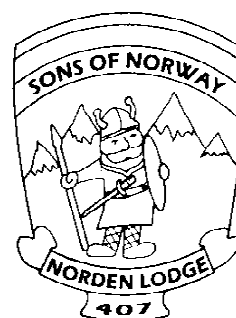




Volume 58, Issue # 1

\* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society \*

# NORDEN STAR

**NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON**
Celebrating Our 86<sup>th</sup> Year

January, 2026

Meeting normally each 4th Sunday of the month at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, Huntington Station, NY  
 Phone (516) 791-3983 [NordenLodge407@Gmail.com](mailto:NordenLodge407@Gmail.com) -Next Meeting **Sunday January 25, at 2 PM**  
 On Facebook at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the WEB at **NordenLodge3-407.org**  
**Deadline for Items for the February, 2026 Newsletter PERIODICAL is February 25, 2026**

## MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where did 2025 go? Barbara and I have been busy, and I guess we didn't realize the days are speeding by. I hope your 2026 will be the best year ever. We are hoping for some time to travel and some time to relax. 2025 was a tough year for the family and we are all planning for a wonderful 2026.

At our February meeting we are planning a raffle to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. So, look through your treasurers and bring them to the January or February meeting. We look forward to see how much we can raise for the scholarship.

Convention is coming up this June, and we are planning on electing delegate to attend the convention. It will be nice to visit some special stops in Virginia. Whether you are a delegate, a non-delegate, or a guest, the hotel is offering a very good rate to visit, plus it will be fun to see everyone from across the district no matter what your thoughts are. And since you are down there anyway, plan to see some of the highlights. Like: Mount Vernon, Monticello, Williamsburg and other historic sites. It is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the country so I think the sites are planning something extra to celebrate. We are thinking about where and plan to visit on the trip to Virginia.

2026 will be fun as the parade this year is actually on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. The plans are coming along, and the zoom meetings are working out. It is a big change for the committee, but it makes it easier for those who need to travel into Brooklyn on the Belt Parkway.

We heard from the granddaughter of 2 of Garborg's Charter members. If you remember the Westin's, Fred and Astrid, they were active members of Garborg in their day. They were not able to join us at Norden and they have not been on our Norden roster, but it was nice for their granddaughter to get in touch with the district and let us know.

Kristin is planning for our outings for 2026, come to the meeting and see what she has in store for us. Those of you who attended our events all had a wonderful time and it was good to get together and not have a meeting. Next month we will have the Henrik Ibsen Bowling for Fun – so think about bowling or just visiting and cheering our Norden teams to Victory. It is a fun afternoon at East Islip Lanes, but I think the bowling alley is being sold so it may be our last time there. Hopefully there will be another alley allowing the teams to bowl.

Last month I told you how wonderful the Julefest was, so please come and thank the corporation for all their work hosting the dinner.

As always, remember each meeting you attend, in person or on zoom, will earn you 1 ticket in the Dues Assistant Program. So, the more meetings you attend the better chance you have of winning a free one-year of membership. Just ask the committee: Roy, Karen, Kristin or Barbara.

*Fraternally, Roy*

**Editor's Note:** As our December meeting was part of the Julefest celebration and no significant business, other than an absolute opportunity to gather, this Newsletter contains material for both December And January.

**If you hear of anyone who is not feeling well, or needs some cheering up, please contact our SunShine Lady, Kathy Johannessen (631) 421-9482, so we can respond & get the word out.**

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS TO EVERY MEETING.**

As voted, a \$1.00 reminder fee for a temporary name rental will be charged each time you forget. This could be fun! Only excellent above reproach excuses will be exempted by Vote on the floor. **See Les Johannessen for your Tag**

**NORDEN ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS**



\*\*\* *NORDEN OFFICERS FOR 2026* \*\*\*

**For Contact Info: Email [bigjobber@aol.com](mailto:bigjobber@aol.com)**

**President:** Roy Berntsen

**Vice President** Kristin Gottilla

**Membership Chair:** Tim Baxley Assist Mary Booton

**Secretary:** Barbara Berntsen

**Counselor:** Les Johannessen

**Social Director:** Janet Hannigan

**Youth Dir:** Vacant **Editor:** Les Johannessen

**Alternate Editor:** Barbara Berntsen **Financial Secretary:** Shirley Erland

**Treasurer** Shirley Erland **Sunshine:** Kathy Johannessen

**Sports Dir.** Charles Gottilla **Greeter:** Mary Booton

**11-23-2025 Minutes Summary**

President Roy opened the meeting. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, adding it is so nice to see so many members including zoom members joining us. It was so disappointing last month that our zoom directors were both working. This is our last meeting at the church for the year. Next meet is here in January. Opening ceremonies, Attendance, approval of the last minutes completed. No applications for Membership to consider.

**Announcements:** Barbara

1. Remember to sign the attendance book. It is over on the dessert table or find Mary and she will write you in.
2. Updated the d17 – officers list.
3. I called the church for the calendar for 2026 and told them we are not here in April and December.

**Correspondence:**

1. Færder Lodge 115th Anniversary, a few flyers provided.
2. On our 2025 budget line for donations is \$2300 and we have given out \$1770 so far. *Barbara made a motion to donate \$250 to the Zone 1 Scholarship Committee. Second Shirley and Karen. Approved.*
3. *Kristin made a motion to give a donation to the parade committee of \$250. Barbara is not sure the journal will happen. Second Janet. Approved.*

**Financial reports** – any bills, should be submitted to

Treasurer Shirley at this time. *Shirley gave financial Report.* - Barbara went over the budget we need to change the outside events line item from \$1000 to \$200. Kristin said she does not think she needs that much for outside activities. It is little early, but the corporation asked for it in November so some of the figures in the actual column are not accurate. There was a discussion about having outside activities in the budget. It will be voted on for this budget. *There were other questions asked and with the changes the budget was approved as amended.*

**Committee reports** **Social Directors: Barbara:** ordered our dinner for Nov. Maybe your first Thanksgiving dinner this year? She knew it was hers.

**Janet** – reminded us that we can designate a site to place soldiers' wreath, the Lodge had provided. - Remember in a few weeks we are at Palmer's Restaurant for our December Julefest. Therefore if so decided should do now. (No preference expressed).

**Newsletter:** **Les** – had extra copies with him. Reminded all to submit any remembrances for newsletter if so desired. Remember to check your emails as Les finds nice zoom programs to watch and good information to read and learn.

**Sports Directors:** Chuck & Kristin

**2026 New Sports & Entertainment**

- Henrik Ibsen Bowling for Fun will be held on February 16th. Let Kristin, Chuck or Roy know if you want to bowl. It

is a fun day even if you just visit. Last year we had 4 teams.

Not sure about this year.

- Kristin is working on our outside outings for 2026, more to come.

**Zone: Karen**

**1.** We have our meeting next week so we will have more in January.

**2.** Our memorial service will be held on the first Sunday on May 3, 2026. Ibsen is host.

**3.** Færder is celebrating their 115th Anniversary. It will be on Dec. 14th along with their Christmas party. If anyone wants to attend, please let Barbara know. She will contact Sylvia. Roy and Barbara are planning on attending. *Kristin made a motion to send the president Roy and his wife to the Færder Celebration. Les second, approved.*

**4.** The zone is planning on getting their own zoom program, they need someone to set it up.

**5.** One important issue was to decide if we want to host the 2028 convention as a zone. The zone approved it if we can get those who are on the ground that day. We have many of the positions filled. We are trying to raise money for the scholarship fund and that would give us a good amount of money.

**Sunshine:** Kathy said: it is nice to see Nancy Seals here and all else seems well.

**Corporation:** Steve said there was a meeting this past Wednesday. They are working on the party for Julefest.

**Dues assistance program:** Karen – it is available for those who need help paying their additional dues payment. There will be a drawing in January for this year's attendance winner.

**3rd District:** Steve & Karen reported:

- Youth camp will be held July 26- August 1, 2026, at

Camp Koinonia and the age for campers is up to 17.

Culture camp down south. – it will be held in the same place

– the coastal retreat isle of palms in SC. Sept 16-20, 2026.

2026 convention held in Virginia Beach VA on June 4 – 7th.

- We get 4 delegates and as many non-delegates, so think about if you want to go. It is coming along nicely, and Hampton Roads and the district are hosting it. We will need to elect our delegates in January.

**Parade:** Barbara – our pins were ordered and they look really nice. I will have them soon. We held our first zoom, and it went well.

**Good of the order**

- Bob M said with the stock market volatility the best place for your saving money is with the Sons of Norway Annuity.

- The 50/50 was won by Jean Tremel. Congratulations.

**Counselor Les:** may peace & harmony prevail within our lodge.

Next meeting: Sunday Dec 7 1 PM – Palmer's Restaurant – please be prompt as we are starting on time.

President Roy thanked everyone for coming today.

He declared this business meeting adjourned at 3:42pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Berntsen  
(Edits by the Editor for space considerations)*

**\*\*\* UP COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\***



**IT'S ALL SCANDINAVIAN**

Follow and see  
**Ellen Lindstrom's Band**  
perform at:

<http://www.theswedishmeatballs.com/shows.html>



**Fastelavn  
2026**

**Come Celebrate Danish Mardi Gras**  
**Saturday, February 7th, 2026**  
**Vesuvio's Restaurant - 7305 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave**  
**Brooklyn NY 1:00 - 5:00**

Dress in costume, decorate spring branches,  
eat special cream buns for dessert  
& be part of this wonderful tradition.  
Music by Ellen Lindstrom

Sponsored by Scandinavian East Coast Museum  
\$75.00 includes: Games, Music, 4 course meal, Soft Drinks &  
Coffee - Children 14 and under \$45.00  
Reservations encouraged - Victoria at 929-745-4839



**Henrik Ibsen Lodge Bowling  
For Fun!**



**Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**



**East Islip Lanes**

**117 E Main Street, East Islip**  
**\$28.00/Adult - \$26.00/Child under 12**  
**(includes Shoes)**

**4 - 6 Piers per Team/3 Games**  
**Dessert & Coffee Provided**

Please submit names by 2/1/26 to:  
**John Kern - [jkern1337@gmail.com](mailto:jkern1337@gmail.com)**  
**(631) 636-2035**

**1498 Brightshore Blvd., Bayshore, NY 11706**

**\*\*\*\*\* Come One Come All \*\*\*\*\***

We are planning a raffle in February for the Scholarship Committee. Please bring some nice items to raffle off and let's see how well we can gather for the committee. Let's all help the scholarship winners earn a nice award in 2026. - It's always fun to win something. Thanks for caring.  
Your Scholarship Committee

**THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN 17<sup>th</sup> OF MAY  
COMMITTEE OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.**



Join us for the  
**67<sup>th</sup> Annual Crowning of**

**Miss Norway of Greater New York**

We are excited to welcome back Little Miss Norway & Junior Cadets  
To this year's Miss Norway of Greater New York event!

To add your child's name to the list, please contact Arlene:  
[ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com](mailto:ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com)

**Saturday, March 28, 2026 - 2 PM**

Arthur Nilsen Banquet Hall  
Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center  
1250 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219

**\$25/Adult - \$10/Child (12Yrs & Younger)**

**Children under 3 are free**

Light refreshments served

Please email Arlene Rutuelo For reservations/questions noted above  
*\*\* Your Editor has Applications available upon request. \*\**

**COME AND SUPPORT  
THE PARADE!**



**NORWEGIAN DAY  
PARADE FUNDRAISER**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026**

**GJOA CLUB -**

**850 62nd STREET, BROOKLYN**

**4-8 PM - \$25 PER PERSON**  
**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS - CASH BAR**

**PARK IN BAY RIDGE AND  
UBER TO THE GJOA CLUB.**

**YOUTH CAMP IS BACK NEXT YEAR**

**JULY 26 to August 1 2026**

**It's All Back Including: Bonfire,  
Canoeing, Archery, Viking Games,  
Rosemaling, Woodcarving, Cultural  
Studies, and Hardanger (More Info Soon)**

**2026 Henrik Ibsen Fishing  
Members, Family and Friends Welcome**

**Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**More Information to Follow**

**3D Norwegian Cultural Camp  
Returns at The Isle of Palms, SC  
For Families and Adults Sept 16 - 20, 2026**

**More Information to Follow**



## FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT



**Fra 3D President, Steve Helmold, Winter 2025/2026** - Here we are in November, and the holidays are right around the corner with a new year right after that. Where has the time gone? It seems like the year has just started and now it is almost over, and we are getting ready for a new one.

We accomplished a lot this year with activities. We had the Third District Picnic which unfortunately had a poor turnout of members for the second year in a row even though it was a great event with lots of food and fun for everyone. But due to the poor turnout, the Third District Board will be eliminating it for 2026, It is very sad to do that, but it had to be done.

Youth Camp was held this past July and was a huge success and will be back for July of 2026. If you have children or grandchildren, I highly urge you to send them to Youth Camp, where they can learn about the Norwegian heritage and culture and make friends with the other children at the camp. It is the best gift you can give your children.

Weekend Cultural Camp was held this past June and was so successful that not only will it be back in September of 2026, but we will be adding a day to the event, If you are interested in going to the Cultural Camp or have children interested in the Youth Camp, please contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson or Third District Vice President Katie Brink for more information.

The Third District 2026 Convention, which is being cohosted by the Third District and Hampton Roads Lodge, will be from Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center Virginia Beach, Virginia. I encourage you to send your lodge's full delegation to the convention so your lodge will be fully represented.

Since the Fraternal Funds program has been eliminated by the home office starting January 2026, the Third District Board has come up with a Lodge Assistance Program that will start in January of 2026. We hope to help offset some of the loss of not getting Fraternal Funds from the home office, but it will cover less things than were previously supported. The district's projected income is less due to the drop in membership (dues) and the drop of interest rates, but the Third District will do what we can to continue to support our lodges.

Until my next message in the spring, Karen and I and the whole Third District Board would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Heathy New Year.

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold

\*\*\*\*\*

## Workers Were Building a Road—and Uncovered an Entire Viking Village

Additional discoveries included the remains of horses and riders buried alongside each other, along with their equipment. PUBLISHED: NOV 12, 2025 POPULAR MECHANICS

- \* Construction on a new road project in Sweden accidentally uncovered multiple Viking-age villages.
- \* One notable part of the discovery was a funerary pyre for a chieftain built up to be visible from far away.
- \* Additional discoveries included the remains of horses and riders buried alongside each other, along with their equipme

Carving a new road into the Swedish countryside resulted in accidentally uncovering [Viking-age history](#), including remarkable finds like [horses buried alongside human riders](#) and a chieftain's cremation site.

As crews worked in Västmanland along the E18 motorway, archaeologists excavated nine different Viking-era sites. These discoveries offered insights into everyday life on farms and showed off the power of the people, [even in death](#).

According to a translated [statement](#) from Frederik Larsson, project manager for The Archaeologists, Sweden's leading consultant on archeology and cultural environments and part of the government's National Historical Museums, each location taken alone is exciting, but merging all the finds together provides a cross-section through several villages that illustrate understand how society—and the landscape—changed over time.

### RELATED STORY [50 Volunteers Dug Up an Ancient Viking Structure](#)

Arguably the most striking discovery was a [cremation site](#) in Rallsta near Hallstahammar. The team found that a small mountain was completely reshaped, and two large pyres were built signifying the location of cremations. Larsson said it was “a place that was intended to be visible from afar,” with the funeral pyres acting as public spectacles, turning the mountaintop into community-wide attraction.

To the west in Munktorp Parish, the team found another [burial mound](#), remnants of a monument for the village. Here, two swords were embedded in the grave. “It is probably about a special armed group in the society that was buried here,” Larsson said, adding those buried could have been part of a dynasty that the swords were meant to signify their connection to.

Additional burial grounds were found along the way, extending from the eighth century to the year 1200. In nearly 30 graves from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the team discovered horses were cremated alongside owners, with several of the graves featuring fancy horse equipment. Larsson said the graves included males and females and appear to range from common to the social elites. Some graves were filled with weapons, as well as dogs and birds of prey for hunting.

### RELATED STORY [50 Viking Corpses Crack History Books Wide Open.](#)

“One can wonder whether the horse equipment has functioned as a kind of local attire, because the horses also had their own equipment,” Larsson said. “This includes hanging fittings with many different shapes and many bells, so that the horses and riders could both be seen and heard.”

Along with the graves, the team excavated evidence of the everyday life of farmers, including artifacts showing residents were [baking bread](#) and striking iron. The excavation revealed a prehistoric farm next to the region's petroglyph carving, merging everyday life with ritual meaning.

“Through a new road,” Larsson said, “knowledge of Västmanland's oldest history has both broadened and deepened.” The discoveries have now been compiled together in a book funded by the Swedish Transport Administration.

## LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2026

- Jan 25 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Feb 22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Mar 22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Apr 26 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- May 24 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Jun 28 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Sept 27 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Oct 25 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Nov 22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM

### Activities In and Out of Our Zone!!!

- Feb 7 - Fastelavn Danish Mardi Gras - Brooklyn 1-5 PM
- Feb 15 - Bowling for Fun - Hosted by Henrick Ibsen Lodge
- Feb 22 - Scholarship Raffle at the Lodge Meeting
- Mar 28 - Miss Norway Crowning Norwegian Christian Home
- Apr 11 - Parade Fund Raiser GJOA Bklyn 4-8 PM
- Jul 26 - Aug 1 - Youth Camp- Koinonia at Highland Lake, NY
- Aug 23 - Ibsen Fishing from Captree 1-5 PM
- Sept 16-20 - Cultural Camp - Isle of Palm, SC

### \*\*\* BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS \*\*\*

#### Month's Birthdays - Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Name	Day	Name	Day
<b>December</b>			
		Astri Torkelsen	16
Robin Abrahamsen	3	Dan Johannessen	18
Brian S Cooper	10	Heidi Varady	23
Janice L Kennedy	10	Karen A Kvam	28
Elizabeth Olsen	10	Else M Colasonno	29
Elsa M Hansen	12	Barbara Berntsen	30
Linda J Hoeberlein	12	Gary Abrahamsen	31
Larry Torguson	13	Evelyn Arnum	31
H Norma Ohsberg	16	Nina M Hotvedt	31
<b>January</b>			
Gladys A Sollitto	7	E Clifton Hotvedt	21
Jean A Tremel	7	Barbara L Johnsen	27
Joseph L Accordino	11	Thore Omholt	27
Kathy Johannessen	16		

### 5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For These Months, Congratulations:

**Dec:** Norma Ohsberg - 50 Years, Gladys Passaro - 38 Years  
 Kristin Gottilla - 33 Years, Charles Gottilla - 31 Years  
 Lauren Ecock - 28 Years, Dara Eskenazi - 28 Years  
 Roy Jr Berntsen - 18 Years, Frank A Odin - 13 Years  
 Lillan Padin - 9 Years, Fiona McCabe - 8 Years  
 Imma Burgert - 7 Years, Craig Schofield - 7 Years  
 James Schofield - 7 Years, Karen Schofield - 7 Years  
 Kyle Schofield - 7 Years, Ryan Schofield - 7 Yrs  
 Thomas Schofield - 7 Years, Drew Arthur Solberg - 7 Years  
**Jan:** Kath Johannessen - 41 Years, Les Johannessen - 41 Yrs  
 Eric Peter Ottedal - 9 yrs, Jacqueline Ottedal - 9 Yrs,  
 Rebecca Lynn Ottedal - 9 Yrs,

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

A new year is just starting and we are coming up on our first meeting of the year. I for one, look forward to once again being involved in our warm and

camaraderie. We are in it together let us draw on each others strengths.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Meeting Attendance** - in order to enhance our members benefits by increasing subsidies for good participation. The more involved the more you benefit.

**If you don't see your name, & you attended, let us know.**

**Attendance for November 23, 2025:** Tim Baxley, Mary Booton, Barbara & Roy Berntsen, Shirley Erland, Bob Saunders, Janet Hannigan, Kathy & Les Johannessen, Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Barbara Struckman., Susan Olson, Asbjorn Lageraen, Nancy Rucci, Nancy Seals, Linda Petersen, Else Hansen, Norma Ohsberg, Bob & Ethel McKeever, DoreeAnn Kohl, Fred & Jean Tremel, Nina & Clif Hotvedt, Karen & Steve Helmold, Mike DiPierro - 27 Attended - 50/50 won by Jean Tremel **For December 7, 2026:** Susan Olson, Heidy & Jim Varady, Karen & Stephen Helmold, Leif Easterson, Mildred Sandberg, Bob & Ethel McKeever, Joe & Solveig Accordino, Roy Berntsen Jr, Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Shirley Erland, Les & Kathy Johannessen, Dan & Kristin Johannessen, Nikki Johannessen, Lilli Johannessen, Lea Roth, Rich Piazzi, Bobby Roth, Nancy Rucci, Erica Rucci, Bob Saunders, Barbara Stuckman, Janet Hannigan, Nancy Seals, Asbjorn Lageraen, Fred & Jean Tremel, Kim & Justin Lynn, Annabelle Lynn, Tim Baxley, Mary Booton, Norma Ohsberg, Linda Pederson

**The Lodge's Official Annual List of Attendance at our Meetings is Available upon request. Just ask your Editor or any of the Lodge's Officers.**

### 2025 Norden Star Boosters Updated 1/18/26

Berntsen, Barbara & Roy 5/26	Holvedt, Clif & Nina 11/28
Berntsen, Margret 5/26	Meusel, Helen 6/27
Berntsen, Roy Jr 5/26	Obsberg, Norma 11/26
Brown, Greta & George 6/28	Rucci, Nancy 7/28
Carlson, Craig & Christine 11/24	Sandberg, Mildred 6/26
Erland, Shirly 9/27	Seals, Nancy 5/27
Hansen, Elsa 6/25	Stuckman, Barbara 12/25
Helmold, Steve & Karen 3/25	Tremel, Fred & Jean 9/26

#### IN MEMORY OF

Berntsen, Knut 5/26  
 Berntsen, Margaret 10/26  
 Gladys J Ecock 10/26  
 Erland, Endre & Sigrid 9/27  
 Frey, Judith 2/30  
 Maier, Betsy Jane Sersted 3/26  
 Johansen, Lars, Sigrid & Art 10/30  
 Jacobsen, Edward 4/29  
 Larssen, Trygve & Signe 3/23  
 Obsberg, Artie 11/26  
 Hector Rucci 10/28  
 Stuckman, Erik 12/25  
 Skauvold, Harry & Kate 12/24

#### COMMEMORATORS

Barbara & Roy Berntsen  
 Barbara & Roy Berntsen  
 Barbara & Roy Berntsen  
 Daughter Shirley Erland  
 Daughter Norma Frey  
 Daughter Janet Maies Hannigan  
 Family  
 Brother John & Wife Carol  
 Daughter Greta & George Brown  
 Wife Norma  
 Wife Nancy  
 Mother Barbara  
 Daughter Christine Carlson

Room for more members that would like to join us. The \$5/Yr helps mailing costs. The dates following the names denote the end of the annual support  
 Please make checks payable to Norden Lodge 407. Cash is fine.

**WE THANK ALL OUR BOOSTERS HELPING TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT**

\*\*\*\*\*

Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?

## Some Cultural Items for the Month

### *Cultural Corner: The Snowman was misunderstood* -

A snowman is an [anthropomorphic](#) (having characteristics of a human) [snow](#) sculpture. Like some of man's oldest forms of folk art, the snowman is and always has been the by-product of man's primal instinct to depicting himself in art. From the first cave painting to a sculpture made from snow from 1867 surrounded by **children**. The snowman's history spans the Renaissance, the early years of the

American colonies, even the Franco-Prussian War. Documentation of the first snowman is unclear. However, Bob Eckstein, author of *The History of the Snowman*, documented snowmen from medieval times, by researching artistic depictions in European museums, art galleries, and libraries. The earliest documentation found was a marginal illustration from a work titled *Book of Hours* from 1380, found in [Koninklijke Bibliotheek](#), in [The Hague](#), Netherlands. In the beginning the Snowman was treated poorly. He was seen as or a drunk, or a smoker, or someone to attack, and finally as someone endearing in the 1950's. Before the age of Frosty, the snowman was abused by children and exploited by advertisers. An 1890's book called *Young Folk's Cyclopaedia of Games and Sports* describes a nineteenth century game variation of "Aunt Sally," in which children score points by throwing snowballs at a snowman (instead of throwing sticks at a scarecrow named Aunt Sally). The snowman was the tormented target of boys and girls and/or people of all walks of life. Polls taken by the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* showed that "making the snow-man a target" was among young boys' favorite activities along with squat tag and "stealing hot biscuits." Evidence of his suffering came from many sources.

The snowman was right there up front and center on Trading cards (an early style of a business card), the first photographs, postcards and early silent movies. But often he was shown with images of snowmen pelted by many snowballs by gangs of scamps and wayward youths plowing their sled or toboggans into snowmen. Some of these early postcards show snowmen being bludgeoned by two-by-fours and stomped on by tots. This is an example of a "1910s Happy New Year postcard depicts a child running over a snowman." Snowmen were being held up by gunpoint by little girls or being stabbed with brooms. But the ultimate indignity would have to be a holiday card showing Santa Claus in a convertible racing car running over a horrified snowman, who is screaming for dear life. I guess it was easy to pick on someone who could not fight back.

What caused the snowman to go on the binge? The snowman somehow became a spokesperson for all products of an embarrassing sort, appearing in ads for every personal hygiene problem imaginable: dandruff, gas, hangovers, constipation, and even bad breath. We literally built him up only so we could knock him down and use him as a piñata. It is no wonder the snowman turned to booze. While no one knows for sure exactly when the snowman began smoking a pipe and drinking hard liquor. It might have started as early as 1890, based on a label from a bottle of whiskey from that year. An 1898, many postcards showed a snowman carrying two bottles of champagne off to an office party. On numerous holiday greeting cards from the 1900's through the 1930's, the snowmen were shown with a drink in one hand and a pipe in the other, all mirroring our society's changes and America's fascination with smoking and drinking. In the silent movie *The Snowman* by Wallace McCutcheon, a chain-smoking snowman is swigging whiskey and then appears sloshed in the rest of the film, inspiring a flogging by the townspeople. This behavior continued on many film and media through magazines and postcards to portray him as a pickled, skirt-chasing lush. By the time Prohibition ended in 1933, the snowman had become the pitchman for almost every leading liquor company print ads: Miller Beer, Ballantine Ale, Rheingold Beer, Schlitz, Schenley, Oretel's Lager Beer, Chivas Regal Scotch, Fort Pitt Pale Ale, Mount Whitney Beer, Jack Daniel's and Four Roses. How many did you know or remember? It was commonplace



to see a deliriously happy snowman flirting with bikini-clad starlets and celebrities like Shirley Temple, Dinah Shore, and Esther Williams.

Eventually the snowman would clean up his act, and his motivation for drying out is clear: to cash in on the next advertising front. The snowman's saturation in booze ads catapulted him to become a marketing kingpin. Wearing nicer scarves and a classier silk top-hat, the snowman branched out to hock everything under the sun - from Cadillac's to tuna, booties to insurance, and even asbestos. The prevalence of those earlier snowman-gone-wild days is now a distant memory as our society insists children's beloved holiday icons adopt a more proper decorum. The booze was gone but we did keep the corn-cob pipe.



"Frosty the Snowman" is a popular song written by [Walter "Jack" Rollins](#) and Steve Nelson, and first recorded by [Gene Autry](#) and the Cass County Boys in 1950. The song is about a [snowman](#) who comes to life by the placement of a magical hat found by some



children, with whom he shares playful adventures before he has to "hurry on his way" (his quaint reference to [melting](#)). At the end of their adventures together, the children are saddened by Frosty's leaving, however, he reassures them by exclaiming, "I'll be back again some day." It is unclear as to whether or not he upholds this promise, leaving the song on a cliffhanger. It took until the 1950's to forever change how we believe in Snowmen. This **Little Golden Book Snowmen**, from the song, put a smile on our faces of children around the world.

The record for the world's largest snowman was set in 2008 in [Bethel, Maine](#). The snow-woman stood 122 feet 1 inch

Barbara

### *History Article: The Rose Church -- part 6* The

figures painted on the front panels are of the same person. They are portraits of King Karl Johan of Sweden and Norway. In Sweden he was Karl Johan XIV and in Norway Karl III. He was King of Sweden from 1818 until 1844. His Swedish coronation was May 11, 1818, at the Stockholm Cathedral and his coronation in Norway was at Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim, four months later.



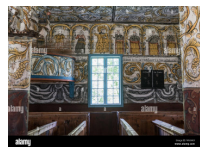
The King of Sweden and Norway was born Jean Bernadotte in Pau, France.

Bernadotte was married to Desiree Clary and, through her, a brother-in-law to Joseph Bonaparte was a member of the extended Imperial family. In 1810, he was

unexpectedly elected the heir presumptive, crown prince, to King Charles XIII of Sweden, who was childless. Throughout his reign, the kingdom was peaceful and prosperous. This may be why his portrait is seen in paintings and on ironwork on stoves, as well as on other household items. Just as an aside, my cousin, Kjell Arnljot Wig wrote a biography about Karl Johan, *Karl Johan: Konge og eventyrer (Karl Johan: King and adventurer)*. Kjell was a Journalist and media personality for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation and also wrote a biography of King Olav.

The print on the inside of the lid says, "MFrederik VI, King of Denmark and Norway." The left front panel is inscribed Klas Knudsen with the farm name unreadable. The right panel is inscribed, *Maid de 30te Marts Aaret 1840 (painted on March 30, 1840)*.

From Vesterhelm notes: The trunk probably belonged to Klas (Clas) Knudsen, born August 5, 1798, in Porsgrunn to Knud Jensen (Janssen) and Asberg Lrerddatter or Clausdatter who married February 13, 1792, in Porsgrunn. Klas Knudsen was baptized in (Z)stre Porsgrunn Parish. The 1815 Norwegian census of Porsgrunn notes that the family lived in residence #28. At the time, Knud Jensen (father) was 57 years old and a freight man. His sons are all listed as sailors: Han Prett (maybe Petter?), age 21, sailor; Jens Knudsen, age 18 sailor; and Clas (Klas) Knudsen, age 16, sailor.



(Continued of next Pg 7)

(continued From Pg 6)

**Porsgrunn was a major port in Telemark:** The rosemaling around the portraits is Telemark style and painted with typical Telemark colors of the day. There are four roots on each panel, each side of the portrait, and there is one in each of the upper corners and others that come off the scrolls. The scrolls are a bit odd in shape, especially the one that ends in a flower(?). I can only describe the motif above each of the portraits as a crown.

There are not many painters today who put portraits in their rosemaling. I think it is an interesting design element. Rosemaler Suzanne Toftey has done it using her children and grandchildren. That is more pleasing than a politician or world leader of today, I think. How about giving it a try?

I hope you enjoyed this fabulous church and again I thank Barbara Bensen for sending me this article some time ago

*Barbara*

**Don't forget by selecting (clicking) on a picture you can enlarge it by selecting it first and then select & hold one of the dots that appear & pull until the desired size is reached**



**New discovery may challenge theory Vikings built first Irish towns - researcher** BBC News NI

A recently discovered large hilltop settlement could challenge the theory that the Vikings built the first towns in Ireland, a researcher has said.

Dr Dirk Brandherm and his colleagues have identified more than 600 suspected houses in the Brusselstown Ring making it, to date, the largest nucleated settlement ever discovered in the entirety of prehistoric Britain and Ireland.

The settlement, which is thought to have emerged at about 1200 BC (the Late Bronze Age), is located within a region called the Baltinglass Hillfort Cluster in the south-western edge of the Wicklow Mountains. It is among the 13 large hilltop enclosures spread across the mountain range where there are structures dating back to the Neolithic period and Early Bronze Age.

The findings were recently published within *Antiquity*, a peer-reviewed journal of world archaeology.

The study states: "Given its exceptional size, density of occupation and architectural complexity, Brusselstown Ring represents a unique case within both the Baltinglass hillfort cluster and more widely within the Atlantic Archipelago."

Survey work has been conducted over the last two decades but researchers believed critical questions about "the date, development and function of both the enclosing elements and the internal settlement remain unanswered".

Therefore, researchers initiated test excavations in 2024.

"The available evidence indicates their occupation mainly during the Late Bronze Age, with continued use or reuse of some house platforms in the Early Iron Age.

"This makes Brusselstown Ring the largest nucleated settlement agglomeration by far in prehistoric Ireland and Britain," the study highlighted.

Dr Brandherm, a reader in prehistoric archaeology at Queen's University Belfast, said the Brusselstown Ring is significant due to "the large number and the concentration of roundhouses" in one spot. The image archaeologists had is that during the Bronze Age the settlement structure was based on small hamlets (one to five dwellings) and there were no villages or towns.

In 2002, about 74 roundhouses dating back to the Bronze Age were discovered during the Corrstown excavation in Northern Ireland.

The researcher said Corrstown was the first village from that era, but the Brusselstown Ring is "a different ball game altogether".

The Brusselstown Ring discovery questions the idea that the first towns on the island of Ireland were founded by the Vikings, according to the researcher.

"Because if you've got more than 600 roundhouses, and potentially a large stone built cistern, that's no longer a village," Dr Brandherm told BBC News NI.

"We're talking a proto-town of sorts, and that's 2000 years before the Vikings."

There are two widely spaced ramparts (defensive walls) encompassing the enclosure.

These ramparts do not only enclose its own summit but also that of the nearby Spinans Hill One - meaning it is one of the very few hillforts in Europe to span more than a single hill

Through the use of aerial surveys and photogrammetry mapping, it is suspected that 98 of the house platforms were inside the inner enclosure and more than 500 were located between the two ramparts. Dr Brandherm said: "Based on the data that we presently have all the house platforms would appear to date to the same period."

### ***Cistern 'a first in Ireland'***

A stone-lined, flat-floored chamber was also discovered near one of the trenches at the site.

Dr Brandherm described it as being "boat-shaped" and "slightly larger than a round house".

It appeared to have been fed by a stream from a outcrop uphill, and archaeologists believe it may have been a water cistern to store fresh water.

Further samples in the coming months will determine if the cistern dates back to the same period as the roundhouses.

He said, if confirmed, the discovery is a "first in Ireland", as there are similar structures from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age in France and Spain.

### ***Excavation process***

The idea was to investigate whether architectural differences in the platforms would signify if there were social or economic stratification within the community.

Dr Brandherm said the smaller houses were about four to five metres in diameter, with the larger ones being 11-12m in diameter.

"But the fact that we do have different sizes it you know it begs the question if there is some social differentiation sitting behind that," he said.

However, based on the current data, Dr Brandherm said it cannot be confirmed whether there was a social hierarchy in the settlement.

Before this, the largest cluster of ancient settlements was in Mullaghfarna in County Sligo which is thought to have contained more than 150 houses during the middle Stone Age period of 3300-2900 BC and in the later Bronze Age between 1200-900 BC.

The research stated that future work at Brusselstown will "focus on confirming the nature and the date of the potential cistern, identifying structural features of the prehistoric roundhouses and establishing the nature and chronology of the enclosing elements".

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**LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR  
BUT WE WILL NEED TO  
WORK AT IT!!**

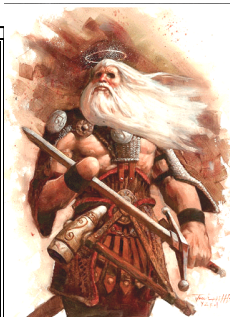


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Join us at our next meeting on Sunday **January 25<sup>th</sup> at 2PM** It might be cold outside but the warmth experienced at our meetings certainly helps. We are looking for items to use as raffle prizes for our February meeting, to support the Scholarship fund. Come see what else we are planning and don't forget we always love sharing our feelings and demonstrating the meaning of "Koselig" with others – bring someone that can use a dose or two!



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