

# Vikingskip

www.vesterdalen.org



oktober 2023

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

Vol. XLI No. 9

## Hilsen Fra Presidenten



Dear Vesterdalen lodge,  
As you read this, I am somewhere in Scandinavia. We started in Amsterdam for a few days, then boarded the Holland America Rotterdam on Saturday, Sept 17. Our first stop was in Oslo on Monday, Sept. 18, where we spent the day and saw relatives of my father. This was followed by stops in Kristiansand on the 19th, Stavanger on the 20th, cruising the Sognefjord and to Flam on

the 21st where we will drive to see relatives and my grandfather's farm. There is a day at sea and return to Amsterdam on the 23rd for a night before taking off for two more weeks. After another day at sea, we visit Copenhagen, Denmark on September 26th. The next stop is at Watnermunde near Berlin. Then on to Riga, Latvia; Tallinn, Estonia and to Stockholm on October 1 and 2. That is followed by another day at sea, a stop at Kiel (near Hamburg), then Aarhus, Denmark, then our last day at sea. We stay a couple more nights in Amsterdam, a train trip to Cologneto see some former exchange students. We finish by heading to Iceland for three nights where we do the Golden Circle, the Blue Lagoon and the Northern lights before heading home on October 12.

Be sure to get your 40th anniversary dinner tickets. You won't want to miss it, as it will be a fun night, with great food, great music, raffles and silent auction items (as described in September's *Vikingskip*. I will be there to welcome everyone!

Best wishes,

*Vernene*

## Upcoming Events

**Oct. 7 - Ski-For-Light Dinner Dance** Bothell S/N Lodge. 23905 Bothell Everett Highway, Bothell, WA 98021. Happy half hour 6 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Salmon and Cod cooked over an open fire. Live music and lots of free parking. Reservations by Sept. 30. Email Dinner@bothellsonsofnorway.org or call 425-485-9085 and leave a message. \$30 per person! When making reservations, leave a name, phone # or email address.

**Nov. 17 & 18 - Nordic Holiday Bazaar** - Normanna Lodge, 2725 Oakes Ave., Everett, WA 98201. Cultural music and live demonstrations. Pickled herring and potato lefse. Over 30 vendors! Lunch served daily 11 a.m. -2 p.m. Raffles

## Upcoming Meeting

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**6:00 Anniversary Dinner**

Messiah Lutheran Church

401 "H" Street NE • Auburn, WA

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Vesterdalen's "40" is Fast Approaching!

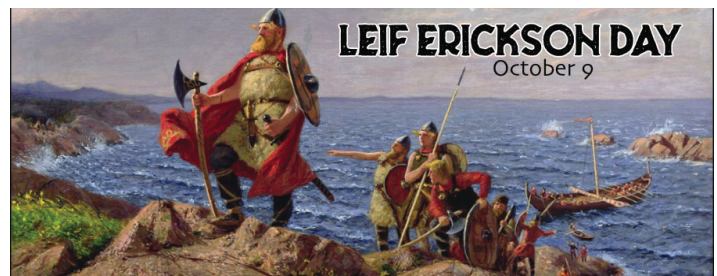
Do you have your tickets yet? You may miss out on our celebration if you don't call Dotty Erickson at 206-356-1858 to order yours!

The ticket price is \$40 and sales will be cut-off when we have sold 80 tickets or on October 10th, (FIRM) whichever comes first.

See the September Vikingskip for more details on the special event. Don't delay - call Dotty to pay via credit card. There can be no money exchanged the night of the dinner!

IF you have a bunad, please feel free to wear it!!

Dotty Erickson



## A Little Humor

Little Ole came home from third grade and announced that they learned how to make babies that day.

Lena was certainly surprised and asked Little Ole to explain.

"Easy," he said, "Change the 'y' to an 'i' and add 'es.'"

## Sunshine Report

A get well card was sent to **Diane Fatland**. Long time Vesterdalen member, **Ed Amundsen**, passed away on September 2, 2023. Our sympathies to his wife, **Florence Amundsen**.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

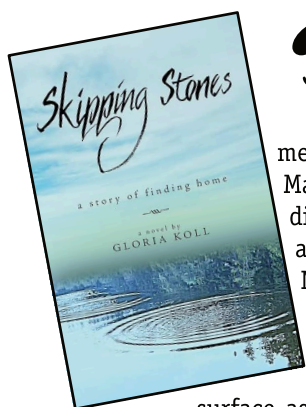
4 Myla Butz  
16 Beverly Winsor, Steven Gerde  
19 Patricia Boyovich  
23 Vernene Scheurer, Jarrett Sroka  
24 Andy Wangstad  
25 Neil Pitman  
27 Marian Kerr



Two members 80 years and above will receive birthday cards in October.

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



## Book Club

The next Son's of Norway book club will meet on November 14, 2023 at 11 AM at Maggie's on Meeker in Kent. We will be discussing *Skipping Stones* by Gloria Koll, a story of finding home. A young Norwegian girl, Kari, takes three strides to the edge of the fjord. Like a slingshot, her arm whips forward, and she releases the flat stone. It skims the water's

surface as she counts: en, to, tre, fire, fem, seks, sju. Seven, that lucky number in America. Kari travels alone by ship and train from the mountains of Norway to the flat plains of 1880s Dakota. With a man who intrigues her, Kari shapes a prairie life. Scandinavian mass migration, influenza, the Great Depression, dust bowl, and the home front of World Wars I and II create a wide-angle sweep across South Dakota and Montana. Gloria Koll lives on Whidbey Island with her husband, William Koll. She is a member of The Authors Guild and Whidbey Island Writers Association. *Skipping Stones* is her first novel. If you have questions, you can call me at 253-277-1805.

*Kari Waller*

## National Nordic Museum Exhibit

The current special exhibit (I haven't yet seen, but some of our members may have) features 12 indigenous artists who live around the North Pole. There are some paintings (these are a bit unusual, not landscapes) a dramatic dress, and some folk art. On the First Thursday of the month, the special exhibit price is reduced to \$5 for non-members. The museum cafe is light and bright, and the museum store is wonderful! Parking is \$2/hour and behind the museum.

*Karen T., Culture Chair*

## Kultur Hjørne

At our September meeting, Maurice Skagen spoke about the Norwegian and Scandinavian Communities in Kent's East Hill.

Maurice donated the land and founded what is now the 23-acre Soos Creek Botanical Garden: a major addition to the region's public gardens and open spaces.

Skagen is the great-grandson of the original Norwegian immigrant (Ole Evensen Oie) ("Ole") who purchased the initial parcels of land that would eventually become the Garden. Ole first emigrated to Minnesota and didn't come to this area until he was in his 50s. He purchased the land for \$10 an acre from Northern Pacific Railroad beginning in 1891.

The Oie roots run deep. Maurice and John Nyseth are second or third cousins, and John Nyseth revealed during the meeting that a few Oies appear in our lodge charter!

When Ole arrived, the trees and vegetation on the land were so lush that horses couldn't even cross. Maurice said. Trees were so wide that saws couldn't even fit through them. To clear the acreage for farming, the trees had to be burned.

Maurice, who has an M.A. in Librarianship, performed extensive research and wrote a book about the early Scandinavian community in the Soos Creek Plateau area ("History of the Soos Creek Plateau"). He learned, for instance, that Norwegians established churches and other communities mirroring the geography of how those communities existed in Norway.

Maurice originated the idea to donate the land and form the Garden to preserve the space as it existed in farms at the beginning of the 1900s. Politicians and business leaders often make the headlines, Maurice said, and he wanted to insure that farmers - the mainstays of the community - are remembered as well.

Maurice has also established a heritage center at the Garden.

Maurice noted — as many of us know — that one reason so many Norwegians left Norway for the United States was an economic depression in Norway during 1866-1870 as well as the practice of leaving the entire farm to the eldest son. If the other children wanted their own land, they had little alternative but to go elsewhere.

But leaving Norway wasn't easy, Maurice said. He said that when the group that included his great-grandfather left the village in Norway, many were in tears and nearly turned back.

But they persevered, with courage, to a new land, and that's why most all of us are here today — along with Soos Creek Botanical Garden.

## Field Trip, Soos Creek Botanical Garden in late October?

As Maurice spoke, so many at the meeting voiced the obvious thought: "Well, where is the Garden? And when can we visit?" The Garden is open Wed.-Sat 10-4 and closes for the winter. Maurice wanted to ensure the garden was free for all (but, of course, donations are appreciated.) While the blooms will obviously be more prevalent in Spring, there are such a huge variety of trees, perennials, and special plant collections that maybe we should visit in October after our Anniversary Dinner. I would suggest a Saturday visit. Please let me know if

*continued on page 3*

## Social Directors' Report

What a wonderful potluck dinner was had at our last general meeting! There were only 18 members present and 3 guests, but we all had plenty of delicious food and a very interesting speaker--Maurice Skagen who owns Soos Creek Botanical Gardens! Tom Heavey conducted the meeting because our president is on a trip and the vice-president was ill. The lucky winners of the "member present" \$10 award were John Fatland and Jim Larson. It pays to be present at our general meetings!

Jorunn Ruff

## Sports Director's Report

Do you know the current best golfer in the world is from Norway? He is, and his name is Viktor Hovland.



Born 18 September 1997, he is a Norwegian professional golfer who plays on the PGA Tour and European Tour. He won the 2018 U.S. Amateur and then became the first Norwegian to win on the PGA Tour (at the 2020 Puerto Rico Open) and on the European Tour (at the 2021 BMW International Open). Hovland picked up his second and third PGA Tour wins at the Mayakoba Golf Classic in autumn 2020

and 2021. His fourth win came in a playoff at the Memorial Tournament in June 2023. His fifth came in August 2023, with a course record setting 61 at the BMW Championship, with his sixth victory coming the following week at the Tour Championship resulting in his first FedEx Cup.

The FedEx Cup is a year-long competition that awards the winner a tidy 18 million dollars! That will buy a lot of lufse and lutefisk!

David Eidsaune, Sports Director

**What's going on around here?  
Check out Sons of Norway's District Two web site!  
<http://sonsofnorway2.com>**

## 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.

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



**Kultur Hjørne** continued from page 2

you'd like to meet as a group and we can see what can be arranged, if not in October, we'll try for Spring. My phone and e-mail are in the directory.

## Vester's 40th Anniversary Dinner will feature several special cultural elements as well as marvelous food!

Our 40th Anniversary Dinner will be a cultural treat.

First, the food (discussed elsewhere) will be superb! Second, John Nyseth will be bringing a few large visual displays: one will feature our original charter! Another will show photos of past events.

Next, again, courtesy of John Nyseth, we will be showing videos of some past Vesterdalen outings and celebrations. This is the time to see them! Bring your family and friends. Tickets are priced almost at our cost (\$40); all you have to do is call Dotty Erickson and she can take a credit card over the phone. We will be opening up ticket sales District-wide, and because our events are always so nicely done, we will probably sell out, so get your tickets now!

## Advance Notice:

Have you ever wanted to delve more into your Norwegian genealogy and history of your family's farm? Come to our November meeting and hear our own Marv Nelson Speak on Bygdebøker!

What are Bygdebøker? They are books showing the history of individual Norwegian farms in a local area; and, thus, of course, very useful in tracing one's family genealogy. Detailed historical family records are often kept by church parishes in Norway (and Europe). But because Norway is so mountainous, some communities may be isolated from the parish, and that's why the Bygdebøker are so important! Although many families in the U.S. do have Bygdebøker, they are hard to find! Marv only received his family's Bygdebøk recently. He'll be showing it to us, as well as what he learned, and the process he followed.



Marv Nelson said, "This is a tapestry of "our farm in Norway." Discovering the farm gave me the "goose bump" moments one gets in life."

## Events Coming Up:

**October 7, 2023 - Embla Lodge Daughters of Norway Nordic Festival**, 10-4pm, Mountain View Lutheran Church, 3505-122nd Ave. East, Edgewood, WA, \$2.

**October 8, 2023 - Talk about "Norway's Mayflower" sailing of the Restoration**, Leif Erickson Hall in Ballard Sunday Talk, \$10.

**October 28-29, 2023 - Leif Erickson Bazaar**, Saturday from 10-4, Sunday from 11-4, Leif Erickson Hall in Ballard.

# Kalender

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



*Vesterdalen Youth from Madison, Wisconsin, enjoy their first visit to Norway in June. Jack Larson takes a big jump into the fjord while his brother Erick awaits his turn. They agreed that the water near Bergen was not as cold as Lake Tapps.*

*Leif Larson takes a rest after his midsummer hike to the mountain top. It was a perfect midnight view.*



*Andy & Cathy Wangstad visited his cousin, Kjell Vangstad and his lady friend Inger Marie Rime in Gjøvik.*

*Below: Vernene's family in Norway.*



*William Healy, our member from Alexandria, Virginia, is practicing his kayaking skills on Lake Tapps getting ready for a 2024 trip to Viking Land.*



# 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 fotojourno@live.com

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



## Paulstad calendars are available

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



*Vernene's family in Norway.*



*Above: David & Nancy Sommerfield visiting Bergen, Norway and Briksdal glacier in Vestland, Norway.*



*Left: Ruthanne Henderson tells the story of her Bunad (made by John Nyseth's grandmother) at Sweden Day at the Neely Mansion.*