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The President

Note from the President:

I think we have a very vibrant and lively Lodge. Just this month we had a Coed Lunch Bunch at Desert Princess with almost 30 members in attendance. A Business meeting at Dave's home where a lot of brain power was shared and results made.

For Valentine, we did a vows renewal party for our members Ulf and Sharon Lökke and our piggy couple Porky and Pricilla, again at Dave's home. Fun was had by all 15 people, (see pictures).

The Viking Potluck Challenge turned out to be a real challenge, as 30 or so of our members tried to come up with "Viking Food" and did really well. We had 4 different stews, vaffler, kromkaker, sandwiches and a bunch of other Viking dishes, enough so people took some food home. The DVD of the Vikings was enjoyed by all.

There is also Hardanger/knitting or other hand work meetings 2 times a month.

I like to end this with a quote from another Sons of Norway President, Beth Baird at Edvard Grieg Lodge.



She wrote;

"How amazing it is to have NORWAY at our fingertips via the internet. Along with Sons of Norway website, there are hundreds of sites where you can explore Norwegian customs, recipes, travel, folk art, dance, music and more.

The internet is my gateway to NORWAY, yet I feel a void as I power off, realizing I am alone in my discoveries with no one to share the moment with.

As Sons of NORWAY members we are given monthly opportunities to bond with other Norwegians, Norwegian descendants, and people who want to know more about NORWAY.

The internet is a wonderful tool for research, but it does not replace the

need for human interaction.

You need not be a Norwegian in isolation. Come to our lodge events and connect with others who share some of your interests."

So please read the "Every member get a member" from last month newsletter, and invite a friend or neighbors to one of our events.

And don't forget to look at the calendar in the newsletter and make your reservation by phone or email.

*Fraternally,
 Berit Reistad
 President Solskinn Lodge*



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION/TIME
Mar 8, Tues	Business meeting	3:30 Nancy Madson's home call 760-343-0848
Mar 10, Thurs	Hardanger	3:00 RSVP to Connie 760-776-6657
Mar 11, Fri	Lunch Bunch	11:30 B.B.'s at the River, RM, and RSVP to Margie 760 322-3803 Or e-mail mejake1@comcast.net
Mar 19, Sat	Membership/Heritage Day	10-2 Heritage Day
Mar 28, Mon	Happy Hour	4:30 Stuff Pizza, Westfield shopping Center, PD, RSVP to David Lutes
		davidjlutes@yahoo.com or call 760-674-1933
Mar 24, Thurs	Hardanger	3:00 RSVP to Nancy call 760-343-0848
Apr 7, Thurs	Hardanger	3:00 RSVP to Charlotte call 760-328-1791
Apr 8, Fri	Lunch bunch	11:30 Blue Coyote, PS. RSVP to Margie 760-322-3803 Or e-mail mejake1@comcast.net
Apr 12, Tues	Business meeting	3:30 Nancy Madson's home call 760-343-0848
Apr 16, Sat	Social	Norwegian culture Program
<hr/>		
Out of the Valley		
Marc 13	Bunad Parade/Lapskaus Dinner	Vinland Lodge, Temecula for information call Caronne 909-239-8399
June 19-22	District Six Convention	Loveland, CA

March Birthdays

2	Haagenson Venita D
3	Larson Genevieve J
4	Waldeland Beryl A
13	Gronn Inger Elise
15	Ellingboe Michael Dean
18	Nelson Don O
26	Selle Mary Louise

-Hurra for deg som fyller ditt år! Ja, deg vil vi gratulere!

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

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

-Gratulere!

“Every Member Get a Member”

Starting January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 District Six has a special membership recruitment program. For every new adult member that is referred by a Sons of Norway member and that referring member's name is indicated on the membership form, that member will receive a \$5.00 grocery gift card from the District. No limitation on the number of members you may recruit.

Send a copy of the completed form to:

Luella Grangaard

PO Box 832

Morongo Valley, CA 92256

For further information contact your local lodge Vice President

David Lutes or

District Six Vice President

Luella Grangaard 760-363-7704

or morongo2@verizon.net.

First Anniversary Vows Renewal

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when guests began arriving at 10:30 for the first anniversary of Priscilla and Porky union. The front table was set where Priscilla wore her new hat and Porky decided to wear his top hat from the reunion ceremony.

A special guest was Gullinbursti, Porky's brother who is now a member of Vineland Lodge 6-159. He was home for a short visit on his way to the University of Oslo.

By 11:15, 12 guests had arrived and having had a glass of champagne, the vows were ready to be renewed. Although the renewal was brief, amongst the laughter, there was a solemn note. Both Priscilla and Poky agreed their first year of their union was a good one. They had enjoyed their honeymoon, visiting other farms in the area. After nine months, they returned to Farmer Johnson's farm with two little piglets.

The guests were treated to sandwiches, fruit, champagne and a large anniversary cake.

They have so far avoided the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner tables and we look forward to their continued good health and happiness.



Sharon and Ulf Lokke Vows Renewal

Since the location was set for a vows renewal of our Foundation pigs, it was only fitting to use that setting for another special couple – Sharon and Ulf – who celebrated their 2nd Anniversary.

You may not recognize their names, but Sharon and Ulf are our new Cultural/Sports Activities Directors. Ulf also manages our refreshment bar at social functions. They are both board members.

Thank you, Sharon and Ulf for the beautiful cake you provided for the ceremonies.



Naming the Piglets Contest

As noted in another article, Priscilla and Porky have had two piglets while on their honeymoon. (Please don't bother to count.) Technically, the term "pig" is an animal less than 10 weeks old.

In the fall, we will hold a contest to name Priscilla and Porky's offspring.

Think about it, you could receive a certificate as the person who came up with their names. Watch for details in the upcoming newsletters.

Little Known Facts About Pigs

- From birth to the age of six months, a typical piglet will increase in size up to 7,000 percent.
- Pigs can live up to 15 years.
- Pigs are omnivores – they eat both plants and other animals. They eat slowly and savor their food.
- There are 15 species of pigs.
- Their snouts are very sensitive. Farmers put rings in their snouts to prevent them from rooting to escape under the fence.
- Pigs consume half the corn supply in the US.
- About 65% of the pig is edible.
- "Porcus" is the Latin for pig, thus giving us the word pork.

Help Needed!

On March 19th, we will be hosting a membership recruitment fair and a mini Heritage Festival. This function, as are all our activities, is open to the public. It will run from 10 AM to 2 PM.

We are in need of members who will help with food and culture demonstrations and/or displays. If you are willing to make a food item, that would be appreciated. If you wish to demonstrate your skills, that too will be helpful. Items – hardanger, rosemaling, wood carving, that can be put on display.

As planned, we will not have outside vendors. This is an opportunity to show members in our community what our organization does. This will also be a potluck showcasing Norwegian foods.

If you can help in any way, please contact David Lutes – davidjlutes@yahoo.com or phone 1 760 674-1933.

Norway's Ambassador to the U.S. Interested in the Presidential Race



Norway's Ambassador to the U.S., [Kåre Aas](#), has made social media an integral component of his job, having a very active **Twitter account** where he shares important messages from/about Norway as well as some behind-the-scenes info that gives followers an insight into the life of a career diplomat. *"However, I felt limited by the 140 character posts and wanted more room to share the "y" (why) we do the work we do in foreign affairs and diplomacy. The next natural step was to start blogging,"* states Aas. Now, His Excellency has **added a blog** to his social media resume, called "The Y in Diplomacy."

From his blog:

The United States is Norway's strongest ally. We are both founding members of NATO. The transatlantic relationship is the backbone of our security and defense. The U.S. is our second largest trading partner, and we are working closely on climate issues; the Arctic; the global development agenda, including health and education; and the peace process in Colombia and other areas of conflict – just to highlight a few examples. In addition, I have to mention the more than 5 million Norwegian Americans living in the U.S.

So, who succeeds President Obama is of importance to Norway – with emphasis on the *who* and not necessarily the party affiliation. It is a main objective of the Norwegian government to further strengthen our close relationship with the United States, and for that to happen we must continue to engage with the next president and the next administration.

Read [Kåre Aas' full blog here: http://the-y-indiplomacy.com/](http://the-y-indiplomacy.com/)
Compiled by Nancy Madson from the Sons of Norway blog and the Ambassador's blog.

Foundation

Priscilla and Porky have become well known following their honeymoon the various farms in the area. As they continued their trip, our members contributed to the costs of transportation and food. With a goal of \$1000, we are almost half way - \$483. **THANK YOU!**



Not to be left behind, Priscilla and Porky will have a busy summer. They have been invited as non voting guests, to attend our District 6 Convention in Loveland, Colorado. Pictures and progress of their journey will be posted on our District 6 website.

Their invitation came without any compensation for the trip. I know your continued support for Priscilla and Porky, during the summer month, will be appreciated.

Dave Lutes

Foundation Director

Tubfrim Winner Announced

Thursday, January 14, 2016 was a lucky day for Vegas Viking Lodge 6-152. The lodge was the winner of the Tubfrim drawing to give away a ticket to Norway, worth up to \$1,000. Their postcard was drawn from among 1,331 other cards. With one card for every pound sent to Norway that means that Sons of Norway sent at least 1,332 pounds of stamps to Tubfrim in 2015. Vegas Vikings contributed 220 pounds to that total.

For the past 30 years, members have been clipping canceled postage stamps and sending them to Tubfrim, who then sells them to dealers and collectors. Originally, the money raised went to help children afflicted by tuberculosis. Since tuberculosis is no longer the threat to health that it once was, today the proceeds from the resale of stamps helps improve the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities and special needs.

Sons of Norway members are the largest contributor outside of Norway to Tubfrim's efforts, sending nearly 30% of all stamps collected. While helping children is a great motivation for our members to participate, there is a special incentive to say "thank you". For every pound of stamps collected, the member or lodge can enter a drawing, held in mid-January every year, to win a round trip ticket to Norway, worth up to \$1,000. If you would like to participate in the Tubfrim contest and get a chance to win a free ticket to Norway, visit the Tubfrim page on the Sons of Norway website.

For more information or questions, contact our lodge Tubfrim chairperson, Norm Larsen, nfical@verizon.net or 760-328-1791.

Wedding Gifts That Disappeared - Very Old Norwegian Traditions

Herleik Baklid has investigated sagas, kings' letters, wills, court records, legal documents and old laws to find traces of a certain Norwegian wedding tradition, namely bridal gifts. Baklid has found evidence that this practice dates back to the 1100s. Folk traditions survived the church's marriage traditions and were kept alive until the mid-1800s, when a new Norwegian law abolished the rights the bride had to these gifts.

When we think of wedding gifts today, we tend to think of kitchenware, silverware and gorgeous designer items that the happy couple receives from friends and family on the big day. But in the Middle Ages the gifts had an entirely different purpose. To understand the idea behind these gifts, it is important to understand why people got married in the past. Economic reasons stood behind the couple's union, for the most part. Throughout history, it turns out that the groom often gave one or more traditional gifts to the bride. "The bride could take out these gifts if she became a widow. The basic principle behind these gifts was that she would be secure if her husband died," tells Baklid. "This was a society without government aid. Therefore, the groom and his future in-laws were responsible for providing the bride with economic security," he continued.

Throughout history there have been three different categories of gifts that the bride got from her husband-to-be. Probably only a few people have heard of *festgaven* (the engagement gift) and *benkegaven* (the bunk gift), while *morgengaven* (the morning gift) lives on. Baklid has found all three of these extending far back into Norwegian history. Strengthening the Marriage Agreement during the Norwegian medieval period until the end of the 17- and 1800s was primarily an economic affair. The marriage was generally agreed upon between the bride and groom's family. When this agreement or betrothal was settled, the future married couple was referred to as betrothed, better known today as engaged. Immediately the flow of gifts started from the future groom. "The betrothal gift was given at the engagement. This was a gift that would strengthen the marriage arrangement," explains Baklid. The gift could be anything from silver spoons, silver jugs and jewelry, to land. The bride was entitled to cash in all of this should she become a widow.

Before the actual ceremony, the groom had to promise gifts that would convince the bride to leave her parents. This was often negotiated between the various parties on the bride's and groom's behalf, how the bride would "be

released from the bunk", i.e. stop sleeping in a bed at her parents. Hence the name of the second traditional gift: *benkegave* or bunk gift. A bunk gift can most likely be connected to bride purchasing, an even older tradition. Simply put: the gift says what the groom is willing to pay for his future wife. This gift could consist of anything from a horse and saddle to jewelry and property.

The morning after her wedding night, the bride received a final gift from the groom. This is what we know today as *morgengaven*, the morning gift, which is the oldest of the three gift practices. "The morning gift can be traced through the Germans all the way back to the Roman Empire," says Baklid. This gift could consist of so many things. For example, Knud Nielsen from Tinn in Telemark gave Helge Torgrimsdatter among other things a horse, a saddle, three animal pelts and 120 thalers as a bunk gift and morning gift. In higher classes, such as among the royals, the morning gift could be property.

But after the 1800s, the traditions began to eventually die out. There were several reasons for this. What may surprise most is that Baklid has not found evidence that the church opposed these traditions. "These were gifts that had a clear practical-economic function that didn't actually come into conflict with church teachings about marriage," he explains. But the Norwegian laws that gave the widow legal claim to the gifts were removed in 1854. Part of the reason may have been because they could cause problems in litigation. Extended inheritance would instead compensate for the valuables she lost. Something else that might explain the tradition's demise is the notion that you married one another out of love, and not for economic considerations. But before they disappeared completely, the gifts took a slightly different turn. "The bunk gift continued as a form of entertainment for a few decades, before going away. Betrothal gifts changed style, into more personal gifts, such as a hymnal or a watch," says Baklid. Finally, the face of marriage had changed so much that there was no longer room for the old customs. "Marriage was seen as an economic matter until the end of the 1700s, but after that, the romantic ideal came into play," said Baklid.

Old Norwegian traditions still have a tendency to creep into our modern society. It does not take much to see that we still partially practice our ancestors' ancient customs. Although betrothal gifts disappeared around 1870, engagement rings came into practice," says Baklid. "The symbolism is perhaps a little different now; the gifts are supposed to express love and aren't supposed to provide financial security in the event of widowhood," he added.

*Submitted by
Nancy Madson*



Members joining the Porky and Priscilla 1st anniversary vows



Members joining the Porky and Priscilla 1st anniversary vows



Members joining the Porky and Priscilla 1st anniversary vows



Members joining the Porky and Priscilla 1st anniversary vows



Miriam Hendrix



Corinne Bjerke



Berit Reistad



Phil Williams & Carol Hansen

What is happening in Norway

Economy Norway is struggling under the pressure of the low oil price, around \$30 for a barrel. Several of the companies in the business had to close down so the employees lost their job. It has been a hard time for many, but there is hope and optimism for the future among the people. During the last month the value of the Norwegian kr has recovered a little, so we are optimistic.

The political situation is relatively stable and calm. But the refugee problem is still there. How can the refugee newcomers get a place to stay and work? That is a big problem and they have learned that in a democratic country you can protest and go on a hunger strike without being sent to jail or shot. They also get a lot of free benefits such as medical, healthcare and dental treatment. This has been increasing a negative opinion against them amongst the ordinary Norwegian people. Our social system is very good but not totally free, and some people have a problem surviving on their low pension, especially the elderly.

Some of the refugees came thru Russia over the border in northern Norway, county of Finnmark, which has a common border with Russia. Regulations state that no one is allowed to walk on foot over the border, but the Russians provided many with old bicycles to bike over the border. The Russians thought this was an easy way to get rid of them, but they are now sent back to Russia which has to deal with the problem in a proper way.

These are some of the problems that the government has to deal and struggle with. But now the newspapers in Norway are a little worried about Mister Donald Trump's popularity in the US and what will happen if he became the president, notably what would happen with NATO and the trading between the US and Norway? Would there be a higher import tax causing difficulty for Norwegian exports?

We are now approaching March and the last part of winter. There have been some pretty strong and windy storms during the winter along the coastline in Norway. There has not been any major structural damage since they are built for the heavy climate and weather. Also in March, Easter is coming up. This is a very special holiday in Norway. And since Thursday to Monday are days off work, this is the time that most people add vacation days ahead from work and go to their mountain cabins for skiing. It can often total ten days. Everybody brings their favorite books, mostly crime novels. Family and friends get together, especially on Easter evening, party time. The usual food is roasted lamb, smoked and/or gravad salmon with Norwegian Aquavit.

About the winter, and winter sports. The Norwegian skiing athletes have almost cleaned the table during this season in cross country skiing. They have also surprised everybody in the Alpine skiing, and especially in the Down Hill competition. Prospects look good for the World championship next year in Finland. Unfortunately for the Swedish team, this has not been a season to remember with happiness.

*Submitted by
Ulf Lokke*

VINLAND LODGE 6-159 TEMECULA

LAPSKAUS DINNER WITH BUNAD PARADE

**EVERYONE PLEASE
WEAR YOUR
BUNADS!!!**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH, S
OCIAL HOUR AT 1:00PM
DINNER AT 2:00PM**

**AT GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY
CLUBHOUSE,
IN TEMECULA'S WINE COUNTRY AT
40601 DE PORTOLA ROAD**

**DINNER INCLUDES
NORWEGIAN LAPSKAUS TYTTEBAER,
FLATBREAD, AND NORWEGIAN
DESSERTS**

**WINE, SCANDINAVIAN BEER,
NORWEGIAN AQUAVIT, SODAS &
BOTTLED WATER AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE**

WE WILL HAVE A BUNAD PROGRAM

**ADULTS ARE \$15.00,
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER ARE \$7.00**

**PLEASE RSVP TO
CARONNE VANNYHUIS**

**909-239-8399 or
threevannyhuis@yahoo.com
BY MARCH 6th**

Solskinn Lodge Officers - 2015

President	Berit Reistad	485-1130
Vice President	David Lutes	674-1933
Secretary	Luella Grangaard	363-7704
Treasurer	Nancy Madson	343-0848
Membership	Beverly Nabors	323-7179
Social Director	Luella Grangaard	363-7704
Cultural Director	Sharon Lokke	834-8144
Editor:	Steinar Johansen	898-3340
Publicity Director:	Berit Reistad	485-1130
Counselor:	Luella Grangaard	363-7704
Sports Director	Ulf Lokke	834-8144
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	Linda Lathers	
Photographer:	Steinar Johansen	898-3340
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Foundation Director:	David Lutes	674-1933
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Tel. Tree Chairman:	Dottie Bessares	345-6586
Historian:	Lorna Albertsen	
Assist:		
Camp Norge:	David Lutes	674-1933
Happy Hour:	David Lutes	674-1933
Lunch Bunch:	Dottie Bessares	345-6586
Librarian:	Corrine Bjerke	360-5229
Auditors:	Norm Larsen	328-1791
	Debera Ellingboe	
	Richard Ellingboe	
	Bob Haagenson	
	Bob Hendrix	

Solskinn Lodge Membership and Mini Heritage Day Saturday, March 19

Hope Lutheran Church Social Hall
45-900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert

10:00-2:00

Pot Luck

Culture and Heritage Demonstrations
and Displays

Please call David Lutes
at 760-674-1933
For further information
and to volunteer!!!

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



PO-Box 2207
Palm Desert CA 92260