

The Posten December 2022

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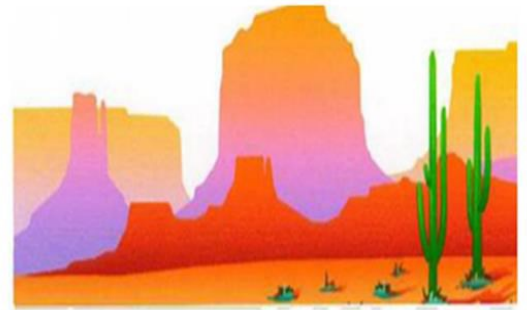
Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133
P O Box 561
Scottsdale, AZ 85252



SONS OF NORWAY

Desert Fjord Lodge

Established 1984



President's Column

It's been a long time since we had a monthly meeting in December, mostly due to how crowded our calendars get this time of year. Well, this Christmas we're having a meeting, pulling out all the stops. I hope this helps to make up for past years!



Please find all the details on the following page. You're invited to bring a favorite holiday dish to share at our Julebord potluck. Also, please join in the fun of our Christmas Cookie Exchange. Finally, we'll have carol singing and an opportunity for you to share about your family holiday traditions.

If that weren't enough, please go to join the AZ Norseman's **Jultrefest**—a happy occasion for young and old alike. (*page 6 has details*) Or the **Scandinavian Fair** hosted by Overtro Fjell Lodge in Mesa. This is late notice, but maybe you can make the 41st **Tucson Nordic Fair**. (*see page 7*)

St Lucia Day celebrated at Christmas time in Norway brings light and cheer to villages and communities. In pictures and words Rick Steves shares about this on pages 8-9. It would be fun to experience this in person!

May the holidays help you rekindle your Scandinavian culture as you celebrate Christmas in your home with family and friends: the decorations, the gift giving and the special foods prepared with love and enjoyed in good company. I like this from Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**—"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Velkommen

Heritage and Cultural Meeting

December 4th at 2 PM

Masonic Lodge, 2531 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ



NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY:

- Julebord Potluck—please bring your favorite dish to share
- Cookie Exchange—bring, exchange or buy Norwegian cookies
- We will sing carols and reminisce about our family traditions

Cost: \$5



- Please click [here](#) to register **by December 3rd** or RSVP to Janet Peterson (480) 209-0684



Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Finally, life is getting back to normal after the long Covid struggle. What better way to celebrate the upcoming holiday season but by having a lodge cookie exchange again at the December lodge meeting?

Recommendations are very simple.



- Please bake 3 dozen cookies or other baked goods and package them in 6 bags/plates of ½ dozen each.



- Bring baked items bagged or wrapped ready to exchange. There won't be plastic wrap/plates/bags available.
- If you have extra baked goods and want to donate them to the lodge, they will go on sale for the members who did not participate in the cookie exchange. Money made in cookie sales will go into the Convention Fund.
- When making your reservation for our meeting, please indicate that you're participating in the cookie exchange.

Happy Baking!!

Membership Matters by Lois Ripley, Membership Secretary

You never know what interesting and delightful people you'll meet when you come to Sons of Norway!



* * *

If your contact information changes, please let me know. Your current phone number and your email address are how we stay connected. I can be reached at: (480) 521-8693; my email address is: lcripley@gmail.com. (You can also speak with me at one of our lodge meetings.)

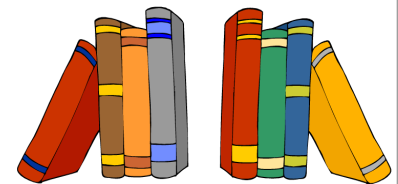
DESERT FJORD MYSTERY BOOK GROUP SELECTION

Lazarus

By Lars Kepler

A Book Review by Jan Johnson

Sometimes the past won't stay buried.

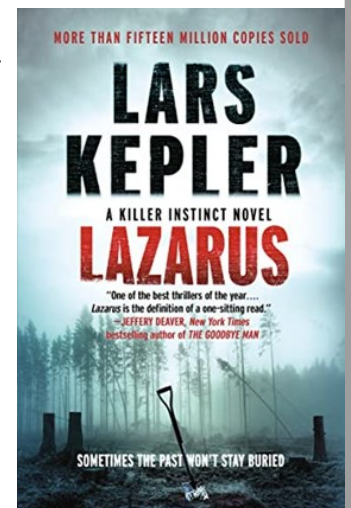


All across Europe, the most ruthless criminals are suffering gruesome deaths. At first, it seems coincidental that their underworld affiliations are finally catching up to them. But when two of the victims are found to have disturbing connections to Detective Joona Linna, it becomes clear that there's a single killer at work. Still, police are reluctant to launch an investigation. If a mysterious vigilante is making their jobs easier, why stand in his way? Joona, however, is convinced this is no would-be hero. These deaths serve a much darker purpose.

LARS KEPLER is the pseudonym of the critically acclaimed husband-and-wife team Alexandra Coelho Ahndoril and Alexander Ahndoril. Their novels have sold more than fifteen million copies in forty languages. They were both established writers before they adopted the pen name Lars Kepler and have each published several acclaimed novels. They live in Stockholm, Sweden.

* * *

The **Desert Fjord Mystery Book Group** will meet interested readers after the Dec 4th meeting. The book chosen for December isn't just one book. Lars Kepler is a popular and prolific Swedish author. The group will be reading any of the Lars Kepler books for December. Many of them are in all formats—hardbound, paperback, and e-reader and audiobook from your local library.



This is the time of the year to be with your family, relive old memories of Christmas past and enjoy the true meaning of Christmas.



I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

And yes, I hope Santa is good to everyone!

Len Carlson

(651) 253-1943

or by email at:

len.carlson253@gmail.com



NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 11

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church | 9424 N. 7th Ave.

FREE Admission

Come celebrate the holiday season with one of our most popular events – the annual *norsk Juletefest*! Join in on the fun with singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, kids' crafts, raffle prizes, traditional Norwegian *julegrot*, tasty 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!*

Sponsored by Arizona Norseman
www.aznorseman.org info@aznorseman.org www.facebook.com/AZnorseman



SONS OF NORWAY - OVERTRO FJELL LODGE 6-153

Scandinavian Fest

Sat., December 10
10 am to 2 pm
Free admission



Our saviors Lutheran church

612 S. Ellsworth (between Broadway and Southern) - MESA, AZ

Rosemaling, Hardanger, Gnomes Scandinavian items and gifts for sale. And much more!!

You can choose from a wide selection of Norwegian specialties such as Lefse, Rommegrot, Hjertevafler (heart waffles) and other items. This is your place to get all your favorite Christmas items!



 TUCSON NORDIC FAIR

Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church | 5360 E Pima St, Tucson, AZ 85712



**41st Annual Nordic Fair is
Saturday, December 3, 2022**

Clubs



Norwegian Christmas: A Festival of Light in Darkness

By Rick Steves



Darkness settles on Oslo by late afternoon in December, but festive garlands light up city streets. (photo: Rick Steves' Europe)



After a church service on St. Lucia Day, choir girls exit to spread light through their village. (photo: Rick Steves' Europe)

cont'd on next page

Norwegian Christmas cont'd from page 8

I'm in [Oslo](#), and it's the perfect winter scene — a full moon arcs high overhead, ice-white holiday lights sparkle in the darkness — and it's the middle of the afternoon! Norway, with its northern location, has the longest and darkest winters in Europe. It's also about the least church-going country in Europe. Maybe that's why Christmas in [Norway](#) feels more like a pagan festival revering light than a celebration of Jesus' birth.

In fact, the Norwegian word for Christmas, Jul (Yule), literally means "wheel," referring to the sun as it turns toward spring. Only in the 10th century did King Haakon I move the Jul winter-solstice, pagan, drinking festival to December 25 to honor the birth of Jesus.

Imagine the raucous time as medieval Norwegians celebrated the ebb of darkness. Carnivores were in hog heaven, enjoying an abundance of fresh meat. Jul was the time when animals were slaughtered — which made more sense in that subsistence economy than feeding them through the winter.

When the beer was brewed, the animals butchered, and the bread baked, the house was cleaned and the party began. People brought in enough wood to last the entire holiday. They gave the remaining animals a little extra hay and even lashed bundles of grain to posts outside to feed the birds.

After a big feast, the leftover food was not cleaned up, but was left out overnight for the little people. If you neglected your *nisse* — those mischievous elves of the forest — ill fortune would hit your family.

Today, even though the Christmas season — and its Advent concerts — boost church attendance, you see almost no Christian elements in the holiday decorations. It's almost as if Christmas, timed centuries ago to coincide with the solstice celebration, has reverted back to its pre-Christian roots.

Christmas in Norway is a festival of light, seeming to promise longer days and the return of the sun. Norwegians miss the sun intensely, and they need a spirit boost during those weeks when noon feels like twilight and it's dark by 4 p.m.

In good, understated Norwegian fashion, houses are decorated only with white lights — never colored — in the windows. You'll see some traditional candles, but electric lights posing as candles are more common. A plastic Santa or manger scene on the lawn, or garish colored lights along the eaves would probably put you in the neighborhood doghouse. It makes sense in a land that seems to have organized itself beyond a need for God.

A highlight of the season is December 13, the feast day of Santa Lucia. She was a fourth-century Sicilian woman who (according to the lore) wore a head wreath adorned with candles to light the way as she helped persecuted Christians hiding in tunnels. The 13th was traditionally considered the longest night of the year. (Actually, the solstice on the 21st is the longest night, but the 13th is the day when the sun sets earliest at Norwegian latitudes.)

The Scandinavian version of the legend is that a young woman born of rich and noble parents — dressed in a white gown with a red sash and wearing a crown of lingonberry twigs and blazing candles — traveled from one farm to the next in the early morning on December 13. She carried a torch to light her way, bringing baked goods to each house, returning home by sunrise.

Today, Santa Lucia Day is celebrated in family gatherings, churches, schools, day-care centers, nursing homes, and hospitals. It comes a procession of girls, led by a young girl dressed as Saint Lucy (the "Lussibrud," or Lucy bride), with a white robe, a crown of lights on her head, and a candle in her hand. The girls carry baskets of saffron buns or ginger cookies to hand out. They're delicious with steaming coffee.

If the ceremony is in a village church, the finale of the service is not "Silent Night" but "Santa Lucia" — the same song popular in Italy but with Norwegian lyrics. As they sing, the children's choir with their leader wearing her crown of candles proceeds down the aisle and into the night, as if to spread light to the needy community.

One of my most heartwarming moments in Norway came when I enjoyed St. Lucia Day in a small-town senior center, which has housed widows and seniors for over 200 years. Kindergarteners paraded in, led by a tiny blonde Lucia wearing a crown of lights. The children carried the traditional saffron buns — a treat that brought back distant childhood memories for the adults and kicked off lifelong memories for these kids. Endearing rituals such as these ensure that traditions stay strong from generation to generation. Lucia, whose name means "light," symbolizes hope and emergence out of the darkness, and during winter's darkest days, this celebration lightens the hearts of all who experience it.

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: Jonathan Walters

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, 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/>

December Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Jonathan B Loomis | 3rd |
| Brooklyn Port * | 3rd |
| Russell Port | 3rd |
| Jana L Peterson | 4th |
| Neal S Sundeen | 10th |
| Elizabeth A Berger | 17th |



| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Carol L Blackwell | 18th |
| Julie L Westby | 18th |
| Donald N Steinnes | 23rd |
| Earl Fuchs | 29th |
| Phyllis Dahlk Bergo | 31st |

* Heritage Member

Gratulerer Med Dagen – Happy Birthday !!



Officers of Desert Fjord Lodge

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

Vice President: Bethany Tso—(602) 770-7565

Secretary: Lynn Solie—(612) 250-6997

Treasurer: Janis Johnson—janisjoann41@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Lois Ripley (480) 521-8693

Member at Large: Norman Jenson, Don Solie

Auditor: Dirk Walter

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, Gordon Peterson, [One Opening](#)

Foundation Directors: Gordon Peterson, [One Opening](#)

Greeters: Georgiann Crouse, Norman Jenson, Jr

Librarian: Janis Johnson

Marshals: Knut Haldorsen and Peter Flanders

Posten Editor: Open (Jonathan Walters)

Publicity Director/Public Relations: Janis Johnson

Reservations: Lynn Solie (612) 250-6997, Janet Peterson (480) 659-7328

Social Director: Berit Miltun— (480) 966-2009

Sunshine: Bethany Tso—(602) 770-7565

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

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 561

Scottsdale AZ 85252

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TO:

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If not deliverable



Sons of Norway International Headquarters Website:

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