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Hovedstad Posten

Volume 52, Issue 2

Hovedstad Lodge 2-094

February 2025



Board Meetings

Third Tuesday at 6:30

Zoom Board Meeting

All members are invited

Regular Meetings

September – May

4th Monday each

month at 6:30 PM

Columbian Hall

6794 Martin Way E

Olympia, WA 98516

Need directions?

Have a question about an upcoming meeting or event?

Contact James This
360-870-5820

Fra Presidenten



Hallo!

I am looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the year on Monday, February 24th at 6:30 pm at the Columbian Hall. The Board had a great planning session in January and re-dedicated us to providing outstanding meetings for you.

Our February meeting will celebrate Sami month. Sami are the indigenous people that inhabit Lapland and adjacent areas of northern Norway, Sweden, and Finland, as well as the Kola Peninsula of Russia. Amy King, a board member of Pacific Sami Saarvi, will be our guest speaker. Amy is currently working on a PhD in Sami American identity.

Our meeting will also feature a short cultural presentation on Oslo County – the first in a regular series spotlighting the counties of Norway. I know you will discover some very interesting facts about this beautiful area.

Deirdre Bissonnette will report on the member survey she created. The purpose of the survey is to get feedback from you on programs you want and the adventures you would like to participate in.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see a complete list of dates and events for the year. Please plan to join us for all of them...and bring prospective new members to help bolster our membership!

See you on the 24th.

Vi Ses Snart!

Jim



Next Meeting

Columbian Hall

February 24, 2025

6:30 PM



Hovedstad Lodge

2025

Executive Officers

President, James This

360-870-5820

jthis@jlthis.com

Vice President, Jon Halvorson

360-790-5349

halvo@comcast.net

Secretary, Betsy Hagen

360-789-8607

ebunky@hotmail.com

Treasurer, Joanne Gray

360-923-1242

joanne@moholtusa.com

Counselor, Linda Fialkowski

360-459-3982

norwaydreamer294@gmail.co m

Program Directors

Cultural Director-

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sgirsch@jlthis.com

Social Director

Deirdre Bissonnette

deirdrepfundt@gmail.com

Foundation Director-

Joanne Gray

Support Directors

Marshals

David Lee and Terry Larson

Trustees

Terry Larson—3 Yr.

360-688-1857

Mark Sterk - 2 Yr.

208-298-7047

Kevan Hagen - 1 Yr.

360-918-6588

Hostess Coordinator

Patty Osier

Greeters

Barb Murphy and

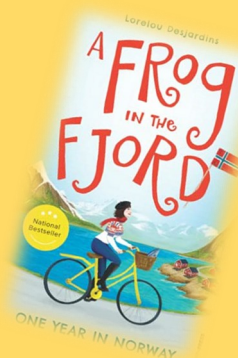
Cameron Osier

Editor

Kevan Hagen

Book Review—A Frog in the Fjord

By Lorelou Desjardins



Winter is a great opportunity to sit by the fire and curl up with a good book! Here is one that will give you first-hand insight into the Norwegian culture.

Lorelou Desjardins is a young French woman, with a Canadian father and Moroccan mother, that has experience with many cultures—partly raised in Australia and Indonesia, and having lived in six different countries as an adult, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Canada, and the UK. So, she was no stranger to the variety of cultures around the world. But a part-time job opportunity takes her to Norway, where she experienced a culture shock that she never expected—finding it the toughest cultural nut to crack. The book chronicles her five-year travels to the far reaches of the country, where she discovers a range of dialects, social and work codes, and eating habits, attempting all the while to navigate the dating scene.

I learned from this book many things about Norwegian culture that I was unaware of, and it helped me understand the cultural variety one will find in Norway. It is an entertaining and informative read! Find it at your preferred book seller. Contributed by Kevan Hagen

BEST COUNTRIES FOR WOMEN TO LIVE GLOBALLY IN 2024

U.S. News & World Report conducted a global survey of 9,000 women to determine their perceptions of their home country's gender and income equality, and whether they view their country as a progressive and safe place for women to live.

Four of the top five countries were in the Nordic region.

Sweden

Denmark

Norway (Scored 95% for gender equality!)

Finland

Netherlands

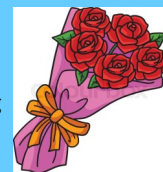
The United States placed 20th.

Contributed by Sue Girsch



Get Well Soon!

Lodge member Bob Thompson recently had heart surgery. We are wishing him a speedy recovery! Get rest and heal quickly, Bob! We look forward to seeing you at a lodge meeting soon!



Nordic Valentine Traditions



The St. Valentine's holiday is acknowledged in a variety of ways across the Nordic countries.

In Norway, the day is referred to as *Valentinsdagen* or *Alle Hjerters Dag*. Rather than flowers or sweets, Norwegians place more importance on experiences. It is common for loved ones to share a unique outing, enjoying nature and the Norwegian landscape.

For the Swedes, sweets are a common theme. Jelly hearts are the most common candy received, and rose sales skyrocket on Valentine's Day.

In Denmark, it is common for loved ones to exchange white flowers called Snowdrops. Funny love notes are also passed, with the sender not signing their name, but using a series of dots to represent each letter in their name. If the recipient guesses who sent it, they will receive an egg from the sender on Easter. If they are incorrect, they owe an egg.

There might not be a more romantic place to spend Valentine's Day than in a Finnish sauna. However, Valentine's Day in Finland isn't just about couples. It is all about friendship, a day to show appreciation to your friends and loved ones.

In Iceland, Valentine's Day isn't really celebrated on February 14th. They have two other special days to celebrate love—Wife's Day and Husband's Day - one in January, and the other on February 23rd. Flowers are the theme of those days.

Regardless of their differences, in all the Nordic countries love and friendship remain at the forefront!

Content courtesy of The Sons of Norway Website

Famous Norwegians You May Not Know



Wikipedia

Arctic explorer Roald Amundsen is fairly well known, but another Norwegian is famous not only for his Arctic explorations, but was also an oceanographer, statesman, and humanitarian. Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930) led a number of expeditions to the Arctic in the late 1800's, oceanographic expeditions in the early 1900's, and organized international relief efforts during and after World War I. A great outdoor athlete, hunter, and fisherman, Nansen studied Zoology, and scientific work was close to his heart. He wrote scientific papers and books as a result of his explorations of Greenland and Arctic waters. After his explorations, he became a professor of Zoology and Oceanography at the University of Kristiania and published many scientific papers about his explorations. As Nansen grew older, he became interested in the relations between individuals and nations. After the Norwegian monarchy was formed, he was appointed the country's first minister in London. During World War I, he was appointed head of a Norwegian commission to the United States and negotiated an agreement with the U.S. government about the import of essential supplies to Norway. After the war, he was responsible for the repatriation of about 500,000 Russian prisoners of war. He was also tasked with an effort to bring relief to famine-stricken Russia. In 1922, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work. Fridtjof Nansen chose to live his life contributing to the betterment of his country and the world. Content courtesy of Encyclopedia Britannica

It's Scholarship Time !

Hovedstad offers scholarships for continuing education or vocational training, plus scholarships for our District 2 Youth Camps.

For eligibility requirements and applications,

Contact Scholarship Chair, Ken Fialkowski, longlakeken@gmail.com

The Hovedstad scholarship application deadline is April 28, 2025.



Support your Lodge ~ Support Norway Day



We need bake sale helpers

We need kitchen helpers



We need serving line helpers

We need you!

**The pay isn't very good, but the spirit
of supporting your lodge and of being a
part of this wonderful day is better
than a paycheck.**



They're Hot Off the Press!

- Be one of the first to get your 2025 Norway Day Booster Button. The buttons sell for \$10, and you will get the collectable Norway Day button and your name in the Norway Day souvenir program as a supporter/booster of Norway Day. The pins are available now, and you can get a supply for your friends and family from Joanne Gray or pick them at the next lodge meeting. Supplies are limited—you won't want to miss getting yours!

**Places you didn't know
to visit in Norway**



Finn Brobakken
Snertingdal, Norway

Daughters of Norway to Host Speaker

The Prillar Guri Lodge of Olympia has invited Norwegian resident Finn Brobakken to their monthly meeting. He will do a presentation of "Places You Didn't Know to Visit in Norway" at the Scandinavian Cultural Center at PLU, and has graciously agreed to also do his presentation for the ladies of Prillar Guri. Finn will share his thoughts on some of the less-thought-of destinations in his home country. YOU are invited to attend! It will take place on Monday, February 17th at 6:30, at the Columbian Hall in Lacey.



SONS of NORWAY

2025 DISTRICT TWO ZONE 4 SEMINAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

SONS OF NORWAY HALL

224 CATLIN ST W, BELSO, WA

REGISTRATION AT 8:30 AM MEETING 9:00-4:00 PM

(LUNCH INCLUDED)

Some Topics included are:

- ❖ Successful Programs & Fundraisers
- ❖ Website tutorial
- ❖ Communications / Newsletters
- ❖ Camps and Scholarship
- ❖ Financial Benefits
- ❖ Foundation and Tubefrim
- ❖ Lodge Reports & Volunteer Hours
- ❖ International Board News
- ❖ Membership Recruitment & Retention



Bring your questions and your success stories. Working together makes us all stronger. We have ideas and news you'll want to hear! Not able to attend this seminar? You are invited to attend any other seminar. Visit the District 2 website sonsofnorway2.com for a list of all seminars.

New and returning Lodge officers and members are encouraged to attend. Make your reservations early.

Contact: Paul Anunson: 360-271-7298 or paulanunson@hotmail.com

47th Annual Norwegian Heritage Festival

Saturday, 15 March 2025, 11am – 4pm



Anderson University Center
Pacific Lutheran University
12180 Park Ave. S, Tacoma, WA

FREE Admission

Musical Entertainment, Craft Demonstrations,
Information Booths, Vendors, and featuring
our Norwegian Café.

Treat yourself to pea soup, rømmegrøt, breads, cookies & more.
No ATM on campus, so bring cash for food items.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center will be open downstairs for exhibits!

Hovedstad Lodge Events 2025

Date	Meeting Type	Location
Monday, February 24, 2025	Membership	Columbian Hall
Monday, March 24, 2025	Membership	Columbian Hall
Saturday, April 19, 2025	Norway Day	Fair Grounds
Monday, April 28, 2025	Membership	Columbian Hall
Monday, May 19, 2025	Constitution Day Dinner	TBD
Sunday, August 17, 2025	Picnic	TBD
Monday, September 22, 2025	Membership	Columbian Hall
Monday, October 27, 2025	Anniversary Dinner	TBD
Monday, November 24, 2025	Membership	Columbian Hall
Date TBD	Yulemarket	Columbian Hall
Sunday, December 7, 2025	Yulefest	TBD

Mark Your Calendar

- Feb 13**– Norwegian Mother's Day
- Feb 14**– Happy Valentine's Day
- Feb 17**– 6:30 Prillar Guri Guest Speaker, Columbian Hall
- Feb 18**– 6:30 ZOOM Board Meeting
- Feb 24**– 6:30 Regular Meeting, Columbian Hall
- Mar 15**– 11-4 Norwegian Cultural Festival, PLU
- March 18**– 6:30 ZOOM Board Meeting
- March 24**– 6:30 Regular Meeting
- April 19**– 10-4 Norway Day at Thurston County Fairgrounds



17th Annual

NORWAY DAY

And Other Nordic Countries

April 19, 2025 10-4

Thurston Co. Fairgrounds, Olympia, WA

*There's SO MUCH more to Norway than
Lutefisk and lefse!*



*Music, Vikings,
Fjord Horses,
Norwegian Elkhounds,
Giftware, Nordic Café,
Bake Sale, Crafts, Artwork,
Genealogy,
& So Much More!*

**Bake Sale 10:00–Noon
Café 10:00–2:00**

Artwork courtesy of Sharon
Samuel-Davies
www.nordicfestival.com
Sponsored by Sons of Norway,
Hovedstad Lodge &
Daughters of Norway,
Prillar Guri Lodge

Admission \$3.00-
Children under 12, Free with adult
www.OlympiaNorwayDay.com



[www.facebook.com/Hovedstad Lodge #94, Sons of Norway](http://www.facebook.com/HovedstadLodge#94,SonsOfNorway)

Hovedstad Posten Editor

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