



SONS OF NORWAY

# Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

*- First Lodge in Ohio -*

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

Mar 2024

## March Greetings from the Lodge President



If you are looking for something to do during these next few months, I would suggest the Air Force Museum near Dayton. It is FREE, parking is FREE, and the use of a scooter is FREE. It is hard to beat something like this. The dinosaur display is in the fourth building. This interactive display is built using metal parts; interesting to watch the pulleys manipulate the animals; you can change colors and sound, fun for kids and adults. The crow has movement controlled by you and different colors. And Yes, I played for a while.

While I was playing with the crow I thought of a friend's pet crow. He named it Gismo. The crow came to his bedroom window every morning during one summer. Gismo was also known to ride on the handlebars of his bicycle as he pedaled. That is

something that I would have liked to see. That is why I named this fellow crow Gismo.

At the February lodge meeting our guest speaker from Indianapolis presented a program on stave churches. The research she has done on the subject was extensive. The slide show had different styles and size of the churches. Over 1000 of these were built in Norway and now only a fraction remain. There is one replica in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Mason UMC, where we have held Julefest for the last 6 years, closed at the beginning of the year so is no longer an option for future Julefest celebrations. Esther contacted her church, Friendship UMC, and their space is available for the date we requested for this year's Julefest.

President Larry

## Birthdays

### March

Pamela Knudson[7], Natalie Bakkum[12], Elisabeth Sonoff[12], Larry Bannick[17], Rolf Bergman[19], Kathy Ann Johncox[19], Marjorie Davis[28].

### April

Sonja Kinney[1], Katherine Sanders[2], Harriet Drinan[2], Kathy Skinner[12], Raymond Sonoff[18], David Johnson[19], Sharon Smythe[22], Erin Rykhus[24], Laurie Johnson[30].

### May

Nathaniel Powers[1], Nikki Powers[14], Liv Ramstad[15], Anna Nelson[21], David Bruestle[22].

## Membership

We have some new members in the lodge. Roland Johnson has joined us after being a guest at a couple of lodge meetings. And Richard Knudson has joined up with his family—wife Pamela and sons Christopher and James.



Roland Johnson's sketch drawing from 5 Oct 1962, Stave Church at Oslo Folk Museum

*My father's family moved from Kristiania to Brooklyn in 1906. My Bestefar, Harold Julius Johnson was a commercial artist. My Bestemor, Amelia, had two children, Borgar Arnold (my father) and Lawrence (my uncle), both born in Norway. Two other uncles were born in the US.*

*My mother Solveig Olsen, the youngest of several sisters also from Kristiania, came to live with my father's family in about 1923. The Johnsons had a surplus of boys and needed a girl to help with the family.*

*My father and mother married in 1930, and then I came.*

*-Roland Johnson*

*My great grandfather emigrated from Skien, Norway in 1888, eventually settling in Wisconsin. My genealogy research has mostly hit a brick wall at that point. As I have gotten older I have been increasingly curious about my Norwegian heritage and would like to visit one day and possibly do some genealogy research in country.*

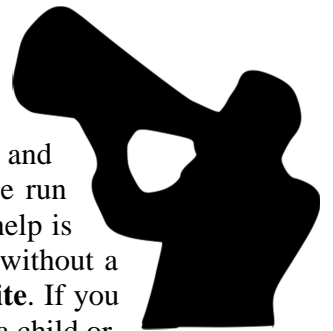
*-Richard Knudson*

Maybe you know someone that might like to join.

Esther Charlton, membership secretary

## Calling All Members!!!

The lodge is currently looking for people to get involved! We know we have many members with time and talents to share. We would love to see some new faces at meetings and stepping up to help the lodge run successfully. No amount of help is too small. We are presently without a **person to oversee the website**. If you or someone you know (even a child or grandchild) is good with technology, this could be a fit for you! Both the **Cultural Chair** and **Social Director** positions are also vacant. These could even be done by a "committee" of more than one person. If you are interested in ensuring that the meetings, programs, and special events we have all come to enjoy can continue, please reach out to a board member. As the old saying goes "Many hands make light work!"



## March Lodge Meeting

**Saturday March 9 at 2 PM**

Location is Friendship United Methodist Church 1025 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, 45215

We will use the South door. There will be a flag at the door.

Noel Julnes-Dehner one of our members will present *Summer Camp Reading: What One Person Can Do*

Bring a snack to share.

Please rsvp to Esther Charlton if you plan to attend the lodge meeting, [esthersofn@aol.com](mailto:esthersofn@aol.com)

## April Lodge Meeting

**Saturday April 20, 2:00pm**

North Central Library (meeting room)  
11109 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45231  
Location is just off the I-275 and Hamilton Ave exit.

Frank Golich will share personal stories of being an AFS student in Norway.

Beverages provided by the lodge.  
Bring a savory or sweet snack to share.

RSVP: [susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com)

## May Lodge Meeting

**Saturday May 18, 4 pm**

Syttende mai Celebration  
Home of Ed and Karen Barth  
6904 Stonington Road  
Cincinnati 45230  
4:00 Gathering/Social/Celebration  
5:00 Dinner

(more info to follow in May newsletter)

## Festivals

Each year our lodge participates in two spring festivals.

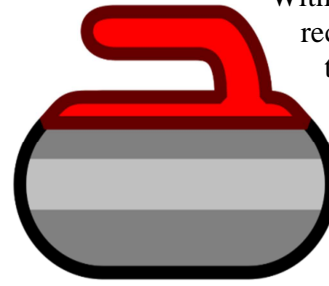
First is the **Ashville Viking Festival** the last Saturday of April. In fact the date is April 27. We will have a booth from 10 to 6 that day. It is a lot of fun meeting people. If you have any questions contact Esther.

The other festival is the **Dayton International Festival** which is now at the Greene County Fairgrounds on the edge of Xenia. This festival is May 3, 5 to 10, May 4, 11 to 10 and May 5, from 11 to 6. Basically it is the first weekend of May. Our booth serves several purposes as it is good promotion for our lodge. We sell items like lefse, mugs, t-shirts and others with a Norwegian theme. And we do often get new members at this festival.

We do need helpers at our booth. If might be interested in helping at the booth, contact Esther [esthersofn@aol.com](mailto:esthersofn@aol.com).

## Curling

Are you at all interested in giving the sport of Curling a try?



With the popularity of curling in recent Olympic Games, we thought it would be fun to have an upcoming meeting at the Cincinnati Curling Club! As it is rather costly, we have applied for a grant to help cover the costs for members.

We should hear sometime in March if this grant is approved. Stay tuned for updates!

## The Church Basement Ladies



The latest installment of the Church Basement Ladies- "Plowin' Thru" is coming to La Comedia in Springboro!

Dates are May 9 – June 16, 2024.

These musical comedies are based on the 1997 book "Growing up Lutheran" by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. They are set in a rural church in Minnesota and give a humorous look at what it was like growing up Lutheran in the Midwest.

Our lodge has done this together in the past, and it was a lot of fun!

If there is enough interest, we can organize a group to see this hilarious and touching musical together!



## Food Zoom dates:

**Friday, March 22 at 1:30pm**

Topic: Think Spring! (recipes for Spring fruits, vegetables, or other)

**Friday, April 19 at 1:30pm**

Topic to be selected.

For more information or the Zoom link please contact:

[susan.herman3501@gmail.com](mailto:susan.herman3501@gmail.com)

or call/text 513-227-8790.

## Recent events

Our January meeting on the 13th was Game Night, complete with pizza, light appetizers, desserts and great table snacks! If you have never played Bunco, it was quite a fun dice game and several of our members learned it that evening.

Thanks to Pam & Konrad Nelson for putting everything together for a fun and engaging evening. We rolled the dice, switched winning/losing partners and changed tables (some more frequently than others), talked to tablemates, laughed and ate snacks for almost three hours.



*Top Bunco winners Jim Herman and Rob Lawson*



*Members at Game Night*

The top two winners for Bunco with bragging rights until next lodge game event: Jim Herman and Rob Lawson.

February's meeting was presented by Karen Courtney of Indianapolis. Karen is a member of Circle City Lodge in Indianapolis and gave a great talk with PowerPoint on Stave Churches in Norway.

Hand built and carved out of wood starting around 900 years ago, there were around 1300 stave churches at one time (some estimates say upwards to 2000) and now only 28 remain.

Karen shared historical facts, architectural details, and members had many questions or comments to share. Thanks to Esther Charlton for putting this meeting program together.



*Stave Churches Presentation by Karen Courtney from Indianapolis Lodge*



*Members at the Stave Churches Presentation*

# Norwegian Fjord Horse

*Excerpt from "Wikipedia"*



The Fjord or Norwegian Fjord Horse (Norwegian: fjordhest) is a relatively small but very strong horse breed from the mountainous regions of western Norway. It is an agile breed of light draught horse build. It is always dun in color, with five variations in shade recognized in the breed standard. One of the world's oldest breeds, it has been used for hundreds of years as a farm horse in Norway, and in modern times is popular for its generally good temperament. It is used both as a harness horse and under saddle.

The Fjord is one of the world's oldest and purest breeds. Horses were known to exist in Norway at the end of the last ice age. It is believed that its ancestors migrated to Norway and were domesticated over 4000 years ago. Archaeological excavations at Viking burial sites suggest that horses of this type have been selectively bred for at least 2000 years. The horses were used by the Vikings as war mounts, and have been used for hundreds of years as farm animals in western Norway. Even as late as World War II, they were useful for work in mountainous terrain. Its strength, durability, and thick coat, fare well in the rough winters of Norway.

The breed has a long history of pure breeding without cross-breeding from other sources.

## Norway's Birken Ski Festival

*Excerpt from "SoN E-POST"*

March 16, 2024 will be an eventful day in the Norwegian mountains as it marks the annual Birken ski festival – also known as the Birkebeinerrennet. Athletes from all over the world travel to Norway to

participate in the various cross country ski races. The races range from professional level to recreational, making the event appealing for all ages and skill sets. The main 54 km course begins in Rena and ends at the Birkebeineren Ski Stadium in Lillehammer.



The Birken ski festival started in 1932 with 155 male participants. There have been many changes over the years, but one thing remains consistent; racers must carry a weighted backpack throughout the race. The reason for this is because the race is a tribute to the past. The race represents “the legendary escape of the Birkebeiners, Skjervald Skrukka, and Torstein Skjevla, who rescued the little prince Haakon Haakonssen from the Baglers during the Civil War in Norway in 1205/1206.” The Baglers and Birkebeiners fought for control of Norway and eventually the Birkebeiners gained control of most of Norway. However, the Birkebeiner's king died in 1202 and shortly after the king's son, Haakon Sverresson died, as well. Just months after his death, Haakon Sverresson's son was born, Haakon Haakonssen. As the future heir to the throne, the baby boy was in danger from power-hungry Baglers. To keep the boy safe, the two best Birkebeiner skiers were tasked with carrying the boy to Nidaros, now known as Trondheim. The journey was long and treacherous, but they made it safely and the boy eventually became king.

Because the race is rooted in the history of saving the future King of Norway, there are strong feelings of pride associated with it. The number of participants seems to be increasing each year. The number of registrants for 2024 has already much surpassed the 2023 numbers. It is gearing up to be an exciting year for the event.

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[https://www.sofn.com/financial\\_products/products\\_we\\_offer/](https://www.sofn.com/financial_products/products_we_offer/)

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