



SONS of NORWAY



July 2020
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

I pray all of you have been safe and in good health, physically and mentally. Now that restrictions have been lifted, I have been out and about some. I went to the eye doctor's office last week and they are taking patients but everyone has to wear masks and everyone was asked if they were ill or been around anyone who was sick as well as taking temperatures. Home Depot allowed only a certain number of people into the store at once, and WalMart was asking people to remain 6 feet from each other.

Our virtual meeting didn't go so well as only three other people were in attendance. I understand it is all new for so many people, but I thought it worth a try. I know many of you have not been tuning in for the Nordic News on Tuesday night at 6:20 on GoToMeet.com. Some of the programs have been really good, and if you cannot attend in person, you can watch the recorded versions. Just go to the District 5 webpage at http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/speakers_bureau.php where all the past programs are listed. I especially enjoyed Norwegian Midwives and Coffin Ships.

For the short meeting we had with only 4 members, including me and two district directors. We talked about location for a baking workshop in the fall. It was suggested that if we cannot get a very large location, we could have two smaller sessions in the same day, one before and one afternoon. Calvary Church in Wms. Bay was also suggested as they are a large church and would probably have good electrical power for the irons that would be needed. I have since spoken to Brian Ogne, who is a member there, and he will check on that location as well as what it might cost.

It was reported by Anne Harrington Hope that we have \$1,638.64 in our treasury, but that included the grant for recruitment.

The District 5 photo contest was highlighted and all are recommended to go to the District website to see the pictures submitted so far. I have sent in 5 and they are displayed as well. The pictures can be from any Nordic country.

Matching Donations to Walworth County Food & Diaper Bank have ended and Anne will report on that when we next meet.

I don't think the way things are that we should meet for our June picnic, but I would think by July it will be okay to meet outside. So I am calling for a picnic on our usual 2nd Tues. of the month. And rather than moving the location, let's meet at our old stomping grounds at the Wms. Bay shelter at 6:00 p.m. Tues, July 14th. Bring your own meal, as we have done in the past, and we will enjoy being back together again, reconnect, and share our Covid-19 experiences.

An Update from Mpls.

Minneapolis has been the site of significant riots in the past week. The epicenter of these riots has been Lake St. in south Minneapolis where the new Sons of Norway headquarters building is located.

We at Sons of Norway are grieving the racism that is still so prevalent in our society and the violence we've seen in our streets in response. We continue to hope and work for a more peaceful, just, and inclusive society; and believe our fraternal purpose of strengthening our communities continues to play an important role in achieving this shared goal.

Our staff is safe and no one has been harmed or seen property destroyed. We are most thankful for this.

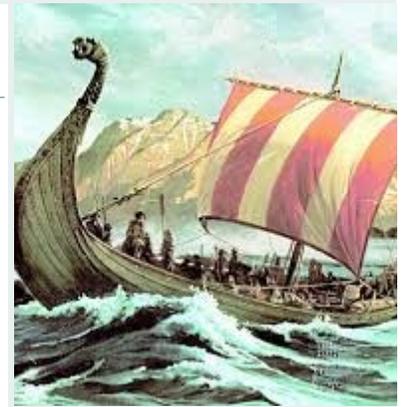
The new Sons of Norway headquarters has not been damaged. This is in spite of the fact that the building is only a few blocks from some of the worst of the riots. Again, we are so grateful that the new building we are scheduled to move into later this month has not seen any damage.

We have not received our mail the last several days. The post office where Sons of Norway's mail is routed was in the middle of the affected area and has been closed indefinitely. It is possible some mail was destroyed in the damage on May 27th, but limited to afternoon mail only. Since May 28, 2020 we have not been able to receive our mail from the postal service.

We are working with the USPS to retrieve our mail in a timely and expedited fashion, but this serves as a good time to remind all of our members to only mail checks to our PO Box:

Sons of Norway
PO Box 856812
Minneapolis, MN 55485-6812

We so appreciate all of your concern for the wellbeing of our staff and Sons of Norway's physical assets. We are continuing to stay focused on our mission and delivering value and excellent service to our members.



Gratulare Med Dagen

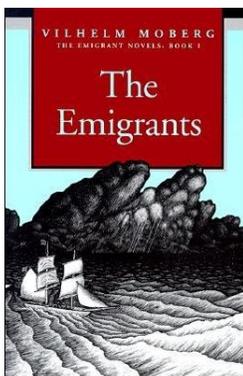
Brian Ogne	8th
Joye Kaul	11th
Dave Bjorge	12th
Judy Brun	17th
Kirsten Audisho	21st
Jessica Wilson	22nd
Margaret Goethal	26th

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KALENDAR

- **July 14th, Wms. Bay shelter at 6 p.m. Bring your own picnic.** As we have not had meetings in Aug. and Sept in the past, perhaps we can discuss having them if Covid-19 is truly over.



This novel, which begins in the 1840's, describes the hardships faced by rural families in Sweden. Karl Oskar Nilsson and his wife, Kristina, own a farm in *Ljuder socken* in Småland. They have four children and work hard to make a living, but the poor harvests lead to famine, a catalyst for the beginnings of emigration to the United States in search of a better life. Karl Oskar and his brother Robert want to go, but Kristina doesn't want to leave her home country, knowing that she will never see the rest of their family again. But after the tragic death of their oldest child, she accepts her husband's plans when she realizes that they are in just as much danger from their lives in Sweden as on the big sea and in a New World.

They pack up all their belongings and book passage in a group with others from their parish. The characters illustrate some of the motives that prompted people to leave Sweden in the 19th century. Accompanying Karl-Oskar, Kristina and their children are his brother, the second son who cannot inherit land, an uncle banished for religious reasons, a man who seeks to escape an unhappy marriage when a divorce is not permitted, and a former prostitute looking to leave her past behind.

The second part of the book tells how they board the ship in Karlshamn, and then how life goes on during the ten weeks they spend on board – battling sea-sickness and scurvy, travelling across the Atlantic Ocean before finally reaching New York City in midsummer of 1850. The novel ends with the travelers marveling at the technological wonders of their new home. The next issue will describe the second book on the series: *Unto a Good Land*.



from the English one. Whereas the Latin-based modern English alphabet has 26 letters, the Norwegian version has 29.

A DIFFERENT ALPHABET

This is one of the things to get to grips with early in your journey of learning Norwegian. It's more boring than learning words, we know, but it will speed up your overall experience.

Of the 26 letters that are the same, some are only used in “loan words”, i.e. foreign words that are used in everyday language. The letters c, q, w, x and z are almost never used in Norwegian words.

The New Vowels

Norwegian has a total of eight vowels. They are five we have in English, along with æ ø and å. In upper case they are written Æ Ø and Å.

The key to getting your head around these three new letters is actually quite simple. Rather than brand new letters, just think of them as letters that represent sounds that we already have in English. More or less, anyway.

The Æ is pronounced like the *a* in “sad.” This contrasts with the Norwegian “a” which has a longer sound, more akin to the English *ah*. The Ø is pronounced like the *ur* in “turn.” Finally, the Å is pronounced like the *o* in “lord.”

WRITING THE EXTRA VOWELS IN ENGLISH

Because the extra letters are rare, there are official alternatives available for users of foreign alphabets and keyboards. They are as follows:

æ = ae

ø = oe

å = aa

For example, the name of the Ullevål district in Oslo is sometimes spelled Ullevaal. Many Norwegians use these terms interchangeably, and in some cases choose the international spelling. For example, the name Pål is often spelled Paal.

One reason for the differentiation in the spelling of names comes from history. The Swedish letter å officially replaced aa in Norwegian in 1917.

While most words now use å, personal names and historic places often retain ‘aa’ simply due to tradition.

The Norwegian Alphabet

By the Life In Norway Editorial Team

27 May 2020 [Learn Norwegian](#)

The Norwegian alphabet has three extra vowels that English speakers must master. Here's everything you need to know about Norway's 29-letter alphabet.

It might be a surprise to some, but the Norwegian alphabet is slightly different



PRONUNCIATION OF NORWEGIAN LETTERS

This isn't a language course, so we won't go into detail about the pronunciation of every letter. To cover that topic properly would require an entire book! However, we can touch on some important principles.

I've already covered the pronunciation of the three additional vowels, above. But there's another important element to vowel pronunciation. The consonants immediately following the vowel change the pronunciation of the vowel. More specifically, a double consonant after a vowel means the vowel has a short sound. A single consonant gives the vowel a longer sound. The difference is a subtle, yet important one.

As with all things language related, the concept is best illustrated with an example. Take the two words **tak** (meaning roof) and **takk** (meaning thanks). The first has a longer vowel sound whereas the second is shorter, as follows:

Tak: *taahk*

Takk: *takk*

Another difference to note is the pronunciation of the letter **y**. This arguably differs from English more than any other letter. We've often heard this explained as follows.

Shape your mouth as if you are about to say “oooh”. Keeping your mouth in that position, say “eeee.” Yes, I know that sounds ridiculous, but it gives you a decent approximation!

Accents on Norwegian words

Norwegian uses almost no acute accents or other differentiators to the basic alphabet. That being said, there are a couple of exceptions. Aren't there always!?

The most notable is the acute accent in the word *allé*, which means avenue. An accent is also sometimes used on the word *en* to distinguish between *én gutt* (one boy) and *en gutt* (a boy).

One final example? Go on then. Note the difference between *armen* (the arm) and *arméen* (the army). In this case, while the spelling is different, the accent helps to differentiate the pronunciation. Note that the accent used on any loanwords is optional.

Another less common example is how accents can change the word **for**.

for (preposition. *For* or *to*, Bokmål and Nynorsk)

fór (verb. *Went*, in the sense *went quickly*, Bokmål and Nynorsk. Only to be used with the pronoun, *vi*)

fòr (noun. *Furrow*, only Nynorsk)

fôr (noun. *Fodder, feed, fodder*, Bokmål and Nynorsk)

(Credit to Wikipedia for this detailed example)

If you are serious about getting to grips with the Norwegian language, the alphabet is a great place to start! If you're interested in a full online course, check out the offerings from our friends at [Norwegian Class 101](#) or [The Mystery of Nils](#). Or go to the Sons of Norway site under the tab “Norwegian Culture” and then “Language Lessons.”



Norwegian Startup Fights Loneliness by Bridging the Technology Gap

For many people waiting out the Covid-19 crisis from their homes, the sense of isolation and loneliness can be just as difficult to manage as their fears of the virus itself. To make matters worse, those most at risk of serious illness are often the most isolated—especially the elderly, who may not be familiar or comfortable with the technology that many younger people rely on to keep in touch from afar. But, as it so often does, Norway is helping to lead the way with an innovative approach to solving the issue.

In Norway, more than one in three people over age 67—an age group at especially high risk during the pandemic—live alone. Pair that with the fact that many older people have relatively small social circles and are likelier to have mobility issues or health concerns that make them more socially isolated to begin with, and it's easy to see how the rigid constraints of the physical distancing era could take a toll on even the most resilient individuals.

Since well before the coronavirus pandemic began, a Norwegian company called No Isolation has been developing user-friendly technology designed to combat loneliness among elderly and vulnerable populations. The start-up company aims to bridge the technology gap between generations and make it easy for people to connect remotely without the need for smartphones or computer skills.

One of their offerings is a device called *Komp*, which looks a lot like an old-fashioned television—it features a screen and a single knob for adjusting the volume and turning the device on and off, with no username or password required. Friends and loved ones can connect to the device with a smartphone app to share photos and messages, or to connect for two-way video calls in real time.

Other companies around the world are developing similar technologies in a growing niche known as telepresence robots. Due to increased demand caused by the coronavirus, the industry is expected to grow by as much as 35 percent this year as more people seek out new ways to stay connected with older relatives during social distancing and quarantine

Norway in World War II

by Bradley Kurtz — March 30, 2018 in History Blog

Invaded and torn apart, left on its own by allies, what role did Norway play during the Second World War? And what impact did the war have on the country and the people there?

When the Soviet Union invaded Finland in 1939, volunteer movements began to be organized to help fight against the Soviets. A number of these volunteers came from nearby countries—Sweden and Norway in particular.

The Winter War

During the Winter War, the Norwegian government technically did not allow men to volunteer for the war in Finland out of fear it would aggravate the Germans and hamper their goal of remaining a neutral country.

Nonetheless, more than seven hundred men and women volunteered to fight with Finnish troops including doctors, nurses, and several future leaders of the Norwegian resistance movement such as Max Manus and Leif Andreas Larsen, better known as Shetlands Larsen.

Citizens of Norway also held collections for food, supplies, and money to aid Finnish refugees and communities devastated by the conflict.

The Norwegian government secretly donated artillery and ammunition to the Finnish army, as well as allowing airplanes and other materials to be sent to them through Norway. After the end of the Winter War, Norwegian aid continued and was shifted to reconstruction.

The Invasion of Norway

On April 9th, 1940, the first German troops arrived in Norway. There were three major reasons for the invasion of Norway:

It was strategic, in that an occupation of Norway allowed the German Army and Navy to secure ice-free harbors to control the North Atlantic; to secure the routes used to transport iron ore from Sweden—a much needed commodity in times of war; and to pre-empt a British and French A war bunker in Kirkenes invasion with the same purposes.

The man in charge of the invasion strategy was General Nikolaus von Falkenhorst. To prepare his strategy Von Falkenhorst spent an afternoon with a travel-guide book that, amazingly, allowed him to come up with the gist of his plan.

An Element of Surprise

To many Norwegians the invasion came as a surprise; Norway had managed to stay out of the First World War, and much of the country believed that it would stay out of the second one as well.

Trade agreements secured with Germany and Great Britain in early 1940 were thought to be additional protection against invaders, as was Norway's military presence on the nation's borders and the close proximity of Britain's impressive naval power.

In truth, the Norwegian army was less than prepared for the ferocity of the German invasion. As the Germans began capturing key ports and coastal cities, many Norwegian army commanders moved their men further inland to take advantage of the country's rugged interior.

Rapid Progress

With the German plan of attack, their Navy and other airborne troops struck simultaneously at several key locations: Oslo, Bergen Stavanger, and Trondheim, amongst others. The coastal forts at the Oslofjord held up their offensive initially, but once the Germans had organized themselves, its progress was rapid.

By 13 April, a mere four days after the invasion started, the German Army had moved more than seventy miles outside of Oslo and captured Halden, south-east of Oslo and Kongsberg, to the south-west. A week later eleven days into the campaign, the German army had advanced almost two hundred miles from the capital.

The Norwegians put their faith in the British and French armies arriving in an effort to help stem the advance of the Germans; unfortunately, it never came.

The British did initially try to stem the German advance through Norway; they planned smaller landings that were made north and south of the cities of Namsos and Andalsnes. The idea was that the Allied units would then meet Norwegian defense forces and move toward the city of Trondheim.

The British landed at Namsos on 16 April and Andalsnes on the 18th. Three days later, the Germans attacked them and their Norwegian counterparts and after about one week of fighting and maneuvering the British troops were re-embarking at Namsos and withdrawing from Norway.

The German advance

The German advance throughout Norway was relentless, and the end of May 1940 saw the British government and military withdrawal from Norway completely. Britain's failure in Norway was also to have major

political consequences in Britain with the resignation of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain who was replaced by Winston Churchill.

King Haakon of Norway was put on a boat with his family and other members of the Norwegian government on 7 June heading towards the United Kingdom and other allied countries. On 9 June, the German campaign in Norway was complete.

By the standards of World War II, the fighting in Norway during the invasion was far from extreme.

A little over one thousand Norwegians were killed or wounded, the British suffered nearly two thousand killed or wounded and five hundred French and Polish troops were killed or wounded.

The Germans lost more than five thousand men; many of whom were killed at sea while in-route to Norway or during the first days of the invasion.

The occupation of Norway

The occupation was a less than comfortable time for Norway. The German military requisitioned homes, businesses, property, and schools, all while spreading Nazi symbolism and ideologies.

Although the soldiers were ordered to behave properly towards the civilian population in Norway, they had the authority to control and the right to arrest people they thought to be suspicious. Continuously adding new regulations, laws, and demands made it easy to be in danger of arrest.

A Ban on Norwegian icons

Norwegians were not allowed to move about freely or to show patriotic feelings in any manner. During these years, singing the national anthem and flying the flag of Norway were banned. Death was a common punishment for crimes such as listening to radio stations deemed culturally inappropriate or reading many of the illegal or gray market newspapers.

Urban areas were hit the hardest by the occupation when it came to aspects such as rationing. Everything from food and clothes, to toys and furniture, were rationed. Sugar, coffee, and flour were the first, followed by all imported foodstuffs and eventually bread, butter, meat, eggs, and dairy products. In the summer of 1942, even vegetables and potatoes were rationed.

Living with ration books

Each household was given one ration book per family member—a kind of ticket that gave the right to buy a certain amount of a food item. In order to combat the lack of food, people turned to what they had always done; they fished, hunted, or farmed what land they could. Growing potatoes, Swedish turnips and carrots became a usual activity for anyone who had a small garden patch available. Local community governments even went as far as to distribute allotments in parks and outlying fields; even the beautiful flowerbeds were turned into potato fields.

Perhaps the most intimidating part of the war for Norwegians was the bomb threat. Shelters and black-out curtains became a part of everyday life.

Both the German and Allied militaries carried out extensive bombing campaigns, leaving many towns, villages, and cities completely flattened. Thousands of people were displaced which caused them to flee to the cities and stressing the already shaky rationing and housing systems.

Oslo's Akershus Fortress was used as a prison by Nazi forces

The Norwegian resistance

Despite the hardships of the occupation many Norwegian military and civilian personnel continued to fight for their freedom. Hitler's well-planned invasion of Norway caused chaos and death, but not demoralization.

Almost instantly after the invasion, resistance movements sprang up across the country. Thousands of men and women were eventually involved with some form of underground activity. Many of these clandestine operations were so successful that close family members were unaware of each other's involvement until after the war was over.

Operations of the resistance movements varied: writing and distributing underground newspapers, smuggling people and goods to and from Sweden or the United Kingdom, and even blowing up ships, destroying train tracks and factories to disrupt German trade and supply routes.

The end of the war

On 8 May 1945, Germany surrendered and Norway was once again a free country. Around 50,000 Norwegians were found guilty of treason after the war. They had been members of the Norwegian national socialist party, Nasjonal Samling, who sympathized and collaborated with the Nazis.

Reconstruction began, especially in northern Norway which had suffered hard

Twenty-five of these people were executed for treason. Reconstruction of the country began in earnest; the merchant fleet of Norway was built up again and soon trade was opened and the quality of life in Norway improved drastically.

Recreational Fishing in Norway By Andrew McKay, 17 July, 2019, [Sport in Norway](#)

Fancy a fishing trip to Norway? The opportunities are incredible for the keen angler but there's a few things you need to know before you start waving your rod around.

Fishing in Norway has long been an important part of the economy. Recreational fishing remains a common hobby.

A nation of fishermen

Since the start of human history, Norwegians have been fishing. It's hardly surprising given that the country has the second longest coastline in the world! But Norway is also lucky enough to have many freshwater lakes and rivers that are clear, unpolluted and teeming with fish.

Norway's economy was, at one point, based very heavily on fishing. As well as food to eat and export, the cod oil industry is massive and some areas, such as Lofoten, only came into existence on the back of it. In fact the cod oil industry is so important that during the war it was a target for an allied raid, [Operation Claymore](#).



Even today, fishing and its related industries make up a sizeable part of the economy. It's estimated that around 35 million people are fed every day by Norwegian fish and seafood!

Saltwater fishing

Saltwater fishing is much easier to get into in Norway. Personal fishing, off the coast, in the fjords or out at sea, needs no permit but is simply subject to a few common-sense rules. These include:

- You can only use handheld tackle for fishing
- When fishing, you must be at least 100m from the nearest fish farm
- You can't catch certain protected species. These can easily be found online, and some are only protected at certain times of the year
- Certain species such as cod and haddock have minimum sizes. Any smaller fish must be released straight away unless they're already dead
- You must not sell your catch. Giving it away to friends, locals, or anyone you meet is allowed as long as there's no charge.
- You can take 10kg of fish or fish products out of the country when you leave. Be sure to check with your destination as to whether you will be allowed to bring it in with you!

That's about it, but it's a good idea to check the latest rules in case things have changed.

Freshwater fishing

With crystal clear lakes, rivers and streams, there's a good chance you'll want to try your hand at some freshwater fishing on your visit to Norway. High season runs from May until the end of summer. During this time, you'll find the waters chock full of happy, healthy fish waiting for you to cast your rod.

To do this you'll need a fiskekort (fishing license) from the owner of the fishing rights, which is usually the landowner. You can buy these, or find out how, from sports shops and local fishing organizations. You can also purchase them online.

These licenses are valid for specific areas or for specific times, so you'll need to plan ahead on where you're going before buying your license or you might find you need to buy a different one for the area you're in.

Prices vary depending on the license. The Statskog covers much of the freshwater in the North of Norway so if your trip takes you North of Trondheim then there's a good chance this will be the one you need. Prices currently range from 60 NOK (\$6.41) for a single day all the way up to 685 NOK (\$73.23) for a whole year. There are also family options if you're taking your whole clan!

The "Prince of Fun" Turns 14

Prince Sverre Magnus, the youngest child of Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit, turned 14 in December. The young prince was born December

3rd, 2005, in Rikshospitalet in Oslo. He is third in line to succeed his grandfather King Harald V, after his father and his 15-year-old sister, Princess Ingrid Alexandra.



Sverre Magnus is well known for his pranks and jovial, fun-loving nature. In May 2017, during the speeches for the King and Queen's 80th birthday celebration, Sverre Magnus' antics on the royal balcony kept his family and the crowd in stitches. Later at the 80th birthday gala dinner, Sverre Magnus took to ribbing Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

In the Crown Prince's family, it is a birthday tradition to be woken up with cake and gifts in bed. Family and friends also come to the house, Skaugum in Asker, for more birthday festivities.

According to the website for the Royal House of Norway, the prince loves all kinds of sports, including skiing and cycling—both BMX and cross. He also enjoys surfing with his family. Sverre Magnus attends a Montessori school in Oslo.



Photo Credit: Julia Naglestad, The Royal Court