



EMBLA NYHETER

EMBLA LODGE NO. 2

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY

MARCH 2010 VOL. 23, NO. 1

Editor — Marie Hayden

Photos: Ellen Campbell, Judith Willison

EMBLA CALENDAR

March 4th—Bethlehem Lutheran Church. 5:15 pm, Janet Ruud will teach the mini-Norsk class. 6 pm Pianist, Elda Sulerud, will play for us, including her special arrangement of “Amazing Grace.” Please bring first aid items for the Family Renewal Shelter. Also a baked goods sale donated by current and former delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention to help our budget.

March 9th, 18th & 27th—Cooking Classes at PLU.

April 1st—The Blue Mouse Theatre in Tacoma is featuring a movie from Aalesund, Norway, entitled “Troubled Water.” This is a part of the Sister Cities International Film Festival. Doors open at 6:30, film starts at 7:30, tickets are \$10 each. The Blue Mouse Theatre is located at North 26th & North Proctor.

NOTE!!!

April 8th—Embla meeting is rescheduled because of Maundy Thursday and also the April 1st theatre film. Program for April 8th is Paul Anderson, sharing his woodworking skills.

April 24th—Norwegian Heritage Festival at PLU.

May 6th—Sharing Your Norwegian Objects with Embla.

May 17th—Celebrations in Ballard.

President’s Message



Sissel Barrett, president of Nordlyset, presents Judith, Embla president, with an orchid plant at her installation in January

Thank you for the beautiful installation ceremony – it’s kind of fun to do this twice – I call this my “squeakquel” after the Chipmunk recent movie!

Tonight I will give you a little bit of history of my father’s family in Norway. Ten years ago, Ross and I went to Nordfold and spent 10 days with my family there. My uncle Karl Forsberg told me our history, speaking in Norwegian, of course, with my cousin, Tove, translating for us. We went out to their original cottage – called Graven – and sat in chairs made by my great grandfather and enjoyed coffee and vafflers made by my cousin as the story was told.

In 1867, Karl Forsberg (my great grandfather) came to Norway from Sweden (remember last year I confessed I wasn’t 100% Norwegian!) – he walked the hills and took boats over the lakes. Karl then traveled to Trondelag where he worked for 5 years. At this time, people in Sweden were coming to Norway, as there was even less work there.

Next Karl came to Nordfold where he met my great grandmother, Jakobine Arntzen, the first daughter of Nils and Susanna Arntzen. Jakobine was one of 7 children and she was home on the farm working for her parents. Jakobine’s parents were very religious and they were unhappy with their daughter, and she lost her birthright of inheriting the Arntzen property, which was given to the next living sibling, which was Anne. Sometime after this, Karl and Jakobine were married.

Karl took Jakobine away from her parents’ home and built a home for her on her parents’ property at Graven. The house was a small, falling down house shipped over the fjord and was Jakobine’s first house. Six children were born in this small house, then Karl built a larger house also on the Graven property, with the youngest and

last of their children, Agnes, born in the new home. They lived on the property but did not own it, as Jacobine's sister had Anne inherited the Arntzen farm from their parents and called it Volden Farm.

Jacobine waited for her two children that moved to America to write and to send money so she could buy her parents' farm. In 1926, her daughter, Nilsine (called "Cina") came back to Norway and gave her mother the money to buy the farm and land, who then had realized her unfulfilled birthright of owning her own land. She lived 5 years on her own property and passed away in 1931. It was said she was always a sad person, but through the thoughtfulness of her daughter her lifelong dream came true!

My grandfather, Nergard Forsberg, was the third child of Karl and Jacobine. Times were very bad in Norway, so my grandfather left his homeland and traveled to America, where he changed his name to Nels. He worked on a boat and landed in Montreal, Canada. He crossed the border to the US in 1903, and tried farming in North Dakota. That did not work out too well, so he got on a train and got off in Ridgefield, Washington, which looked so much like his homeland. Here he and my grandmother, Carrie, were married, had a farm and raised eight children – one of whom was my father, Ralph Forsberg. My father passed away in 2003 at the age of 85.

My grandfather, Nels, fished and worked on tug boats in Astoria – a Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish community and also fished in Alaska. He never returned to Norway and did not speak English. My father always told the charming story of his father taking his six sons fishing. He would pick each one up and carry them across the

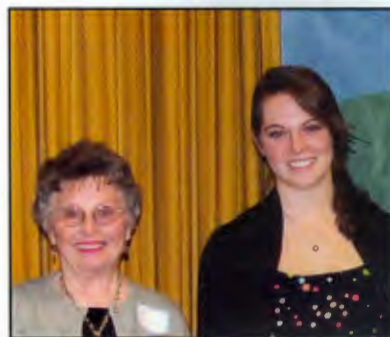
river and set them on the bank to fish. After all of them were across the river, they would stay all day fishing. There is a love of fishing in the Forsberg family – my father was the luckiest sports fisherman you ever saw, and four of his brothers were commercial fisherman.

When we were in Norway, we went out on the Fjord in front of my relative's home, to fish in the middle of the night – it was still light. They used lines only (no fishing poles) and as fast as they dropped their lines, they had a fish on. We went back to their house and ate fish (at least some of us did...).

One comment my cousin, Tove, made was that I was not a very good "Wiking" – Ross, who is not Norwegian (that we know of) – is a better Norwegian than I am, she said!!!!



JoAnn Thompson, president of Norden #2, Sons of Norway, presents Judith with lovely flowers at the Installation.



Joanna Kraft, a student at PLU, thanks the Embla membership for being awarded the Embla Scholarship for 2009. She is here with her grandmother, Paddy Nelson. Her other grandmother, LaVonne Kraft, is an Embla member who lives in Idaho.



January Hostesses for Installation: Left to right: Karen Kunkle, Carmen Knudtsen, Betty Willard, Ines Ottoson and chair, Lisa Ottoson. Also helping out were Heidi Neideigh and Robert Ottoson.



The Installation Program was brought by Philip Wilkinson and his group "TinnFelen Hardanger Fiddle Ensemble."

Philip Wilkinson, leader; Alexandra Berg; Jane Leeson-Jackson; Lori Nicolaus; Marissa Villemain Essad and Nancy Poppe.

Olive A. Rudsdil

January 30, 1921 – January 26, 2010

Olive A. Rudsdil, dear member of Embla Lodge No. 2, passed away on January 26, 2010. Olive leaves behind a son, Victor, two daughters, Candace Callaway and Annette Falk, and four grandchildren. Her daughters and three granddaughters, Amanda Callaway, Maari Falk, and Wendi Falk, are carrying on her family's Scandinavian legacy as members of Embla Lodge. Olive's mother, Ida Apalseth, also was a member of Embla Lodge, serving as Embla president (1953–54) and Grand Lodge president (1958–1960).

Following in her mother's footsteps, Olive became a member of Embla in 1943 and went on to serve our organization as a very active and involved member. She stood out as someone who truly represented the goals and ideals of our order. Olive served as President of Embla Lodge from 1964 through 1965, and like her mother before her, was honored to hold the position of Daughters of Norway Grand Lodge President from 1970 to 1972. She continued to contribute to Embla in many ways, including co-chairing the 1996 GL Convention and chairing the Friday Evening Committee at the 2008 Convention.

Olive's family said she was "the most active person any of her family ever knew." Some of her other activities included singing, being a lifelong and devoted member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, volunteering at a local hospital for many years, and being the driving force behind her church's sponsorship of the Phoenix Housing Network (which provides temporary housing for the homeless).

Our beloved sister Olive will live in our hearts forever!

Olive was captain of the GL Escort Team many long years ago and at



the last convention in 2008 she still fit into her spiffy old Escort Team uniform perfectly, at age 87. Now that, in my mind, was a great accomplishment! She was six years on the GL Board. From 1970 to 1972, Olive served our order as GL President while working full-time and raising three children. Another amazing accomplishment!



Our entertainment for February was delightful accordion music by one of our favorite "Smiling Scandinavians," Toby Hanson, shown with Candace Brown, Cultural Director.



*February Hostesses:
Maren Johnson, Melody Stepp,
Karen Bell and Sarah Callow.*

Our February meeting

started out with our charter being draped in remembrance of our dear member Olive Rudsdil who passed away on January 26th. We also had our Annual Memorial Service for three dear members who died in 2009: Pearl Gustafson, Mary Hudina and Martha Martinsen. What wonderful Embla sisters who will not be forgotten!

Grand Lodge Convention

this year is being held July 22 to 24, in Costa Mesa, California and the theme, "It's a small world – preserve our heritage" sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun! We held our election of delegates and alternates and the following Embla members were selected: Karen Bell, Julie Touchette, Diane Nelson, Marilyn Mahnke, Lisa Ottoson, Sharon Groeneveld, Karen Kunkle and Harriet Swieso. Alternates are: Carol Spencer, Norma Borgford, Elaine Anderson, Delphine Johnson, Sarah Callow and Barbara Pahre. Janet Ruud will be attending as Grand Lodge Chaplain, and Carol Kemp as Grand Lodge Judge. Judith Willison, as Embla's President, also attends representing Embla.

Embla Lodge #2
Daughters of Norway
4010 North 36th
Tacoma WA 98407

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2010

EMBLA OFFICERS

*Top row left to right:
Norma Borgford, Kirsten
Bell, Ann Martin, Carol
Spencer, Chris Engstrom,
Marilyn Mahnke, Sharon
Groeneveld, Joan Anderson
and Candace Brown.*

*Front row left to right:
Diane Nelson, Judie Miller,
Elda Sulerud, Judith
Willison, President; Karen
Bell and Julie Touchette.*



The 34th Annual Norwegian Heritage Festival

will be held at Pacific Lutheran University on April 24th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Embla is in charge of the event this year. Those on the committee this year are: Sissel and Don Barrett, Carol Tower and Ross Willison from Nordlyset; Joann Thompson, from Norden 2, Sons of Norway; Carol Voigt from Western Rosemalers Association, and Marilyn Mahnke, Karen Bell and Judith Willison from Embla. Patricia Hennesy from PLU, is coordinating all our facilities requirements. We will have wonderful entertainment, craft demonstrations, Norwegian items for sale and of course – cookies, Rømmegrøt, open face sandwiches, pea soup, lefse, polse, lumpa, and Vafflers. Plan to bake cookies, Rømmegrøt and sandwiches, sign up to work our booths and **PLAN TO ATTEND!!!**