzero.com  
 Fred Matson 777-6108 norhemian@comcast.net  
**NORSK CLASSES** Sheryl Hove 738-4908 sherylhove@netzero.net  
 Crystal Bloecher 774-8545  
**WEBMASTER** Dave Mutchler 484-8872 dmutchler@q.com  
**FOUNDATION** Clay Keller 310-9667 keller.clay@gmail.com  
**SCHOLARSHIP** Clay Keller 310-9667 keller.clay@gmail.com  
**JR LODGE/PEER GYNT DANCERS** Susan Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com  
**AUDITORS** Bob Smith 222-6888 / Ed Gilbertson 732-2356 /  
 Linda Holmstrom 770-8989

(\* All area codes are 651 unless otherwise specified).

**SYNNØVE-NORDKAP  
SONS OF NORWAY  
LODGE #1-008  
First Lutheran Church  
463 Maria Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-762-7872**



**Upcoming Activities**

**Genealogical Society Tour - Sat. Oct. 31  
Are You Smarter Than... - Tues. Nov. 10  
Julebord - Tues. Dec. 8**

**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.