



a newsletter for the Fort Worth Texas Lodge 1-654 of Sons of Norway

2803 Turnberry Drive #1222; Arlington, Texas 76006  
JEberly@vlkarchitects.com 817-633-9610 (office) 817-633-9600 (fax)



God Jul

O Jul Med Din Glede . . .

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

*SofN 1-654 Meetings and other events*

**December - July / Christmas**

No Hvor Vesten Begynner Meeting.

### **December 16**

Join the Dallas Lodge at their Christmas party at 5:30 for music, refreshments and a Norwegian dinner. The lodge will be supplying: meatballs, salmon, potatoes, lingonberries, lefse, saft and coffee. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite dish and share. There will be a short lodge meeting.

### **January 24th**

Hvor Vesten Begynner membership meeting. Show and tell (Scandinavia items/family historical item).

### **January 27th**

The Nordtex Lodge will be having a social evening (movie night) with a short meeting to install the newly elected officers for 2002. Please bring a snack/dish to share. The evening begins a 5:30 pm at Gus Stangeland's home in Richardson. Address is 1917 Drew Lane. If interested call John Eberly 817-633-9610 for car pooling opportunities.

### **February 26th**

Dallas' Nordtex Lodge meeting.

### **April 27-28th**

Viking Fest- Celebrating over 150 years Nordic Cultural Heritage in Texas. Once again Viking descendants in Texas and oversea's guests, will gather to celebrate their Scandinavian heritage. The fourth Viking Fest will be held in Georgetown, Texas, on Sat. from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in San Gabriel Park. With its arts and crafts, games, dancing and music, heritage displays, demonstrators, and lecturers, it provide a glimpse of Nordic culture and portray a way of life that the Nordic people brought to America and to Texas. There will be children's entertainment venue, and a Viking encampment by the Society for Creative Anachronism -who's members take on Scandinavian identities and 'live' them. *Check the website for more information*  
<http://www.vikingfest.com>

# Hvor Vesten Begynner Nyheter May 2001

*a newsletter for the Fort Worth Lodge 1-654 of Sons of Norway*

## Velkommen to the 2001 Nyheter Volume Number 1; Issue Number 4

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### **From the President**

September 11, 2001 will be forever etched in our minds as the day tragedy brought this nation together. Fear and disbelief was replaced with a steel resolve to unite as one nation. And united we are, united we stand! This is truly the "land of the free, and the home of the brave." God Bless America!

*(Editor's note: This was originally written for the October edition which never made it to print)*

October is one of my favorite months. With it comes cooler days, crisp nights, and beautiful fall colors. For the Sons of Norway Lodges also comes the time for nominations of officers. Officers currently serving have agreed to serve until the end of 2002. However, there are several positions that remain open. We are seeking the nominations for the office of Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Marshal, Assistant Marshal, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, two more Trustees, Host/Hostess, Youth Director, and Song Leader. We will vote on these positions in November and the new officers will be installed in January.

Notice: Beginning in January, we will have a short business meeting before each social meeting/gathering. The business meeting will begin promptly at 6:30p.m. and end by 7:00p.m. so we do not run over into our social time. If we find that the business meetings need to be longer we will decide on dates and times. These business meetings are opened to all members and all are encouraged to attend. Also, if you have any suggestions for programs, please contact Kellie Alexander at 817-490-9733 or email her at ammethyst@amarok.org.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. If you are not currently active, I encourage you to come be a part of this great group. Together we can make 2002 a great year for our lodge.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 24th. I would like to have an officer's meeting before then so we can plan out the year. I also think we need to see what day of the month would be best for all to meet so we can have a better turn out. Until then I hope your Christmas is merry and bright.

Respectfully,

Cathy Dickinson, President of Lodge 1-654  
Hvor Vesten Begynner Fort Worth, TX

### **Lodge Meetings and Other Events**

The January meetings will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in downtown Fort Worth on Thursday 24th. *(If the church door is locked, please ring door buzzer).*

Membership dues are \$29.00 for individual 12-month membership and \$22.00 for a spouse. Heritage Membership (under 12) is free. Gloden/Life Membership (over 65 with 30 years of membership in SofN) is \$18.00.

### **January**

Gwen Workman and the Plano Repertory Theatre, 1028 15th St. will be hosting the famous author Astrid Karlsen Scott who has penned many books about Norway and Norwegian culture including *Ekte Norske Mat* (Authentic Norwegian Cooking), *Norway's Fest Days* and the four volume *Ekte Norsk Jule* (Traditional Norwegian Christmas) series. She has also contributed to *Viking* and *Western Viking* publications.



*Revealed finally, the complete and astounding story of Jan Baalsrud and the people who helped him escape from the Gestapo. In late March of 1943, during WWII four Norwegian saboteurs*

arrive in Northern Norway on a fishing cutter and set anchor in peaceful Toftefjord. They are to establish a base for sabotage operations with the eventual goal of liberating occupied Norway. . . . The people of Norway's Troms District step forward to assist Jan. Selflessly defying Nazi dictates, more than 60 people risk their lives to help fugitive commando. Readers will never forget this carefully researched action-packed account of the courage of Jan Baalsrud and the people of Northern Norway.

- From the back cover of her latest book

### NORSKE NOEL TO YOU AND YOURS!

Did you ever wonder where you can get Christmas carols sung in Norwegian? 15-year-old Sons of Norway Nordtex Lodge member, Megan Nixon recently recorded a selection of favorite Norwegian Christmas songs. She had a little help from her mother, Charlotte also a member of the lodge, and sings on one of the CD carols.



Megan works weekends at Gwen Workman's Scandinavian shop, the Wooden Spoon in Plano. Gwen supplied the bunad for Megan to wear for the CD cover (pictured above). Also Nordtex member, Gus Stangeland, made it all happen. Gus had been working on a CD of Norwegian Christmas songs and was looking for a vocalist. When he learned that Megan and her mother were fluent in Norwegian and that Megan was taking private voice lessons, he asked Megan if she would like to sing these songs and make a CD. Gus has set up a digital recording studio using his computer, various hardware gear and special music software to record and produce CDs.

On this CD, Gus sequences the bass and rhythm and plays the harmonica, while his son, Gordon, principal French Horn player for the Chattanooga Symphony, plays the French horn and Megan with the help of her

mother on one song, sings the vocals.

For all you who want a unique approach to Christmas carols, here is an ideal stocking stuffer. Gus has set up a website at [www.musicbygus.com](http://www.musicbygus.com) where you can listen to a short clip of each song and also order on-line with a credit card. At this website, Gus has several other CDs for sale including *Scandinavian Dance Songs*, *Norwegian Folk Songs* and a CD from Norway of Christmas songs. Of course, you can also buy Megan's CDs at the Wooden Spoon or directly from either Megan or Gus. The CDs are just \$15.00

### Past Events:

#### Midsummer June 23rd

DFW's annual Midsummer breakfast was another success. This year our Midsummer celebration combined a mixed group of Norwegians, Swedish, Finnish and Danish. Mother Nature was definitely on our side making the morning comfortable and enjoyable. The food, as always, was delicious and the children had fun decorating flowerpots. Kubb (Swedish lawn game) was introduced to the group and became a hit for all ages. The annual tug-of-war brought on a lot of grunts and groans with the Swedes winning out over the Norsk. All and all the celebration turned out to very enjoyable for all.



Photos by Gus Stangeland

## Congratulations

Syttende Mai Aquavit winner Debbie Dearmond who won the 1.01 liters of Norwegian "Line Aquavit" door prize at our Institution dinner this past year.. It was donated by Kellie Alexander. Thanks to all our contributors and donors which made the Institution a success. Special tusen takk to all the lodges of Sons of Norway who donated to Hvor Vesten Begynner. Your gift is very much appreciated.



*From the Kjøkken (Kitchen) . . .*

## A Recipe for Rømmegrøt

Here's a real Norwegian Christmas tradition, perfect for Christmas Eve dessert:

- 1 pt. very thick, slightly sour cream
- 1/2 cup water (to rinse cream from jar)
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 pt. hot milk
- sugar and cinnamon

Cook cream and water very gently for 45 minutes to 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Add paste of salt and flour, with a little cold water, stirring top. Remove fat and save. Stir in hot milk and whisk briskly with flat wire beater. Pudding should be very smooth and creamy.

Pour into a bowl and make a depression on top of butterfat. Serve hot in dessert dishes and pass sugar and cinnamon to sprinkle on top. The pudding is not a success unless the butterfat comes out on top after flour is added. *God appetitt!*



*-From Sons of Norway  
Scandinavian Cook Book*

## A Recipe for Norwegian Pancakes

Here's a rich Norwegian dish to add a unique touch to Thanksgiving dinner or to any other meal:

- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 cup sifted flour
- 1 tbsp. Sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Beat eggs till creamy. Add the milk and cream. Sift and add dry ingredients. Beat well. Fry on hot skillet, covering bottom of skillet with dough. Fry as regular pancakes. When done, serve hot with butter and jelly or powdered sugar. Roll up or fold into quarters when serving. *God appetitt!*

*-From Sons of Norway Scandinavian Cook Book*

## *A Little in English*

### **Polar Bear Steals C-Vitamins**

Manager Trygve Steen of the Svalbard Wildlife Service was impressed by the sensibility of a fur-covered thief that visited a tourist campsite on the island of Spitsbergen. While the tourists were away on a glacier-trek, a polar bear made his way into the mess tent munched on vitamin-C tablets and a tube of toothpaste. The mutton was left to hang, untouched. Lack of vitamin C is a severe health issue among the human population of Svalbard. Polar bears tend to have pretty bad breath due to all the seal meat they eat, so Mr. Steen understood he needed a little freshener.

*-Nytt fra Norge*

## *Litt på norsk*

### **Isbjørn stjal C-vitaminer**

Daglig leder Trygve Steen i Svalbard Wildlife Service er imponert over selvinnsikten til den pelskledde tyven som besøkte turistleiren på øya mens turistene var på brevandring. Isbjørnen befant seg straks i messeteltet, der den mesket seg med C-vitamentabletter og en tube tannkrem. Fenalåret fikk henge urørt. Mangel på C-vitaminer blant menneskene på Svalbard er et helseproblem der. Og isbjørner har dårlig ånde some følge av selkjøttet de spiser. Steen sier at han forstår godt at bamsen trengte tannpuss.

*-Nytt fra Norge*

## Euro Currency Coming Soon to Norway's Neighbors

Starting January 1, 2002, the Euro currencies will be distributed throughout 12 European nations. In Finland alone, some 300 large trucks have already begun distributing the currency to banks large and small. Many Norwegians are paying close attention to this because of the amount of business they conduct with the countries involved. Experts in Norway say it is too early to say what kind of an effect it will have on the Norwegian kroner. And economists do not believe the effects will be very dramatic for Norway, since its closest neighbors, Sweden, Denmark and the United Kingdom, while members in the EU, have chosen not to join the Euro currency.

-From *Nytt fra Norge*

*Trivia . . .*

### Can you answer these trivia questions about Norway and America?

1. What is the period between Christmas and New Year's Day often called in Norwegian?
2. Who introduced Christianity to Norway around 1000 AD?
3. What is the name of the sour-cream porridge eaten in Norway, especially around Christmas time?
4. Who wrote the popular Norwegian Christmas songs *Musevisa* and *Julekveldsvisen*?
5. In making lutefisk, what substance is the cod soaked in?
6. What is the name of Norway's Santa Claus?

*A Little in English*

### Christmas Eve Traditions

According to some Norwegian traditions, it was imperative that the lady of the house remembered to set out a bowl of porridge for the nisse, or elf. If she forgot, the elf would leave the farm and take all of the farm's fortune with it. It has also been tradition to leave the Christmas candle burning until the sun came up. If the candle is not lit, trolls will enter the house and celebrate Christmas in the living room. When the sun does come up, it is the oldest in the house that blows out the candle.

- From *Hva Dagene Vet* 9

*Litt på norsk*

### Skikk Julaften

Julaften måtte ikke matmor glemme å sette ut et fat med grøt til nissen. Glemte hun det, ville nissen reise av gårde og ta gårdens lykke med seg. Det var også skikk at julelyset brant helt til solen sto opp. For brant ikke lyset, kom trollene inn og holdt jul i stua. Når solen eller dag var kommet, slukket husets eldste lyset.

*Know your beneflits...*

### Resource Center Opening Soon

Do you need a place to start your genealogy research, or are you preparing for a trip to Norway and want to know more first? Then come visit the new resource center at Sons of Norway Headquarters in Minneapolis. Sections include: 1 Genealogy (incl. bygdebøker) 1 Norwegian language 1 Norwegian Cookbooks 1 Rosemaling 1 Bunader 1 Children's books It is a user-friendly, self-service library, open to all members, with Internet access provided. The hours for the library are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday thru Thursday, and 8:30 am to 11:30 am Friday.

### Norway's New Royal Couple Honey-moon in New York

Following their fairy-tale wedding on August 25, Crown Prince Haakon and his new bride Mette-Marit managed a short game of cat and mouse with the Norwegian press. It was not public knowledge where the couple had gone for their honeymoon until they were finally discovered in New York City a few days later. The Norwegian people, however, quickly dropped their curiosities when they learned of the events of Tuesday, September 11. It was only after the initial shock that people again began to wonder and worry about the new couple. To Norway's relief, it was quickly and thankfully revealed that the royal couple was safe and not anywhere near the affected area at the time.

-From *Aftenposten* and *Nytt fra Norge*

*Trivia answers: 1. Romjul 2. Olav Tryggvasson 3. Rømmegrøt 4. Alf Prøysen 5. Lye 6. Julenissen*

# Sang til juletreet

*Song to the Christmas Tree*

EDVARD GRIEG

Andantino

1. Du grøn - ne, glit - ren - de tre, god - dag! Vel - kom - men du som vi  
1. O green and glit - ter - ing tree, to - day We wel - come you with a

ser så gjer - ne med jul - le - lys un - der hjem - mets tak og  
song of glad - ness, With toys and can - dles in grand dis - play, Thy

høit i top - pen den blan - ke stjer - ne! Ja den må skin - ne, for  
beam - ing star which re - moves all sad - ness; For ev - er shin - ing And

den skal min - ne oss om vår Gud. \_\_\_\_\_  
us re - mind - ing a - bout our God. \_\_\_\_\_

**CHORUS**

Ja den må skin-ne, for den skal min-ne oss om vår Gud. —  
 For ev-er skin-ing and us re-mind-ing a-bout our God. —

2. Om Jesus barnet fortalte mor  
 så mangen aften vi satt derhjemme.  
 Vi kan hans bud og hans milde ord,  
 vi vet at aldri vi dem kan glemme.  
 Når stjernen skinner  
 om Ham vi minnes, vårt juletre.

2. *Thou bringest memories of childhood days,  
 When mother told us the Christmas story  
 How Christ, our Savior, by God's own grace,  
 Was sent on earth to bring peace and glory.  
 Now bells are ringing  
 And children singing His praise today.*

**God Jul!**  
 (Merry Christmas!)

### SofN Christmas Catalog

Can't find the perfect gift for your Norwegian grandmother or uncle? The Viking Treasures gift catalog features a wide variety of authentic Norwegian items, including genuine Norwegian *kofte* sweaters, *lefse* grills, *krumkake* irons and glass *nisser*. \$5 member discount for purchases of \$50 or more! Catalogs were distributed starting October 15th, and orders can be placed by mail, phone or at [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com).



### O Jul Med Din Glede

O jul med din glede og barnlige lyst, Vi ønsker dig alle velkommen; Vi hilser dig alle med jublende røst: Titusene ganger velkommen. — Vi klapper i hendene, Vi synger og vi ler, Saa gladelig, saa gladelig, Vi swinger oss i kretsen, og neier.

I Østerlands vise, I tre stjernemenn, Vi vet jo nok hvorhen I drage; Ti vi vilde ogsaa gjerne derhen, Og eder paa reisen ledsage. — Vi klapper i hendene, Vi synger og vi ler, Saa gladelig, saa gladelig, Vi swinger oss i kretsen, og neier.

Saa rekker jeg dig nu med glede min haand, Kom skynd dig og gi mig den anden. Saa knytter vi kjaerlighets hellige baand, Og lover at elske hinanden. — Vi klapper i hendene, Vi synger og vi ler, Saa gladelig, saa gladelig, Vi swinger oss i kretsen, og neier.

From - <http://christmas.com/pe/739>

**THE CHRISTMAS PAGES**  
**Christmas in Norway**  
[http://www.sofn.com/forms\\_pub/relieffund.html](http://www.sofn.com/forms_pub/relieffund.html)

### Who to Contact in the Lodge

If your name is not listed please consider which office would be of interest in any of the ones listed as vacant please express your interest to Cathy of John.  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **President**

**Cathy Dickinson** 817-443-0259

#### **Vice President**

**John Eberly** 817-633-9610

#### **Financial Secretary**

**Barbara Murphy** 817-306-9217

#### **Secretary**

**VACANT - WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **Treasurer**

**J.C. White** 817-292-0099

#### **Editor**

**John Eberly** 817-633-9610

#### **Publicity**

**Jerry Grotta** 817-295-4674

#### **Social Director**

**VACANT - WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **Cultural Director**

**Kellie Alexander** 817-490-9733

#### **Youth Director**

**VACANT - WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **Foundation Director**

**VACANT - WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **Sports/Recreation Director**

**VACANT - WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **Counselor**

**Karin King** 817-439-3789

#### **Trustee**

**John King** 817-439-3789

To receive the Nyheter contact the editor at 817-633-9610 or email: [JEberly@vlkarchitects.com](mailto:JEberly@vlkarchitects.com)

### The Back Page

#### **Advertisements, Listings & Classifieds**

If you would like to advertise or have a listing please contact the editor.

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### **Tubfrim**

The annual report for Tubfrim 1999 indicated a surplus of 460,000.00 NOK (\$51,000). Disabled children and youth are the beneficiaries of these funds. Tubfrim encourages all Sons of Norway members to collect cancelled stamps as well as used telephone cards. Send them to the local Sons of Norway representative (contact Sons of Norway at 800-9458851 or 612-827-3611 for further information on Tubfrim or if you need the name of your Tubfrim representative) or directly to Tubfrim, 3540 Nesbyen, Norway. Arve Syversen of Tubfrim sends his warm greetings and thanks for the very valuable service!