

President's Message

Loyal Letter

March 2025

Vol : XIII Issue 3

“Out of the dark and into the light” That’s March for you! As we move from the darkness of winter to the sunniness of spring and arrival of Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 9th we are reminded that travelers to Norway, and all Scandinavia in March will catch the earliest glimpses of spring, and with that, longer daylight hours. And for those fortunate enough to travel to this region at this time of year catch the Northern Lights before they hibernate until October.

However, we at the lodge are far from hibernating. Recently our Social/Cultural Arts Co-coordinators, Meredith Johansson and Stacey Ferington, hosted a Pancake Breakfast benefiting the Zone One Scholarship Fund. Assisting in the kitchen were Stan and Shelly Albrechtsen, Sue and Ken Olson and staffing stations were Eric Johansson and Leif Easterson. With over \$1000 raised for this worthy cause, it was quite successful.

Earlier in the week, the same crew lead a cleaning and reorganization of the dining area and with the recent gift of a 55” large screen TV from our sister church, St. James Lutheran Church, it gives a whole new look to our dining area. I see some sporting event viewings in the future for our lodge. Thanks to Eric for hanging the TV for us! Don’t worry; no additional charges for streaming services. We’ll live off Wi-Fi with personal streaming services and passwords.



Recently, I represented the lodge at the St. James Chamber of Commerce dinner and spoke with their President. We discussed the lodge’s participation in their annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th. With our Corporation Chair, John Barnett, kindly trailer-ing our lodge’s Viking Ship, we anticipate a nice contingent representing our lodge. Hope to get some young ones in the boat tossing St. Patrick’s Day treats! More information on this at our next Business Meeting.

Speaking of Business Meeting, our next is scheduled for Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00PM. Preceding the Business Meeting at 1:00PM will be a St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon featuring, what else, corned beef and cabbage! Eric Johansson will be organizing this meal with the help of many. The cost of the meal will be \$15 per person. [Please call Eric at 631-766-8571 by Thursday, February 27th if you plan to attend](tel:631-766-8571) so that he can arrange sufficient seating and cooking supplies.

Note also, the March 2nd Meeting will be our last Sunday Meeting for this year. Beginning in April, as with the rising sun we will return to our Friday evening sessions. More to come in next month’s message!

Preliminary Annual Bazaar Update: we are in the preliminary stages of planning our annual Fall Bazaar, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 in the Parish Hall of the St. James Lutheran Church. We are in need of volunteers for Friday evening setup, to staff tables on the day of the event, help in the dining area and assist with preliminary baking. Please let Erik, me or Elly Supinsky, our Lodge Treasurer (631-654-9353) know of your interest. Remember, the strength and success of our lodge is collective and universal not singular and confined. We are our lodge!

Tusen Takk, *Bob*

All items submitted for possible inclusion in the Loyal Letter must be received by the Editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

Norway Hall 201 Seventh St St. James, NY 11780 meets: 2nd Friday 7:30	President Robert Johnson pricipl12@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	Eddress info@loyallodge.org	

Day	Date	Time	Event	Calendar of Coming Events
Sun	Mar 2	1:00 pm	Loyal Lodge - Corned Beef dinner followed by our regular meeting at 2:00. St. Olaf Feast - \$15 pp limited seating for this (no sales at the door) <i>You must call Eric Johansson by the 27th to reserve a seat</i> - 631 766-8571	
Sat	Mar 15	1:00 pm	St. James Parade - this is an annual event celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Members of the lodge will join with other Chamber of Commerce participants. Information on early arrival and line-up will come up at our next meeting. We are looking forward to some youngsters to ride in our Viking boat.	
<i>Going back to Friday night meetings</i>				
Fri	Apr 4	6:30 pm	Loyal Lodge - Ham dinner followed by our regular meeting at 7:30.	
Fri	May 2	6:30 pm	Loyal Lodge - Cultural dinner followed by our regular meeting at 7:30.	
Sun	May 18	- - -	Syttende Mai Parade - Brooklyn will be discussed at meeting	
	Jun		Midsommar event - T B D	
Sat	Jul 19	6:30 pm	Long Island Ducks - Baseball + fireworks night w/ Norden Lodge \$20 by June 30th	
Sat	Sep 27	- - -	Annual Bazaar - mark your calendar now and volunteer to help when asked. Special guests - Clan of the Ravens presentation at the Norway Hall field	

DATES TO REMEMBER - mark your 2025 calendars - see attached flyers in subsequent newsletters for details.

June 26-29th	Norwegian Cultural Camp	Isle of Palms, SC
July 20-26th	3rd District Youth Camp	Koinonia Highland Lake, NY
August 23rd	3rd District Picnic	Nansen Lodge Picnic Grounds Staten island There will be a bus staring at Loyal with 2 stops - \$10
July 2025	CROSSING 200	Restauration Sailaway event to celebrate No. immigration.



Birthdays in March

3 Tanya Mastaglio	24 Leif Easterson
9 Barry Carlsen	25 Jon Reduto
9 Ada Wikoren	26 Joan Reinertsen
12 Karen Olsen-Helmold	27 Liv Peterson
19 Carla Retnaur	30 Jeanine Monsell



Gratulerer Med Dagen



Happy St. Patrick's Day



LOYAL LODGE PRESENTS A
ST. OLAF FEAST

SUNDAY MARCH 2, 1 PM

AT LOYAL LODGE

\$15 PER PERSON



PLEASE CALL ERIC JOHANSSON TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS

(631)-766-8571

RESERVE BY FEBRUARY 27TH

RESERVATIONS LIMITED, NO SALES AT THE DOOR.

REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW.



We need volunteers to sign-up to clean Norway Hall.

Please contact John Barnett to say you'll help.

Corporation President

917 750-7054

Instructions
for basic
clean-up
are posted
on the utility
closet door.



Olaf Haraldsson was the King of Norway from 1015 to 1028ce.

He is called by several different names—Olaf the Stout (he was a chunky fellow), Olaf the Holy, and was posthumously given the special title *Rex Perpetuus Norvegiae* (*The Eternal King of Norway*).

His strong leadership did much to establish Norway as a definable country and in the adoption of Christianity by the Vikings. He was canonized by the church one year after his death in the Battle of Stiklestad on 29 July 1030.

- **The 3rd District** has gone to great lengths to provide opportunities for the young and almost old members to engage in quality cultural events in 2025. These include:

- * **3D Cultural Camp - Isle of Palms, SC**
- * **3D Youth Camp - Koinonia, NY**
- * **3D Picnic - Nansen Lodge, Staten Island**

Look for flyers added to each newsletter and give some deep thought to participating in such events to embrace Norwegian Culture and Sons of Norway koselig.

koselig

(koosh-lee)

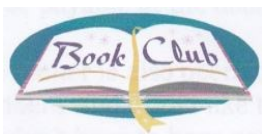
a warm, cozy atmosphere of
togetherness in a pleasant setting

Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge Feb 23rd 2:00 PM

BOOK: The Wolf in the Whale

AUTHOR: by Jordanna Max Brodsky



The Battle of Clontarf

This is a well done video

Loyal Lodge #252

Proposed Calendar for 2025

Mar	2 Corned beef dinner 1 pm mtg 2 pm
	15 St. Pats Parade w/ Viking ship 1 pm
Apr	4 Ham dinner 6:30 pm meeting 7:30
May	2 Cultural dinner 6:30 pm meeting 7:30
	17 Syttende Mai—National Day
	18 Norwegian Day Parade—Brooklyn
Jun	Midsommar / St. Hans Aften
Jul	19 LI Ducks - baseball / fireworks night
	Hosted by Norden Lodge
Sep	5 BBQ dinner 6:30 pm meeting 7:30
Sep	27 Clan of the Raven / Bazaar
Oct	3 Open dinner 6:30 pm meeting 7:30
	5 St James Day street fair, vendors, food
	10 Vidar Skrede violin concert
Nov	6 Thanksgiving dinner 6:30 pm mtg 7:30
Dec	5 Glogg party 5:30 meeting 7 pm

The calendar is subject to edit. Please follow the monthly newsletter to keep up with events with detailed information. Consider in advance how you might contribute or participate in the various events to promote our Nordic culture and strengthen our lodge.

Lyset er på, men ingen er hjemme
Look it up

The Vikings held numerous ports along the Irish coast but most important was ruling Dublin circa 795ce. An Irish nobleman, from the south, Brian Boru, seized control over lands moving to the north. He was declared King of Ireland and with his army, and the support of subordinate kings, met the Vikings head-on in Dublin in 1014 to drive them out of Ireland forever. It's been estimated that 10,000 warriors died in the day long battle.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=APSaOrVGL8Q

Is the Hudson River a fjord?

Yes, the lower half of the Hudson River does meet the definition of a fjord. The waterway is a tidal estuary in New York, where fresh water and salt water meet.

The Hudson Highlands are a series of ridges and valleys that are split by the Hudson River, which flows through a steep-sided, U-shaped fjord carved out by glaciers during the last Ice Age.

The glaciers scoured the land and created the Palisades, the cliffs of which are 500 feet high. The river is deepest not where it meets the open sea, but rather 50 miles inland in the Highlands, up to 175 feet deep near West Point.

The river is called Mahicannittuk which means "river that flows two ways" by the Mohican nation who formerly inhabited both banks of the lower portion of the river. The meaning of the Mohican name comes from the river's long tidal range.



Sunshine Committee

Under The Weather



Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

Global Informal Regulatory Antifraud Forum (GIRAF)

Norway to be the Chair of the Global Initiative to Combat International Phone & Messaging Scams.

This innovative initiative by the international telecom industry currently unites 25+ nations on 4 continents, fostering collaboration among regulators and with the industry to effectively combat the rising tide of phone and messaging scams. These scams often impersonate government agencies or financial institutions, and severely damage public trust in communications.

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Kristiania reverts to Oslo—100 years ago

Oslo was founded 1001 years ago in 1024 and achieved city status by 1040. In 1624, it was renamed Christiania after the ruling Danish king. Then, in 1877, the spelling was altered to Kristiania. In 1925, it reverted to the original medieval name of Oslo, which meant "meadow at the foot of a hill". There are some folks who believe Kristiania is a much nicer, more pleasing, name to hear.

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World Ski Championships will decide the world champions in cross-country skiing, ski jumping and Nordic combined. The championships are held every two years. Trondheim in Norway will host the next FIS World Ski Championships between 26th of February and 9th of March 2025.

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Parades in Norway are always fun and there are several big ones including Oslo and Bergen on St. Pat's Day.





Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>



Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

THE VIKINGS AND IRELAND; A KINDRED SPIRIT

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day we are reminded of the significant influence of the Scandinavian region, specifically the Vikings, had on the development of today's Ireland.

Vikings first invaded Ireland in 795 AD and the rest is history. Though St. Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, Vikings though brought other "gifts!;" but always at a price!. The Vikings began raiding Ireland just before 800 AD and continued for two centuries before Brian Boru defeated them at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

The first recorded Viking raid in Ireland occurred in 795ce when the church on Lambeg Island in Dublin was plundered and burned. At the time, there were no true towns in Ireland but rather scattered communities near monasteries that served as 'safe houses' for valuables, food, and cattle. This made those locations prime targets for Viking raids.



The Viking kings continued their raids on Ireland during the ninth and they established settlements around the country, many of which still survive today. One of the earliest Viking settlements established at the mouth of the Liffey River survived to become what is now modern Dublin.

In 914 AD, a fleet of Viking ships established a base at Waterford, followed by a base at Cork. Somewhat later, an invasion along the Shannon estuary laid the foundation for Limerick. Wexford was another stronghold, with the region between Wexford, Waterford, and Kilkenny known as as Ireland's Viking Triangle.

The act of traveling overseas to other lands and plundering them of their wealth and riches was really what the Viking society was about. The Vikings were great experts at building ships which were used for long journeys, and made use of this to travel, raid, and gather as much as they could from other people.

Researchers at Trinity College Dublin believe that Viking and Norman invasions of Ireland may have made a more striking impression on the country than previously thought. They also discovered 23 new genetic clusters in Ireland not previously identified, leading to the belief that Ireland may have far more Viking and Norman ancestry than previously evidenced.

Some of the most common Irish surnames also derive from Viking origins. Doyle (son of the dark foreigner), MacAuliffe (Son of Olaf), and MacManus (Son of Manus) all originate from the Scandinavian warriors who settled in Ireland and married the native Irish.



The City of Dublin

The Vikings settled in Dublin from 841ce onwards. During their reign Dublin became the most important town in Ireland as well as a hub for the western Viking expansion and trade. It is in fact one of the best known Viking settlements.

Extensive excavations carried out by the National Museum of Ireland between 1962 and 1981 revealed a wealth of information about the settlement. The single most important result of these excavations was the data they provided about town layout in the tenth and eleventh centuries. There were significant signs of the influence of Viking techniques in urban organization. A series of fenced plots or tenements was unearthed and could be traced over a dozen successive building levels.



Viking Graves in Dublin

Ninth and 10th century Viking graves were discovered in coastal locations such as Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ballyholm, Co. Down, Eyrephort, Co. Galway, and in more extensive cemeteries at Kilmainham and Islandbridge on the banks of the River Liffey, in Dublin.. Most of the artefacts from the graves were recovered in the course of gravel digging and in the building of the railway line in the 1840s, 50s and 60s. At least two cemeteries were located in the area and perhaps a third lay north of the Liffey in what is now the Phoenix Park. The presence of weapons, tools and brooches among the finds indicate that both men and women were buried there. The finds recovered represent at least fifty burials, and Kilmainham alone remains the largest known Viking cemetery outside Scandinavia.

Pagan Viking graves of the ninth and tenth centuries found at Kilmainham and Islandbridge represent the earliest contacts between the Vikings and Ireland. *pix by Ken Olson*



Headstone ?





I apologize for a 2nd personal entry in the newsletter but for this cultural report it seems to be most appropriate.



Many years ago I visited Ireland with some Scandinavian friends and we spent much of our time searching out what the Viking influence was, specifically, in Dublin. The signs were more prevalent than expected. Walking around you can see monuments and various statues acknowledging the Viking history all about the town.

A great surprise was to see artifacts that were traded with the Vikings actually imbedded right in the walkway. I can only suppose that the museums of Ireland had a plethora of such items in their vaults or some very good replicas. Ken



Don't know if the concept was Irish or Nordic, but someone came up with the idea to put an artistic Viking longboat on the curb with 3 benches.



I took the liberty of taking a seat with my friend, Jack Hanright, (who is currently the Grand Master of the Vasa Order) and we took our turn pulling on the oars of the boat.



And Guinness was always served with a healthy head on it . . . and often you could get it with a shot of blackberry brandy thrown in for good measure.

Skål



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, Scandinavian Music, 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. Walking tours of Downtown Charleston and/or Fort Moultrie are also being planned.

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 nonrefundable 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 uvakkm27@outlook.com (614)202-5964

Museum worker discovers Viking-era sword

A Viking-era sword, dating back to the 9th or 10th century, has been unveiled by the Military Museum in Białystok, Poland. Found by museum employee Szczepan Skibicki during a dive in the Supraśl River.

Experts believe the sword was forged in the late 9th or early 10th century, potentially linked to Viking or Baltic cultures. While Poland was not a central arena for Viking activity, archaeological evidence confirms their presence at trading and administrative centers during this period.

The weapon's design, marked by its distinctive hilt, aligns with Viking craftsmanship.

