

Vikingskip

www.vesterdalen.org



March 2024

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

Vol. XLIIINO. 2

Hilsen Fra Presidenten



Hello Lodge Members,
Spring is right around the corner, and I am sure we are all looking forward to some sunnier and warmer days.

For those of you who missed our last meeting, we had a wonderful Soup Potluck with desserts as well. We heard from Bjorn from Scandinavian Specialties, who shared about what they sell, what are their big sellers and favorite foods. We also voted on three

delegates to the District 2 Convention in Coeur d'Alene at the end of May.

We have not planned a Torsk dinner this year, but our March meeting will be great with a Salad Potluck and speaker (see related article).

We are also working on our Nordic Fest this year, on May 11, where we will have vendors, entertainment, a bake sale, and lunch items available. This will be a fundraiser for the lodge, and I hope many of you are willing to help so we can be successful. We will hold it at Messiah Lutheran Church, as we have in the past. Please share the date with friends.

I will be sending out a survey about considering a change of day for our meetings. This is exploratory, but many have expressed a desire to consider a daytime meeting on the weekend, as it may be safer to drive during the day. We will see what the majority feel about this and what it could mean to us all. Please respond to the survey so we can have a good representation of the Lodge members' views on this topic (and a few others).

Hope to see you at the March 18th Lodge meeting.
Best,

Vernene

Upcoming Events

April 20, 2024 - 10 AM-4 PM Norway Day Thurston Co. Fairgrounds, Olympia, WA. Music, Vikings, Fjord Horses, Norwegian Elkhounds, Giftware, Nordic Café, Bake Sale, Crafts, Artwork, Genealogy, and more! Admission \$3.00, Children under 12 free with adult. www.OlympiaNorwayDay.com.

Upcoming Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church

410 "H" Street NE • Auburn, WA 98002

6:00 PM Social Time - Salad Potluck

Bring a salad to share

7:00 PM Lodge Meeting

Lori Ann Reinhall, Editor-in-Chief

Norwegian-American newspaper

Our March meeting will feature a fascinating presentation about *The Norwegian Mayflower* by the Editor-in-Chief of the Norwegian American newspaper: Lori Ann Reinhall.

We often hear about the great Norwegian emigration to the United States and its genesis in the challenging economic circumstances in Norway. But did you know that the first organized emigration to the U.S. from Norway took place by Norwegians seeking religious freedom? That 1825 journey, on a ship named the *Restoration*, was three years in the planning. Lori Ann will also tell us about her trip to the replica of the original ship.

Along with another incomparable Vesterdalen potluck organized by Sandra Nelson and the Social Committee — "Salads" are the theme — this should be a wonderful program not to be missed!

Karen T., Culture Chair



Scholarships Available

If you have a child or grandchild who would like to attend the Sons of Norway Heritage Summer Camps (to learn about Norwegian Heritage and Culture), there are scholarships available. Vesterdalen Lodge does have a camper scholarship (\$350-400, typically half of the full tuition cost) for children or a grandchild of Vesterdalen member. The Draxton fund may match that.

Applicants can get their application from Linda Kleppe-Olson, our Youth Director. The application should be in by April 1, 2024. Camp Nidaros and Camp Normanna are for youth between the ages of 9-12. Camp Trollhaugen is for those between the ages of 13-15.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2024 and sent to Sons of Norway-District 2, c/o Seth Tufteland, Scholarship Chairperson, PO Box 1422, Bothell WA 98041.

Questions can be directed to Seth Tufteland (206-605-4112), Ingrid Hueneke, 360-377-4454, or Jane Bueing, 425-882-2212.

Visit the following website to find local Nordic events.

WWW.NORDICSEATTLE.COM

Sunshine Report

A get well card was sent to **Pat Braaten** as she recovers from major surgery. Our condolences to **Dell Plagens** whose mother, **Julie**, passed away in February. Our condolences also to **Don and Judy Jensen** whose sister, **Ardell**, and their son-in-law, **Robbie**, passed away in February.

March Birthdays

- 8 Karen Nugent, Cindy Olson
- 12 Kaitlyn Petersen
- 13 Erin Iverson, Jane Eidsaune
- 14 Karen Knauer
- 16 Paige Winsor
- 18 Ginny Anderson, Brandon Sroka
- 21 Diane Fatland
- 22 Nils Ladderud
- 23 Theresa Sroka
- 25 Dorothy Hartley, Mari Lysne
- 26 Colleen Milner, Elena Jones
- 28 Keith Ladderud



The board voted to send special birthday cards to members on milestone birthdays 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, etc. There was 1 milestone birthday in March.

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

Diane Fatland, Sunshine Committee
206-947-8776 dianefatland@gmail.com

Book Club



The Son's of Norway Book Club will meet at Maggie's on Meeker on March 12, 2024, at 11 AM. The book we will be discussing is *The Weaver and the Witch Queen* by Genevieve Gornichec.

The lives of two women—one desperate only to save her missing sister, the other a witch destined to become queen of Norway—intertwine in this spellbinding, powerful novel of Viking Age history and myth. When Oddny's farm is destroyed and Signy is kidnapped by Viking raiders, Oddny is determined to save her sister no matter the cost. And in the far north, Gunnhild, who fled her home years ago to learn the ways of a witch, is surprised to find her destiny seems to be linked with that of the formidable King Eirik, heir apparent to the ruler of all Norway.

But the bonds—both enchanted and emotional—that hold the two women together are strong, and when they find their way back to each other, these bonds will be tested in ways they never could have foreseen in this deeply moving novel of magic, history, and sworn sisterhood.

Genevieve Gornichec earned her degree in history from The Ohio State University, but she got as close to majoring in Vikings as she possibly could, and her study of the Norse myths and Icelandic sagas became her writing inspiration.

Kari Waller

Kultur Hjørne

At our last meeting in February, Bjørn Ruud, owner of Scandinavian Specialties, piqued our appetite for Scandinavian food, crafts and housewares.

Ever wonder why the sausage or the fish cakes at Scandinavian Specialties in Ballard taste so great? Bjørn told us a bit about the fascinating lore behind the store. The store fills a crucial niche for Scandinavian culture in the Seattle area, with its café, food, gifts, crafts, and housewares.

Lodge member Carol Larson was speaking for many when she said how impressed she is by the quality of items sold there.

And it's no wonder: owner Bjørn has made sure that he continues to stock and sell what his customers like: whether those things are great-quality craft or housewares items from well-regarded distributors or the same fish cakes that his mom used to make him growing up. In fact, those fish cakes are the best-selling item at Scandinavian Specialties today.

Even more surprising, perhaps, is that Scandinavian Specialties signature sausage is ground on a 121-year old machine! That's right! in 2024, the best machine for the job was manufactured in 1903! Rudd says that it would cost upwards of \$20,000 (a big investment for a small business owner, he noted) to find a machine that replicates the fine ground and other special properties of the vintage machine.

We were even more grateful to Bjørn for taking the time to talk with us considering that over the weekend before a car had accidentally smashed into the front of the store! It will take about a month to repair the damage, Bjørn said, and chalked it up to yet another of the travails he handles as a small business owner.

Rudd is a true entrepreneur: In addition to Scandinavian Specialties, he runs businesses associated with music record labels and merchandise, a wholesale flag business, as well as an import business supplying the German felt hats sold in Leavenworth. He gets away from it all at his off-grid property on Camano Island. "I think it's nice to have things to do," he says.

Karen T., Culture Chair

Nordic Fest - May 11

At our first February meeting (by Zoom) we had a great turnout (thank you again, everyone) and brainstormed some great, original ideas. We are so grateful to Vernene and Messiah Lutheran Church and others for making it possible for us to use the church on Saturday, May 11th for our first Nordic Fest in several years!

That being said, many hands make light work—and more fun work. We need your ideas and input, so please contact either Vernene, Diane, or Karen to ensure you get the Zoom link for next meeting: **Sunday, March 3rd at 4:30 p.m.** Hope to keep it to an hour.

In the meantime if you have any ideas—new vendors or informational tables you'd like to see, fun Norwegian games, thoughts on food—and, in particular, ways to get the word out to the Scandinavian community and the wider community—please let us know.

Thank you!

Karen T.



Social Directors' Report

At the Last Meeting

Such a vast array of delicious dishes warmed our hearts and stomachs and we are grateful for the generous and skilled cooks who brought them. People provided breads, crackers, cookies and cupcakes even though they were not even mentioned.

There were 24 members present with 1 guest - all ready to meet new people and greet old friends while 4 joined virtually. The lucky people who won the Norwegian calendars were Ginny Anderson, Carole Wrolstad and Tom Heavey.

Upcoming Meeting

In March, let's have a big POTLUCK BUFFET of SALADS. Just think of all the choices from vegetable, pasta, seafood, fruit, ethnic, Jello (who could forget green church Jello with cottage cheese!) So many possibilities, all the way from light to hearty. What would you like to bring and share with friends?.

Because of the necessary lowering of the 2024 Social Committee Budget line item, we are now accepting cash donations at the buffet table which are greatly appreciated.

It was wonderful to see some friends we have not seen for too long!! The days are getting longer and warmer so hopefully that will encourage more of you to come out!

See you soon.

Marv and Sande Nelson, Co-Social Directors

What's going on around here?

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

<http://sonsofnorway2.com>

About the Door Prizes

As you realize, Vesterdalen is just now beginning to rise from the ashes of our COVID coma. Because major expenses stayed the same during our years of quiet, the treasury has become so depleted that some things have been asked to change. Do you remember buying the chances for door prizes? Well, we have decided not to purchase door prizes any longer, but give you the opportunity to donate some like things, 3 of a kind, for the drawings. Not real big, perhaps small enough to put in a paper bag. People will then buy tickets for your mystery donated items and the money will go into the treasury. This will not make a big difference, but it will be a positive rather than negative effect on the budget. Thank you for considering what you have that you might like to donate as door prizes, three like or similar things as we have 3 drawings at each meeting. Please notify Marv or Sande Nelson before you bring your donated gifts so we have just 3 things each month. Thank you very much.

Sande and Marv Nelson Co-Social Chairs

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>



Sports Director's Report

Attention Walkers! Mark your calendars for March 2 at 10:00 AM (that's 1000 for Tom Heavey) at Roegner Park, 601 Oravetz Rd SE, Auburn. The park entrance is on the Northeast side of Auburn Riverside High School. We will go on a leisurely stroll at a distance of your choice, 1-4 miles. I will let you know when to turn around for your selected distance. Bring sturdy shoes, raincoat/umbrella, water, and a snack. Don't forget to log the miles for your Sports Medal. I only have 791 miles to go for my Sports Hero Medal! Rain or shine--if we let a little rain slow us down, we'd never get out of the house!

At our last meeting, **Jim Larson** was awarded the Enamel Sports and Fitness Medal. **Dave Eidsaune** received the Sports Hero Medal for Cycling, Outstanding Achievement Enamel Medal for Walking, Cycling, Sports and Fitness.

David Eidsaune, Sports Director



Norwegians of the Year 2023

Carol and Jim Larson were named Vesterdalen's Norwegians of the Year for their faithful attendance, service on boards and especially for extending our presence into the community by way of making the effort to find an Auburn Little League baseball team to sponsor (Hurra, Vikings!) and then going a further step to seek funding through a Sons of Norway Foundation grant.

If we do not have children among us, we can support them where they are. Andy Wangstad made the excellent award certificates that were framed and given to the awardees.

Sande & Marv Nelson Co-Social Chairs

Meeting Cancellation Procedure

In the event of snow, ice, or other bad weather on meeting nights we will send out an email to let everyone know whether the meeting is cancelled. Please keep an eye out for it, as we want to make sure everyone stays safe. If we decide to meet remotely via zoom a meeting link will be included in the email. Not receiving our emails? Reach out to another lodge member who does, or contact us at andy@vesterdalen.org or publicity@vesterdalen.org so we can add you to the list!

Amanda Reding, Publicity Chair

Kalender

Annual Calendar is at www.vesterdalen.org

mars

- 2 Lodge Walk 10:00 AM
- 3 Nordic Fest meeting via Zoom..... 4:30 PM
- 4 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 18 Social 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM

april

- 1 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 15 Social 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM

mai

- 6 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 11 **Nordic Fest**..... 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- 17 Syttende Mai Celebration in Ballard
- 20 Social 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM

juni

- 3 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 17 Social 6:00 PM
- Lodge Meeting in person and via Zoom..... 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Notes

We approved the rent for Messiah Lutheran Church at \$232/month.

Treasurer reported that the audit will take place on February 15 by Vernene Scheurer, Kathleen Olson, Dotty Erickson and Linda Kleppe-Olson.

Financial Secretary Dotty Erickson reported that our membership is 160. We will contact those who have cancelled.

Publicity: Amanda Reding reported that her email, publicity@vesterdalen.org, has been set up and she is learning how to use the MailChimp email system. It was suggested that she get in touch with Dianne Snell and Diane Fatland who have handled publicity in the past.

Cultural Director Karen T. reported on programs, including a possible craft in April. Others included the revival of old farmhouse beers with Jim Larson and aquavit tasting. She also reported on the book club (see article). She noticed that there is a way to raise funds with the bing search engine - Andy Wangstad will investigate.

Social: Sande Nelson announced potlucks before meetings - and suggested that we list ingredients to help those with allergies. She got permission to put a donation box on the potluck table. She needs keys from the Trustees to check on our material in storage. Game Farm Park is not available for our picnic, but we're working to find another close-by space.

Sports: David Eidsaune will host a hike on March 2 at 10:00 AM at White River Trail (see article).

Sunshine: Diane Fatland reported. (see article). Dotty is building a list for the Memorial Service in May.

Carol Larson is our new Historian. We received thank you cards from the Tacoma Peace Prize, the food bank and PLU Cultural center for our donations.

The Bylaws are being updated and were discussed.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Sommerfield, Secretary

2024 Vesterdalen Officers

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- Publicity Amanda Reding..... 509-881-7639
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Rose Stevens - 1-800-210-0240
Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor



St. Patrick & the Vikings

It seems that centuries ago, many Norwegians came to Ireland to escape the bitterness of the Norwegian winters. Ireland was having a famine at the time and

food was very scarce. The Norwegians were eating almost all the fish caught in the sea, leaving the Irish with nothing but potatoes. St. Patrick, taking things into his own hands, decided the Norwegians had to go. He and his friends sabotaged all the power plants in the hopes the fish the Norwegians kept in refrigerators would spoil, forcing the Norwegians to a colder climate where their fish would keep. The fish spoiled all right, but the Norwegians, as everyone knows, thrive on spoiled fish. Faced with failure, the Irish sneaked into the Norwegians fish storage caves in the dead of night and sprinkled the rotten fish with lye, hoping to poison the Norwegian intruders. But, miraculously, the Norwegians thrived on this new concoction and dubbed the smelly lye-soaked fish "Lutefisk."

Matters became even worse for the Irishmen when the Norwegians started taking over the potato crop and making lefse. Poor St. Patrick was at his wit's end, and finally on March 17th, he blew his top and told the Norwegians to go to Hell. And it worked. All the Norwegians left Ireland and moved to Minnesota!

Auburn Little League Team

Vesterdalen Lodge is again looking forward to sponsoring an Auburn Little League team. The season is underway with the process of assigning players to teams. We will have more information about our team at the end of February. Teams will begin practice in March and hopefully games will start at the end of March. We will update you with schedules as soon as we learn more so you can save the dates. It's wonderful to sit out in the chilly/sunny spring weather and watch them play.

Jim and Carol Larson