



* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society *

NORDEN STAR



Volume 56, Issue # 6



NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON

Celebrating Our 86th Year

June, 2024

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 June 23, at 2 PM**
 On [Facebook](#) at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the [WEB](#) at **NordenLodge3-407.org**
Deadline for Items for the September, 2024 Newsletter PERIODICAL is August, 28, 2024

MONTH'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone, This will be our Scholarship Meeting and no meal is planned for the afternoon. We are having cake and coffee alongside snacks. IF you can bring a dessert that would be great. We do not know how many people are attending with our students, but I would love to have a great show of desserts for people to choose from. I thank everyone in advance for helping out social directors. Our meeting will start at 2:00pm as well as on zoom. We will have a short meeting so we can enjoy the festivities and our musician for the afternoon. We also have our raffle tickets, so please support our scholarship so we can continue to keep giving our very deserving students a award to help them with expenses.



I am writing this the week before the Third District Convention. Checking out the Reports Book and understanding what is ahead of us, I would like those who are voting at convention to approve our resolution. It will be interesting to see how our resolution and its discussion is accepted. We understand the adding an officer to the district board, may seem unnecessary, but the heavy load that the Sons of Norway Headquarters is putting on the district officers is more than it ever was. I am curious as to the extent the International Directors are asked to help the district as they are the link between the two boards. I remember Barbara contacting the lodges for the forms to be completed. It was part of the IBoD (International Board of Directors) to get that accomplished. With that in mind, think it over before you make the decision to not add another secretary to the mix. If the IBoD keeps approving the additional work for the district officers, who already have a lot to do for their own districts, our district and I would think the others will be in jeopardy of filling the seats. Barbara is assisting Audun on the Nomination Committee and she did it solely for the 2022 convention, they know exactly how hard it is to fill the seats now, so add more "given further volunteer work to the mix" and it will become even harder. Long gone are the days of multiple officer campaigns and election for a specific position.

We will fill you in on all of our happenings at the convention and Barbara will write an essay for you to have for you to take with you. REMEMBER we have a lot of events over the summer. The Picnic will be on August 11th. The Ducks game – will be held on July 19th – if you get there early you may get a new t-shirt. Please let Kristin or Chuck know you are coming to one or both. The Henrik Ibsen fishing at Captree on August 24th from 1:30 – 6pm. The boat does not wait for those who are late. This is an afternoon boat ride. Norden has about 7 already attending. But please let Roy know if you want to go. The cost to fish is \$65 for adults and \$50 for those children under 12. Hope to see you at these events.

As always the minutes in the Norden Star are a summary of what happened at the meeting. Barbara has the complete minutes and Les summarizes them. Contact: barbarajb1230@optonline.net. She will be happy to send them to any member.



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 2024 ***

President: Roy Berntsen 10 Pershing St., Valley Stream, NY 11580 E-Mail: royb50@optonline.net	(516) 791-3983
Vice President: Kristin Gottilla 642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757 E-Mail: kgottilla@hotmail.com	(631) 412-3361
Membership Chair: Tim Baxley Assist Mary Booton	Call Editor
Secretary: Barbara Berntsen	(516) 791-3983
Counselor: Steve Helms	(516) 935-0751
Social Director: Janet Hannigan	(516) 849-9905
Youth Dir: Vacant	
Editor: Les Johannessen E-Mail: bigjobber@aol.com	(631)421-9482
Alternate Editor: Barbara Berntsen	(516) 791-3983
Financial Secretary: Shirley Erland	(516) 785-4424
Treasurer: Shirley Erland	(516) 785-4424
Sunshine: Kathy Johannessen	(631) 421-9482
Sports Dir. Charles Gottilla	(631) 412-3361
Greeter: Mary Booton	Call Editor

May 17th Meeting Minutes Summary –

President Roy opened our meeting of Norden lodge #3-407 at 3pm. He said it is really nice to see so many here, and wished everyone a Happy Constitution Day – today. * He thanked Kristin for setting up our zoom for tonight. Chuck is not feeling well but will sign on to zoom. * Our June meeting will be our scholarship award meeting. We will be having Ellen come to play for us, so it should be festive for the afternoon. So we should try to have a short meeting and the scholarship awards and have fun afterwards. * Pledge of allegiance.

It was so great to see Christin and Craig Carlsen up here again from Florida. We usually see them on zoom. It was also nice to see Jackie and Eric Oltedal here from North Carolina and Jean and Fred Tremel back from their Florida stay for the winter. It was a festive day.* Secretary Barbara – took the silent officer attendance.* Secretary – there was a motion and second vote to approve the minutes as distributed.

Barbara said there is no new applications for membership?

Shirley can you give us the financial report:

Correspondence Barbara stated: 1. Remember to sign in the attendance book. It is with Mary for signing.2. The newest secretary letter is up at the table. 3. Last month we voted to have a sort of a show in tell for the next few months. She thought we would begin in September. She will put a blurb in the newsletter for September – October – November – so let us get started for the short “items for telling” Christine and Craig brought items to share and it was great that someone listened and took action. They will present them in the good of the order. 4. For the June meeting we are going to honor those students who earned the zone 1 scholarship awards. Karen and Barbara have raffle tickets for sale. So please help out the scholarship committee. 5. I have the Norge NA here at the desk. It is from the Norwegian Embassy in Washington DC. She will forward if anyone would like a copy.

Committee reports - Social director: Janet, Mary and Tim took part in “love my park day” day. It was nice to be represented. Barbara ordered the food for the Picnic and reminded everyone there is no dinner in June, only snacks, cake, coffee & tea. **Newsletter:** Les – has extra copies with him. Roy reminded everyone “Don’t forget to sign up for a booster for the newsletter.” Les asked for small items that you want to share, he can put it in the newsletter. Just send it to Les. He wants to get out the newsletter earlier in June because of the convention.

Sports director: Chuck & Kristin - **Atlantic city** date was June 1. It had to be cancelled due to lack of people attending. Chuck is getting the deposit back. He will try again to get a bus going in October but if that does not work it is over for those rides to A/C. - **Picnic:** we selected the date of august 11. The food and cook is all set for the picnic on august 11. The fee is \$10 to attend and if you are a member and with our attendance record, you will get money back. - **Ducks game** – will be held on July 19th – if you get there early you may get a new t-shirt. Flyers are up here at the table. The

tickets are \$15. Per person and need 25 members for this discount.

Henrik Ibsen fishing at Captree on August 24th from 1:30 – 6pm The boat does not wait for those who are late. This is an afternoon boat ride. Norden has about 7 already attending. But please let Roy know if you want to go. Flyers are up here at the table. The cost to fish is \$65 for adults and \$50 for those children under 12. - **Ideas** – Kristin and Chuck asked for ideas again so they can research an event and bring the specifics back to the lodge to enjoy. Think it over. They do open our events and trips to the other lodges. President Roy thanked them for all their efforts to bring the lodge together outside the meeting. - **Zone:**

Barbara / Karen / Les1. The caucus was held on May 4th – and we had our elections for office for the district. Zone 1 director will be Elaine Breiland and assistant zone 1 director is one of our own – Susan Olson. In September we will need to elect our secretary – we did vote on the treasurer another of our own Karen O-H. Congratulation to the three of you. - 2. Next month we need to vote on our zone delegates and alternates. So think it over if you would like to be part of our zone.

Remember Karen made the raffle tickets again this year and both Barbara and Karen have them here for the zone 1 scholarship. Barbara will send some out to our members who asked. - 3. Memorial Service – May 5 – the memorial went off OK 26 were in attendance. 14 deceased were honored for 2023 and 13 were honored off the floor. Ken is working on shortening the form to complete and have the additional honorees will be a smoother transition next may. Norge hosted and did a wonderful job. Selinda their president was in the hospital, she is home now, so please send a card. Karen sent a card from the zone. - 4. Brooklyn memorial was fine on April 28, 2024 – Karen was thanked for her memorial address. There were only a few attending. But it was a nice afternoon. Both memorials will be forwarded for fraternal funds. Long island expenses were \$450 and had a collection of \$230 and with the fraternal funds of \$200 it only cost zone 1 \$20. Brooklyn does not have a collection and their costs were \$600 about, so that would cost the lodge \$400. It was voted for Færder lodge to put their costs into the zone for payment. That was approved. **Sunshine:** Kathy said all is good. Margaret will remain in the Meadowbrook Care Center.

Parade: Barbara – we march on Sunday “Celebrating Our 70th Parade.”

She has our pins with her for \$6. After Sunday she may not have any more. I will have our journals next month. We have the \$100. 50/50 parade raffle going again as a fundraiser she has a few tickets here if you wish. So far the committee raise \$3600 as of the April meeting but Gjøa Club has about \$2000 more to bring to the next meeting. So we hope to be almost \$6000 by the junk meeting.

3rd District: Steve – Karen 1. Camp – there is only a few children signed up at this point. Please send in your application. There are 11 children going so far. Same goes for the cultural weekend. 2. They are gearing up for convention. It should be a nice time in DC. The Memorial Service will begin at 5pm. The Sports Picnic at Nansen went well. There were about 65 in attendance. 3. He spoke about the dues increase.4. Karen was approved as a liaison between the home office and the district board.

New business Corporation: held elections and the President is Steve, the Vice President is Chuck, the treasurer is Karen, and the Secretary is Kristin. Les brought something to the floor. With the cost of the dues going up, he felt if there is a member that cannot afford the increase, he may be able to have a fund to assist a Norden Member. There was a lot of discussion and the lodge voted to have a committee to look into a procedure and what the lodge would ask for or require to verify the need. The committee so far is: Karen, Barbara, Leif, Les and Kristin.

Old business Loyal lodge is celebrating their 100th on June 2nd before our next meeting. They are sold out. They have great raffles and those who are attending will have a great time.

Good of the Order: 1. Bob McKeever told a few jokes and the annuity is a guaranteed 2.9% and the first year is higher. 2. Christine and Craig brought items for our “Show and Tell”. Christine brought a children’s book called “Katremus og de Andre” written in 1953 by Thorbjorn Egner. It is still very popular today in Norway. Craig brought different patches from the Norwegian police departments and the very long wind banner that is hung outside many home especially of special days. He

(Cont on Pg 3)

(Cont From Pg 2) - also brought a Playboy Magazine from Norway.
 Think about what you want to bring to the meeting.
Counselor: may peace and harmony prevail within our lodge.
Our next meeting, will be on Sunday June 23rd at 2 pm- we will again have a zoom meeting starting at 2:00 pm.
 Roy thanked everyone for coming today.
 Roy declared this business meeting adjourned.
 Time over 3:05pm

Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Berntsen

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



IT'S ALL SCANDINAVIAN

Follow and see
Ellen Lindstrom's Band
perform at:

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

3D SONS of NORWAY



SAVE THE DATE
Mark your calendars!
3D SONS OF NORWAY
YOUTH CAMP 2024



Ages 8-18
Camp Koinonia
July 21 - July 28, 2024
Highland Lake, NY
NEW THIS YEAR!

Cultural/Sports/Family Weekend
Fun for everyone old, young, and in between!
July 25 - July 28, 2024

**** See Pg 5 for more details under Activities ****

Time to find a suitable camp for our Southern 3D Lodges has not worked out for this year. 3D is moving ahead to secure one for next year. All Lodges are encouraged to join this year's activities above.

***** Make Sure Registration has been submitted this Month Deadline! ****

***** Long Island Ducks Outing *****

Friday July 19th @ 6:35 PM

(Always a fun night)

Cost is only \$15/Person

LONG ISLAND DUCKS Baseball and Fireworks

Ducks T-Shirts from Discover LI (First 1500 Fans)



RSVP by June 30th

Please contact Chuck cell 516-512-9427

Or Kristin cell 516-521-3190

Checks to: Chuck Gottilla, 642 Grand Ave,
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

DON'T FORGET JUNE 2

Loyal Lodge Centennial Celebration at Blueblinds Mansion (Elks Club) in Smithtown, NY.

NORDEN LODGE

Annual Picnic



RAIN OR SHINE at
Centerport Beach
Senior Citizens Pavilion
Sunday, August 11, 2024
11am to 5pm
(Rain or Shine)

Come join fellow S/N members, children and grandchildren for a day of great fun, lots of food and plenty of games for kids and adults. We will have a cook too, so all can have fun !!!

Cost: Members: \$10 (Qualified Members Reimbursed)
All Children (under 12 years): Free
Adult Non Members: \$10

Directions to Centerport Beach:

Going east on 25A to Centerport, turn left onto Little Neck Rd. - Continue past Vanderbilt Museum about half a mile. - Entrance is near bottom of hill on the left.

(Stop at Picnic Area gate to get day pass if you didn't get one)

Contact: Norden:

Chuck Gottilla: 516-512-9427
Kristin Gottilla: 516-521-3190

RSVP by July 30 checks to Chucks Gottilla
642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

***** SCULFEST 2024 *****

Has Been Canceled



Henrik Ibsen Lodge

FLUKE FISHING ABOARD

The Capt. Eddie B III

From Captree State Park, Bay Shore, NY

Saturday August 24, 2024

1:30 pm - 6 pm (BOAT LEAVES AT 2 PM SHARP)

\$65 per adult - \$50 per child (12 & under)

(includes gratuity)

**** RAIN OR SHINE ****

Bring your own food/beverages

THIS IS A PRIVATE CHARTER

Need to meet a minimum please send names & payment

NO LATER than 7/25/23 to: Crystal Nifong, 1498

Brightshore Blvd, Bay Shore NY, 11706

Questions? Contact Crystal (631) 260-8011 or

cnifong11@live.com Checks payable to Crystal Nifong





FROM THE 3RD DISTRICT



Fra 3D President, Steve Helmold, June 2024 – His message has been moved to a semi monthly or possible quarterly period. Stay tuned!

Important Message from Ron Stubbings (This is the message Steve has been referring to in his past reports)

Thank you for your membership with Sons of Norway. 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. We are able to continue this work because of members like you. Thank you.

Like any other business, Sons of Norway has felt the impact of rising costs. Districts and lodges have also felt the impact of rising costs. To meet the increases in inflation, headquarters in all areas of operations has streamlined processes and services. These changes have been made to reflect best practices in both fraternal and insurance operations. The International Board together with the home office is always looking for ways to operate cost efficiently in both fraternal and insurance operations, to sustain the organization's finances and ensure the longevity of our organization.

We all work to contain costs by reducing expenses to the extent possible. However, as you know, you can only cut so much. Recognizing that, it was necessary to examine the current dues structure from both an organizational perspective and a district/lodge/member perspective. In November 2023, an international board committee was assigned to evaluate dues as we continue to look at the overall budget.

Member dues have not increased since 2018, while inflation has increased 21%. Inflation and the rising cost of doing business have not been reflected in the dues. After numerous meetings and data evaluation, the committee recommended a dues increase which was approved by the International Board of Directors.

* **Single member dues will increase by \$2 per month for a total annual increase of \$24. Effective July 1, 2024 single member annual dues will be \$84. One dollar of the annual increase will be given to the local lodge and the district. The district lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member.**

* **Family membership will increase by \$4 per month for a total annual increase of \$48. Effective July 1, 2024, the family member dues will be \$144 (includes \$1 for rounding). The district portion of the annual dues increase for family membership will increase from \$25 per family membership to \$27 per family membership. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$28 to \$30 per family membership.**

* Dues for members in Canada and Norway will increase based on the percentage increase for US members. This will have to factor the different currencies and be divisible by 12 for monthly payments.

The dues increase will be effective on July 1, 2024, therefore renewals from that date forward will be at the new rate. If the member's dues were due before July 1, 2024 and payment is received after that date they will still be under the old structure. Likewise, if a renewal is due after July 1 and the member paid it early in June it should be at the new increased rate. A message will be added to the invoices regarding the dues increase starting with the July 2024 invoices.

We encourage you to remind the members in your lodges of the values of a Sons of Norway membership:

- * A magazine focused on their interests that is delivered 6 times per year
- * Membership and participation in local lodge and district activities
- * Access to a website and customer service personnel
- * Funding of lodges and districts with a portion of their dues
- * The lodges and districts get the benefit of the International Lodge collecting and distributing their portion of lodge and district dues, fraternal programs administered, reporting, administration, a governance structure

Future increases and how you can help

Like most other membership/subscription fees, dues could increase annually depending on a variety of factors (e.g. fraternal membership, insurance sales and retention). You can help to hold down future increases. Please keep in mind that:

- * Dues do not cover fraternal expenses
- * Insurance could over time help mitigate any future dues increases but only 30% of social members currently own insurance
- * Dues are embedded in certain insurance products, meaning if a member purchases insurance, there is no additional dues invoice. Membership continues as long as the policy remains in force
- * District and lodge operations can help reduce costs at headquarters by being timely in submitting documents such as D63, D17 & D18, LAF and 990's to the IRS
- * Purchasing a financial product helps support Sons of Norway
- * Encourage members to pay dues monthly similar to a Netflix or similar subscription

Fraternally, Ron Stubbings, International Chair

(Seems there may be some math issues to question. As Steve has highlighted in past messages)

LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2024

- Jun 19** – Duck’s Game
- Jun 23** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM Music by Ellen
- Aug 11** – Annual Lodge Picnic
- Sept 22** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Oct 27** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Nov 24** - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Dec 8** – Christmas Fest St Peters 2 PM Music by Ellen

Activities In and Out of Our Zone!!!

Aug 24 – Ibsen Fishing Trip, Captree State Park 1:30 PM
Youth Camp is planned for 2024 and is once again dependent on numbers attending. DON'T MISS another OPPORTUNITY for this extremely successful event Your Kids/Grandkids will Thank YOU !!!!
Check it out, can't beat the price or experience! And in addition this year the rest of your family will be able to join the campers for the last three days at Camp Koinonia at Highland Lake, NY It is hoped that next year the Southern Lodges will be able to take advantage of a more centrally located venue in the planning now.

***** BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS *****

Month's Birthdays – Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Name	Day	Name	Day
June			
		Eric Peter Oltedal	12
Thomas Schofield	2	Gladys J Ecock	15
John A Steinsvold	4	Pamela Hansen	15
Fritz A Solberg	7	Kristin Gottilla	21
James E Solberg Jr	8	Daniel Hansen	21
Christina Varady	11	Donna Cooper	28
Marlene McKenna	12	Inger J Gundersen	28
July			
		Matthew Grevstad	17
Rebecca Lynn Oltedal	5	Anna Marie Tonon	20
Hector J Rucci	9	Stephen E Helmold	24
Lisa Gundersen Umansky	10	Inger L Nielsen	25
Michael John Van Wicklen	13	Fiona McCabe	27
Christine S Carlson	15	Kym A Van Wicklen	30
August			
Greta E Brown	4	Carmen M Odin	17
Anita Navarsete	6	Erica Rucci	20
Idunn Gerd Snemyr	6	Eleanor T Lygren	21
Erika Varady	10	Michael De Marco	22
Steven L Lygren	11	David D Stahl	22
David A Olsen	11	Barbara T Struckman	23
Andrea Sorg	11	Felicity L Solberg	24
Dylan J Solberg	13	Nikolina Johannessen	25
Adam Hughes	14	Robert Roth	25
Norma Anderson	15	Brandon Varady	28

Barbara L. Johnsen – 64 Years, John A Steinsvold – 64 Years
 Kimberly S Lynn – 28 Years, Kate E Johnsen – 15 Years
 Mathew A Johnsen – 15 Years, Larry Torguson – 6 Years



MEMBERSHIP CORNER



We seem to be entering a period off us against them. Let us keep our focus on camaraderie and the comfort of our own knowledge of the truth. Things are changing but we are still an order which is dedicated to our members. Have faith that the good of our order will prevail!

Meeting Attendances - an attempt 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.

5-17-24 Meeting Attendance: MEMBERS Shirley Erland, Heidi Varady, Jim Varady, Kathy Johannessen, Les Johannessen, Nina Hotvedt, Clif Hotvedt, Linda Petersen, Mary Booton, Tim Baxley, Roy Berntsen, Steve Helmold, Karen Olsen-Helmold, Barbara Berntsen, Kristin Gottilla, Christine Carlsen, Craig Carlsen, Jackie Oltedal, Eric Oltedal, Ethel McKeever, Bob McKeever, Mike Di Peirro, Jean Tremel, Fred Tremel, Leif Easterson, **Zoom** - Chuck Gottilla, **Guests:** none

2024 Norden Star Boosters Updated 05/09/24

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Berntsen, Barbara & Roy 5/24 | Helmold, Steve & Karen 3/25 |
| Berntsen, Margret 5/23 | Meusel, Helen 6/27 |
| Berntsen, Roy Jr 5/23 | Rucci, Hector & Nancy 7/25 |
| Brown, Greta & George 6/28 | Sandberg, Mildred 4/24 |
| Carlson, Craig & Christine 11/24 | Seals, Nancy 5/24 |
| Erland, Shirly 9/24 | Sorg, Mabel 6/26 |
| Hansen, Elsa 6/25 | |

IN MEMORY OF

COMMEMORATORS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Erland, Endre & Sigrid 9/24</i> | <i>Daughter Shirley Erland</i> |
| <i>Frey, Judith 2/30</i> | <i>Daughter Norma Frey</i> |
| <i>Maies, Betsy Jane Sersted 3/24</i> | <i>Daughter Janet Maies Hannigan</i> |
| <i>Johansen, Lars, Sigrid & Art 10/30</i> | <i>Family</i> |
| <i>Jacobsen, Edward 4/29</i> | <i>Brother John & Wife Carol</i> |
| <i>Larssen, Trygve & Signe 3/23</i> | <i>Daughter Greta & George Brown</i> |
| <i>Suckman, Erik 12/23</i> | <i>Mother Barbara</i> |
| <i>Skauvold, Harry & Kate 12/24</i> | <i>Daughter Christine Carlson</i> |

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

WE THANK ALL OUR BOOSTERS HELPING TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT

VIKING AUCTION DONATIONS

I am reaching out on behalf of the 2024 Third District Convention Committee to share exciting details about the upcoming Viking Auction, a highlight of our conventions. This engaging and enjoyable activity not only adds vibrancy to our gatherings but also serves as a vital fundraising initiative supporting our esteemed Third District Charitable Trust. The Viking Auction will take place at the convention on Sunday afternoon. Your generous support is invaluable and essential to the fundraising success.

- As we gear up for the upcoming Viking Auction, we seek your assistance in providing items that can be offered as prizes. Tusen Takk,
 Bill and Pat DeRoche, Chairs, Viking Auction
 202-270-9528 (9 AM to 10 PM) derochebp@outlook.com

5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For June, July & Aug Congratulations:

- Karl O Olsen – 59 Years, Karen Olsen-Helmold – 50 Years
- Mira Rathkopf - 50 Years, Else Kinney-Patecell – 48 Years
- Robert J Michta –26 Years, Christine S Carlson – 11 Years
- Greg R Carlson – 11 Years, (July) Randi Dyrvik - 62 Years
- Debra W Owsley – 34 Years, Todd B Owsley – 34 Years
- Fritz A Solberg – 6 Years, Juliana G Solberg – 6 Years
- Erika Varady – 6 Years (August) Elizabeth Olsen – 68 Years

Some Cultural Items for the Month

Cultural Corner: Thor Solberg's Flight from the US to Norway



This picture shows the Loening C-2-C Air Yacht used by Thor Solberg and Paul Oscanyan. (Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology)

Thor Simonsen Solberg (March 28, 1893 – February 26, 1967) was a Norwegian-born aviation pioneer who made the first successful flight from the United States of America to Norway in 1935. He made the journey, which started in New York City, in an open-cockpit single-engine aircraft with no landing instruments. For this reason, he was restricted to an altitude of 1,000 to 10,000 feet (300 to 3,050 m). Solberg also founded the [Solberg-Hunterdon Airport](#) in [New Jersey](#).

He was born on his family's farm (*Solberg på Årebrot*) at [Florø](#) in [Sogn og Fjordane](#), Norway. He had ten brothers and sisters, including Halfdan and Lars Solberg. Solberg was interested in motors and aviation from an early age and was a "daring" motorcyclist in his youth. He was also interested in artistic picture framing in his youth. Solberg participated in a number of motorcycling speed events during his early years. He also rode from [Oslo](#) to [Paris](#) in 48 hours in 1923.

Solberg received his pilot's training in Germany in the years following [World War I](#). He took a pilot's license in 1919 and became one of Norway's aviation pioneers.

Solberg, inspired by aviators such as [Charles Lindbergh](#), was to be the first person to fly from Norway to the United States solo, receiving some aid and advice from [Roald Amundsen](#). Solberg lived in the United States from 1925 or 1928. Upon arriving in the United States, Solberg worked at various jobs, such as proprietor of an art studio and picture framing store in [Brooklyn](#), while planning his flight. Solberg flew over much of the United States in his [Bellanca CH-200 Pacemaker](#) while preparing for the flight.

In preparation for his flight to Norway, Solberg practiced [blind flying](#), studied his route, and created his own maps of it. He received financial and technical support from two of his brothers, [Bernt Balchen](#), and several other people. After managing to convince the [Enna Jettick Shoe Company](#) to fund his flight, Solberg made his first attempt to fly from the United States to Norway with Carl Petersen in a [Bellanca K](#), named *Enna Jettick*, (formerly *Roma* from a failed US to Italy flight), on August 23, 1932, but that attempt failed. They encountered fog and snow near [Newfoundland](#) and were forced to make a crash landing. Shortly afterwards, they were rescued by nearby fishing boats.

On July 18, 1935, Solberg made a second attempt with a different plane, an [amphibious](#) single-engine [Loening C-2-C Air Yacht](#) that he named *Liev Eiriksson*. On this flight, Paul C. Oscanyan, who had worked for Eastern Airlines, joined the flight as radio operator.^[9] They departed from [Floyd-Bennett Field](#) and made four stops at locations between the United States and Norway before landing in Norway on 16 August 1935 after passing through Labrador, [Greenland](#), [Iceland](#), the [Faroe Islands](#), and [Bergen](#).^{[6][7][8]} Solberg's course roughly followed the path that [Leif Erikson's](#) voyage took.^[10] Upon his arrival in Norway, the [King of Norway](#) gave Solberg a gold medal.^[11]

In 1939, Solberg founded the [Solberg-Hunterdon Airport](#) in central [New Jersey](#). In 1941, he received permission from the [Readington Township](#) Committee to operate a commercial airport. The airport was also used as a training facility during [World War II](#) where Solberg trained approximately 5,000 aviators. Solberg Airport was also used to train pilots for Pan American World Airways.



Solberg was a Knight of the [Order of St. Olav](#).^[6] He was also a notable member of the Norsemen Lodge, an organization which was composed of people of Norwegian birth or descent. Additionally, he was a life member of the Explorers' Club in New York.^[7]

Solberg died in [Branchburg, New Jersey](#) at the age of 73 and was buried at the churchyard in [Florø](#).

His legacy was: The Loening C-2-C Air Yacht piloted by Thor Solberg in 1935 is presently on display at the [Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology](#) in [Oslo, Norway](#). A statue of Solberg was erected at the [Florø Airport](#) in 1985 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his flight.

For more information, check out this web-site:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thor_Solberg#:~:text=Thor%20Solberg%20\(March%2028%2C%201893,aircraft%20with%20no%20landing%20instruments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thor_Solberg#:~:text=Thor%20Solberg%20(March%2028%2C%201893,aircraft%20with%20no%20landing%20instruments)

Barbara

History Article: The Battle of Hastings: -- part 3

Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066: a medieval representation



A fleet of around 1,000 vessels, designed in the style of the old Norse "Dragon Ships" (80 feet long; propelled by oars and a single sail), was built and assembled to convey the army across the Channel.

Duke William stumbles on landing in England: Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066: picture by Cecil Doughty

Among the fighting knights of Northern France who joined William were Eustace, Count of Martel, Roger de Beaumont Montgomerie. The clergy represented; among them Bayeux, William's half-monk René who brought men and a ship, in the bishopric in England. commanded the fleet.



It was no secret that William intended to invade England. He had sent an insulting demand that Harold pay him homage and the gathering of the troops and ships had northern France in turmoil, causing Harold to assemble a powerful army along the Sussex coast in defense.

William's fleet lay ready to cross the Channel, after being held in port for the duration of the summer by contrary winds, when Harold received the news that a Norwegian army led by King Harald Hadrada with Harold's renegade brother Tostig had landed in Yorkshire after sailing up the Ouse.

Harold marched his army north and routed the invaders at the battle of Stamford Bridge, in which both Harald Hadrada and Tostig were killed.

The timing could not have been worse for the Saxons. The winds changed and William's fleet crossed the Channel, landing on the Saxon coast unopposed on 28th September 1066.

Harold received the news of the Norman landing in York soon after his triumph over the Norse invaders and determined to march south immediately to do battle with William.

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



Sankt Hans Aften (Midsummer) 2024

A Nordic tradition,
celebrated on the night

before the Midsummer's Day June 23

A Nordic tradition, celebrated on the night before the Midsummer's Day Midsummer's Eve or Sankt Hans Aften is a relic of pagan customs, where the shortest day, the winter solstice, and the longest day, the summer solstice, were celebrated. The holiday gained its name from John the Baptist, who was born on June 24th, so June 23rd is celebrated as an eve of his birthday. Originally, it was believed that midsummer night was filled with the magical forces of nature—good and bad. All herbs and sources were particularly sacred, and it was a tradition to look for sacred springs or pick healing herbs on this night.

Summer Solstice Bonfire

The tradition of burning bonfires came along a bit later. Originally, bonfires weren't associated with the Midsummer's Eve celebration, although later, some farmers who believed in witches started to burn bonfires on this night. A figure resembling a witch was put in the fire. The purpose of the fire was to scare the witches and evil spirits away, rather than burn them. Today, the Midsummer's Eve is still celebrated with bonfires, although the meaning has drastically changed. The fires now symbolize the beginning of something new, the transition to darker days and preparation for winter. The burning is usually accompanied by dancing, singing, and a traditional speech from the community officials. Children often occupy themselves with making snobrød, a twist bread that is made over an open fire, and various games.

The History of Norwegian Midsummer

In Norway, this celebration goes under different names. Sankthans, Jonsok, Jonsmesse or Jons vake. Sankt means Saint, and Hans is short for Johannes (John in English). So basically, it's a celebration honoring the birth of Saint John. Or is it?

After the Viking age, 1100s and onward, as people became Christians, they would mix up their old pagan traditions with new Christian ones. So even though this celebration is named after a Saint, it is a tradition that goes back to pagan times.

So, despite the Christian name, this is a non-religious celebration.

The official day of Sankthans is the 24th of June. But we celebrate it the evening before on the 23rd, also known as **Sankthansaften** (The evening of Saint John).

So how is this tradition celebrated? A couple of older traditions that took place on Sankthans that are not common today were **Åkervekking** (waking up the fields) & **Lekebryllup** (Play wedding).

As the night of Sankthans is said to have magical abilities, up until the early 1900s it was not rare to see an old farmer out in his fields putting down branches in his field on the evening of Sankthans while saying:

Wake up, wake up field and meadow. Virgin Mary is making a bed. Hurry up and get away from snow and rain and take shelter from the cold night.

Supposedly this would be good for the crops.

Or you would come across a group of kids pretending to celebrate a marriage. Trying to copy how the adults would do it, with a priest, a bride and a groom and guests. Usually, this would take place on a barn in the countryside.

Sankthans was also the evening when the witches gathered. Riding on their broom to get together at Blokksberg. Blokksberg is the name of the mountain where according to North European tradition, the witches would meet with the devil... In some parts of Northern Norway, women who were believed to have been witches were burned at the time around Sankthans. A sad chapter of the Norwegian history.

How is Midsummer celebrated in Norway today?

Today the celebration is rather simple, but still very enjoyable. It's a time of year when Norwegians love to be outside and cherish the (hopefully) warm weather and long summer nights. If you spend time in Norway before the 23rd of June you will notice that in every village or city you will find one or several piles of firewood stacked up down by the water. Be it by a lake or a fjord. This is the Sankthansbål (Bonfire of Saint John), which we lit up on the evening of the 23rd. So basically, you get together with friends or family a bit earlier in the evening. You share a meal, typically a BBQ and then later in the evening you watch the big bonfire together. It's said that the tradition of lighting up a fire goes all the way back to the 5th century, when it was believed that a big fire would scare away the evil spirits.

Unlike the Swedish Midsummer, Norway's Sankthans is not a national holiday, and most people need to go to work the next day, so there for the celebration tends to not go on all through the night, but we still stay up pretty late.

I hope this article gave you some insight on how Norwegians celebrate midsummer and the summer solstice. It's a great time of the year to visit, so mark the 23rd of June in your calendar, and try to time it with your next travel adventure in Norway.

God Sankthans!

Pål

Ps. Did you know that Norway holds a second place for building the worlds highest bonfire? This was a Sankthansbål built in Ålesund in 2016 and it was 47,4 meter (155,5 foot) tall!

Father's Day

Father's Day Sunday June 11th here in the US is a holiday honoring one's father, or relevant father figure, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The single most common date among world countries is the third Sunday of June, which was founded in the State of Washington, United States by Sonora Smart Dodd in 1910. Across Scandinavia, the tradition of a Father's Day was adopted in the 1930s. Originally the American date was used, but in 1949 the Nordic countries decided to move it to the second Sunday in November.



NORWEGIAN BLESSING

May da ruts always fit da wheels
in your pickup.
May yur ear mofs always keep out
da nort wind.
May da sun shine varm on yur lefse.
May da rain fall soft on yur lutofisk.
And until ve meet again,
May da Good Lord protect ya from
any and all unnecessary Uff Das.

Place Stamp Here



Sons of Norway

NORDEN LODGE 407

Les Johannessen, Editor
7 Nichols Road
Huntington Station, NY 11746-3419



HAPPY SAINT HANS DAY

Join us at our next meeting on **May 17th at 6PM** –Once again take advantage of the warm camaraderie experienced in our meeting experience. Don't forget that the Youth Camp Registration is due this month. Then we are celebrating Norwegian Independence with Music at our meeting and the traditional Parade in Brooklyn this month. Let's show the world that we have survived Covid and we are once again enjoying & offering our Camaraderie.



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 \$ Please leave a ¼ “ 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.



VELKOMMEN TO NORDIC GIFT HOUSE

Your premier source for Scandinavian themed gift items featuring Jewelry, Runic/Viking, Knitwear, Ozone Socks, Home Decor, Kitchen items, Swedish dishcloths, and Heritage items. We invite you to visit our website, subscribe to our newsletter and enjoy this special offer.



SONS OF NORWAY SPECIAL OFFER

Take 10% off your first order
Discount Code: SON10



Nordic Gift House
Goods and Goodness from Norway
and beyond



Phone: 715-386-0939
E-mail: hello@nordicgifthouse.com
Website: www.nordicgifthouse.com

The Nordic Gift House is Owned & Operated by, SON Members: Liv and Bruce Benschine. Past members of Norden who moved to Wisconsin to be closer to the Scandinavian Import Businesses they have dealt with for the past 45 years.

