



**President's
Message**

Loyal Letter

November 2025

Vol : XIII Issue 10

It's early December and winter has descended on our little lodge in Saint James. Most of the leaves have fallen from the trees, the days are getting appreciably shorter, and our village is awash with brightened lights and festive decorations celebrating the season. We here at the lodge will follow this same seasonal pattern.



Kim Lakeman wishes to remind everyone that our annual **Glogg Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th at 7:00PM at the hall.** Along with those wishing to share their special Glogg "brews", some others will be sharing light dishes with which to enjoy their favorite Glogg. Feel free to bring your own contribution to complement these efforts. In addition, we will have the Christmas tree set up and hope to decorate as the evening progresses. We will also enlist our large screen TV in the pursuit of singing holiday songs and cheer. *No Don, you don't have the night off; we'll need your piano playing as well!* We hope all can join in for this yearly festive event at the hall.

We will also be participating in the annual **Ward Melville Heritage Organizations Holiday Tree Decorations.** The Heritage Organizations sets up dozens of 7–8-foot trees in the Crescent Shopping area in Stony Brook Village for community organizations to decorate. We submitted our registration form and now need to create "Nordic" decorations. Some of our members are already in this process. Meredith, Toril, Reidun and Lee are already making suitably durable fabric ornaments. We would like to join in this process as well. We have scheduled the following date and time at the hall to create these holiday decorations:



Sunday, November 30, 2025

Norway Hall Lodge

2:00-4:00PM




We have arranged some supplies for decorations but if you have some ideas and materials, bring them along with your directions and we can lend a hand. We try to create natural decorations in keeping with our Nordic heritage. No glass or fragile constructions please. We are a hearty and durable race and wish to project items reflective of that! We will also discuss the date and time to gather in Stony Brook to decorate our designated tree!

There will (of course) be coffee and cake (you can bring some along too!) to enjoy while we create lasting Nordic memories. No need to confirm but if you cannot attend and wish to contribute a personally created item, just call me at 631-942-6844 and I'll arrange pickup.

Finally, reminding everyone we do not have a regularly scheduled Business Meeting in December. As previously mentioned, and noted on the Newsletter Calendar, **beginning in January and through March we will have our Business Meetings on the first Sunday of each month.** Our Sunday, January 4th Business Meeting at the lodge will be held at 2:00PM preceded with a "Potluck Luncheon" beginning at 1:00PM.

Wishing you all the very best for the holiday season and the year to come.....

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
Website www.loyallodge.org	 facebook Group Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway	Address info@loyallodge.org	

Calendar of Coming Events



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sun	Nov 30	2:00	Loyal Book Club - reading The Long Water by Stef Penney . . . join us.
Sun	Nov 30	2 - 4	Loyal Lodge Activity - come to the lodge and help create Nordic Christmas tree decorations for the community tree in Stony Brook Village.
Fri	Dec 5	- - -	Loyal Lodge meeting cancelled.
Sat	Dec 6	7:00	Loyal Lodge Christmas Glögg party - please RSVP by Thursday, December 4th to Kim Lakeman and at 631-509-0392 or klakeman27@gmail with your name, number of guests, whether you are bringing glogg, an appetizer or a dessert.
Sun	Jan 4	1:00	Loyal Lodge - Pot Luck Luncheon - meeting to follow at 2:00 pm
Wed	Jan 21	3:00	Loyal Knitting Club - bring your project, a sandwich/snack, a smile, and a friend.
Sun	Feb 1	- - -	Loyal Lodge - meeting at 2:00 pm

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

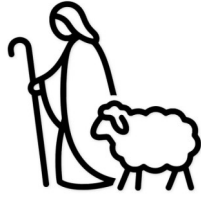


Birthdays in December

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 Arlene Holm | 13 Liv Dillahunt |
| 7 Eric Johansson | 17 John Wolf |
| 7 Fred White | 20 Andrew Albrechtsen |
| 10 Richard Elfers | 23 Shelly Albrechtsen |

Gratulerer Med Dagen

- | |
|--------------------|
| 28 Reidun Aasan |
| 28 Richard Barraud |
| 29 Agnes White |
| 30 Roy Rasmussen |



Till Minne

The membership of Loyal Lodge send their condolences to Richard and Kari Elfers on the passing of their son, Erik.

Sunshine Committee

Under The Weather



Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

COFFEE COMMITTEE



Meredith
& Stacey



At our last meeting, our favorite musician, Don Reinertsen, was surprised when he was shown a video presentation on the hall monitor of the anthems that he plays at the beginning of each meeting that can be played if he isn't present.



Did you know?

Norway supplies Trafalgar Square with a stunning Norwegian Spruce tree every year. The generous donation to London is an age-old tradition dating back to 1947 and is Norway's way of thanking the British Isles for their support during World War II.



And . . .

a Merry Christmas
to all our members
with best wishes for
the New Year.



Shecking it twice

Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meet at the lodge: **Wed Jan 21 3:00 pm**

Bring your project - **Show & Tell**

Bring a sandwich, a smile, and a friend

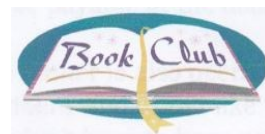


Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge: **Sun Nov 30 2:00 pm**

BOOK: The Long Water

AUTHOR: Stef Penney





MAKING CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY TREE
COMPETITION IN STONY BROOK
VILLAGE

Hi Folks:

As I mentioned at our most recent lodge meeting, we are registered as participants in the **Ward Melville Heritage Organizations Holiday Tree Decorations**. The Heritage Organizations sets up dozens of 7–8-foot trees in the Crescent Shopping area in Stony Brook Village for community organizations to decorate. We submitted our registration form and now need to create “Nordic” decorations. Some of our members are already in this process. Meredith, Toril, Reidun and Lee are already making suitably durable fabric ornaments. We would like to join in this process as well. We have scheduled the following date and time at the hall to create these holiday decorations:

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Hope to see many of you for what may be a yearly event for our lodge.

Takk,

Bob

This Side

That Side

Swedish-Norwegian Indigenous Art is put on display at The High Line.

The High Line is a 1.5-mile-long elevated linear park, greenway, and rail trail created on a former NY Central RR

At The High Line, Consulate Generals of Sweden and Norway co-hosted a truly inspiring artist talk together with the High Line Art organization. This event celebrated the amazing Sámi artist, Britta Marakatt-Labba, who spoke to audiences about her sculpture “Urmodern” (Primordial Mother), now on view at The High Line through March, 2026.



In conversation with Cecilia Alemani, the Chief Curator of High Line Art, Marakatt-Labba led a powerful dialogue on environmental stewardship, Indigenous rights, and feminism.



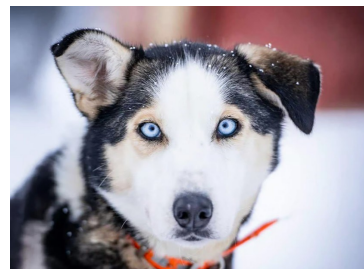
Dog Sledding in Norway:

Unforgettable Winter Experience in Tromsø

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPGRba4Fh7k>

This is just one of the numerous youtube sites that show you what it's like to hit the trail behind a dog sled team. The Siberian Huskies (usually) are born with the instinct to pull a load and get so excited when they are harnessed.

There are many places where you can arrange a visit and experience the thrill of dog sledding on a half-day tour from Tromsø. Drive your own team of huskies through snowy landscapes, meet the dogs. Many amenities are provided, including cold weather gear.



One of the most beautiful holiday songs that you'll ever hear by Norway's premier soprano, Sissel Kyrkjebø, performing at Operahuset in Oslo.



Copy this link (url) to a Google home page
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUgfl-2r6W8>



Traditional Christmas in Norway

Lille julaften (Little Christmas Eve) on December 23rd involves final Christmas preparations like decorating the tree, baking gingerbread houses, and cleaning the house. A beloved tradition is watching the German TV sketch *Dinner for One* (*Grevinnen og Hovmesteren*).

Food and Drink

- **Rice porridge (*risgrøt*):** Families often eat rice porridge, with the person who finds a hidden almond in their bowl winning a prize (traditionally a marzipan pig).
- **Christmas beer (*juleøl*) and aquavit:** Many enjoy special Christmas beer and the distilled spirit aquavit, which pairs well with traditional Christmas foods.
- **Other foods:** Some families might have other specific meals like *pinnekjøtt* (lamb or mutton ribs) or *ribbe* (pork ribs).

Decorations and Activities

- **Decorating the Christmas tree:** This is often the day the Christmas tree is brought in and decorated with ornaments like heart-shaped baskets, paper chains, Norwegian flags, and lights.
- **Baking gingerbread houses (*pepperkakehus*):** Families bake and decorate gingerbread houses, which are not usually eaten until after Christmas.
- **Final preparations:** It's a day for finishing last-minute tasks like wrapping presents and cleaning the house.
- **A new outfit:** Some traditions involve getting a new outfit to wear for the Christmas festivities.

Entertainment

- ***Dinner for One*:** A must-watch for many Norwegians is the 1963 comedy sketch *Grevinnen og Hovmesteren*, which has become a cultural staple of Little Christmas Eve.
- **Other films:** Some families also watch Christmas films and cartoons, morning or evening.

Gifts

- **Stocking for the children:** On or before Lille julaften, a stocking filled with treats might be hung for children to find on the morning of Christmas Eve.

Celebrating Service with Smithtown Veterans

Earlier this year Smithtown chose to acknowledge several US veterans who reside in the area.

Supervisor Ed Wehrheim declared, “As a veteran, it brings me great honor to recognize and celebrate fellow service members who have worn the uniform with distinction and who continue to serve this community with that same selfless dedication. Each of these Veterans represent what makes this country—and this town—so exceptional. They answered the call to defend our freedoms, and when that chapter ended, they continued to lead, give back, and strengthen the very community they had fought to protect



John Barnett U.S. Navy, 1986–2014 Veteran of Iraq & Afghanistan | Retired NYPD & MTA Officer. John Barnett served proudly in the United States Navy, including deployments in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Following his military service, he worked as a Transit Officer and Detective with the NYPD and MTA. In 2012, while on duty in a NYC subway station, John was brutally attacked and stabbed in the eye by a known anti-police assailant. Despite losing vision in one eye, John continues to serve and inspire others. He is a passionate supporter of Paws of War, raising funds and awareness by running marathons with the goal of completing one in all 50 states. John Barnett’s life is a testament to resilience, bravery, and unwavering service—both in the line of duty and beyond.

Martin Thompson, U.S. Navy, 1966–1995, St. James Resident | Navy Submariner | Community Leader - Martin Thompson served in the U.S. Navy for nearly three decades as a submariner, a role that demands precision, endurance, and unwavering calm. After retiring from military service, Marty continued his life of public service as a Lieutenant in the Suffolk County Police Department, Chief of Police in Head of the Harbor, and a longtime leader in the St. James Fire Department, where he has served for over 41 years, including as Chief, Commissioner, and currently President. An active member of the VFW, American Legion, Submarine Veterans, and several other civic organizations, Marty is a true fixture in the St. James community.

Winter 2025/2026 Third District President's Message

Here we are in November, and the holidays are right around the corner with a new year right after that. Where has the time gone? It seems like the year has just started and now it is almost over, and we are getting ready for a new one.

We accomplished a lot this year with activities. We had the Third District Picnic which unfortunately had a poor turnout of members for the second year in a row even though it was a great event with lots of food and fun for everyone. But due to the poor turnout, the Third District Board will be eliminating it for 2026, It is very sad to do that, but it had to be done.

Youth Camp was held this past July and was a huge success and will be back for July of 2026. If you have children or grandchildren, I highly urge you to send them to Youth Camp, where they can learn about the Norwegian heritage and culture and make friends with the other children at the camp. It is the best gift you can give your children.

Weekend Cultural Camp was held this past June and was so successful that not only will it be back in September of 2026, but we will be adding a day to the event, If you are interested in going to the Cultural Camp or have children interested in the Youth Camp, please contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson or Third District Vice President Katie Brink for more information.

The Third District 2026 Convention, which is being cohosted by the Third District and Hampton Roads Lodge, will be from Thursday June 4th to Sunday June 7th, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center Virginia Beach, Virginia. I encourage you to send your lodge's full delegation to the convention so your lodge will be fully represented.

Since the Fraternal Funds program has been eliminated by the home office starting January 2026, the Third District Board has come up with a Lodge Assistance Program that will start in January of 2026. We hope to help offset some of the loss of not getting Fraternal Funds from the home office, but it will cover less things than were previously supported. The district's projected income is less due to the drop in membership (dues) and the drop of interest rates, but the Third District will do what we can to continue to support our lodges.

Until my next message in the spring, Karen and I and the whole Third District Board would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Heathy New Year.

Fraternally,

Stephen Helmold



How does the Julebukk blend with Norse mythology?



One account centers around the Norse god, Thor, who rode the sky in a golden chariot drawn by two mighty goats, Tanngrisnir and Tanngrjóstr. Thor was associated with thunder, lightning, wind, storms, nature, and agriculture. He chose the goats because of his connection with everyday people, especially farmers. The animals have been domesticated well over 10,000 years, providing companionship and valuable products such as milk, meat, and fur.

Both Tanngrisnir and Tanngrjóstr were the perfect pair for a powerful god traveling the sky and land below. Legend has it that Thor regularly slaughtered the goats for food while wielding a fierce-looking hammer known as a Mjölhnir. After sharing a hearty meal with others, he raised the same weapon to the sky, resurrecting his faithful companions for another ride through the clouds.

Thor and his goats were always present during the Yuletide — December 21st through the first day of January — protecting homes and farmland, and the promise of spring. Mythology still lives on today; many people in Scandinavia believe the sound of thunder is the rumbling of Thor's chariot wheels in the sky.

Here we see the bottom row of symbols in our lodge representing a particular city, or town in Norway.



Østfold

From 1958.
It shows a Sunrise in the East.
Red represents the sun, Sunday's and light and heat.

Gullik

Gold leaf crown, and 2 lions holding axes.
No definitive info found online.

Sandefjord

Two coats of arms used.
A Gokstad Viking ship and whaling history meaning courage and strength.

Sogn og Fjordane

Approved in 1983. Blue for the ocean and the 3 blue points represents
The 3 fjords on norways west coast: Nordfjord, Sunnfjord and Sognefjord.

Haugesund

Three seagulls was the new coat of arms 1930.
Before that it was three barrels of herring and an anchor.
it was changed since herring fishing was no longer the town's key industry.

The image of two lions and a crown on a coat of arms refers to the historic Union Coat of Arms of Norway and Sweden, which was used during their union from 1814 to 1905.

Currently the coat of arms of Norway is the arms of dominion of King Harald V of Norway, and as such represents both the monarch and the kingdom (nation and the state). It depicts a standing golden lion on a red background, bearing a golden crown and axe with a silver blade

In the coat of arms of the realm, a heraldic royal crown is placed directly on top of the shield. In the royal coat of arms, the shield of the arms of the realm is on a mantle with a purple lined ermine with a royal crown on top. Three sides of the shield are surrounded by the collar of the Royal Order of St. Olav.





It wasn't that long ago that we enjoyed having some young ones get a visit from Santa. But time marches on and we simply don't have them around because they've grown up. It's nice to remember these Loyal times.



Quiz Time

Who can stand up at the Christmas Party and tell the members where we've seen this guy before.