



SONS OF NORWAY

# Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

20th Anniversary

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

March 2020

## Notes from Lodge President

Kjære venner,

I hope all are staying warm and well this winter. We have an exciting spring planned and I hope to see you all at our lodge meetings. As a reminder, our upcoming meeting schedule and events are posted on our website <http://www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html>

If you are on Facebook be sure to link to our page (Edvard Grieg Lodge #5-657 Cincinnati, Ohio). Our programs as well as local events and news are all posted on our sites with times, details and links to directions.

We are trying something new and 'experimental' at our upcoming lodge meetings: conversing in Norwegian! At our last meeting we identified a number of resources for learning Norwegian, and we are encouraging members to use the platform of choice to begin to familiarize ourselves with the language. Homework assignment for the March meeting: be able to 'pass the time of day' in Norwegian: respond to a simple question and ask a question in return. We will spend a little time at the end of our meetings to try this out and see how it goes.



Below are some links to online resources that you can use to learn:

Sons of Norway site:

[https://www.sofn.com/norwegian\\_culture/norwegian\\_language\\_lessons/](https://www.sofn.com/norwegian_culture/norwegian_language_lessons/). You will need to login with your member ID to gain full benefit of the audio. It is free. Let us know if need your member ID #.

Duolingo: <https://www.duolingo.com>. A very easy way to learn quickly. This is free, though there is a premium version offered with a few other bells and whistles (for example, no ads).

Babbel: <https://www.babbel.com> This is a pay site (\$6.95 to \$13.95/mo). I have not used it but others have found it useful.

NorwegianABC: <https://norwegianabc.com> A free site that can be audio-streamed (listen and learn approach, do not need to watch).

An additional alternative is the Pimsleur program, which is available on CD for purchase or from the library.

Jeg håper å se deg på marsmøtet (I hope to see you all at the March meeting).

Hilsen, Jim Herman

## Birthdays

### March

Nancy Cooper[2], Elisabeth Petterson Sonoff[12], Larry Bannick[17], Kathy Ann Johncox[19].

### April

Sonja Kinney[1], Katherine Sanders[2], Barbara Smith[6], Glen Danielson[12], Kathy Skinner[12], Rachel Powell[13], Ray Sonoff[18], Sharon Smythe[22], Mark Sutton[23], Laurie Johnson[30].

### May

Nathaniel Powers[1], Nikki Powers[14], Liv Ramstad[15], David Bruestle[22], Marilyn Bossman[27].

## Membership

Do you know of someone that is interested in Nordic culture and heritage? Tell them about Sons of Norway. If they do join you will get a lovely pin for recruiting them. You could also give me their name and I will send them materials on Sons of Norway and our Edvard Grieg lodge.

Here is some information on one our newest members Lawrence Ethun:

*"Let me give you some background on my family. Dates back to 1563 with John Farnes. 7th generation moves from the Farnes farm to the Rud farm then to the Eithun farm in 1824. My great, great, great, grandfather, Lars Trulson Eithun, emigrated to the US in 1854, from the Eithun farm, in Sogn, Norway. They settled in Norway Grove, DeForest Wisconsin. His son, Lars Louis Eithun, born in 1854, married in 1887 and dropped the " i " from the name to Americanize the name. My grandfather, Theodore Ethun, was born in 1892 on the farm in Norway Grove, DeForest Wisconsin. My father, Lorrian Ethun, was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1917. Married to my mother, Helen, in 1939. I was born in 1953 in Dayton, Ohio. 12th generation Norwegian and 5th generation Norwegian/American. Larry Ethun - EMSI"*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Susie Mikaloff as we just heard that she broke her leg and has a full leg cast.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

## March Reading Circle & Board Meeting Saturday, March 7



**2:00pm** Reading Circle, **3:00pm** Board Meeting.  
All members are welcome at either or both meetings.

Location: Panera Bread (near Tri-County Mall),  
405 E. Kemper Rd., Springdale, OH 45246.

Contact Susan Herman, 513-227-8790 or  
[susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com)

## March lodge meeting

**Saturday, March 14 at 2:00pm**

(Note the date change from our January newsletter)

Location: Symmes Township Branch Library  
(meeting room), 11850 Enyart Rd. Loveland, Ohio  
45140

Norwegian Winters! Share memories and/or memorabilia of how our families wintered in Norway or in the US. Please bring pictures or items to discuss, or send digital photos to us. Jim and I will be assembling a PowerPoint slideshow for the meeting.

Those interested in Norwegian language will meet after the discussion and sharing ends.

Bring a salad/snack or dessert to share. Beverages provided by the lodge.

RSVP to our Social Director at:

[susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com) or 513-227-8790.

## Nordic Knitters

**Monday, March 16 at 6pm**



Nordic Knitters will meet on the 3rd Monday of each month so see you March 16, 6-8 pm at Wyoming Community Coffee

434 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, OH 45215.

Liv Ramstad, [ramstad.liv@gmail.com](mailto:ramstad.liv@gmail.com)

## April lodge meeting

Saturday, April 18 at 2:00 pm

Location: North Central Branch Library (meeting room), 11109 Hamilton Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Karl Halvorson will give a presentation on his 2019 Appalachian Trail Thru-Hike Attempt!



Those interested in Norwegian language will meet after Karl's presentation.

Bring a salad/snack or dessert to share. Beverages provided by the lodge.

RSVP to our Social Director at [susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com) or 513-227-8790.

## May Reading Circle & Board Meeting

Saturday, May 2

2:00pm Reading Circle, 3:00pm Board Meeting.

All members are welcome at either or both meetings.

Location: Forest Park Branch Library (meeting room), 655 Waycross Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45240

Contact Susan Herman, 513-227-8790 or [susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com)

## May lodge meeting

Sunday, May 17 beginning at 4pm with dinner at 5

Celebrate Syttende mai at the home of Jim and Susan Herman.

More information will be posted on the website, announced at upcoming meetings, and in the May newsletter.

## Julefest 2020 – save the date!

Saturday, December 12, 2020.

Celebrate Julefest with us on Saturday, December 12, 2020.

Location: Mason United Methodist Church, 6315 S. Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040  
Starts at 4:00pm with dinner at 5:00pm, followed by short program.

## Recap of lodge events

Lodge member Carol Luiso did a phenomenal job of sharing her Fall trip to Norway with all of us. The pictures, stories, and history, all interwoven, provided us with a great deal of insight into experiencing every life and culture in Norway. There were lots of questions and sharing of info which made for a lively and fun discussion!



Member Carol Luiso and her Norwegian friend Solveig



Inside Norwegian grocery store



Norwegians enjoying coffee and sweets outside



Lake Mjøsa (largest lake in Norway)

Jim Herman introduced some online options for starting to learn Norwegian, and there was much interaction amongst the group and sharing of what others have tried. We decided that at our next meeting in March, we will start by trying to pass the time of day in Norwegian with whatever resources we like the best.

A few of us met for lunch on February 15 at Panera in Deerfield Plaza area and then went to see the movie Frozen II.

## Our 20th Year

This is a banner year for all of us as it is our 20th anniversary as a lodge. In checking our Charter we have 18 members that were charter members of the lodge. This is great to have so many of our original members still active. In future newsletters we will have them tell us some of their favorite memories of lodge events. At our Julefest this year we will give out the 20 year membership pins to those people. We will also have a display of some items of first few

years and our Charter. Now in a few years we will have our 25th anniversary and that will be a really big affair.

## Birkebeinerrennet

The Birkebeiner Race or Marathon takes place on the third Saturday in March every year and is an event in which thousands of Norwegians and participants from a number of other countries cross-country ski the 54 kilometer (33.55 miles) distance from Rena in Østerdalen to Lillehammer.

The race is commemorating the trip that was made in 1206 by Birkebeiner loyalists Torstein Skevla and Skjervald Skrukka to save the infant heir to the Norwegian throne.



Av: Marte Storbråten Ytterbøe Intervjuer 20. januar 2020

The name Birkebeiner, derived from the words *birke* for birch and *beiner* for leggings, and was a derogatory name given to supporters of the child by the opposing faction, the Baglers, who thought Birkebeinere wore birch leggings because they were poor and incapable. They were, of course, wrong. The word Birkebeiner now stands for pride, endurance and strength.

The first Birkebeiner Race was held in 1932. It has been held every March since then except during the German occupation of Norway. In 2007 and 2014 it was cancelled because of high winds. Until 1991 the start would one year go from Lillehammer to Rena, the next from Rena to Lillehammer. Now it always starts in Rena and ends in Lillehammer. For many years only men participated in the race, but in 1976 women were also allowed to race. All the skiers have to carry a backpack weighing 3.5 kilos (7.7 pounds) which symbolizes the weight of the infant the Birkebeiner carried.

There were 155 skiers racing in the first Birkebeinerrenn. The number of skiers has steadily increased and is now limited to 16,000. Skiers can race against time. Pins are rewarded to skiers finishing within the time limit set for their age group. Others may choose to just enjoy the skiing through a beautiful landscape.

Many famous people have participated in the race. The crown princes of both Norway and Denmark finished the race in 2016. Haakon Magnus finished before Fredrik, but graciously praised the Dane for his finish considering Denmark is not known for skiing conditions. Pippa Middleton, sister of the duchess of Cambridge also finished in 2016. Many Norwegian politicians have also participated over the years.

The Norwegian violinist Arve Tellefsen has finished the race five times, last time in 2019 at the age of 82. He has commented that playing the violin is much more enjoyable than skiing Birkebeinerrennet. Arve is not the oldest ever finisher. That record belongs to Gunnar Tronsmoen who was 90 year old when he finished.

The best time ever finishing time for men was set in 2015 by Petter Eliassen finishing in 2:19:28.3, the same year Therese Johaug set a new women's record at 2:41:46.6.

Birkebeiner Races are now arranged in other countries. Closest to us is American Birkebeiner held in Hayward, Wisconsin. Races are also held in Edmonton, Canada and Falls Creek, Australia.

## Barnas Flyttebyrå (The Children Relocators)



Toggeneral Tomas har kontroll. Foto: Tinna Ludviksdottir

How did they move more than 6000 children's books from the old Deichman Library to the new down by the Opera in Oslo on January 16?

The library invited 1000 children grades 2 through 5 from two elementary schools in Oslo. At the old library they were each given a security vest and colorful backpack. The children filled the backpacks with books from the children's department. Small wagons were also filled with books. Together they all "paraded" to the new location. Part of the route took them down Karl Johan gate then they passed the Central Station before arriving at the new library by the Opera House. A marching band played at the front of the parade, and four mounted police horses finished off the parade. At the new site they were greeted by the crown princess, Mette Marit, the high protector of the Library Association.

At the library the children placed the books they carried in a high book tower. When that was done they all danced a dance called BlimE. Then they all shouted out loud to wake up the new library.

What a wonderful way to involve the children with the book move. Surely something they will remember for the rest of their lives.



Barnas flyttebyrå. Foto: VisitOSLO/Didrick Stenersen



På vei! Foto: Tinna Ludviksdottir

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