SONS of NORWAY

Nordahl's Tidende

Nordahl Grieg Lodge 6-52 ▪ Founded February 16, 1946

Volume 65, No. 12 | December 2019 | Business Meetings as Announced

En hilsen fra Nordahl Grieg Presidenten

Kjære Venner (Dear Friends),

It's one of my favorite times of the year. Lutefisk and Meatball dinner prep season. I love getting together with our lodge members and friends to make the meatballs, lefse, and cookies. It always amazes me to see the fellowship that we all have every year as we prepare the wonderful food for our dinner.

As this message goes to print, our Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner is just days away and I know that we still have so much left to do. Every year it seems like we run out of time, but we always manage to pull everything together. Hopefully everyone already has their tickets and I'm looking forward to seeing our members, family, and friends at the dinner. I'm most looking forward to seeing the new faces that always attend every year. There is just something about watching someone's face as they taste lutefisk for the first time. I personally don't mind the taste of it, but I will be honest that I wouldn't want to eat it more than once a year.

This year it will be nice to be able to celebrate all the volunteers that we have, not just at our Lutefisk and Meatball dinner, but for anyone that helped out Nordahl Greig Lodge. So, if you have helped in any way during 2019, please come to our Volunteer Appreciation Baked Potato Bar Luncheon on Sunday, December 15 at 1 PM. We will have a short business meeting but spend most of the time celebrating everyone who has made Nordahl Greig Lodge successful for another year.

2020 is going to be an amazing year and I'm looking forward to all the gains that our Lodge will make as the year progresses.

Fraternally, *Laura Porter, President*

December Agenda Alert...

- **Wednesday, December 4 – Hall Set-up**
- **Thursday, December 5 – Table Setting**
- **Friday & Saturday, December 6-7 – Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner**
- **Sunday, December 8 – Hall Clean-up – Volunteers Welcome!**
- **Sunday, December 15 – Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

The **Solveig Club** looks forward to seeing Lodge members and guests at this year's bazaar and raffle during the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner! Our bazaar is the primary fundraiser for our scholarship fund and is a great place to shop for holiday gifts. We are open both days of the dinner from 3 to 9 PM. We accept cash and checks, but we don't accept credit cards.

Volunteer Appreciation Baked Potato Bar Luncheon

Everyone who has volunteered in some way for Nordahl Greig Lodge during 2019 is invited to join us for lunch and celebrate all our hard work. Without all the hours that our volunteers contribute, we would not survive as a lodge or be able to hold our annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner.

Please join us

Sunday, December 15 at 1 PM at Nordahl Hall

A brief business meeting will be held in conjunction with this event.

News About Members

A POTPOURRI OF MEMBER NEWS

JoAnne Bjerkhoel had a basal cell carcinoma removed from her leg. She is recuperating nicely and is busy getting things ready for the Lutefisk Dinner.

The **Bratton-Everly-Frost** clan is expanding. There will be three additional members arriving in 2020 – **Morgan** (in Sweden), **Stephanie** (in Sacramento), and **Minuett** (in Oregon) are all awaiting the arrival of little Vikings. Our congratulations and best wishes to all!

Joyce Cosce will be receiving some radiation treatment soon followed by additional chemotherapy. Joyce continues to maintain a very positive attitude and we wish her well as she undergoes more treatment. You are in our thoughts, Joyce!

Sonja Flanagin has been displaced from her condo for many months now due to water damage that occurred at the beginning of summer. She spent seven weeks in Poulsbo and returned to live in a hotel around Labor Day. It has been most frustrating for her, so she has decided to move and should be resettled in her new abode by mid-December. Glad things are looking up, Sonja.

Clara Graslie is recovering after major surgery this summer to remove a benign abdominal tumor. She is doing well at home with a daytime caregiver. Clara is now 95 and recently had her drivers license renewed for 5 years . Way to go, Clara!

Homer Stennes fractured his femur, had surgery, and is now rehabbing at the Terraces of Los Gatos. Recovery is coming along slowly. He is not allowed to have visitors but would appreciate receiving cards. **June** spends a lot of time with him and both feel sad about missing the Lutefisk Dinner. We certainly miss the two of you and send our best wishes for a speedy recovery and hope to see you both back with us soon.

Kathy Whitesel received the good news that the thyroid tumor that was removed was benign. We are happy for you, Kathy, as you do so much for our Lodge.

Hope everyone has a happy, healthful holiday. See you next year!

Fraternally, *Shirley Shoup, Sunshine Chair*

December Birthdays

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

Heritage Members

15	Alec Magiera
24	Savannah Kramer

Christmas Eve Celebrations in Norway

As 5 PM strikes on December 24th in Norway, the church bells are ringing, families are gathering around the dinner table, and Christmas medleys are playing in the background. Here are a few fun facts about how Christmas is celebrated in Norway.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is the biggest day of celebration in Norway, bigger than Christmas Day itself. Houses and yards are cleaned and tidied up. The Christmas tree is decorated with, among other ornaments, juletrekurv, or pleated Christmas hearts made out of colored paper. The hearts can also be filled with small ginger cookies, raisins, caramels, or other treats.

Christmas Eve is also the day that the Julenisse, the Norwegian Santa Claus, makes his rounds to bring gifts to good children.

Little Christmas Eve

Less known in North America is the tradition of lillejulaften, or Little Christmas Eve. Lillejulaften is the day before Christmas Eve, December 23rd. It is celebrated in different ways, but one can have a little dinner, cookies, gløgg-drinking, and maybe a small present that the children can open. Lillejulaften is a good way to prolong Christmas celebrations.

From all of us at Sons of Norway, Merry Christmas!

...from SON Newsletter Service

Tusen Takk Nordahl Grieg members and friends!

As this month's newsletter is being prepared, cookie making is in progress at the hall and lots of other tasks are still in progress. Here just a few snaps of some of our dedicated volunteers hard at work making meatballs and lefse.

More photos and a listing of all lutefisk dinner volunteers will be in the January *Tidende*.

Thank you, everyone, for your help!

Behind the Scenes at Lutefisk Dinner Prep

Meatballs

Janie's mania for making meatballs gets out of control.

Lefse

Vicki and Sharon demonstrate how to mash 300 pounds of potatoes.

Reservations

Barbara juggles 1,000+ reservations and tickets, seating arrangements, last-minute changes and special requests.

Logistics

Jo Ann and Larry keep the entire operation on track.

Kitchen & Dining Room

Victoria and Kate get giddy in the kitchen.

Cookies

Sheryl goes to great heights to get the very best ingredients for our cookies.

Decorations

Kathy puts the finishing touches on the trimmings.

Bar

Dave and Claire stock the liquor cabinet.

With sincere thanks to ALL the volunteers for working together and contributing to the fellowship of the Lodge. Many happy faces will be seen at the dinner because of your efforts.

Connections ...ways to connect with your Norwegian heritage

Discover Scandinavian Tours is running a promotion on deluxe escorted tours to Norway. Put a group of 12 together and one person travels free or share the discount among the group. Two 10-day tours are available: Central Tour and Telemark, and South Tour with Stavanger. For information contact **Veronica Lanzer** at 800-936-2814 or email her at ***veronica@discoverscandinaviantours.com***.

Sons of Norway District Six Convention 2020
Sheraton Mesa Hotel, Mesa, AZ
Thursday, June 18 – Sunday June 21, 2020
The Charter and Constitution states that delegates must be elected, but any member may attend the convention as a guest. Please consider being a delegate. At the convention, delegates to the International Convention in Ringsaker, Norway will be elected. To be an International Delegate you must own a Sons of Norway Financial product, which is not a requirement for the district convention.

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 by emailing ***fraternal@sofn.com*.**

Do you like to sing? The **Zaida Singers**, dedicated to the preservation of Scandinavian vocal music, are looking for new members. The group sings mostly Swedish folk songs, a cappella in 4-part harmony, but also enjoys mixing things up with new pieces. If interested, please contact choir director **Zaida Binetti** at 408-621-8959 or ***zaidasingers@gmail.com.*** Website: ***zaidasingers.org***.

Norwegian Folk Dancing – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at the Masonic Hall, 890 Church Street (one block off Castro), Mountain View. Everyone is welcome, whatever your experience. Enjoy music, friendly folks, and fun! For more information, contact **Meg Laycock** at ***meg@jstub.com***.

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 a Hall Board member, or contact **Dave Melius** at (408) 244-4497 or ***dmelius@hotmail.com***

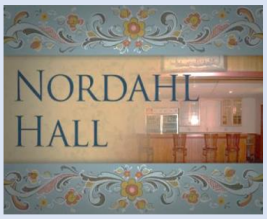
* Donations are not tax deductible. Please consult your tax professional.

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



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***

Serina Kaker

Ingredients

2 large eggs
1 cup sugar
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
3 sticks salted butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar cubes, coarsely crushed, or pearl sugar

Directions

Beat together 1 egg and sugar with an electric mixer until thick and pale. Sift in flour and baking powder and add butter. Beat on low speed until mixture forms a dough. Chill, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, at least 1 hour.
Preheat oven to 350°F.

Lightly beat remaining egg. Roll level teaspoons of dough into balls and arrange 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Press thumb into center of each ball to flatten, leaving a depression, and brush lightly with egg. Sprinkle crushed sugar in centers and bake in batches in middle of oven until golden, 12 to 18 minutes. Transfer to racks to cool completely.

...from SON Newsletter Service

The Birth of an Industry: Skiing in the U.S.

Skiing has deep roots in Norway, where rock carvings of ancient skiers date back as far as 4000 BC. Originally used for transportation across snowy and mountainous terrain, skiing for recreation gained momentum in Norway in the 1800s with the onset of organized tours, clubs, and competitions.

In 1872, Norwegian immigrants in New Hampshire started North America's first ski club. A few years later, a Norwegian immigrant in Minnesota became North America's first ski manufacturer. But it was not until after World War II that recreational skiing became widely popularized in the United States.

The rapid growth of the U.S. ski industry after WWII was largely due to the 10th Mountain Division, a specialized U.S. military unit made up of elite skiers and mountaineers, including many Scandinavians. After fighting Nazis in the snowy mountains of Italy, veterans of the unit went on to teach skiing and establish dozens of ski areas in the U.S. Meanwhile, military surplus stores were flooded with low-cost skis, poles, and boots, making the sport more accessible to newcomers than ever before.

...from SON Newsletter Service

Stave churches in Norway older than previously believed

An interesting article from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology about the dating of Norway's stave churches can be found at the following link: ***https://phys.org/news/2019-11-stave-churches-norway-older-previously.html***

Love Your Lodge Donations

Platinum Level

Solveig Club (donation, June 2019)

In memory of Elderid Everly
Solveig Club (donation, April 2018)

In memory of Grace Larsen
Solveig Club (donation, April 2018)

Gold Level

In memory of Clarian Pintacura
Alan Pintacura (donation Oct 2018)

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

Silver Level

In memory of Elderid Everly
Laurette Kennelly (donation, May 2018)
The families of Elderid's sisters Eva & Rachel (donation, May 2018)

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

Bronze Level

In memory of Elderid Everly
Priscilla & Daniel Mark, Suzanne Lew, Danielle Low (donation, Nov 2019)
Rebecca Ng (donation, May 2018)
Alan Pintacura, Winifred Doty, Kathy Jones (donation, May 2018)

In memory of JoAnne Ansok
Jack and Virginia Jolly (donation, Oct 2019)

In memory of Harry Bjerkhoel
Jack and Virginia Jolly (donation, Oct 2019)

In memory of Greg Ansok
Jack and Virginia Jolly (donation, Oct 2019)

In memory of Noel Whaley
Jack and Virginia Jolly (donation, Oct 2019)

In honor of Paul Nore
Solveig Club (donation, June 2019)

Campbell Chamber of Commerce (donation, Nov 2018)

In memory of John Hansen
Virginia Hansen (donation, March 2017)

Shelley Curtis (donations, Jan 2018)

In memory of Clarian Pintacura
Alan Pintacura (donations, Nov 2017 and Jan 2017)

Tusen Takk for your support!

Donations made prior to May 2016 are not listed.
Please view past issues of *Tidende* to see donors and honorees from earlier contributions. *Takk!*

a little in English...

Where did the julenisse come from and why do we bring a fir tree into the living room?

Christmas tree

There are several theories about how this tradition came to Norway, but the very first Christmas tree that was observed in this country was supposedly at Nes ironworks owned by Jacob Aall in the 1840s. This is not a Norwegian or Scandinavian tradition, but it probably came from Protestant Germany. It was not until 1870-1880 that it became commonplace in schoolhouses for the teachers to decorate a tree.

The smell of fresh trees and the green color was, however, part of the festival in older peasant culture. You washed the floors with lye and sand, and to create a party atmosphere, you topped it with finely chopped spruce or juniper that you sprinkled on the floor.

Julenissen

Julenissen (the Christmas pixie/Santa) is a figure made up of several different traditions. As a supernatural creature, he has many names. Fjøsnissen (the barn pixie) was a little fellow; he often had a beard and was clad in gray, and he lived on farms. At Christmas you needed to leave porridge or a splash of beer in the barn so that he would not pull pranks the rest of the year. If he did not receive these gifts, he might make knots in the horse's mane or do something to hurt the cows.

The Anglo-American tradition originates from St. Nicolas of Europe who is a well-known saint. During Advent, he distributed gifts to those who had been kind, and punished the bad ones. And then we have the Coca-Cola Santa, the advertising version of St. Nicolas from the interwar period.

The julenissen (Christmas pixie) as we know it often has several of these characteristics.

litt på norsk...

Vet du hvorfor vi fikk julenissen og tok et grantre inn i stua?

Julegranen

Det er flere teorier om hvordan denne tradisjonen kom til Norge, men det aller første juletreet som ble observert her til lands skal ha vært på Nes jernverk hos verkseier Jacob Aall i 1840-årene. Dette er ikke en norsk eller skandinavisk tradisjon, men den kom antageligvis fra det protestantiske Tyskland. Først i 1870–1880 årene ble dette allemannseie og da gjennom skolehusene hvor lærerne pyntet treet.

Men duften av friske trær og grønnfargen hørte med til høytidsmarkeringen i den eldre bondekulturen hvor man vasket gulvene med lut og sand, og for å få feststemningen toppet man det med finhakket gran eller einer som man drysset ut over gulvet.

Julenissen

Julenissen er en figur som er støpt sammen av veldig mange ulike tradisjoner. Som overnaturlig skapning har den mange navn. Fjøsnissen var en liten kar, han hadde ofte skjegg og var gråkledd, som bodde på gården. Men til jul skulle han ha grøt eller en skvett øl i fjøset for at han ikke skulle lage krøll resten av året. Fikk han ikke det, kunne han lage knuter i manen på hesten eller gjøre noe vondt mot kyrne.

Den angloamerikanske tradisjonen stammer fra St. Nicolas i Europa som er kjent som helgen. I tiden før jul delte han ut gaver til de som hadde vært snille og straffet de slemme. Og så har vi Coca-Cola nissen, eller reklameversjonen av St. Nicolas fra mellomkrigstiden.

Julenissen vi kjenner, har ofte i seg litt av alle disse utgavene.

...from SON Newsletter Service

You never stop being their protector

Whether it's checking for the boogeyman under the bed or making sure they never go hungry, you are always there for them. Be sure you have life insurance in place to ensure their protection is never at risk.

Our Financial Benefits Counselors specialize in mitigating risk, so don't wait — call yours today.

See ad on back page of this newsletter for contact information for Fred Hymans, Financial Benefits Counselor for Nordahl Grieg Lodge.

SONS of NORWAY

Nordahl's Tidende

Nordahl Grieg Lodge 6-52
Kari Warner, Financial Secretary ▪ 1000 El Camino Real, Apt. 107 ▪ Santa Clara, CA 95050-4284

✂ Please 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.

Fred Hymans
Financial Benefits Counselor
(916) 486-4429
fred@fredhymans.com
CA Ins. Lic.#0D55562

SONS OF NORWAY

Nordahl Grieg
1902 – 1943
Norwegian Poet, Novelist, Patriot

***Nordahl's Tidende* is published on the 1st of each month.**
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*.
Business meetings are generally held on the 2nd Friday of the month and announced in the *Tidende*.
Social events are announced in the *Tidende* and via email.

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Dec 4	Hall Set-up
Dec 5	Table Setting
Dec 6 & 7	Meatball and Lutefisk Dinner
Dec 8	Hall Clean-up
Dec 15	Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
Dec 25	Merry Christmas!

Coming in January – Officer Installation
Coming in February – Lodge Anniversary Dinner

See *"Connections"* for other cultural 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 cancelled stamps for Tubfrim. Tusen Takk!