



Loyal Letter

February 2026

Vol : XIV Issue 2

President's Message

I write this article as we are in the midst of a winter that has shown us Mother Nature is truly in charge! Following two winter seasons of “Winters without Snow”, we have had two fairly significant snowstorms and now one, that if correctly projected will bring us snow at a level we haven’t seen in five years. All said, I am reminded of the Scandinavian concept (Norwegian) of “**friluftsliv**” which, loosely translated (one of those Norwegian words that’s hard to translate) meaning that our time spent outdoors is essential to a good life.



I know that many of us have tried to follow this concept throughout our lives by skiing, snowshoeing, skating and hiking in the winter woods. Indeed, I’ve begun instilling this concept in our newest grandchild (Bobby, who’s one) with mixed results by sledding in the backyard. Truth be known, Grandpa seems to get colder faster nowadays and his energy fades quicker too. I guess the inevitability of time does take its toll.

But not at Norway Hall! The spirit is always strong and the cultural interest and energy levels are always high. These will be on display at our monthly luncheon and business meeting on **Sunday, February 1st**. We begin with a luncheon at 1:00PM featuring my stew (don’t be dissuaded, I’ve have unbiased support for this, but notwithstanding my efforts to obtain venison, it will be beef stew), my daughter Stacey will be making her customary delicious wintertime turkey chili and Leif, while his entry is still to be determined, his culinary expertise is never in question. So, we have three options or a **wintertime smorgasbord** of options from which to choose. However, remember;



Dinner (and beverage) is FREE for each guest bringing in 5 non-perishable food items for the depleted Smithtown Food Pantry. (If you are a couple, please bring in 10 items.) Place your food items in the bin located to the left as you enter the main first floor of Norway Hall.

\$10 for all others. Of course, sides dishes and desserts are always welcome too!

We will have our luncheon, as we did in January, upstairs providing **koselig** (a cozy, warm and relaxed atmosphere) and easily segways into our regular Business Meeting beginning at 2:00PM. That meeting will feature review, discussion and adoption of our 2026 Lodge Budget, 2026 initial Bazaar discussion, St. Patrick’s Day parade, Beer Making/Poker Night and our regular standing committees: Book Club, Corporation Report, Knitting Club, Membership, Newsletter, Social Committee and Sunshine. Written agendas will be available. Coffee and desserts following the meeting, of course!

Stay warm, stay well and “**God Vinter**” (good winter)!

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	Feb 1	1:00	Loyal Lodge - Pot Luck luncheon featuring Bob's world renowned beef stew. Followed by our regular meeting at 2:00. \$10 pp unless any member brings 5 non-perishable items to replenish the Smithtown Food Bank.
Sun	Feb 8	6:30	Get in The Game - Do you want a Super Bowl party? Maybe just come to watch!
Sun	Feb 14	- - -	Valentine's Day - <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
Wed	Feb ?	- - -	Loyal Book Club - the date / book haven't been set yet
Sun	Feb 15	1 - 4	Henrick Ibsen Lodge - Bowling For Fun East Islip Lanes - see the flyer on page 9 We participated in the past . . . let's get a team or two together this year.
Wed	Feb 25	3:00	Loyal Knitting Club - bring your project, a sandwich/snack, and a friend.
Sun	Mar 1	1:00	Loyal Lodge Meeting - regular meeting will follow.
Sat	Mar 28	2:00	The Crowning of Miss Norway of Greater New York - to be held in Brooklyn at the Norwegian Christian Home - see the flyer on page 8



As time moves on for all of us, Valentine's Day may well be more of a time to reflect on the passions in years gone by.



Birthdays in February		Gratulerer Med Dagen	
2	Karla Mattern	16	Daniel Faulkner
5	Jennifer Mintz	18	Arnold Linden
14	Suzanne Foschino	21	Diane Cavallaro
15	Brenda Flaherty	21	Barbara Wikoren
		22	Fred Bjorkgren
		26	Carol Sliwkoski

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.

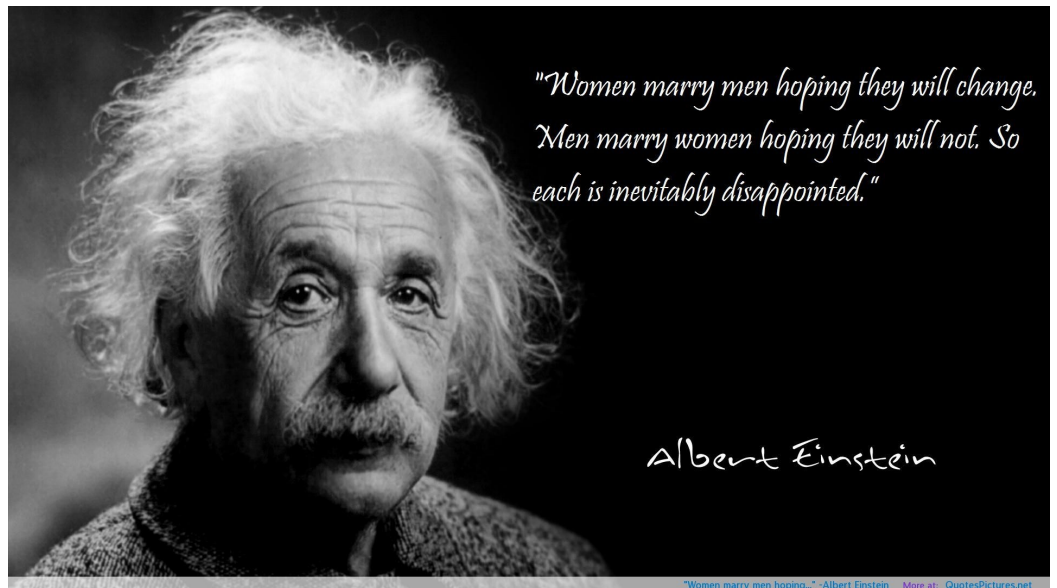


No plans have been made by the lodge for a Super Bowl party this year.

If you would like to see us put one together, email or text Bob Johnson and let him know. We would need someone to chair the event bearing in mind that there are no allowances made (yet) and it would strictly be a BYO event.



Our lodge needs members to keep our meeting hall neat & clean. Please sign the book when it comes around



Albert Einstein

"Women marry men hoping..." - Albert Einstein. More at: QuotesPictures.net

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 Feb 25 3:00 pm**

Bring your project - **Show & Tell**

Bring a sandwich, a smile, and a friend



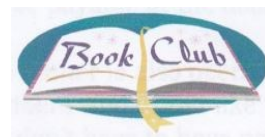
Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge:

BOOK: date & book

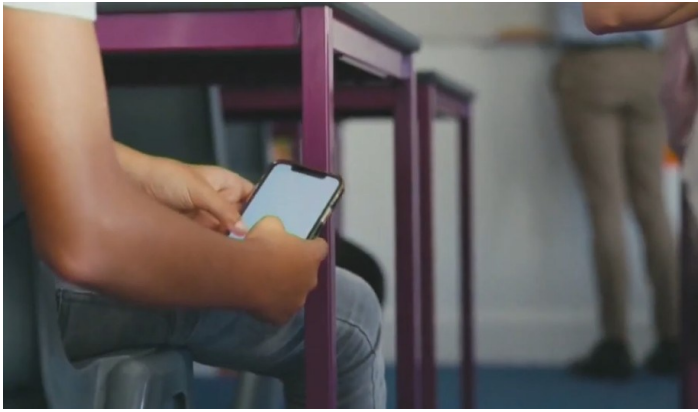
AUTHOR: to be determined

A coming of age story set in Iceland



Norway imposes a cell phone ban in schools.

Many students in Norway are seeing better grades and improved health thanks to a cell phone ban in schools.

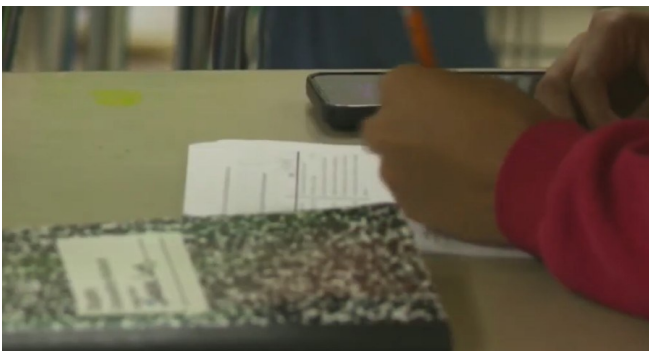


The Norwegian government has directed all schools to prohibit students from using smartphones and tablets to prioritize well-being and address the effects of the digital age on children's development, including declining reading abilities.

"When they come, they lock in their mobiles and when they leave, they can bring it," explained Norway's prime minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, during a recent interview.

There's more than just better attention by students and improved GPAs...

- * **43% decrease in bullying for boys**
- * **46% decrease in bullying for girls**



Is this a model for American schools?

COME AND SUPPORT THE PARADE!



NORWEGIAN DAY PARADE FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

GJOA CLUB •

850 62nd STREET, BROOKLYN

**4-8 PM • \$25 PER PERSON
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS • CASH BAR**

**PARK IN BAY RIDGE AND
UBER TO THE GJOA CLUB.**

Park in Bay Ridge & Uber to GJOA!

Good idea to beat the limited parking.

Did You Know

Carving a new road into the Swedish countryside resulted in accidentally uncovering Viking-age history, including remarkable finds like horses buried alongside human riders and a chieftain's cremation site.

As crews worked in Västmanland along the E18 motorway, archaeologists excavated nine different Viking-era sites. These discoveries offered insights into everyday life on Viking farms.

This Side 

That Side 

Mark your calendars!

The 3rd District Convention is being held on Thursday June 4th to Sunday June 7th, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center Virginia Beach, Virginia. It will be cohosted by the Third District and Hampton Roads Lodge.

3rd District President, Steve Helmold, encourages all Loyal members to consider attending the meeting. It is enlightening to see your District Officers and delegates working hard to keep our organization moving ahead,

This is an especially important event in that it's very close to Washington DC where there are many opportunities to share in the events surrounding our nations



THIS MONTH WE GET TO SEE AN INTERESTING YOUTUBE VIDEO ON TROMSØ IN THE WINTERTIME

Copy this link (url) to a Google home page

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqqJi_UqGZY

Norway Makes The Short List

The Norwegian film *Sentimental Value* made it to the final nominee list for the Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards which will take place on March 15th in Hollywood.

If it wins it would be eligible for the Best Picture.



Sentimental Value (Norwegian: Affeksjonsverdi) is a 2025 dramatic film starring Renate Reinsve, Stellan Skarsgård, Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, and Elle Fanning. It is primarily in Norwegian and Swedish, with significant portions in English with English subtitles as needed.


Winner of the Grand Prix at this past year's Cannes Film Festival, *Sentimental Value* tells the story of Nora (Renate Reinsve), a gifted stage actress who along with her sister were both raised by their single mother after their once acclaimed filmmaker father (Stellan Skarsgård) leaves. Now reentering their life as adults, their father attempts to cast Nora in his comeback film which opens old wounds.



Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>

 Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

LAST MINUTE VALENTINE



Norwegian Heart Baskets are for Valentine's Day too!


The Norwegian woven heart basket (*julehjert*) is a beloved Scandinavian craft used to hang treats on Christmas trees as a symbol of love and is easily recognized by its classic and distinctive checkerboard weave. The baskets represent love, unity, and hospitality, and are

also woven by couples or given as tokens of affection. Originating from Denmark (it is said, but Norwegians and Germans may challenge this), this tradition is widely credited to Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, who made the oldest known heart in 1860.

The craft became deeply ingrained in Norwegian Christmas, with children learning to make them from an early age as a "first craft" to hold nuts and raisins, becoming a staple homemade tree ornament by the early 1900s.

Heart baskets are traditionally made from two strips of colorful paper or felt often in red and white and during Christmastime, green color is added. Anyone can do this! In Norway, you can buy glossy paper especially to do this, called 'glanspapir', but you can try it with any paper of medium strength. Any cloth material works well too.



Change the material to suit any occasion . . . like Fluffy 

For further information and instructions:

- For paper or felt: **English** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNXSoDYP9zA>
- Norwegian** <https://craftandcreativity.com/blog/2011/12/08/flatadehjarta/>
- For those of you who enjoy knitting: <https://www.garnstudio.com/pattern.php?id=3917&cid=17>

It's winter and we've had just a little snow on Long Island—this side of the Atlantic but over in Norway things are a bit different. Norwegians know the rear meaning of a clearing a snowfall!



Mentioned this in last December's Letter. . . .

The "julbock" (Yule goat) tradition in Sweden refers to a giant straw goat built annually in Gävle, which has been frequently burned down by arsonists, although it is not the official holiday tradition. Since the first goat was erected in 1966, the structure has been destroyed or damaged multiple times despite increased security measures like fences, guards, and flame retardants. Arsonists did not succeed in 2025, and birds didn't eat it to pieces (2023). Mother Nature showed up with extreme high winds and blew it over . . .

Uff da!



You know you've grown up when a nap
is no longer a punishment
but a reward.



Things to do in Norway



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

Parade held in Brooklyn on Sunday, May 17, 2026
Parade Theme: "Our Legacy Continues"

**Join us for the
67th Annual Crowning of
Miss Norway of Greater New York**

We are excited to welcome back **Little Miss Norway** and **Junior Cadets**
to this year's Miss Norway of Greater New York event!

To add your child's name to the list, please contact Arlene: ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com.

**Saturday, March 28, 2026
2 PM**

Arthur Nilsen Banquet Hall
Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center
1250 67th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219

\$25 per Adult
\$10 per Child (12 years of age and younger)
Children under 3 years old are free



Light refreshments served

Please email Arlene Rutuelo for reservations or questions at ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com

Sponsored by The Norwegian-American 17th of May Committee of Greater New York, Inc.
WWW.17THOFMAYPARADECOMMITTEE-BROOKLYN.ORG

HENRIK IBSEN LODGE

ANNUAL

BOWLING FOR FUN

Sunday February 15th 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:

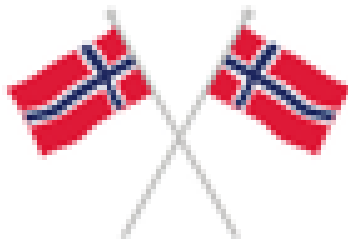
Sport Director John Kern

jkern1537@gmail.com

(631)636-2035

1498 Brightshore Blvd

Bayshore, NY 11706



LOYAL LODGE No. 252
Sons of  Norway
Loyal Letter

Putting together a newsletter that our members want to read takes a great deal of time and perseverance. More and more references are being made for you to follow the link that takes you the internet to share relevant information.

You are encouraged to follow these links (urls) which can be very educational in terms of Nordic current events and expand your knowledge of your Norwegian heritage.

It's just a simple "Copy, Paste, Send"

