



# NORDEN NEWS

<http://www.norden2.org>

May 2003

## Fra presidenten

Greetings Members ~

Spring is here!! The flowers are blooming, the grass is growing and it's that time of the year that the lodge starts to get busy with festivals and celebrations. The lodge had a nice April "Steak Fry" Social put on by Thor Aanes & Karen Castleman. We enjoyed New York steaks, and good music. This coming social will be our Syttende Mai dinner and program. It will be a traditional Cod Fish dinner cooked by our own Vince Williams. Sonja Horgen will be heading up a great committee of Norwegians. Our speaker will be the executive director of Tacoma's World Trade Center. After the dinner and program upstairs, we'll move downstairs to dance to the music of Gary & Diane. This is a popular social with everyone dressed in Norwegian attire, so please make your reservations with Alyce Fletcher right away. For those of you who plan to head up to Ballard for the 3pm parade, hurry back to Tacoma to enjoy this wonderful event with us.

In April, Norden 2 participated in the Norwegian Heritage Festival at PLU's Scandinavian Cultural Center. What a great thing it is to see so many people come together to celebrate and enjoy their Norwegian heritage. Both our Lefse and Pea Soup tables sold out, and our membership information table signed up some new members. Thanks to the many people who volunteered to help make lefse and pea soup, and who worked out at the festival on Saturday (even the coffee crew!!!).

Since March, we've begun our monthly business meetings at 7:30 pm. Everyone has given rave reviews on this new time, and how nice it is to have a longer social coffee hour afterwards. We would like to have some volunteers for the September through December coffee committees, so please give me a call. As I mentioned at our May business meeting, we are very fortunate to have so many talented members at Norden 2 who are willing to come down and give a cultural presentation to us at our meetings. This past Friday, we enjoyed a presentation by Thor Aanes on the history of ski jumping and other nordic sports. He shared with us his own experiences as a competitive ski jumper, and the pictures were great. Thanks Thor! In June we'll have a presentation by Robert Caspersen on Norwegian ships and boat building. It will be something for everyone to look forward to.

Our next breakfast will be on Mother's Day, so bring the family down to enjoy a special treat. Also, thanks to all of those members, who come down to the hall and pitch in for a few hours to make the breakfast such a successful event. It sure helps pay for the maintenance of an aging building.

As many of you know, we'll be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and are starting to plan for a special celebration. We are looking for members who might have some historical items or pictures of the lodge in the past 100 years. If you have something that you would like to loan to the lodge for an exhibit, please give me a call. We can also scan any pictures so that you can have your originals back right away. Please keep us in mind when you do your spring-cleaning.

Remember, if you find your Sons of Norway number published in this newsletter, please call one of the lodge officers and let them know. You'll win money if you do!! Also, don't forget that our elected president, Tom Heavey, is still serving our country overseas in the Middle East, so please keep him in your prayers. We look forward to his return.

Hurrah for Syttende Mai !! ~ *Kathy Fry*

### Syttende Mai

We are honored to have as the speaker for Syttende Mai Andreas Udbye. He was born in Norway and after growing up in the city of Trondheim, he came to the United States in 1980 to study at Pacific Lutheran University. He graduated with a Marketing and Economics degree and then worked in Oslo for three years as a shipbroker before returning to Seattle to attend the University of Washington where he graduated with an MBA. He and his wife, Kari, returned to Norway and then in April 2001 he came back to Tacoma as the Executive Director of the World Trade Center.

### Cultural Presentations

At our May meeting we had Thor Aanes, who spoke and showed slides on the history of ski jumping and other Nordic sports. It was especially interesting because, as a young man, Thor participated as a ski jumper in Norway and in the United States.

At our June meeting Robert Caspersen will be speaking and showing slides on Norwegian fishing boats that resemble Viking ships and are mostly used for racing now

~*Elaine Anderson.*



Here are some pictures of the last hiking Viking walk. Randy has done enough walking to be eligible for his first sports medal. The rest of us are on the way and should have medals by September. This is great fun, there is tremendous camaraderie and it's also good for you. The weather is getting better so the walk is really nice, the people you met as you walk are friendly, and it gives you time, as you walk, to talk to the other lodge members that are walking. All in all a great experience. We meet at Old Town Dock on Ruston way at 8:00 AM and we normally are finished in about an hour and a half. Come on out and join us.

~Will Fry, Computer Science



Elvy Molander enjoys breakfast with Lyle & Linda Schaefer

## Velkommen til nye medlemmer

**Richard Foege** -- (253) 752-9426  
5012 N. 13th St., Tacoma, WA 98406-3208

**Kathleen Soderberg** -- (253) 566-2537  
6715 35th St. W., Univ. Place, WA 98466-5201

**Patricia Soderberg** --(253) 566-3809  
6717 35th St. W., Univ. Place, WA 98466

**Carol Voigt** -- (Transferred In)  
4220 Olympic Blvd. W., Univ. Place, WA 98466-7539

**Norden 2 would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you and we hope to see you often at our meetings and lodge activities.**

As an incentive to get members involved in lodge activities by reading their newsletters, the board has decided to place a member's Sons of Norway membership number somewhere within the newsletter. The member that finds their number and calls the editor or one of the other officers, will win **\$10.00**. Your number is found on your membership card and also above the name on the mailing label of Viking Magazine. So read everything and good luck !!

## God bedring

**Arne Anderson** – Knee Surgery  
**Don Anderson** – Sick  
**Karen Castleman** – Foot & Thumb Surgery  
**Janice Yost** – Recovering from Surgery  
**Tina Berg** – Cataract Surgery  
**Ellen Bjerke** – Broken Vertebrae

The Lodge sends its best wishes to each of these members, as well as to any we haven't heard about. Call Frances Lingwall at (253) 531-5023 when you know of a member who is ill, injured or hospitalized.

Did you know that you can view this newsletter on the internet in PDF format before they arrive in your home mailbox?

See the color version at:

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/norden2/>  
Or visit <http://norden2.org>



## The Origin of the Norwegian Flag

The flag of Norway is red, white, and blue as is the U. S. flag.

In 1814 the Napoleonic wars were going on in Europe, and Denmark was aligned with Napoleon of France. At that time Norway had been part of Denmark since 1500.. Norway saw its chance. They declared their independence and their leaders took the U.S. constitution and the French constitution and used them as a pattern to write their own constitution. When Norway wrote its constitution and declared themselves free (independent) of Denmark, they took the red, white and blue for their flag colors. they so much admired America that some wanted a blue field with one star as in the U.S. flag, but it was finally agreed that the Norwegian flag should have a cross since they were a Christian nation and all the other Scandinavian countries had a cross in their flag.

The Norwegians knew that democracies were not popular in Europe so they incorporated a King to whom they gave veto power over any law that was made by the ting as the parliament was called. However, any veto could be overridden by the ting. It must be remembered that the U.S. constitution was in many ways influenced by the French constitution. No king who has ruled Norway since the constitution of 1814 was implemented has vetoed a law. He knows he has a nice job and is not desirous of losing it.

Napoleon was defeated when he tried to take Russia and at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the big powers of Europe decided there would be no new kingdoms in Europe. Therefore, Norway was given to Sweden and remained there until 1905 when, after the threat of war, the King of Sweden agreed that Norway be allowed its independence.

Karl Johan, the King of Sweden, was a Bernadotte of France who had deserted Napoleon and became the King of Sweden. King Karl Johan wished that Norway and Sweden should be two states of equal status as states in the United States of America, but the parliament of Sweden would not agree to this (I am sure Sweden has regretted this). Norway was allowed to keep their ting and flag (the red, white and blue) but with a small yellow and blue Swedish flag in the corner. The Norwegians had to accept this, but they called it the dirty (unclean) flag. It had to be flown in public places, but ordinary people--farmers, homes, etc. all took down their flag poles and hid their flags. You know, storms, etc. could be blamed for the loss of the flag poles.

Wrangling between Sweden and Norway continued, but in 1905, with the threat of war, Sweden agreed that Norway could be independent, and the very next day the flag poles in Norway were up again and the clean red, white and blue flag of Norway flew again. The Norwegians had hidden their flag poles in their barns under the hay.

Let us not forget that Leif Erikson came to America in the year 1000--492 years and 2 days before Columbus.

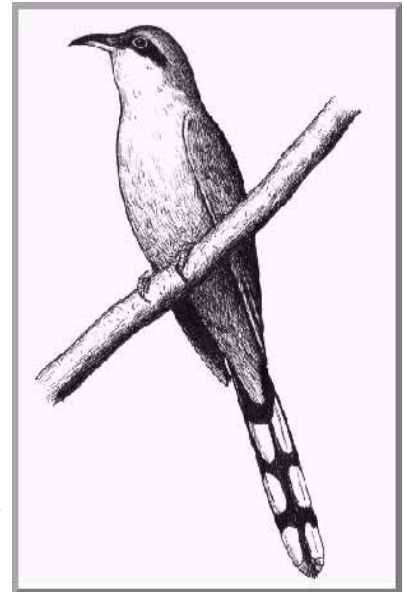
This article was written by Arvid I. Ronning, M.D. and sent out by the Cultural Director of District 2, Sons of Norway.

## **Sons of Norway Lefse Booth at PLU**

With help from Harvey Johnson, Iona Dhaese and Paul Fauske we peeled 45 pounds of potatoes. Paul cooked them and prepared them for lefse. On Friday April 25th we had a crew of the best rollers, turners and packagers to be found anywhere. They were Janet Smith, Lu & Bob Bergum, Iona Dhaese, Anne Whitley, Barb Dildine, Ragnild Feroy, Inger & Guttorm Gregersen, Marge Kunschak, Don Barrett, Harvey Johnson, Earl & Glory Mikkelson. Marion & Paul Fauske prepared the dough for rolling. Marge and Iona took the finished lefse to the heritage center on Saturday morning and it did not take long to sell out. The lefse demonstrations were handled by Anne Whitley and her family.. What a great job they did! The family workers were: Gary & Barb Dildine and daughter, Heather; Chris & Debbie Whitley, Grant & Judy Whitley, Karen Stratford and Sondra and Kristen Merriman. Tusen Takk to Anne and her family, and to all of those who so willingly came to the hall to help. You are all greatly appreciated. We collected \$282 for Norden Lodge. ~Iona

### **The Month of May**

There are many traditions around the month of May in Norway. It is the month when birds return, and flowers cover the forest floor like carpets. The singing of the cuckoo bird is welcomed as the true sign that spring has arrived, and summer will not be far behind. superstitions around the cuckoo bird are many. If you first hear the cuckoo bird singing from the south,



you will have a good harvest. If it sings from the north, someone will die. If it sings from west, your wishes will be fulfilled, and if it sings from the east, there will be a wedding and good fortune.

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### **Norden News Identification Statement:**

The Norden News is a newsletter of Norden Lodge No. 2, Sons of Norway, located at 1106 S. 15th St., Tacoma, WA. This is a non-profit organization. The Norden News is published at least 5 times a year. Issue date appears on the front cover. No ISSN number has been assigned to the Norden News. The newsletter is sent at no additional cost to all members. Each issue contains no advertising.

## *A Little in English*

### **Norwegians Work Less Than Rest of Nordic Region**

A recent report shows that Norwegians work less than their Nordic neighbors. The Swedes work 150 hours more annually. Also, Americans work 300 hours more than the average Norwegian. "The reason that Norway is lower down the list than a lot of other countries is that so many people work part time here. The Norwegian willingness to work overtime is also lower," says researcher Hege Torp .

*-Norway Times*

## *Litt på norsk*

### **Nordmenn jobber mindre enn resten av Norden**

En ny rapport viser at nordmenn jobber mindre enn sine nordiske naboer. Svenskene arbeider 150 timer mer per år. I tillegg jobber amerikanerne 300 timer mer enn den vanlige nordmann. "Årsaken til at Norge ligger lavere enn mange andre land, er nok at så mange jobber deltid her. Dessuten er nok terskelen for å jobbe overtid lavere her enn i mange andre land, sier forskeren Hege Torp."

*Norway Times*

## **New Membership Network**

Thanks to the efforts of the current International Board, the focus of Sons of Norway has become recruitment and retention of members. To help accomplish our goals, a network of District Vice Presidents, Lodge Membership Chairpersons and the International Vice President Ted Fosberg is being formed. The aim is to establish an active membership program in each district and local lodge. All lodges will be encouraged to assign a "shepherd" to each new member whose responsibility will be to make that new member feel welcome in the lodge and to inform them about all the resources that are available from the local lodge, district and Sons of Norway Headquarters. District Vice Presidents will be contacting Lodge Membership Chairpersons in the coming months regarding this program. If you would like to assist in this exciting new initiative, you are encouraged to contact your lodge membership chairperson to see how you might be able to help. 9195028

## *Syttende Mai*

### **Norway's Constitution Day**

Perhaps the most important non-religious day of the year for Norwegians is the 17th of May. Celebrations commemorate the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814 at Eidsvoll, Norway. Although Norway technically remained in a political union with Sweden for another 89 years, May 17th represents the first proclamation of Norwegian independence from her neighbors.

## **Congratulations to Karen Feroy**



*Bree Beckerdite and Karen Feroy*

To lodge members,

I thank you for the opportunity to represent Norden 2 as your Queen. I have really enjoyed these past two years! Best of luck, Karen. I know you will do a great job.

*~Bree Beckerdite*



*Cliff Magnussen*

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## Kalender

**Saturdays.--**

Hiking Vikings 9am - In front of Johnny's Fish market at the Old Town pier on Ruston Way.

**MAY**

**Saturday, 17th --** Dinner and Dancing

**Sunday 18th --** Computer Classes

**JUNE**

**Friday 6th --** Business Meeting  
7:30 pm

**Sunday 8th --** Norwegian Pancake Breakfast  
9am – 1pm at Normanna Hall

**Saturday 28th --** Family Day -  
Details to be announced

**JULY**

**July 6-19<sup>th</sup> --** Camp Trollhaugen

**AUGUST**

**Saturday 23rd --** Picnic and Celebration of  
Norden 2's 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# May Social *Syttende Mai*



**Saturday, May 17, 2003**  
**at Normanna Hall**  
**Hurrah, Hurrah...**

Come and join us for a great Cod dinner  
by Vince Williams

Music by Gary and Diane

Contact Alyce Fletcher (253) 759-2108  
for further information \$13

Happy Hour - 6pm; Dinner - 7pm; Dancing - 8pm