

# Vikingskip

www.vesterdalen.org



september 2023

Vesterdalen Lodge No. 2-131 • Sons of Norway • Auburn/Kent, WA • Chartered October 23, 1983

Vol. XLI No. 8

## Hilsen Fra Presidenten



Hello Vesterdalen Lodge,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and have spent time with family and friends, maybe having done some traveling- hopefully surviving the heat waves. It is time to get back to Lodge activities and preparing for our Anniversary Party and a new year with new officers.

Our 40th anniversary dinner is coming up on October 16--tickets are now on sale, for \$40/person (see separate article). You can purchase tickets

from Dotty Erickson. There are no actual tickets to worry about, as we will be keeping a list of those who have paid. You can pay by cash (September meeting only), check or card (via Square). We need to have a final number of paid dinners sold by October 10. Please don't wait that long to decide to join in on the fun.

There will be music throughout the dinner and a slide show sharing some of our history. We hope to have some guests from District 2 and International. There will be a few raffle items to win as well as silent auction items available for sale. We will also have the 2024 Paulstad Calendars available at the dinner (\$15 ea). There will be no official meeting activities during this event. We want to have fun and celebrate 40 years of Vesterdalen!

As a reminder, I will be missing the September meeting and the October board meeting. I will be leaving on September 13 (with my son, Jarid, and some siblings) for a month-long trip to Scandinavia and the Baltic States on Holland America. This includes a 3-week cruise, leaving from Amsterdam, and visiting Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Estonia and Germany. We finish up with 3 nights in Iceland on the way home (arriving home on October 12). While I am away, Tom Bellerud will run the meetings and Dotty will be selling the Anniversary Dinner tickets.

One last item - please be receptive to the Nominating Committee - we will be needing several important position replacements to be elected in November. If you have an interest in a position, please contact Marv Nelson or Carol Larson. Because there will be no business in October, we will have the board review the nominations at the November board meeting and the Lodge will vote on the slate of officers at the November Lodge meeting. This will allow for the officers to be installed in January.

The September Board Meeting will be held on TUESDAY, September 5, Please note the day change.

*Vernene*

## Upcoming Meeting

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

**6:00 Potluck Dinner**

**7:00 Maurice Skagen**

Founder of Soos Creek Botanical Garden



## Celebrating our 40th Anniversary

A committee of those who signed up to help with the Anniversary Party has started working on it as the event will be here before we know it!

It will be held on our regular meeting night, Monday, October 16th at 6PM in Messiah Lutheran Church - 410 H Street NE in Auburn. This event will be a catered dinner with a fabulous menu prepared by Café Pacific Catering. It will be a buffet which includes Fresh Baked Salmon (gf), Norwegian Braised Chicken (gf) and Swedish Meatballs, along with Homestyle Mashed Potatoes (gf), Lemon Roasted Root Vegetables (gf), Garden Salad (with Ranch and Vinaigrette on the side) with Dinner Rolls (10% gf). Coffee, tea and water are provided for beverages. Cultural Desserts will be provided by Lodge members and served by the caterers. If you can help provide some cultural desserts, please let Jorunn Ruff know - 253-293-0611.

**Ticket price is \$40 and sales will be cut-off when we have sold 80 tickets or on October 10th (FIRM), whichever comes first.** Please contact Dotty Erickson at 206-356-1858

*continued on next page*

## Sunshine Report

Thinking of you cards were sent to **Patty Ronhovde** after a nasty fall, **Shirley Olson** as she deals with medical issues, and **Marv Nelson** after knee surgery.

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Grace Winsor
- 5 Marleen Mandt
- 7 Lois Ladderud, Richard Carlson,
- 9 Vicki Wickham, Patty Ann Ronhovde
- 10 Donald Jensen
- 12 Tom Anderson
- 13 Marne Larson
- 15 Marv Nelson
- 16 David Eidsaune
- 17 Maria Hansen
- 18 Kenneth Sroka
- 20 Jasper Johnson
- 27 Lee Erickson, Delores Johns

Seven members who are 80+ years of age will receive birthday cards in September.

Please email or call when you know of a member who needs some Vesterdalen sunshine. Your help is needed to reach everyone. Thank you so much.

*Nancy Sommerfield, Sunshine Chair*

[dnsommerfield@comcast.net](mailto:dnsommerfield@comcast.net) 206-612-6389



### 40th Anniversary Dinner - continued from Page One

(cell) or [dortaerick@comcast.net](mailto:dortaerick@comcast.net) to order your tickets NOW! Feel free to bring friends and/or relatives that may be interested in learning more about their Scandinavian heritage.

We hope to have a lot of fun things going on that evening like a slide show of our history, a silent auction, music, etc. And, of course, all Charter Members will be recognized - we hope to see many of them in attendance! Regarding the silent auction, please see article from Vernene in this edition.

We will be needing about 5-6 members to help out in different areas:

1-2 to welcome and check-in guests

2 (hopefully youth) to carry plates to tables for those who may need help

1 to sell 2024 calendars

1 to sell raffle tickets

As you can see, none of these jobs will fill up your entire evening, so you will still be able to enjoy the night! Contact me and tell me what you are willing to do! Thanks!!

*Dotty Erickson 206-256-1858*

## Kultur Hjørne

Did you know that one of the jewels of Auburn — Soos Creek Botanical Garden — is on land purchased by a Norwegian immigrant? Come meet the Garden's founder, Maurice Skagen, at our September meeting.

The 23 acres on which the garden is located was originally part of 200 acres purchased by Maurice Skagen's Norwegian immigrant ancestors. In 1891, Norwegian Ole Evensen Oie acquired a 160 acre piece from the Northern Pacific Railroad. Oie paid about \$10 per acre. Mr. Skagan's book — History of the Soos Creek Plateau from 1860 to 1960 — delves into the early history.

I have visited SCBG several times, and always been impressed with the plants, the history, and the preservation of this wonderful resource by the Norwegian homesteaders and their descendants. The Garden was founded in the last several years — so it's a relatively recent addition to the premiere publicly accessible gardens in the Pacific Northwest.

The heirloom garden is definitely ADA accessible, and very worth seeing.

The garden slopes down to a pavilion (the slope could be a bit challenging for walkers, but several have been able to navigate it), and then onto a broad lawn planted on both sides with a profusion of colorful flowers, bushes, and trees — all with a stunning view of Mt. Rainier.

Soos Creek is just absolutely gorgeous, but known as well for its Kalmia collection (mountain laurel), Cecile Brunner roses, "Cynthia" rhododendron, "Blue Wave" hydrangea, dahlias and wisterias.

The Garden holds Pavilion By The Pond Horticultural Programs, typically on the third Wednesday of the month, 12:30 pm to 2 pm. (No charge, but donations gladly accepted.) SCBG suggests referring to its calendar for exact dates.

We will be excited to meet Maurice Skagen, such a wonderful citizen of Auburn!

*Karen T. Culture Chair*



## Book Club

The Sons of Norway book club will meet on September 12, 2023, at Maggie's on Meeker in Kent at 11 AM. We will be discussing *Evil Flowers*, a precise but madcap collection of short stories. Author, Gunnhild Øyehaug, extracts the bizarre from the mundane and reveals the strange and at times graphic startling brilliance of everyday life be found in fantasy and absurdity. Brimming with wit, ingenuity, and irrepressible joy, these stories mark another triumph from a dazzling international writer. Gunnhild Øyehaug was born 9 January 1975, in [Volda, Norway](#) and is a Norwegian poet, writer and lecturer.

*Kari Waller*

## Lodge Shirt Available

Our printer has come up with a Lodge Tee-shirt so members can proclaim their Norwegian pride to all. It features our logo as created by Doris Hansen when we formed as a lodge 40 years ago and is printed on a beautiful maroon shirt and is only \$19.99.

To order yours, simply click on this link [www.a-kprinting.com/page/5](http://www.a-kprinting.com/page/5). They can be picked up at their Kent or Auburn locations or shipped.





## Vesterdalen Officer Positions and Duties

This shows the positions where help is needed in the Lodge. If you see that you can help the Lodge by taking on one of these positions, please contact Marv Nelson at 360-825-6771 (mrvnel@gmail.com) or Carol Larson (larsonjw@aol.com)

### President

The highest ranking lodge office, responsible for ensuring lodge compliance with the Sons of Norway Charter and Constitution while overseeing and guiding all lodge activities.

### Vice President

Leads lodge recruitment efforts and strategies while helping develop programming that encourages member retention.

### Secretary

Manages daily operations of the lodge.

### Financial Secretary

Handles membership records and many of the business matters for the lodge.

### Treasurer

Oversees all lodge finances.

### Social Director

Plans social hour time.

### Cultural Director

Plans quality programs to enhance enjoyment and to develop a lasting appreciation for the culture of Norway.

### Sports & Recreation Director

Plans and supervises a well-rounded activity program that interests all members and enhances their well-being.

### Sunshine Director

Shares news of birthdays and sends cards to those needing support from the lodge.

### Publicity Director

Publicizes interesting lodge events and promotes Sons of Norway within the immediate community.

### Foundation Director

Increase members' awareness of the Foundation and its value while promoting the Foundation to members and the community and helping it grow financially.

### Editor

Keeps lodge members informed of lodge news and events via a lodge newsletter.

### Support Officers

Lodge counselor, marshal, assistant marshal, greeter, trustees, historian, librarian and musician.

### Youth Director

Leads the mission to engage young people in the activities of the lodge.

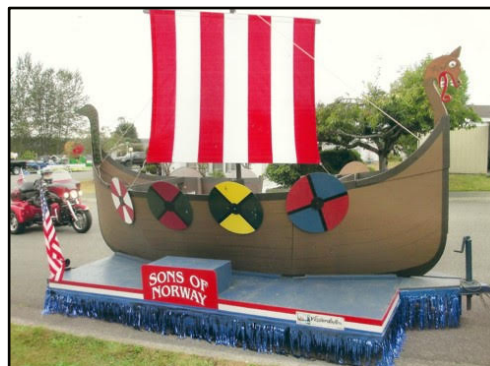
### Webmaster

Manages the online presence of the lodge.

## Social Director's Report

Dear SON members please bring a casserole, salad, dinner rolls, or dessert to our September 18 meeting. I would appreciate a phone call from those who are able to bring food telling me what you can provide so I can prevent too many duplicates. I look forward to getting back to our gathering together! My cell phone number is (253) 290-8221.

*Jorunn Ruff, Social Director*



## Smooth Sailing, Viking Ship!

Vesterdalen Lodge's Viking ship parade float set sail for a new home with the Harald Haarfager Lodge in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on August 9. Our Viking ship has been stored at John Nyseth's home for the past 23 years and the time had come for it to find a new home with another one of our lodge members. After several months of unsuccessful searching we realized that our best option was to see if another lodge would provide a loving home for it.

When Harald Haarfager Lodge in Coeur d'Alene saw that it was available they told us right away that they would love to have it. They worked with John and made all of the arrangements to take it back to Idaho on a flatbed trailer.

It was a sad day when it "sailed away," knowing that it is no longer part of our Lodge. But it is a great consolation to know that in its new home it will have loving caretakers who will use it in lots of parades and provide indoor storage.

To all of our lodge members, mange takk for participating in the fun parade activities with our float. And from Vesterdalen Lodge, **tusen takk to John Nyseth** for his work building the Viking ship parade float, for storing it at his home for 23 years and for taking it to dozens of parades!

*Jim Larson*

Visit the following website to find local Nordic events.

**WWW.NORDICSEATTLE.COM**

*What's going on around here?*

*Check out Sons of Norway's District Two web site!*

*<http://sonsofnorway2.com>*

## The Scandinavian Hour

with Seth Tuffeland

is on KKNW 1150 AM

on Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Listen anytime at:

<https://www.thescandinavianhour.org>



# Kalender

Annual Calendar is at [www.vesterdalen.org](http://www.vesterdalen.org)  
**september**

- 4 Labor Day Parade in Black Diamond ..... 10:00 AM
- 5 **Board Meeting via Zoom ..... 6:30 PM**  
**Note that this is Tuesday!**
- 18 Social Hour ..... 6:00 PM  
Meeting with Maurice Skagen ..... 7:00 PM  
Soos Creek Botanical Garden

## oktober

- 2 Board Meeting via Zoom ..... 6:30 PM
- 9 **Leif Erickson Day**
- 16 Vesterdalen Anniversary Dinner  
Messiah Lutheran Church - see article in this issue

## november

- 6 Board Meeting - via Zoom ..... 6:30 PM
- 20 Social ..... 6:00 PM  
Lodge Meeting - in person and via Zoom ..... 7:00 PM  
Budget, Officer nominations/elections, membership pins

## Desember

- 4 Board Meeting - via Zoom ..... 6:30 PM
- 8 Julefest- in person ..... 6:00 PM



## Paulstad Calendars are Available Again!

Members keep clamoring for the beautiful Paulstad calendars. We now have the 2024 Paulstad calendars will be available for sale at our Anniversary Dinner on October 16 for \$15 each.



## Ski-for-Light Dinner & Dance

Hosted by Bothell Lodge, Sons of Norway  
23905 Bothell Everett Highway in Bothell, WA

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

**\$30 per person!**

**6:00 PM Happy Half Hour**

**6:30 PM Dinner**

**Salmon and Cod cooked over an open fire!**

**Live Music and Lots of free parking!**

Reservations by Sept 30 to

[www.dinner@bothellsonsofnorway.org](http://www.dinner@bothellsonsofnorway.org)

or call 425-485-9085

Ski-For-Light is your local blind and mobility impaired cross-country ski program that provides a pleasurable winter experience for blind and disabled individuals.

# 2023 Vesterdalen Officers

- President ..... Vernene Scheurer ..... 253-848-7231  
president@vesterdalen.org
- VP/Membership ..... Tom Bellerud ..... 253-226-8011  
tombellerud@comcast.net
- Secretary ..... Carol Larson ..... cell 859-321-4577  
larsonjw@aol.com
- Treasurer ..... Linda Kleppe-Olson ..... 360-825-4304  
kleppe43@msn.com
- Financial Secy ..... Dotty Erickson ..... 206-356-1858  
dortaerick@comcast.net
- Cultural ..... Karen T. .... 206-359-1556  
cafeventure@yandex.com or fotojourn@live.com

Rose Stevens - 1-800-210-0240  
Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor

## Silent Auction at Anniversary Dinner

We plan to have a silent auction with up to 20 items to bid on at our 40th Anniversary Dinner. Please consider donating an item if you think it would add to our auction, if you have something others would like to own. We have several items already, all Norwegian-related (sweater, gloves, books, table runners, etc.), as well as some offers for nights at some vacation condos (your choice of local or close by states. Condos shown in Birch Bay, Long Beach WA and Seaside OR).

I am including a few photos of the items we will have.

