



VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

Fra Presidenten,

Its a new year and a new board! Tusen takk to Clark Brekke who has successfully sailed the viking ship over the past two years! I am pleased report that Clark (and his bunad!) will still be very involved with the Lodge by serving as sports director and counselor.



As we begin 2016, the VOTS board is excited about trying some new activities and adventures to attract new members. Bonnie Pederson is taking over as the new social director and she will be working together with new Cultural Director Joan Shrader to organize some great programs over coming months. Joan has earned a multitude of cultural skills pins from SON over the past several years and she will be working to help the Lodge pursue a variety of cultural activities this year, including a book club and learning how to make a hardanger apron along with learning a Norwegian "Word of the Month".

The Lodge is also making some changes to our "annual activities" in particular by moving the "Taste of Scandinavia" to the springtime to avoid conflict with the many fall festivals (and UT football!). Look for more news on that next month.

February brings the International Festival and this is a great way to support the Lodge and introduce members of the community to Sons of Norway. The festival is on Saturday, February 20th at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum. The Lodge traditionally has sponsored a booth where we demonstrate lefse and krumkake baking and provide membership information on Sons of Norway and Norway along with samples! We will also have lefse available for sale. Please consider volunteering for a shift - (no baking experience required). Also remember the 21st is the monthly Lodge gathering.

Again, takk to the Lodge members who have stepped up in the past and served as board members to get the Lodge started, and takk to the the new board members who will carry the Lodge forward in 2016!

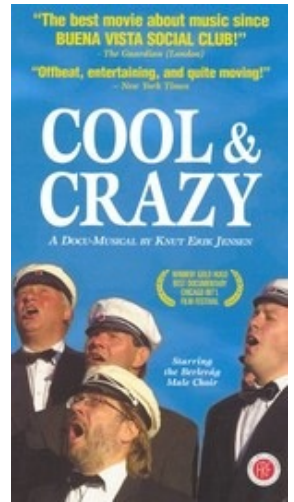
February is Pizza and Movie Night!

“COOL & CRAZY”

A Norwegian Documentary

Featuring the Berlevag Male Choir, this docu-musical by Knute Erik Jensen was the winner of the Gold Hugo Best Documentary at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Don't forget to join us for the annual February Pizza and Movie Night at Faith Lutheran on **Sunday, February 21** beginning at 4pm. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be available for \$5 per person!



**PLEASE RSVP TO JOAN SHRADER BY THURS 18 FEB
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From the NY Times.....

Filmmaker Erik Knut Jensen spins this surprisingly boisterous look at an all-male choir hailing from depressed Norwegian fishing village Berlevåg.

The group is comprised of 40 mostly elderly men. Their sets are gleefully eclectic specializing in tunes that are rare and obscure. Yet be it Norway's national anthem or a bawdy seafaring shanty about mermaids, the choir always delivers with pluck and dignity.

Jensen profiles several of the members including the choir's rotund choir master, a former lady-killer who is now confined to a wheelchair and another younger member who battled his way out of drug addiction.

For many of the members, the choir is as close to a family as they have – most choir members are lifelong bachelors.



Tusen Takk to Papa Johns and Kyle Leachman of the Maryville Papa Johns location who provided half price pizzas and allowed the use of their heat bags!



Viking Volunteers needed for Oak Ridge International Festival - Saturday February 20th

VOTS is participating in the annual [International Festival](#) with a information booth and a demonstration of Scandinavian foods again this year.

This is a great opportunity for the public to learn more about the Sons of Norway and the Vikings of the Smokies. Volunteers are needed- especially those who have bunads or Norwegian sweaters!

Dee Bumpers will again be demonstrating how to make lefse, and we need volunteers to make krumkake and assist with selling the baked goods. We need 4-6 volunteers to commit to a three hour shift either am or pm. The festival runs from 10-4 at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum.

Please contact [Dee Bumpers](#) if you are available to help the lodge!

Don't forget to check out the new & improved VOTS website to stay current on lodge events - including inclement weather notifications.

www.tnvikings.org

Also remember to "like" VOTS on Facebook!!

Board Member Spotlight

Trygve Meyhre

On April 27th, 1937, a third daughter named Elizabeth was born to Elizabeth Lapsley Halsted and Peter Halsted in Paterson, NJ. She is 2nd generation Scots/Irish and 9th generation English.

(They were probably all Viking descendants.)

Four days later and nearly 1000 miles west, an only son named Trygve was born to Dorothea Chatham Myhre and Roy Myhre in Sheboygan, WI. He is 3rd generation Norwegian/Swedish, 5th generation German, and 6th generation English. Who would have guessed that their lives would cross 11 years later in East Paterson, NJ?

Trygve began elementary school in Milwaukee. During WW II, he lived in Florida with his mother near maternal relatives, while his father fought in North Africa and Italy. Trygve attended elementary schools in Clearwater and Saint Petersburg Beach and went to the Florida Military Academy for his sixth grade.

His mother remarried in 1948, and the family moved to East Paterson, NJ where he finished elementary school. Elizabeth attended the same elementary school, one class behind and both attended the same high school in Lodi, NJ. During his sophomore year of high school, they met at a Latin Club outing - and that was the foundation of their lifelong loving relationship.

Trygve attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, NY, while Elizabeth attended the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. After earning his bachelor's degree in Management Engineering in 1958, Elizabeth and Trygve were married in Fairlawn, NJ, and then returned to RPI and into married student's housing while he earned his master's degree in Metallurgical Engineering.

After graduation in 1960, they returned to New Jersey where he took a job in Paterson. They later moved to a new house in Sterling Forest, NY, while he continued to commute to his job in Paterson.

In 1965, Trygve accepted a position with Union Carbide Nuclear Division at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge. He worked in Development and Product Engineering Divisions, managed the Operations Research Department, took a one-year assignment to the Department of Energy Headquarters in Germantown, MD, and returned as a Senior Staff Engineer, retiring in 1999, after almost 35 years at the Y-12 Plant.

Since retirement, Trygve has been busy with Habitat for Humanity, Ecumenical Storehouse, Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL), First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge Chorus, Friends of ORNL, and Viking of the Smokies. In addition to helping several people with their computers, he serves as treasurer of two organizations, and takes 12-20 ORICL courses and travels on several of their trips each term.

Trygve played saxophone for 7 years from high school through college. and enjoys singing in choral groups throughout college, the Oak Ridge Community chorus, and at church. He also played lacrosse for four years while studying at RPI, softball from 1960 until about 1992, volleyball from 1970 until 1992 (including the the Nationals one year in Tulsa, OK), bowled from 1960 through 1980, and played competitive badminton about six years. Trygve has also been working on genealogy for his families and several friends, and continues to stay involved with several church committees.

Elizabeth and Trygve have three children, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. By 1993, they had spent half of their lives in Oak Ridge (in five new houses in Oak Ridge!) and plan to retire to Shannondale Retirement Center in Maryville, in a few of years. They enjoy traveling and over the years, spend a month in New England in the summer and down to Florida for a month in the winter. Their foreign travel includes Norway, Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Jamaica, Pakistan, Canadian Atlantic Provinces, New Zealand, Australia, and France, along with Alaska, Hawaii and many of the National Parks.

STITCHERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Want to make Hardanger cuffs for your bunad blouse? Felted mittens? An embroidered cap? A table runner? Colorful socks for a man's knee britches? Come early to the monthly Lodge meeting, like 15 or 20 minutes before 4:00.

Bring whatever you are working on . . . or whatever ideas you wish you were working on.

If you don't stitch, maybe bring your soft wood and chip carving knife. Let the rest of us clean up after you. We can help each other, teach each other, supply each other, and have a lot of fun making **All Things Norwegian**.

Got questions? Email joan@greenbackacres.com
or just show up early!

Cultural Corner with Joan Shrader

The Reykjavik Sweater Store

In Iceland, as in Norway, knitting is as normal to life as milking cows and catching fish. Children are taught to knit when they learn to read and write in elementary school in both countries. But the two legacies are distinct. Anybody who mistakes an Icelandic sweater for a Norwegian one, or vice versa, is not paying attention.

Remember the Selbu story of what happened in 1857 when locals discovered that their ordinary handwork, knitting, could make money, could support a family, could make them famous. The Bohus women did this, too, with a peculiar style that cornered a market in raglan design in 1939. Similarly, Iceland supports a co-op of handknitters across the small country who knit hats and sweaters and mittens and socks, submit them for sale, and together operate shops in towns across the island. The Handknitters Association is a full-fledged business, owned and run since 1977 by its many members, all knitters.

Reykjavik has three of these stores. The one on Skolavordustigur Street is full to the brim with hats, mittens, socks, throws, and sweaters of every color, shape and size. All the sweaters in Handknitters are recognizably Icelandic. They are predominantly gray and black and tan. Their eye-catching design drops in a circle across the shoulders and chest. Knitting gauge is loose, maybe four or five stitches per inch. Yarn feels coarse. Everything is local and every item is made of Icelandic wool.

A clerk who works in this Handknitters store on Skolavordustigur told me that the difference between Norwegian and Icelandic sweaters is not actually what they look like but instead the way they are knitted. Icelanders have traditionally used circular needles. In the middle ages their fishermen wore sweaters knitted in the round from the bottom, without seams. Sleeves stitches were set aside on holders until last. Today's result may have color but it never has a steek!

Many things in the Handknitters store have the eight-pointed star somewhere in the pattern. Obviously, the Icelanders and the Norskies have a common historical tree that branched when Norway went for dropped shoulder seams and bright colors, but just like the Faroe sheep at both cultures nurture, their design and patterns have the same roots.

