

The Posten

April 2021

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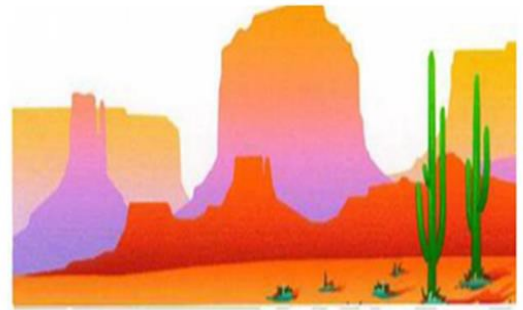
Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133
P O Box 561
Scottsdale, AZ 85252-1716



SONS OF NORWAY

Desert Fjord Lodge

Established 1984



President's Column

The Malagasy say, "Inona ny vaovao?" The French say, "Quoi de neuf?" The Germans say, "Was gibt's Neues?" Those who speak Spanish say, "Qué hay de nuevo?" If you speak Norwegian, "Hva er nytt?" In English we say, "What's new?"

I believe the function of our newsletter is to communicate to our membership just that! You should be brought up to date with the ongoing business and future of Desert Fjord lodge as part of Sons of Norway. This includes our interaction with the local community and the far reaches of Scandinavian culture.

What's new? It so happens that we're having a lodge meeting this month for all who feel comfortable to gather with others. And the program is an opportunity for members to each bring a brief item on the theme "What's New in Norway?". Use your imagination and creativity—I'm sure we'll have a great time with this, informative and entertaining. *See details on the next page.*

Also in this issue please find an interesting article about the origins of Easter. Another article tells about Norway's quite extensive influence in Ireland. I'm not sure if St Patrick's Day is celebrated in Norway, but Norskies in the US should take notice!

A longtime member of Desert Fjord Lodge, **John Lovell**, died May 12th last year. Many of you will remember him—he served as President, lefse instructor and lutefisk chef. We've received word from his daughter that a **Memorial Service** will be held on **April 20, 2021 at 2 pm at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 4930 East Greenway Rd, Scottsdale, AZ.** (this day would've been his 99th birthday)

A blessed and Happy Easter to you and your family!



Velkommen

Heritage and Cultural Meeting—Sunday, April 11th
2—3:30 PM at Fellowship Hall
of Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 N Mockingbird Lane, Paradise Valley, AZ

Program: *"News of Norway"*



Please bring a recent news story about Norway ... arts, literature, music, architecture, fashion, travel, health, politics, etc. to share with our group (3-5 minutes)!

Good resources: VIKING Magazine, The Norwegian/American Newspaper, books, google, and more.

Bring your mask and a snack or libation! Let's have fun!

Painting Bryggen with Jana Peterson

- Thursday, April 22, 2021
- 5:30 PM 7:00 PM

Norway House

913 East Franklin Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55404



This course will produce a 11" x 14" scene of Bryggen - a classic harbor view in Bergen, Norway.

TWO-PART PAINTING COURSE

PART 1 - APRIL 22 | PART 2 - APRIL 29

Jana Peterson joins Norway House to offer a two-part online painting class. Participants will learn how to make their own "Bryggen" masterpiece over the course of two, 1.5 hour sessions. Jana will take you through the steps to create the above pictured work of art. Each session will have an opportunity for questions to be asked and answered live.

OPTION FOR IN-PERSON OR ONLINE PARTICIPATION

In-Person Sessions

\$65 (includes all art materials)

Online Sessions

\$55 (BYOS - bring your own supplies)

Norway House Member Discount: \$15 OFF

(click on "Online Sessions" below for more information)

Online Sessions

The Ancient Origins of Easter ... Celebrating the Return of Spring

In Scandinavia, Easter is the time for religious observance, colored eggs, Easter bunnies, and in Sweden, kids dressing up as witches on Maundy Thursday. Witches? This is a clue that there's more behind the word "Easter" than the celebration around the resurrection of Christ.

There are those who maintain that Easter is a pagan festival. This statement is probably more intended to bait Christians into a hot debate rather than engender a discussion about the origins of Easter. There are actually many things that humans have celebrated around Eastertime, some with roots in ancient celebrations.



Photo: Stonehenge News / Creative Commons

The ancient structure of Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in England is believed to have portals or towers aligned with the sun's position during the vernal equinox.

Springtime, specifically March 19–21, is the time of the vernal equinox in the northern hemisphere, when the sun shines directly down upon the equator. The length of daylight is equal to the length of night.

In the Nordic countries, spring is the time when snow starts to recede, flowers like blåvisse (liverleaf) start to bloom, leaves are bursting from their buds, and daylength is getting longer after the dark days of winter. Springtime is a time of rebirth, the resurgence of plants, the return of migratory birds, the increase in the wildlife population (yes, including rabbits), and food becomes more plentiful. Humans can finally start coming out of their homes without wearing heavy coats and mittens.

We know the spring equinox has long been a special time to celebrate. Ancient structures, such as Stonehenge, appear to have portals or towers aligned with the sun's position at the spring equinox. Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain in England was built over time starting around 3,100 B.C.

(cont'd on next page)



*Image: Johannes Gehrts / Wikimedia Commons
The Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre or Ostara was honored as the bringer of dawn and fertility.*

The Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre or Ostara, honored as the bringer of dawn and fertility, is associated with springtime. That's according to a monk named Bede, who lived in northern England (Northumbria) in A.D. 672. While it's possible Bede invented the goddess Eostre, Wilhem Grimm, the younger brother of the Brothers Grimm, insisted that she was indeed part of folklore. He suggests that an old Norse word, *Austra*, may refer to the goddess. At any rate, there is some evidence that the word Easter evolved from Eostre.

Another special day that occurs around springtime is Passover, when people of the Jewish faith celebrate the exodus of the Jews from Egyptian slavery. The Hebrew word for Passover is *Pesach* or *Pasah*. The Nordic word for Easter, *påske*, is thought to have evolved from the word for Passover.

In the period between 1600 and the early 1800s, the pagan practice of witchcraft attracted the attention of the Christian church and was condemned as being associated with the devil. The spring season was the time that witches were assumed to be the most active, greasing their broomsticks with an ointment that enabled them to ride them through the air. Witches were persecuted, if not outright burned at the stake, the punishment for witchcraft according to Swedish law in the late 1600s.

(cont'd on next page)



Photo: Juni Rosann Engelién Johanssen

The Easter bunny came to Scandinavia from Germany. Like Santa Claus, he went around the community and judged whether children were naughty or nice. The white land rabbit is native to Norway.

After the dark days of the witch craze, which occurred outside of Sweden as well, the belief in magic and witchcraft faded, but dressing up as a påskekäring (Swedish for “Easter witch”) became a way to frighten people. This then became more of a joke, and then a tradition. Dressing up as a witch (both boys and girls) in springtime became associated with the Thursday before Easter.

What about Easter eggs? Easter eggs, also called Paschal eggs, are dyed bright colors and become the subject of egg rolling contests, egg hunts, and gifts. Eggs are a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth. It’s thought that for early Christians, the egg was a symbol of the empty tomb of Jesus. Some sources trace Easter eggs back to Ostara as a symbol of rebirth, and the hare her sacred companion. Originated among German Lutherans, the Easter bunny circulated the community and judged whether children were naught or nice (similar to Santa Claus).

So, we have many traditions surrounding Easter, which are practiced by Christians and non-Christians, both here and in Scandinavia. Whether it’s the Easter bunny delivering a basket of eggs, going to church, planting flower bulbs, or celebrating the lengthening days by the spring equinox—it’s all part of the human experience.

(Article borrowed from the Norwegian American)

The Garbage Business

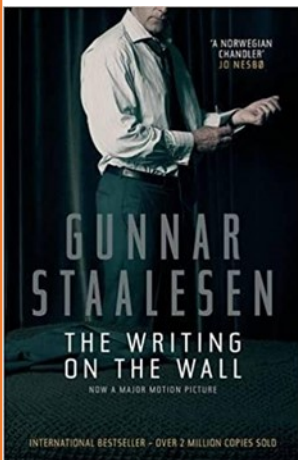
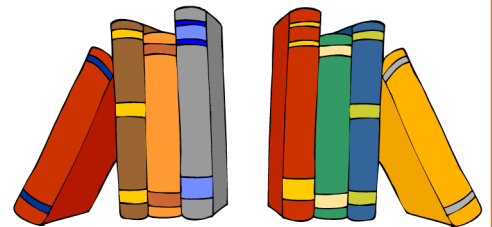
Sven and Ole went into the garbage hauling business. All they had for a truck was Sven's 1949 Ford pick-up with the grain sides on it. They had just filled it to the top and started out for the dump, when they were stopped by the police. The officer said that garbage was blowing off the top of their load and if they didn't find a way to hold it down, he was going to give them a ticket. So, Ole climbed up on top and lay down spread eagle on top of the garbage.

As they drove along, they passed under a bridge. Two Swedes standing on the bridge saw this sight and one of them remarked, "Vell, vould you look at dat. Somebody threw away a perfectly good Norwegian."

LIBRARY CORNER

A Book Review by Jan Johnson

(highlighting one of the books available in our great Library)



The Writing on the Wall

In this crime drama, set in Bergen, Norway, detective Varg Veum's adventures take him into a dark world of privileged citizens who have been drawn into cross-dressing, drugs, and prostitution. When the local judge is discovered dead, clad only in women's lingerie in a luxury hotel, Varg is called in to explain the judge's death. Soon a teenage girl goes missing and her parents ask that he find her. Varg learns that all of the clues lead him deeper into Bergen's criminal underworld.

* * *

Gunnar Staalesen (born 19 October 1947) is a Norwegian writer. Staalesen was born in Bergen, has a Cand philology degree from University of Bergen, and has worked at Den Nationale Scene, the main theatre in Bergen.

Staalesen has written over 20 crime novels and several other novels. His first novel, *Uskyldigtider* (*Innocent Times*), was published in 1969, when he was aged 22. He is best known for his work on the crime series about the Bergen private investigator, Varg Veum. The Varg Veum books have been translated into 12 languages. Many of his Varg Veum novels have been translated into English. In Norway, twelve film adaptations of Staalesen's Varg Veum novels have been released between 2007 and 2012. Staalesen won the 1989 Norwegian Booksellers' Prize for *Falne engler* (*Fallen Angels*).

(The cover of the book in the Sons of Norway library will look differently from the above image. The book was purchased in Europe.)

A couple of our members belong to a Hallingdal group, Hallinglag of America. They shared this recent communication from that group. Here's a tip of the hat to Ireland and the Norwegian connection with that country.

Halling E-News March 2021

There's never a shortage of people who like to make a big celebration of St Patrick's Day and Irish heritage & culture. It's only fair to share Norway's impact on Irish heritage and culture. For example, can you tell me what Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Limerick, Howth and Fingall all have in common? These well-known Irish cities were Norwegian/Viking settlements. In fact the Viking/Irish interaction was so well known it was not only documented in Viking saga's, it was also detailed in the [Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland](#) by the Four Masters the [Annals of Clonmacnoise](#) and The War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill. Further accounts can be found in the arabic writings of the accounts of Ibn Ghazal.

In the 700s, pressure on land in Scandinavia had forced many nobles and warriors to seek land elsewhere. Some of these were younger sons, who stood to inherit nothing of their father's estate. Noblemen with little to lose began to gather groups of warriors and go down the coast pillaging settlements. With the invention of Viking long boats, the raiders eventually began reaching further across the cold waters of the North Sea. By the late 700's the Vikings were finding themselves on the shores of modern day England and Ireland.

At first the Vikings came for riches and slaves, finding both in large supply within Ireland's abundant Christian monasteries. Often, the slaves were sold to Vikings traveling back to Norway, but many were kept in Ireland working in a Viking-held town.

However, this raiding period would not last long, and by 950 the Vikings had stopped raiding in Ireland altogether and developed instead as traders and settled in the lands around their towns. It was during this time that Norwegian culture really affected Ireland by providing place names, like Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Strangford, Leixlip, Carlingford, Youghal, Howth, Dalkey and Fingall [an area of modern-day Dublin]. Also a few of their words were also adopted into the Irish language.

So, today, when you celebrate St Patrick's Day with a green beer and an old folk song, be sure to offer at least one toast to Norway.



District Six President: Luella Grangaard

District Six is made up of the following states:

Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Hawaii - Website: 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, St Peter Lutheran Church,

1844 E Dana Ave, 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



“Like” us on Facebook to receive interesting Desert Fjord Lodge and Sons of Norway, District Six news-feeds.

Control+ Left Click on this link:

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

April Birthdays

Ross H Berg	1st
Chase H Loomis *	2nd
Paul M Lindbloom	4th
Elizabeth Lenci-Downs	12th
Heather T M Loomis	13th
Marjorie A Mafi	15th



Jean Tanner Harney	23rd
Savanna Lyn Isaacson *	23rd
Erik Knudsen	24th
Astrid Hanson	27th
Ed Bergo	29th

* Heritage Member

Gratulerer Med Dagen – Happy Birthday !!



Posted by Irene Snyder on FB January 26, 2021: "Over the last couple days, we've been treated to a rare and beautiful sight here in Reykjavik, Iceland. Polar stratospheric clouds have been spotted in the sky, radiating like flying unicorns in shimmering, rainbow-colored hues."



Happy Easter ~ God Påske!

Officers of Desert Fjord Lodge

President: Jonathan Walters—(347) 801-3345

Vice President:

Secretary: Phyllis Bergo (480) 812-9762

Treasurer: Janis Johnson—janisjoan41@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

Auditors: Dirk Walter and Floyd Downs

Counselor: Ed Bergo

Co-Cultural Directors: Jana Peterson, Nina Poe

Desert Fjord Boutique: Ali Berg-Anderson

Distribution: Janis Johnson

Education Committee (Scholarships & Grants): Nina Poe, Paul Lindbloom, Gordon Peterson

Foundation Directors: Gordon Peterson, Paul Lindbloom

Greeters: Georgiann Crouse, Norman Jenson, Jr

Librarian: Nancy Zine

Marshals: Knut Haldorsen and Peter Flanders

Posten Editor: Jonathan Walters

Publicity Director/Public Relations: Janis Johnson

Reservations: Lynn Solie (612) 250-6997

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

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

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

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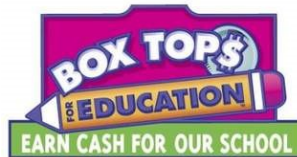
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Sons of Norway International Headquarters Website:

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

Tubfrim - a Norwegian program that collects and sells cancelled postage stamps to raise funds to aid individuals who are handicapped. Just bring to any of our regular meetings; put your name on the bag or box so your name gets put into the drawing.



<http://www.boxtops4education.com/participating-products>