



JUNE -JULY 2 0 2 0

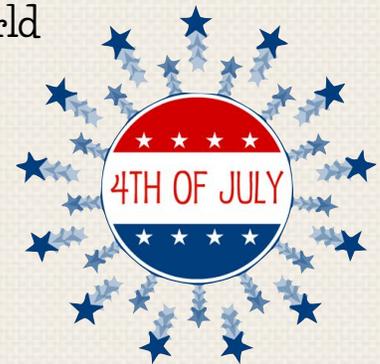
# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

[WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG](http://WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG)

Independence Day 2020 is upon us and while the world is opening up (albeit slowly and in fits and starts!), the virus is still a threat to many of us .

Most activities, including outdoor events have been rescheduled and/ or simply cancelled throughout the rest of the summer.



The Lodge has scheduled our annual "Taste of Scandinavia" for September, but given the current state of affairs, we will need to wait and see what happens regarding serving and preparing foods, as well as the guidelines on public gatherings. Hopefully, things will have quieted down by then and we will be able to resume our monthly gatherings.

Take this time to work on earning a Sons of Norway Sports medal - walking, swimming and biking are all great ways to enjoy the outdoors and practice your social distancing! Contact Lodge Sports Director [Olaf Storaasli](#) who can help you get you started!

Likewise, take this opportunity to work on a cultural skills pin by trying a new Norwegian recipe such as the smörgåstårta or "sandwich cake", or relax and read a book - some literary suggestions for you on the next page!

I hope everyone is staying healthy, and we look forward to gathering soon!

Joleen

**For a relatively small country, Norway has a rich literary tradition. From the plays of Ibsen to the modern crime dramas so beloved in Scandinavia, Norwegians are big readers.**

**Here are five must-read Norwegian books, all of which are available in English.**

Courtesy of Matthew Paul Gunderson at [www.lifeinnorway.net/norwegian-novels-to-read/](http://www.lifeinnorway.net/norwegian-novels-to-read/)

With a population of just 5.5 million, Norway is a relatively small country. That must mean a small pool of great writers, right? Despite its size, Norway still enjoys a strong literary tradition with many famous names, past and present.

Thanks to the likes of Henrik Ibsen, Knut Hamsun, Sigrid Undset and Jo Nesbo Norway is not such an obscure country when it comes to literature. England has Shakespeare, Sweden has Strindberg, Russia has Chekov but Norway has Ibsen, one of the greatest playwrights that ever lived.

### ***Will and Testament* by Vigdis Hjorth**

When I moved back to Norway recently, Vigdis Hjorth's *Will and Testament* was a novel I felt I had to read, mostly based on the amount of publicity the book received in Norway and beyond. But did I want to read it in the dark of winter? No. Did I read it in the dark and sometimes depressing winter months? Yes, I did. You'll see why when I explain the subject matter of the novel.

*Will and Testament* caused something of a literary scandal when it was released in Norway in 2016. The narrative focuses on Bergljot, the protagonist who is involved a family feud over inheritance. Hjorth walks the reader through the love, the hate and the arguments of one suburban Norwegian family.

### ***A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen**

Ok, while it isn't a novel, I couldn't compile a list of Norway's finest without including Henrik Ibsen. And it had to be his most famous play, *A Doll's House*.

I always believe this text is a great way into the wonderful world of the greatest playwright that the world has ever known. Published in 1879, the play revolves around the Nora and her Husband, Torvald. Nora comes to realize that she is nothing more

than 'a plaything' or 'doll' in the charade that is a bourgeois existence in the late nineteenth century.

The narrative drives towards Nora finally finding the courage to speak out and confront her husband. Her decision about her future draws to the play's dramatic and memorable conclusion. [Read more about the life of Henrik Ibsen here.](#)

### ***Naïve. Super* by Erland Loe**

*Naïve. Super* is a profound and funny novel, as so often Erland Loe's books are. The story centres on a man who is searching for the true meaning of existence, of life. Often philosophical, sometimes nostalgic, *Naïve. Super* is one of those novels that forces you to contemplate things you never had previously.

The protagonist's enlightening journey takes him from Norway to New York to visit his brother. His visit to America allows him time to consider all aspects of his life. And by the time he returns home to Norway, he has more of an appreciation for life.

Another book by Loe that is well worth a read is the humorous 2004 novel *Doppler*.

### ***The Snowman* by Jo Nesbø**

How could I write a list of top Norwegian novels to read and not include some Nordic noir – a genre of **dark crime fiction**. Jo Nesbø is most arguably Norway's most prolific crime writer. His books have become international bestsellers.

One of Nesbø's novels that stands out is *The Snowman*. Published 2017, it's the seventh book in the **Harry Hole series**, which again follows the unorthodox detective as he hunts down a serial killer. Hole discovers that a lot of the victims appear to vanish with the first snowfall each winter. Before long, other patterns start to emerge. One of them is the presence of a snowman at each murder scene. While Hole is tracing the footprints of the killer, nicknamed 'the Snowman', he also has his own personal preoccupations and vices to deal with.

This novel is a great read and best enjoyed during a dark and cold of winter, all cosy under a blanket, with a hot chocolate within reaching distance.

### ***The Ice Palace* by Terjei Vesaas**

The 1963 novel *The Ice Palace* by Terjei Vesaas is an elegant little novel. It's a classic in the Norwegian canon, a quick read and one that's well worth your time.

*The Ice Palace* is one of those books that you can read again and again, and each time comprehend something different in the layered writing. That's not to say that it is a confusing novel, just a metaphorical masterpiece.

It's a story about a mysterious little girl called Unn, who has a secret, and her friend Siss, whom she promises to reveal her secret to. But in the initial and tender friendship that develops over a short space of time between the two is suddenly shattered when Unn disappears.

The descriptive nature of this novel is beautiful. You really see the landscape through the delicate words that have been crafted by Vesaas. A Norwegian classic.

If you're into modern Norwegian crime, check out Anne Holt. The former Norwegian Minister of Justice now writes a long-running series of crime novels featuring detective Hanne Wilhelmsen. Here's a [review of 1222](#), released in 2007. Other popular crime authors include Karin Fossum and Gunnar Staalesen.

Happy reading!



### **From the Treasurer:**

Our net loss for fiscal-year-to-date June 2020 was \$436. The only income was from membership dues (\$343) and Children's Museum International Festival (\$57). Total expenses were \$885. The VOTS T-shirts have a \$48 net income at this time.

The chili cook off, installation, and refreshments for lodge event expenses were \$233. Reservations for 15 people at Cumberland County Playhouse cost \$375. (which are being held by the Playhouse for a future production chosen by us) . Additional expense for cards for the Sunshine activities was \$27. We have allocated an additional \$250 for the next District 5 Conference in 2022.

Our current assets are \$4,614 in the Regions checking account and a \$100 SON gift card. Our only liability is \$973 accrual for the 2022 SON district 5 conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre  
Treasurer

# Scandinavian Seafood Smorgastarta Recipe



Smörgåstårta is a savory sandwich cake is frequently featured at a smorgasbord. This layered cake is best made the day before serving.

This may be made using any type of sturdy bread, french, rye or whole wheat. In addition to the suggestions below, layers may be made of chicken, egg or tuna egg salad, or layers of vegetables such as radishes or thinly slices cucumbers or hard boiled eggs.

## Ingredients needed

- 2 8-ounce packages cream cheese (softened; 3 cups)
- 1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 2 cups cooked baby shrimp (aka "bay shrimp" or "fancy shrimp") plus one cup shrimp for garnish
- 2 bunches dill (finely chopped)
- 1/4 cup sweet red pepper (or green, finely chopped)
- 2 avocados
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup red onion (finely chopped)
- 1/2 pound [smoked salmon](#)
- 1 tablespoon capers (roughly chopped)
- 16 slices sandwich-style bread (the bread needs to be fairly firm, with some texture to it).
- 6 tablespoons of softened unsalted butter

Garnish with cucumber slices, lemon slices, halved cherry tomatoes, endive, chopped dill, capers, and caviar or anchovy paste, or edible flowers.

## To make the basic smörgåstårta spread

Whip together the softened cream cheese, mayonnaise, and sour cream until light and creamy. Place in the refrigerator until ready to use.

## To make fillings:

Baby shrimp layer:

Mix together 1 cup of the cream-cheese mixture, 2 cups cooked baby shrimp, 1 tablespoon chopped dill, and chopped sweet pepper.

Avocado layer:

Peel and lightly mash two avocados into a chunky spread. Combine with 1/2 cup cream-cheese mixture, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1/4 cup red onion, and 1 tablespoon chopped dill.

Smoked salmon layer:

Remove skin from salmon (if present) and dice into small pieces. Fold into 1 cup of the cream-cheese mixture; and 1 tablespoon roughly chopped capers.

## To construct the smörgåstårta

Slice the crusts off of bread and arrange four slices in a square pattern on a serving plate and thinly butter this bottom layer. Cover completely with the shrimp spread.

Thinly butter the bottoms of four more bread slices, and place on top of shrimp layer. Thinly butter the tops of the slices. continue with avocado spread, buttered bread and smoked salmon spread. Thinly butter the bottoms of the final four slices.

Tightly cover the smörgåstårta with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. One hour before serving, frost the top and sides of the smörgåstårta with the remaining cream cheese spread.

Decorate with 1 cup cooked baby shrimp (pile it high for effect!), cucumber slices, lemon slices, halved cherry tomatoes, endive, chopped dill, capers, and caviar paste or anchovy paste.

