



Solglimt Newsletter



Palm Desert

Editor: Steinar Johansen

December 2011



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Ord fra Presidenten

What a wonderful social we had in November...our Viking Dinner. This social was researched and planned by Heidi Albright. We had 60 people attend this meeting many of them not even members of our lodge just people from the community who were interested in a "Viking Dinner". Heidi researched what foods and drinks were consumed at that time. She located recipes that were used for preparation of the meal. In addition she researched her clothing. She used construction guidelines obtained off the internet to create her Viking frock. Then we all had a lesson on reading and writing with runes. Heidi constructed the runes stones utilized in our game. There was so much going on at that meeting



everyone was entertained.

Thanks to everyone who made this dinner and culture program successful. In addition to Heidi's research, planning and coordination many, many volunteers helped pull this off. The volunteers include wonderful kitchen help from Charlotte Larson, Royda Gerner, Doreen Karlson and David Lutes. Cooks included Charlotte Larson, Heidi Albright, Debera Ellingboe, Nancy Madson, Steinar Johansen, and Miriam Hendrix. Prep included Glenn and Claudia Bell, Tom Gerner, Norm Larson, Debera and Richard Ellingboe. And thanks to everyone who helped with clean-up and sales at the front table. Volunteers help us all pull off these wonderful events. I apologize if I have forgotten anyone. Coming up we have our Christmas dinner that I hope you all will attend. This will be by reservation. Also this

month the reservation form for the lutefisk dinner will be coming out for February. This event fills fast. So get your reservations in.

With the holidays coming we all have many commitments but I hope you all have time to enjoy and share the joy and meaning of the Christmas holiday and that you are able to share the season with your fraternal family.

Fraternally,
Luella Grangaard



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION/TIME
December 13	Business Meeting	Nancy Madson's home, 4:30 PM call 760-343-0848
December 15	Hardanger	Nancy Madson's home, 3:00 PM call 760-343-0848
December 9	Lunch Bunch	The Desert Willows, 11:30 RSVP to Debera Ellingboe 760-699-7436
December 17	Social	5:00 Social, 6:00 Christmas Dinner \$16 member/\$18 non-member Hope Lutheran Church
December 17	Book group	2:00 Prior to Social
January 1	Hardanger	Luella Grangaard, 11:00-3:00 PM call 760-363-7704
January 21, 2011	Social	Brunch
February 18, 2011	Social	Lutefisk Dinner Mark your Calendars Now!!!!!!

Christmas Traditions in Norway

Christmas in Norway is based on Christian traditions, with elements of old pagan traditions and Jewish Hannukah. And new traditions are added every year.

Before Christmas

In the end of November, Oslo is decorated and prepared for Christmas, and the city is buzzing with people doing their Christmas shopping. Christmas trees are lit and streets decorated in the city centre during the first weekend of Advent. During these weeks you have plenty of opportunities to catch a Christmas concert or Christmas market.

During Advent it is common for companies, organisations and groups of friends to have pre-Christmas parties, in Norwegian called julebord. The julebord crowd fills up the city's restaurants and clubs, making the weekend nightlife quite busy in this period.

"Little Christmas Eve", 23 December

Many families have their own traditions this evening, such as decorating the Christmas tree or making a gingerbread house, and many families eat risengrynsgrøt - a hot rice pudding served with sugar, cinnamon and butter. An almond is hidden in the pudding, and if the almond turns up in your portion, you win a marzipan pig!

Christmas Eve, 24 December

Christmas Eve is the main event in Norwegian Christmas celebration. The first part of the day is often spent rushing around for the last Christmas presents, or in church for Christmas service. At five the bells ring out for Christmas, and most people have Christmas dinner at home or with relatives. The Christmas presents have been placed under the tree, and are opened after dinner.

Of course, not everyone in Norway celebrates Christmas, but most people celebrate more or less according to these traditions. Many immigrants also celebrate Christmas, using elements of the traditional Norwegian Christmas. As this is a "stay-at-home evening", most restaurants and pubs are closed on Christmas Eve, and the streets are empty and quiet.

25-30 December

The days between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are typically spent going to brunches and dinners with family and friends. Many people go out in the evening, so there is more life in the city centre. From 27 December the shops are open, and people rush around exchanging presents that weren't quite what they wanted.

Christmas food, drinks and snacks

The most popular Christmas Eve dinner is the ribbe (pork ribs or pork belly, bone in), but lutefisk (cod cured in lye), pinnekjøtt (dry-cured ribs of lamb), boiled cod, ham roast and turkey are also common dishes. Most fish restaurants and restaurants with Norwegian food have Christmas specialities on the menu in November and December. Many Norwegians like to have a Christmas beer with the food - a malty beer that is available from November. The risengrynsgrøt (hot rice pudding) is an old, traditional dish; this is what the barn gnome eats! In the countryside, many people put a bowl outside for the barn gnome. If there is pudding left, we can make it into riskrem - cold rice pudding mixed with whipped cream, a common Christmas dessert served with a red sauce.

A drink we often serve during Advent and Christmas is gløgg - a warm, spicy drink similar to German Glühwein. It can be made with red wine, but the non-alcoholic version is often preferred. You can taste it in most Christmas markets in Oslo. And if you would like a snack with the gløgg, try a pepperkake! A pepperkake is a Norwegian gingerbread cookie, and tons of them are sold, made and consumed during the Christmas season. Many parents bake them with their children, and the most patient ones also make a gingerbread house. The house is first used as a decoration, and then eaten at the end of the holidays.

Christmas is high season for snacks and candy. Enormous amounts of marzipan is sold before Christmas. According to the marzipan manufacturer Nidar, Norway's less than 5 million people manage to eat more than 40 million marzipan figures during this period.

You will also see bowls of chocolate and nuts in most homes. Traditional Christmas candy such as burnt almonds and glazed apples are rarely made at home, but you will find them in the major Christmas markets if you would like to taste.

Decorating for Christmas

Before Christmas we decorate the house with wreaths, angels, gnomes, hearts, stars, and maybe a nativity scene or a gingerbread house. More and more people also decorate their houses on the outside with lights and wreaths. Most families have a Christmas tree in the living room. It has a star at the top and is decorated with garlands, tinsel and ornaments. Take a trip to one of Oslo's Christmas markets if you want to buy traditional Norwegian Christmas decorations.

December Birthdays

5	Lunstrum Lauren Ashley
7	Bell Glenn M
7	Tovar Jessica M
11	Oakland Bill E
21	Bjerke Jack
23	Ryan Gail F
24	Bjerke Corinne J
26	Larsen Charlotte A
26	Ward Yuli
31	Ekvall Matthew

Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år, ja deg vil jeg gratulere.

Alle i ring omkring deg vi står, og se, nå vil vi marsjere.

Bukke, nikke, neie, snu oss omkring, danse for deg med hopp og sprett og spring, ønske deg av hjerte alle gode ting og si meg så, hva vil du mere?

GRATULERE!



Lunch Bunch Meeting

The Desert Willows
38995 Desert Willow Drive, Palm Desert
Friday, December 9, 11:30 A.M.
RSVP: Debera Ellingboe 760-699-7436

Business Meeting

At Nancy's House
Tuesday Dec. 13
Everyone Welcome.
RSVP 760-343-0848

www.knittingfordolls.com
sales@knittingfordolls.com



Ase Bence

Tel: 619 540 9796

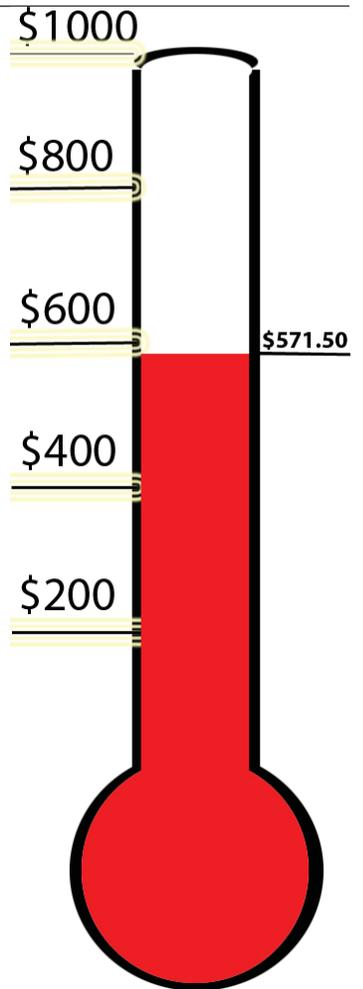
Fundation

All of the members of Solskinn Lodge # 6-150 who contributed to the Foundation this year are to be commended. Through your support of the Foundation Pink Pigs, the Foundation Auction, and the bingo game, we surpassed our goal and raised \$571.50. Thank you for making our goal possible.

Besides this amount, your board voted to donate 1/2 of the funds raised in October to the Foundation Humanitarian Fund. That amount is \$157.50. These funds are used to help those members of the Sons of Norway who may fall on hard times. Many families from the Minot Lodge were presented with \$1000 checks to help them get back on their feet.

As the season of blessings and thankfulness is upon us, may your spirits remain high and your smiles bright.

*Submitted by
David Lutes*



Julenissen

Drøbak, a town on the Oslo Fjord about twenty miles south of the capital, has established itself as Norway's *juleby* (Christmas town). Since 1990, letters have arrived there from all over the world addressed to Santa. All are duly answered by *Nissens postkontor* (The Christmas elf's post office). Drøbak enjoys the additional distinction of being the only Norwegian town to have an official highway sign urging caution at nisse crossings. The official reply to the town's application for the sign reads: The highway department understands that there has been a significant in-



crease of nisser in Drøbak and will therefore not oppose erecting a caution sign with the applied - for symbol: Running nisse with sack.

The nisse depicted on the sign looks somewhat like the American Santa Claus, being considerably fleshier than the Norwegian nisse, who has an entirely different history and nature.

That history of the nisse is full of twist and turns, the first complication being the name itself. Nisse stands for two distinct

concepts that are frequently unwittingly intertwined, as they are in the Highway Department's letter quoted above. On the one hand there is the *julenisse*—the tall, gaunt giver of Christmas gifts, a direct descendant of Saint Nicholas and often dressed in a floor-length coat. Then there are the numerous *barn nisse*—diminutive fellows, sporting long white breads and dressed in knee pants, red stocking caps and wooden shoes. Rather than giving gifts at Christmas these nisser demanded them, expecting a bowl of porridge or other tribute for all the farm work they had performed throughout the year. Over years they became the farm protector called a *gardvord* or *tomte* and later the *nisse*.

Over time as Christmas became more of a child-centered, family-oriented celebration the nisse fit more in with the Christmas celebration. Meanwhile the coincidence that the Scandinavian name is a form of the name Nicholas associates the nisse with the gift-giving St Nicholas, long popular in Germany and Holland. At the same time



in the United States the classical image of St Nicholas was converted from an ecclesiastical imagine to that created by Clement C.



Moore in the story "Twas the Night before Christmas".

Thus three distinct figures claim the name nisse in modern Norway: the roly-poly American Santa who is competing hard in the commercial sector with the two genuinely Norwegian nisser; the *julenisse*, a gaunt, gift giving man in the floor-length gray coat inspired by St. Nicholas and still occasionally impersonated or depicted on Christmas cards and the ubiquitous diminutive elf in knee pants and stocking cap who evolved from the *gardvord*. The nisse and the *julenisse* have become practically indistinguishable, while the international Santa Claus figure developed in America is increasingly taking their place.

In whatever form you imagine him, letters to Santa may be addressed to:

Julenissen
PO Box 200
1441 Drøbak,
Norway
or e-mail him at
www.julenissen.no.

This website also offers a sneak peek at the *julenisse's* workshop.

Taken from: *Keeping Christmas: Yuletide Traditions in Norway and the New Land*, Kathleen Stokker Pages 53-57. Silent Night



Silent Night

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born!

Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Glade Jul

Glade jul, hellige jul,
Engler daler ned i skjul
Hit de flyver med paradisk grønt
Hvor de ser hva for Gud er skjønt.
Lønnlig iblant oss de går,
Lønnlig iblant oss de går.

Julefryd, evige fryd
Hellig sang med himmelsk lyd.
Det er engler som hyrdene så
dengang Herren i krybben lå.
Evig er englenes sang,
Evig er englenes sang,

Fred på jord, fryd på jord,
Jesusbarnet blant oss bor.
Engler synger om barnet så smukt,
Han har himmeriks dør opplukt.
Salig er englenes sang,
Salig er englenes sang,

Solnedgang Supper Club

Twenty-seven of us enjoyed a wonderful evening at Mimi's on November 17. It was delightful having so many of our snowbirds back with us. Our room was buzzing with enthusiasm and laughter as we enjoyed our 3-course meal from soup or salad to a luscious selection of desserts. In lieu of a Solnedgang Supper Club in December, we would like to encourage everyone to sign up for the Sons of Norway special Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 17.

Miriam Hendrix





Ed Karlsen



Luella Grangaard, Heidi Albright, Nancy Madson



Angry Viking David Lutes



Berit Reistad, Richard Ellingboe



Ken Perry, Richard Selle



Heidi Albright in her new Viking Dress



Miriam Hendrix



Peter Olsen

Solnedgang Supper Club

No Supper Club in December due to our Christmas Party

Reservations:

Miriam Hendrix (760-408-9900)

Junelle Pearson (760-799-1131)

Visit Oslo's Ten Suggestions for a Winter's Day

Looking for a great way to spend a winter's day in Oslo? Look no further than Visit Oslo's nifty "10 suggestions" section of their website, complete with cultural suggestions for all seasons and people of all ages. Let's take a peek at 5 wintery suggestions.

- Toboggan run: Korketrekkeren

Rent a sled and take part in Oslo's most popular toboggan run, racing from Frognerstøveten to the Midtstuen metro station.

- Spikersuppa Skating Rink

Centrally located in Oslo city centre, this public skating rink is sure to delight people of all ages.

- Oslo Winter Park Tryvann (Tryvann Vinterpark)

Alpine skiing, snowboarding, telemark skiing and much more await visitors to Oslo's main ski resort. With slopes for children and adults alike, everyone is sure to enjoy a visit to the resort.

- Winter Walks

Enjoy guided walking tours of Oslo in both Norwegian and English from Oslo Guidebureau. Walkers can choose from different tour routes and themes each day of the week.

- Oslo Museums

With 50 different museums in the city, Oslo has something to offer every history buff. Museum highlights include everything from modern art, magic, architecture and football.

For details on these wonderful attractions or to check out Visit Oslo's remaining 5 winter's day suggestions, visit www.visitoslo.com

Alfred Nobel : The Man Behind the Prize

Every December 10th, five exceptional men and women are honored with one of the most prestigious awards ever created, the Nobel Prize. Held in Stockholm and Oslo, the annual Prize Award Ceremonies commemorate the anniversary of the death of the prize's founder, Alfred Nobel. While much is known about recipients of the prizes, how much is known about the creator behind them?

Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1833. The son of an inventor and architect, Alfred was tutored at home until the age of 16. A trained chemist, Alfred began experimenting with the explosive, nitroglycerine. Several years later Alfred created his most famous invention, dynamite. While many saw Alfred's invention as dangerous and destructive, Alfred believed it would create peace rather than decimate it, saying, "My factories may make an end of war sooner than your congresses. The day when two army corps can annihilate each other in one second, all civilized nations, it is to be hoped, will recoil from war and discharge their troops."

In 1888 after the death of Alfred's brother, Ludvig, a French newspaper mistakenly ran an obituary for Alfred, labeling him the "merchant of death". A pacifist at heart, Alfred was disturbed by the epitaph and he sought to leave behind a different legacy than the phrase coined by the newspaper.

When Alfred died on December 10th, 1896, he left 94% of his wealth to the establishment of five prizes (physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace) to "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind." Although the will was met with many obstacles, the Nobel Foundation was established and the first prizes awarded on the five year anniversary of his death on December 10, 1901.

To learn more about Alfred Nobel and the Nobel Prize, visit www.nobelprize.org.

Financial Products

For information on Sons of Norway Financial Products please contact our Financial Benefits Counselor
Dennis Burreson, FIC, CEC phone 800-448-2499

Solskinn Lodge Officers - 2011

President	Luella Grangaard	363-7704
Vice President	Nancy Madson	343-0848
Secretary	Ronna Clymens	951-849-1690
Treasurer	Richard Ellingboe	699-7436
Financial Secretary		568-3483
Social Director	Debera Ellingboe	699-7436
Asst. Social Director:	Berit Reistad	346-6222
Cultural Director	Luella Grangaard	363-7704
Editor:	Steinar Johansen	898-3340
Publicity Director:	Berit Reistad	346-6222
Counselor:	Nancy Madson	343-0848
Trustee:	Richard Selle	863-4898
Trustee:	Norman Larsen	328-1791
Sunshine Girl:	Charlotte Larsen	328-1791
Photographer:	Steinar Johansen	898-3340
	Miriam Hendrix	320-9244
Foundation Director:	David Lutes	674-1933
Tubfrim Chairman:	John Strom	568-3483
Tel. Tree Chairman:		365-6886
Historian:	Marie Maher	346-2066
Assist:	Claudia Bell	340-3992
Camp Norge:	Ronna Clymens	951-849-1690
Supper Club:	Miriam Hendrix	320-9244
	Junelle Pearson	771-9711
Musician:	Louise Selle	863-4898
Librarian:	Corrine Bjerke	360-5229
Auditors:	Normal Larsen	328-1791
	Jim Petersen	200-1306
	Glenn Bell	340-3985

Solskinn Lodge Dinner Social Saturday, December 17

Hope Lutheran Church Social Hall
45-900 Portola Avenue, in Palm Desert
5:00 Social
6:00 Dinner
6:45 Program

Program: Traditional Norwegian Christmas Dinner

\$16/member & \$18.00/non-members

Reservations required

Please call Debera 760-699-7436

Bring a generic Christmas gift value
around \$15 for gift exchange



Save stamps
for tubfrim
cut 1/4 inch
around the stamp

Steinar Johansen
1820 N Mira Loma Way
Palm Springs CA 92262

