



## President's Message

# Loyal Letter

May 2025

Vol : XIII Issue 5

The arrival of spring in Norway's fjords is one of nature's most breathtaking transformations. While peaks remain dusted with snow, the valleys erupt in a lush, vibrant green. Weather, while somewhat unpredictable, often delivers crisp blue skies that enhance the springtime feel. Such is the weather we experienced during a recent visit.



Norway in May and June is spectacular! We saw the fjord side orchards burst into bloom, covering the landscape in a sea of pink and white apple and cherry blossoms. Sheep, cows, and goats are released onto fresh pastures, these often hugging a large fjord and signaling the return of warmer days. One of the most striking aspects of spring in the fjords is the sheer volume of water cascading down the mountains. As the snow melts, waterfalls reach their most dramatic flow (my photograph left).

As with spring in Norway, we at Norway Hall are experiencing an awakening as well. Our Lodge Beautification Committee will be sharing their final report with membership at our May 2 Business Meeting at 7:30PM and voting on funding for the various projects. The meeting will be preceded at 6:30PM by a delicious "Scandinavian Dinner" provided by our own Cultural Arts Directors Meredith Johansson and Stacey Ferington. (**Scandinavian Dinner Tour on Friday, May 2nd at 6:30 pm! Enjoy foods (and a special libation) from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland - \$12/**

**person. Bring a friend and reserve your place at our table by Wednesday, April 30th by texting/calling Stacey 631-626-0142 or Meredith 631-766-3142.)**

Following the dinner, in addition to our Lodge Beautification Report, information will be shared regarding our Fall Fundraiser scheduled for September 26, 2025, May 4<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service, we'll discuss the location and installation of our new 75" large screen smart TV (for Zoom meetings and pertinent "YouTube" videos—think knitting, book talks, rosemaling etc.) and possible upcoming cultural arts events, including beer making and family fun nights and, of course, our financial and facilities reports. We will also be seeking volunteers for various events to assist and or coordinate these ventures.

Remember, this is YOUR lodge and the overall success of any of our efforts is due to the industry of many. Stay informed, stay involved, and stay active.

Tusen Takk, *Bob*

<b>Norway Hall</b> 201 Seventh St St. James, NY 11780 meets: 2nd Friday 7:30	<b>President</b> Robert Johnson princip12@aol.com 631 942-6844	<b>Secretary</b> Barbara Brownworth bbrownworth@gmail.com 631 681-4726	<b>Editor</b> Karin Ryan karinryan1@yahoo.com 631 862-8017
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## Calendar of Coming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Fri	May 2	6:30 pm	<b>Loyal Lodge</b> - Scandinavian Cultural dinner followed by our regular meeting at 7:30. Our Cultural Leaders have pulled together a great dinner from the Nordic countries. Reservations are required by Wed. Apr. 30th Call Meredith / Stacey.
Sun	May 4	3:00 pm	<b>Zone 1 Memorial Service</b> - St. Marks Episcopal Church Hosted by Loyal Lodge. Coffee and pasteries will be served after the service.
Sun	May 11	- - - -	<b>Mother's Day - US</b> (In Norway, Mother's Day is on the second Sunday in February. ) "One of the greatest things a father can do for his children is to love their mother." - Howard Hunter
Sat	May 17	- - - -	<b>Syttende Mai</b> we hear you, Ken Johnson <i>Hip Hip Hoorah!</i>
Sun	May 18	- - - -	<b>Syttende Mai Parade</b> - Brooklyn The holiday and the bus accommodations will be discussed at our meeting. See flyers that follow.
Sat	Jun		<b>Midsommar event</b> - Meredith and Stacey are working on an exciting outdoor program for us to celebrate SanktHans Day and the longest day of the year.
Sat	Jul 19	6:30 pm	<b>Long Island Ducks</b> - Baseball game + fireworks night hosted by Norden Lodge. Reservation req'd <b>\$20 by June 30th.</b> Contact: Chuck Gottilla 516 512-9427.
Sat	Aug 23	10-4 pm	<b>SoN Third District Picnic at Nansen Lodge</b> - see the flyers that follow.

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

Sep 26 **Fall Fundraiser**



### Birthdays in April

7 Ken Kuveke  
8 Kathleen Easterson  
9 Christina Chuliver  
10 Julie Wolf

14 Lee Grosskreutz  
14 Melissa Musumeci  
15 Gwen Thompson  
18 Donna Castagna-Gianelli

### Gratulerer Med Dagen

20 Lisa Davidson  
28 Holly Vassallo  
31 Frank Clancy  
31 Oddvar Skadberg

# Sons of Norway      Zone 1      Memorial Service

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
754 Montauk Highway, Islip, New York 11751

Sunday May 4th    3:00 [pm]

If you wish to honor a past member of the Zone, please  
be prepare to present the information at the service as follows:

I *(stand and state your name)* . . .

**would like to honor** *(name / relationship of the deceased)* . . .

**from** *(local lodge name)*



*Residents of Bergen, Norway gather to celebrate Syttende Mai. Photo: Laura Macfarlane*

Every year at Easter, something quite special happens in Norway: they don't just go skiing – they read crime stories. This tradition, known as *påskekrim* (Easter crime), has been around for over a hundred years, filling bookshelves, TV screens, and podcasts with mysteries, murders, and dark tales throughout the holiday.

It all began in 1923, when the novel *The Bergen Train Robbed Last Night* was launched with a dramatic front-page ad in *Aftenposten* – so realistic that readers thought it had actually happened. Since then, crime fiction has become a beloved Norwegian Easter tradition.



St. Patrick's Day  
Parade - Loyal  
Lodge was out there,  
longboat and all,  
to march to the  
Irish music and wave  
their Norwegian flag.



## *Loyal Lodge is Koselig*

So you want to speak Norwegian.  
Start by learning how to say 'Thank You'  
Tackk you very much!

Unfortunate situation Miss Norway . . .

Not sure why there was a cancellation, but there will not be a Miss Norway pageant this year, thus no one to ride in the convertible in the parade. The parade itself also has been suffering with a lack of interest by local residents, who, for the most part aren't Norwegian. It seems that cell phones and internet browsing is what people care about the most in 2025.



Which Loyal member painted this picture?

*Is your financial future in order? SoN has help.*

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

## Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meet at the lodge on: Wed. Apr 23rd  
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Bring your knitting project . . .  
Bring a sandwich / snacks . . .  
Bring a friend, and a sense of humor!

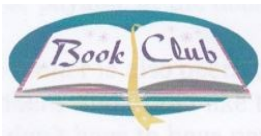


## Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge 2:00 PM on Sun Apr 27

**BOOK:** **The Hidden In The Shadows**

**AUTHOR:** by Viveca Sten (book 2)



Also a Swedish  
series on Netflix

### Reminders:

For those members who will attend the 3rd District Cultural Camp in June, any balance due must be in by May 30th.

Balance for Koinonia Summer Camp is due by June 15th.

Contact Info: Katie Brink 614 202-5964

One of the top 3  
videos of 2024



### COFFEE COMMITTEE

Meredith  
& Stacey

### Did You Know

**Masud Gharahkhani** (Persian—was born in Tehran, Iran, 22 September 1982) is a Norwegian politician from the Labour Party, who has been serving as the President of the Storting since 2021.



Cliff Diving is an upcoming sport of interest to some people. One of the few places in the world where competitions are held is in Norway. A 100 foot (30m) long platform is affixed to the top of the Oslo Opera House which is located at the top of the Oslo fjord. It is 86 feet (27 meters) above the water.

The Oslo cliff diving platform is not permanent. It is a temporary structure that is set up specifically for the Red Bull Chgampionship event, and attached to the roof of the Oslo Opera House, requiring a crane to lift and secure it in place.

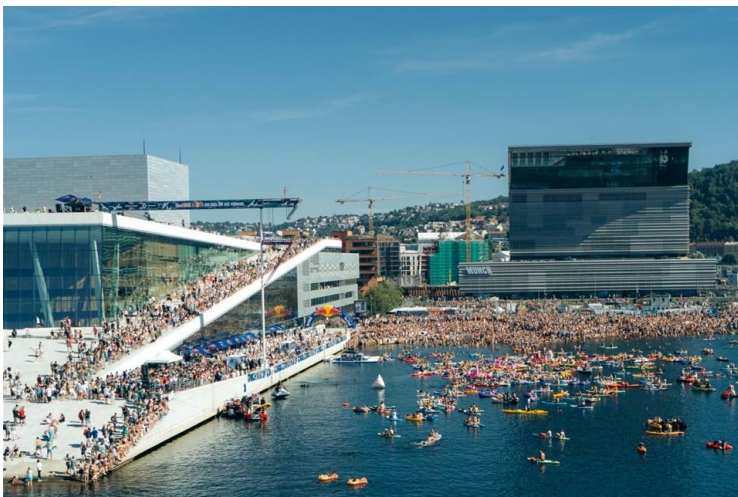
The diver is Kaylea Arnett of the USA National Diving Team.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/yqsuhaQ6IXE>





The rectangular white Italian marble building, the Norwegian Opera House, stands out clearly as seen from a satellite.



The High Dive platform was set in place by a crane for this event.

27 meters to the water!





*This Side* 

*That Side* 

*Are you travelling by air this summer*

Beginning May 7, 2025, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL), or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the US.

Check for the star. Generally, REAL ID compliant cards are marked with a star at the top of the card. State-issued Enhanced Driver's Licenses are marked with a flag.

If you're not sure if your card is REAL ID compliant, contact your state driver's license agency.

Out of the country - check . . . rules vary.

NYS DMV License applications can be found at:

<https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/id44.pdf>

Torun Reduto, the winner of a coastline cruise at our 100th Anniversary dinner, and her daughter Karin Ryan, left on April 10th for Oslo. They will continue to Kirkenes and then on a cruise down to Bergen. It promises to be a great Norwegian adventure and we can't wait to see there photos when they return.

According to Statistics, Norway's 2024 population projections, net emigration in Norway is projected to decline to around 16,000 in 2030, from **around 41,000** in 2024.

In 2022, Norway received 44,000 new immigrants on a long-term or permanent basis. 11% were humanitarian migrants. Around 4,200 permits were issued to tertiary-level international students and 7,700 to temporary and seasonal labor migrants.

The Swedish government announced that the number of people leaving Sweden will exceed the number of arrivals in 2024. That means the country has recorded a net emigration for the first time in over 50 years.

**Maintaining Norway Hall**

Volunteer to help by signing the book



Basic clean-up instructions are posted on the back of the boiler room door.

John Barnett Corporation President 917 750-7054

**Sunshine Committee**

Under The Weather



Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

*The Medford Patchogue Library*  
*invites you to a free concert!*



**SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 27**  
**2 PM**  
**FREE**  
Admission

54-60 East Main Street  
Patchogue, NY / 2-3:30 pm

Sunday Afternoon Concert:  
**THE SMORGASBAND**  
Sunday, April 27, 2025  
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm  
Main Library-Mtg Room A & B



**SMORGASBAND**

EMAIL: [REFERENCE@PMLIB.ORG](mailto:REFERENCE@PMLIB.ORG)  
REGISTER ON WEBSITE: [PMLIB.ORG](http://PMLIB.ORG)  
[SMORGASBAND1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SMORGASBAND1@GMAIL.COM)





# Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>



Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

## The Schengen Area

*There are a great many people who have no idea what this is.*

The European Union (EU) is comprised of 27 countries. Countries that are NOT members of the EU are Norway, Iceland, United Kingdom, Switzerland and eight others.

The Schengen Area is comprised of 29 countries (25 from the EU and 4 others).

**The other 4 are** (the non-EU) Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway.

The 2 countries within the EU who still want border controls are Ireland and Cyprus.

The Schengen Area allows more than 400 million people to travel freely between member countries without going through border controls (visas or passports). Think of it as the United States of America where we can freely travel from state to state without border checks.

Every day 3.5 million people cross internal borders for work or study or to visit families and friends, and almost 1.7 million people reside in one Schengen country while working in another.

Europeans make an estimated 1.25 billion journeys within the Schengen Area every year, which also greatly benefits the tourism and cultural sector, and, of course, commerce.

Those countries which have borders with countries outside the Schengen Area keep full border controls with them.



One of the main aims of the Schengen area is to protect its citizens through increased cooperation between the police forces, customs authorities and external border control authorities of all the member states. These new forms of mutual cooperation have been introduced to offset any risk of a security deficit arising from the abolition of internal border controls.

This is an enormous advantage in the fight against terrorism and against serious and organized crime, including trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

Talks continue with the 4 non-EU countries to advance opportunities of inclusion.

Perhaps the very long-term goal is the creation of *The United States of Europe*. Hmmm.

By the year 2101 (in 75 years), can you guess, based on school subjects in 2025, which language will replace the primary language of each country as we know them today to ensure communications?

Would that be *a real shame*, or necessary progress?





# NORDEN LODGE IS HOSTING A LONG ISLAND DUCKS EVENT

At 3 Court House Dr., Central Islip, NY 11722

On Sat July 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:35 PM

For the fireworks spectacular



Cost: \$20 per person

Please contact Chuck or Kristin Gottilla with any questions or to say you will be attending.

Checks need to be sent to:

Chuck Gottilla

642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757



Always a fun night filled with Baseball, Fireworks and Friends!!

RSVP by June 30<sup>th</sup>

Contact: Chuck Gottilla: 516-512-9427  
Kristin Gottilla: 516-521-3190



*It would be a great event if Loyal Lodge members would sign up with a large contingency. It would be a unique opportunity to embrace our younger members who would truly enjoy Loyal membership without sitting through a long meeting. So lets start spreading the word.*

## **SONS OF NORWAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT PICNIC**



**Aug 23<sup>TH</sup> 2025 10:00 – 4:00**

### **NANSEN LODGE PICNIC GROUNDS**

**3465 VICTORY BLVD. STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

**Assorted Bagels, Danish, Muffins, Coffee & Tea**

**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries & Fresh Salad Bar**

**Roast Beef Sandwiches & Sausage and Peppers**

**BBQ Chicken & Corn on the Cob**

**Watermelon & Ice Cream**

**\$40 per person/\$15 per child 4-12**

**Children under 4 years of age Free**

**CASH BAR AVAILABLE**

**\*\*\*\*\* NO LIQUOR TO BE BROUGHT INTO PARK\*\*\*\*\***

**Music**

**Games for Adults and Children – Corn Hole, Kubb, Hammer Throw Tournaments**

**RAFFLES AND 50/50**

**RESERVATIONS A MUST! BY 8/1/25 \* CHECKS MADE OUT TO \***

**PAUL KORNBREKKE 256-Barnard Ave, Staten Island NY 10307**

**718-356-8395**



# **Zone One Bus to District 3 Picnic**

**Aug 23<sup>TH</sup> 2025 10:00 – 4:00**

## **NANSEN LODGE PICNIC GROUNDS**

**Seats are limited. First come first serve!**

### **Pick-up stops**

**8:15 AM Loyal Lodge 201 7th Street St. James**

**9:00 AM LIE Park and Ride Exit 49 Melville**

**9:30 Roslyn Train Station Roslyn Heights**

**The bus will leave Nansen to return home at 4:00PM**

**Cost of Bus \$10** for members of Zone One. Make Check payable to Zone One Committee Sons of Norway and Mail to Karen Olsen-Helmold, 183 Evergreen Ave, Bethpage, NY 11714

**Please include the names of all attending, the place where they will get the bus and a cellphone number.**

**Cost of picnic \$40 per person/\$15 per child 4-12**

**Children under 4 years of age Free**

**RESERVATIONS A MUST! BY 8/1/25 \* CHECKS MADE OUT TO \***

**PAUL KORNBREKKE 256-Barnard Ave, Staten Island NY 10307**

**718-356-8395**

### **What to expect**

**Assorted Bagels, Danish, Muffins, Coffee & Tea**

**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries & Fresh Salad Bar**

**Roast Beef Sandwiches & Sausage and Peppers**

**BBQ Chicken & Corn on the Cob**

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**Music**

**Games for Adults and Children – Corn Hole, Kubk, Hammer Throw Tournaments**

**RAFFLES AND 50/50**

Eurovision is a competition similar to the Grammy Awards but for European countries. Most of us are not of an age where we get out to clubs and dance the night away. But, from a newsworthy perspective, there is a comical pop/rap group from Finland who have made a song in Swedish that won the Best Song in Sweden -

***Bara Bada Bastu.***



The Finnish group is called KAJ (kaee), representing Sweden, and it sounds a little silly but it essentially is about outdoor workers in the winter who just want to get into a sauna. It has a really hot, danceable beat and has garnered more than 8 million views on the web. It is seen as the potential winner of the best song in Europe at the Eurovision finals on May 13th being held at the Basel Arena in St. Jakobshalle in Switzerland. There's a particular web site which was done by an American music reviewer that is very entertaining to see.

Find it at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNQ\\_EPwcbHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNQ_EPwcbHA)

Watch it all the way through to get a really great perspective about this super hit!

The Norwegian entry in Eurovision 2025 is ***Lighter*** by Kyle Alessandro, which is also very good.

Find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jT1955n91Ac>