



Loyal Letter

May 2026

Vol : XIV Issue 5

President's Message

May is a special month in the Scandinavian calendar and especially that for Norwegians. It signals the end of winter and the beginning of the growing season on the farms. The strong grip of Winter has receded; the sun shines higher on the horizon and the prospect for a good harvest is waiting. For Norwegians, specially, it also commemorates May 17th, known as Constitution Day, the National Day of Norway and an official public holiday observed on 17 May each year. Among Norwegians, the day is referred to as Syttende mai ('17th of May'), Nasjonaldagen ('National Day'), or Grunnlovsdagen ('Constitution Day'), although the latter is less frequent.



The Constitution of Norway was signed at Eidsvoll on 17 May 1814. (noted left, as a friend and I joined in the “signing” during a prior visit to Eidsvoll). It is the third oldest written constitution still in use. The constitution declared Norway to be an independent kingdom in an attempt to avoid being ceded to Sweden after Denmark–Norway's devastating defeat in the Napoleonic Wars. This established a Union between Sweden and Norway.


We at the lodge commemorate this as well with a Cultural Meal prior to our regularly scheduled Business Meeting on Friday, May 1st. The meal, prior to the business meeting, will be a Cultural Dinner prepared by our talented “Cultural Chefs”: Toril, Reidun, Liv, Elly, and Inger. The dinner will start at 6:30PM and take place downstairs. I'm sure, if encouraged, our Chefs' will provide commentary on preparations and ingredients of each of the special dishes!


The evening's “Smorgasbord” promises to be an exceptional culinary experience for our lodge. All members who wish to enjoy these delicacies are asked to pay \$10 to Thom upon entering the lodge.

To secure your spot at the dinner table, please contact Elly before April 26 by calling 631-654-9353. Space is limited and reservations are required for participation.

Following the meal, we will all journey upstairs for our monthly business meeting at 7:30. Topics to be discussed include regularly reviewed items (financials, membership, committee/club reports) sale of September Ducks Tickets and discussion of the upcoming nominating committee. We hope all members can attend,

“Mid venlig hilsen,” Bob

Norway Hall 201 Seventh St St. James, NY 11780 1st Saturday @ 1 pm	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	

Day	Date	Time	Event	Calendar of Coming Events 
Fri	Apr 24	7:00	Poker Night / Beer Making - welcome everyone to play / to learn - BYO snacks. \$20 buy-in \$5 goes to pizza . . . which goes with beer.	
Fri	May 1	6:30	Loyal Lodge Cultural Dinner hot & cold smorgasbord \$10 p/p - meeting to follow Please RSVP to Elly Supinsky at 631-654-9353 by Sunday, April 26th Space is limited and reservations are required for participation.	
Sun	May 3	3:00	Zone 1 Memorial Service - <i>Hvil i fred</i> – Rest in peace from life’s labors. St Mark’s Episcopal Church - 754 Montauk Hwy, Islip, NY BE THERE! New members - this is a beautiful church. (Norwegian Stave-inspired design)	
Fri	May 15	7:00	Mets vs Yankees - come root for your team - BYO comfy chairs and snacks.	
Sun	May 17	1:00	Syttende Mai Parade - celebrating Norwegian Constitution Day Starts at 3rd Ave. at 85th street - wear your colors!	
Fri	May 22	7:00	Family Film Night - Sentimental Value 2026 Oscar winner—best foreign film Again, this is an event you’ll want to bring your own comfy chair and snacks.	
Sat	May 30	9:00	Spring Clean-up of Norway Hall grounds - bring snacks + and plenty to drink it’s up to you and your fellow members to make a difference in our place.	
Fri	Jun 12	6:30	Loyal Lodge BBQ Dinner on the patio - meeting to follow	

DATES TO REMEMBER - mark your 2026 calendars

May 10th	Mother’s Day (US) Morsdag in No. was Feb 8th
May 17 1:00	Syttende Mai Parade - Norwegian Constitution Day
June 4-7th	Sons of Norway Third District Convention Virginia Beach, VA
June 27th	Norden Lodge - Whaling Museum trip see flyer \$ Due May 16th
July 26-Aug 1st	3rd District Youth Camp - Koinonia Highland Lake, NY
August 23rd	Henrik Ibsen - Fishing Charter see flyer last month
September 11th	Loyal Lodge BBQ & meeting



Birthdays in May		Gratulerer Med Dagen	
7 Ken Kuveke	14 Lee Grosskreutz	20 Lisa Davidson	
8 Kathleen Easterson	14 Melissa Musumeci	28 Holly Vassallo	
9 Christina Chuliver	15 Gwen Thompson	31 Frank Clancy	
10 Julie Wolf	18 Donna Castagna-Gianelli	31 Oddvar Skadberg	

ST. JAMES "SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE"

With the brilliant sunshine of an early spring day, the Viking Vessel sailed again! With streets lined with thousands of cheering celebrants for the annual **ST. JAMES SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**, a contingent of walkers and riders from our lodge sailed the streets of Woodlawn and Lake Ave in St. James to join in the festivities. Guided by our fearless and unnerved pilot, Leif Easterson, our boat wound its way through a cheering and raucous group of revelers celebrating not only St. Patrick's Day but the acknowledged end



to a severe winter and the onset to a spring season of warmth and sunshine. Leading our walkers (left) were our former President, Eric Johannson, and two of his children. Gunnar and Kiersten (a term used literally since they navigated the entire windy parade holding our large lodge banner and a Norwegian Flag, not an easy task).

Joining us in our appropriately decorated boat (right) were Stacey Ferington, her daughter Mikayla and friend Tiffany, Donna Gianelli and her daughter Inga (and their dog, Lydia), all disbursing candy



(thanks Karin Ryan for picking this up and those glasses!) to the children along the parade route. Our lodge members Thom and Barbara Brownworth, Scott Gianelli, Meredith Johannson, Karin Ryan, Don Reinnertsen, Toril Stevens and Bob Johnson walked the entire parade with our group. It was a wonderful and festive way to kick off the spring season! Thanks to all!

April 10th, the lodge members enjoyed a delicious ham dinner with lots of fixin's.



Lookiy here . . . some of our ladies showed up wearing their Easter bonnets just for fun.



Thank you Bob and all those members who chose to add a side to the meal.


 **Did you know?**
 A **saga** is a long, detailed narrative, rooted in Old Norse literature as stories of heroic deeds and family history, often set in medieval Iceland or Norway

Typing Æ, Ø, and Å

When your typing on your computer and a word comes up that uses one of the 3 special vowels in the Norwegian language, just press on the ALT key and type the number.

Æ	Alt 146
Ø	Alt 0216
Å	Alt 0197
æ	Alt 145
ø	Alt 0248
å	Alt 134

You can Cut n Paste this chart as a .jpg and keep it on you computer desktop for quick reference.

What is this . . . 

Next month's newsletter will give you the answer.

Viking Woodcraft With A Purpose



Intimidation Tactics: The fierce "dragon prow" was used in warfare, raiding, and to terrify inhabitants of lands they were invading.

Superstition and Protection: Figureheads were believed to protect the crew from dangerous seas and were sometimes thought to house the ship's soul.

Removable Design: Figureheads were often removed when returning home or arriving at friendly ports to avoid scaring away the local "land spirits" (*landvættir*).

Mythological Power: The creature carvings, such as the head of a serpent (*ormr*), linked the vessel to Norse mythology, reflecting strength and bravery.

In the morning mist those ships looked like sea monsters, with a sail as wings, oars as paws and a Dragonhead. Certainly the Vikings were good at using fear to their advantage.



Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meet at the lodge: **Wed April 22 3:00 pm**
and next month **Wed May 27 3:00 pm**

Bring your project - **Show & Tell**

Bring a sandwich, a smile, and a friend



Celebrate May 17th



It's Springtime

And our Norwegian home has a yard that is in need of a Spring cleanup.

Saturday May 30th 9:00

So pack a bag (lunch / drinks) and bring the gardening tools you like.



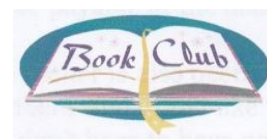
Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge: June date not set yet

BOOK: Punished

AUTHOR: Ann-Helen Laestadius

A story of 5 traumatized Sámi children



This Side

Syttende Mai in the Midwest

Tens of thousands come every year to Stoughton, Wis., which likely has the largest celebration in the world, including Norway. The food and the sense of humor are on display at Syttende Mai celebrations, all across the Midwest which include rømmegrøt- and lutefisk-eating contests.

Who says the Norwegians don't have a sense of humor?



O Lutefisk

(O Christmas Tree)

O Lutefisk, how fragrant your aroma.

O Lutefisk, you put me in a coma.

You smell so strong, you look like glue,
you taste just like an overshoe

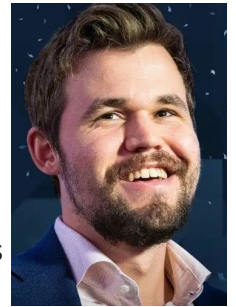
But lutefisk, come Saturday,

I tink I eat you anyway

That Side

Norway has more than Olympic Champions.

Sven Magnus Øen Carlsen was a child prodigy who has gone on to become a chess grandmaster. This exceptionally talented Norwegian has had a reputation of becoming demonstrably unhappy when things don't go right (temper tantrums).



Magnus Carlsen

He lost the world title in chess to Gukesh Dommaraju, a young Indian Grandmaster, in Norway last year and he slammed the board.

This is his record to date

Carlsen is a five-time World Chess Champion, reigning six-time World Rapid Chess Champion, reigning nine-time World Blitz Chess Champion and the reigning FIDE Freestyle Chess World Champion.

A great deal of effort goes into selecting videos that are of interest to our members. Please take a moment and watch what is being brought to your attention.



1st video is of the time-lapse relocation of the Oseberg to its' brand new home The Gokstad and the Tune longboats were also moved without problems.

2nd is about The Gustafson Sled from the Oseberg site - another priceless artifact that had to be moved with much greater care.

Copy this link (url) to a Google home page to watch the video

3 Minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig6XTZoXTXk>

7 Minutes: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=959781126792747>



The Big Move Is Underway In Norway

The Viking Ship Museum in Oslo is closed.

The Viking longboats and other historical displays are in the process of moving to the new location called **The Museum of the Viking Ages**

Why do the Viking ships need to be relocated? In 2012, a government-appointed expert committee concluded that the Viking ships could not remain in the old Viking Ship Museum. The old building is unsuitable for preserving the ships due to significant variations in humidity and vibrations in the floor. Additionally, the support system around the ship has caused uneven weight distribution, leading to cracking of the ship's planks. If the ships had remained in the old museum, the deterioration would have continued, and eventually, the ships would have collapsed under their own supports.

In 2015, an international architectural competition was held for a museum building adjacent to the old Viking Ship Museum. The Museum of the Viking Ages is scheduled to open to the public in 2027.

All Three Viking Ships Safely in Place at the New Museum (www.vikingtidsmuseet.no)

After a journey of 130 meters at 2.4 cm per minute, the enormous, meticulously planned effort, and a nerve-racking descent down one level to the floor below, the last Viking ship, the Tune, is now safely installed at the Museum of the Viking Age (*Vikingtidsmuseet*).

After 10 years of planning, a real milestone has been reached now that all three historical ships have been relocated from the Viking Ship Museum to the new museum building at Bygdøy.

Bygdøy is a popular recreation area and is among the most fashionable residential areas in Norway, where the most expensive properties in the entire country are found. It is also the home of five national museums as well as a royal estate.





The Oseberg Ship was the first to go and was moved in September. The Gokstad Ship sailed into its new home at the end of October, and with the Tune Ship arriving at its base, the trio is complete.

The Oseberg Ship is the best-preserved Viking ship in the world, and it consists of about 90 percent original wood. When the ship was excavated, the iconic serpent's head found in the grave was too fragile to be mounted on the ship. Instead, an exact reconstruction was made, which visitors to the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo, have been able to admire for almost 100 years.

The Oseberg is approximately 1,200 years old, with tree-ring dating (dendrochronology) placing its construction around 820 AD, some 200 years before Leif Eriksson established Lans Au Meadows.

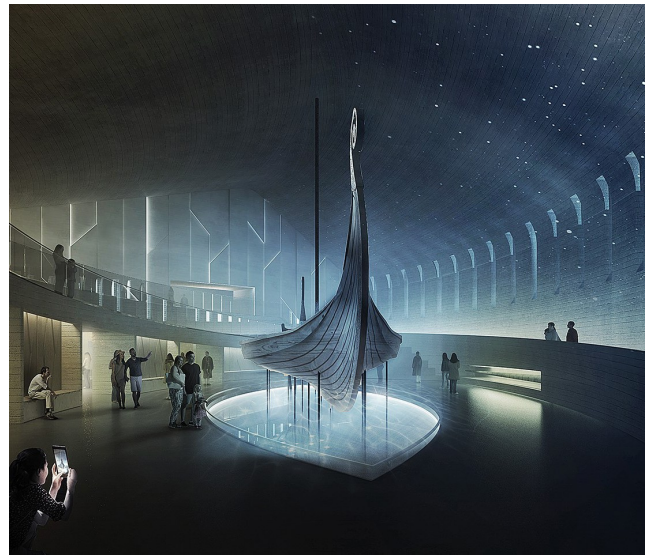
The ship was discovered in 1904 near Tønsberg, Norway. It was used as a burial vessel for two high-status women and interred in a mound around 834 AD. The persons may have been Queen Asa and daughter, or the 2nd one may be a lady-in-waiting.

The Tune Viking Ship was the first Viking ship to be excavated— in 1867; at a time when modern archaeology had not yet taken shape.

The ship was taken out of the grave both quickly and roughly. The ship still bears several marks from the spades that were used.

The ship appears much less well preserved than the Oseberg and Gokstad ships, but it is the most authentic Viking ship in the museum's collection.

It is the only ship from the Viking Age that has not been reconstructed; it is untouched since it was taken from the grave.





The Oseberg burial sled ,aka the Gustafson sled, is a richly decorated, 9th-century Viking artifact discovered in the Oseberg ship burial site. It was one of three elaborate sledges (sleds) found in the grave, designed for transport over snow, with extremely detailed wood carvings.

The contents, including the sledges (sleds), were found and revealed profound insights into Viking art, transport, and burial traditions.

Note: the tomb was robbed in the Viking Age leaving few silver or gold items.

The Oseberg ship burial in Norway yielded a vast, well-preserved collection of early 9th-century Viking artifacts beyond the ship itself. Key items include three elaborately carved wooden sledges, a four-wheeled wagon, five carved animal head posts, beds, textiles (wool and imported silk), kitchen tools, agricultural equipment, and sacrificed animals

Found along with the sleds, a wagon, three dogs and numerous artifacts, indicating a high-status burial for the two women.

The sleds are constructed primarily from wood, with intricate carvings featuring animals and mythological scenes

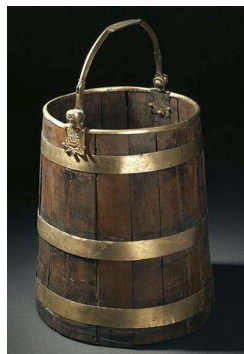
While likely used for transportation during life, these sleds were specifically included in the burial ceremony (*Begravelsen*) to serve the deceased in the afterlife.



Additional Items Of Great Interest



A very ornate brass bucket



Another bucket that exhibits its' Irish origin.

A tapestry was found. Some of the motifs woven into the textile are horses pulling wagons in a procession



The animal heads were made by different woodcarvers.



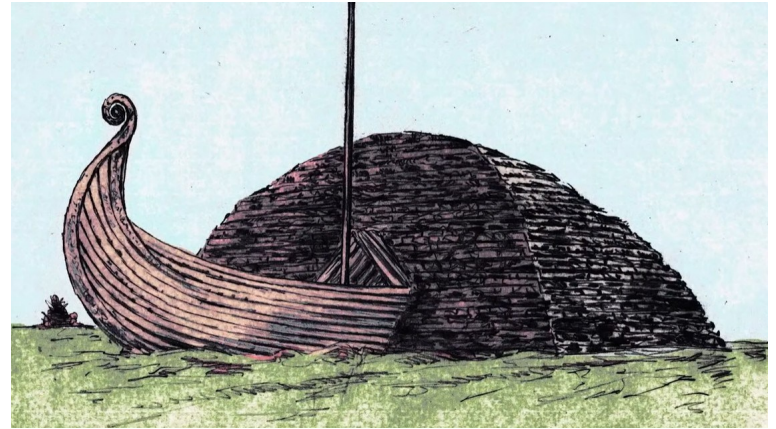
Animal Remains: The skeletons of 14 horses, three dogs, and one ox were found, likely sacrificed for the journey.

Carved
Animal
Head

The
Burial
Bed



There is one final bit of very interesting information as it relates to how the Vikings handled **this** burial service, i.e., voyage to Valhalla. The burial mound was left half covered for about 6 months, presumably for farewells by those in far places. Researchers know this because plant seeds in the soil covering the back half were 6 months older than seeds found in the front half. The archaeologists, et al, left no stone unturned. *Incredible research!*



Sørlandet sailed into New York City

New York welcomed the magnificent Norwegian tall ship for a visit at pier 86 on March 3rd. Fullriggeren Sørlandet is the worlds oldest operating full-rigged tall ship and it brings nearly a century of maritime heritage to Manhattan's waterfront.

Built in 1927, it's home to some international maritime high school students who sail to as many as 15 ports across three continents. Fully restored in 1980 with a full 27 sails, she will return to her home port of Kristiansand after New York.

NORDEN LODGE Visits Whaling Museum and Education Center 301 Main Street, Cold Springs Harbor, New York 11724

Come join fellow S/N members as we come together to cultivate knowledge & celebrate creativity through the arts, science, and history of Long Island's whaling heritage.



Saturday June 27th @ 11am **Cost: \$8/person & \$6/Senior**
RSVP and payment due by May 16th

Please make checks out to [Kristin Gottilla](#) or [Venmo @kgottilla](#)

Kindly state the names of participants and phone numbers in case I need to contact you.

Contact: Kristin Gottilla: Kgottilla@hotmail.com 516-521-3190
642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Directions: Take the LIE to exit 49N (Rt 110N, which will become New York Avenue). Continue North for about 6.5 miles. Make a left on Rt 25A and continue west for 1.5 miles; museum will be on right. Note: While this is a direct route, Route 110 is full of streetlights!

Parking: Street parking (unmetered) is typically available by the museum. The Museum does not have a private parking lot. Guests are welcome to park in Cold Spring Harbor's free town lot, a 5-minute walk away located between 90-126 Main Street, next to the Cold Spring Harbor Post Office.

Afterwards, we are going to walk down Main Street and see all the beautiful shops, and you can stop for a bit of lunch. There are several places to eat in the area..

You can also visit along Main Street:

- **Firehouse Museum.** Exhibit about the local fire department. \$2/adult
- **Picnic or Hike in Cold Spring Harbor State Park.** Picnic near the shoreline, or hike hilly terrain in a hardwood forest that offers scenic vistas of the Cold Spring Harbor. Excellent birdwatching. The park serves as the northern trailhead of the Nassau Suffolk Greenbelt Trail that extends to Bethpage State Park. Pets are permitted on leash only. Free parking.
- Use restrooms in the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *(website says open until 5PM)*

Sentrumsløpet

The 10km / 5km marathon will be run in downtown Oslo on April 25th.

