

The  
Posten  
December 2016

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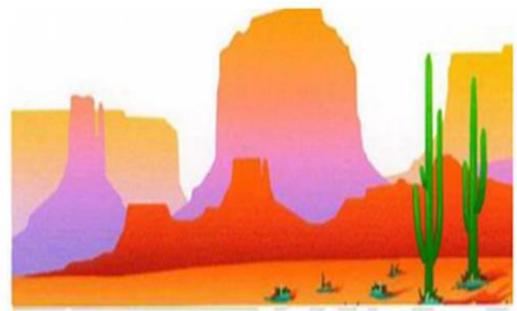
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Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133  
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SONS OF  
NORWAY

Desert Fjord Lodge



President's Column

by Jonathan Walters, President

Thanksgiving – Christmas – New Year make for gatherings of friends and families, concerts, holiday parties and events of every kind. It's a fun time with good food at every turn, but it's a busy time. One's schedule gets so full that it becomes a challenge to choose where to go and spend your time. That's what happened for our lodge ... it became a problem to schedule our monthly meeting with everything else going on. Finally, we sadly chose not to hold a formal meeting in December.



What else is going on? In this newsletter please find details about several opportunities to enjoy your holiday with Norwegians in the Phoenix area. Whether you buy a ticket to Overtro Fjell Lodge's Lutefisk Meatball Dinner, whether you join the Mesa lodge for their Julebord or whether you attend Nordmanns-Forbundet's annual Norsk Juletreffest – I'm sure you'll find yourself in good company having a great time.

Also, please don't forget the Musical Instrument Museum's signature event "Experience Scandinavia". If you've never been there, this is an excellent time to go check out the world's only museum of its kind. They have superb exhibits from every corner of the globe. For this weekend in December their focus will be on Scandinavia, even serving Scandinavian fare in their café. Come and see the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Phoenix who will perform both days; other groups will perform as well.

I was glad to see some winter visitors at our November Heritage and Culture meeting. Our meetings have been well attended this year, thanks to the hard work of our Cultural Directors and those who plan our menu (thank you Berit and Shannon). Phyllis Bergo will be stepping down as Cultural Director – thank you, Phyllis, for your selfless efforts and important contributions to Desert Fjord Lodge! Jana Peterson continues as our sole Cultural Director; she'll continue doing a great job. And I shouldn't forget to mention appreciation for the work of those who call members and remind them of our meetings. I look forward to our monthly meetings in the New Year ... and you should, too.

Desert Fjord Lodge wishes to congratulate our new editor, Laura Kuegemann, on her graduation (Bachelor's of Science in Health Science & Certified Nonprofit Professional) December 12<sup>th</sup> from Arizona State University!

May we, each and every one, have a safe, memorable and blessed holiday season. **God Jul!!**

*Velkommen*

## No Monthly Meetings this month!

Due to the nature of scheduling around the holidays, there will be no December Heritage and Culture meeting. Also, Desert Fjord Lodge won't be holding a Business Meeting or Genealogy Meeting. Viking Book & Wine Club will not meet in December either.

**Regular meetings will resume in January**



### Viking Book and Wine Club

will meet at 3 pm January 14th

5848 E Hummingbird Lane, Paradise Valley

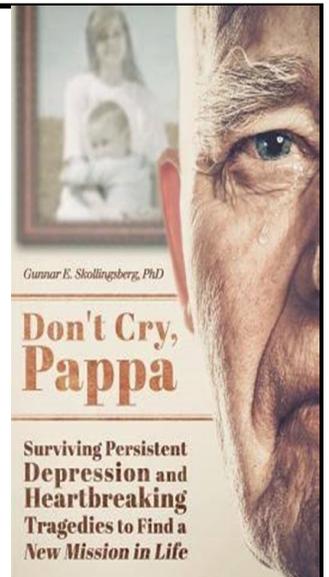
RSVP Jana (480) 326-2927

Over the holiday season we are reading "Don't Cry, Pappa" by Gunnar Skollingsberg.

The youngest child of a Norwegian immigrant family to the United States, Gunnar grew up with feelings of alienation and loneliness. He later developed a persistent, profound depression which was only alleviated upon the birth of his first child. This little baby boy became the joy and purpose of Gunnar's life.

Parents live in perpetual, subconscious fear of losing a child. For this author, this ultimate nightmare has come true not once, but twice; a tragic car accident took the life of his two year-old son, and - many years later - his 15 year-old daughter drowned while on a camping trip.

In his moving, new memoir, Don't Cry, Pappa, Gunnar Skollingsberg chronicles his journey from devastating, suicidal depression to tentative, fragile healing. Fortunately, he was able recover the drive to live beyond his children's deaths. He eventually refocused his life's purpose to bring moments of happiness and laughter to other children.



# Julebord

Desert Fjord Lodge members have been invited to Overtro Fjell Lodge's Julebord!  
Mark your calendar for 11 am, Saturday, December 17th

Location: The Clubhouse at Fountain East, 303 South Recker Road, Mesa, AZ

Please bring a favorite Scandinavian dish or dessert to share.  
*(This is a free event.)*

**SONS  
OF  
NORWAY**



**OVERTRO FJELL  
LODGE 6-153**

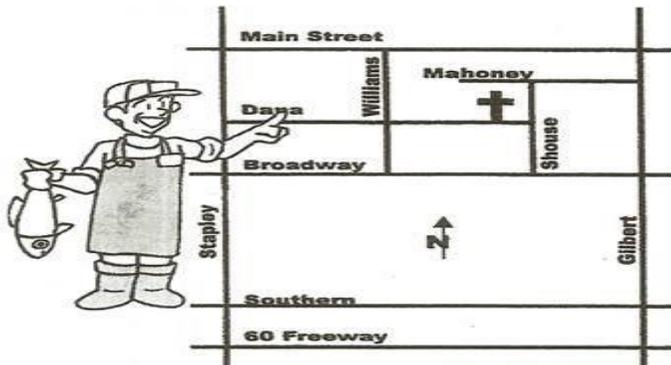


## LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER Saturday, December 3, 2016

Scandinavian Music by Sylvia and Carl

**TICKETS:** \$18.00  
**Seating's:** 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm  
**Location:** St. Peter Lutheran Church  
1844 E Dana Ave, Mesa  
West of Gilbert & So. of Main

**MENU**  
Lutefisk & Meatballs  
Potatoes & Gravy  
Carrots Pickled Beets  
Lefse & Butter  
Rice Pudding & Krumkaka  
Coffee



Join Sons of Norway  
for only \$30.50  
**(a discount of \$18)**

after paying \$18  
for Lutefisk Dinner

Pay for Membership at Door  
(Applies for new members only)

### Bake Sale

For Information contact: [lutefiskdinner2016@yahoo.com](mailto:lutefiskdinner2016@yahoo.com). Mail check to: Wendy Winkelman, 6525 Water Valley Rd, Cobden, IL 62920, (yes, mail to Illinois) along with the serving time you would like to attend and a self addressed stamped envelope. Also enclose your email address. Please order tickets early.



## The Musical Instrument Museum—“Experience Scandinavia” December 3rd and 4th

Take a tour of Scandinavia without having to leave the valley. Through music and musical instruments the MIM is showcasing Scandinavian culture and music just in time for the holidays.

There will be food, live performances, traditional music, crafts, and more for the whole family.

Follow the link below for more information!

<https://mim.org/exhibits/signature-events/experience-scandinavia-2/>



### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS by Floyd Downs, Membership Secretary

Good news! We welcome two new members to our lodge, Jack and Diane Peterson. Jack was our program presenter at the October meeting, and Jack and Diane are the parents of Jana, our ever active and valued member of Desert Fjord. So now they will be able to keep a closer watch on their daughter!!!

While both good and sad together comes the news that Dorothy Williams, our 25-year and most treasured member has moved to be with her daughter in California. Dorothy, we will miss your faithful presence at our future meetings. God Speed!

Although the Milestone pins did not arrive in time for our November meeting, they are here now and we will award them at the meeting in January. The list of recipients was printed in the November Posten. Most notable was the 45 year SON membership of Reidun Daeffler, who joined Sons of Norway in 1971, a fact that I announced at the November meeting.

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 are 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.



**Sunday, December 11**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

9424 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

*FREE Admission*

Come and celebrate the holiday season with one of **Nordmanns-Forbundet's** most popular events – their annual **Norsk Juletreff**! Join in on the fun with singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, kids' crafts, raffle prizes, and our traditional Norwegian *julegrøt*, sweets, and more.

*A special North Pole visitor will have treats for the children!*

Please bring your favorite Norwegian holiday food or dessert to this potluck event. See you there — **God Jul!**

## December Birthdays

Jonathan B Loomis	3rd
Emily N Brown	4th
Jana Louise Peterson	4th
Neal S Sundeen	10th
Elizabeth A Berger	17th



Carol L Blackwell	18th
Julie Louise Westby	18th
Donald N Steinnes	23th
David I Berger	30th
Phyllis Dahlk Bergo	31st

**Gratulerer Med Dagen**

### 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.**

## “Checking Out” the Desert Fjord Library

By Arlys Medicott

When Desert Fjord has their next Heritage and Culture meeting in January, please notice the following ...

### DVD/CD's in our Library:

A Norse Fiddle at Home - CD

A Norse Fiddle at the Wedding - CD

Edvard Grieg: Moscow Symphony - CD

The Bernstons, Norwegian American Folk Music - CD

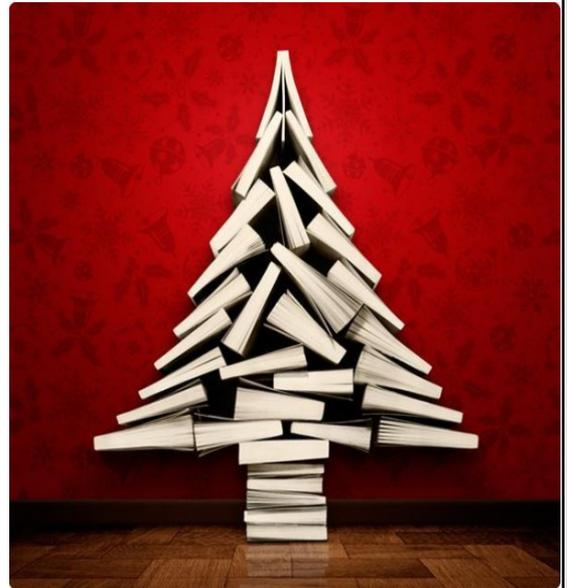
### Books:

Grieg: A short biography with music scores

Grieg's Life Through his Letters

There are several Christmas CD's and DVD's. Also, there are several books about Christmas customs and cookbooks.

Think about checking some of these out!



## A Holiday Story



Long ago in a village, whose name is not now known, lived a family like any other. It was the holiday season and everyone in the house was busy making preparations for visitors all while planning their gifts.

Each year, as per tradition, those that gave the best gift would be given a token to celebrate the gift of giving, and so everyone would be sure to put thought into what they were giving others.

There were carvings of wood, sweets abounded, and even an elaborate rug. Last, but not least, the grandmother of the family started to sing and the family joined in. That year the token was given not for anything wrapped in ribbon, but with love. It is not the price of what is given that makes the holidays, but the memories we make with those we love.

Give yourself and your presence; don't fret over presents!

# Desert Fjord Lodge's Agnes Stieler Education Fund

## *Safeguarding the Lodge's Scholarship/Grant Monies*

By Ed Bergo

Members attending the November 13th meeting were asked to vote on a proposal to move this endowment fund to a Sons of Norway Capital Account. They unanimously approved the move. This fund currently has about \$49,000 in it and the interest and dividends are to be used for scholarships and grants. Prior to this, the money had been held in a different Sons of Norway fund.

Why would we want to move this money to a Capital Account?

Our International Board representative, Roger Espeland has participated in discussions about these new funds for some time. He encouraged us to make this transition. But why:

As a Capital Account, we will get a better return on our money. This new fund is incorporated into the Sons of Norway insurance company investments; the fees on that larger amount are lower. Secondly, our members will be able to make tax deductible contributions to this account; this provides an incentive to increase the amount of money in the account. Thirdly, the money is permanently protected as an endowment and is not available to be spent by the lodge. We believe that this is what Agnes Stieler would have wanted us to do with this money. Only the interest on the money may be spent.

Desert Fjord Lodge has decided to give both grants to our current members and scholarships to our college students. This started in 2016. The grants are to be used by our members to participate in Scandinavian cultural events. The scholarships are available to our college students to extend their education. New application forms are available and will soon appear on our website. Please contact a Board Member if you need more information.

Editor's Note: As a soon-to-be graduate, I can't talk about the importance of scholarships enough; they are the reason I was able to attend university and why I have the blessing to work with all of you!



**Business Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2016**  
**Granite Reef Senior Center, Scottsdale, AZ**

Meeting called to order by Jonathan Walters at 1:00 PM.

**In attendance:** Anita Thompson, Arlys Medlicott, Berit Miltun, Ed Bergo, Elizabeth Lenci Downs, Floyd Downs, Jana Peterson, Janis Johnson, and Jonathan Walters.

**Quorum** (4+) was met: Yes

1. Prior month's **Minutes:** Janis Johnson made a motion to accept the **October 2016** business meeting minutes as published in the Posten. Motion seconded by Ed Bergo, the motion passed.
2. Treasurer's Report – Janis Johnson – Checking account balance is \$848.57.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Cultural/Program** – Jana Peterson

- **November** – Viking Day
- **December** – “Experience Scandinavia” at MIM
- **January** – Installation of officers; Hardanger Fiddle performance
- **February** – Torsk Dinner, Movie - *Finding Thea*
- **March** – Scandinavian Folkdancers
- **April** – TBD
- **May** – Syttende Mai Parade
- **June** – Ice cream social
- **July** – Potluck picnic in Payson

**Library** – Arlys will have a list of possible books to purchase at the next business meeting.

**Membership** – Floyd gave a report on membership. Rewarding of pins in January 2017.

**Publicity** – Janis has submitted pictures several times to the Viking magazine; hoping with the new editor some will finally be added.

**Scholarship Committee** – Elizabeth made a request to have two more members on her team.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**Agnes Stieler Fund update** – Ed, Jonathan: Announce at Nov 13 meeting and in the Posten the recommendation of moving the fund in Minneapolis to a capital fund. Desert Fjord still controls the money and the earnings. The fund is used for scholarships. Minneapolis does all the IRS reporting. Also, members can make a tax-deductible gift to this fund.

**“Experience Scandinavia” at MIM event** – Ed made a request for volunteers to help cover Desert Fjord's table for a two-hour period.

**Recruiting of Lodge officers** – still need a Foundation Director and a Vice President.

**Differential Charge** – considering a differential charge for non-members to start in January 2017. Already in place is a \$5 charge to attend the program only.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**Vesterheim Museum, IA,** membership for Desert Fjord lodge – ordered in March by Jana Peterson. Need to investigate further.

**December Posten** is to be published early so send information ASAP to Jonathan and Laura.

**Ski for Light** donation – request received for a donation. Jonathan made a motion to send them \$100, seconded by Elizabeth; motion passed. Refer to Posten for further details.

**Jason Anderson** – a request was received for donation to help him purchase a new prosthetic. Further investigation is necessary.

Next business meeting possibly Dec 10 – to be announced.

Motion made by Floyd and seconded by Ed Bergo, to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 2.

*Respectfully submitted by Anita Thompson – Desert Fjord Secretary on 11/13/2016.*



**District Six President: Mary Beth Ingvoldstad**

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

**Overtro Fjell 6-153** - 3rd Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., Fountain East Clubhouse, 303 S. Recker Rd., Mesa

**Sola 6-168** - 3rd. Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, 2215 S. 8th Ave., Yuma

**Sol Byer 6-134** - 3rd. Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., Elks Lodge, 10760 Union Hills Dr., Phoenix

**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

(480) 788-7479



## Officers of Desert Fjord Lodge

**President:** Jonathan Walters  
**Vice-President:** Lynn Eide  
**Secretary:** Anita Thompson  
**Treasurer:** Janis Johnson  
**Auditors:** Dirk Walter and Floyd Downs  
**Box Tops for Education:** Sharon Clunk  
**Counselor:** Ed Bergo  
**Cultural Directors:** Jana Peterson  
**Database and Reference Manual:** Roger Espeland  
**Desert Fjord Boutique:** Ali Berg-Anderson  
**Distribution:** Tyler Soine  
**Education and Scholarships:** Elizabeth Lenci-Downs, Martha and Dave Frampton,  
**Foundation Director:**  
**Greeters:** Floyd Downs and Ross Berg  
**Historian:** Roger Espeland  
**Librarians:** S Clunk, P Flanders and A Medlicott  
**Marshals:** Knut Haldorsen and Peter Flanders  
**Membership/Financial Secretary:** Floyd Downs  
**Posten Editor:** Laura Kuegemann  
**Publicity Director/Public Relations:** Janis Johnson  
**Reservations:** Phyllis Bergo  
**Social Directors:** Berit Miltun and Nellie Lokken  
**Sports:** Tyler Soine  
**Sunshine:** Dawn Walter  
**Trustees:** (1yr) Knut Haldorsen; (2yr) Floyd Downs; (3yr) Ross Berg  
**Tubfrim:** Lois Ripley and Lois Saakas  
**Webmaster:** Jan Loomis

From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

I will not be at the January meeting , but you can reach me via email at any time should you wish to contribute any comments or articles.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2017!

Laura Kuegemann



“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/>

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P.O. Box 1716, Scottsdale AZ 85252-1716

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