



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 2026

Greetings from the Lodge President

Hei all:

It was very disappointing to have to postpone this year's Julefest. The snow event on the 13th was substantial and the EG Board felt was in the best interests of the lodge to postpone the event. Consequently, we are holding the previously planned dinner and social event as a **Nyttårsfeiring** (New Year's Celebration) on January 24th. We hope to see you all there! Information:

Nyttårsfeiring 2026 Saturday, January 24th

Schedule:

- 1:00 PM – Appetizers & Butikk Shopping
- 2:00 PM – Dinner
- ~2:45 PM – Program Begins

Location:

Friendship United Methodist Church
1025 Springfield Pike
Wyoming, OH 45215

The program will be similar to the planned event for Julefest, minus the Christmas trappings and decorations, and should be a lot of fun. Please plan to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Esther Charlton (esthersofn@aol.com) by January 20 with the number of adults and children that will attend and what dish you plan to bring. As was the case for Julefest, the lodge will supply lefse, meatballs, potatoes, gravy and drinks.

In other lodge news, we submitted a grant application to the Sons of Norway Foundation to support a concert by Alisa Jordheim, whom many of you know as a Lodge member and more recently, as a rising star on the international opera stage.

If awarded, she will perform a concert of Scandinavian songs, probably in the fall. I will update you regarding the success of the grant application and possible dates.

Finally, I wish you and your families a hearty **Godt Nytt År!**

Jim Herman

Birthdays

January

Daphne Mitchell[4], Aimee Russell[4], Aaron Nelson[5], Connie Holmen[10], Anna Reeder[11], Kenneth Leque[15], Anders Russell[15], Carol Carpenter[17], Kelly Lawson[28], Linda Welin[29].

February

Nancy Johnson[2], Lorna Jean Church[5], Ed Barth[6], Shirley Hodek[6], Tony Torgersen[11], Lee Luiso[12], Adam Sokol[14], Karl Halvorson[21], James D. Herman[22], Myron Hetzler[23].

March

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

Announcement

At our last board meeting we discussed ways to get the word out about SON and make our presence known in the community. Some suggestions were setting up information tables, and of course fuzzy Vikings for sale) at festivals and other community events. Another idea was to go out as a group, wearing SON t-shirts and pick up trash in a local park or perhaps volunteer at the Flying Pig race. If you have any ideas bring them to the next meeting on January 24th, or contact Kathy Skinner.

Upcoming Meetings

Norwegian Language Class

Wednesday, January 14th at 10:30 am EST

Askeladden Lodge warmly thanks all who participated in the fun language class in 2025. The class thoroughly reviewed chapters 1 and 2 for a strong footing in vocabulary, listening and speaking skills.

Class will resume with chapter 3 on Wednesday, January 14^h via Zoom. Once again, the class uses the 3rd edition of *Sett i gang* textbook by Kari Lie Dorer and Nancy Aarsvold. The book's subtitle is, "An Introductory Norwegian Curriculum".

Askeladden is thrilled that so many from the district are engaged with this opportunity!

The Zoom link will be sent to you either the day of or the day before the class.

Please RSVP you interest to askeladden.lodge@gmail.com . For questions, please email astutekaren@gmail.com. Giddy already!

FOOD ZOOM

Friday, January 30th at 1:30pm (EST)

TOPIC: "Hearty Winter Dishes"
Soups, Stews, or Other Warm Dishes for Cold Days!

We share recipes with each other on the monthly topic, discuss, ask questions and spend an hour of fun conversing over food and stories.

If you are interested in joining us, please email susan.herman3501@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link prior to the class.

Nyttårsfeiring

January 24 See Additional Information in "Greetings from the Lodge President" on page one.

February's Meeting

February 28, 2:30

The lodge is happy to have Stella Langset, an exchange student from Norway, present a program for us along with her liaison from AFS, Cate Sherron.

The meeting will be at the Blue Ash Library meeting room, 4911 Cooper Rd Cincinnati, 45242. The time will be 2:30.

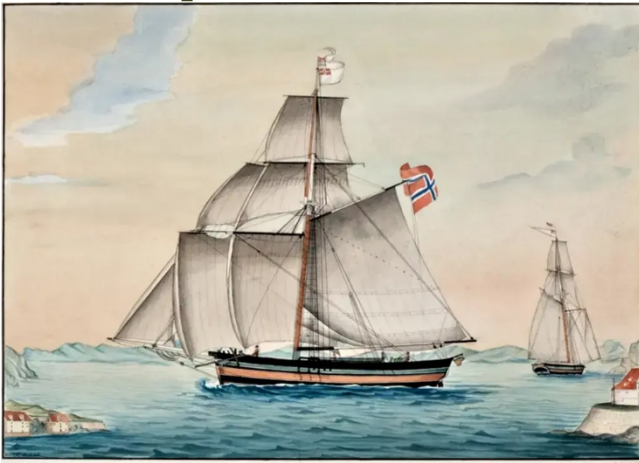
Bring a snack to share. Please rsvp to Esther at esthersofn@aol.com or 513-923-3798.

Past Events

November Ski for Light meeting.
(photo courtesy of lodge member JoAnn Krugh).



The Sloopers Have Arrived



This painting of the sloop Selen is the closest we get to a picture of the Restauration because that sloop was never actually depicted. Most later illustrations of Restauration have been modeled on this painting. Artist: Ole Johnsen Sebøy (1791-1843)

Some of you may recall the presentation of the Restauration at our lodge meeting in April, 2025.

This article is after the relative recent voyage; however, it is of interest to understand how all of us eventually arrived in this great country. The articles are from various sources.

On October 9, 1825—exactly 200 years before this post was published! —the Restauration landed in New York harbor with all 53 Sloopers (including a new baby) healthy and ready to become American immigrants. The arrival of this boatload of Norwegians, and in such a small shop, was a sensation in New York. The New York Daily Advertiser reported on October 12, 1825:

“A vessel has arrived at this port with emigrants from Norway. ... The appearance of such a party of strangers, coming from so distant a country and in a vessel of a size ill calculated for a voyage across the Atlantic, could not but excite an unusual degree of interest. They have had a voyage of 14 weeks and are all in good health and spirits. An enterprise like this argues a good deal of boldness in the master of the vessel as well as an adventurous spirit in the passengers, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a little town in the southwestern extremity of Norway, near Cape Stavanger.”

Unfortunately for the new arrivals, the American custom officials also took note of these remarkable passengers. In fact, they were flabbergasted. There were laws about the relative size of a ship and its

cargo and passengers. Restauration didn't even come close to meeting these regulations.

The Sloopers had almost no money or food when they arrived and suddenly their ship and cargo were being confiscated by the authorities, and they were issued a \$3,150 fine—more money than the whole group would make in the next 10 years combined. The plan had been to make money for traveling and living expenses by selling the Restauration and the Swedish iron they had stored aboard, so this turn of events put them in real dire straits.

Fortunately, President John Quincy Adams intervened, and the people were soon released and eventually pardoned. Most of the group travelled on to Kendall County, New York, and the land that Cleng Peerson had arranged for them.

The Cleng Peerson Memorial Highway is a section of Farm to Market (FM) 219 in Texas, running between the towns of Clifton and Cranfills Gap in Bosque County. It was named in honor of Cleng Peerson, known as the "Father of Norwegian Immigration to America," who settled in the area during his final years.

Norwegian settlers in and around the community, who were mostly Lutheran, built St. Olaf Kirke (kirke is Norwegian for "church") in a rural area just outside Cranfills Gap. St. Olaf Kirke, commonly referred to as The Rock Church, is a small Lutheran church located in the unincorporated rural community of Norse, Texas. Among the pioneers in Norse was Cleng Peerson.

While the story of the Sloopers continues into present day through the lives of Sloopers descendants, the Restauration's October 9, 1825, arrival to the United States not only marked the end of their voyage across the Atlantic, but also the beginning of their journey in a new country.

Article by VP Larry Bannick

Princess Kristina of Tunsberg



Statue of Infanta Christina made by artist Brit Sørensen in Covarrubias, Spain

In the year 1257, a 23-year-old Norwegian princess left her homeland to marry in Spain. The groom was not yet selected. The princess's father, King Håkon Håkonsson (HAWK'ohn HAWK 'Ohn 'sohn) was a powerful monarch, held in high esteem by the princes of Europe. It was considered an honor that his daughter, Kristina (Kris 'TEEN 'ah), was chosen candidate for a political marriage. When the king of Spain sent representatives to Norway, offering a union between Kristina and one of the king's four brothers, King Håkon accepted. Kristina was free to decide which of the brothers she liked best. And so, furnished more splendidly than any other Norwegian princess before her, she set off for Spain in a long-ship, accompanied by a hundred distinguished men.



Cristina's departure to Spain, by Nils Bergslien

Their first stop was Normandy, France. From there, Kristina traveled on horseback to Spain. It was a triumphal procession for the princess, who was received with grand ceremonies wherever she stopped along the route. On Christmas Day in 1257, she reached Burgos in Spain and was presented to

the king's four brothers. One of them had a harelip, said to be caused by his passion for hunting. Another brother had rebelled against his father and was out of the question as a candidate for marrying an honorable princess. The third was destined to be an archbishop and expected to live in celibacy. The fourth, Filipus, was a master of all sports and games. He was a brave man who hunted alone for wild boars and bears. The king liked Filipus best, and so did Kristina and her advisors. That settled the matter and the wedding was celebrated Sunday after Easter in 1258 with all the pomp and circumstance that the Spanish court could muster.



The tomb of Christina of Norway in the cloister of the collegiate church.

In the 1960s Spanish scientists worked on identifying the remnants of a woman buried in a great sarcophagus in the royal mausoleum in Covarrubias. It turned out to be Kristina. And the Norwegians took new interest in their almost-forgotten princess: What had happened to her? Instead of the green hills of her homeland, the fresh air and outdoor life, Kristina had to cope with the dry heat of the Spanish plains and the Spanish court, which was extremely formal and restrictive, especially for women. She lived for only four short years after her marriage before dying in 1262. The city where she had spent most of her life—Tønsberg, on the southeastern coast of Norway—chose Kristina as its patron when the 1,000th anniversary of the city was celebrated in 1971. So symbolically, Kristina returned to Tønsberg, where an annual festival is celebrated in her honor. An historic play is staged every summer right beneath the cliff where Kristina stood as a little girl, overlooking the fjord and the pleasant countryside around Tønsberg.

Article from Son's of Norway Heritage Programs

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