

# The Posten January 2025

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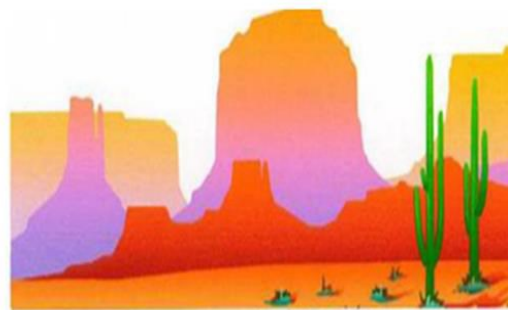
**Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133**  
**2531 N Scottsdale Rd**  
**Scottsdale, AZ 85257**



## SONS OF NORWAY

### Desert Fjord Lodge

*Established 1984*



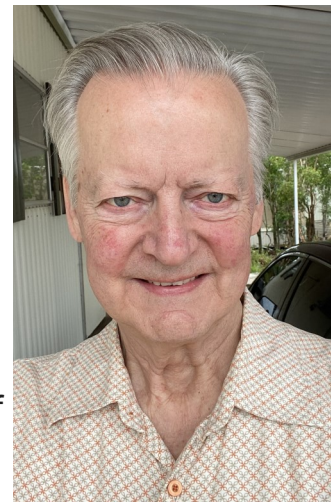
## President's Column

**Happy New Year—Godt nytt år!!** Here we are in 2025, celebrating new opportunities to touch our Viking roots. This month our program calls us to learn about sacred symbols in Norwegian folk art. It's a special program created by the chief curator of Vesterheim Museum located in Decorah, IA. Are you ready to explore the meaning of ancient symbols present in the lives of our ancestors? We'll be looking at symbols that find expression in their art, giving us some insight about their world view, their daily life and their customs. I think you'll find the program interesting as well as informative. Come join us and please invite a friend or neighbor! Find further details about this on the next page.

**Crossings!** This is a special year for us as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of organized Norwegian migration to North America. We'll try to keep you informed about events marking the bicentennial. Also, we'll try to provide informative articles on the subject. Please see page 5 and page 7 introducing you to some of this.

Look further ahead, the Stoughton Dancers from Stoughton, WI are coming our way in March. They were last down here in 2019. There will be an opportunity for us to see them perform—you'll be advised about time and place so you can take advantage of that. Also, the Music of ABBA will be performed here, also in March, thanks to the ABBA Tribute Band.

I hope the lutefisk, lefse and meatballs along with family gatherings over the holidays left you full and satisfied, thankful for the things that really matter and looking forward to good things to come in the new year!



*Velkommen*

# Heritage and Cultural Meeting

January 12th at 2 PM

Masonic Lodge, 2531 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ



## Program: Sacred Symbols: The Folk Art of Norway

By Laurann Gilbertson, Vesterheim  
Chief Curator

Learn about the many symbols that have come down from ancient times and how they were used in Norway in the nineteenth century. Many of the symbols, used on textiles, wood, horn, and other materials, fall into one of the following functions: good luck, fertility, protection, and linking the human and spiritual worlds.

## Menu:

- Please bring a snack and/or a dessert to share.
- Lefse or Christmas cookies would be great.
- Coffee will be served.

Cost: \$7.00 (includes \$5 building rental fee)



- Click [here](#) to register **by January 10th** or RSVP to Janet Peterson (480) 209-0684

## 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 or my email address: [lcripley@gmail.com](mailto:lcripley@gmail.com). (You can also speak with me at one of our lodge meetings.)*

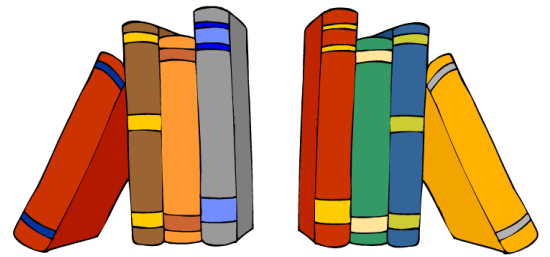
## **LIBRARY CORNER**

A Book Review by Jan Johnson

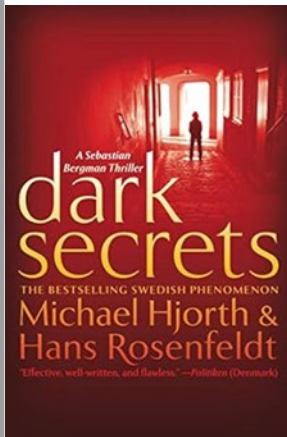
*(taken from Amazon)*

### ***Dark Secrets***

By Michael Hjorth & Hans Rosenfeldt



**In this "flawless," fast-paced crime thriller, Scandinavia's hottest new writing duo, Michael Hjorth and Hans Rosenfeldt, present the first book in the Sebastian Bergman series.**



It all begins with a call to the police. A sixteen-year-old boy, Roger Eriksson, has gone missing in the town of Västerås. A search is organized and a group of young scouts makes an awful discovery in a marsh: Roger is dead. Meanwhile, Sebastian Bergman, psychologist, criminal profiler and one of Sweden's top experts on serial killers, is in Västerås to settle his mother's estate following her death. Sebastian has withdrawn from police work after the death of his wife and daughter in the 2004 tsunami.

When the Crime Investigation Department asks Sebastian for his help in Roger's case, his arrogant manner at first alienates the rest of the team. Pushing forward, though, they begin to make disturbing discoveries about the private school Roger attended . . .

\* \* \*

*Accomplished screenwriters and producers, Hjorth and Rosenfeldt stormed the bestseller lists with the publication of Sebastian Bergman in their native Sweden in 2010. Rosenfeldt is the creator of the hit BBC4 series The Bridge and both authors contributed to the screenplay for the original Swedish series of Wallander.*

### **District Six President: Lis Barca**

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: 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**

**Overtro Fjell 6-153** - 3rd Saturday at 11:00 am

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

625 S Ellsworth, Mesa, AZ

**Sol Byer 6-134** - 3rd Saturday at 11:00 am

Sun City West Foundation

14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd, Sun City West, 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/>**

# January Birthdays

Laura C Kuegemann 1st  
Deborah Lynn Beckwith 6th  
Jackson B Loomis 7th  
Randy Wensman 11th  
Peter Alan Flanders 13th  
Robert Slade Killion 15th



Hannah Carlene Bergo 25th  
Reidun J Daeffler 27th  
Sondra Koskela 29th  
Stephanie B Ronalds 30th  
Peggy Wensman 30th

**\* Heritage Member**

*Gratulerer Med Dagen – Happy Birthday !!*





## Commemorating 200 years of organized Norwegian migration to North America

On July 4, 1825, a group of 52 Norwegians set sail on the ship *Restauration* to make the first organized migration from Norway to North America. Since that first voyage, about 900,000 people have followed, leaving their homes in search of opportunities and a better life. While many returned to Norway, most stayed and built a new home in the New World. Today nearly five million people in North America claim Norwegian ancestry.

Crossings commemorates 200 years of organized Norwegian migration to North America. It's a year to celebrate the strong ties between Norway, the United States, and Canada. It's an opportunity to remember what it means to take great risks and trade one home for another. And it's a chance to better understand the movement of peoples that continues worldwide today.



Happy New Year to all !! A new year is upon us, and speaking of something new, I am repeating last month's article because Sons of Norway has this new Annuity product that I feel is worth sending out again ... here it is:

Sons of Norway introduced a new annuity product recently called the *Multi-Year Guarantee Annuity*. You can choose either a 3, 5 or 7 year annuity where the interest rate is guaranteed for either 3, 5 or 7 years. The minimum guaranteed rate is 3% and the 3 and 5 year annuity current rate is 4% and the 7 year annuity current rate is 4.10%.

Other features:

- Protect your principal and gains during market volatility
- Take advantage of tax-deferred growth potential
- Position your assets to keep pace with inflation
- Have access to penalty-free withdrawals
- Receive guaranteed income for life
- Pay zero fees

Please contact me for additional details

Len Carlson FIC CLU

(651) 253-1943

or by email at:

# The Sloopers' first Christmas in the New World

## *Settling and surviving on new shores*

Taken from the **Norwegian American**—by  
Lori Ann Reinhall, Editor in Chief

As the 2025 bicentennial commemoration of the first Norwegian immigration to North America approaches, many of us might be wondering how the Sloopers spent their first Christmas in the New World. Where had they landed? What were they doing? How might they have celebrated the birth of Jesus in their new home?

Having reached New York City in the sloop *Restauration* on Oct. 9, 1825, by the month of December, many of the 53 immigrants had made their way to Murray, situated on the shore of Lake Ontario in Orleans County (today the township of Kendall), where their leader, Cleang Peerson, had established a place for them to settle. They traveled by steamer up the Hudson past Albany, New York's capital, and then continued on the newly opened Erie Canal, which had opened on Oct. 26, 1825. This voyage was reportedly a pleasant one, and their hopes and aspirations for their new life must have been high.

The Sloopers went ashore at their new home in upstate New York, and they had to rely heavily on Peerson, who was the only one who had become proficient in English. They trusted him, but they were not, however, prepared for what would come.

One of the first challenges they faced was housing. In Murray, 24 of the Norwegians ended up living under one roof in one single room. The house was reported to be only 12 square feet in size, which did not leave much room for them. It was probably a house that Cleang Peerson had put up during an earlier stay. Apparently, there had been plans for a second house, but they could not be materialized before winter set in. Others in the group had to rely on other settlers there in Murray to find other accommodations until better arrangements could be made.

As winter began to settle in, the Norwegian immigrants realized that this winter would be more about survival than anything else. The area around Murray was heavily forested and was settled slowly because of its swampy terrain. Because of its soggy bogs and thick forests, it was known as "The black North"—"Det svarte Nord"—and much work had to be done felling trees and removing stones before crops could be planted. Most likely, the new settlers faced serious food shortages in the beginning.

But their new American neighbors helped them, and the Norwegians survived. By the time their first Christmas arrived, they must have been feeling a sense of gratitude and relief that they had first made it through the long voyage over the Atlantic and they had found a new home where they were welcome, albeit under the most difficult of conditions.

With no accounts or letters of this time, we can only speculate what this first Christmas was like. No letters were sent back to Norway during this time, most likely because of the cost of sending them, at a time when the Sloopers had little or no money.

What we do know is that the Sloopers and their neighbors in their new community practiced a form of religion that, for the most part, did not engage in religious holiday celebrations. In their eyes, every day was a holy day, every day was a good day to remember the coming of Christ. Haugians and Quakers practiced a quiet form of worship, often with no music, although it was not forbidden. Did the Sloopers sing the old Christmas songs they brought from Norway?

Because the tradition of the Christmas tree, the Norwegian *juletre*, did not gain popularity in Norway until the 1820s, first in Oslo, it can be assumed that this was also not part of the celebration. And while the Christmas tree was also first brought to the United States by German immigrants in the 1600s, the first recorded Christmas tree in an American home was in the 1830s. The Christmas tree tradition didn't really become popular until the late 19th century.

As far as food goes, we can also only guess that the Sloopers ate whatever they could get their hands on that first winter. Wild game was undoubtedly on the table for Christmas. Relatively little is known about the American diet at that time in history, so without any written records, it is difficult to reconstruct what exactly would have been eaten that first Christmas in the New World.

It is not likely that there was more than a small exchange of gifts, either for religious reasons or because of sheer practical circumstances.

The story is told that one Norwegian family did lose their Christmas presents when the house they were living in went up in flames. Cornelius (Nelson) Nilson was away at work when the fire struck, and when he came home, he found his wife, Kari, standing outside with the children. A pious man, he knelt down and thanked God for preserving the lives of his loved ones.

It was not an easy life for the Sloopers in Murray/Kendall, and eventually, most of them went west with Peerson. Nonetheless, they still had much to be grateful for that first winter. They were alive and living together in a new community of friends, a place where they could practice their faith in freedom in the true spirit of Christmas.



History tells us that there were no big festivities to mark the Sloopers' first Christmas in their new home in upstate New York, that it was a time of quiet contemplation.

# Desert Fjord's Scandinavian Noir

*(aka Viking Book and Wine Club)*

**January 18th at 4 pm**

***Jana Peterson's Home:***

**5901 E Hummingbird Lane, Paradise Valley, AZ**

**RSVP (480) 326-2927**

This month we're continuing the Sons of Norway Literature Cultural Skills journey. Also, we're discussing *Black Ice* by Swedish author Carin Gerhardsen. Please come and join us!



★ ★ ★

*Bringing snacks is optional*



# Desert Fjord Resources

- *Looking for information on future meetings, events and Posters?*  
**Desert Fjord website:** <https://desertfjord.org/>
- *If you are looking for some wonderful Scandinavian recipes, check out:*  
**Sons of Norway website:** <https://www.sofn.com>
- *As members, we have access to a free, in-depth genealogy club that meets monthly via zoom – **Genealogy Club (District 6):***

## **Anthony G (Tony) Hjelmstad, Slektforskningklubb / Genealogy Club**



Fjelldalen Lodge #6-162  
9078 Greenspointe Ct.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130  
303-324-5381 (c)



**SONS of  
NORWAY**

[Genealogy@Fjelldalen.com](mailto:Genealogy@Fjelldalen.com) <https://www.fjelldalen.com/>

- *Our Desert Fjord Lodge (**Scandinavian Noir Book Club ...** previously known as **Viking Book and Wine Club**) hosts a monthly Book Club meeting in Jana Peterson's home. Members gather to read and review Scandinavian books with an emphasis on murder mysteries. For more information call Jana Peterson at 480-326-2927.*
- *As members of Sons of Norway, we are invited to join the free, national book club that meets monthly via Zoom:*  
**Sons of Norway Book Club:**  
**Bill Browning**  
**Sons of Norway Book Club Coordinator**  
**[SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com](mailto:SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com)**  
**[404-953-2525](tel:404-953-2525)**
- *As members of Sons of Norway, District 6, we have access to Camp Norge in California. Check out the camp information:*  
**Camp Norge:** <https://www.campnorge.org/site/>



BRYGGEN, is a 28" X 24" original acrylic and oil painting by Jana Peterson. "Bryggen" (the dock), is a harbor historic district in Bergen, one of the oldest port cities on Norway's west coast, and a center for Hanseatic trade. Bryggen has been on the UNESCO list for World Cultural Heritage sites since 1979. Jana's interpretation after many visits there, encouraged one of her clients to purchase it before completion... "it was very exciting and a new challenge to make it more beautiful!" You can see more of Jana's Scandinavian and contemporary paintings at: <https://sites.google.com/view/jana-peterson-designs/home>

Bergen, Norway's second largest city, was founded in 1070 by King Olav Kyrre and originally named Bjørgvin, meaning "the green meadow among the mountains." It served as Norway's capital in the Middle Ages and became an important center for trade and commerce as a member of the Hanseatic League.

In winter, if it snows, Bergen transforms into a picturesque wonderland, with snow blanketing its vibrant wooden houses, creating a beautiful contrast against the white landscape.

These historic houses, rich in charm and tradition, are a defining feature of Bergen's cultural heritage, adding to its magical atmosphere during the winter season.



## Officers of Desert Fjord Lodge

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

**Vice President:** Phyllis Bergo (Acting VP)

**Secretary:** Ed Bergo (Acting Secretary)

**Treasurer:** Janis Johnson—janisjoann41@gmail.com

**Membership Secretary:** Lois Ripley (480) 521-8693

**Member at Large:** Norman Jenson

**Auditor: Open**

**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

**Foundation Directors:** Gordon Peterson

**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:** Janet Peterson (480) 659-7328

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

**Sunshine: Open**

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

**Webmaster:** Jonathan Walters

## Mission Statement:

The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and to celebrate our relationship with other Scandinavian countries.



FROM:

Desert Fjord Lodge, Sons of Norway

2531 N Scottsdale Rd

Scottsdale AZ 85257

STAMP

TO:

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If not deliverable

\* \* \* \* \*



Sons of Norway International Headquarters Website:

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



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