



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

Jan 2024

January Greetings from the Lodge President

Hei alle,



It is not often that one gets the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap, but there I was walking through the display area of the Warm Glow candle factory and there was Santa dressed in all the finest festive clothes. No one was in line and he invited me over. Once I sat on his lap he wanted to know what I would like for Christmas, I asked for a joyous Julefest (I had to explain) with others, good food and entertainment, maybe meeting some new friends. All of this came true. To top this off the picture was free; don't often

find free things that one can use. I am greeting all of you with joy and pleasantness during the holidays.

Also thanking all that helped in the festivities, Julefest could not have happened without many hands involved from start to finish.

I had not heard of Romjøl before but thought this explanation would improve our Norwegian and also cause for celebrations this past week.

Romjøl is the period in the Norwegian calendar that starts on the third day of Christmas, Dec. 27, and ends on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.

In Norway, romjøl is a tranquil time of the year when families get together, undisturbed by the outside world. By tradition, for families with children, it's the season for baking and building gingerbread houses to be smashed and eaten by New Year's Day.

A little history "Norwegians just can't get enough of jula ("the christmas"). When the whole family has received their gaver (gifts) on julekvelden (Christmas Eve, December 24th), there is still første og andre juledag (1st and 2nd day of Christmas, December 25th and 26th), a time for eating and visiting friends. Norwegians invented romjøl [ROMyoolah]. In modern Norwegian, rom means "room" or "space", and although I'm not sure that's the original meaning of the concept, it fits the idea pretty well: Romjøl is the "space" between jul and nyttår (New Year, January 1st)."

So just what you have been doing during this time in between holidays, has it been filled with relaxing, entertaining, being with family or just having fun with all your gaver. I participated in two choir concerts; both were very good, I never grow tired of hearing or singing the Hallelujah Chorus. Romjøl activities at their best.

The New Year will bring many different things to our life; many will make a New Year's resolution,

something that usually is not kept. I have made the same resolution the last two years; I will do the same this year. I WILL NOT eat ATOMIC fire balls. I don't want to set things to high.

President Larry

Membership

As we start into the new year of 2024, we wish to give an extra welcome to all those that joined our lodge during 2023. Back in January 2023 we had 89 members, and now we leave the year with 105 members in our lodge. This is really awesome!

Our sympathy goes out to new member Lorna Sullivan as her granddaughter recently passed. And one of our former members Siri Anderson lost her son.

If you know of someone that is interested in Sons of Norway, do give me their name and info so that I can contact them.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Birthdays

January

Diane Kosobud[1], Aimee Russell[4], Connie Holmen[10], Kenneth Leque[15], Anders Russell[26], Kelly Lawson[28], Linda Welin[29], Deborah Bowman[31].

February

Nancy Johnson[2], Ava Powell[2], Aaron Nelson[5], Lorna Sullivan[5], Edwin Barth[6], Shirley Hodek[6], Richard Vinnece[7], Tony Torgerssen[11], Lee Luiso[12], Adam Sokol[14], Sylvia Casas[15], Robert Bowman[17], Annabelle Bellman[19], Mark Kosobud[20], Karl Halvorson[21], James D. Herman[22], Myron Hetzler[23], David Kosobud[28].

March

Natalie Bakkum[12], Elisabeth Sonoff[12], Larry Bannick[17], Rolf Bergman[19], Kathy Johncox[19], Marjorie Davis[28].

Foundation

An update after our October Foundation meeting: I

share with you that at our November Board meeting, the officers voted to send \$300 to the International Foundation (supporting scholarships and grants) and \$500 to our District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation (supporting Masse Moro Heritage Camp, Barnebirkie, District 5 scholarships and grants, and Adult Heritage Weekend Camp).

Reminder on Scholarships: If you have children or grandchildren (or even yourself), check out the domestic and international scholarships which are available through Sons of Norway. Scholarships opened October 1. Check submission deadlines as some are January 15, others February 15. <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/>

Susan Herman, Foundation Chair

Upcoming Meetings



Game Night



Saturday January 13, 2024, 4:00 pm

Mallards of Mason Clubhouse

7601 Mallard Creek Dr., Mason Ohio

Park along cedar village drive if the few spots behind the clubhouse are full.

Join your Sons of Norway friends for an evening of pizza and games at the clubhouse! We will start with Bunco-a simple to learn dice game.

We can stay as long as people are interested as we have the place until midnight. I will bring a few other games to switch to as the crowd thins.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, so that I can plan for pizza and refreshments!

Please RSVP to Pam Nelson

nelsonkap@cinci.rr.com

Or text (513) 236-3803

Food Zoom Class

Our class in January will be on Friday the 19th at 1:30pm (EDST). Topic and recipes to share: hot

chocolates and other warm beverages for the cold of winter.

February's class will be on Friday the 16th.
If you would like to join us for one or all Food Zoom classes, please email susan.herman3501@gmail.com to get on the email list for the Food Zooms.

February Lodge Meeting

Saturday, February 10, 2 PM

On Saturday, February 10 we will meet at Friendship United Methodist Church at 2 p.m.

The church is located at 1025 Springfield Pike in Wyoming, 45215.

Bring a snack to share.

Use the South door at the church, there is plenty of parking and there will be a flag at that door.

Karen Courtney a member of Circle City Lodge in Indianapolis will present a program on Norway's Stave churches. It should be very interesting.

Please RSVP to Esther Charlton if you plan to attend the lodge meeting, esthersofn@aol.com or 513-923-3798.

March Lodge Meeting

Saturday, March 9, 2 PM

The meeting will be a PowerPoint presentation about Summer Reading Programs by one of our members, Noel Julnes-Dehner who has received accolades about her presentations.

We will meet at Friendship United Methodist Church at 2 p.m.

The church is located at 1025 Springfield Pike in Wyoming, 45215.

Bring a snack to share.

Use the South door at the church, there is plenty of parking and there will be a flag at that door.

Please RSVP to Esther Charlton if you plan to attend the lodge meeting, esthersofn@aol.com or 513-923-3798.

Julefest 2023

Julefest was celebrated by our members on December 9, 2023. Gravy and mashed potato dinner was served, as well as many delicious side dishes provided by guests.

For music, Adam Sokol played some beautiful Christmas songs on his guitar, everyone sang carols, and of course, "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

It was nice to have several longtime members in attendance as well as little people who are part of family memberships.











Norway is home to Hell

Excerpt from "Life in Norway"



Yes, really! A little over one thousand Norwegians can say they live in Hell. The small village is within walking distance of Trondheim's international airport and even has its own train station.



Sign at Hell Rail Station

The train station is in itself something of a tourist attraction. Several times I've spotted tourists snapping a photo of themselves in front of the station sign! But there're more to Hell than just the name.

Take a short walk from the station via a signed forest trail and you'll find some crude rock carvings of reindeer, believed to be around 5,000 years old. There's also a hotel and a small shopping centre, among other local facilities.

Officers & Chairpersons

President

Larry A. Bannick
937/284-3947
lbannick@woh.rr.com

Social Chairperson

Open

Webmaster

Karl Halvorson
513/340-8338
karl.halvorson@yahoo.com

Edvard Grieg website:

<https://son-swOhio.org/>

Vice President

James P. Herman
513/919-5218
jpherman.edvardgrieg@gmail.com

Cultural Chairperson

Elisabeth P. Sonoff
859/261-5903
Epsonoff@gmail.com

Publicity

Kathy Skinner
937/667-6897
kathyaskinner@msn.com

Secretary

Liv Ramstad
(513) 543-9012
ramstad.liv@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Karl Halvorson
513/340-8338
karl.halvorson@yahoo.com

Foundation

Susan Herman
513/227-8790
susan.herman3501@gmail.com

SofN financial info:

https://www.sofn.com/financial_products/products_we_offer/

Treasurer

Pam Nelson
(513) 236-3803
nelsonkap@cinci.rr.com

Membership

Esther Charlton
513/923-3798
Esthersofn@aol.com

Sons of Norway Edvard Grieg Lodge
C/O Esther Charlton
3798 Susanna Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45251