



LOYAL LODGE No. 252

Sons of  Norway



Loyal Letter

June 2026

Vol : XIV Issue 6

President's Message

"June is busting out all over!" And while the coolness of May may have suppressed our outdoor horticultural efforts, the promising warmth and sunshine of June can only enhance our efforts! This is true of ourselves and our lodge. This May we had a wonderful cultural dinner (excellent photographs by Ken and written text by our cooks in this issue) in celebration of May 17th, "Norwegian Constitution Day";

Upcoming . . . a Mets/Yankees game viewing on May 15th on our large screen TV (wear your team's jersey); and viewing of the Oscar winning foreign film, "Sentimental Values" on the 22nd of May. As the month warmed up, we have our annual "Lodge Spruce Up Day" on Saturday, and May 30th in preparations for our June 10th Barbeque and Business Meeting.



Variegated Feathered Tulips



Farm on the fiord

standably harder. It causes one to pause and consider how far we have come yet how much we have lost in that journey. Only each of us can answer that question. But Reidun has shared an experience not to be lost, but sadly never to come again. Thank you Reidun for this beautiful article!

Enjoy the summer folks, hope to see everyone on June 10th at our BBQ and until then,

Tusen takk, Bob

This issue will be our last prior to summer vacation. Monthly Publications will resume with the September issue. However, I draw your attention to the wonderfully tender and nostalgic article written by our own Reidun Rasmussen about her experiences in growing up on a small dairy farm in Norway. It reminded me of my paternal grandfather's (a member of our Hall in the '50's) experience in growing up, perhaps on a similar farm just outside of Bergen. Reidun's writing is sweet and evocative of an earlier time when life was much simpler, but under-

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Calendar of Coming Events



Day	Date	Time	Event
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 'home'.
Fri	Jun 12	6:30	Loyal Lodge BBQ Dinner on the patio - meeting to follow
Fri	Sep 11	6:30	Loyal Lodge - dinner & meeting
Sun	Sep 13	1:35	Long Island Ducks game - see Bob at the meeting for tickets

DATES TO REMEMBER - mark your 2026 calendars

June 27th	Norden Lodge - Whaling Museum trip	Rez by May 16th
July 26-Aug 1st	3rd District Youth Camp - Koinonia	Highland Lake
August 23rd	Henrik Ibsen - Fishing Charter	
September 6th	Scanfest at Vasa Park	Budd Lake, NJ
September 16-20	Lutheran Retreat Center - Isle of Palms, SC	
October 3rd	Norden's Atlantic City Casino trip	

*Exceptional
events going on!
Consider car-pooling*

Gratulerer Med Dagen

Birthdays in June

4 Melissa Pedersen
10 John Barnett
15 Sean Baxley
15 Pamela Olsen
16 Nancy Baxley
16 Audrey Nilsen
19 Lillian Upcraft
27 Steven Reduto
28 Twoey Brayson
29 Ken Olson
30 Bonnie Gai
30 Kim Mokarry

July

2 Barbara Brownworth
3 Maria Latino
12 Curt Rooman
14 Susan Olson
16 Anne Davis
18 Owen Wister
19 Alicia Krebs
19 Karen Tenser
21 Thom Brownworth
24 Stephen Helmold
25 Inger Nielsen
29 Lisa Schreiber
30 Edward Fleming
30 Reidun Rasmussen
31 Kyler Easterson

August

2 Meredith Johansson
4 Rosemarie Sandhop
5 Ray Hansen
7 Carl Moa
11 Jeanne Kovacs
13 Jon Hogden
14 Thomas Baxley
16 Martin Thompson
19 Scott Gianelli
20 Gunnar Johansson
24 Anthony Chuliver
27 Yohanna Olsen
28 William Monsen

Cultural Dinner before our May meeting . . . *absolutely delicious !*



Our Cultural Dinner in Norwegian and English So now is the time to say in Norwegian. *Didn't hear you, say it again!*

posjert laks med sitron og dill
 små poteter med sitron dressing
 Jansson's Frestelse poteter med løk og ansjovis
 kjøttboller og saus
 lyttebær
 fiskeboller - stekt
 slangagurk salat
 sursild
 rodtbiff med løk
 rødbeter salat
 waldorf salat med epler, selleri og valnøtter
 reke salat med selleri, majones, sitron og dill

Poached salmon with lemon and dill
 Small potatoes with lemon dressing,
 Jansson's Temptation potatoes, onion and anchovies
 Meatballs and gravy
 Lingonberries
 Fishballs - fried (using our bazaar's stock)
 Cucumber salad
 Pickled herring
 Roast beef with caramelized onions
 Red pickled beets.
 Waldorf salad with apples, celery and walnuts
 Shrimp salad with celery, mayo, lemon and dill



Norwegian table grace
 and then it was . . .
 Come 'n get it!



"Det var et utmerket måltid!"

Those who were smart enough to come to the Cultural Dinner have nothing but high praise for Liv, Toril, Reidun, Elly, and Inger **Takk**



Before



And a full second helping



Imagine . . . being so full, that you had to leave a piece of roast beef on your plate



The whole presentation speaks *koselig*.



including the well known sharing of "bread and wine"



Reidun read up about Norwegian cuisine and what was prepared for the Cultural Dinner.

Loyal is so blessed to have all these great ladies to keep our lodge vibrant.



2 members having fun! with a ribbon in your hair or a flower in your ear



The warmth of cold snaps

Henrik Ibsen Lodge hosted the annual Memorial Service at St. Mark's in Islip. The spectacular Stave styled church is just the right place for Sons of Norway members to reflect and remember those members who have gone on.

(no one from Loyal Lodge)



Ken Johnson led the Memorial Service. and Roy Berntsen tolled the bell for each name to be remembered



Several Loyal members came out.



Zone 1 Scholarship Chairman Barbara Berntsen presented 3 awards from 2025. One was to our own Katherine Chuliver. Accepting the award was her mother, pictured here with Loyal rep, Leif Easterson

The Loyal Knitting Club knitting while chatting about and much, much more! Coffee out our time together among



enjoyed a lovely afternoon books, travel, family events and delicious treats rounded friends! *(no gossip?)* M J

All are welcome to join us at our next gathering!





**SONS OF
NORWAY**

is merging with

BetterLife

The full details of this partnership to improve the financial products and benefits to our membership are forthcoming. Sons of Norway will retain its name, brand, lodges, districts, and cultural programs. *Stay tuned . . .*



The Norwegian Midsummer tradition is called "Jonsok" or St. John's eve and is an annual celebration. The picture is from the town of Alesund where the huge bonfire is designed to keep away evil spirits and welcome Spring, but in reality it just creates news headlines.

Loyal Lodge Knitting Club

Meet at the lodge: **Wed May 25 3:00 pm**
and **NO June meeting**

Bring your project - **Show & Tell**

Bring a sandwich, a smile, and a friend



Did you see they included the Estonian flag ?



This is Sandra Franco who heard about, and came, to our Cultural Dinner.

She has expressed a deep interest in joining our lodge and we gladly say

Velcomst!

A greeting in Norwegian is "God Sankthansaften!" but the Swedish rolls off the tongue a bit easier

Glad Midsommar!

Loyal Lodge Book Club

Meet at the lodge: **Sun June 28th 2:00 pm**

BOOK: Punished

AUTHOR: Ann-Helen Laestadius

A coming of age story set in Iceland




This Side

Well, June is soon here and that means the Third District convention will be getting underway in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Our delegates, Bob Johnson, Leif Easteerson, Thom Brownworth, Barbara Brownworth, and Susan Olson have prepared for this event and our best wishes go with them to have a successful, but more importantly, a fruitful convention whose results will impact the manner in which we carry on our lodge work in the future.

The mission of Sons of Norway is:

- To promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway.
- To celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries.
- To provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.



Perhaps the most beautiful
song you will ever hear.

That Side

Norway's King Harald, Europe's oldest reigning monarch at 89, is currently receiving treatment for a leg infection. He was on a private holiday with Queen Sonja when he was hospitalized on the Spanish island of Tenerife, initially suffering from an infection and dehydration.

Despite responding well to treatment, his personal physician described his condition as serious given his advanced age.

This follows a previous hospitalization in 2024 for an infection in Malaysia, where he received a temporary pacemaker before a permanent one was implanted in Norway.



Did you know?

North Sea oil has brought Norway the world's highest standard of living — which means, they don't eat a lot of lutefisk anymore.

After spring cleaning, winter cleanup around the yard, or maybe you prepared for a yard sale . . . we should take the time to examine our busy schedules.

Sissel in full screen

Click this link


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFfe84U_kt8&list=RDFe84U_kt8&start_radio=1



Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>

 Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

Life on the Farm . . . My Farm

A personal story from Reidun Rasmussen

Loyal Lodge No. 3-252 St. James, NY

Reading the article in the March/April issue in Viking Magazine about the Norwegian budeie (*BOO-day-yeh*), or milking maid, inspired me to write this story about my childhood.



I grew up on a small dairy farm in a valley named Steinsdalen. Our farm is very close to the famous Steinsdalen Waterfall. Our farm had about 10 milk cows. All winter they stood in their stalls and were fed and milked twice a day. It was my parents job to do all of this, but as we grew we had to help. Milking was done by hand in my early years. Later came the milking machine. When spring arrived, the cows were ready to be let out (*ku-slipp*) and walked up to the seter.



(A seter or sæter is a traditional Norwegian mountain summer farm, used for centuries to graze livestock like cows, sheep and goats in high pastures during warmer months.)



This was a great day on the farm, especially for us kids and the neighboring kids. We're all ready for this exciting day! My father took the bell off the wall in the barn and rang it loudly. The cows knew this sound and that it was getting close for them to be let out. He brought the cows out of the barn, and each one of us kids were handed a cow on a rope. Our job was to hold or tight to the rope and RUN!

The cows went crazy when they first came out after the long winter. They kicked up their hind legs to stretch and did all kinds of crazy aerobics before they settled down. We knew our job, hold on to the rope and run with them! We were all scared but also very excited to be part of this awesome happening. After the cows calmed down, we started on the long walk to the seter. The walk was about 7 miles and took us along the main road E67 that runs from Bergen to Hardanger. On our walk we created a lot of excitement for the tourists that were on their way to see our famous waterfall. 10 kids, with one cow each, was most likely something they had never seen before.

Continued



Exploring your Nordic Culture



After our long walk we finally arrived at the seter and could let the cows off their ropes. The first thing the cows did was to fight to see who gets to wear the bell for the summer. The winner was the only cow that got to wear the bell, a very prestigious honor for a cow.



The budeie was already at the seter. She was a woman that was hired for the summer to take care of the cows. Milk them in the morning and at night. Every seter had a small barn to house the cows at night, In the morning after milking the budeie let the cows out to roam free. You could set your clock after the cows, exactly at 5 pm the cows came back to the seter, the bell cow first followed by the flock. The budeie had to bring the milk every day to the main road for the milk truck to pick it up and bring it to the main milkhouse down in the valley. The budeie's job was not an easy one.



When I think of all this in the world we live in today I am thankful I grew up back then when life seemed so easy and simple.

PS

And to think that seterkultur (Nordic summer farm culture) has been recognized and is now added to the UNESCO World Heritage list.

A budeie sometimes might use a vocal call to tell the livestock it's time to come in from the field. It was rhythmic, more like a song. In Norway, they called it **kulning**.

Reidun's brother would use kulning to call in the sheep and cows.

To hear what it sounds like,

Click <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/e5tD5qVXYTY>



Henrik Ibsen sponsors this event each year and for those who have shared this adventure, well they're 'hooked', and can't wait to get out there again with the other Norse (SoN) fishermen. THINK OF IT . You, your spouse, your kids, your grandkids, men, women, boys, girls ,(no pets).

I owe myself a one day vacation and THIS is how I think I'll do it!



2026 Henrik Ibsen Fishing

Members, Family and Friends Welcome

Sunday August 23rd 2026

1:00pm – 5:00pm (BOAT LEAVES AT 1 PM SHARP)

\$65 per person (includes gratuity)

\$50 per child (12 & under)

RAIN or SHINE

This is a private Charter aboard the Capt. Eddie B III
You may bring your own food/beverages
We must give a final count so PLEASE send names and payment
▶ NO LATER than August 1st 2026

Make checks payable to: John Kern
and

Mail to: John Kern
1498 Brightshore Blvd Bay Shore NY 11706

Questions? Please contact John Kern, Sports Director
cell/text 631 636-2035



Exploring your Nordic Culture



<https://loyallodge.org>



 Loyal Lodge #252 Sons of Norway

Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson was a Viking king who ruled Denmark from around 958 to 986 AD and briefly Norway as well. Born circa 910, he was the son of King Gorm the Old and part of the Jelling dynasty, which helped establish Denmark as a major power in Scandinavia. One of his key achievements was unifying Danish tribes under a single kingdom, conquering Norway, and promoting Christianity in the region—he's credited with baptizing Denmark around 965, as depicted in historical reliefs and the famous Jelling runestones he erected in honor of his parents.



His nickname "Bluetooth" (Blåtand in Danish) likely came from a dead or discolored tooth that appeared as blue, according to medieval chronicles. . . or he liked blueberries a lot.



In modern times, Bluetooth wireless technology was named after him in the 1990s by engineers at Ericsson, Intel, and Nokia, symbolizing how it "unites" devices just as Harald united Scandinavian territories. The Bluetooth logo even combines the runes for his initials, H  and B 



UNESCO World Heritage Site



Jelling stones, in their glass casing (2012)

He is famously commemorated on the Jelling Stones, (in Jelling, DK) which he erected for his parents. These stone monuments are inscribed with runic symbols representing both Pagan religion and Christianity.



His burial site remains debated, with some evidence pointing to a church in Wiejkowo, Poland, though traditional accounts place it in Roskilde, Denmark, where this fresco can be seen.



Coastal RETREAT

September 16–20, 2026
Isle of Palms, South Carolina

*Norwegian Cultural Camp
for Families and Adults*

Cost:






- 1 person room \$925
- 2 attendees sharing room \$1400 (\$700 pp)
- 3 attendees sharing room \$1875 (\$625 pp)
- 4 attendees sharing room \$2300 (\$575 pp)



**Sons of
NORWAY**
3rd District



Enjoy a variety of enriching experiences!

-  Demonstrations and hands-on learning - rosemaling, weaving, woodcarving
-  Cultural discussion and sharing - book study, the Sami, modern Nordic countries
-  Learn about Nordic cooking as well as Hardanger fiddle
-  Relax and take in beautiful beach views
-  Meet new friends with a common interest and build lasting connections



JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

Norden Lodge is sponsoring a trip to an Atlantic City casino



**Saturday
October 3, 2026**



Cost: \$60 per person

The Tropicana is giving us \$15 to get us started.

RSVP by: August 28th Call or E-mail Today!!!

Contact: Chuck: 516-512-9427

Kris: 516-521-3190

CGottilla@hotmail.com



The bus will be making several stops to pick up and drop off participants.

It is **very important** that you call to verify trip information in advance.

*****All reservations are first come first served*****

*******PAYMENT Locks in your spot on the bus*******