

Vikingskip



www.vesterdalen.org



desember 2025

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

Vol. XLII No. 11

HILSEN FRA PRESIDENTEN



Dear fellow Lodge Members,

As we settle into winter we naturally slow down a bit. The days get colder and darker, and we get koselig. Slowing down for these moments of warmth help us not only to conserve but also recharge our physical and emotional energy. We spend our time on the things that matter most to us, as we share meals, gatherings, and traditions. For Vesterdalen Lodge, December brings our JuleFest celebration in place of

our regular meeting, along with desserts and the joyful company of friends.

But this season isn't just colder and darker, it's also a time of reflection and clarity, giving us a chance to realign before the new year ahead. By giving ourselves permission to slow down and focus on what matters to us, we can create more connection and less fatigue. In Norway, the time between Christmas and New Years is called Romjul, a time to slow down, lean into the koselig, and reflect on what is most important to carry into the new year.

I invite you to consider this month what makes our community important to you. Being in community with our fellow lodge members? Norwegian food? Interesting cultural programs? Getting out of the house for a walk with friends? As incoming board members consider how to best use our volunteer hours in 2026, it is important that we know what is important to you! We will take some time to discuss this at our January meeting. In the meantime I hope you will help me in thanking our outgoing board members for their time and service to the lodge this year.

Med vennlig hilsen,

Amanda

The Mission of Sons of Norway
is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries.

Visit the following website to find local Nordic events

WWW.NORDICSEATTLE.COM

Upcoming Meeting

Friday, December 5, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

410 "H" Street NE • Auburn, WA 98002

6:00 PM Potluck

Bring a holiday favorite & especially Scandinavian desserts!

7:00 PM Our annual JuleFest!



It's our annual JuleFest!

Please bring food for the potluck – bring your holiday favorite and we'd especially like some Scandinavian desserts for our celebration!

After our potluck dinner there will be singing and Santa will be visiting. He is really looking forward to meeting the girls and boys and giving them a gift that their parents (or grandparents) bring with the child's name on it.

2026 Vesterdalen Board Positions Are Available!

Please say "YES!" when asked to fill an open position on Vesterdalen's Sons of Norway Board.

It's time to decide what leadership role each of us is going to assume next year. It is important that each of us pick up the leadership mantle at least once during our time as a member of Vesterdalen. "I have no experience" is this you? Very few of us have held office in other organizations. All are willing to answer any questions you may have.

Contact Vernene Scheurer (253-221-7059) or Marv Nelson (425-417-8382) to volunteer or ask questions.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Former member **Sonny Bellcour** has passed away. A message of condolence was sent to his daughter.

December Birthdays

- 14 Steven Thoen
- 23 Dotty Erickson
- 24 Griffin Ronhovde
- 26 Oscar Larson, Joyce Klevjer
- 28 Margaret Evenson, Judy Jensen

One milestone card will be sent 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.

Diane Fatland, Sunshine Chair

dianefatland@gmail.com 206-947-8776



What's going on around here?
Check out Sons of Norway's District 2 website
<http://www.sonsofnorway2.com>

Preparing for Baseball - 2026

Auburn Little League team sponsorships are opening soon and we will enter our bid for a Viking team as soon as they do. At the same time, we are also preparing our application for a 2026 Sons of Norway Foundation Grant for Helping Hands to Children to cover Vesterdalen's sponsorship. Keep your eyes open for more news about our team and their schedule next year.

Need some Lutefisk?

Forgot to catch the cod or ran out of time to dry the fish and make the ashes? You can buy lutefisk for your own home:

Northern Fish 56th Street

3911 South 56th Street,
Tacoma, WA 98409.

Phone: (253) 471-4900
retail@northernfish.com

Monday - Friday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

ScanSelect, Inc. dba Scandinavian Specialties

Fresh lutefisk in December, frozen all year long

6719 -15th Avenue NW

Seattle, Washington 98117-5508

1.877.784.7020

206.784.7020

www.ScanSpecialties.com

January, 2026 Lutefisk Dinner in Poulsbo

Saturday, January 31, 2026. Poulsbo Lodge 2-044, Sons of Norway, is having its annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner with accompaniments white sauce, bacon and drippings, butter, potatoes, carrots, pickled beets, lefse, ice cream, krumkake, and coffee. Price: Tickets go on sale January 1 online. Seating by reservation. Come enjoy our view of beautiful Liberty Bay! Poulsbo Sons of Norway, Grieg Hall, 18991 Front Street, Poulsbo, WA 360.779.5209 www.poulsbosonsofnorway.com

Area Lutefisk Dinners is edited by Christine Anderson, member of Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001, Sons of Norway; Norden 2-002, Sons of Norway; and Embla Lodge #2, Daughters of Norway.
cmadance@earthlink.net

KULTUR REPORT

Meet the Artist of the 2025 Ornament

The original artwork for this year's limited edition rosemaled ornament was painted by Karen Van Loan of Apple Valley, MN. Van Loan has been rosemaling for 27 years and is an elementary school teacher by profession, having taught on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations in South Dakota before retiring in 2006.

Van Loan's inspiration to paint comes from studying old works of rosemaling, and from the encouragement of her excellent teachers and fellow painters.

In addition to learning locally with Vesterheim Gold Medalist (VGM) Shirley Evenstad, Van Loan has taken many classes at Vesterheim from Gold Medalists such as Judy Ritger, Nancy Schmidt, Sunhild Muldbakken, Pam Rucinski, Lois Mueller and Norwegian guest painters Egil Dahle and Johild Mæland. She also has enrolled in classes within driving distance taught by Ken Magnuson VGM, Trudy Peach VGM, Judy Kjenstad VGM, Irene Lamont VGM, Marlys Hammer VGM, Clarice Dieter, June Nyberg, Julie Anderson and Diane Edwards. Since the pandemic, she has been able to take additional classes via Zoom from Louise Bath VGM, Lise Lorentzen VGM and Kim Garrett.

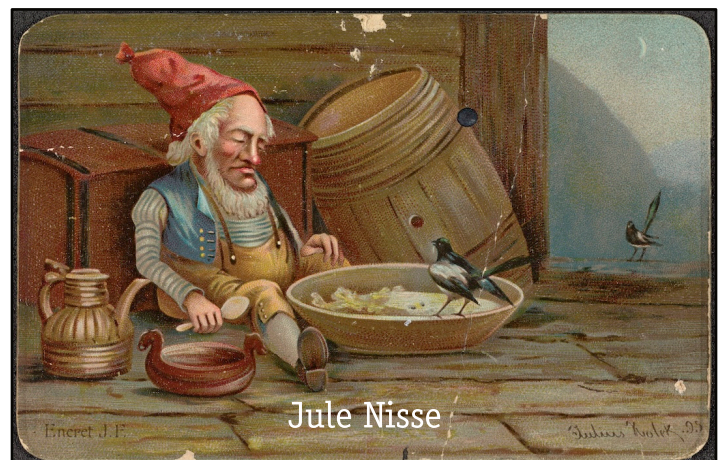
In August 2025, Van Loan took home a ribbon for every one of her six rosemaling entries in the Minnesota State Fair.

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WELL, DASHER, IT LOOKS LIKE VESTERDALEN LODGE IS NEXT....

NICK, YOU THINK THOSE LODGE LADIES GOT ANY FATTIGMANN'S LEFT?



SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Last Meeting

A big thank you to all who contributed to the November meeting potluck! Thanks to Marv and Sande Nelson for the door prizes! Winners were **Nancy Heavey**, **Nancy Sommerfield**, and **Diane Fatland**.

At the Next Meeting

For FRIDAY December 5 JuleFest Party beginning at 6:00 - potluck again, but include Christmas baking! Also, that evening, individuals can decorate the table where they plan to sit.

John Fatland, Social Committee.

Visit the following website to find local Nordic events

WWW.NORDICSEATTLE.COM



2026 Paulstad Classic Calendars

The last of the beautiful 2026 Paulstad calendars will be available for sale at JuleFest! If you cannot make it, call Dotty Erickson at 206-356-1858 with your credit card number and she will process your order.



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27**

at Fika coffee-shop, part of Farm 12 restaurant complex in Puyallup: 1:00 pm.

It is flat and very accessible for walkers, wheelchairs.

The Kaffe Stuas we've had thus far at Fika have been really fun and well-attended!

Fika is the cafe near the main restaurant. 3303 8th Ave SE, Puyallup, WA 98372 (253) 697-9486

Carol Larson for the Cultural Committee



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>



Viking Age Museum Progress

2027 is marked to be the year for the opening of a new Viking Museum in Oslo. The Museum will be called the [Museum of the Viking Age](#) and will be an extension of the current Viking Ship Museum. It will be three times the size of the current museum and will showcase Viking ships and artifacts in an inspiring and modern way, to keep the heritage alive for years to come.

One of the main reasons for the new museum is to safeguard the incredible ships and other discoveries in a climate-regulated building, specifically designed to present the treasures within. The new museum will also include added features for the public, such as a museum shop, restaurant, lecture hall, and research center.

A major challenge to overcome in the construction of the new museum was how to move the ships to their new exhibition areas. Years of planning and careful considerations went into the planning of their big move. Perhaps most exciting to the professionals tasked with the move was the relocation of the Gokstad Ship. The Gokstad Ship is the world's largest preserved Viking Ship, and it weighs about one ton more than the Oseberg Ship, which was also housed in the Viking Ship Museum.

On October 29th, 2025, the Gokstad was successfully relocated to its new home. Incredibly, the ship was moved in one piece, whereas for a prior move – one hundred years ago – it was divided into two. It proved to be extra challenging as it rested on fewer supports than the Oseberg ship and had a fragile stem that required an additional cover. The ship was secured by custom steel rigs that helped to reduce vibrations during construction and during the move. It took about [10 hours](#) to slowly, slowly move the ship from the old museum building to the new one, about 94 meters in total. It was transported with a crane track in the ceiling and eventually lowered down onto its new base.

Museum Director Aud V. Tønnessen was very happy with the entire process saying, "Even though the [relocation](#) of the Gokstad Ship was more complex, everything has gone according to plan, and we are very pleased with yet another successful relocation."

Though the museum doesn't open for another year, the wait will be well worth it. For a sneak peek of the space and how the ships were moved, enjoy [this informative video](#) that takes you behind the scenes.

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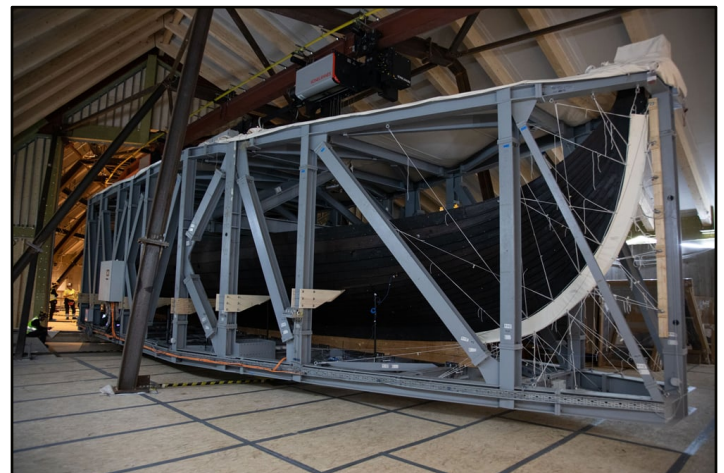


Photo Credit: Mårten Teigen, Museum of the Viking Age

KALENDAR

The entire annual calendar appears at www.vesterdalen.org

Desember

- 1 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 5 **Julefest** Christmas Party..... 6:00 PM
This is our celebration of the holiday complete with a Norwegian Nisse & Santa. It begins with a potluck. Scandinavian desserts encouraged.
- 27 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café in person 1:00 PM

Januar

- 5 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 19 Social 6:00 PM
 Lodge Meeting (in person and via Zoom) 7:00 PM
- 24 Kaffe Stua at Fika Café in person 1:00 PM



Saturday, December 6, 2025

Five seatings, 11:30AM, 1PM, 2:30PM, 4PM, 5:30PM: **Bothell Lodge 2-106 Sons of Norway, Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner** served buffet style. Lutefisk, meatballs, boiled potatoes, coleslaw, lefse, ice cream, cookies for dessert. Choice of coffee, tea, or milk. Prices \$40 for adults, children 5-12 are \$12, under 5 are free! Lutefisk@BothellSonsofNorway.org or call 425.485.9085. Payment is at the door with Cash, Check, and Cards accepted. Reservations required! Reservations open on October 1st and close December 1st or until sold out. When you make your reservations, you are making a reservation for one of the 5 seatings. If you are making a reservation for a group, please let us know the number in the group. If your reservations change, please let us know as we always have a wait list. Bothell Sons of Norway, 23905 Bothell-Everett Highway, Bothell WA 98021.

Saturday, December 13:

Jul Banquet at Scandinavian Cultural Center at Pacific Lutheran University, 12180 Park Avenue S., Tacoma, WA 98447. <https://www.plu.edu/scancercenter/events/#nordic-christmas-fest>

Friday, December 19, 2025,

5PM-9PM: **Lutefisk Dinner** buffet style at the Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109. Check their website for more information <https://www.swedish-clubnw.org/program-calendar>



2025 VESTERDALEN OFFICERS

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	kathleenj@reachone.com	
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	publicity@vesterdalen.org	

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



The Restauration approaches Bermuda at sunset, October 26.
 Photo credit: Halcyon Yachts

What's Next for the Restauration?

After a successful 97-day voyage from Stavanger to New York, and days of events commemorating the original crossing, the ship's crew was likely ready for a break and relieved to be boarding an airplane home. Awaiting the sailors in Norway will be many welcome home festivities. Members of the crew will also give a series of presentations and talk about their experiences crossing the Atlantic, & the people they met along the way. The voyage of the replica Restauration wasn't just a symbolic recreation of the first organized group of emigrants to the US, it was a humanitarian fundraiser. The Restauration website launched the campaign [Broken Dreams: The Light of Hope](#) along with support from high patron Liv Ullmann, raising \$75,000 on behalf of SOS Children's Villages, a humanitarian organization for orphaned children worldwide.

The ship needed to be returned to Norway, somehow. Fortunately, there's a provider for this: a yacht delivery service. The Restauration's crew passed the ship off to an experienced British crew who will return the boat to Norway. They won't blog about it as vigorously as the Restauration's crew did, however they are posting occasional [progress updates](#) online.

Without the commemorative stopovers of the crew's tour to the US, the ship should make a much quicker return and is expected home in Stavanger before Christmas.

From Newark the crew set course for Bermuda, and as of November 14, the ship has already reached the Azores, and is moored at Horta, 900 miles west of the coast of Portugal. [Watch a recap of the crossing](#) and try to maintain your sea legs!

Next, the craft will depart for Brest, France, with a projected arrival of December 1.

View the ship's progress by searching "Restauration" on the website [MarineTraffic](#).

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