



# Loyal Letter

January 2026

Vol : XIV Issue 1

## President's Message

*Winter has arrived! Though the Astronomical Winter officially arrives on December 21st, we had an early arrival, just prior to Christmas on the 14th. Still, that snowfall of 6+ inches pales in comparison with Norway's annual snowfall. While it varies from coastal regions (influenced by the Gulf Stream, think Bergen) of collectively about 3 feet to inland mountainous regions. Trysil, a major ski resort, averages about 18 feet (that's, 216 inches- tough plowing and shoveling).*

*Thankfully, we have the moderating influence of the ocean and sound (like Bergen's blessing) to limit wintertime effects. This time of year, also brings a unique beauty to our surroundings, with crisp mornings and snow-dusted landscapes that remind us of the season's charm and our native land. As we settle into the winter months, let's take a moment to appreciate the coziness and camaraderie of our lodge and use that warmth to take the edge off the biting cold winter air too.*


*This January we have our first calendar meeting of the year on Sunday, January 4th at 2:00PM in the lodge. This will be preceded with our annual January "Soup Luncheon" at 1:00PM. We've left the folding tables up from our December Glogg Party so that we can seamlessly transition from the luncheon to our business meeting without trudging up and down the stairs.*

*Our January "Super Supper Luncheon" coordinator, Merdith Johansson, would like to remind everyone.*

*Please join us for Soup Supper at 1 pm, just prior to the business meeting. Both the Soup Supper and business meeting will be held upstairs in the meeting room.*

*We've left our decorated Christmas Tree up and while Martin Luther was the first (as legend goes) to add lights (candles) to the tree on Christmas and though it is not "The Twelfth Night" (Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th) we will still "dedecorate" the tree by each of us removing an ornament at the conclusion of our meeting and placing it into our ornament box for next year, a symbolic act commemorating the ending to and beginning of a New Year.*

*"God Jul" and "Godt Nytt Ar" , Bob*

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## Calendar of Coming Events



Day	Date	Time	Event
Wed	Dec 24	- - - -	<b>JULEAFTEN</b> - Christmas Eve.
Thu	Dec 25	- - - -	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS - GOD JUL</b> <i>(23rd is Lilla Juleaften Apparently in Norway, Dec. 22nd is known as TeenyTiny Christmas)</i>
Thu	Jan 1	- - - -	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR - GODT NYTT ÅR</b>
Sun	Jan 4	1:00	Loyal Lodge Soup Supper - 1st regular meeting of the new year will follow - join us.
Sun	Jan 11	2:00	Loyal Book Club - A Very Scandinavian Christmas
Wed	Jan 21	3:00	Loyal Knitting Club - bring your project, a sandwich/snack, and a friend.
Sun	Feb 1	1:00	Loyal Lodge Pot Luck Dinner - regular meeting will follow.
Sun	Feb 15	1 - 4	Henrick Ibsen Lodge - Bowling For Fun East Islip Lanes - see the flyer on page 9



## Soup Supper

Sunday January 4th at 1:00 PM  
Upstairs in Norway Hall (meeting follows)  
Dinner is free for any person who brings 5 or more non-perishable food items to replenish the Smithtown Food Pantry.  
\$10 for all others. *(bin is outside front door)*  
RSVP is not required . . . be seeing you!



### Birthdays in January

- 1 Charlene Abrahamsen
- 5 Stan Albrechtsen
- 5 Robert Retnauer
- 6 George Sandberg

- 10 Richard Eiseland Jan 10
- 13 Liam Baxley
- 21 Deborah Pettersen
- 21 Nancy Reuter

### Gratulerer Med Dagen

- 22 Barbara Hagen
- 25 Stephen Baxley
- 27 Kim Lakeman



## Glögg... Glögg... Glögg...

As you can see from these photographs, we had a great time at our December 6<sup>th</sup> annual "Glögg Party." There were several various Glögg recipes to sample with foods and desserts for all in attendance. Thanks to everyone who brought goodies to share. Special thanks to Kim Lakeman who brought it all together! Great job Kim! Also, special thanks to one of our scholarship recipients, Katherine Chuliver ("City Girl Carvings!"), who supplied us with a beautifully carved handmade wooden ornament that we formally adopted for our annual Christmas Tree (left).




**COFFEE COMMITTEE**  
Meredith  
& Stacey

**Sunshine Committee**



Under The Weather 

Let Torun Reduto know - 631 862-8017

### 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

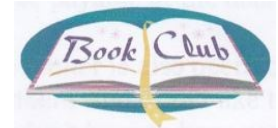


### Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge: **Sun Jan 11 2:00 pm**

**BOOK:** A Very Scandinavian Christmas  
The Greatest Nordic Holiday Stories of All Time

**AUTHOR:** Hans Christian Andersen, et al.



*Winter — 200 miles above the Arctic Circle in a little place called Tronso*

There is much to do in this delightful little Norwegian town when the temperature plays plus and minus around zero degrees. Of course everyone thinks of the Northern Lights first, but there are alternatives to capture your attention.



The Northern Lights are magnificent and pictures can't compare to seeing them in real life.



Wearing an appropriate suit for swimming in the arctic.



Girl watching is always a good way to pass the time.



Unless, of course you . . .



There are numerous ways to deal with the temperature.



And you follow up with the obligatory sauna (bastu).



*This Side* 

*That Side* 



to the *Smithtown Food Pantry*

*Add nonperishable food items to the bin at the front door.*



**YUP . . . IT'S REAL ALRIGHT!**  
**COME VISIT SANTA'S HOME IN LAPLAND**

**Copy this link (url) to a Google home page**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y45L5IYVuo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y45L5IYVuo)

**On December 10th, in Stockholm,**  
**14 Nobel Lauriates shared the 6 Nobel Prizes**



In accordance with Alfred Nobel's will, the prize celebrates 'those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind'.



The Nobel Peace Prize for 2025 was awarded to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado at a grand ceremony in Oslo. The Head of the Nobel Institute confirmed Machado, who has been in hiding since shortly after last year's elections and last appeared in public 11 months ago, was not expected to attend the awards ceremony in person. The award was accepted by her daughter, Ana Corina Sosa Machado, from the Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Jørgen Watne Frydnes.



# Exploring Nordic Culture

<http://loyalodge.org>

Loyal Lodge

for Norway



## *A letter from a great Loyal Lodge member . . .*

Hi! I am Katherine Chuliver a Junior at Connecticut College and a Loyal Lodge #252 member from as far back as I can remember. I am excited to share with you all the Norwegian cultural activities I have participated in this year!

At the January Loyal meeting I shared my experiences as a young wood carver with the Lodge as part of the King Olaf Heritage National Scholarship that I was awarded. In February, I carved a Nisse and made a gift basket for Loyal's Pancake Breakfast Scholarship Fund-raiser. It has always been important for me to give back to organizations that have supported me and I thank the Lodge and the Zone for their previous support and encouragement.

One of my favorite experiences was introducing carving to a group of fifteen future carvers at the Third District Youth Camp in July. I used soap and plastic knives to teach the basics of Scandinavian Flat plane carving.



Imagine my surprise when I found out in October that the carving (Filip, the Fisherman) I made and donated to The Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum raised \$705.00 for their Folk Art School during their annual benefit auction! Vesterheim, in Decorah IA, is where I cemented my passion for Scandinavian Flat Plane Carving and was able to take Zoom carving classes from the Folk Art School throughout the pandemic. It is through Vesterheim that I meet master carvers Harley Refsal and Becky Lusk both of whom became huge influences on my carving. Each year Vesterheim holds a Benefit Auction in support of the Folk Art School. 70 items, donated by Vesterheim artists and ribbon winners, were auctioned between October 12th and October 26th, 2025.

I am proud to continue the legacy of my grandfather David Berninger, a past Loyal Lodge member, woodcarver, and Vesterheim blue ribbon winner, by helping Norwegian organizations to thrive and for Norwegian culture to endure.



Auction Ends: Oct 26, 2025 09:00 PM CDT

Search for Items...

Search



## Scandinavian Folk Art

Fisherman Filip

Scandinavian Flat Plane Figure Carving



Auction item number 175

Estimated value \$250 USD

Sold \$705 USD to cc8f1e0a5

### Did You Know

While ham (*juleskinke*) is eaten in Norway, especially with a mustard-breadcrumb crust, the true Norwegian Christmas centerpiece is often Ribbe (roast pork belly) in the East or Pinnekjøtt (steamed lamb ribs) in the West, served with sides like swede mash, sausages, and potatoes, differing from Sweden's more common ham.



### Flying high in Lofoten

Snowboarding in Norway offers diverse experiences, from major resorts like Trysil, Hemsedal, and Geilo with well-groomed slopes and terrain parks, to freeride adventures in the Lyngen Alps (summit-to-sea descents) and glacier skiing at places like Fonna. Key areas provide great snow, facilities for all levels, and often evening skiing, with many resorts easily accessible from Oslo, making Norway a solid choice for varied winter sports, not just cross-country.



### Juleskinke

(Nor)



### Julskinka

(Swe)



### Quiz Time Answer

This Viking was on the Welcome sign near the entrance to the Land of the Vikings.



# HENRIK IBSEN LODGE ANNUAL

## BOWLING FOR FUN

Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2026

1:00pm-4:00pm

East Islip Lanes

117 E Main Street, East Islip

\$28 adult/ \$26  
child under 12  
(shoes included)

DESSERT & COFFEE  
PROVIDED

3 GAMES  
4-6 PLAYERS PER  
TEAM

Please submit payment & names by 2/1/26 to:

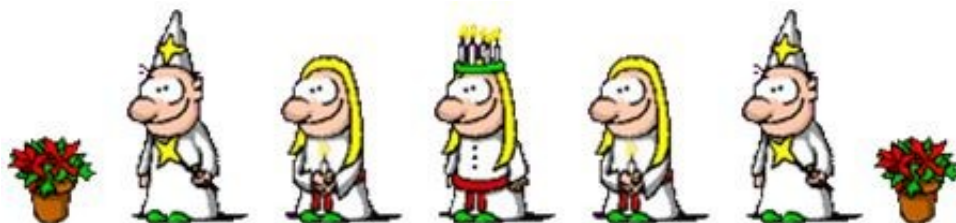
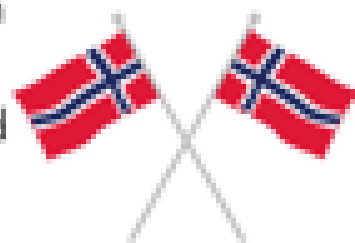
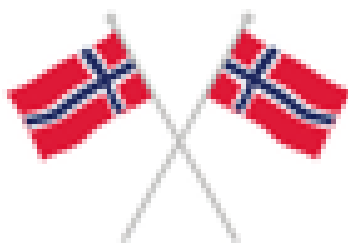
Sport Director John Kern

[jkern1537@gmail.com](mailto:jkern1537@gmail.com)

(631)636-2035

1498 Brightshore Blvd

Bayshore, NY 11706



## How the Yule goat changed.

As with any tall tale, some aspects of the plot take on a life of their own. In Scandinavia during the 1600s, the story began to unfold at Christmas when townsfolk would dress in goatskins draped over dark-hooded cloaks with horns. They would roam the villages, demanding food, pulling pranks, and scaring children, along with many an adult. So people protested, calling the Julbock a demon. This was no way to celebrate a Christian holiday — the goat needed to change his ways!



Fortunately, a kinder version of the Yule goat began to appear each December. People still dressed as goats, but softened their appearance with smiling masks and brighter colors. They traveled door-to-door on Christmas Eve, spreading good cheer and handing out gifts and candies to each household. They would often hide a small straw goat somewhere on the premises, sending little ones into a frenzy with hopes of finding the happy critter before bedtime.

Red ribbons and the joy of making them added to the current popularity.