

President's Message

Loyal Letter

February 2025

Vol : XIII Issue 2

As we celebrate the new year, we are reminded of the sacrifices and gifts our forefather have given to the American Way of life. With the sailing of the *Restaurationen* in 1825 from *Stavenger*, our Norwegian "Mayflower moment", we began a transformation of the American Culture that continues to reverberate today. Actually, Norway over the past two centuries has sent a greater percentage of their population (over one million, between 1820-1920) than any other European country. Like those on the Mayflower we sought religious, economic and cultural freedom. And many of us found it right here in Saint James! In future editions of our newsletter, we hope to share more about their contributions.

Recently, the Executive Board and I met to schedule events for the upcoming year. In marking this 200th year of transformative immigration and in recognition of our own Lodge's 100th Anniversary last spring, we have tentatively scheduled some cultural events to celebrate this heritage and the efforts, sacrifices and perseverance of our ancestors. More in later editions of the newsletter and through discussions at our next **Business Meeting, Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 2:00PM.** In addition, at this February Meeting we will have reports from our Lodge Beautification Committee, the Lodge Corporation and updates concerning last years Bazaar and plans for this year.

Preceding this meeting, at 1:00PM will be a "Potluck" luncheon hosted by our Vice-President, Leif Easteron and myself. Cost is \$10 per person or should you bring an entrée, FREE! Please confirm any contributions to our "Potluck Luncheon" by calling Leif Easterson at 631-637-2369 or Bob Johnson at 631-942-6844.

Our latest meeting on Sunday, January 5th was preceded by a wonderful "Souper Luncheon" hosted by Shelly Albrechtsen, Liz Skadberg and Reidun Rasmussen. Thank you ladies!

We have members who contribute to the lodge by hosting various events that help make our lodge so successful. Toril Stevens is hosting the Knitting Club, Kim Lakeman hosts the Book Club and, of course the events where all members are invited to participate. Details of such events are detailed in subsequent pages of the Loyal Letter.

Bob Johnson

Norway Hall 201 Seventh St St. James, NY 11780 meets: 2nd Friday 7:30	President Robert Johnson pricpl12@aol.com 631 942-6844	Secretary Barbara Brownworth bbrownworth@gmail.com 631 681-4726	Editor Karin Ryan karinryan1@yahoo.com 631 862-8017
Website www.loyallodge.org	 facebook Group Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway	Edress info@loyallodge.org	

Day Date Time Event Calendar of Coming Events

Mon Jan 20 800 pm Zone 7 - Zoom meeting from Vesterheim This is a very special event.

Zone 7 has invited the members of Zone 1 to join them and the members of Zone 5 for a zoom presentation from Vesterheim on **Monday, Jan. 20 at 8:00 PM** about the **Sailing of the Restauration**. This should be an interesting and timely program.

To receive the link, **you must RSVP** to Zone 7 Director Bill Browning who will send you the link closer to the time of the program. If you cc me, Karen Olsen-Helmold at kolsen2@verizon.net, I will follow up and make sure you get the link.

The email address for RSVP'ing is SonsofNorwayZone7@gmail.com

Tue Jan 21 12:00 pm Webcast by SoN CEO - State of the Union address + **Details will follow.**

Thu Jan 23 5 - 8 pm Loyal Knitting Club - at Toril Steven's home. NYE hors d'oeuvres will be served. Bring your knitting project and bring a friend to join in.
RSVP is a MUST Call Meredith 631-766-3142 by Jan 22nd

Wed Jan 29 3 - 6 pm Organizational Party! The hall needs a little rejuvenation. Pizza for the troops. Take part in finding a place for everything and everything in its' place.

Sat Feb 1 9 am -12 pm Pancake Breakfast hosted by Loyal to benefit the Zone 1 Scholarship Fund. Delicious Norwegian pancakes, sausage, fruit, muffins, juice & coffee.
\$15/adult \$12/kids 10— (and under) *Come on out!* See the flyer.
NOTE: Cultural leaders are looking for items to create raffle baskets for the breakfast. Contact Stacey 631.626.0142, or Meredith 631.766.3142.

Sun Feb 2 1:00 pm Loyal Lodge - Pot Luck luncheon followed by our regular meeting at 2:00. See the Presidents Message for the details for the luncheon.

Sun Feb 16 1 - 4 pm Henrik Ibsen Bowling For Fun - East Islip Lanes see the flyer for details. Let's put a team or 2 together as in the past. We need a leader to org.



Birthdays in January

2 Karla Mattern
5 Jennifer Mintz
14 Suzanne Foschino
15 Brenda Flaherty
16 Daniel Faulkner

Gratulerer Med Dagen

18 Arnold Linden
21 Diane Cavallaro
21 Barbara Wikoren
22 Fred Bjorkgren
26 Carol Sliwkoski

Gratulerer Til Loyal

Our lodge has been awarded the

Sons of Norway
Family Lodge of the Year
for 2023
(large lodge)



Valentinsdagen



Norway celebrates Valentine's Day in a similar manner as in the US, but to a much lesser degree. It is referred to as either Valentinsdagen or sometimes Alle Hjerters Dag.

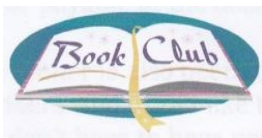
Norwegians place more importance on experiences than personal gifts for Valentine's Day. In recent years however, the business sector promoted this imported tradition . . . because it impacts the bottom line.

Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge 2:00 PM on t b d

BOOK: The Wolf in the Whale

AUTHOR: by Jordanna Max Brodsky



The Gävle Goat (Julbok), a symbol steeped in Norse mythology, survived the 2024 holiday season in tact. The Gävle Goat is a giant straw goat that's erected in the Swedish town of Gävle every year on the first day of Advent to promote glad tidings.



This goat has been a tradition since 1966, but it's been the target of many attacks, including:

Fire: The goat has been burned down almost every year. In 1995 a Norwegian crossed over the border but was arrested trying to burn it down.

Birds: In 2023, wet weather left extra grain in the straw, which attracted a flock of birds that tore it apart.

Ramming: The goat was once run over by a customized Volvo.

Theft: Two men once tried to kidnap the goat with a helicopter.

Flaming arrows: The biggest culprit has been from flaming arrows shot from a distance.

There will be an entry in the Loyal Letter each month with a YouTube website that I believe is worthy of your time to watch.

Simply copy the url in the box at the bottom and paste it into a Google home page, and ENTER . *Ken*

Married
on the Tongue

In keeping with the Valentine's Day spirit . . .

'Trolltunga' - (the Troll's Tongue) is a unique rock formation that juts out over lake Ringedalsvatnet in Vestland. Numerous marriages have been performed out on the ledge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNXHZeEXSy4>

This Side

That Side



julemat

So, if the Nordic Bazaar were held tomorrow . . .

You saw this saucer & bowl available to buy . . .

How many NOK would you pay for the set . . .

250 NOK	500 NOK	750 NOK	1000 NOK
\$22	\$44	\$66	\$88

Note: Gröt, butter & cinammon are not included .

In February, the main Norwegian special event is "Fastelavn," which is essentially their version of Carnival (Mardi Gras). It is not a public holiday, but it is a party atmosphere. It is celebrated before the start of Lent and featuring costumes, parades, and a special sweet bun called "Fastelavnsboller".
(Semla in Swedish)

Fastelavnsbolle- a sweet bun typically filled with custard and covered with icing / sugar.



The Knitting Club will be meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23rd from 5-8 pm at the home of Toril Stevens and special New Year's hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Bring nothing except your knitting needles, yarn and projects. Our seasoned knitters will help new-comers.

RSVP is a MUST

Call Meredith 631-766-3142 by Jan 22nd

All are welcome.

Housekeeping

Do you love Norway Hall?

Do you love organizing stuff?

Do you love having things clean?

Do you love various pizza slices?

. . . then we have just the thing for you.

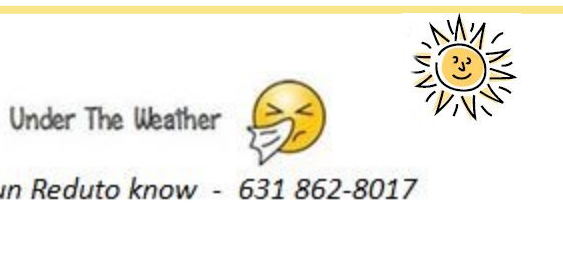
Norway Hall Organizational Party!

Wed. January 29th 3-6 pm

We need to clean and organize the kitchen, the boiler room, bar area, and double closets— also bathrooms and coat room.

Bring what you need.

That means we need YOU!





Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>



Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

My name is Katherine Chuliver, and I am a member of the Sons of Norway Loyal Lodge 3-252. Along with my parents and my grandmother, I have been a member of the Sons of Norway since I was very young. I have enjoyed taking trips to Land of the Vikings, helping at the Christmas Bazaar, creating decorations for the Lodge Christmas tree and ornament decorating, and participating in Santa Lucia Day pageants and soap carving lessons.

The Sons of Norway programs have deeply influenced who I am today. I am a Flat Plane Wood Carver taking after the tradition of Norwegian Carver Harley Refsal and other Flat Plane Carvers like my grandfather, David Berninger. This year, I participated in the Zone1 Miss Norway pageant which gave me the opportunity to present my carvings and meet other women who feel strongly about their Norwegian heritage. Sons of Norway, Zone 1 and Loyal Lodge have helped to enrich my relationship with my Norwegian heritage and continue to grow my appreciation for my culture.

I was recently the recipient of the Sons of Norway King Olav V Scholarship, whose purpose is to fund activities in which American and Norwegian heritages are explored, studied and shared. The scholarship stipulates that I give a short presentation to the Lodge about how the scholarship has aided my academic and cultural aspirations. I would love to give this presentation at your January 5th upcoming meeting while I am home on winter break. I know that this is a busy installation meeting and I only ask for 5 minutes of the Lodge's time.

I am so honored to be a part of the Loyal Lodge and am grateful for all of the opportunities that the Loyal Lodge and Zone 1 has given me to connect with my heritage.

I hope this is the beginning of a wonderful New Year!

Tusen Takk, Godt Nytt År!

Katherine Chuliver





In keeping with Valentines Day . . . There are many places you can marry indoors and out, like a beach, a lighthouse, or in the forest, and there are some very unique ways for the nature loving Norwegians to wed.



If you are a sporty couple, take your wedding to new heights at the top of a mountain.

Of course, you can't discount the beauty and charm of a wedding carried out in a location which is one of the high points in Norwegian culture, a Stave church.

Many Norwegian couples go the historic route and get hitched in an environment that was believed to be a Viking wedding ceremony.



In this modern era there may be more than one way to get engaged besides getting down on one knee . . .



As you saw in the video . . .

Numerous marriages are performed on Trolltunga, the Troll's Tongue, on the summer solstice. You and the Mrs. must be fit to endure the 12 hour roundtrip hike - no food or restrooms on the trail will certainly test your commitment to such a wedding.



Marry me or I'll . . .

Norwegian Pancake Fundraiser

hosted by Loyal Lodge #252

In Support of the Zone One Scholarship Fund

**Saturday, February 1st, 2025
9am-12pm**

**Join us for delicious pancakes, sausage, fruit,
muffins, juice and coffee!**

Raffle Baskets!

\$15 - Adults

\$12 - Kids 10 & under



201 7th Street, St. James, NY 11780

**For more information, contact
Meredith - (631) 766-3142 or
Stacey - (631) 626-0142**

Third District Cultural Camp at Coastal Retreat Center
June 26- June 29, 2025
Isle of Palms, South Carolina

Join other Sons of Norway Members for a fun weekend of Norwegian Cultural programs.

There will be classes in Scandinavian Dancing, Hardanger Fiddling, Rosemaling, Norwegian Language, and Bunads as well as interesting classes about Leif Eriksson and Sami People of the Northern Cap.

There will also be time to enjoy the beach only a block away for those who wish to spend some time on the beach. The price includes 3 nights' stay, Thursday dinner, Friday & Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner, Sunday Breakfast, fresh linens and tax and all the activities and supplies.

1 person per room	\$700
2 people per room	\$900 (\$450 per person)
3 people per room	\$1,150 (\$383.34 per person)
4 people per room	\$1,350 (\$337.50 per person)



There are a limited number of rooms so reserve your room today by completing the registration form below and sending it with your non-refundable deposit of \$300.

Send your completed application and deposit by March 30th to Katie Brink, 3rd District Assistant Secretary. Make checks payable to Sons of Norway District Lodge #3. Full balance is due by May 30th.

Katie Brink

7107 Fernwood St #2421 Henrico, VA 23228

uyakkm27@outlook.com (614)202-5964

There was a great deal of important information contained in the 3rd District Presidents Winter Message. It was included in the December Loyal Letter. If you didn't take the time to read it, you are encouraged to go back to the December issue . . . find it . . . read it. All members should know what's going on in SoN.

Henrik Ibsen Lodge Bowling for Fun!

Sunday February 16th, 2025

1:00pm - 4:00pm

East Islip Lanes

117 E Main Street, East Islip

\$27.50 adult / \$25.50 child under 12 (includes shoes)

4 - 6 Players per team / 3 Games

Cake & Coffee

Please submit names by 2/1/25 to:

Crystal Nifong

cnifong11@live.com

(631) 260-8011

1498 Brightshore Blvd

Bayshore, NY 11706



Ken Olson is One lucky Loyal member...

I can't help but put this recent event in the Loyal Letter. Besides Loyal, I also belong to a Vasa Order lodge, Stenland Lodge No 727 in Rockland County. We have had a Lucia Pageant in Pearl River, NY for 40 years. I'm so proud to have had all 6 of my grandchildren participate, and this year, our Lucia Bride was Chloe Durso.