

# The Posten

February 2018

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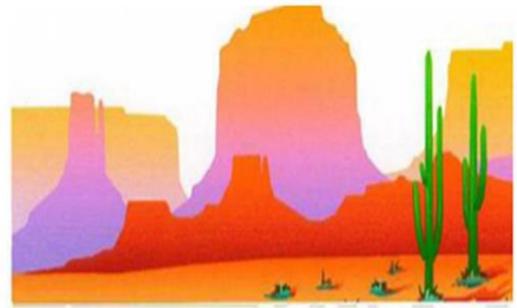
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**Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133**  
**P O Box 1716**  
**Scottsdale, AZ 85252-1716**



## SONS OF NORWAY

### Desert Fjord Lodge



### President's Column

Our congratulations to Overtro Fjell Lodge on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Members of Desert Fjord were invited to join them for the celebration on January 26<sup>th</sup> ... I was glad some of us were able to make it. It was a happy, festive occasion complete with the reminiscing of a humble beginning with 20 members in 1992, a delicious meal and an accordion band playing Norwegian favorites.

By now 2018 is off to a good start. We look forward to an important Heritage and Culture meeting this month. Erik Rignes will present a program about famous Norwegian polar explorers. Also, we'll have a Norwegian Cream Cake (Bløtkake) contest: six have volunteered, and a five-judge panel will decide the winner. This will be dessert to a fine Nordic menu being planned! Membership milestone pins will be given to members, recognizing their years of Sons of Norway membership.

You may have heard that an exploratory committee has been meeting over the past couple months to investigate the feasibility of Desert Fjord Lodge merging with Overtro Fjell Lodge. The committee's work is mostly completed. Some information about their findings is found here in this Posten on page five. Please study this material and come to our February meeting where additional information will be provided for you. It's very important that you know about this and have a clear understanding about what's being considered.

Please note that our monthly meeting is scheduled February 18<sup>th</sup>, the third Sunday, because the February 11<sup>th</sup> concert of the St Olaf Concert Choir conflicts with our normal meeting time. They perform at 3 pm at Camelback Bible Church in Paradise Valley. If you're interested, you may purchase tickets by going online to <https://wp.stolaf.edu/stolaf-choir/>. (once there, click on **Tour Tickets**)

I look forward to seeing many of you at our February Heritage and Culture meeting. It's at these meetings that we celebrate our Norwegian heritage in program and menu. We have lots to celebrate!



If you'd like to be a Desert Fjord delegate to the SON District 6 Convention being held June 10-14, 2018 in Rohnert Park, CA, please let me know. March 15th is the deadline for delegate selection. (the lodge assists with travel/lodging expenses)

*Velkommen*

# Heritage and Cultural Meeting—February 18th at 2 PM

Masonic Lodge, 2531 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale

Program Presentation by ERIK RINGNES

## Biography

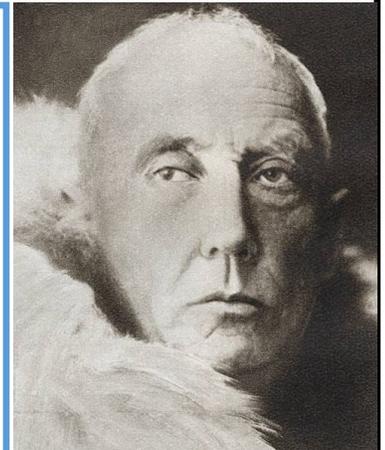
Erik was born in Oslo 1959. He was active in sports: sailing, skiing, orienteering, dog-sled racing and his big passion, hang gliding. Erik drove a beer truck at the Ringnes Brewery, but after two years in the Norwegian Army went off the USA to study Aerospace Engineering. After marrying Valerie in Tennessee, the couple moved to Arizona and had three kids and a dog. In 1996 they moved to Norway and lived in Tønsberg for 4 years. The kids and Valerie all became fluent in Norwegian. Back in Arizona, Erik picked up again with Honeywell and has worked many years as a flight test engineer. Erik continues to be active, climbing Mt Whitney in CA last summer. At 14,505 ft Mt Whitney is the highest mountain in the contiguous 48 states. Erik became a proud grandfather last fall. His second daughter is engaged and his son graduated from college. Erik has visited Norway many times in recent years, the last time to honor his dad's memory. He lives a busy life, but cherishes time with family and friends most of all.

## Norwegian Polar Explorers



**Fritjof Nansen**

Fritjof Nansen was featured as a Google Search doodle on his 156<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. Nansen is arguably the most famous Norwegian Polar explorer, but that's not all. He was also a scientist, an author, an artist, a family man, an ambassador and a statesman. However, Roald Amundsen achieved what his mentor never did. He was the first man on the South Pole and also made the North Pole, although in an airship. Nansen died famous and was given a state funeral with a parade through Oslo. Amundsen struggled with bankruptcy and vanished in the polar ice and has never been found. This story is mostly about these two explorers, but also about the vessels



**Roald Amundsen**



they used. There is a connection to modern times with the last chapter still not written which I will cover. The talk features lots of pictures and visuals and opportunities to ask questions.



# Heritage and Cultural Meeting—February 18th at 2 PM

**Menu:** Delectable, fresh array of Smørrebrød (open-faced sandwiches)

- *Herring & Beet*
- *Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese*
- *Tuna Salad with Cabbage Slaw*
- *Egg Salad*
- *Rotisserie Chicken Salad*
- *Danish Ham & Cheese*
- *Bacon Blue Cheese & Apple*



**Dessert:** Home-made Norwegian Cream Cake

Coffee, tea, and water served

**Price:** \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children

**Reservations:** Via the link [online](#) (click "online")

or call Phyllis Bergo by January 12th! (480-812-9762)

Make your check payable to Sons of Norway & mail to Phyllis Bergo:

2589 East Erie Ct, Gilbert AZ, 85295

**For those interested in how the cost of our lodge's meals is calculated:**

Cost of food

Small catering fee which includes purchasing, preparing, serving the food and cleaning up

Rental for the Masonic Lodge which is approximately \$5 per person per meeting

**Positive ways to help the lodge stay financially sound:**

If you have made a reservation and cannot come, please cancel your reservation. A catering fee is assessed for each reservation whether you attend or not.

If you come for the just the program, why not donate \$5 to help cover the rental hall fee?

*(Per Roger Espeland: the IRS takes a dim view of any non-profit serving a meal for less cost than surrounding restaurants, so we can't serve meals at a loss but it's okay to make a profit for the benefit of the lodge.)*

## **Business Meeting**

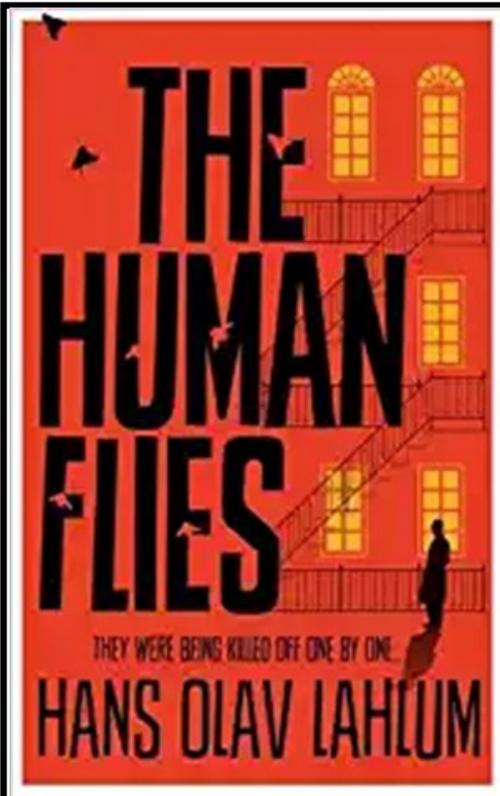
February 3rd at 1:00 pm

Scottsdale United Methodist Church

4140 N Miller Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

## **Genealogy**

There is no Genealogy Meeting scheduled at the present time. Please note that any meeting will be given notice by email and/or in future newsletters. If you wish to be added to the email list, contact—Ross Berg: 1aznorski@cox.net.



This gripping, evocative and ingenious mystery pays homage to the great Agatha Christie. As clues are uncovered and riddles solved, *The Human Flies* will plunge readers into the past: into a world of deceit and betrayal, revenge and the very darkest murder.

## VIKING BOOK and WINE CLUB

We meet at 3 pm on

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at:

5848 E Hummingbird Lane  
Paradise Valley

We'll discuss THE HUMAN FLIES by Hans Olav Lahlum. Bring Viking nibbles & beverage.

RSVP Jana (480) 326-2927



### Norwegian Cream Cake Contest

On any celebration table in Norway you can find a layer cake (Bløtkake). This is just berries and cream between layers of vanilla sponge. It has a similarity with the Norwegian soup Lapskaus – anything goes. Whatever you have in the pantry or fridge will do – canned peaches, fresh strawberries or frozen blueberries. You can even use any type of jam. There's also a tossup between cream and custard between the layers, or a little of both. You decide!

**There is only ONE rule: *you must bake the entire cake from scratch!!***

Six volunteers have come forward. Each make a traditional Norwegian Cream Cake (from scratch) for our February meeting. A panel of 5 judges will taste and decide on the winner. Prizes will be awarded for all entries. (*I guess all of our contestants will be winners!*) After the judging everyone gets a piece of cake!

## BUILDING THE FUTURE – TALKING MERGER

Members from both Overtro Fjell Lodge and Desert Fjord Lodge requested that an exploratory committee be formed to investigate the feasibility of merging the two lodges. But why would merging the two lodges be a good idea? Because some members may not understand such a move and others may be opposed to it, we understand that what we propose needs to appreciate those sensitivities. Maybe it would help if we discussed the rationale in support of this venture.

Due to both lodges' experience of diminishing and aging membership, it becomes increasingly difficult to fill officer positions with those who are willing and able. And those who hold a series of officer positions often suffer from burnout. A larger pool of potential candidates would ease this situation and, at the same time, would deal with the crisis of leadership.

A merger of the two lodges would mean larger activities – e.g. a larger Genealogy meeting, a larger monthly meeting, etc. Bigger is not necessarily better, but larger turnout at events would of itself generate greater interest in what's going on and would also tend to attract more people to join. A bigger impact in the community would give us more success in reaching out. While good attendance is a sign of life, good programming and good outreach by members to bring visitors would certainly be key components, too.

And not least is the encouragement we could bring each other through merging our membership. At present we fight our separate battles in our own corner of the Valley. Joining ranks offers new life and purpose in the face of current challenges.

Now it is up to you, the members, to vote for what you think is best for our two Lodges. Whatever the outcome, keep in mind that at least we tried to preclude a possible closure of our Lodges

### TIMELINE FOR POTENTIAL MERGER OF TWO LODGES



#### 2018

- **JANUARY**  
Exploratory committee completes preliminary study.
- **FEBRUARY**  
Committee report published in the respective newsletters and Presidents report to their respective members.
- **MARCH**  
Presented at regular lodge meeting and voted upon by both lodges.  
(May end at this point with negative vote from either Lodge)
- **APRIL - MAY**  
Normal functions for both Lodges.  
This packet prepared for presentation to the District Six Board and to SON International Board prior to their spring meeting also requesting a name change of Overtro Fjell to Dovre effective January 01, 2019.
- **JUNE – AUGUST**  
Normal schedule and/or events will occur for this time period by each Lodge.
- **SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER**  
Joint meetings of both Lodges will take place at a new location.

#### 2019

- Newly formed Phoenix Lodge 6-153 is now fully operational on January 1, 2019
- Each former Lodge will prepare their respective D17s and 990s plus any other required reports for the year 2018. This will also be the dissolution of Desert Fjord 6-133.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS by Floyd Downs, Membership Secretary

We sadly begin this month's message with notice of the recent death of Gil Witsoe. Gil had been in failing health for several months due to debilitating afflictions, but had remained active in lodge affairs. Our sincere sympathies are fully extended to his wife Brenda who we hope will continue to gather among us.

On the cheerier side we note that the Membership Retention Fund (MRF) has renewed membership for Paul Wold, a founding member of Desert Fjord Lodge. Paul is currently 99 years of age, and will celebrate turning 100 in April. Rah for Paul!

At the January lodge meeting I asked for donations to the MRF. I am happy to report that \$19 was received, although the need for further donations remains if the fund is to stay viable. I will have the donation bottle available again at the February meeting.

Also, last month in this column I listed members due to receive milestone pins (signifying SON membership at 5-year intervals). I believe that these pins will be presented at this month's meeting. We hope that, as much as possible, each recipient, listed below, will be present to receive his/her pin.

**5 YEARS:** Hannah Bergo, Cortland Brovitz.

**10 YEARS:** Ed Bergo, Phyllis Bergo, Astrid Hanson, William Jacobson, Heather Loomis, Jackson Loomis, Lois Ripley, Lois Sakkas.

**15 YEARS:** Floyd Downs, Elizabeth Lenci-Downs, Laura Riddle.

**20 YEARS:** Vernon Dahlke, Lynn Eide, Roger Espeland

**30 YEARS:** Neal Sundeen, Richard Westby.

**35 YEARS:** Mary Steinnes.



Please keep spreading the news of the benefits of Sons of Norway via Desert Fjord membership to all those of Scandinavian heritage. Yes, we accept the Swedes, the Finns, and any other friendly folk who wish to join with us.

As I've noted previously, keeping our own databases current is an ongoing challenge, especially when members do not report changes directly to us or if some of their incoming e-mail messages may be deleted or allocated to spam. This includes telephone number changes. I've heard that some phone numbers as currently listed in the SON membership roster are no longer valid. A similar reminder pertains to postal addresses. Please let us know of any changes so that we can maintain effective communication with you.

I can be contacted in person during a Desert Fjord meeting, by e-mail at [lenci.downs@cox.net](mailto:lenci.downs@cox.net) or by phone at (480) 816-3875.

## February Birthdays

Amelia L Berger 3  
Hiro L Cummings\* 15  
Sharon R Peterson 17



Lois J Sakkas 18  
Solomon A Isaacson\* 26

\* Heritage Member

*Gratulerer Med Dagen – Happy Birthday !!!*



# NORDIC

## • SONGS •

MARCH 2 – 4, 2018

Experience the clear light of a Scandinavian sky as the Chorale journeys north. In a program inspired by Nordic folklore, kings, castles, and unicorns all make appearances, along with the breathtaking beauty of the Aurora Borealis. Join us as we perform charming settings from the master composers of Finland, Sweden, Estonia, and, of course, Norway's Ola Gjeilo.

**MARCH 2, 2018** | Friday at 7:30 pm  
American Lutheran Church – *West Valley*

**MARCH 3, 2018** | Saturday at 7:30 pm  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral – *Central Phoenix*

**MARCH 4, 2018** | Sunday at 3:00 pm  
Camelback Bible Church – *Paradise Valley*



Guest Conductor  
JOSHUA HABERMANN

*Tickets On Sale Now*

PHOENIXCHORALE.ORG | BOX OFFICE 602.253.2224

**Business Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2018****Scottsdale United Methodist Church, 4140 North Miller Rd, Scottsdale, Arizona**

Meeting called to order by Jonathan Walters at 1:03 PM.

- In attendance: Arlys Medlicott, Elizabeth Lenci-Downs, Floyd Downs, Jonathan Walters, Jana Peterson, Nina Poe, Janis Johnson and Ed Bergo.
- Quorum (4+) was met? Yes

1. **DECEMBER MINUTES**: Arlys made a motion to accept the December 2017 business meeting minutes as published in the Posten. Motion seconded by Jana and passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – The lodge ends 2017 with \$2191.79 in its Wells Fargo checking account. The two Sons of Norway Foundation investments are projected to earn \$1,000 to \$1,100 in 2018. An additional \$500 remaining in a separate account to use to fund scholarships next year.

The Jul Bazaar income / sales were deposited directly by Ali and totaled \$792. Janis will review the deposit with Ali later this month.

**2. COMMITTEE REPORTS****Library**

- Arlys has ordered some fiction books. She is looking into purchasing some additional books. It was suggested that she announce her interest in the Posten in getting more books by “Norwegian queen of crime” Karin Fossum. Members might contribute them. She’s considering creating a fiction only table for members to check out during meetings.

**Cultural/Program**

- The January meeting will feature the Scandinavian Dancers. The Committee is looking to also showing a ten-minute humorous video about lutefisk for January or February.
- The February meeting will be a Cream Cake Contest. Five volunteers will judge the cake contest. There may also be a short video shown. The February meeting has been moved to the 18<sup>th</sup> because of a conflict with the St Olaf Choir concert on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- In March Martin Tesli, commander of the Luke Air Force base Norwegian training contingent has been asked to speak.
- In April, Per Aannestad has been asked to present a program on a heavy water production plant.
- June would be mostly a social event with a possible Rick Steve’s Norway travel video.

**Membership** – Additional details are in the Posten Membership Matters column.

- There are 129 members. Floyd handed out a report from headquarters. He also mentioned that Gil Witsoe had died recently. Floyd will award membership pins at the January or February H&C meeting.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- The Committee looking into a possible merger with the Mesa lodge is drafting a statement to appear in the next Posten and Mesa’s newsletter. This would detail the vote required to move forward with the merger. Possible meeting place locations are being investigated.
- Four lodge delegates to the District Six Convention in Rohnert Park, California (June 10-14, 2018) should be identified and confirmed by Desert Fjord members in January or February. Potential delegates should let Jonathan know that they would like to attend this convention.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- Viking Book and Wine Club will be meeting January 6, 2018 at 3 PM.
- A 2018 calendar year lodge budget was presented by the Budget Committee. Floyd moved and Ed seconded the approval. The motion passed.

Motion made by Jana and seconded by Janis to adjourn at 2:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Bergo, Acting Secretary for Desert Fjord Lodge January 9, 2018.



**Pictured here -**

Desert Fjord members, Jana Peterson and Howard Barikmo, were at Sol Byer’s monthly meeting January 17th. Jana presented an interesting program about what she experienced at three Viking museums she visited last summer: Vikingaheimer in Reyjkavik, Iceland; Vikingskiphuset in Oslo; and Lofotr in Borg, Lofoten Islands. A grant from Desert Fjord lodge helped fund her trip. In addition, her beautiful art work was available for sale at the meeting.

Howard was there to donate a check of \$921.52 on behalf of the disbanded Torskeklubben in Sun City ... gladly received by Sol Byer lodge’s president, Siri Poehls. Our members do get around!

**District Six President: Mary Beth Ingvaldstad**

District Six is made up of the following states:

Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Hawaii  
 - Website: [www.sofn6.org](http://www.sofn6.org)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/377019032437840/>

**Zone Seven Director: Benny Jo Hinchey**

Zone Seven is made up of lodges in the following states:

**Arizona:** Scottsdale #133-Desert Fjord; Sun City #134-Sol Byer; Mesa #153-Overtro Fjell; Flagstaff #167- Nordic Pines; and Yuma #168-Sola

**Utah:** Salt Lake City #83-Leif Erikson

**OTHER SONS OF NORWAY LODGES IN ARIZONA**

**Nordic Pines 6-167** - 3rd Sunday, Family

Resource Ctr., Flagstaff, AZ

**Overtro Fjell 6-153** - 3rd Saturday

at 11:00 am, Fountain East Clubhouse,

303 S. Recker Rd., Mesa, AZ

**Sola 6-168** - 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm,

Faith Lutheran Church,

2215 S. 8th Ave., Yuma, AZ

**Sol Byer 6-134** - 3rd Saturday at

11:00 am, Elks Lodge, 10760 Union

Hills Dr., Sun City, AZ

**LODGES IN OTHER STATES**

Go to: <https://members.sofn.com/lodgeDirectory/>

Most post their monthly newsletter

on their lodge website.

**OTHER CONTACTS**

Honorary Norwegian Consul:

Alex Boemark



### Officers of Desert Fjord Lodge

**President:** Jonathan Walters— (347) 801-3345

**Vice-President:**

**Secretary:** Anita Thompson— (480) 717-4103

**Treasurer:** Janis Johnson— janisjoan41@gmail.com

**Auditors:** Dirk Walter and Floyd Downs

**Box Tops for Education:** Sharon Clunk

**Counselor:** Ed Bergo

**Cultural Directors:** Jana Peterson, Nina Poe, Laurie Peterson

**Desert Fjord Boutique:** Ali Berg-Anderson

**Distribution:** Janis Johnson

**Education and Scholarships:** Elizabeth Lenci-Downs, Ross Berg, Nina Poe

**Foundation Directors:** Gordon Peterson, Paul Lindbloom

**Greeters:** Floyd Downs and Ross Berg

**Historian:** Roger Espeland

**Librarians:** A Medlicott— (602) 284-8523, Elizabeth Lenci-Downs

**Marshals:** Knut Haldorsen and Peter Flanders

**Membership/Financial Sec'y:** Floyd Downs— (480) 816-3875

**Posten Editor:** Laura K. Ontiveros— (602) 694-0532

**Publicity Director/Public Relations:** Janis Johnson

**Reservations:** Phyllis Bergo

**Social Directors:** Berit Miltun— (480) 966-2009, Nellie Lokken

**Sports:**

**Sunshine:** Dawn Walter— (480) 860-9192

**Trustees:** (1yr) K Haldorsen; (2yr) P Flanders; (3yr) Norm Jenson

**Tubfrim:** Lois Ripley and Lois Saakas

**Webmaster:** Jan Loomis

Hello everyone! (Or at least those that read page nine)

Happy season of love, whether you are spending this holiday with your beloved spouse, significant other, dog, or half-priced bag of fancy chocolates the day after... there is something for everybody!

Kidding aside. Valentine's Day is meant to be not just a commercial holiday, but a time you stop and show appreciation for the ones you love. While I'm not around the meetings much due to working for my church and living a ways away, I want you all to know I love each and every one of you for your commitment to culture, benefitting the community, and sharing your talents. Thank you for adopting a part Swede/maybe Norwegian like me into the group so I could learn so much about Scandinavian culture.

Enjoy who and what you love, time is finite and it's better to love and lose than never love at all.

Love always, Editor Laura



"Like" us on Facebook to receive interesting Desert Fjord Lodge and Sons of Norway, District Six newsfeeds.

Control+ Left Click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Desert-Fjord-Lodge-6-133-Sons-of-Norway-563052183744742/>

### Mission Statement:

To promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway; to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries; and to provide quality insurance and financial products for our members.

FROM:

Desert Fjord Lodge, Sons of Norway

P.O. Box 1716

Scottsdale AZ 85252-1716

STAMP

TO:

Please return to sender

If not deliverable

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Sons of Norway International Headquarters Website:

<https://www.sofn.com/>