



Loyal Letter

November 2025

Vol : XIII Issue 9

President's Message



As we move once again into the holiday season, I am reminded of the many holiday celebrations of my youth. Visits to Tante Anna and her sumptuous smorgasbords reminds me of my uncles urging me to try the various Norwegian delicacies offered on her burgeoning table; the cured meats, the smoked salmon, the



cold fish dishes of herring, eel; the hot dishes of “kottbullar” (Swedish meatballs), “prinskorv (tiny sausages) and “Jansson’s Temptation” (a casserole of scalloped potatoes with anchovies) and the desserts of rice pudding, cakes a mile high (at least to this youngster), sweet rolls and cardamon configurations. Of course, my favorite memory was of my beloved Uncle Fred ravishingly eating picked pigs’ feet! Ah, my sainted mother, knowing that I, not a favorite of all these ethnic delicacies, always managed to bring a fruited Jello mold, some plan meatballs and rolls so that I could join in the festivities.

We, at Norway Hall, continue these traditions with our annual November Thanksgiving Feast. Our Vice-President, Leif Easterson informs us;

“The Annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held at 6:30pm on Friday, Nov. 7th prior to the Lodge meeting.

Roasted turkey breasts with gravy and turkey wannabe Costco chickens will be served. Attendees can either bring a side or pay \$10. Lodge beverages will be available at no additional cost.


RSVP to Leif Easterson by Wednesday, November 5th if you’re planning to attend and what sides you will be bringing or if prefer to pay \$10. Call 631 637-2369 or e-mail at eastersonle@gmail.com”

I would add to what Lief said that those who wish to be somewhat philanthropic could pay the \$10 AND bring a side dish as well. That’s what I’m doing with my own brand of Swedish Meatballs! While I cannot guarantee participation, as an adult, I might try some of those Norwegian/Scandinavian Holiday dishes, even without my Uncles urgings! Let’s have a “Smorgasbord” to rival the ages!

Our regular monthly Business Meeting will be held following our dinner, at 7:30PM in the main hall. Topics to be discussed include committee reports, our first Family Film Night held on October 17, our upcoming “December Glogg Party” (December 6), financial reports, the Scandinavian Dance Group on Sunday, November 9th at 2:00PM, further calendar updates, communication (both lodge related and Zone), Newsletter updates and lodge beautification/corporation efforts.

Hope to see everyone at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the 7th!

TUSEN TAKK, BOB

Norway Hall 201 Seventh St St. James, NY 11780 meets: 1st 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
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Calendar of Coming Events



Day	Date	Time	Event
Fri	Oct 31	- - - -	All Hallows Eve - the big finale of a spooktacular season - kids on the streets!
Sun	Nov 2	- - - -	Daylight Savings Time ends
Fri	Nov 7	6:30	Thanksgiving Dinner - Turkey breast / chicken and all the fixin's + your sides
Sun	Nov 9	2:00	Loyal Lodge entertained by the Norwegian Dancers + bring Smithtown Food (I was a folkdancer for 50 years and know about the time and effort they give). Lets give them a Loyal welcome with a full house to show our appreciation.
Wed	Nov 19	3—6	Knitting Club meets at Norway Hall - see the article.
Fri	Dec 5	- - - -	Loyal Lodge meeting cancelled.
Sat	Dec 6	7:00	Loyal Lodge Christmas Glögg party



Hunt for New Christmas Tree



As you begin your setup for the holiday season, if you have a relatively nice tree (six-footer) that you are replacing this year for your Christmas festivities, Loyal Lodge is in need of a replacement tree. Our current tree, ready for retirement, is awaiting its successor! If you have a nice one available you are replacing, give me a call or text at 631-942-6844 and we can arrange pickup. Thanks! Bob Johnson

Hello Clarise



Birthdays in November

10 Kenneth Rasmussen
15 Kevin Andersen
18 Barbara Eiseland

Gratulerer Med Dagen

21 Egil Aasan
24 David Wallman

THANKSGIVING

2025

AT SMITHTOWN FOOD PANTRY



~ ADOPT A FAMILY ~

**WE PROVIDE THE BOX – WE ASK YOU TO FILL IT WITH
ALL THE FIXINGS FOR A COMPLETE THANKSGIVING
DINNER**

4 cans vegetables	1 box instant potatoes
2 cans cranberry sauce	2 boxes stove top stuffing
1 large can yams (or 2 small)	3 cans fruit
1 juice (64 ounce) or juice boxes	2 turkey gravy
Cake mix / brownie mix / cookie mix or muffin mix	

Add "Extras"

bag of candy, hot chocolate, marshmallows, cookies, icing, applesauce
shelf-stable milk, evaporated milk, pumpkin, can pie filling, pie crust
NO FRESH FRUIT OR VEGETABLES

*****The Pantry will provide the turkey *****

**PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS OR YOUR COMPLETED BOX TO
OUR **NOVEMBER 9th** MEETING**

Any questions please contact Karin Ryan at 631-862-8017





How nice it was for us to have Ellen Lindstrom on the accordion entertaining us with a variety of Scandinavian tunes throughout the day.



Annual Autumn Bazaar and Festival

On September 27th we held our annual *Autumn Bazaar and Festival* at Loyal Lodge. Joining us in the festivities were the **CLAN OF THE RAVEN**, Viking Reenactors. As the pictures above and below, the success of this yearly event was only matched by the smiles, laughter and brilliant weather on the day. Congratulations to all our very active members whose efforts in baking, cooking, procurement and displaying make this even so successful each year!



The bazaar was a success thanks to the participation of many hard-working lodge members . . .

like these very busy Loyal members



H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon's Visit Commemorates 200 Years of Norwegian Emigration

From October 6-9, H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon toured the United States to commemorate 200 years of organized Norwegian emigration to the United States



The Minnesota visit began at Norway House, where H.R.H. opened the new Saga Center and attended the USA-Norway Business Summit. He also celebrated cultural heritage at Mindekirken and St. Olaf.

In New York, the Crown Prince welcomed the ship Restauration, a replica of the vessel that carried that first group of Norwegian emigrants across the Atlantic in 1825.

Knitting Club News

Bring your current project(s) or start a new one that afternoon! Bring a recently completed project for Show & Tell! Experience not needed, but if you're a beginner, do bring 10" Size 7 or 8 wooden/metal knitting needles and light colored smooth yarn (worsted weight #4) to get started. No need to RSVP - just come with your favorite sandwich to snack on and we'll put the coffee on! Questions?

Call/Text Meredith 631-766-3142.

- January 21
- February 25
- March 25
- April 22



Pinnekjøtt is made from lamb/mutton which undergoes a process of curing. The rack of ribs are soaked in a salt solution & then hung to dry for 6-8 weeks.

Maybe this is Thanksgiving dinner in Norway.

Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meet at the lodge: **Wed Nov 19 3:00 pm**

Bring your project - **Show & Tell**

Bring a sandwich, a smile, and a friend

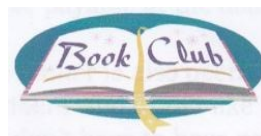


Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge **Nov PM**

BOOK: *NO INFORMATION*

AUTHOR:





On October 9, at Pier 16, in the presence of H.R.H The Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, this 21st century Restauration concluded the historic journey and docked amid an outdoor celebration of Norwegian cultural heritage. The event featured performances by Norwegian pop star Astrid S and the Ragnhild Hemsing Trio, literature events at McNally Jackson, Norwegian delicacies to sample, and opportunities to meet the ship's crew.





It's as much fun to scare
as to be scared.



Our first 'Movie Night' at Norway Hall featuring the Disney classic movie - .Hocus Pocus. Ken and Suzy came early to set up for the big show with drinks and snacks.

The movie featured 3 witches - a dark haired, a redhead and a blonde (a blonde witch???). It was a fun evening but the turnout wasn't as many as we hoped. *Come on out for the next movie!*



enjoy Halloween!

The coatroom has an addition . . . folders for the major officers.

If you have a letter or some other kind of information that you want to pass along to an officer, just drop it in the folder for that particular officer.

Each officer will be responsible to check their folder regularly.



Did You Know

The Norwegian royal family does not celebrate Thanksgiving as it is known in the United States, but they observe a similar tradition called Høsttakkefest ("Harvest Thanksgiving Feast") which has older, more secular and religious roots in Norway

This Side 

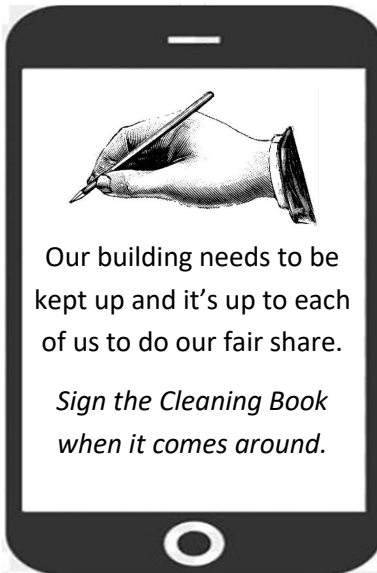


Sunshine Committee

Under The Weather



Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017



That Side 

On Norway's vast salmon farms, a parasite is causing mass fish death. Salmon lice have gotten out of control, infesting not just farmed salmon but also the wild salmon that swim between the sea and Norway's rivers. The parasites are finding their way into open water from the open-net cages of off-shore salmon farms, where millions of fish swim.

Wild salmon is now so rare that Norway in 2021 placed it on its red list of near-endangered species.

An ever-growing number of wild salmon, which hatch in freshwater rivers before migrating to oceans as adults, are not returning to their birthplace to spawn upstream.

They disappear at sea for as yet unknown reasons, though scientists suspect a link to climate change.

Only 323,000 wild salmon swam upstream in Norway's rivers in 2024, against one million tallied annually in the 1980s



We're headed to Norheimsund, Norway!

The video of this very popular tourist attraction is taken by someone who is actually walking under the waterfall.

See Reidun's story which follows this page.

Copy this link (url) to a Google home page

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fTXcLjuPyo



Steinsdalsfossen

Steindalsfossen is one of the best known & photographed waterfalls in Norway. If you look at the attached picture the farm where I grew up is the one very close to the waterfall & near the river. Even to this day, Fossen as we call it is very near & dear to my heart.

As children one of our favorite past times was to sit up by the waterfall near the bakery (red house in the foreground) and write down license plates of all the cars with tourists that stopped to take pictures of our waterfall. The cars were from all over-Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Denmark & many other places. Our goal was to get as many different license plates as possible.



Fossen is a nature phenomenon. The river that Fossen runs into is called Steinsdalselva. In the year 1699 spring arrived very late to the dismay of all the farmers & other folks. Everyone was waiting for spring & warmer weather & all of the snow to melt. When spring finally arrived there was a very big flood. The river overflowed & took a different route & hence the waterfall was created.

The unique feature of the waterfall is that there is a path leading up to the fall that goes behind the fall & people can stand behind the mighty fall. The fall has a different look at various times of the year. If there is a very dry summer with very little rain the fall becomes small almost like a trickle of water. In the spring when the snow is melting it becomes massive & mighty. In the winter sometimes the fall becomes one big icicle.

In any event, Fossen lets you know what nature is doing. If you are visiting in Norway, this is a must see.

Reidun Rasmussen

Visit  Norway



Here we see the middle row symbols representing a particular city, or town in Norway.



Stavanger

Gold leaves, blue background. Created to celebrate 800 yr. Oaktree and the ocean.

Vestfold

Gold leaf crown, approved 1970. Vestfold's history as Norway's oldest Royal Dynasty from the 9th century

Mandal

3 fishes can represent Holy Trinity in Christianity, Ancient symbology of Christ

Kristiansand

Approved in 1643! Crown shows founder King Christian the 4th who chose a lion, Green pine tree around town.

Arendal

Ship shows importance of fishing and sailing. Approved in 1924.

Glacially carved mountains provides Norway with a plethora of stunning and alluring waterfalls. Norway's most popular waterfalls are 1—Vøringsfossen, 2—Seven Sisters, and 3—Kjosfossen.



Vøringsfossen is one of the most visited and photographed waterfalls in Norway.



The Seven Sisters are popular with tourists despite not having thunderous volumes of water.



This is a stop on the Flåm Railway. The tale associated with the fossen is about Huldre—the woman in red. Folklore tells us she dances by the falls and seduces men to the forest and return, never the same. Her effect is madness or even death. Google to learn more about her.



The two-tiered Mardalsfossen is yet another beautiful waterfall.

The upper falls is certainly a magnificent sight as shown in this picture. Notice . . . it is sourced by a lake, and not a river.



Don't forget to gather your contribution early for the Smithtown Food Pantry to drop off on Sunday, Nov. 9th.



"knask eller knep"

Yes, Norway celebrates Halloween, which has become increasingly popular over the last decades, with trick-or-treating (knask eller knep), costume parties, and themed events becoming common, though some people still view it as a foreign commercial import. Stores feature more Halloween merchandise, and many families with children participate in activities.

