Nordahl's Tidende

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 16, 1946
SONS OF NORWAY, NORDAHL GRIEG LODGE, 6-52

VOLUME 63, NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2017 | BUSINESS MEETINGS ON 2ND FRIDAY

En hilsen fra Presidenten

Kjære Venner (Dear Friends),

How can 2017 almost be over? We accomplished so much this year as a lodge but have so much more growth in our future. This year, I worked on changing our meeting structure a bit, and so far, it seems to be working, but we can never stop trying new things. 2018 is sure to be another year of growth and I'm looking forward to leading the lodge once again as your president.

By the time most of you are reading this you have already had a wonderful time at our annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. Every year so many people get so much joy out of attending this wonderful event and I truly hope that once again we have been able to bring new members into our lodge from our annual dinner. The amount of work it takes each year to organize the ticket sales, roll meatballs, make the lefse and cookies, organize the bazaar, and set up the hall for the six seatings over two days is a real testament to how wonderful Nordahl Grieg Lodge is. We, as a lodge, would not be able to have this amazing event without the many hours from many volunteers. I hope that we are able to keep this tradition going for many years to come.

As we wrap up this calendar year, I want to thank all of the officers who helped make this a year of growth for the lodge. I know that not everyone was ecstatic about some of the changes I tried, but I listened to all the suggestions and comments and will work on making 2018 an even better year.

Fraternally,
Laura Porter, President

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December Agenda Alert

Lutefisk Dinner – Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2
Lutefisk Dinner Clean Up – Sunday, December 3 ***(help us pack everything away for next year)***
Lodge Christmas Party – Sunday, December 17 ***(see page 4 for details and RSVP information)***
There is NO business meeting in December!

Coming up in early 2018 at Nordahl Hall…

Installation of Officers – Sunday, January 7 ***(see below)***
Business Meeting – Friday, January 26

The installation of our 2018 Lodge officers is planned for Sunday, January 7 beginning at 2:00 PM at Nordahl Hall (see 2018 officer list on page 3).

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship. Old and new officers are asked to bring a plate of open-face sandwiches to share. There will also be cake, punch, and coffee served.

We look forward to your attendance and support of our incoming officers. Please help us make the occasion festive by wearing your Norwegian sweater or *bunad.*

Nyheter Fra Solveig Club

As this article goes to print we're wrapping up preparations for our big Lutefisk Dinner Bazaar. Many thanks to everyone who donated items for our raffle, "treasure table," and grab bags. Storage space for Bazaar items is always a problem in our tiny Solveig Room closet, so we want to give a special shout-out to **Dave Melius** for his recent carpentry work that opened up some much-needed shelves, along with other odds-and-ends projects to make the room more usable. *Mange tusen takk*, Dave!

We're taking a winter break and won't gather again until Wednesday, February 21, for a potluck lunch in a member's home. See details in next month's *Tidende*.

Wishing you all *God Jul* and *Godt Nytt År*.

Beste hilsen,
Duane Adams, Solveig Club President

December Birthdays

5	Marilyn Nelson
6	Sally Mercado
9	Kris Brekke
10	Shirley Shoup
11	Judith Lund
14	Earl Thygeson
14	Robert Lindblom
17	Steven Hawes
17	Robert Mulvany
20	Barbara Shoup
23	Lois Bertelson
25	Jesusa Bjerkhoel
27	William Alkire
28	Gunnar Heistein
29	Kristina Davidson
31	Donald Slama
31	Vidar Dallokken

Heritage members:

15	Alec Magiera
24	Savannah Kramer

Gratulerer med dagen!

Membership Update

We welcome two new members via SON International:

Mark and Debra J. Mather
225 Arroyo Way, San Jose, CA 95112-2103
(408) 318-3147 ***markmather@gmail.com***
They have already purchased tickets to the Lutefisk Dinner!

We also have one cancelled member – **Miles MacDiarmid** – who is Vern Knutson's grandson. I kept mailing him the *Tidende* every month and tried to send a letter; however, the mail was always returned with "not at this address."

We only have one member who is Past Due.

Here's a suggestion for Christmas Presents – why not give a Membership to Sons of Norway to a Norwegian friend or relative.

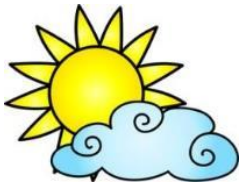
We currently have 261 Active members including Juvenile members with active insurance.

Fraternally,
Kari Warner,
Financial Secretary
408-248-5046
karia107@earthlink.net

Norwegian Holiday Tradition – The Julenisse

The Christmas season is a perfect time to embrace your Norwegian heritage and share the culture with your loved ones. One way to do this is by incorporating a new or different tradition into your celebrations each year. This season, why not invite an icon of Norwegian folklore, the *Julenisse*, into your holiday home? Both farm protector and bearer of Christmas cheer, the *nisse* is a charming yet sly fellow whose legacy lives on in Norway and around the world to this day. The classic tale declares that small gnome-like *nisser* hide in houses and barns to bring good luck or make mischief, depending on how well they are treated by the humans who live there. Try having fun with this family friendly legend, and hunt for the *nisse* living in your own home. Simply search for photos of the *nisse* on the internet, print them out and hide them around your home, then send your guests on the *nisse* hunt of the year. Check out the 2010 November issue of Viking for a *nisse* cut-out, along with other Nordic games and activities you can enjoy over the holidays. You can also learn more about the *nisse* and its Norwegian legend in the 2012 December issue of Viking.

...from SON Newsletter Service



News About Members

Karen Aaker is doing well after her stent placement last month. She is doing her exercises and is no longer short of breath. She will be having another surgical procedure in January. We are glad you are doing so well, Karen.

Elderid Everly had been at Belmont Village Assisted Living for a few weeks, but was transferred back to Kaiser for medical evaluation. She is now at Grant Cuesta Sub-Acute facility in Mountain View for rehab and to get her strength back to eventually return home. Turns out her speech problem is the result of a paralyzed vocal cord that may slowly improve. We are thinking of you, Elderid, and sending our love and hope you will be feeling better soon.

Grace Larsen fell and broke a vertebra which was repaired. She has been at Cedar Crest for rehab and is progressing. She is wearing a brace and walking more steps each day with her walker. Keep up the good work, Grace. We are thinking about you and hope you can get home soon. **Egil Larsen** has been spending a lot of time with Grace at Cedar Crest. But, the good news is that his cochlear implant seems to have been successful – he is hearing noises now that he hasn't heard for a long time. We are so happy for you, Egil.

IN MEMORIAM

Our Lodge has lost another long-time member. **Mary Lou Dundas** passed away early in November in Norway. She was 91 and was a Life Member of Sons of Norway, having joined in 1949, 68 years ago. She formerly lived in Renton, Washington, but about four years ago, moved to Norway to live with her daughter and son-in-law. As her daughter noted, her mother "really embraced the Norwegian culture." We express our sympathy to her family in their loss.

Fraternally,
Shirley Shoup, Sunshine Chairperson

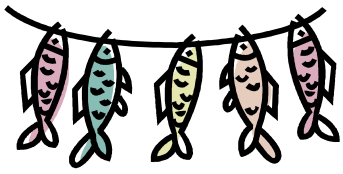
SONS of NORWAY

Nordahl Grieg Lodge 6-52

The following Nordahl Grieg officers were elected at the November 2017 business meeting to serve in 2018. Some positions remain vacant; please contact President **Laura Porter** if you are willing to serve. *Tusen Takk!*

2018 Nordahl Grieg Officers:

President – **Laura Porter**
Vice-President – **Karen Aaker**
Co-Secretaries – **Vicki Everly** and **Duane Adams**
Treasurer – **Mike Block**
Financial Secretary – **Kari Warner**
Co-Editors – **Vicki Everly**, **Sharee Frost**, and **Bruce Fihe**
Co-Social Directors – **Barbara Shoup** and a **vacant position**
Cultural Director – **Kathy Whitesel**
Assistant Cultural Director – **Judy Purrington**
Counselor – **Don Slama**
Musician – **Marv Bertelson**
Greeters – **both positions vacant**
Marshalls – **both positions vacant**
First Year Trustee – **Barbara Shoup**
Second and Third Year Trustees – **both positions vacant**
Librarian – **Kathy Whitesel**
Historian – **vacant position**



Oh, Lutefisk...

There has been a flurry of activity in October and November getting ready for the annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. From ticket sales… to ordering food and drink supplies… to advance preparation of some of the food items… to organizing things for the bazaar and raffle… to making sure the hall looks at its best… lots and lots of volunteers have been devoting countless hours to these tasks.

The January *Tidende* will include lists of everyone who helped during the entire process… from meatball making… to lefse baking… to cookies baking… to the thousand-and-one things that must be done to cook and serve the dinner… to cleaning up and packing everything away on the day after. We hope our lists will include everyone!

One Sunday morning, the Lutheran pastor noticed Ole standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The old Norwegian had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside Ole, and said quietly, "Good morning Ole." "Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, vat is dis?" The pastor said, "Well, it's a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, Ole's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Vich service, da 8:30 or da 10:45?"

Lodge Christmas Party

Sunday • December 17, 2017

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Please Bring a Finger Food to Share

Punch, Coffee, and Cookies Provided

Kids Activities, Visit from *Julenissen** and Holiday Fun!

Please RSVP by December 15

to Cassie Leventon – 408-226-0140

(Indicate how many adults and how many children)

**Parents, don't forget Julenissen's pack…*

Nordahl Hall Work Day Accomplishments

(an impressive list!!)

I want to thank all the people who showed up on a Sunday in October and devoted many hours to cleaning and repairing our hall. Much of the hall is maintained by a few dedicated members (plus some dedicated spouses in some cases). We had a great crew of hard working and capable people. We had an aggressive list, and we still got more done than was even planned. Thank you very much to all the hard workers!

Helpers and tasks: **Russ Behel**, **Bob Goodenough**, **Larry Hulberg**, **Marlin Jones**, **Leslie Jones**, **Janie Kelly**, **Pat Kelly**, **Dave Melius**, **Paul Nore**, **Earl Rosebraugh**, **Barbara Shoup**, **Shirley Shoup**, **Victoria Slama**, and **Claire Smyth**.

- ✓ Blew/swept parking lot leaves and debris (Earl, Russ, Paul)
- ✓ Washed the front awning (Janie)
- ✓ Posted "No Trespassing" signs (Dave)
- ✓ Added shelving above the counter in the pantry (Marlin)
- ✓ Organized the pantry room counter and new shelves (Shirley, Claire)
- ✓ Inventoried and spot cleaned the hall chairs (Barbara)
- ✓ Power washed the bathrooms (Janie)
- ✓ Cleaned the windows (Pat, Barbara)
- ✓ Cleaned the bar area (Claire)
- ✓ Drained and cleaned the dishwasher reservoir (Janie)
- ✓ Cleaned the refrigerator (Shirley)
- ✓ Cleaned and polished kitchen stainless (Victoria, Bob)
- ✓ Cleaned all the air vents (Paul)
- ✓ Trimmed plants and pulled weeds in the front garden (Leslie)
- ✓ Trimmed the deodar cedar tree away from the building (Larry)
- ✓ Replaced burned out lights (Russ)
- ✓ Cleaned the downspouts (Larry)
- ✓ Replaced a broken down-spout (Marlin)
- ✓ Replaced HVAC filters (Larry)
- ✓ Fixed the light fixture in the Solveig Room storage room (Dave)
- ✓ Re-glued ceiling tiles in the Solveig Room (Dave)
- ✓ Enlarged access to a Solveig Room closet (Dave)
- ✓ Replaced the door knob on a Solveig Room closet door (Dave)
- ✓ Added latches to a Solveig Room closet (Dave)

Fraternally,
Leslie Jones, Hall Board President

Love Your Lodge Donations

Platinum Level

In Memory of Elmer Graslie
Clara Graslie (donation, Jan 2016)

In Memory of Ann Smestad
Linda & Ron Smestad (donation, Aug 2015)

In Memory of Greg Ansok
Don Ansok (donation, June 2015)

Solveig Club (donation, Mar 2015)

In Memory of Harold Everly
5 Generations of the Everly Family (donation, Feb 2015)

Gold Level

In memory of Minnie Munson
Jane & Tom Marshburn & Laura Porter (donation, Oct 2016)

Silver Level

In honor of their many friends at Nordahl Grieg Lodge
Glenn & Peggy Riddervold (donation, Nov 2016)

Bronze Level

In Memory of John Hansen
Virginia Hansen (donation, Mar 2017)

Shelley Curtis (donation, April 2016)

In memory of Shirley Hansen
Solveig Club (donation, April 2016)

Don Slama (donation, April 2016)

In Memory of Clarian Pintacura
Anne Herbert (donation, Feb 2016) and
Alan Pintacura (donations, Nov 2017, Jan 2017, and Nov 2015)

In memory of Noel Whaley
Sydney Whaley (donation, April 2015)

Duane Adams (donation, Feb 2015)

Bob Goodenough (donation, Feb 2015)

Victoria Slama (donation, Feb 2015)

Special Raffle Donation

In Memory of Elmer Graslie
Linda Garcia & friends & family (donation, Mar 2015)

Tusen Takk for your support!

Donations made before January 2015 are not listed.
Please view past issues of *Tidende* to see donors and honorees from earlier contributions. *Takk!*

Connections ...ways to connect with your Norwegian heritage

Annual **Anne Grimdalen Lodge Daughters of Norway *Julebutikk***: Saturday, December 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at Sunnyview Retirement Community Center. Shop for Scandinavian gifts, ornaments, table linens, holiday greeting cards, and specialty food items. Norwegian antiques from a personal collection and rosemaling treasures by an award-winning rosemaler will also be for sale. Shoppers are invited to join us at our *Julebord* luncheon at 11:30. Questions? Contact **Mary Schlink** at 408-395-5561 or *maryschlink1@comcast.net*.

Norwegian Folk Dancing – Every Wednesday at 7:30 PM at the Masonic Hall, 890 Church Street (one block off Castro), Mountain View. Everyone is welcome, whatever your experience level. Enjoy live music, friendly folks, and lots of fun! For info, contact **Meg Laycock** at 408-255-2111 or ***meg@jstub.com***.

Tell us About Activities and Ideas to CONNECT with our Norwegian Heritage!

View Nordahl Grieg Activity Photos *www.nordahl-grieg.org www.facebook.com/Nordahl.Grieg.*

Nordahl Hall – Love Your Lodge

Support the "Nordahl Hall Capital Fund."

Help us repair and upgrade Nordahl Hall.
All donations will be used for improvement projects.

Your donation*– *at any of the following support levels* – will be listed in *Tidende* each month. Donations may be designated as *"In Memory of…"* or *"In Honor of…"*

Donations can be made at any time.

Love Your Lodge Support Levels

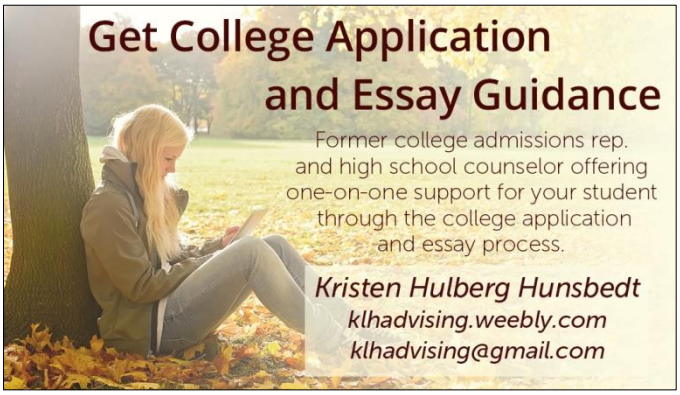
Platinum	**$1,000**	**Silver**	**$250**
Gold	**$500**	**Bronze**	**$100**

Please make checks payable to: *Nordahl Grieg Lodge*
Write *"Hall Capital Fund"* on the memo line.

Then mail to:
Mike Block, Treasurer
110 Flintlock Lane
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

For more info, ask any Hall Board Member, or contact Leslie Jones at 408-927-9966 or *lesbehel@sonic.net*

* Donations are not tax deductible. Please consult your tax professional.



Planning a Party or Special Event?

Welcome to Nordahl Hall Banquet & Meeting Center

Perfect for weddings, parties, meetings and more!
Convenient Campbell–Los Gatos Location
For rental information, contact:
Viking Property Management at 408-909-9055

a little in English...

Doubt that we would have managed it today

[It's been] 50 years since Sweden switched to driving on the right side of the road. It was a huge undertaking, says a professor.

First, traffic was quite quiet. Then the cars swung over the center line. Switching to right-hand driving is the biggest societal change in Sweden, says Professor Claes Tingvall. He works at Chalmers Technical College. Earlier, he worked with road safety at the Swedish Road Administration.

"It was a terribly big project. Probably the largest ever in Sweden," says Tingvall.

The change itself was completed quickly. It happened early in the morning on Sunday, September 3, 1967. At 4:45 a.m., all traffic was stopped. Then all cars drove carefully to the right side of the road. Here they stopped again. Then they waited until the clock struck five. Then the message came over the radio: Sweden had switched to right-hand driving.

Now the cars could drive. But no faster than 30 kilometers per hour [18.6 miles per hour].

"It is doubtful that we could have done something like this today. Suddenly, all people were supposed to change what they were very used to? Some researchers warned that it would end in a bloodbath. But it was successful," says Tingvall today. The changeover was carefully planned. All private cars were stopped between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. for the change. In the cities of Stockholm and Malmö, it was even stricter. There was no private driving between 10 a.m. on September 2nd and 3 p.m. the day after.

After the change, traffic was monitored. More than 10,000 police watched. There were also people from the military in the streets all the time the following week. After the shift, there were fewer who died in traffic. Speed limits also became lower. Most Swedish cars were already built to drive on the right, according to Tingvall. These cars were the same as today, with the steering wheel on the left.

"It was actually very strange. This meant that before the change it was dangerous to pass. It was most often the passenger side that was hit hardest in a crash," Tingvall says.

Other countries still have left-hand driving. We probably know the United Kingdom best. But also African and Asian countries drive on the left side of the road. Among them are Australia, India, Cyprus, Pakistan, South Africa and Thailand.

litt på norsk...

Tviler på at vi ville klart det i dag

[Det er] 50 år siden Sverige byttet til å kjøre på høyre side av veien. Det var et enormt prosjekt, forteller professor.

Først sto trafikken helt stille. Så svingte bilene over midtstripa. Å bytte til høyrekjøring er den største endringen i samfunnet i Sverige, mener professor Claes Tingvall. Han jobber ved Chalmers tekniske høyskole. Før jobbet han med trafikksikkerhet i Vägverket.

– Det var et uhyggelig stort prosjekt. Trolig det største som noensinne har vært i Sverige, sier Tingvall.

Selve byttet var raskt ferdig. Det skjedde tidlig på morgenen søndag 3. september 1967. Klokka 04.45 ble all trafikk stanset. Så kjørte alle biler forsiktig over til høyre side av veien. Her stanset de på nytt. Så ventet de til klokka ble 5. Da kom beskjeden på radio: Sverige hadde gått over til høyrekjøring.

Nå kunne bilene kjøre. Men ikke raskere enn 30 kilometer i timen.

– Det er tvilsomt at vi kunne gjort noe lignende i dag. Plutselig og samtidig skulle alle mennesker endre det de var veldig vant til? En del forskere advarte om at det ville ende i et blodbad. Men det ble vellykket, sier Tingvall i dag. Endringen var nøye planlagt. Alle private biler ble stanset mellom klokka 1 og klokke 6 natten for endringen. I byene Stockholm og i Malmö var det enda strengere. Der fikk ingen private kjøre mellom klokka 10 på dagen 2. september og klokka 15 dagen etterpå.

Etter endringen ble trafikken overvåket. Flere enn 10.000 poltifolk passet på. Det var også folk fra militæret i gatene hele tida den neste uka.Etter skiftet var det færre som døde i trafikken. Fartsgrensene ble også lavere. De fleste svenske bilene var allerede laget for å kjøre på høyre side, ifølge Tingvall. Disse bilene var de samme som i dag, med rattet på venstre side.

– Det var egentlig kjemperart. Det gjorde at det før endringen var farlig å kjøre forbi. Det var som oftest siden med passasjeren som ble truffet hardest i et krasj, sier Tingvall.

Fortsatt har flere land venstrekjøring. Vi kjenner nok best til Storbritannia. Men også flere afrikanske og asiatiske land kjører på venstre side av veien. Blant dem er Australia, India, Kypros, Pakistan, Sør-Afrika og Thailand.

…..from SON Newsletter Service

SONS of NORWAY | District Six

California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Hawaii

November 21, 2017

Greetings,

This is a reminder of the process for the election of delegates and alternates to the 2018 District Six Lodge Meeting and Convention. The notification of the number of delegates allowed for each lodge will be available in January 2018, after the year end membership reports are available. From the Charter and Constitutions – *Election of Delegates must take place prior to the month of March before a District Lodge Meeting. At the same time, an equal or greater number of Alternates shall be elected to fill the places of duly elected Delegates prevented from attending the meeting, the first duly elected alternate filling the first vacancy, the second the next vacancy, etc.*

2018 District Six Convention at Graton Resort Casino, Rohnert Park, CA (near Santa Rosa)
Sunday, June 10 – Morning Board Meeting and Committee meetings,
afternoon Cultural Sessions (open to all w/small charge)
Monday, June 11 – Morning Speaker Conference (open to all w/small charge) – *Aging to Perfection - RewiringYour Brain for Success*, Vendors, late afternoon Opening Ceremonies, Memorial Service, and President's Reception w/Bunads
Tuesday, June 12 – District Lodge Meeting, Recreation Center Meeting, optional evening special event
Wednesday, June 13 – District Lodge Meeting, evening Grand Banquet with Awards and Entertainment
Thursday, June 14 – morning meeting of the newly elected District Board of Directors

Delegates are required to be in attendance for the entire Tuesday and Wednesday District Lodge Meeting, and preferably for Monday events, as well. Come early for the fun and educational Sunday afternoon Cultural Sessions. Plan your days of participation accordingly.

Check out the Convention website often as information is added periodically: http://2018.sofn6.org/

Costs are a key concern for delegates and lodges. Now might be the time to start a discussion about special fundraising to assist in sending delegates to the Convention. The delegate package is $325; guest package is $285. Room costs in the very popular Sonoma Wine Country are $129/night plus 14.2 % tax plus $15.00 resort fee - $162 per night total (plus $30.00 per night for each guest over double occupancy). Assistance with finding a roommate will be available – note such request on your registration form.

Attending a District Convention is fun and educational: you learn more about Sons of Norway; you are updated and informed about the state of District Six; you meet folks from other lodges; you gain insight from cultural sessions and a speaker session; you help chart the course of our organization; and of course, you enjoy seeing wonderful entries in the Folk Art Exhibition and Competition. Delegates come back enthused with new ideas to help lodges grow and thrive. Conventions are including more heritage and culture, but be assured, there's business to attend to as well. Next year's Convention will be full of fun, heritage, and culture as well as the business of our future. We hope to see you there.

Fraternally,
Nancy Madson, District Six Secretary

Highlights of 10/13/2017 Business Meeting Minutes
(approved 11/10/2017)

- Motion passed to accept minutes of the 09/08/2017 meeting.
- President **Laura Porter** reported on the evening she and other lodge members had at **Vigeland Lodge**'s 25th Anniversary dinner celebration in October.
- Treasurer **Michael Block** reviewed the financial report.
- **Barbara Shoup**, Lutefisk Dinner Tickets and Publicity Chair, reminded the group about reservation forms for the dinner.
- **Shirley Shoup**, Sunshine Chair, provided an update on the health of lodge members; details are published in the *Tidende*.
- **Duane Adams**, Social Director, provided a reminder about the October Lodge Social and Member Recruitment Dinner.
- Motion passed to donate $500 to the SON Humanitarian Fund for hurricane relief.
- Motion passed to donate $5,000 to the Camp Norge Raise the Roof Campaign, which is attempting to raise $50,000 for a new roof on the main house.
- **Duane Adams**, Solveig Club President, reported on donations the Solveig Club has made during the year, including four $500 college scholarships; $1,000 to the Camp Norge Raise the Roof Campaign; the purchase of new tablecloths and chafing dishes for the Lodge valued at $500; and $100 each to two charities benefitting the local community.
- **Judy Purrington** and **Claire Smyth** were appointed to the Nominating Committee to recruit officers for 2018.
- Congratulations were extended to October birthday and wedding anniversary celebrants.
- **Mike Block** and **Meg Laycock** presented a plaque to **Ginny Hansen** in recognition of her dedicated membership and service to the **Nordahl Grieg Leikarring**.
- **Kathy Whitesel** showed the red, white, and blue pansies she crocheted, explaining that pansies traditionally signify thoughts for others, and offered to sell them for $5 each as a fund raiser.
- **Cassie and Ken Leventon** volunteered to organize a family Christmas Party on December 17.

Norwegian Riskrem

Riskrem (Rice Pudding) is a traditional Norwegian Christmas or New Year's dessert, made from leftover ***Risengrynsgrøt*** (Rice Porridge) and whipped cream, with some sugar and vanilla added.

Recipes for a traditional "red sauce" can be found online and in many Scandinavian cookbooks. Recipes below are from the SON Newsletter Service and adapted from ***arcticgrub.wordpress.com***.

Rice Pudding *(Riskrem)*
Makes about 4 portions

- 2 cups rice porridge (see recipe below)
- 2 tablespoons confectioners sugar, or to taste
- 2 teaspoons vanilla sugar or vanilla extract
- 1½ cups heavy cream or coconut cream
- 50 grams or ¼ cup toasted almonds, chopped (optional)

Whisk heavy cream or coconut cream with the confectioners sugar and vanilla sugar/extract in a stand mixer until fluffy. Fold the whipped cream with the rice porridge and sprinkle in the chopped almonds.

Rice Porridge *(Risengrynsgrøt)*

- 1 cup short grain rice, such as Arborio
- 2 cups water
- 4 cups almond milk (or coconut milk)
- 1 vanilla bean pod, split in half
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt

Drain rinsed rice in a colander. Add water and rice to a pot and bring to boil. Lower temperature to a simmer and cook until all water has been absorbed. Add milk, insides of vanilla pod as well as shell, sugar, and salt. Bring to boil while whisking constantly, do not allow milk to burn at the bottom. Lower temperature to simmer for 45 minutes or until porridge consistency. Pour into a bowl to cool for rice pudding or keep warm and serve with butter, sugar, and cinnamon.

Norwegian Christmas Traditions

Condensed from www.visitoslo.com/en/articles/christmas-traditions/

Christmas in Norway is based on Christian traditions, with elements of old pagan traditions and Jewish Hannukah.

Before Christmas
In the end of November, Oslo is ready. Christmas trees are lit and streets in the city center are decorated during the first weekend of Advent. During Advent it is common for companies, organizations, and groups of friends to have pre-Christmas parties called *julebord.*

"Little Christmas Eve," 23 December
Many families have their own traditions this evening, such as decorating the Christmas tree, making a gingerbread house, or eating *risengrynsgrøt*. An almond is hidden in the porridge, and if the almond turns up in your portion, you win a marzipan pig!

Christmas Eve, 24 December
Christmas Eve is the main event in a Norwegian celebration. The first part of the day is often spent shopping for Christmas presents, or in church for Christmas service. At five, the bells ring out and most people have dinner at home or with relatives. The Christmas presents have been placed under the tree, and are opened after dinner.

Of course, not everyone in Norway celebrates Christmas, but most celebrate according to these traditions. Many immigrants also celebrate Christmas, using elements of the traditional Norwegian Christmas.

25-30 December
The days between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are typically spent going to brunches and dinners with family and friends.

Christmas food, drinks and snacks
The most popular Christmas Eve dinner is the *ribbe* (pork ribs or pork belly, bone in), but *lutefisk, pinnekjøtt* (dry-cured ribs of lamb), boiled cod, ham roast, and turkey are also common.

The *risengrynsgrøt* is an old, traditional dish; this is what the barn gnome eats! In the countryside, many put a bowl outside for the barn gnome. If there is pudding left, we make it into *riskrem*.

A drink often served is *gløgg*, a warm, spicy drink. It can be made with red wine, but the non-alcoholic version is often preferred. And if you would like a snack with the *gløgg*, try a *pepperkake* – a Norwegian gingerbread cookie. Many parents bake them with their children, and some also make a *pepperkake* house. The house is first used as a decoration, and then eaten at the end of the holidays.

Christmas is high season for snacks and candy and enormous amounts of marzipan is sold. According to the marzipan manufacturer Nidar, Norway's 5 million people eat more than 40 million marzipan figures during this period.

Decorating for Christmas
Houses are decorated with wreaths, angels, gnomes, hearts, stars, and maybe a nativity scene or a gingerbread house. More and more people also decorate their houses on the outside with lights and wreaths. Most families have a Christmas tree in the living room. It has a star at the top and is decorated with garlands, tinsel, and ornaments.

SONS OF NORWAY
Nordahl's Tidende
NORDAHL GRIEG LODGE, 6-52
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✂ ***Save the stamp on your Tidende envelope for Tubfrim!***

Bank Interest Rates Got You Down?

Contact me for fresh ideas for how Sons of Norway financial products may be able to give you a lift.

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SONS OF NORWAY

Deadline to submit information for the next issue is the 15th of each month; please send all entries via email to ***editor@nordahl-grieg.org***. Advertise in the *Tidende*: information and rates are available at ***www.nordahl-grieg.org***.

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BUSINESS MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH ● SOCIALS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE *TIDENDE*

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Dec 1-2	Lutefisk Dinner
Dec 3	Lutefisk Dinner Clean-up
Dec 17	Family Christmas Party at Nordahl Hall

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Jan 7	Officer Installation
Jan 26	Business Meeting

See *"Connections"* for other important events. Dates will be added as they become available.

Remember to bring community service donations to Lodge events… non-perishable food for a local food bank, used paperback books for the VA Hospital, and stamps for Tubfrim. Tusen Takk!

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