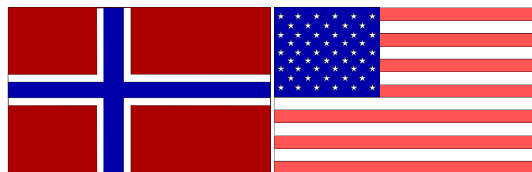


Sons of Norway



The Vegas Viking News

SONS OF NORWAY, VEGAS VIKING LODGE #6-152, Las Vegas, Nevada

Sixth District and International Lodge of the Year for 2001

**MEETINGS: 6:30 PM First Thursday
Las Vegas Library
833 Las Vegas Blvd North
(Near Cashman Field)**

Noen Ord Fra Presidenten:



As I write, Norway is off to a slow start in the Olympics, having won only a silver medal and seeing the great Ole Einar Bjørndalen choke in his first biathlon event with a 17th-place finish. Ugggh. Surely, things will improve....

Closer to home, the annual lutefisk dinner was a success, despite less-than-stellar ticket sales. It was that successful work by many members of the lodge that prompted an invitation from lodge member Carl-Uno to have me speak to the members of the local Swedish organization, Vasa.

Vasa, you see, is interested in making an annual dinner of their own -- celebrating Walpurgis Night -- similarly successful. So I provided what insights I could, then suggested our two organizations should do more to support each other.

I believe we should buy tickets to each other's events and do community outreach together wherever it makes sense. For instance, I suggested they dust off their dala hose -- they have a nice one -- and run it in the May 15th Helldorado parade. Maybe they could even provide a few Vikings to march in front of our Viking ship. (I even invited them to come to our March meeting to learn how to create their own Viking wear.)

I told Vasa that we ought to hold some kind of joint event, perhaps a pan-Scandinavian dinner or picnic. Then someone asked what the Vegas Vikings were doing for Syttende Mai and I told them about our picnic at Spring Mtn. State Park, at which point

someone suggested the Swedes join us.

I politely declined, noting the nationalistic significance of May 17th. Someone joked that we could take up separate sides of the park and re-enact a battle, to which I replied it would be a boring one at that since Norway broke away from Sweden without the firing of a single shot. Then it occurred to me that there must have been a battle between Norwegian and Swedish Vikings that could be re-enacted. Wouldn't that be a hoot, and we know who won that one, right?

While our lodge's focus has to be on Norwegian heritage and culture, supporting Vasa, Desert Troll and other Scandinavian groups will lead to greater mutual success for all of us. I think this is a path worth following.

Erik Pappa

Calendar . . .

March 4	Regular Meeting
March 5	Cultural/Craft Group Meets
March 13	Scholarship Yard Sale
TBA	Board Meeting
May 15	Heldorado Parade
May 23	Syttende Mai Picnic - Spring Mountain State Park

PLEASE NOTE: This calendar is just a quick guide to mark your calendar. There will be further information in the newsletter when needed.



March Birthdays

- 15 Brittney Velo
- 16 Donald Odegard
- 17 Hazel Smith
- 17 Julie Seidlinger
- 18 Kris Baker
- 25 Gail Oasen
- 29 Zecharia Vik
- 30 Tim Baker

Membership Awards

Congratulations to Diane Seidlinger. She has been a member of Vegas Viking for 15 years.

Our new Librarian,

Tim Baker, is enthused about his job. He and Kris came to Gwen's house and helped take a lot of things to our storage unit. While there, he picked up the library books.

The books will all have labels reading "Property of Vegas Viking." Perhaps that will help us keep track of our books. In addition, there will be a sign-out system which was started by Alice Salvesen when she was our librarian.

Gwen is also purging her Norwegian book library and donating a bunch of books, so there will be something new to see. Tim will bring a small assortment to each meeting.

It is such a shame that we can't locate the two lost books, which of course were among the best in our library.

Things that are coming up.

If you are interested, contact me for more information (Gwen)

March 20 - Scandinavian Heritage Day, Palm Desert CA.

March 20 - Freya Lodge Santa Rosa CA - Lutefisk Dinner

March 27 - 2010 Spring Seminar presented by Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society at the Henderson Convention Center.

April 24/25, 1020 - Rose-making Seminar at Camp Norge

June 23-26 - District Six 2010 Convention at Modesto CA

Vegas Viking 6-152 is authorized five delegates based on our membership.

At the February meeting, five delegates were confirmed for attendance:

- Erik Pappa
- Gwen Knighton
- John Hansen
- Carol Foster
- Dave Foster

Arlon and Suzan Sibert will go as non-delegates.

The Cultural/Craft

Group will meet at 9 AM on March 5 at Alice Salvesen's house. There are a lot of exciting ideas in the wind, things to create for the bazaar.

If you would like to join in, give Alice a call at 361-3969.

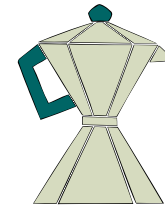
Sunshine:

Suzan Sibert has sent cards to Ivar Kristensen, Ivan Goplen, Richard Carr and Irene Gromek.

John Swartz continues to have health issues.

Suzan again asked that she be notified of any events, both happy and sad, so that she can send a card.

For the March meeting, the "mat gruppen":



Kris & Tim Baker
James Leif Brandin
Gwen Knighton
Karen Holien

Thanks to those who brought refreshments to the February meeting: Suzan Sibert, Eric and Judy Maland, Henny and Jerry Morse and Carol Foster, who stepped in for the Goplens who couldn't be there.

*Linda Kristiensen,
Social Director*



The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and provide quality Insurance and financial products to its members.

The 2010 Lutefisk Dinner

Well, we did it again, we bested last year's dinner according to everyone I talked with. Our crowd was a bit smaller, but they were sure enthusiastic and generous with their raffle ticket purchases. Thanks to Karen Holien who came in her bunad, sold raffle tickets and helped seat people. Katie Claessens worked the raffle for the first time and did a wonderful job.

The old-time volunteers knew just what to do, and our newbies learned in a hurry. Kris Baker's father, Bruce Lundgren, was visiting from Connecticut and he ended up working all day and said he enjoyed it.

Tim Baker stepped in for Toni Jones as MC and did a great job. To add to the ambience, David Foster had recorded a few of my Norwegian CDs and had put them on a track where they were shuffled, so we had interesting music all evening. Dave provided the microphone also. Tim also brought his son, Hayden, at 2 PM/ Although Hayden is only 8 years old, he was a real asset. He helped with the raffle and later took merchandise items around to people and SOLD them (with his sweet smile).

The Bakers did themselves proud all around. Kris came early and jumped right in wherever she was needed. I did make a mistake with Kris; I put her on serving potatoes and vegetables at 6 PM and she had to bend over the whole time and it almost did her in. Sorry Kris.

We did extremely well at the merchandise table. We sold \$400 worth of lefse and \$267 of merchandise. Thanks to Marilyn and Ron Dille and Carol Foster who helped me so much.

Serving is a tough job, too. Standing for an hour over the hot food is not easy. Thanks to all of you, some who stepped in when someone else had to leave. Chuck and Jeanette Grove, Elaine and Warren Halvorson, Judy and Eric Maland, Sonja Swenson, Linda Kristensen, Erik Pappa, Aase Hopkins, Kathy Rothermel, Nora Martin, Lynelle Aanestad and of course Kris Baker.

Diane Seidlinger brought her Mom, Ione Ringdahl who was here visiting. She worked with Diane serving butter and white sauce again. She said she would be back next year. Speaking of white sauce, Lollo Sievert made that and got many compliments about it.

Unfortunately Ivan Goplen became ill and Kris had a fall, and neither could come. Also, Ivar Kristensen was still not feeling well enough to attend. They were really missed.

Thanks to Alice Salvesen for organizing the cookies again. At the 6 PM seating it looked as though we might run out, but Henny Morse saved us when she came in bearing a huge tin full of cookies. Thanks to

all the cookie makers: Suzan Sibert, Mike Hagen, Karen Holien, Jeanette Grove, Marilyn Dille, Diane Seidlinger, Alice Salvesen and Kathy Rothermel. A special thank you to Vikki Renneckar from Desert Troll who not only brought cookies, but bought 14 tickets to the dinner.

As usual, Suzan Sibert was wherever needed, whether peeling potatoes, scrubbing pots, or serving. Arlon had another mandatory meeting and came later in the day, but got started right away.

As usual, the kitchen was ably manned by Bob Sturgeon, Bob Sievert, John Hanson and Lollo Sievert, with help from Jimmy Brandin and a new member, Mike Claessens. People were very pleased with the food, especially the lutefisk. There was some raw lutefisk available and 16 pounds were sold.

And the Aquavit in the kitchen helped to ease some of the pain and stress. Thanks to all who stayed and helped clean up. Jerry Morse and Warren Halvorson mopped the floor and you couldn't even tell anyone had been there.

Lots of pictures are available on our web site www.vegasviking.com and also on the Vegas Viking Facebook page

Photo below by David Foster - Note the Elk watching!!



From the Sons of Norway Website Membership Recruitment Contest

Congratulations to Dovre 3-232 Providence, RI and Gateway to Florida 3-541 Jacksonville, FL, our Fall Blitz Membership Recruitment Contest winners!

In the three- month period, Dovre secured the small lodge category with an impressive 33.33% growth. Gateway to Florida won the large lodge category with a 23.39% growth! Congratulations to these lodges, who will receive \$500 and a profile in the Viking Members Matters section to reward their hard work.

Nancy Madson, Zone 6 Director

Have you visited www.sofn.com ?

Did you know you can renew your dues, update your address, email, phone number? There are interesting articles also, and so many other things. Once you have set up your password, you can log on any time.

Your Editor, Gwen

Scandinavian Music

Can you help?

A lot of great music coming out of Scandinavia -- and really greater Europe -- is not available these days to American audiences.

But someone I work with who is a mobile disc jockey has agreed to come play popular Norwegian/Scandinavian music at one of our events. (Now we just have to decide which one.)

The best part is that he doesn't care to charge us. Nonetheless, I'd like to do him a favor -- and I'm hoping one of you can help.

He has been dying to get his hands on the double-CD called, "Venn," featuring multiple artists. It cannot be ordered here in the States, and it may only be available in Oslo. If you know of someone who can order it for us, I will gladly pay the cost. Please let me know if you can help.

-- Erik Pappa

Oslo aged 2,000 years in a day

It isn't every day that history is re-written, but in Oslo it may need to be. New artifacts found in an archeological excavation in Ekeberg, an eastern suburb of Oslo, suggest that people inhabited the area more than 2,000 years earlier than experts previously thought. The artifacts found include flint chips as well as other evidence of tool production.

Archeologists have also located what is believed to be a settlement. Originally located at the water's edge, the settlement is now part of the hillside due to the melting of the ice cap and land sifs. According to Kristine Reiersen of the Central Office of Historic Monuments around 8-12 people lived in the region.

Adapted from: The Norway Post

Program for March

We'll be stepping back into Viking times at our March 4th meeting with lodge members Katie and Mike Claessens and Jimmy Leif Brandin.

Katie will give us a peek into the Viking presence at past Las Vegas Renaissance Faires with a slide show.



Then her husband, Mike, will show some of the metal work that they create in order to come up with near-authentic Viking costumes.

Jimmy then will review costuming, provide some patterns and show where on the Internet you can find more information about making your own costumes or even buying Viking wear.

Bob Sturgeon also will discuss the lodge's role in this year's Fair and our efforts to leverage it as an outreach tool. Should make for an insightful, entertaining meeting!

Facts about Norway: The world's longest sofa was built in Sykkylven, Norway in June of 2009. The sofa was over 800 meters long and spanned the entire length of the Sykkylven Bridge. The sofa was created as a joint effort between local furniture manufacturers to promote Sykkylven's strong furniture industry.

The Saga of the Surkål

Last year our little group chopped 40 pounds of cabbage and it was a mess. On top of that we didn't chop it quite fine enough, although it tasted pretty good. Lollo Sievert, always an innovator, discovered shredded cabbage in 5 pound bags at COSTCO for only \$2.99 a bag.

So Annie Mathiesen (who agreed to make some at her house, too) and I met Lollo at the COSTCO on Martin Luther King and bought 45 pounds. Annie took 15 pounds and I took 30. On the 29th, the day before the lutefisk dinner, Alice Salvesen, Elaine Halvorson and Carol Foster came to my house in the AM and we started cooking.

Alice was in charge of peeling and slicing the apples—yes, we find the apples are a nice touch. I had borrowed two huge pots from Mickey Kristiansen, so we could cook 5 pounds at a time. Elaine put the spices and liquids together for the batches and Carol helped cook. Carol also jumped right on clean up—a real help.

After we had cooked it all, cooled it and put it in gallon baggies, we put it in my refrigerator which already had three cases of lefse in it. There really wasn't much else in there. I had also borrowed Mickey's portable refrigerator (Igloo style) that needed to be plugged in. We didn't discuss the fact there were two ways to plug it in: one way makes the chest warm and the other makes it cold. Guess which one I had selected? So we changed to the cold way.

Later that afternoon, Kris Baker came by and picked up the cooler and the surkål to take it to her house to be brought out to the dinner the next day.

Anyway it was a hit, although we had a couple complaints of too much caraway seeds. I'll bet you'd like to know the ingredients for this delicious surkål.



Vegas Viking Surkål

5 pounds of shredded cabbage
½ stick margarine
one apple, cored and sliced (not peeled)
1 T Salt
3 T Caraway Seeds (or more)
1 14 oz can Chicken broth
3 T cider vinegar
3 T sugar

Mix salt and caraway seeds in a measuring cup. In a large measuring cup or bowl stir together sugar and vinegar until mixed, then add chicken broth.

Melt butter in pan, careful to not burn. Add half the cabbage, then half dry ingredients. Next put in the rest of the cabbage and dry ingredients. Add apple. Then pour liquid over.

Bring to a boil and simmer for 20-30 minutes until cabbage is soft, but no mushy. Stir often to make sure all the cabbage is in the liquid.

Because we were going to store it and reheat it we undercooked it slightly.

Serves: A LOT

For home use, you would probably want to cut it down, unless you were crazy about cabbage!!

This a combination of a recipe from Siri Poehls, the Pallesens, and the Vegas Viking Surkål cooks.

More on the Lutefisk Dinner:



One of the reasons we sold a lot of raffle tickets.

Thanks to Karen Holien (she looks like a Norwegian Little Red Riding Hood with her basket) And thanks to Katie Claessens who sold lots and lots of raffle tickets.



Photo by Lollo Sievert

The Kitchen Crew

Thanks to all of our “Lutefisk” helpers our dinner was very good with several small hiccups that were immediately solved and things went forward. That’s what makes the dinner a pleasure to put on year after year.

This year we had 40 helpers at one time or another. The bare minimum to run this dinner is 30. The extra help made things so much better this year and we were able to get out of the Elk’s lodge earlier this year than we’ve ever been able to get out. One year we got out at midnight and we were completely exhausted. So the extra help was greatly appreciated.

We did net a little over \$ 2,000.00 after all bills were paid and this was with only 240 tickets sold. Next year our goal is to sell at least 100 more tickets which will net another \$ 900.00 for our general fund.

Our kitchen akavit bar was well used this year with many new faces stopping by for a sip of Viking soda pop and some scrambled eggs. Our new President, Erik Pappa, showed up in the morning and got his baptismal on lutefisk cutting and weighing along with Bruce, John, Jimmy, Bob S and probably someone I’m forgetting. Now the only thing Erik needs is a pickup truck and a baseball cap.

To the ladies who prepared the potatoes, mea culpa, I promise to get better potatoes next year and thank you for doing one of the worst jobs in the kitchen. The other worst job is cleaning the pots and pans and to those that helped, especially Susan, Tusen Takk!

I would like to thank the following people for helping and not in any particular order but in an order of thankfulness for all.

Gwen, Elaine, Warren, Susan, Aase, Nora, Alice, Kris, Linda, Sonja, Saint Bob, Lollo, John, Erik, Bruce, Erik M, Mike, Jimmy, Katie, Tim, Karen, Ron, Marilyn, Chuck, Jeanette, Diane, Ione, Ivan, Kris, Judy, David, Carol, Kathy, Henny, Jerry, Arlon and Annie.

Thanks to the “Pros” for showing up every year and making things run smoothly and thanks to the “newbie’s” for showing up and learning the ropes for one day you will be the “Pros”. Takk for hjelpen!!

Hilsen, Bob Sturgeon

Sons of Norway Media Lending Library

This spring, channel your inner history buff with two lending library favorites, *Arctic Passage* and *Ultimate Survival Defiant Courage*.

Arctic Passage, a two-hour mini-series created by NOVA, follows two dissimilar expeditions they travel through the Northwest Passage. The first story of the series follows the ill-fated journey of two Royal Navy ships led by Sir John Franklin who depart from London in 1845 in an attempt to navigate the Arctic route. Whether due to starvation, exposure or lead poisoning, no of Franklin’s 129man crew survived to complete the journey.

The second portion of the series focuses on the expedition of Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen in 1905. Boasting a crew of only 6 men and a small ship called *Gjøa*, Amundsen did what no one had accomplished before him and succeeded in navigating the Norwest Passage by learning secrets of survival in the Arctic from the Inuit.

Ultimate Survival Defiant Courage, a WWII combat film produced by the History Channel, tells the story of Jan Baalsrud, an expatriate Norwegian commando sent on a 12-man secret mission to organize a resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Norway. When German soldiers ambush the platoon, only Jan survives. What follows is the story of Jan’s escape to Sweden, braving frostbite, snow blindness, gangrene and unimaginable odds.

If you would like to check out either of these films, or want to learn more about what the Sons of Norway Media Lending Library has to offer, call (800)945-8851 or go to:

www.sonsofnorway.com

Click on Member Benefits

SOME FUN !!!

In honor of St Patty's Day I thought I would remind you of the wisdom of Murphy's Laws. A lot like the wisdom of Uncle Thorvald.



- The original - If anything can go wrong, it will.
- The law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will itch and you'll have to use the bathroom.
- The law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- The law of Random Numbers: If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.
- The law of Variation: If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in always moves faster than the one you are now in.
- The law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
- The law of the Theater: At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle arrive last.
- The law of Lockers: If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

An Irish Toast:

Long live the Irish!
Long live their cheer!
Long live our friendship
Year after year.

There are good ships
And there are wood ships,
The ships that sail the sea.
But the best ships are friendships,
And may they always be.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Special Occasion Norwegian

Waffles

Ingrid Lindgren of Valhall Lodge made these delicious waffles at the Heritage/Cultural dinner. The recipe was printed in the February issue of the Valhall Viking.

Ingredients:

- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup water
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 6 eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 cups flour
- ½ teaspoon cardamom
- 2 cubes butter or margarine, melted
- 1 pint sour cream (can use lite of fat free)

Directions:

Dissolve baking soda in water. Beat eggs, soda water, vanilla and sugar together until creamy. Sift flour and cardamom together and blend into egg mixture. Add melted butter. When batter thickens, fold in sour cream.

Bake in Norwegian heart waffle iron until golden brown.

Makes 12-15 waffles or 60-75 individual hearts.
Serve with fruit preserves of gjetost.

This sounds absolutely wonderful. A big thank you to Valhall for sharing this recipe.

MORE Things about to become extinct in America:

- VCR's - For the better part of three decades, the VCR was a best seller and staple in every American household, until being completely decimated by the DVD, and now the Digital Video Recorder (DVR). These days the only remnants are blank VHS tapes. Pre-recorded tapes and VHS decks are nearly gone. They served us so well.
- Cameras that use film. It doesn't require a statistician to prove the rapid disappearance of the film camera in America. Just look at Nikon, the professional's choice for quality equipment. In 2006, it announced it would stop film cameras—only 3 % of sales in 2005, compared with 75% of sales from digital cameras and equipment.

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Secretary, Marianne Kristiansen 434-3033
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Name Tags and Sunshine, Suzan Sibert 645-6666
Camp Norge Ambassador, Arlon Sibert 645-6666
Cultural Committee: Carol Foster, Kris Baker, Kathy
Rothermel, Roy Sather, Elaine Halvorson, Henny Morse,
Sonja Swenson, Alice Salvesen, Gwen Knighton (**and
anyone interested is welcome**)

Vegas Viking Web Site

<http://www.vegasviking.com>

Webmistress - Lollo Sievert - 645-7457

webmistress@vegasviking.com

ALSO - www.facebook.com and search for

Vegas Viking and

www.twitter.com/VegasVikingGang

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2010

SAVE STAMPS FOR TUBFRIM

**Dated Material
Address Correction Requested**