

Vikingskip

www.vesterdalen.org



januar 2024

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

Vol. XLII No. 1

Hilsen Fra Presidenten



Godt Nytt År Fra Vesterdalen Lodge. Welcome to 2024.

As we begin a new year with our Lodge, we look forward to many new officers and some great programs by our cultural director, Karen Tofte. I hope you all had time over the holidays to rest and enjoy family or friends. It can also be a stressful time for many, so I hope you shared of yourselves and let others know you are there for them, as needed. As the new year begins, you may find things have

changed for you or for your family. I know some will be moving, some will be trying a new office in our lodge, some will be stepping back to handle a family situation.

I am sorry we had to miss the Julefest on December 8th. That was the evening that my husband, Larry, was in a car accident (he was not injured), which prevented us from attending. Consequently, now, in our family, we are dealing with a single car and driver, so that changes some things for us. I guess we can all learn to adapt and deal with a new stage of life, though it isn't always easy.

When you read this, it will be after the new year, but as I write this, it is nearly Christmas, and I feel very behind in what still needs to be done. It will all be over by the time this is published, so I have that to look forward to. I am also feeling rather introspective at this time and am thinking about how things can change so quickly, when you are not expecting it.

I am looking forward to working with our new officers and getting ideas from them on ways to move forward. I know we want to have fun in the lodge (which I think we usually do) and if any of you have ideas for programs or cultural trips you would like us to try, please let any of your officers know. We want input from all of you. If you think there are other ways to encourage participation in the lodge, please let us know. I believe we come for the culture and fellowship. If there is more that is needed, please speak up. Thank you all for being a part of our lodge – and Happy New Year.

med vennlig hilsen,

Vernene

Upcoming Meeting

Monday, January 15, 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church

410 "H" Street NE • Auburn, WA 98002

6:00 PM Social Time - Dessert Potluck

bring a dessert to share

7:00 PM Lodge Meeting

Installation of Officers

Social Director Needed

Our new social director needs to step back at this time due to a family issue, so we are in great need of a social director – and committee.

I know social time is important to all of us – it is the time we can visit with each other and usually share food of some sort. This does require coordination and won't happen without a few people – it really can't be just a single person, but a small group. If any of you are willing to step up – or a couple of people who are willing to work together, we need you now. Please call me (253-221-7059) and let me know you can help.

We do have the social time planned for the January meeting, so your duties wouldn't begin until the February meeting. It gives someone time to decide to help and get a couple others to assist. We need you! Thank you for your consideration.

Vernene

Nordic Fest Committee Members Needed

We do hope to hold a Nordic Fest – if we can find a location that allows us to have it on a Saturday. We can't do it at Messiah Lutheran, as they have others using the church on Saturdays, so that is something we are investigating.

There have been a few who signed up to work on this committee at the November meeting, and I will be contacting them in January to start working on this.

If anyone else is willing to help with this, or has ideas where we might hold this event, please let any other officers know. We need many hands for this.

Vernene

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>



What's going on around here?

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

<http://sonsofnorway2.com>

Sunshine Report

A thinking of you card was sent to **Larry Scheurer** after a car crash.

January Birthdays

- 2 Carol Larson
- 7 Donald Iverson
- 10 Heidi Laber
- 12 Marlyce Osnes
- 14 Earl Dahlin
- 15 Lauren Shimamura, Virginia Grette
- 21 Kari Waller
- 23 Norma Buckner
- 24 Judith Isaksen
- 30 Barbara Isaksen, Sally Nesheim

The board voted to send birthday cards to members when they turn 75, 80 85, 90, 95 and 100 years old. This will begin in January, 2024. Two members will receive birthday cards this month.

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 206-612-6389



Kultur Hjørne

The Vesterdalen JuleFest was festive and fun! The potluck featured ample lefse provided by Kathleen and Don Olson, a rich yet nutritious raspberry dessert made by Sonja Whitcombe, and a special gluten free lasagne brought by Ladderud's daughter Jean Coy. Thank you to our refreshments committee and everyone for contributing to the potluck! Many thanks to Nancy and David Sommerfield for the specially decorated Norwegian Christmas tree for the stage! It really helped make the occasion special.

Three children received oranges and other gifts from Jim Larson in his new role as Vesterdalen Santa! Great job, Jim and kids!

Special children were Gracie Petersohn and Jonathan Petersohn (Sonja Whitcombe's grandchildren), as well as Colton Thompson, Sarah Ladderud-Thompson's child (and Nils & Lois' great grandchild).

Members sang rousing Christmas tunes, led by the great voice of John Fatland. It was wonderful to see children delighting in the season. It was also great to be with our long-time—as well as newer—members!

While January will feature another excellent Vesterdalen dessert potluck and installation of officers, keep an eye out for a presentation by Bjorn, owner of Scandinavian Specialties, in **February** (please note that the time of the presentation might change an hour or so from our usual because Bjorn will probably be joining us by Zoom from Norway); and, in March, Lori Ann Reinhall, editor of The Norwegian American, who will give a fascinating presentation about "the Norwegian Mayflower."

The following is a list of some **pancake breakfasts** by lodges in the area compiled by Christine Anderson of Leif Erickson. Info always subject to change, so please confirm by phone or email or website (or all three) before you make the trek to attend any of the below:

Sundays, 8AM – 1PM: Swedish Club is serving Swedish pancakes on the first Sunday of the month. Check website for price. Meals include authentic Swedish pancakes and ham, whipped cream, lingonberries/strawberries, orange juice, and coffee/tea/milk/water. Live music and entertainment. Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Ave N, Seattle WA. Info 206.283.1090 or www.swedishclubnw.org

Most First Sundays, 9AM - 11AM: Poulsbo Lodge 2-044, Sons of Norway serves Vern's American style pancakes, lingonberries, bacon/sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice, coffee/tea on first Sundays of most months. \$12 for adults and \$7 children 5 and under. Poulsbo Lodge 2-044 18991 Front St. NE, Poulsbo WA 98370. Open to the public. <https://www.poulsbosonsofnorway.com/>

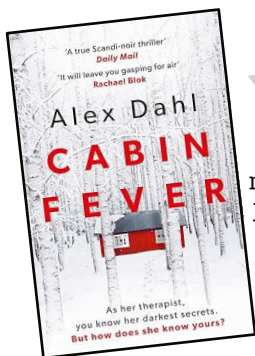
Karen T. Culture Chair

Paulstad Calendars are Available

Members keep clamoring for the beautiful Paulstad calendars. The 2024 Paulstad calendars will be available for sale at our January meeting for \$15 each.



Book Club



The next Sons of Norway book club will meet on January 9, 2024 at 11 AM at Maggie's on Meeker in Kent. We will be discussing Cabin Fever by Alex Dahl. On the surface, Kristina seems to have it all: successful career as a therapist, great husband who's making strides in politics, and loads of money. Her life, however, gets wrapped up in turmoil, when one of Kristina's clients, a famous author named Leah, asks her to meet outside of the office, in a remote cabin in the woods. Kristina's imagination runs wild with everything she can find there, but what she isn't expecting to find is a manuscript with her in the role of a protagonist. Alexandria Bockfeldt Dahl, known as Alex Dahl, is an American/Norwegian crime novelist who writes in the Nordic noir genre.

Kari Waller

Social Directors' Report

At the Last Meeting

Our Julefest was a fun event with 31 present, with three children. Santa was very happy to have such wonderful children present, but next year let's hope more children can join in the fun time of getting presents from Santa! A potluck dinner was enjoyed by all, but hot dishes were in short supply. Homemade lefse was abundant on each table made by Don and Kathleen Olson. A big thank you to Don and Kathleen!

Upcoming Meeting

Join us for a potluck dessert event. Please bring a dessert to share. There will also be installation of the officers for 2024.

Jorunn Ruff



Santa with Colton Thompson held by Sarah Ladderud Thompson. Sarah has been at our JuleFest for many years, first sitting on the lap of Santa Roall Erickson.



New 2024 Budget Proposal

Our board has made changes to our proposed 2024 budget. It will be voted on by the board and presented at the January meeting for approval by the Lodge.

This should have been completed in November, but we had discussion about it then, with some hard facts being brought forward. We hopefully have a better proposal, though we still need fundraisers to help us at least break even. Without those, we still have a deficit budget.

We will be discussing this, as a board, but if anyone has any ideas or input, please speak up – we can use any ideas that others have. We may consider a Lutefisk dinner that does not require as much “person power” as it has in the past – we obviously no longer can do it the way we did with our current membership. But there are ways to require fewer people, and we will be investigating that.

Vernene

Santa with Gracie Petersohn and Jonathan Petersohn.



Jonathan Petersohn with Santa.



Left: Vernene missed the meeting because of Larry's car crash. But Santa made a special visit to her home - and here with Santa is Larry (upper left) and Vernene holding Raegan. To her left is Ella. Madison and Jameson are alongside Santa.

Kalender

januar

- 8 Board Meeting via Zoom6:30 PM
- 9 Book Club at Maggie's on Meeker, Kent..... 11:00 AM
- 15 Social - Dessert Potluck6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in person and via Zoom 7:00 PM...7:00 PM

februar

- 5 Board Meeting via Zoom6:30 PM
- 19 Social6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM in person and via Zoom...7:00 PM

mars

- 4 Board Meeting via Zoom6:30 PM
- 18 Social6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting7:00 PM

Upcoming Events

District 2 Ski race - February 3, 2024, Registration 8:30-10 a.m. Race at 10:30 a.m. If you cannot make it to Trollhaugen on Feb. 3, here is another way to participate!

For the whole month of February, record how many miles you cross country ski. This event is open to all ages and experience levels. By March 15, send your miles to District Two Sports Director: Laurie Berg (Laurieberg.lb@gmail.com). Be sure to include your full name, age and "Vesterdalen Lodge." Results will be printed in the District 2 Newsletter. Miles can be tracked for all skiing, not just miles done at Trollhaugen.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, Poulsbo Lodge 2-044 Sons of Norway annual **Lutefisk** and **Meatball Dinner** with white sauce, bacon and drippings, butter, potatoes, carrots, pickled beets, lefse, ice cream, krumkake, and coffee. Seating by reservation. Adults \$35. Children under 15 \$15. Come enjoy our view of beautiful Liberty Bay! Poulsbo Sons of Norway, Grieg Hall, 18891 Front Street, Poulsbo, WA 360.779.5209 www.poulsbosonsofnorway.com

Saturday, January 27, 2024: Lutefisk at Whidbey Island Nordic Lodge 2-164, Sons of Norway, Nordic Hall, 63 Jacobs Road, Coupeville WA. Information on their web site: <https://www.whidbeyislandnordiclodge.com>

Lodge Shirt Available

Our printer has come up with a Lodge T-shirt so members and families 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. They can be picked up at either their Kent or Auburn locations.



2024 Vesterdalen Officers

- President Vernene Scheurer 253-848-7231
president@vesterdalen.org
- VP/Membership Don Olson 253-862-6138
dondc@reachone.com
- Secretary Nancy Sommerfield 206-612-6389
dnsommerfield@comcast.net
- Treasurer Kathleen Olson 253-939-0909
dondc@reachone.com
- Fin. Secretary Dotty Erickson 206-356-1858
dortaerick@comcast.net

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

Lindesnes Fyr

There are a total of 212 lighthouses that dot the approximate 62,706 miles of Norway's majestic coastline. The first and oldest of those lighthouses was erected in 1656 at Lindesnes, which sits at the southern tip of Norway, in Agder county. It marks the entrance to the Skagerrak Strait and Baltic Sea from the North Sea and lies approximately 1,500 miles from Norway's (and the world's) northernmost mainland lighthouse, Slettnes Fyr.



The original lighthouse was replaced numerous times over the years, until 1915, when the current version of the lighthouse was built. Made from cast iron, the Lindesnes Fyr (lighthouse) stands 50.1 meters (164 ft) tall with a red lantern and white tower base atop a granite foundation. It uses a Fresnal lens, which is more compact than other types, to project light that can be seen up to 17.7 nautical miles away. The lens was made in Paris and first used in the 1854 lighthouse. The lighthouse was also equipped with a foghorn that was later replaced with a diaphone after the lighthouse was fitted with electricity. Perhaps most noticeable are the impressive views that can be seen from atop the structure over the rugged coast.

Due to its strategic location, the Germans utilized this site when they occupied Norway during World War II. They built additional fortifications including tunnels and trenches that can be explored today when visiting. While there were no large-scale war incidents that occurred at the site, there is a monument acknowledging when a ship, the Palatia, was sunk off the coast of Lindesnes on October 21, 1942. The ship was mostly carrying prisoners of war and the 986 people aboard lost their lives.

Today, while the lighthouse is still fully functional and operated by the Norwegian Coastal Administration, it also serves as a travel destination with a museum, gallery, café, and event space. One can explore marked trails around the site if they are prepared to hike the sometimes steep and hilly terrain.