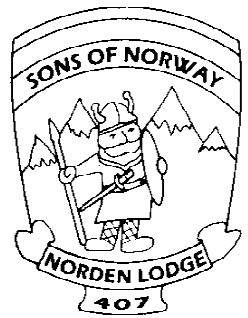




* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society *

NORDEN STAR



Volume 58, Issue # 3



NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON

Celebrating Our 86th Year

March, 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 -Next Meeting **Sunday March 22, at 2 PM**
 On Facebook at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the WEB at **NordenLodge3-407.org**
Deadline for Items for the April, 2026 Newsletter PERIODICAL is April 22, 2026

MONTHLY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is good that we have our zoom set up as we could have missed 2 meetings (so far) due to snow. We are getting almost as many as we do in-person, so it is nice to be able to carry on, as they say, with our business. Fingers crossed for (as the middle of the word) "NO S'NO'W."

Our delegates and non-delegates are getting ready to head to convention in a few months, and we thank the corporation for allowing us to attend and bring our thoughts and concerns to the Third District. Again, whether you are a delegate, a non-delegate, or a guest, the hotel offers a very good rate to visit, during that time of year, plus it will be fun to see everyone from across the district. Some of us are planning a trip to Williamsburg, since it is the 250th Anniversary for the country. Take advantage of these reasonable prices at the hotel. Note: Williamsburg, Jamestown and Mount Vernon are about 1 hour to 1 ½ hours away from where we are staying.

2026 will be fun as the parade this year is on the 17th of May. The plans are coming along. Barbara has the pins and will bring them for you. They are nice and she will keep us up to date on the marching. You can also purchase a T-shirt or storage bag with our logo on Amazon. Barbara gets a new bag every year. They were great.

Kristin and Chuck are planning our outings for 2026, they are planning the Whaling Museum, a trip to a brewery, and maybe another trip. Les told me that our picnic is scheduled for August 9th but we will not have Ellen playing for us. It's nice to have music, but I don't think we need it. Most of us play the games we have set up, so let's talk about it at the meeting. Come to the meeting and find out what they have in store to keep us busy.

Since we had a zoom meeting again last month, Karen will be drawing the "dues attendance" name for the free annual membership. It will be held at our first in-person meeting.

Karen is asking for members to bring something that we can use as a raffle prize for our Dues Assistance Program where we will have the Viking Raffle at the June meeting. So, check your cupboards and find great stuff to raffle off in March. Ellen will be with us too, so when you get up to check out the raffle treasures you can dance a little.

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 .



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 2025* ***

For Contact Info Email 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

2-22-2026 Minutes Summary

President Roy. It is really nice to see so many on our zoom today, aren't you glad we decided to have a zoom meeting yesterday morning— gosh we have a few inches so far and it is still coming down. We have 20 at the zoom meeting. - Secretary Barbara took a silent officer attendance. - Minutes approved as distributed – No Application for Membership today But Barbara recently spoke with a couple whose mother belonged to Garborg and they may join. she will reach out again.

Correspondence:

1. Reminder to send the journal ad for Convention (Already sent)
2. We will need to send in our convention delegate and non-delegate information. Barbara will complete and Shirley will mail her the check to cover the 4 delegates, 4 non-delegates and 2 guests.
3. Barbara called the church and canceled this meeting Church agreed it was a good idea. Barbara also has canceled the planned meal for today.

Financial reports – *Shirley's financial report for February available upon request. Any expenses can be sent to Shirley via email for reimbursement before the next meeting.*

Committee reports:

Newsletter: Les – had extra copies at his home. Remember the Boosters & Remembrance notices. A reminder to check your emails as Les finds nice zoom programs to watch and good information to read and learn. Les also purchased additional callingpost calls for the upcoming months.

Sports directors: Chuck & Kristin reported:

- Bowling: Henrick Ibsen Lodge – Sunday Feb 15th at East Islip Lanes. We had 3 teams, 9 members and 1 friend of Norden and 6 for the cheering squad. It was a lot of fun !!

- Museum: The Whaling Museum and education center, [301 Main Street, Cold Springs Harbor](#). Saturday June 27th at 11am

Parking: Street parking (unmetered) is typically available by the museum. The Museum does not have a private parking lot. Guests are welcome to park in Cold Spring Harbor's free town lot, a 5-minute walk away located between 90-126 Main Street, next to the Cold Spring Harbor Post Office. Afterwards, we are going to walk down Main Street and see all the beautiful shops, and you can stop for a bit of lunch. There is also a **Firehouse Museum**. Exhibit about the local fire department. \$2/adult.

Duck's Game: - Saturday July 18: Postgame Fireworks Spectacular At 3 Court House Dr., Central Islip, NY 11722. The cost is \$15 per person. RSVP by June 15th.

Picnic: at Centerport Beach Senior Citizens Pavilion, Sunday, August 9, 11am to 5pm (Rain or Shine) - Cost: \$10 Each (members will be reimbursed at picnic) All Children under 12 years are free.

Atlantic City: - There was a long discussion about going to Atlantic City again. Chuck is looking into Busses and found one \$400 less than the last trip. He is thinking of holding it in October and he will send out a notice to the lodges to see if there is any count of those who want to go. Right now, he has 3 stops and the bus is \$2700 all-inclusive price. The only extra charge is if we get enough people we will have snacks. There will be a \$675 deposit if we go on the trip. *Kristin made a motion to pay the \$675 deposit for the bus and send out feelers for those who want to*

go. Second by Les, approved. We can get the deposit back as late as 15 days before we leave.

Zone: A meeting is planned for April but, here's things to remember:
1 - Our memorial service will be held on the first Sunday in May 3, 2026. Ibsen is host. It is coming along well. We are just waiting for the organist to give us the go ahead. We will also be handing out scholarship awards during the coffee hour.

2. Karen is working on the submission for the 2028 convention bid. We will need approval by the delegates at the 2026 convention.
3. The Zone is hosting the Christmas party in December; we are keeping the pricing low and hope the zone will subsidize the cost per ticket and pay for the music.

Sunshine: Kathy reported not hearing from anyone it appears All is OK.

Corporation: Steve – the Annual meeting will be held in April, and you need to let Karen know if you are attending so they can advise the restaurant. The time is 1 – 5 so we will be meeting earlier than usual.

A minimum of 25 people. (Ciminelli's 427 Central Ave, Bethpage)

Dues assistance program: Karen – it is available for those who need assistance concerning their additional dues payment.- The ticket for free membership for those who attend the meetings, will be pulled at the next in-person meeting. We will have our raffle for the Dues Assistance program in June. Please check your attic & closet for nice things to raffle.

3rd district: Steve & Karen:

- **Youth camp** will be held July 20-26 ,2026, at Camp Koinonia and for campers 12-17.

- **Culture camp down south.** – it will be held in the same place – the coastal retreat isle of palms in sc. September 16-20, 2026.

- **2026 convention** will be held in Virginia Beach VA on June 4 – 7th. The corporation will pay for the Wednesday night hotel as it takes about 5 – 6 hours to get there.

- We will talk about the Viking auction gifts in March.

Karen said the journal is now having boosters for \$5. So, Karen asked if we should put a line booster for every family in the lodge. She estimated it to be around \$250 rather than each member. *Karen made a motion to take a line-by-line Family Line booster for the convention journal per family. Barbara second, all approved.*

Parade: Barbara – our pins are here and she will bring them to the March meeting. She showed the bag with the pin design.

Ken Johnson: the sons of Norway Co-chair sent out the application if we want to march on May 17th.

- Miss Norway contest is on March 28th, at the Norwegian Home at 2pm.

- We are having a fundraiser at Gjoa on April 11th from 4 – 8 pm and the price to get tickets and some light refreshments is \$25 per person.

Old business

Our resolution has been approved. We will send it to the third district to put in the reports book.

Good of the order

1. Bob. McKeever said a great way to support the Sons of Norway is through a policy or an annuity.
2. Karen thanked Chuck and Kristin for all the work they are doing for the members, ALL AGREED.

Meting ended at 4pm

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

Memorial Service this year is on

Sunday May 3rd 1 PM

Followed by the

Zone Scholarship Awards



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



IT'S ALL SCANDINAVIAN

Follow and see
Ellen Lindstrom's Band
perform at:

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

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

We are **planning a raffle in February** for the Dues Assistance Fund. Please **bring some nice items** to raffle off and let's see how well we can support this effort.

THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN 17th OF MAY COMMITTEE OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.



Join us for the
67th 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

Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 2 PM

Arthur Nilsen Banquet Hall
Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center
1250 67th 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

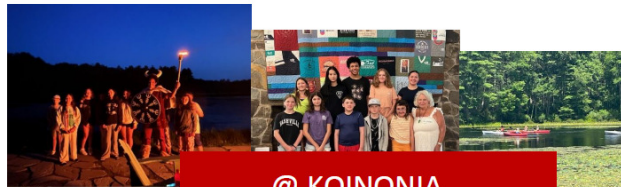
GJOA CLUB · 850 62nd STREET, BROOKLYN

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

PARK IN BAY RIDGE AND UBER TO THE GJOA CLUB.

Our Annual Corporation Meeting on April 26th @ 2PM will be held at Ciminelli's Restaurant, 427 Central Ave, Bethpage, NY – Be sure to let Karen know if your plan to attend.

Sons of Norway Youth Camp



@ KOINONIA Highland Lake, NY

July 26-August 1, 2026 for ages 8 to 17

Activities include:

- Bonfire
- Canoeing
- Rosemaling
- Language class
- Woodcarving
- Kubb, Archery
- Cultural Studies
- Hardanger

The completed application form, along with a \$100 deposit must be sent to: Katie Brink before May 26th. The check should be made payable to Sons of Norway District Lodge #3. You will receive camp materials including a health form when your application is received. Total cost: \$550 Sons of Norway Members, \$600 for Non Members.

The full balance must be received by June 26th

Send to: Katie Brink

Sons of Norway Youth Camp Coordinator
7107 Fernwood St #2421, Henrico, VA 23228

Email: Uyakm27@outlook.com Phone: 614-202-5964

LODGE PICNIC August 9, 2026

11:00AM to 4:00PM

**Centerport Senior Center, Northport
More Information to Follow**

**2026 Henrik Ibsen Fishing Members, Family and Friends
Welcome Aboard the Capt EDDIE B III**

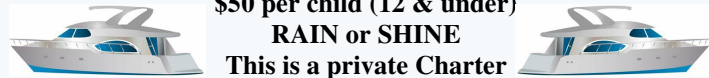
Sunday August 23rd, 2025

1:00pm – 5:00pm (BOAT LEAVES AT 1 PM SHARP)

\$65 per person (includes gratuity)

\$50 per child (12 & under)

RAIN or SHINE



This is a private Charter

You may bring your own food/beverages

We must give a final count so **PLEASE** send names and payment **NO LATER then August 1st 2025**

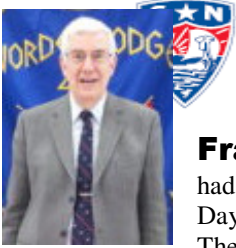
Make checks payable to: John Kern

Mail to: John Kern

1498 Brightshore Blvd Bay Shore NY 11706

Questions? Please contact John cell/text 631 636-2035

**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 3RD DISTRICT



Fra 3D President, Steve Helmold, Spring/2026 - Spring is almost here and I hope the winter we had is over, and everyone can enjoy nice spring weather for a change. Lodges will be celebrating spring with St. Patrick's Day corn beef and cabbage dinners and Easter dinner celebrations.

The Third District is getting ready for the district convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia June 4th to 7th at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. I hope your lodges will send your full delegation to the convention so they can hear and vote on resolutions and other matters that come up. Remember your delegates are your lodge's representatives to the district meeting (convention), so if you want a say in what is happening at the convention, you should be sending delegates.

Going forward after the convention is the Third District Youth Camp which is from July 26th to August 1st, so if you have children that would like to attend camp, please send in an application which can be found on the Third District Website or contact District Vice President Katie Brink.

Following Youth Camp, there is Cultural Camp September 16th to 20th. For more information, contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson.

Speaking of Cheri Johnson, as I have done in some of my past president's messages, when I highlighted some of the Third District Board members, I am introducing Cheri Johnson to everyone now. Cheri has been a member of the district board since the 2024 convention and has been the perfect person for the Cultural Director's position. Here is what she has to say about herself in her own words.

It is my pleasure to be involved in the Sons of Norway as Cultural Director of the 3rd District and President of Bla Fjell Lodge in Salem, Va. near Roanoke. When I was a teenager, in a suburb of Chicago, I wanted to be an archeologist because I loved studying cultures of people. I ended up as a Special Needs teacher for 38 years, a profession I loved very much.

During those years I was fortunate to be an exchange teacher through our United States Gov't to Russia, Sweden, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and The Netherlands. At night I taught classes at Roanoke College, UVA, and Radford University in Special Education and Global Studies. My Lutheran church needed a missionary, so I made 7 trips to Central and South America to teach children alongside a medical team. 20 years ago, I became interested in my ancestry. My Norwegian and Austrian grandparents shared their past with me, and I found myself tracing my roots to Telemark, Norway, the Heddal Church, and Vienna, Austria.

Deep down I knew I had the "Viking Spirit" to travel.

I feel very blessed because my wonderful husband, Don of 45 years, and my 3 children, Theresa, Scott, and Tiffany have supported these endeavors. I loved having my youngest daughter, Tiffany, accompany me on several exchanges and missionary trips.

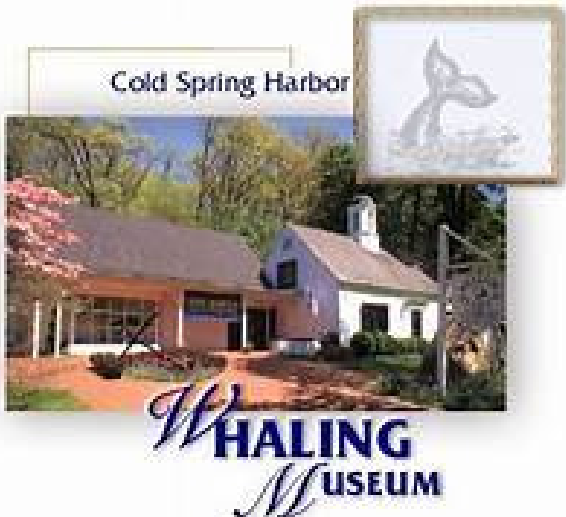
I love my position as Cultural Director in SON. I work with wonderful and talented people and can share in the joy of learning about our Nordic countries. Our Bla Fjell Lodge has 2 Adopt-a-Schools, where I share lessons on the Vikings, Sami of the Northern Cap, and all the Nordic Countries. This is my 20th year at Bla Fjell Lodge, and I love sharing Cultural programs with fellow members, colleagues, and our satellite Lodge, Hardrada, in Charlottesville, Va. My Virginia friend, Katie Brink, and I have worked with the Youth Camp at Koinonia in New York and started a Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for adults and children. We are all learning from each other and enjoying our love of Norway. I love doing research on many countries, reading, and trying cultural recipes to share with my 74 Cultural Studies students at Cornerstone Classical Academy one day a week. They love it too.

Thank you, Stephen Helmold, for giving me this opportunity to share my cultural experiences with 3rd District, all my Nordic friends, and fellow lodges. Please consider coming to our Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for fellowship, fun, the beach, and the "joy" of learning with each other from talented instructors in September 2026.

Thank you, Cheri. Karen and I and the rest of the district board are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Cheri. She has been tremendous in her position, and is always willing to step up to the plate and lend a hand to help out.

Until my next message in May, Karen and I and the rest of the district board would like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a very Happy Easter.

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold



**We are planning at Trip
June 27
To the Museum
Put it on your Calendar
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW**

VELKOMMEN!!
Syttende Mai Parade of Brooklyn is "ON" for 2026,
And it is right on the day, May 17th! Come to Gjøa Sporting Club
850-62nd Street after the parade for the best "after-parade-party"
—Just like the old days!!

**GJØA
850-62
STREET
3-7 PM**

**MAY 17,
2026**

SMORGASBANDET
"Homecoming Day"
BROOKLYN

LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2026

- Mar22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Apr26 - Lodge & Annual Corp Meetings @ Ciminelli's 1-5 PM
- May24 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Jun28 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Sept27 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Oct25 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Nov22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM

Activities In and Out of Our Zone!!!

- Mar22 - Gather Raffle Items at the Lodge Meeting
- Mar28 - Miss Norway Crowning Norwegian Christian Home
- Apr11 - Parade Fund Raiser GJOA Bklyn 4-8 PM
- May3 - Zone Memorial Service 1PM (Scholarship Awards)
- Jun27 - Cold Spring Harbor Museum Trip 11 AM
- Jul18 - Ducks Game w/Fireworks 6:25 PM
- Jul 26 - Aug 1 - Youth Camp- Koinonia at Higland Lake, NY
- Aug23 - 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
Mari Hansen	2	Joyce R Pedersen	17
Mildred E Sandberg	8	Drew A Solberg	24
Karen L Olsen- Helmold	12	Matthew A Johnsen	25
Howard Johansen	14		

5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For These Months, Congratulations:

- Frederick Tremel - 35 Years, Nancy Rucci - 27 Years
- Brian Cooper - 18 Years, Janet Hannigan - 12 Years
- Anna Marie Tonon - 11 Years, Drew M Arnum - 10 Years
- Donna Cooper - 10 Years, William Jensen - 10 Years
- Janice Kennedy - 10 Years, Mildred Sangberg - 10 Years
- Erica Rucci - 7 Years, James Hannigan - 6 Years

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

With the prospect of having our first in person Lodge Meeting this month, it will be refreshing to see everyone again. Our last two meetings, as you all know, needed to revert to ZOOM, which we all had the opportunity to participate in. The meetings were a success, however many did not attend, which is unfortunate. If the reason for this is that it is too confusing, it shouldn't be. We had some first timers actually join us, some on the phone without video but fully aware of the proceedings. Let me say it is easier than you are probably thinking. Let us demonstrate for you at this meeting by actual joining the Zoom aspect during the meeting thus getting to see the ease of this aspect first hand. You may not need to miss another meeting ever.

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.

Zoom Meeting Attendance for February 22: Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Roy Berntsen Jr, Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Shirley Erland, Steve & Karen Helmold, Les & Kathy Johannessen, Barbara Struckman, Bob & Ethel McKeever, Craig & Christine Carlsen, Frank Oden III, Mary Booton, Susan Olson, Tim Baxley, Nany Rucci

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

COMMEMORATORS

Berntsen, Knut 5/26	Barbara & Roy Berntsen
Berntsen, Margaret 10/26	Barbara & Roy Berntsen
Gladys J Ecock 10/26	Barbara & Roy Berntsen
Erland, Endre & Sigrid 9/27	Daughter Shirley Erland
Frey, Judith 2/30	Daughter Norma Frey
Maier, Betsy Jane Sersted 3/26	Daughter Janet Maies Hannigan
Johansen, Lars, Sigrid & Art 10/30	Family
Jacobsen, Edward 4/29	Brother John & Wife Carol
Larssen, Tryggve & Signe 3/23	Daughter Greta & George Brown
Obsberg, Artie 11/26	Wife Norma
Hector Rucci 10/28	Wife Nancy
Stuckman, Erik 12/25	Mother Barbara
Skauvold, Harry & Kate 12/24	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

Vikings "The Rise and Fall" Series

This series is on TV this month on the National Geographic Channel
I picked it up on Cablevision Ch162

Don't forget that 17th of May Pins are available from Barbara Bernsten now!



Some Cultural Items for the Month

Cultural Corner: Things to think about when you are having a hard time falling asleep -----

I saw this and I thought it would be fun to think about. Do you think all Norwegians think about these things?

- Why do peanuts float in a regular coke and sink in a diet coke?
Go ahead and try it.
 - I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.
 - Can you cry underwater?
 - How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
 - Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going?
 - Why do we park on "driveways" and drive on "parkways"?
 - Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
 - What disease did cured ham actually have?
 - How is it that we were able to put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
 - Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
 - If a deaf person must go to court, is it still called a hearing?
 - Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
 - Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
 - Why do doctors leave the room while you change when they're going to see you naked anyway.
 - Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?
 - Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp?
 - Can a hearse who is carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
 - If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in their boat?
 - If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
 - If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
 - Why do the "Alphabet Song" and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" have the exact same tune?
 - Why did you just try singing the two songs above?
 - Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?
 - How did the person who made the first clock know what time it was?
- Come to the meeting with some of these answers. It could be fun to hear them.

Barbara

History Article: Weird Things about Norway - part 1

I found this very entertaining and so many things I knew and have seen and I didn't think they were weird, just different. To see more pictures for each section, check out this site.

<https://medium.com/mature-fl%C3%A2neur/ten-weird-things-about-norway-7bdb11d65607>



"So, how are you finding my weird country?" Our Norwegian friend Roald asked when we met him five weeks ago in his far-northern hometown of Skøelv.

Our Norwegian friend Roald (center), has sent Teresa and I on a quest to discover what's weird in Norway. Photo credit: [Tim Ward](#)

Now, Teresa (my beloved wife) and I have been on the road in Norway for two whole months. We drove from bottom to top, east to west. At last, I believe we can answer Roald's question: We are finding Norway weird indeed! Uniquely, delightfully, wonderfully weird. Let me sum it up with this list of our top ten weird things about Norway:

1. **Norwegians dig tunnels --** Tunnels through mountains, tunnels beneath cities, tunnels underwater. In some places, Norwegians build tunnels even where there are existing roads right next to them.



Okay, these make sense in a mountainous, cold land, where heavy snow, avalanches and rockslides are a real problem; tunnels keep roads open that would otherwise be closed several months each year and connect islands to the mainland that would be cut off by winter storms. Norway is even building the world's first [ship tunnel](#) right through an island so that marine traffic can avoid a treacherous strait near the port town of Ålesund.



Most tunnels are spacious, but older ones are still in use with only one lane. Right: The narrow tunnel on the road to Myrdal. Our car barely squeezed through! Photo credit: Norway has the world's longest tunnel at Lærdal — 24.5 km from end to end. We drove into it in our first week in the

country, without realizing it. We had no idea we would be driving underground for nearly half an hour. For all we knew, we were driving into hell. To keep drivers from falling asleep, this tunnel has occasional sections illuminated with colored blue lights. We considered these the "party rooms" and sang our way through them. It helped.

Advice for tunnel driving: a. Roll up the windows to avoid exhaust fumes. b. Make sure your headlights are on. c. If you get claustrophobic thinking about all that rock or water pressing down from above, just focus on the pavement and pretend you are driving on a road at night.

I found this carved rock at the museum in Trondheim. Is this evidence the Norwegian mania for tunnels goes back to prehistoric times?

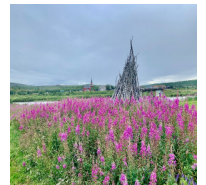


2. The Arctic is pink.

Fireweed spreads, well, like wildfire, through much of northern Norway.



This opportunistic weed with its bright pink flowers grows wherever it finds open ground and a bit of soil, such as the sides of roads, or land that was formerly cultivated.



The north is filled with small family farms that are no longer working—like Roald's family home. When the land goes fallow, the fireweed takes over, turning swathes of land hot pink that were once lush green. It's pretty to look at, but kind of scary, as this invasive plant crowds out native vegetation.

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

THERE ARE 8 MORE OF THESE DIFFERENT THINGS ABOUT NORWAY – BUT WE HAVE A SPACE PROBLEM HERE – I WILL PRESENT MORE OF THEM NEXT MONTH IF YOU WOULD LIKE – JUST LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM. !!! (MIGHT BE ANOTHER ON PAGE 7)



Archaeologists Found Proof of a Viking City That Was Supposed to Be Mythical

Does this evidence

actually point to a long-lost “medieval New York”? 3/03./2026

Here’s what you’ll learn when you read this story:

- One archeologist believes he found evidence of the Viking city of Jomsborg on a Polish island in the Baltic Sea.
- The researcher claims to have discovered remains of an ancient fortress.
- Whether the 10th century city was real or not remains a point of discussion.

The history of Viking life has been largely buried, whether physically or figuratively. But in 2023, a simple construction project to erect a new observation tower in a public park on the Polish island Wolin unearthed fresh artifacts. Those artifacts pointed toward the existence of a 10th century city—at least, [according](#) to the man doing the finding. Naturally, that gets Viking scholars pretty jazzed, knowing that the potentially-real-possibly-mythical city of Jomsborg could be part of the equation.

“It is very exciting,” Wojciech Filipowiak, an archaeologist at Poland’s Academy of Sciences working on the project, [told](#) the *New York Times*. “It could solve a mystery going back more than 500 years: Where is Jomsborg?”

Believed to be a key part of Viking history, Jomsborg first surfaced in 12th century texts. But the location was never discovered. That led some to believe that Jomsborg was nothing more than a compilation of lore—a mythical mash-up city described as a [fortress](#) combined with a bustling [trading post](#).

If real, Jomsborg would have served as a trading post that hosted Vikings, Germans, and Slavs—all people groups with historical ties to the area. Karolina Kokora, director of Wolin’s history museum, told the *New York Times* that this city would have resembled a “medieval New York on the Baltic.” Of course, that’s only if it actually ever existed outside of mentions in old Viking texts.

Those texts, though, purport a lively settlement with thousands of residents, a military fort, and a pier to give [Viking ships](#) a place to restock and rest.

Norwegian film wins an Oscar

March 16, 2026

Norwegian films had nabbed a record 11 Oscar nominations heading into this year’s Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. Only one yielded an Oscar, but officials back home still called it “a landmark moment for Norwegian cinema.”

The winner was *Sentimental Value* (*Affeksjonsverdi* in Norwegian), hailed as Best International Feature film. It had already won nine nominations for everything from Best Director (Joachim Trier) and Best Actress (Renate Reinsve), to Best Picture overall. It also had won major prizes already, from when it was [shown at the Cannes International Film Festival](#) last year to the [Golden Globes](#) and Britain’s BAFTA prize for best international film.

It was also the first time a Norwegian film had won [so many top nominations](#) instead of just those reserved for films made outside Hollywood. Kjersti Mo, chief executive of the Norwegian Film Institute (NFI), thus opted to call all the nominations and the Best International Film Oscar “historic.” NFI, a public institution operating under the authority of the government’s Ministry of Culture, also views the prize as “enormous recognition of the filmmakers behind the film and of an extraordinary artistic collaboration.”

Norway Reigns Supreme: Final Medal Standings from Milano-Cortina 2026

MILAN, Italy – The 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics have officially drawn to a close, and the final medal table confirms what many

fans suspected throughout the games: Norway is the undisputed king of winter sports.

With the final events concluded in Italy, the Norwegian delegation made history by dominating the podium across multiple disciplines. Norway finished at the top of the standings with a staggering 41 total medals, including 18 gold, 12 silver, and 11 bronze. This performance cements Norway’s legacy as the most successful nation in Winter Olympic history, surpassing their previous high-water marks.

The Battle for the Podium

While Norway secured the top spot early on, the fight for the remaining podium positions was fierce.

The United States put on a powerful display, comfortably securing second place in the overall standings. The U.S. team finished with 33 medals in total, spearheaded by 12 gold medals. American athletes showed particular dominance in snowboarding, freestyle skiing, and figure skating, ensuring the U.S. remained a global powerhouse despite Norway’s massive lead.

Analysts attribute Norway’s success to their deep-rooted culture of winter sports and a highly efficient development program that consistently produces world-class athletes in cross-country skiing, biathlon, and alpine disciplines.

As the Olympic flame is extinguished in Milan and Cortina, the world looks ahead to 2030, but the narrative of 2026 will undoubtedly be the “Norwegian Wave” that swept through the Italian Alps, leaving the rest of the world—including the formidable United States—vying for second place.

The World’s Best Cheese is from Norway

The Norwegian cheese Fanaost was named as the world’s best cheese during the World Cheese Awards in Bergen on 3/13/2026. A total of 3,472 cheeses from all over the world participated in the competition to become the world’s best. Norwegian cheese Fanaost, from the producer Ostegården in Bergen, won the competition. Fanaost, according to the manufacturer, is a mild, round and semi-solid cheese that reminds one of Gouda, made from pasteurized cow milk.

In addition the silver medal in the prestigious competition went to another Norwegian cheese. Genuine brown goat cheese from Stordalen Gardsbruk in Tinn shares the silver medal with a French cheese.

It is not the first time Norwegian cheeses make it to the top in the competition. During the World Cup in 2016, the local producer Tingvollst won the golden medal with his blue cheese.

A truly global cheese event, the World Cheese Awards has been bringing together cheesemakers, retailers, buyers, consumers and food commentators worldwide for over three decades.

Guess I for one will need to try this, if I can find some here in the U.S.

Look, I Got some space for 1 more Weird Thing

3. A good cocktail is hard to find in Norway

We found it surprisingly difficult to find good cocktails in Norway. In one place, when I ordered a gin and tonic, the eyes of the young man behind the bar widened with fear. “Gin and tonic?” he said, his voice squeaking a bit. “Is that made with *vodka*?” I literally had to walk him step by step through how to make it. Luckily, the few good cocktail bars we found are really good. Searching them out is worth

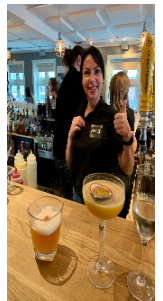
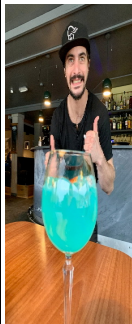
the effort.

Advice: In Norway, just one drink can put you over the permitted blood alcohol level of 0.02% for driving. Fines are severe, and at .05% the police will throw you in jail.

Eat a lot of food and wait an hour after one drink before you take the wheel.

Norwegian cocktails are hit and miss!

We’ve tasted some great ones, and some brave experiments.



Place Stamp Here



NORDEN LODGE 407

Les Johannessen, Editor

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Huntinton Station, NY 11746-3419



Join us at our **next meeting on Sunday March 22nd at 2PM** Since it was necessary to move to a virtual meeting again last month, no raffle items could be collected. We are therefore now looking for items to use as raffle prizes for our next meeting, to support the "Dues Aid Fund". Come see what else we are planning and don't forget we always love sharing our feelings and demonstrating the meaning of a "Koselig" Atmosphere!! Bring a Friend!



Are your assets aligned with your financial goals? A Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor will offer a **Free Financial Review.**



Robert McKeever, CLU - 21 Averly Place, Smithtown NY 11787

Phone: (800) 561-1492 - Email: bob@rmclu.com



Got Stamps? Tubfrim Is Still Accepting Stamps!

Please leave a 1/4 " around cut stamps.

We are continuing to support **Tubfrim**, a Norwegian-owned charity that resells cancelled stamps to benefit Norwegian children with health and other physical disabilities. **Every little bit helps.** The effort has continued since 1928 and will hopefully continue with our help as long as there is need. Bring them to the next meeting & any of our officers will take it from there.

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Koselig =

*A cozy and warm atmosphere of
Togetherness in a pleasant setting.*
