

President's Message

Loyal Letter

April 2025

Vol : XIII Issue 4

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Spring in Norse mythology is a time of renewal and rebirth. It signifies the end of the long winter and the return of life to the world. Freyr, the god of fertility and prosperity, is often linked to the arrival of spring. In Norse tales, spring is portrayed as a time of new beginnings, growth, and the promise of better days ahead.

Our Spring got off to a great start with our annual Corned beef and Cabbage dinner before our regular business meeting on March 2. Chef Eric Johansson served us a delicious spread with the help of additional kitchen support.



Our Oddvar inhales a
Norwegian pancake.



We followed this up with our annual participation in the Saint James St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15, with Eric Johansson Jr. carrying our lodge banner flanked by Lori Mahoney with the American Flag and Karin Ryan with the Norwegian flag. In the boat and tossing out candy to literally thousands of folks lining both Woodlawn Ave. and Lake Ave were Stacey Ferington and Alyssa Ferington. And driving the SUV (courtesy of his son) throughout this parade was Leif Easterson. Following the

event, participants enjoyed Lapskaus courtesy of Torun Reduto and pizza, courtesy of the lodge. This event clearly had the largest crowd we have seen in years lining the roadways! A special event!



Earlier in the day, Elly Supinsky and Inger Neilsen, our auditors, were busy with their yearly audits of the Third District Charitable Trust. Their labors lasted throughout the morning and into the afternoon.

We recently met with our Lodge Beautification Committee; Reidun Rasmussen, Toril Stevens, Meredith Johansson, Inger Nielsen, Don Reinertsen, Leif Easterson and myself. While some brief plans were reported at our March Meeting, a more detailed plan and thoughts for expenses will be shared at the April Meeting.



While speaking of the lodge, we are asking anyone having a "spare" small wooden desk if they would like to donate it to the lodge (chair might be asking too much?). We are in the process of reorganizing the coat room to accommodate a small desk, printer and safe. If you have something along these lines, you can call or text me directly. We can arrange pickup.

The Presidents Message . . . continued

The good news is that Loyal Lodge has been granted papal exemption from Lentil obligations for this special event. Everyone is welcome as we celebrate the coming of Spring. Contact Leif Easterson at eastersonle@gmail.com or text 631 637-2369 to **let him know you're attending, and what side or dessert you'll bring.** If you have a preferred beverage by all means bring it. Loyal Lodge special spring water will be available. Given this is a Pot Luck dinner admission is free.

This might be a good occasion to dust off the **Easter hats** and give them a practice whirl in preparation for Easter Sunday. Wearing a hat will significantly increase the likelihood of having your likeness preserved for eternity by our intrepid Loyal Lodge at Large photographer and included in next Month's newsletter.

This will be our first night meeting of the year, so the dinner starts at 6:30 with a meeting to follow at 7:30. Hope to see you there. Please note, that as Leif states, the "special spring water" is as you might suspect!

Our 3rd District annual meeting is scheduled the weekend of March 28-30 in Syosset. Steve, Karen, Leif and I will be participating and will report out at our next meeting.

That's it for now; see you on April 4th!

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.



The 3rd District Continues To Support The Longest Day in 2025

Inspired by Audun Gythfeldt and initiated by Kathy Dollymore, The Third District has now sponsored a TEAM for five years running. One need only read the news to realize that we are coming closer every day to a time when dementia can be managed, perhaps prevented and even cured! We don't need to look any further than the members of our own lodges to come face to face with the harsh realities of Alzheimers / Dementia.

The 3D
Charitable
Giving TEAM

* * * * *

Audun Gythfeldt
Peter Hanson
Kaare Hansen
Leif Easterson

Norway Hall 201 Seventh St St. James, NY 11780 meets: 2nd Friday 7:30	President Robert Johnson princip12@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 30	2:00 pm	Loyal Book Club - please see the article on page 8	Info 631 766-3142
Fri	Apr 4	6:30 pm	Loyal Lodge - Pot Luck Ham dinner followed by our regular meeting at 7:30. Contact Leif Easterson at eastersonle@gmail.com or text 631 637-2369 by <u>Wed, April 2nd</u> to say you're coming and <u>what side or dessert you'll bring.</u> <i>Note: Easter bonnets/hats are strongly encouraged to add flavor to the event.</i>	
Fri	May 2	6:30 pm	Loyal Lodge - Cultural dinner followed by our regular meeting at 7:30.	
Sat	May 17	- - - -	Syttende Mai - Norwegian Independence Day	
Sun	May 18	- - - -	Syttende Mai Parade - Brooklyn will be discussed at meeting. <i>If you're interested in going in & back on a Loyal sponsored bus, call Karen Ryan 631 862-8017</i>	
	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	



Hjertelig Velkommen (a hearty welcome) to our newest members:

Pamela Bensin, Lisa Davidson, Frank & Maria Latino



Birthdays in April

4 Judy Regulinski
6 Michael Pedersen
7 Elizabeth Skadberg
8 Louis Sandhop
11 Inga Johansson

Gratulerer Med Dagen

12 Toril Stevens
13 Carol Acker
16 James Baxley
21 Donald Reinertsen
28 Lori Mahoney

Loyal Lodge's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Was A Big Success

Tusen Takk to all who joined us for our Norwegian Pancake Fundraiser held this past weekend to support the Zone 1 Scholarship Fund. The Norwegian Flag was flying crisp, high and proud as it greeted our breakfast goers to Norway Hall! We enjoyed guests from Sag Harbor, Manhattan, Great Neck and in between! Our basket raffles were a big hit especially the IKEA Shark and Octopus and (2) Susan's Swedish Coffeebread baskets!



Helmolds rounded the figure up to \$1,000!

Thanks go out to our Co-Cultural Leaders Meredith Johansson and Stacey Ferington who put the entire event together. A special thank you to Katie Chuliver for her hand carved nisse basket made from her grandfather's carving tools! Well done, Katie and a beautiful way to give back! It was a really a fun, relaxing morning spent with SoN friends supporting a great cause at Norway Hall!





Board Member Folders in the coat room.

If you have information to pass along to an officer. i.e. a receipt, you can place it in the folder where it will be picked up.

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.





Have you joined the facebook group site yet to see all our pictures, current and over the years?

There is a Beautification Committee in place to consider potential alterations to our upper hall. If you have an opinion, please share it with Leif, Reidun or Toril, or the lodge as a whole. One idea mentioned is a 4'ft x 8'ft professional reproduction of the famous Leif Erikson painting on the back wall. Another idea is to paint the walls above the chair rail. (see pix)



Oslo Opera House: A Landmark of Oslo, Norway

The contemporary architecture of this waterside structure built with Italian marble is in stark opposition to the old Oslo buildings. The extensive wood based interior softens the ambiance of the great hall that surrounds a stage which some say resembles crumpled aluminum foil.

NOTE: some use it for snowboarding in the winter.

youtube.com/watch?v=uRvp12OVEKg&t=43s

The premeeting dinner on March 2nd was touted as *St Olaf's Feast* but in reality it had *St. Patrick's Day* written all over it—from the green paper goods, to the corned beef and cabbage dinner. *St. Olaf* didn't even get a dinner ticket. Kudos to head chef and only chef, *Eric Johansson*, for a fine dinner for our members.

(great cuts of beef, Costco!)



Dressed for St Pat's in a big way . . . and in a wee way.



This Side

Jonas Bronck (around 1600 – 1643) was a settler from Scandinavia, probably Sweden, in the Dutch colony of New Netherland after whom the Bronx River, and by extension, the county and New York City borough of the Bronx are named.



Jonas Bronck signs a treaty with the local indians

Sunshine Committee

Under The Weather

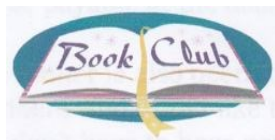


Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

Is your financial future in order? SoN has help.

Bob McKeever, CLU
Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor
(800) 561-1492 bob@mclu.com

LOYAL LODGE BOOK CLUB



Meets at the lodge 2:00 pm on Sun 3/30

BOOK: Hidden in Snow

AUTHOR: Viveca Sten

Also a Swedish
series on Netflix

That Side

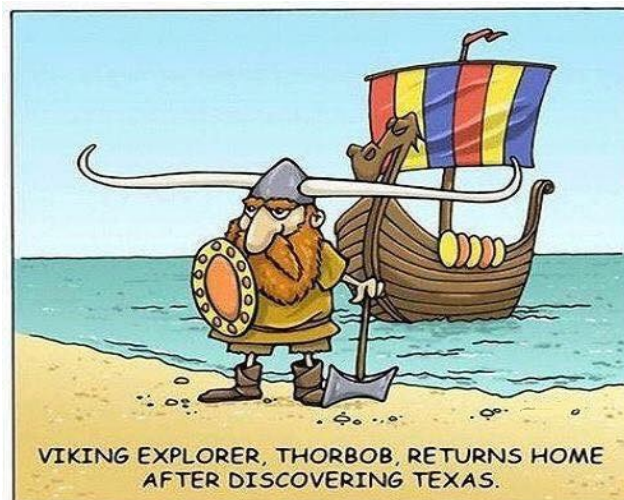


Norway is one of the most expensive countries to get a driver's license?

Not because of the driving license itself, but due to mandatory training and higher-than-average hourly rates for instructors.

Getting a driver's license in Norway can cost around **25,000 to 30,000 NOK** (approximately \$2,400 to \$3,300 US)

Olav Thon, widely viewed as one of Norway's most unconventional billionaires, died this weekend at the age of 101. The real estate tycoon, hotel owner and philanthropist never really retired, and remarried when he was 95.



VIKING EXPLORER, THORBOB, RETURNS HOME AFTER DISCOVERING TEXAS.



Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>



Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

Norwegian Forest Cat

The Norwegian forest cat lineage is thought to date back to the time of the Vikings. Images and written descriptions of cats resembling the Norwegian forest cat exist from as early as the 16th century. The breed even plays a major role in a Norwegian fairy tale about the old Norse goddess Freya, who used six huge forest cats to pull her chariot.

By the turn of the 20th century, however, the breed was nearly lost because of indiscriminate cross-breeding with other types of cats. People took notice, recognizing that the breed was a national treasure. In 1938, Norway's King Olav V deemed the Norwegian forest cat the national cat breed of Norway. It took many decades, but breed fanciers in Norway eventually managed to save the breed and bolster its numbers through careful breeding programs.



O M G

The first Norwegian forest cats arrived in the United States in 1979.¹ The Norwegian forest cat was accepted for championship status by The International Cat Association in 1984. The Cat Fanciers Association accepted the Norwegian forest cat for full championship status in 1993.

The Norwegian forest cat possesses a long, dense coat that helped their ancestors survive for centuries in the forests of Norway. Today, these large felines are loving house cats - though they don't usually like laying in anyone's lap.

This calm, affectionate cat (called *skogkatt* in Norwegian and the slang "wegie" here in the U.S.) does enjoy a weekly brushing to maintain that long hair. They also shed, so you'll want to have a good vacuum on hand, especially in the spring. FYI . . . they go for about \$2,000 and up.

Spring Third District President's Message

Happy Spring! With spring here and winter over, a lot of lodges will be gearing up for Easter and 17th of May celebrations.

The district is having several great events this year. In June there will be a long weekend cultural camp at Isle of the Palms, South Carolina from Thursday June 26th to Sunday June 29th. It promises to be a fantastic event not to be missed, so if you are interested in going, sign up as soon as you can, as room are filling up fast.

Another great event is the Third District Youth Camp at Camp Koininia in Highland Lake, New York from Sunday July 20th to Saturday July 26th. This is an event at which the children enjoy learning about Norwegian culture and heritage and make friends with children from other parts of the Third District. So, if you have children or grandchildren ages 8 to 17, I urge you to send them to this great camp, the children will be happy you did.

The Third District Picnic is being held at Nansen Lodge on Staten Island, New York on Saturday August 23rd. Last year the picnic was a great success and looks like it will be even better this year.

The District President's Advisory Council, which is comprised of the president from each of our 8 districts, met on March 1st with the CEO of Sons of Norway, Dan Seyfried, and Chairman of the Sons of Norway International Board, Luella Grangaard, to discuss issues of importance to the 8 districts and district lodges. The main issues were communications from both the International Board and the home office staff, fraternal problems, and the dues increase causing membership losses. Dan and Luella agreed to have more open communications, stress the importance of the fraternal aspect of Sons of Norway and were sorry that there was a loss of members because of the dues increase. I hope they were sincere with what they said, but we can only hope. As I am the chairman of the District Presidents Advisory Council, I will be having Dan, Luella, and some home office staff on future meetings with the District Presidents.

To get the members of the district to get to know more about the 4 new Third District board members who were elected at our last convention. I will be including in my messages a little bit about them in their own words. In this message I want to introduce you to Katie Brink the new Assistant District Secretary. Please read about what Katie had to say about herself.

Assistant Secretary Katie Brink has been a member of Sons of Norway since 2017. She is currently the Secretary for Hampton Roads Lodge located in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Katie is involved in coordinating the District's Cultural and Youth camps. She has extensive experience as a teacher collaborating with others and currently lives in the Richmond, Virginia area with her husband Drew.

Karen and I are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Katie. She has been a tremendous help already, always willing to step up to the plate and lend a hand.

Until my summer message, Karen and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and a great 17th of May.

Faternally,

Stephen Helmold



THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN 17TH OF MAY COMMITTEE OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.

Parade held in Brooklyn on Sunday, May 18, 2025
Parade Theme: "Celebrating Norwegian Immigration"

67th Miss Norway of Greater New York Contest

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please return:

- Completed and signed original application
- Recent photo (facial close-up preferred), 4 x 6 or larger
- Application fee: \$30

Mail the completed application, photo, and fee payable to The Norwegian-American 17th of May Parade Committee postmarked **NO LATER** than Friday, March 21, 2025, (only the first 12 will be accepted) to: **George Jensen**, 20 79th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209.

MISS NORWAY OF GREATER NEW YORK CONTEST AND BANQUET Day Reservations

It is imperative that families wishing to attend make reservations in advance by contacting ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com.

Table seating is limited so it is important to reserve as soon as possible.

The price for the event is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

PRIZES

Prizes awarded will be confirmed at a later date.

Prizes are non-refundable.



THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN 17TH OF MAY COMMITTEE OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.

Application for the 67th Miss Norway of Greater New York Contest
Saturday, April 12, 2025

Arthur Nilsen Banquet Hall
Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center
1250 67th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219
Contest commences at 2 PM. Contestants should arrive at 10 AM
(Please note: Contestants are limited to 12)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____
Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ eMail: _____

EDUCATION

Highest level of education completed (high school, undergraduate, etc.): _____
Name of School: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Degree/Major/Graduation Year: _____
Current Employer or School: _____
Have you been a previous Miss Norway of Greater NY Contestant? ☐ Yes; if Yes, which year(s) _____ ☐ No

NORWEGIAN BACKGROUND

Indicate the closest Norwegian born relative: ☐ Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Great Grandparent
Name of relative: _____
Place in Norway where relative was born: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Please include a type-written biographical statement. Your statement should demonstrate your knowledge of Norway and experiences with Norwegian culture, family background, traditions, and/or travel in Norway. You should also include your current activities, hobbies, clubs, volunteerism, educational, and professional goals.

I agree that all statements made above are true and to abide by all contest rules. I give permission for the committee to use my name and photographs for the purpose of the Miss Norway Contest of Greater New York. I agree to make scheduled appearances attired properly, or in national dress and displaying the symbols of my office (sash and crown). I understand that I must advise the committee immediately but no later than a week in advance of the appearance. I am not married and will be between 17 and 26 years of age through April 12, 2025.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

If under 18 - Parent's Signature: _____

More about Fjords

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Last issue mentioned the Hudson River has a fjord. The various ice ages over the millenniums had an effect on a great many geographical areas. The picture to the right is of a fjord carved out of the earth in Iceland. It can clearly be seen that it bears no likeness to the Hudson or Norwegian fjords. The rocks carried by the slow moving ice was much heavier in the Iceland ice. This resulted in extremely coarse cuts, not nearly as attractive as the renowned Norwegian fjords. It may not be beautiful and it's doubtful that any visitors come to see this one, but you can't deny it's dramatic.

