

OCTOBER 2016



VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

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Fra Presidenten,

The codeword for the coming months will be "Cultural Skills". At the last Lodge event, Joan Shrader showed members how to use the internet to sharpen your genealogy skills and start working on your family histories! With the information now available on the internet, you should be able to complete the first level of the cultural skills on genealogy - however, if you run into problems or have questions, Joan will be happy to help.

The other cultural skills activities that we will be working on in the coming months will include literature and food! Clark and Joan will be putting together some activities to work towards a cultural skills pin in literature, while Dee Bumpers has agreed to assist those wanting to learn to make lefse and krumkake, as part of the baking and cooking cultural skills program.

We will be meeting on October 16th for an interesting program to learn more about famous Norwegian authors, and the wide variety of Norwegian literature, especially crime writing, that have become world wide successes. And one lucky lodge member in attendance will win 2 tickets to the Torsk and Meatball dinner!!! The meal will be hearty fall fare - so bring us your best cold weather dish!

Just in case you don't win the pair of torsk dinner tickets at the October Lodge event - remember to bring your checkbook to purchase your tickets for the annual Torsk & Meatball Dinner. The dinner begins at 5pm on Sunday, November 13th at Seasons Cafe in Turkey Creek. Invite your friends and neighbors - this is always a very nice event.

Tickets are \$20 per person and children under 12 eat free! You must make a reservation in advance - so please contact social chair Bonnie Pedersen if you would like to attend. We will also have packages of frozen lefse available for purchase.



DID YOU KNOW?

The average Norwegian reads 17 books a year?
That 93% of the Norwegian population reads books other than school books and syllabus literature?
40% of the population reads more than 10 books a year!

October is Book Month!

Join Lodge members and learn more about famous Norwegian authors and books, both classic and modern, which are loved around the world! You may already know of or have read a few of the following:

A Doll's House (Henrik Ibsen, 1879). This controversial play questions marriage norms and the role of women in a 19th-century man's world.

Growth of the Soil (Knut Hamsun, 1917). This epic tale of a man living in back-country Norway helped Hamsun win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1920.

Kon-Tiki (Thor Heyerdahl, 1948). Heyerdahl chronicles his historic 1947 journey from Peru to Polynesia on a balsa-wood raft. Norwegian filmmakers have catalogued his exploits in two films called *Kon-Tiki*: an Academy-Award-winning documentary (1950) and a blockbuster historical drama that was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film (2012).

Kristin Lavransdatter (Sigrid Undset, 1920–1923). This trilogy (also a 1995 movie) focuses on the life of a Norwegian woman in the 14th century.

My Struggle (Karl Ove Knausgaard, 2012). This six-part autobiography of a father and writer from Oslo is hugely popular in Norway and is quickly gaining worldwide recognition.

Out Stealing Horses (Per Patterson, 2005). A widower in remote Norway meets a neighbor who stirs up memories of a pivotal day in 1948.

The October Lodge meal on October 16th will be a Hearty Fall Fare - so show off your favorite soup or chili recipe, fall desert or side dish!

Lodge will provide beverages (coffee, ice tea, water and lemonade)





Please join the Sons of Norway

for the 8th Annual

Torsk & Meatball Dinner

Seasons Café in Turkey Creek

11605 Parkside Drive, Farragut, TN

Sunday, November 13th

5pm

\$20 Per Person - Children under 12 are Free!

There is limited seating for this event so make your reservation now!
Contact bonniepederson@comcast.net no later than Monday Nov. 7th



Along with meatballs & torsk (Norwegian Cod), served two ways, this all-inclusive buffet (tax & tip included!) will feature buttered potatoes, lefse, green beans, along with an assortment of traditional Scandinavian desserts, and your choice of soda, iced tea or coffee. A selection of beer, wines and other adult beverages will be available for purchase.

**Please make payment (payable to Vikings of the Smokies) and mail to:
Vikings of the Smokies, 104 Dancer Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830**

Cultural Corner with Joan Shrader

Have you read Hamsun? Laxnes? Undset? Ibsen? Hauge? Sundt? Petterson? Nesbo? The rest of us want to hear about it. Have you watched Norwegian Slow TV?

If you can get your hands on a copy of the little book Between Rocks and Hard Places by Ann Gesme, do it. Sons of Norway has for years suggested this book, the recent district meeting in Wisconsin recommended it, and some of our members are anxious for us to read it .

As we are working toward beginning some literature studies, this is a great place to start because this paperback includes help for understanding many genealogy puzzles we all encounter when discovering family history.

Our Ancestor Charts are taking shape and we will continue to Group Sheets this month. Our goal is the STORY that goes with the names and dates. I am personally proud of Sons of Norway for emphasizing (and requiring!) memories as part of our genealogy. After all, we're not breeding cattle here - our stories and memories are at the heart of inherited culture. Each of us can identify somebody in our Norskie heritage that we remember personally. These memories are a gift we can offer to our families and to each other.

Somebody must volunteer to do the first video, talking five minutes to the camera about a grandparent or an uncle or a friend from the past, somebody you knew long ago. Or you can write it down. Or just talk. Betcha there's at least two of us who can type as fast as you can talk. Right, Joleen?

But that's not all. How are you with a coping saw or a rasp? Never let it be said that a good Viking does only one thing at a time. Not in my lifetime. But that's another story.

Try the used book stores like Abe Books online for Between Rocks and Hard Places Should be just a few bucks plus shipping and maybe one of us will volunteer to find some copies we can order together.

Norwegian literature is traveling more than ever before. Between 2004 and 2014, NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad) has contributed funding to the translation of more than 3300 books, into no less than 63 languages. Norwegian is among the 15 most translated languages in the world.

Norway is famous for its writers, especially when it comes to drama. Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) is often called the father of the modern drama, and his works revolutionized the development of dramatic technique in Europe and the USA. His plays remain popular today, and are said to be the second most performed in the world, after Shakespeare's. Ibsen's dramas offer social analysis and critique, and the masterful portrayal of existential and psychological conflict.

Norway has three Nobel laureates. **Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson** was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1903, as “a tribute to his magnificent and versatile poetry” . **Knut Hamsun** received the Nobel Prize in 1920 for *Growth of the Soil*, and his earlier breakthrough novel *Hunger* remains one of the most important classics in Norwegian literature to date. **Sigrid Undset** was awarded the prize in 1928, for her compelling description of life in the Middle Ages. Her trilogy *Kristin Lavransdatter* has become an international classic, and her books have been translated into a large number of languages.

Modern Norwegian literature continues to receive a lot of attention abroad. **Jon Fosse** is the most frequently performed and most debated Norwegian dramatist after Henrik Ibsen, and has achieved great international recognition for his dramas which are characterized by a literary minimalism. Norwegian contemporary literature has in the course of recent decades entered into a new golden age, and a number of fiction authors are making their mark internationally.

Erik Fosnes Hansen was one of the first Norwegian authors to make an international breakthrough. His novel *Psalm at Journey's End* (1990), which tells the story of fictive ship musicians on the RMS Titanic, was an enormous success and has been on a victory lap around the world.

Per Petterson has been translated into 50 languages. *Out Stealing Horses* has received a number of prizes in Norway, and abroad. Petterson was the first Norwegian author ever to be awarded the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, for precisely this novel.

Norway's most recent shining star in the fiction heavens is **Karl Ove Knausgård**. The publication of his series *My Struggle I-VI* created waves. Knausgård's project is highly representative of one of the strongest trends in modern Norwegian literature: the dividing line between fantasy and reality, fiction and non-fiction is erased.

The world's first crime fiction novel is probably the Norwegian *The Murder of Engine Maker Roalfsen*, written by Mauritz Hansen in 1839-40, the year before Edgar Allan Poe wrote *Murder in the Rue Morgue*. Now, some 175 years later, Norwegian crime fiction is conquering the world!

Crime fiction for Easter

Reading crime and detective novels during Easter is a national custom in Norway. TV and radio stations produce crime series just for Easter and publishers release series of books known as "Easter thrillers" or påskekrim for the Easter holiday season.

It is believed that the tradition of påskekrim began with an ad-stunt on the part of Gyldendal's publisher Harald Grieg during the Easter of 1923. The advert, printed like a regular news article, appeared on the front page of a Norwegian daily under the headline "Bergen train looted in the night". The text was actually an advert for a new crime fiction book written by Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie. The book was a success and it was clear that people liked the idea of crime fiction for Easter. The following year, the publishing house Aschehoug began to focus on crime fiction during Easter time. Since then, Easter has been incorporated as the peak season for the crime fiction genre.

Modern Norwegian crime fiction is to a large extent inspired by the Swedish author-duo Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö, who from 1965 to 1975 wrote ten novels about the police investigator Martin Beck. Typical for this type of crime literature is a socially critical perspective.

There are a number of strong contemporary authors writing within the crime fiction genre of Norwegian literature. **Gunnar Staalesen** has achieved great international recognition for his crime fiction novels about the private investigator Varg Veum – a Raymond Chandler-inspired hero with a social democratic heart.

Another internationally recognised crime fiction author is **Karin Fossum**, who writes literary, psychological crime fiction, with detective Konrad Sejer as the protagonist. Ten books have been published in the series so far, and her work has been translated into a number of languages.

Norway's hands down, best selling author worldwide is **Jo Nesbø**, who has become world famous for his crime fiction novels about the anti-hero police inspector Harry Hole. His novels have been translated into no less than 50 languages. He has been praised for having expanded the genre through his strong, literary qualities, his psychological insight and his depictions of life in a modern, globalised world.

Tom Egeland is best known for his books about the archaeologist Bjørn Beltø, the main character in a series of action and adventure oriented books that often have a story connected to mysteries from the past. Egeland is often compared to the American author Dan Brown.

Non-fiction genres have for centuries been an expression of identity and mindset in Norway.



The first Norwegian non-fiction authors to become known abroad were explorers and adventurers. **Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930)** and **Roald Amundsen (1872-1928)** are still remembered for their incredible polar expeditions. The written accounts of their adventures and expeditions remain popular to this day.

Thor Heyerdahl followed in the footsteps of this tradition. He became world-famous when in 1947 he led the revolutionary and bold Kon-Tiki expedition, sailing a raft across the Pacific Ocean. The fantastic story of the journey, *The Kon-Tiki Expedition* (1948), became one of the 20th century's great international best-sellers and has been translated into more than 70 languages. Today another generation of adventure-loving authors have taken the helm, among them Cecilie Skog, Børge Ousland, Erling Kagge and Liv Arnestad.

However, not all Norwegian non-fiction authors are explorers and adventurers. Philosopher and author **Arne Næss** is known as the founder of the philosophical school of deep ecology. He was one of the important minds of the environmental movement from the 1970s and onward.

Today Norwegian non-fiction is characterized first and foremost by a breadth and variation in genres and themes. The books that are sold abroad can be about everything from philosophy and psychology, to knitting and handicrafts.

Of particular interest is the emergence of strong literary voices within journalistic and documentary books. In recent years, it is **Åsne Seierstad** who has reached the most readers in Norway and worldwide. Her documentary book *The Bookseller of Kabul* (2002) remained on the New York Times' bestseller list for 40 weeks, and has been sold to 38 languages.

The social anthropologist **Erika Fatland** is another Norwegian author who has travelled out into the world. Her first non-fiction publication was the book *City of Angels*, a gripping documentary about the Beslan school hostage crisis in 2004. In 2012 the book *The Year without a Summer* was published, about the 22 July tragedy in Norway.

She is now current again with the book *Sovietistan: A Journey through Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan* (2014). Here she takes the reader along on a journey to countries that few have visited – that now have greater current relevance than ever before

The information contained in the above article is credited to NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad). For more detailed information on Norwegian authors, please visit NORLA's website <http://norla.no/en/pages>.

A New Way to Watch Norwegian Films and Television



Introduced earlier this year, Films of Norway brings a wide variety of Norwegian films, documentaries and television to your home.

Films of Norway is a subscription service that provides members with access to a selection of television shows, movies, clips, and other content streamed over the Internet to certain Internet-connected TVs, computers and other devices.

All selections are either Norwegian created, produced or star Norwegian actors, with content changing on a regular basis. Most selections have the option to view with English subtitles.

The service is \$4.99 on a monthly basis or \$3.49 per month when you subscribe for 12 months. Films of Norway offers a free trial 7 day subscription. For more information, [click here](#) visit their website.



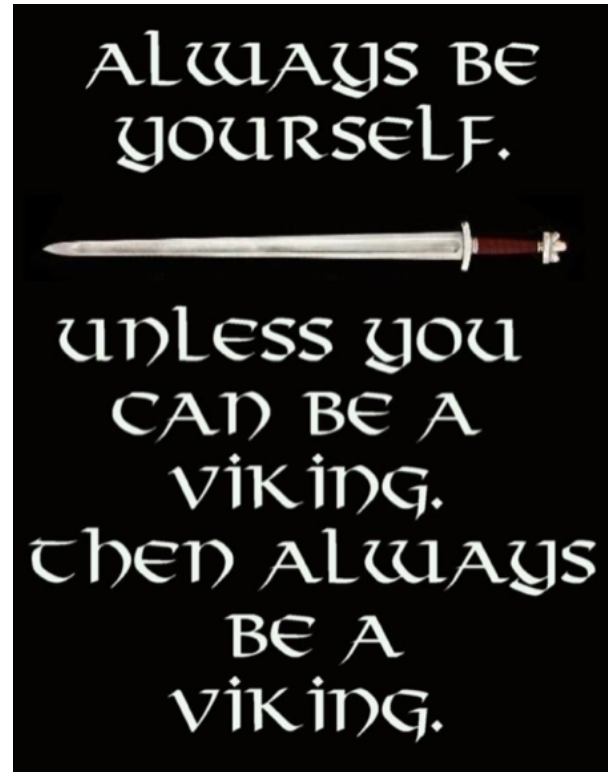
Jorulf Brynstad, passed away Thursday, October 6th in Oak Ridge, TN. A Charter Member and former Trustee of the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge, Jorulf immigrated from Hop, Hordaland, Norway. He is survived by his wife Aase and three children.



What is a Bygdelag?

Bygdelag are organizations comprised of descendants of emigrants from Norway to North America. Every "Lag" seeks to preserve and strengthen bonds with its home district or community-of-origin in Norway.

For additional resources while you conduct your genealogical research please visit <http://www.fellesraad.com>.



• • • • • From the Treasurer

• Our net income for the fiscal year-to-date is \$574. This
• compares to a \$428 loss for the same period last year. The
• major source of income (64%) was from the Taste of
• Scandinavia. The next largest source (26%) was from our share
• of membership dues, while the major expense (78%) was from
• the monthly accruals for the biannual District 5 Conference.

• Respectfully resubmitted,

Trygve Myhre, Treasurer