

SynNor Brevet

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Lodge #1-008



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

Voice Messages: 651-762-7872

Traditional Norwegian costume, 1855



Matthew Anderson, Curator



Wood tankard presented to Governor Orville Freeman by Einar Gerhardsen, Prime Minister of Norway, in 1958. Tankard was made in Gudbrandsdal, Norway, in 1744.



Join us on Tuesday, January 11 for “Norwegian Objects at the Minnesota Historical Society.” We’ll get an overview of the Society’s three-dimensional object collection, and a brief explanation of what they collect and how they collect it.

Matt will share slides of 31 different Norwegian items and will bring a few of the actual artifacts along.

Scandinavian Culture and News

Den Norske Amerikalinje NAL (Norwegian America Line)

Mass emigration from Norway to North America started after the American Civil War in the 1860's and peaked in the 1880's and the first decade of the twentieth century. For many years, most of the emigrant travel was done on the steam ships of two Danish shipping companies, Thingvalla-Linien, Scandinavian America Line and the British Wilson Line.

When Norway decided to sever the union ties with Sweden in 1905, the question of how to best organize the future shipping connections between Norway and North America had already been discussed. The idea of operating a national Norwegian shipping line on the Trans-Atlantic route was eagerly embraced in Norway and a committee was set up in 1902 to get the project going. But the country was short on entrepreneurial capital so help was enlisted from Norwegian expatriates in the United States.

On August 27, 1910 a new company, named Den Norske Amerikalinje A/S (NAL for short) held its first stockholders meeting with Gustav Henriksen appointed the company's first CEO. Two passenger ships were commissioned from the British ship yard Cammell Laird Co. The first one, 10,000 ton Kristianiafjord, set out from Kristiania (Oslo) on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic Ocean on June 4, 1913. The sister ship, S/S Bergensfjord, joined her later in the same year. When Kristianiafjord was shipwrecked in 1917 and sank off Cape Race, Newfoundland, a new ship, S/S Stavangerfjord, was ready to take over. The latter ship made a total of 770 crossings from 1918 until she was scrapped in 1964.

In the 1960's, NAL ceased operating the regular Oslo-New York route and instead commissioned two new cruise ships, Sagafjord (1964) and Vistafjord (1973). In 1983 these two ships were sold to Cunard Line and from 1997 and 2004 respectively, they provided cruises for senior citizens. Sagafjord, which had been renamed Saga Rose, was scrapped in 2010, but Vistafjord, (now named Saga Ruby) is still sailing.

NAL later operated a number of ships in the car transportation and bulk trades until the company was merged with the Norwegian shipping company, Wilhelmson Lines in 1995.

From: *The Norseman*, 2010 KV

2011 World Ski Championships

From February 23 - March 6 2011, Holmenkollen's new National Arena in Oslo will be hosting the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships. (Federation Internationale de Ski) The championship events will consist of 21 cross-country, Nordic combined and ski jumping events, as well as a number of cultural and festival events.

This is expected to be the biggest sporting event Norway has had in many years, with an estimated 650 competitors from more than 60 nations, 1,800 media representatives, at least 300,000 spectators and several hundred million TV viewers all over the world.

Ticket sales officially began in September, 2010 in Oslo. Tickets can be bought online at www.oslo2011.no.

From: *The Norseman*

Norwegian Girls beat Boys in Reading

Researchers found girls possess superior reading skills compared to boys, for a variety of reasons. Also, countries which have more socio-economically advantaged students performed better.

In 2000, when reading was the main topic, Norwegian children in general scored slightly above average, but worse than all the other Nordic countries. Reading showed a slight decline in 2003, which continued its downward spiral three years later. However, girls have consistently ranked above boys in the last two test years.

Meanwhile, Mimi Bjerkestrand, head of the Union of Education Norway (Utdanningsforbundet) is pleased the PISA 2009 showed efforts to improve reading skills in the last 10 years seem to have paid off.

"It is inspiring for teachers to see their efforts are worthwhile," she tells *Dagsavisen*.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg was also pleased with the results, but not entirely satisfied.

"We need to continue improving our educational system by training teachers so that we can relate their efforts to our pupils' capacities", he tells NRK.

From: *The Foreigner.no* KV

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,

Happy 2011. It hardly seems possible we are into the second decade of the twenty-first century. In my last article, I mentioned that we lodge members are a hardy lot that will scale snow drifts. I didn't realize how prophetic that would be. We had a great turn-out for our Julebord in spite of high snow banks and a few unplowed roads and parking lots. Those who managed the obstacles found that it was well worth the effort. We had a lovely time with great food and wonderful friends and fellow lodge members.

I mentioned at the Julebord that the January meeting is installation of our new slate of officers. Ron Stow will be our new president, and Kathy Stevens will be our new vice president. As has been mentioned previously, our lodge has sequenced three offices: The vice president moves to be president after two years, and the president moves to be counselor for two years. I foresee great things for the lodge as these two move into their new positions.

Ron and Kathy are backed by our super board that was the air (or better yet, the lift) beneath my wings during the past two years. Our lodge runs and plans by a great team of very hard-working volunteer board members working together to accomplish common goals. Nothing is done without planning and people taking time to do that planning.

Even though we have an active and hard-working board, we do need EACH AND EVERY member to participate in order to have a successful, interesting, and fun lodge.

I wish to thank the board and every member for the help, encouragement, and support given during my two years as president of Synnove-Nordkap.

Blessings for a wonderful 2011,
Sharon

Members in Our Thoughts This Holiday Season

Eunice Baker, who fell in her yard and broke her kneecap.

Bob Berndt, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Congratulations to Golden Member Bob Mikulak on being named US Ambassador to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. He is unknown to most of you as he and his Swedish wife, Gunnel, have lived in Arlington, VA for many years and are friends of Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler. Bob is a long-time peace negotiator with the US State Department. The Mikulaks will be living in the Hague, Netherlands for the next two years. We wish them well on this significant adventure in their lives.

Lodge News

Board Meeting Minutes, December 7

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Patty Carlson, Rod Hale, Sue Halvorson, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Sharon Kalmes, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, Jeane Pearson, Kathy Stevens, and Ron and Susan Stow.

Old Business

Plans for the December Julebord were discussed. The Salvation Army bell ringing shifts were finalized. The board voted to send a donation to Ski for Light.

New Business

Mary Beth reviewed the lodge finances. Plans for the upcoming election and installation of lodge officers were reviewed. Lodge programs for 2011 were discussed. Patty Carlson gave a brief report on the meeting she attended regarding the 2011 Festival of Nations.

The Junior Lodge's participation in the Winter Carnival Parade and items needed for the float were reviewed.

Submitted by: Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 4 at the Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr. (W. side of Maplewood Mall) in the community program room.

Lodge Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2010

95 lodge members and guests made it through the deep snow to the December lodge meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2011 slate of officers as printed in the Brevet.

Susan Stow announced that the Junior Lodge would be in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade in January. The parade is on Saturday, January 29, at 1:00 PM. Wouldn't it be nice if lots of lodge members showed up to support our dancers at this great public event?

Rod Hale presented sports medals. John Nordale received the bronze Idrettsmerke medal and Char Lance received silver Sykkelmerke and gold enamel Gangmerke medals. Ron Stow presented membership pins.

Christmas carols were sung in Norwegian and English. Jana Stow led the singing and Susan Stow accompanied on the piano.

Hats off to Sharon Kalmes for a wonderful job organizing the Julebord. Thank you to all the members for the delicious food.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday Jan. 4	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Maplewood Library conference room; 3025 South-lawn Dr. (W side Maplewood Mall)	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saturday Jan. 8	<u>Genealogy Group Meeting</u> at the Ramsey County Roseville Library, Co. Rd. B at Hamline Everyone is welcome to attend; lunch to follow.	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Tuesday Jan. 11	<u>Synnove-Nordkap Social Event</u> Matt Anderson of the Minnesota Historical Society will discuss the Norwegian artifacts they have. See cover for more information.	7:00 PM
Saturday Jan. 22	<u>January Lodge Walk</u> Around Como Lake, with refreshments following. (See info in box directly below this calendar.)	10:00 AM
Saturday Jan. 29	<u>King Boreas Grand Parade for St. Paul Winter Carnival</u> with a float, lodge banners, and our own Peer Gynt Dancers	1:00 PM
Tuesday Feb. 1	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Maplewood Library conference room; 3025 South-lawn Dr. (W side Maplewood Mall)	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday Feb. 1	<u>Summer Camp Scholarship Applications due to Rod Hale</u> (see next page)	
Tuesday Feb. 8	<u>Synnove-Nordkap Social Event</u> Tuesday Movie Night "Kitchen Stories"	7:00 PM

January Lodge Walk

The intrepid Lodge walking group will meet at the Como Park pavilion (on Lexington Avenue between University and Larpenteur Avenues in St. Paul) on Saturday, January 22nd at 10:00 AM to walk around Como Lake with hot refreshments following at Black Bear Crossing (located in the pavilion there). No flip flops!

- Rod Hale

Please remember to bring the pictures from your old Norwegian calendars to the January meeting. Our junior lodge will be making decorative boxes out of the scenes as a craft project.

Norwegian Language Classes

- (1) "Norwegian In Five Minutes A Month" series. Class 6:30-7:00 PM Tuesdays before lodge meetings. January 11: Lessons 16 & 17.
Future date: February 8
- (2) "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" Class 6:30-8:00 PM Thursdays, 1/month. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., between McKnight Rd. & Ruth St.
Date: Jan. 13: Chapter 20, p. 334. Future dates: Feb. 10, March 10, April 14 and May 12

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.

Mindekirken Events::
924 E. 21st St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 874-0716

Tuesday Open House:

Jan. 4: Festival of Hymns and Songs

Jan. 11: Mindekirken's 89th Birthday Celebration and History

Jan. 18: Jim Hofrenning: Cobbers in WWII

Ingebretsen's Events:
1601 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-9333

Sat. Jan. 15, 22 and 29

Beginning Knitting

Sat. Jan. 22

Open Face Sandwiches" with Kristen Larsen.

Barneløpet

Sunday, January 23, 2011 - 1:00 PM
Riverside Park SE, St. Cloud, MN

Attend the Third Annual Sons of Norway Barneløpet, sponsored by Trollheim Lodge of St. Cloud, Vennekretsen Lodge of Anoka and FjellSyn Lodge of Mounds View.

Children ages 3 to 13 are welcome; events are organized based on age and ability levels. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served as well as food, music and Vikings. Each lodge member is invited to attend.

For information contact: Tolly Vollen at (320)252-6230 or e-mail at: Tkvollen65@charter.net

St. Paul Winter Carnival
Jan. 27 to Feb. 6
www.winter-carnival.com

Jan. 29: Grand Parade at 1:00 PM with our dancers (see calendar)

Jan. 29: 15 & 7.5 km ski races

Feb. 2: Ski jumping

Lodge Activities

Julebord Another Big Success

We all owe thanks to event chairperson Sharon Kalmes for her hard work and expertise in organizing this annual event and making it successful. Tusen takk, Sharon!

Sharon sent the following to the Brevet for publication:

I would like to thank everyone that made the Julebord a successful evening. First to Mary Beth and Dave, who went down to check the streets and parking lots after a call from the church office saying they thought we should cancel. They didn't know Scandinavians-- 97 people were able to participate .

A big thanks to Jeane and Lauren Pearson, Jane and Andy Urness, Linda Holstrom, Shirley Brekke, and Ron Kvass for helping me set up. Also to JoAnn and Curt Hogenson for helping to organize the food. And for clean up to Char and Clay Lance, Kathy Kaluza, Sheryl Hove, and Patty Carlson. Also a huge thank you to everyone that brought their food items .

Tusen Takk!
Sharon Kalmes

2011 Synnove-Nordkap Language Camp Scholarships

Synnove-Nordkap Lodge, in conjunction with District 1 of the Sons of Norway, is offering scholarships to support the attendance of children and grandchildren of active Lodge members at Norwegian language camps this summer. The two camps are Concordia Language Villages' Skogfjorden, located in Bemidji, MN, and District 5's Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp near Eau Claire, WI. The District One scholarships for 2011 will be \$125 per week of camp.

The application consists of three parts:

1. A COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THE CAMP OF YOUR CHOICE. CAMP APPLICATIONS WILL HOPEFULLY BE POSTED SHORTLY ON THE LODGE WEBSITE OR CAN BE OBTAINED (WHEN AVAILABLE) FROM RODERICK HALE.

2. THE LODGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM. This can be found on our lodge web site at <http://synnove1.com> .

3. A DEPOSIT CHECK FOR THE AMOUNT INDICATED ON THE CAMP APPLICATION. The camps require different deposits. If applying to Skogfjorden, take advantage of the Early Bird Discount. The Early Bird Discount code must be filled in on the registration form in order for the discount to be applied.

FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TO RECEIVE FULL CONSIDERATION, ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY LODGE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR, RODERICK HALE, BY FEBRUARY 1, 2011.

Mail the application to:

Roderick Hale
1436 Colleen Avenue
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Lodge News

Junior Lodge Update

As with most activities scheduled for the weekend of December 11th, our Junior lodge activities had to be postponed, but it was worth the wait. We met on Saturday, Dec. 18th instead. This year we made krum kake, sandbakkels, kringla and flatbrød. We had three krum kake irons going this year. The smells were heavenly. Each of the bakers was earnestly doing his/her best. Best of all, is that everyone got to take a box of samples home to share. A special thank you to the adult baking supervisors: Linda Erickson, Nancy Fjestad, Kari Høien, Donna Sanderson and Tim Spreck. You kept everyone safe around the griddles and ovens and happily rolling, shaping, and forming those delicious Norwegian cookies.

Everyone was turning in their waivers to be in the King Boreas Grande Day Parade on January 19th in St. Paul. We talked about upcoming events in 2011, especially the First Annual Herring Toss in January.

With an A,B,C book about Nordic countries the children learned about many Norwegian cultural facts, for instance: B is for bunad, F is for fjords and fishing, J is for Jokkmokk market of Sami tradition, K for Kong Harold, L for lutefisk and lingonberries, N for the Nobel prize, O for Oslo which is 1,000 years old, R for runestones, reindeer and rosmaling, T for tomtens or trolls, V for Vikings, X for cross-country skiing and the Birkebeiner, Z for zigzagging roads like Norwegian National Road 63 called the Trollstigen that is closed in autumn and winter weather in the mountains.

Å Jul med din glede was our dancing around the Christmas tree song. The Peer Gynt Dancers are working on the beginning cultural skills medal for folk dancing and this Christmas tree dance is a requirement.

Godt Nytt År!

-Susan Stow

It could be true. . .

Ole, a furniture dealer from up at Bemidji, MN, decided to expand the line of furniture in his store, so he decided to go to Paris to see what he could find.

After arriving in Paris, he visited with some manufacturers and selected a line that he thought would sell well back home. To celebrate the new acquisition, he decided to visit a small bistro and have a glass of wine. As he sat enjoying his wine, he noticed that the small place was quite crowded, and that the other chair at his table was the only vacant seat in the house.

Before long, a very beautiful young Parisian girl came to his table; asked him something in French (which Ole couldn't understand); so he motioned to the vacant chair and invited her to sit down. He tried to speak to her in English, but she did not speak his language. After a couple of minutes of trying to communicate with her, he took a napkin and drew a picture of a wine glass and showed it to her. She nodded, so he ordered a glass of wine for her.

After sitting together at the table for a while, he took another napkin, and drew a picture of a plate with food on it, and she nodded. They left the bistro and found a quiet cafe that featured a small group playing romantic music. They ordered dinner..... after which he took another napkin and drew a picture of a couple dancing. She nodded, and they got up to dance. They danced until the cafe closed and the band was packing up.

Back at their table, the young lady took a napkin and drew a picture of a four-poster bed.

To this day, Ole has no idea how she figured out he was in the furniture business.

Out and About

Editor's note: Many of you remember our enjoyable outing to Norsk Wood Works in July 2009. Now Else and Phil are leading a remarkable tour to Norway next summer. There is not enough space here to put their information. Please see their website at www.norskwoodworks.com for the information and itinerary. Space is quite limited, so move quickly to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity!

Odden's Rural Life Traditions Tour Norway August 12 through August 23, 2011

See website: www.Norskwoodworks.com

Phone: 715 468 2780

Email: NWW@norskwoodworks.com

Else Bigton, a native of Ålesund Norway, and **Phillip Odden** from Barronett Wisconsin met each other at the Hjerleid wood carving school in Norway in 1977. They were married in 1978 and returned to Wisconsin in 1979 to establish Norsk Wood Works, a wood carving and furniture business. For 31 years they have made their sole living as artist-craftsmen in the Norwegian folk art tradition. In recent years they have established a herd of Norwegian Fjord horses. The couple raises, train and show Fjord horses in the upper Midwest in Pleasure Driving competitions and Combined Driving Events. Else and Phil enjoy working as artist craftsmen and keeping horses on their farm in rural Wisconsin.

Together we are offering to lead a special trip to Norway that will focus on Rural Life Traditions in Norway. This will be a study tour to visit Phil and Else's favorite places and people in Norway as we travel through some of Northern Europe's most spectacular mountain scenery. We will become familiar with folk art and food traditions from different regions of the country. Phil and Else will explain these traditions in the cultural and historical context of Norway. Often we will have guest guides. These are people Phil and Else have come to know in Norway and they will offer insights that would not be possible to learn otherwise.



Benefit News Getting Life Insurance

Your health greatly affects the rates you'll pay for life insurance, or if you will be covered at all.

Life insurance costs more for a new policy as you age, naturally, because of increasing mortality risk. Smokers have paid higher individual life insurance premiums than nonsmokers since at least the late 1960s. But only 2% to 4% of applications are rejected annually, usually for poor health, according to the Life Insurance Foundation for Education.

Here are five health conditions that affect the price you'll pay for individual life insurance.

- ? Cardiovascular problems.
- ? Stroke.
- ? Diabetes.
- ? Cancer.
- ? Hepatitis C.

Getting life insurance may be one of the most important financial decisions you make and you will never be in better health than you are right now to apply for coverage.

For more information on life insurance, schedule a complementary Sons of Norway financial review.

Reference: The Wall Street Journal Sunday, November 21 2010.

Greg Hovland

Financial Benefits Counselor
651-429-2304

lctfinancial@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

Gunnar Staalesen is Norwegian, born in Bergen, 1947. He has, among other books, written a series of crime books starring Varg Veum. The first book in the series was published in 1977. Varg Veum is a kind of Scandinavian Philip Marlowe. Varg Veum is a former social worker turned private detective in Bergen, Norway. Staalesen's books have been translated in 12 languages. **The Writing on the Wall** was published in Norwegian in 1995.

Varg Veum returns from the funeral of his ex-wife's most recent husband to find the distressed mother of missing 16 year old girl Torild, waiting to see him. Bergen is also buzzing with rumors about the death of Judge Brandt after he is found dead in a hotel room wearing flimsy female lingerie. Varg Veum starts digging. He looks into the last known sightings of Torild and her friends who spent time at or around a local amusement arcade. What seems pretty normal rebellious behavior seems to be covering up something more sinister. Veum is called in by anxious parents to look for a missing daughter and explain the judge's death. Veum soon receives death threats. He is also convinced that there is a connection to the death of Judge Brandt. Before long, Veum finds clues that lead him only deeper into Bergen's criminal underworld.

The Writing on the Wall is a detective novel and well written. Staalesen has a way with dialogues. Veum is not all that likeable. He is a straight and believable hero. Staalesen keeps Veum's story constantly on the move. Veum's world is a world full of shades of gray. Staalesen manages to work in details about contemporary Norwegian life—the class system, how people live, how they work, the role of the media, illuminated the characters and brought them to life.

Staalesen is an interesting author. He has been extremely productive, and has written a long list of books, crime fiction, other fiction books, several plays and other works. His crime books are strongly inspired by American detective fiction. He cites Raymond Chandler as his prime inspiration. And, there is much that is Chandler in Staalesen's books, and much Philip Marlowe in Varg Veum. But, Staalesen's style is still unique. The plots are complicated and well composed. If you have read a number of Staalesen's novels and love Varg Veum, this is a great book.

SAVE USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR TUBFRIM

To those new to the lodge, Tubfrim is a humanitarian health organization which collects used stamps and then sells them to philatelists world wide.

It was organized in 1928 to help finance Tuberculosis research and to provide for handicapped children and youth.

Profits in 1929 totaled NOK 1500 and in 2008 have grown to NOK 650,000. The total since the beginning is 17 million kroner. This is money rescued from waste baskets.

So clip and save your cancelled stamps, trimming carefully around them, and bring them to our meetings. Thanks!

Fable of the porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions. After awhile, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

Moral of the story: The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

So, just learn to live with the pricks in your life!

An elderly couple were on a cruise and it was really stormy. They were standing on the back of the boat watching the storm, when a wave came up and washed the old man overboard. They searched for days and couldn't find him, so the captain sent the old woman back to shore with the promise that he would notify her as soon as they found something.

Three weeks went by and finally the old woman got a fax from the boat. It read: "Ma'am, sorry to inform you, we found your husband dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled him up to the deck and attached to his trousers was an oyster and in it was a pearl worth \$50,000. Please advise."

The old woman faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap."

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 or 651-484-8872

**Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008
Sons of Norway
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(* All area codes are 651 unless otherwise specified).



Godt Nytt Aar

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



Upcoming Activities

**Genealogy Group Meeting - Sat. Jan. 8
Norwegian Artifacts - Tues. Jan. 11
Movie "Kitchen Stories" - Tues. Feb. 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.