

## MEETINGS:

Next Virtual Meeting  
via Zoom

Jan 2nd @ 1p.m.

Mtg ID: 84167028162

Password: 684749

Join by adding the  
ZOOM app or dial in  
to 1-669-900-6833  
and enter meeting ID  
& password

## Coming Events:

Juledag: Dec. 25th

Nyttårsdag: Jan. 1st



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**SONS of  
NORWAY**

### **Mission Statement**

*The mission of  
Sons of Norway  
is 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  
to its members.*

# Peer Gynt News December 2020

d e s e m b e r 2 0 2 0



## President's Message—Michael Amundsen

I posted this to my Facebook page at the time of Thanksgiving. I think it is equally appropriate that I post it here in honor of Christmas and the other holidays we and others celebrate during this month.

"On this Thanksgiving Day, here is a thought on gratitude.

My father passed away from Cancer at the age of 57. I was 19 and in Rome, Italy at the time.

My father was an avid rock hound, among many things. After he died, someone in the Clark County Gem and Mineral Society wrote the following for their newsletter.

"Tom had one trait which is rare among humanity. When receiving a small favor, he could make the one giving that favor feel like a giant of generosity, as a result of the extreme appreciation Tom had for what he had just received."

Because of the example of my father, gratitude and also forgiveness have always been for me the most essential of humanly virtues. I am happy we have this day to celebrate one of those virtues."

I believe with Christmas we can celebrate both virtues.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will sadly miss our Christmas Party. It carries with it too many wonderful memories. It is my fondest prayer that we will be able to make up for it in our own family and friends. The music and the food.

But next year looks good.

This is a magical time, even if we are stuck at home.

God Jul.



## **VIRTUAL LODGE MEETING via ZOOM!**

**Join us on Jan 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.!**

**See side banner to left for meeting information.**

## Social Committee: John Aasness

Getting down to business before doing a little more reminiscing, I want to inform you that the three donations voted on at the November business meeting have been sent.

And now, back to some reminiscing...

About thirty years ago Peer Gynt Lodge got involved in a bowling league at Mar Vista Bowl. Paul Oberg was behind getting us started in the league, which was fun for all, and brought many new members into the lodge. Many of those who did not join attended our dinner dances.

Some of those who I remember from the league were; Paul & Gloria Oberg. Jerry & Esther Nygaard, Jack & Gladys Bright, John & Cordelle Aasness, Waldo Hughes, Lillian Dalsbo, Bob Lund, Morgan Miller, Edie Phefferkorn, Dagne Poppe, Mickey & Christine Biggs, & Joe Cibola. I am sure some names were forgotten by me, and I ask you to forgive me for the mind slip!

**PEER GYNT WEBSITE: [www.sonsofnorway-westla.com](http://www.sonsofnorway-westla.com)**  
**Remember to "LIKE" us on Facebook**

### Social Committee (Continued from page 1):

We had bowling shirts with the lodge name and logo on the back. Each person had a red and a blue shirt, which we all would wear the same color shirt on the same day; we bowled on Tuesday and Thursday. After the league was over, we would have a luncheon at the lodge where the trophies and some gag gifts were presented. The bowling pins were hand-painted by Esther Nygaard with the participants names and rosemaling designs on them. Always a lot of fun, and nearly all the bowlers participated in this event.

If you noticed in the trophy case at the lodge there were a lot of trophies on display from many years back, so bowling has been popular at Peer Gynt for a long time. Most of the names on these trophies, except a few, were not known to me. I am sure if you were involved in this sport at the lodge, you have some fond memories of those times.

Next month we will try to remember some of the trips we took on the bus, and other similar events.

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE!!!



Bowling Trophy painted by Esther Nygaard

### Norway Reintroduces Dual Citizenship

Following a global trend of connecting worldwide, the Parliament of Norway approved changes to the Citizenship Act in December 2019 to allow for dual citizenship.

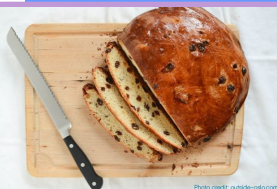
This change, which took effect in 2020, means that both Norwegians living abroad and those living in Norway can have passports in their country of birth as well as their country of residence.

Foreign nationals living in Norway no longer have to renounce their original citizenship in order to become Norwegian citizens. Additionally, Norwegians living abroad may now become citizens of other nations without giving up their Norwegian citizenship.

In some instances, people who previously surrendered their Norwegian citizenship in order to become citizens elsewhere may now apply to regain their nationality.

More than 26,000 people applied for dual citizenship in Norway in the first 6 months of the new law. Due to the surge in applications, and delays from the coronavirus pandemic, the wait times for citizenship are currently very long.

To learn more, visit the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) website: [udi.no](http://udi.no).



### Julekake

This classic Norwegian Christmas bread makes a terrific addition to breakfast, and it can also be served as a snack or as an accompaniment to almost any meal. The recipe makes 2 loaves and serves about 8, depending on how thickly you slice the bread.

**Step 1** - In a saucepan over medium-high heat, scald the milk.

Remove from heat and add the sugar and shortening. Cool to lukewarm. Add yeast and set aside for 5 minutes to activate the yeast. Stir in 3 cups flour, beat, then add the salt and eggs and beat again. Add cherries and orange peel, raisins and currants. Stir in the remaining flour.

**Step 2** - On a lightly floured board, knead well until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place the dough in an oiled bowl and cover loosely with plastic wrap; set aside in a warm place until the dough is doubled. Punch the dough down and let double again.

**Step 3** - Heat the oven to 375 degrees F. Divide the dough in half and place each half in a greased 9-inch by 5-inch loaf pan. Bake until browned on top, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool on a rack before icing.

In a small bowl, beat the milk with the powdered sugar until the frosting is thick enough to spread. Add the butter and continue to beat several minutes until very creamy. Spoon over top of cooled loaves and let dribble down the sides.

Recipe from former Los Angeles Times food writer Russ Parsons.

>>>Are you looking for a Norwegian or Nordic-inspired recipe? Would you like to share a favorite recipe with fellow members? Please contact [membership@sofn.com](mailto:membership@sofn.com).

### Ingredients

#### For the Bread

- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup shortening
- 2 packages active dry yeast (2 1/2 tsp. each)
- 5 1/2 cups flour, plus more for kneading
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 10 ounces candied cherries and candied orange peel, combined
- 3/4 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup currants

#### For the Icing

- 3 Tbsp. milk
- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. softened butter



For over one hundred years, Peer Gynt Lodge has served as the center of cultural activity in West Los Angeles for Norwegians, those of Norwegian descent, and anyone interested in our Norwegian and Scandinavian culture and heritage. Join us for our next meeting or event!

### *a little in English...*

#### **The Young Flame**

Rikard Nordraak, together with the poet Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, is responsible for all of us clearing our throats and belting out "and the saga night that lays, lays dreams upon our earth." Nordraak was born on June 12, 1842 in Christiania. His family has a piano in the living room, and Rikard starts playing early. In 1850, his cousin Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, who is in town to study, moves in with his family. Bjørnson observes that the young boy has musical talent.

#### **Yes, We Love «Ja, Vi Elsker»**

"Ja, Vi Elsker" extends over an abnormally wide tonal range to be a sing-along. It is overambitious. Many have probably experienced starting as deeply as they can, and still ending up with a squeaky voice at the end of the song. The lyrics are written by Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. When the poem is to be set to music for the Constitutional Jubilee in 1864, Bjørnson of course gives the assignment to his dear cousin. The first official performance takes place at the constitutional jubilee, May 17, 1864. The men's choir conductor recounted about the first rehearsal that the song "was immediately beloved and that everyone felt: 'Now, this is our national anthem!'" The timing is perfect. As Bjørnson says, "Ja, Vi Elsker" inhales the breath of an entire people, a few decades prior to Norway becoming independent. "Ja, Vi Elsker" quickly becomes the national anthem by virtue of its popularity. At 21 years old, Rikard Nordraak has managed something incredible.

**On his deathbed** - In November 1865 Nordraak contracts pneumonia. After five months of illness, surrounded by doctors and his landlord, Rikard Nordraak dies on March 20, 1866. Although we can later read all the praise about Nordraak, his funeral goes unnoticed, and is a testament to a lonely young man. Two people show up at the funeral procession: his landlord and a friend.

**New relevance** - Beyond the 20th century, Nordraak's ideas gained new relevance when Norway became independent. He is honored with memorials in Berlin, Copenhagen and Oslo, before his urn is moved to The Cemetery of Our Saviour in Oslo in 1925.

In December 2019, "Ja, Vi Elsker" was officially voted Norway's national anthem by the Storting, after having been in use for over 150 years.

### *litt på norsk...*

#### **Den unge flammen**

Rikard Nordraak er saman med diktaren Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson ansvarleg for at vi alle reinskar halsen og tar sats ved «og den saganatt som senker, senker drømme på vår jord». Nordraak blir fødd 12. juni 1842 i Christiania. Familien hans har piano i stova, og Rikard byrjar å spele tidleg. I 1850 flyttar søskenbarnet Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, som er i byen for å studere, inn hos familien. Bjørnson observerer at den unge guten har musikalsk talent.

#### **Ja, vi elsker «Ja, vi elsker»**

«Ja, vi elsker» strekk seg over eit unormalt langt tonesprang til å vere allsong. Han er overambisiøs. Mange har nok opplevd å starte så mørkt dei kan, men likevel ende opp med pipestemme ved slutten av songen.

Teksten er skriven av Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson.

Då diktet skal bli tonesett til Grunnlovsjubileet i 1864, gir Bjørnson sjølv sagt oppdraget til sin kjære fetter.

Første offisielle framføring blir under Grunnlovsjubileet 17. mai 1864.

Dirigenten til mannskor har fortalt om den første øvinga at songen «elskedes straks og alle følte: her er vår nasjonalsang kommet!»

Tidspunktet er perfekt. Som Bjørnson seier, tar «Ja, vi elsker» opp i seg pusten til eit heilt folk, nokre tiår før Noreg blir sjølvstendig.

«Ja, vi elsker» blir ganske raskt nasjonalsongen i kraft av sin popularitet. 21 år gammal har Rikard Nordraak klart det utrulege.

**Dødsleiet** - I november 1865 får han lungebetennelse. Etter fem månader med sjukdom, omgitt av legar og husverten, dør Rikard Nordraak 20. mars 1866. Sjølv om vi i ettertid kan lese alle godorda om Nordraak, blir gravferda hans umerka hen, og vitnar om ein einsam ung mann. To menneske møter opp i gravferda: Husverten og ein ven.

**Ny Aktualitet** - Utover 1900-talet får Nordraaks idear ny aktualitet når Noreg blir sjølvstendig. Han blir heidra med minnesmerke i Berlin, København og Oslo, før urna hans blir flytta til Vår Frelzers Gravlund i 1925.

I desember 2019 blir «Ja, vi elsker» offisielt stemt fram som Noregs nasjonalsong av Stortinget, etter å ha vore i bruk i over 150 år.



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#### **Composer Who Wrote Ja Vi Elsker (Norwegian National Anthem) Only Lived to 23**

This month's translation is written in *nynorsk* to challenge your language skills. Nynorsk is one of two official standards of **written** Norwegian, the other being *bokmål*. About 13% of Norwegians write in nynorsk, primarily in Western Norway, while *bokmål* dominates in the rest of the country. *Bokmål* is a heavily Danish-influenced version of written Norwegian, and *nynorsk* is a conglomerate of dialects, representing Norwegian, as if it had remained uninfluenced by Danish rule.



## District Six News

### Membership Dues

A reminder to keep your dues current so you don't miss out on the many benefits of membership!

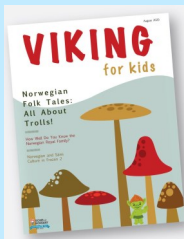
### God Jul to All!

Thank you, Sons of Norway members, for making a difference while facing the many challenges of 2020! Your participation in our sports medal and cultural skills programs, and your enthusiasm in trying new, creative ways of staying connected have been amazing. You've also invited and welcomed thousands of new members to our Sons of Norway family this year. We look forward to continuing our shared celebration of heritage and culture in 2021!



## Don't Miss the New *Viking for Kids*!

We received a great response to our first issue of *Viking for Kids* in August, and we have even more fun lined up in our next issue, which will be released in November. *Viking for Kids* is a quarterly digital publication that includes Scandinavian-inspired articles, quizzes, coloring pages and more—created by Sons of Norway staff especially for our Heritage members! To download *Viking for Kids*, visit [sofn.com/vikingforkids](http://sofn.com/vikingforkids).



### Sign up your Heritage Members

Don't forget that family members age 15 and younger are eligible for FREE Heritage membership. Please enroll your youngsters and help keep our Sons of Norway community robust and thriving for the next generation. More info is available at [fraternal@sofn.com](mailto:fraternal@sofn.com). Watch for a Heritage Member challenge coming from Peer Gynt in the near future!

### Songs From Our Past Tell the Story of Ourselves

Imagine you're stranded on a remote island and you can listen to just eight songs. What would they be?

This question is posed by BBC radio program "Desert Island Discs." The answers inspired researchers to conduct a study.

The findings indicate that when imagining isolation, people choose music reminiscent of the time between ages 10 and 30, when one's identity is being formed. Even Ruud, professor emeritus at the Norwegian Academy of Music, states "The music has a very emotional effect on us... It is therefore well suited to evoke memories and to create the story of ourselves."

The top reasons people cited for their song choices were that the song reminded them of a relationship, a particular time in life, or a major life change.

The findings of this study are very relevant in this time of the coronavirus pandemic, when many people are feeling isolated and uncertain. As autumn descends on us, heat up some apple cider in your favorite mug, get cozy on the couch, and bask in the comfort of your own "desert island" favorites.



Members asked for new goals, and we answered! Two beautiful new medals will be available August 2020 in the Sports Medals Program. Idrettshelt [ee-dretts-hellt]—the sports hero pin—is the 5th level within any sports medal category. Earn the Idrettshelt pin by doubling the point or mileage value of the enamel level in that category. Hederpris [hay-dersh-prees]—the outstanding achievement award—is for completing bronze, silver, gold and enamel levels in any three sports medal categories. Stay tuned to the Sons of Norway website for details on submitting points toward these pins!



### litt humor...

One day, Ole went out to get lunch for himself and Lena. Upon entering the store he asked the clerk behind the counter, "Kan jeg ha to smørbrød?" (May I have two sandwiches). The clerk replied, "Are you Norwegian?" Ole asked, "er det fordi jeg sa 'smørbrød' de skjønte at jeg var norsk?" (is it because I said smørbrød, you knew I was Norwegian?). The clerk made a cunning smirk, "no, it's because you're in a hardware store."

Did you hear about the Norwegian who went ice-fishing?  
He returned home with 10lbs of ice!



## Fanny and Alexander, a Christmas tradition for the Swedes Article by Michael Amundsen

“Nothing says “Christmas” quite like an incredibly long film about a nice Swedish family who face a rapid succession of misfortunes that culminate in a fiery death and an ominous haunting”

Victoria Martinez

Since it's release in December of 1982, Ingmar Bergman's last (although it wasn't) feature film became an instant Christmas tradition in Sweden. The three-hour film went on to win 4 Oscars, but it's enduring attraction is as a Swedish Christmas tradition. Like a Swedish “Downtown Abby”, stores are decorated for Christmas with a Fanny and Alexander theme. Juletide parties are planned with an early twentieth century Fanny and Alexander look.

It appears to have captured the same kind of cultural zeitgeist that we Americans find in the paintings of Norman Rockwell or the Santa engravings of Thomas Nast. That might seem strange considering Christmas only appears in that first hour before the narrative moves on to more typical Bergman soul crunching darkness. But it is that first hour that resonates so deeply with the Swedish Christmas persona. It's a like a Carl Larsson painting come to life.

And the film itself has a reasonably happy ending.

“Fanny and Alexander” is on and off again autobiographical. And nothing in the scenario is closer to Bergman's actual childhood than the joyous and inclusive Christmas celebration that begins the film. In many interviews, Bergman admits that those scenes are pulled directly from his own family memories. The copious food, the flaming punch, and the hundreds of candles illuminating trees and branches spread throughout the richly wood paneled halls. But mostly it is the large family dressed in their most celebratory colors, warmly and loudly enjoying the spirit of the season that reso-



nates the most with the Swedish character

There's even a moment that will be familiar to members of Peer Gynt where the family lines up and dances in single file while singing “Nu er det Jul Igjen” (It's Christmas Time Again). I have many memories of Bodil and Magda leading us around the Christmas tree at every Peer Gynt Christmas party while we sang that very tune.

If you have an interest a something a little bit different for Christmas, one made by Sweden's greatest filmmaker, look for Fanny and Alexander. A year later, a five-hour version of Fanny and Alexander was broadcast on Swedish television. If you have the chance and the time to watch the extended version, I wholeheartedly recommend it.



god jul!



### 2020 Pandemic Pin by Penny To benefit Camp Norge

An “Annual Tradition” at our Northern, Central and Southern California Kretsstevner since 1976, this special **44th Anniversary Pin** is available for purchase.

Even though we cannot “gather together” at a Kretsstevne, we can still support our special Camp. Please contact your Registrar to order a pin(s) to be sent to you. Minimum \$5.00 donation each for these collectable pin(s) incl. postage. Payment by check, to District Six, or

by cash upon receipt of pin(s)! SCK—Nancy Madson Norsknm@gmail.com 760-343-0848

**NORWEGIAN TABLE PRAYER** - I have such fond memories of this table prayer, *I Jesu Navn*. I'm sure many of you recall Magna Orrestad, Lillian Dalsboe, Carole DeVries and others lead us in this prayer before each lodge dinner. I sure miss celebrating this special time with my Peer Gynt family. What a wonderful way to bring the Norwegian language into your home for the holidays. Learning the song can also be used toward earning a cultural medal. How about it? I challenge each of you to begin learning the prayer and teaching it to your children and grandchildren. Start a beautiful family tradition! Blessings to you during this Christmas Season! Your Editor, Susan

## I JESU NAVN

F Dm Am Bb F C F , C Dm Gm C7 F

I Je - su navn går vi til bords, å spi - se, drik - ke på ditt

C Dm C F C F Bb C7 Dm C7 F Dm Bb Gm F C7 F Bb F

ord, deg Gud til æ - re oss til gavn, så får vi mat i Je - su navn. A - men.

I received this wonderful version of a familiar story from a friend. She received it on "Nextdoor" with no copywrite info, just a note to please copy and paste! So I am sharing with you—hope you enjoy...

T'was a month before Christmas,  
And all through the town, People  
wore masks, That covered their  
frown.

The frown had begun Way back in  
the Spring, When a global pandemic  
Changed everything.

They called it corona, But unlike the  
beer, It didn't bring good times, It  
didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly, This virus  
spread fast, Like a wildfire that  
starts, When fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded, Travel  
was banned. Borders were closed  
Across air, sea, and land.

As the world entered lockdown to  
flatten the curve, The economy halt-  
ed, and folks lost their nerve.

From March to July We rode the  
first wave, People stayed home,  
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged The lock-  
down was lifted. But away from  
caution, Many folks drifted.

Now it's December And cases are  
spiking, Wave two has arrived,  
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers, Doctors, and  
nurses, try to save people, From rid-  
ing in hearses.

This virus is awful, This COVID-  
19. There isn't a cure. This is no  
vaccine.

It's true that this year has had sad-  
ness a plenty, We'll never forget the  
year 2020.

And just 'round the corner— The  
holiday season, But why be merry?  
Is there even one reason? To deco-  
rate the house and put up the tree,  
When no one will see it, No-one but  
me.

But outside my window The snow  
gently falls, and I think to myself,  
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon, The garland  
and bows, As I play those old car-  
ols, My happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled And nei-  
ther is hope.

If we lean on each other, I know we  
can cope.

## For the Good of the Order



### Sunshine Report

I begin this Sunshine Report with another apology... Well we didn't have our December Zoom mtg as advertised in the November newsletter. I logged in just into our meeting room, just in case... Glad I did because I had a very nice chat with Marta Limbacher, our lodge librarian. Marta told me that she is having cataract surgery on January 12th and she asks that we keep her in prayer for a speedy recovery. I also received a call from our Zone Director, Troann Roy; she was planning to join us for our ZOOM mtg. Troann, you are more than welcome to join us anytime. Our next ZOOM mtg is scheduled for January 2, 2021. The meeting ID and Password will remain the same as previous months. Join us by **downloading the Zoom app or dial in to 1-669-900-6833. Meeting ID: 84167028162 Password: 684749**

Hey, did you notice??? Peer Gynt had a picture in the Viking this past month. It was from our 2019 Christmas party - Lucia and Amaya Evangelho (grandchildren of Carole and John DeVries) and Coda Christopherson. Can't wait till we can celebrate together in person again! Have a Blessed Christmas Season! GOD JUL! Susan

### Gratulerer med Dagen! November

Andrew Limbacher	3
Kristi Marvin	13
Berit Lindsay	18
Iver Linge	21



*Velkommen* 

To our newest Peer Gynt members

Rich and Janet Johnson  
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Manhattan Beach, CA. 90266  
janet50johnson@gmail.com  
rmjohnson4@roadrunner.com



### Sons of Norway Virtual Party

Visit the Sons of Norway Headquarters website at [sofn.com](http://sofn.com) to join the Virtual Party celebrating 125 years of our organization. Take a look at the Memorable Lodge Events video—do you recognize the young ones at about 1 min 3 seconds into the video????



### CARDBOARD TUBE CHRISTMAS GNOMES [craftsbyamanda.com](http://craftsbyamanda.com)

#### Supplies

- Yarn
- Cardboard tubes
- Craft glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pom poms

#### Directions

1. Cut cardboard tubes into varying lengths to produce gnomes of different heights. Cover them with construction paper.
2. Roll white construction paper into a cone and secure with glue or tape. Trim the open end straight.
3. Wrap yarn around your four fingers 10-12 times. Cut a piece of yarn about 6 inches long and thread it through the center of the looped yarn. Tie in a knot then cut the loops.
4. Trim the beard to make the strands a bit more even then glue it to the top of the cardboard tube. Glue it so that the yarn knot is resting above the top of the tube. This will make it easier to get the hat over it. Glue the hat over the beard and glue a pom pom to the top of the beard where it meets the hat.
5. Let everything dry completely. When dry, the final step is to carefully bend the hats a little to give them some character. You can skip this step and stick with straight caps if you like!



Peer Gynt Lodge—Editor  
4516 W. 135th St.  
Hawthorne, CA. 90250



## Fun Fact #12

In fall of 2017 Sons of Norway signed a purchase agreement with Ryan Companies and Weidner Apartment Homes for the sale of the International Headquarters building and land.

We will be back in time to celebrate our 125th Anniversary in 2020.



[www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com)