

# The Posten

February 2021

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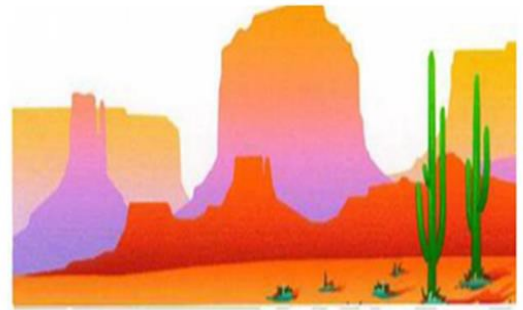
Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133  
P O Box 1716  
Scottsdale, AZ 85252-1716



## SONS OF NORWAY

### Desert Fjord Lodge

Established 1984



## President's Column

There are signs of life amidst the chaos, darkness and regular bad news out these days! Yes, it is the bleak mid-winter, but we should not dwell on the negativity so available. Focusing on that pulls us down and it's certainly not healthy.

Last week the valley had some much-needed rainfall. Last week I got my first Covid shot. I hope you also can get one scheduled. Little bit by little bit we can climb out of this pandemic and resume a more normal life with family, friends, lodge members and neighbors.

In this issue of the Posten, I'd like to draw your attention to the scholarship opportunities offered by Desert Fjord Lodge as well as the Sons of Norway Foundation. We want to encourage our youngsters to get an education and support them in every way we can. Please note that some of the grants and scholarships are offered to members of all ages. **(please see pages 3 & 4)**

Please find an article telling of something Norway is doing to help monitor what's happening to the world's rainforests. This is in line with Norway's concerns about the environment. There's a piece about the Norwegian, Thorvald Meyer, who used his wealth for some worthy causes.

Last month one of our members had a birthday. Floyd Downs, our past Membership Secretary, turned 90 years old! I realized he had a birthday, but it escaped my notice that it was his 90th. If any of you would like to send Floyd a card, you could mail it to: P O Box 19206, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-9206. And when this pandemic thing is over, I think we should have a cake at our monthly meeting to mark Floyd's birthday. Happy Birthday, Floyd!!!



*Velkommen*

## Thorvald Meyer

Businessman, Philanthropist and Patron  
of the Arts

Grünerløkka's Father. Look at him. The hat. The mutton chops. Does he not look like Ebenezer Scrooge? This is Thorvald Meyer, who despite the similarity, is the miser's polar opposite. Although this guy was practically born in the lap of luxury, there is something that separates him from Dickens' and Barks' stinking-rich churls. Philanthropy. Thorvald was the patron of several well-known artists (Bjørnson, Kielland, Munch, Hamsun and Vigeland), co-financed the National Theater and gave monetary gifts to impoverished actors every Christmas.

When he went out the door, he'd fill his pockets with coins. Then, back at home he was empty-handed; everything was distributed to the needy. Thorvald started the first public bath in Oslo as a gift to the city, gave money toward several of the statues we see today, initiated school breakfasts, gave away land for the Pauluskirken [Paulus Church] and Birkelunden [The Birch Grove—a large urban park] which must always remain a park according to Meyer's clause. And outfitted the [Fridtjof Nansen] Fram expedition!

Meyer was a financial institution with seemingly quite social liberal tendencies. He was also a businessman of rank, as when he bought Grünerløkka cheaply and parceled it out with 40 times the profit. As a thank you for the investment, he got the rare honor of having a street named after him while he was alive!

Thrift is Strength. That was his motto. And action was his credo. He died at the age of 90 and just beforehand, he said: "It is no matter that an old man passes away, when I die there will be a party."

Actually, I take it back. He's just like Scrooge – after he met The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come.



## 2021 Desert Fjord Scholarships

Education Committee: Nina Poe, Chair

Our lodge supports both arts and science education for grandchildren of Desert Fjord lodge members. In addition, our Lodge can award grants to our members for participating in cultural and educational events.

Last year Hannah Bergo, granddaughter of Phyllis and Ed Bergo, was awarded a \$1,000 Agnes Stieler Scholarship. She ranked in the top 10 percentile of students in her Freshman Class at UC Santa Barbara. Hannah has been active in her sorority's philanthropic events focusing on homeless children. She's considering pursuing a Nursing degree.

Another \$1,000 Agnes Stieler Scholarship recipient last year was Carl Miltun, grandson of Berit Miltun. Carl was graduating from Williamsfield High School with Honors; now enrolled at Missouri University of Science and Technology, he may pursue an Engineering degree.



**Agnes Stieler**  
**Born: 18 March**  
**1907**  
**Died: 20 Feb 2003**

The awards are provided by the Agnes Stieler endowment fund. Agnes was a charter member of Desert Fjord and a strong supporter of education and a strong believer in the preservation of our Norwegian culture. We are thankful to her for remembering our lodge and all members.

We've recently included the possibility of awarding grants for any member, young and old alike, for Scandinavian culture education that will benefit our lodge. We believe that Agnes Stieler would have wanted us to do that.

*Applications are now open for 2020 Desert Fjord scholarships and grants. Information and forms are available on our website [www.desertfjord.org](http://www.desertfjord.org). Contact the education committee or any lodge officer for assistance on how to apply.*

***Please note that the deadline for Scholarship and Grant applications is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. They can be emailed directly to Nina Poe, Committee Chair, at [npoe@rpoe.com](mailto:npoe@rpoe.com).***





## SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Sons of Norway Foundation is currently accepting scholarship applications for members of all ages.
- Applications are due March 15 for domestic scholarships through the Sons of Norway Foundation.
- For detailed information about the opportunities available, or to apply online, visit [sofn.com/foundation/scholarships](https://sofn.com/foundation/scholarships).

## Norway Funds Worldwide Rainforest Mapping

In an effort to help curb global deforestation, the Norwegian government is funding a groundbreaking initiative to map the world's tropical forests in tree-by-tree detail, using high-definition satellite imagery. The resulting map, which spans 64 countries and will be updated monthly, is freely available worldwide.

In the past, high-resolution images were unavailable for many forested areas, or were expensive to obtain if they were. "So, we've decided to foot the bill for the whole world, basically," Norway's Minister of Climate and Environment, Sveinung Rotevatn, told BBC News.

The \$44 million project was funded by the Norwegian government's International Climate and Forests Initiative (NICFI). It helps small organizations and local communities to detect and address illegal deforestation more quickly and effectively, and will assist them in holding the responsible parties accountable. The map will also be valuable to researchers and scientists throughout the world. It'll help businesses to conduct their due diligence when dealing in areas with deforestation concerns.

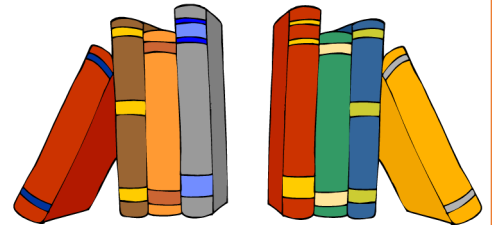




## LIBRARY CORNER

A Book Review by Jan Johnson

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



### The Witch Hunter

*by Max Seeck*

A bestselling author's wife has been found dead in a gorgeous black evening gown, sitting at the head of an empty dining table. Her most chilling feature—her face is frozen in a ghastly smile.

At first it seems as though a deranged psychopath is reenacting the gruesome murders from the Witch Hunt trilogy, the best sellers written by the victim's husband. Jessica Niemi soon realizes she is not looking for a single killer but rather for dozens of believers in a sinister form of witchcraft who know her every move and are always one step ahead.



As bodies start piling up, Jessica knows they won't stop until they get what they want. And when her dark past comes to light, Jessica finds herself battling her own demons while desperately trying to catch a coven of killers before they claim their next victim.

*Max Seeck (b. 1985) has a background in sales and marketing, and has lately been able to dedicate his time to his lifelong love of writing. His interests include well-conducted research, reading Nordic Noir and listening to movie soundtracks as he writes. Max writes in Finnish, his native language. The foreign publishing rights have been sold to 38 countries (as of 04/2020).*



**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](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, 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/>

# February Birthdays

Amelia L Berger 3rd  
Hiro Cummings \* 15th  
Hiro Live Cummings \* 15th



Sharon R Peterson 17th  
Lois J Sakkas 18th  
Solomon A Isaacson \* 26th

\* Heritage Member

*Gratulerer Med Dagen – Happy Birthday !!*



## 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

## Han Ola og han Per

— You are doing it the hard way, Ola—I always take the bark off the oak before I cut it down.

— Is that so?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1

— This here goes quick as the dog can run.

— Have you ever seen the like?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2

— And not only that it is so easy and up-to-date.

— Oh yeah!

\_\_\_\_\_ 3

— And how easy it is to get down too—ha ha!

\_\_\_\_\_ 4

*(from The Norwegian American Weekly)*

## 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

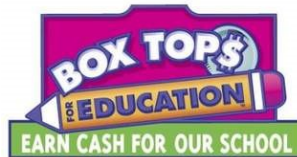
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Sons of Norway International Headquarters Website:

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

**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>