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EMBLA NYHETER

EMBLA LODGE NO. 2, DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY

Tacoma, Washington

September-October 2014 VOL. 27, NO. 5

Publication Committee:

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Marilyn Mahnke Chris Engstrom

Photo Contributors:

Ellen Campbell

New Grand Lodge Officers Elected

At the recent convention in Minneapolis, the following women were elected to lead our organization or the next two years.

President - Ronna Clymens (Turid Jespersen Lodge #44, Laguna Hills CA)

Vice President - Janna Armbruster (Hulda Garborg Lodge #49, Rainbow CA)

Secretary - Marcia Comer (Ester Moe Lodge #39, Clinton WA)

Treasurer - Chris Engstrom (EMBLA Lodge #2, Tacoma WA)

Financial Secretary - Donita Zblewski (Prillar Guri Lodge #30, Olympia WA)

Four-Year Trustee - Karen Bartos (Elise Wæreskjold Lodge #48, Roseville CA)

Continuing without election:

Judge - Heidi Barcia (Sonja Henie Lodge #29, Reno NV)

Two-Year Trustee - Kristi O'Leary (Solheim Lodge #20, Butte MT)



New officers:

back row: Karen, Chris, Donita, Marcia and Kristi
front row: Heidi, Ronna and Janna



Escort team for Grand Lodge officer installation:
Marilyn Mahnke, Julie Touchette, Janet Ruud,
and Diane Nelson

HIPP HIPP HURRA to two Embla members on their election - Chris Engstrom and Donita Zblewski!! And we are proud of Marilyn Mahnke, who has been appointed Grand Lodge Membership Chair! GRATULERER!



Embla delegates:

back row: Ellen Campbell, Marilyn Mahnke, Janet Ruud,
Julie Touchette, Sarah Callow, and Judy Rogers,
front row: Diane Nelson, Chris Engstrom, Mardy Fairchild

RESULTS OF VOTING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Two proposals passed: one regarding adding "per capita" to an article and another regarding what happens if the IRS revokes a lodge's tax-exempt status. All proposed changes to the constitution which included reference to other Nordic countries failed.

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EMBLA'S FALL MEETINGS

We will kick off our fall activities on September 4 with our annual auction and potluck dinner. Lisa Ottoson will be our live-auction Auctioneer. So bring items for the auction (please - no white elephants), but be ready to purchase some new treasures, too. And invite your family and friends to attend!



Linda Strever

On October 2, Linda Strever will tell stories and share poems from her new book, *Against My Dreams: An Immigrant's Story*. The book is a collection of narrative poetry written in the voice of her grandmother, Gunnhild Olavsdatter Breland, who emigrated from Norway to America in 1913. The poems weave Old Country wisdom with Gunnhild's own unique practicality and hard-won truth.

Linda Strever is a member of Prillar Guri Lodge in Olympia. Her poetry credits include *Adanna*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *CALYX Journal*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Floating Bridge Review*, *Nimrod*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and others. Winner of the Lois Cranston Memorial Poetry Prize, her work has been a finalist for the New Issues Poetry Prize, the Levis Poetry Prize and the Ohio State University Press Award in Poetry. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Brooklyn College. Visit her website at www.lindastrever.com.

By Diane Nelson

Birthdays!

[Four months worth of birthdays this time, since we didn't have room for them in the last issue...]

July

- 2 Karen Lynn
- 7 Trudy Sorensen
- 8 Karen Bellows
- 11 Sharon Groeneveld
- 12 Sigrid Sowell
- 13 June Radich
- 15 Mona Margolis, Carol Voigt
- 16 Norma Borgford
- 17 Clarene Johnson
- 18 Hazel Starkey
- 20 Karen Curtis
- 21 Ilo Grobins, Kristi Maplethorpe
- 24 Judy Turnquist Rogers
- 26 Sue Bentz
- 26 Diane Nelson
- 27 Carla Butcher, Esther Van Noy
- 28 Florence March
- 30 Milaine McKay

August

- 2 Carol Baydo, Cassandra Cridlebaugh
- 7 Pam Hullinger
- 10 Carol Spencer
- 12 Joan Anderson
- 15 Joanne Gray
- 17 Karin Kelley
- 19 Grace Bredeson
- 20 Daniele Brown, Gail Harris
- 21 Joanne Mansfield, Clarice Zornes
- 23 La Vonne Kraft
- 31 Marta Berg

September

- 1 Darlene Wickens
- 10 Eleanor Baker, Rae Ann Catron
- 10 Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss
- 14 Amy Vogel
- 19 Darlene Reynolds, Gerda Shull
- 22 Lisa Evert
- 23 Judie Miller
- 24 Joyce Nelson
- 25 Sarah Allen, Sonja Nyhuis
- 27 Elizabeth Cook
- 28 Lisa Ottoson
- 30 Connie Schmidt

October

- 1 Karen Lease Smith
- 3 Julie Ann Hebert
- 4 Karen Bell
- 5 Alexandria Francher, Karen Kunkle
- 6 Joyce Taute Lamberson
- 16 Mackenzie Gavery
- 17 Delphine Johnson
- 22 Mardy Fairchild, Judith Willison
- 25 Sandra Grondahl, Gail Sawyer
- 26 Elene Emerson
- 28 Abby Wigstrom-Carlson
- 29 Caitlin Whitley

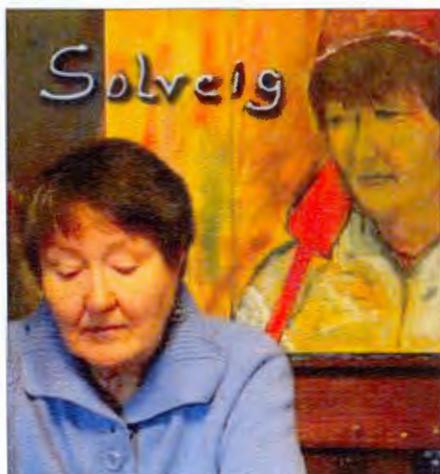
Gratulerer med dagen and wishing you all a year of good health and happiness!

By Marilyn Mahnke

ARTWORK OF SOLVEIG ARNENG JOHNSON

Documentary Film at Convention

By Julie Touchette



Solveig is a Sami-American artist who came from Kirkenes in northern Norway to Duluth, MN in 1949. She loved being near a huge body of water when she moved to Duluth, because the ocean is very much a part of her life. She likes the arctic weather, so she painted in the winter. She brought the light of the arctic to her paintings. Summertime is devoted to spending time with her family.

Before beginning a painting, Solveig architecturally balances her design idea. She uses charcoal squiggles to get started, and the proportion has to be just right. She will keep working on the canvas until she's happy. She has painted lots of outdoor pictures (flowers, trees, deer, fisherman, water, etc.). She also painted portraits. The first one was of her father. The colors she uses in her paintings have to harmonize. The painting doesn't always come out how she imagined it.

Solveig has exhibited her artwork at the state fair and at galleries, but her paintings aren't in a gallery now. She quit college in her junior year and began studying art during World War II. She attended the Oslo Art Academy. Nazis taught the classes. While the war was going on, she and her mother rented a room in Kirkenes. Solveig painted pictures of soldiers during the war between Norway and Russia. She took an art course that introduced her to abstract painting. She said her artwork is abstract and traditional, and she used lots of Sami symbols. She loves circles, because she thinks they are feminine.

Her father didn't want to acknowledge that they were Sami, because the Sami were looked down upon. Her family tried to act very Norwegian. Her maternal grandfather was a reindeer herder. Solveig and her brothers found out through genealogy research that they are 100% Sami. Growing up they talked mostly Finnish, because that's what was taught in school.

Solveig worked cleaning house for a wealthy Norwegian lady. She met her husband Rudy Johnson in 1948 in Oslo. Solveig and Rudy fell in love and married, and they lived with Rudy's mother before coming to America on the ship the Queen Elizabeth. Rudy grew up during the depression. He rode the rails to get jobs. He eventually got a degree in history and worked as a librarian. Late in life Rudy developed Alzheimer's and Solveig took care of him for ten years.

Since she got so much support from her family, Solveig signed her paintings as Solveig Arneng. She was the only girl in a family with four boys, and she was very spoiled. Her father called Solveig his "golden doll." She never saw him again after she came to America, although she saved all the letters that he wrote.

Solveig still lives in Duluth, MN, but she now has macular degeneration in both eyes and no longer sees color, so she doesn't paint anymore. She says that now she's on vacation (from painting). Now her passion is to reach out to people personally where she used to reach out through her paintings. Her words of wisdom are: Compassion, forgiveness, and love. Her daughter Iva paints, too, and she painted a portrait of her mother. Solveig painted as a legacy to her children and grandchildren. Her children all speak Norwegian and English. She took her kids to Norway to visit their Sami relatives.

Solveig attended the showing of this documentary film at convention. Her daughter accompanied her, as did the film maker Kiersten Dunbar Chace. They all answered questions after we watched the film. For more information, go to solveigarnengfilm.com.

Thursday Night Reception

The reception held Thursday night was a festive affair. There were two appetizer stations. One was a whipped potato martini bar (because the potatoes were served in martini glasses), which included various toppings to put on the potatoes. The other station was full of various items like cheese and crackers, pickled vegetables, and a lot more. After eating, there was entertainment by a musical group and a folk dance group who performed traditional songs and folk dancing. A large number of attendees joined in learning one of the dances. It was a fun evening!

By Ellen Campbell

Friday Luncheon

Halfway through our business meeting on Friday we took a break for lunch. As we entered the banquet room the entryway table was decorated with keepsakes from our guest speaker's Norwegian family. We sat down at the beautifully laid tables with tablecloths, cloth napkins, china place settings and lots of silverware, and there was a small gift waiting for each of us from our host lodge sisters. It was a red felt heart-shaped ornament stitched with white thread around the edge and a Daughters of Norway Grand Lodge pin in the middle. Cute! We enjoyed a delicious catered meal, which included Norwegian meatballs and lemon dream torte for dessert.



Pati Kachel

Then we enjoyed our guest speaker Pati Kachel as she presented her program "Ya Sure, I'm a Norwegian Lutheran." Pati is a professional storyteller, and she kept us captivated with her tales! She told stories about growing up in her Norwegian family and attending Lutheran church, and she read poems and sang songs accompanied on the violin by Ann Maren Sather. Pati has a beautiful singing voice. She had us laughing when she sang "Roll out the Lefse" to the tune of "Roll out the Barrel." On the stage was a backdrop of a handmade colorful crazy quilt, a spinning wheel, and aprons with crocheted details at the bottom. She said her grandmother kept their family in stitches in one way or another. Pati wore her grandmother's apron while telling us about all the food her grandmother would preserve. She would say, "We eat what we can, and what we can't we can it." The presentation came to an end, and Pati left us with this message: At your next family get-together please tell stories of your loved ones who are gone so that they will live on in our hearts.

By Julie Touchette

How to Make a Kransekake

This workshop was presented by Lorraine Jasinki from the Pauline Fjelde #51 lodge in Minneapolis, with the help of her daughter. Lorraine has been making Kransekake for many years, often for weddings and other special occasions. She has worked on and perfected her recipe over the years and subsequently gave us many, many tips.



She started her demonstration by showing us how to assemble the cake. She brought already baked rings which she freezes ahead of the time she needs the cake. She showed us how to stack the rings to get it as even as possible and not tilting to one side. She then made the royal icing. Many of us tried squeezing the icing out of the decorator tube to make the loops of frosting that decorate each ring. It is not as easy as it looks for a beginner! But in the end, after it was all assembled, and decorated with tiny flags from the Scandinavian countries and with some blue and red flowers on the top, it looked great. The class then

decided we should not eat it, rather donate it to the silent auction that was to be held that evening to help raise funds for the lodges sponsoring the convention. Lorraine had made a batch of the Kransekake recipe into small individual logs which we all got to taste. They were delicious. I learned so much from this workshop. I think I am brave enough to give it a try. And several of the ladies in the class talked about how well some of their cakes turned out and the next time they were just disasters. So you just have to keep trying until you've practiced enough that they usually turn out well.

We then watched Lorraine make a batch of dough which she let us knead and work with, so we would know what the consistency should feel like. This was such an informative class. I am so glad I chose this class to attend.



By Ellen Campbell



Theodora Cormontan

Past Presidents Breakfast



By Saturday morning everyone was well into "convention mode", enjoying all that the Daughters of Norway Conventions offer, including reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. This is especially true at the breakfast for current and past lodge presidents. We enjoyed a lovely continental breakfast, including fresh fruit, an assortment of fruit juices, muffins, bagels, assorted pastries, and coffee (of course). Our table favor was a adorable hand woven "mug rug" made by one of the members of the sponsoring lodge (Pauline Fjelde #51), using an ancient Norwegian weaving technique called *Krokbragd*. Mine is a beautiful red and black "rug" with white accent. After breakfast we all gathered for the program. And what a program it was!

We were introduced to our guest presenters Michael and Bonnie Jorgensen from St. Peter, Minnesota. Michael (Professor of Music at Gustavus Adolphus College) is a story teller and singer and his wife Bonnie (professional accompanist at Mankato State University and Gustavus Adolphus) is an incredible pianist. Michael and Bonnie chronicled a story about the relatively recent discovery of the music of Norwegian-American composer Theodora Cormontan (1842 to 1922), who was born in Nord Trøndelag and immigrated to America with her father and one of her sisters in 1887. Theodora was partially paralyzed after sustaining a spinal injury while boarding a train not long after arriving in America. Despite this tragedy and other adversities she and her family endured she was still able to compose incredibly joyful and beautiful music. If you are interested in the very interesting story of Theodora Cormontan, please visit the Jorgensens' website at www.JorgensenNotes.com

It was a very enjoyable program, with narration and songs by Michael and piano compositions by Bonnie. It unfortunately ended way too soon because we needed to begin the Saturday Business Meeting.

By Mardy Fairchild



Marilyn, Tina or Lena?, Ann and Janet

Saturday Night Banquet

After cocktails and a lovely dinner the fun began. Was it Tina or Lena? who stopped at our table for a picture with three other Minnesota Women - Janet Ruud, Ann Kolzing (Janet's sister), and Marilyn Mahnke. The show was witty, wild, and wonderful interacting with many members of the audience. A few songs were sung: Sweet Caroline, Sentimental Journey, Roll Out the Lefse and Happy Trails to You. They started out as high school classmates in Canby, MN and are retiring in 2015. "Life is not meant to be a trip to the grave." Uffda What a Ride!!!

By Marilyn Mahnke

Membership Workshop

Nancy Jenkins, D of N Membership Chair, gave us some ideas on how to get new members and retain those who are already members. Here are a few things she suggested:

- Have special events.
- Form relationships with your fellow sisters.
- Plan a meeting and program with everyone in mind.
- Have a Membership Book sign in, and then check to see who is not there and why...
- Look in the phone book for Scandinavian names to send DON information to.

By Marilyn Mahnke

HALLINGDAL ROSEMALING



On Cultural Day at the Daughters of Norway convention I attended the rosemailing class. Our instructor Shirley Evenstad has been rosemailing for 37 years. She demonstrated how to paint "C" and "S" strokes, and then we all tried it on our own on scratch paper. The design we painted is Hallingdal style. We practiced with blue, red, and yellow paint on a pre-printed piece of paper. Then we were brave and painted on a piece of card stock. Shirley then demonstrated how to paint the details and outlines with black paint and a thinner paintbrush. We practiced for a short time and then outlined our own paintings. It will take a lot of practice to paint like Shirley! She's a gold medalist at Vesterheim. We all sure had a fun time painting our own rosemailed cards! by Julie Touchette



Introduction to the Norwegian Language

The Norwegian language class was taught by Marit Ann Barve, who is a PhD student in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She explained the history of the Norwegian language and instructed us on the pronunciation of the Norwegian alphabet, vowels and consonants. We learned many useful cultural and everyday phrases.

There are many dialects in Norway. Marit spoke of *Bokmål* as the old Norwegian that is spoken in Western Norway. *Nynorsk* is the new or modern Norwegian and is spoken in Eastern Norway. She learned the *Nynorsk* dialect. We were given a preference as to which dialect we wished to use. A major difference when speaking *Nynorsk* is that you roll your "Rs" and with *Bokmål* you do not.

It was a fun and interesting class taught by a delightful young woman who thoroughly enjoyed teaching the Norwegian language. Tip: Never say *Mange tusen Takk*. *Mange takk* or *Mange mange takk* is appropriate.

By Diane Nelson



Our Daily Bread



This convention workshop was presented by Karen Kohler, who is the head of the English Department at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She did her graduate research on what you can learn from reading Lutheran church cookbooks. We can learn about the culture of the time, the heritage of the women who wrote the books, and all kinds of other historical and interesting information from cookbooks we have in our homes. Class participants brought church cookbooks, but also brought family cookbooks, Daughters of Norway cookbooks, and others looked through some of her old cookbooks. As we discussed what we could surmise from the pages of these books, we caught a glimpse of the women who made them and used them. We concluded that women were indeed the "keepers of the family."

The cookbooks showed us what recipes were popular at the time they were written and how they had changed over the years. One book had a section on "red jello recipes." Another had "potluck" recipes. Many had sections on "Scandinavian recipes" or "Ethnic recipes." Some had treasured family recipes.

I personally was looking through an old cookbook that I knew was always in our home, but I had never paid much attention to it. It was a copy of the first printing of the Grand Lodge Daughters of Norway Cookbook from 1956, and was dedicated to Valkyrien Lodge #1. Florence Fairchild was GL Treasurer at the time and I believe she was an Embla member. There were eleven lodges at that time that belonged to the GL. As I thumbed through the opening pages, I came to a page with pictures of the Grand Lodge officers at that time. Lo and behold, there was a picture of my mother, Bergit Espedal, who was a Grand Lodge Trustee. I always knew she was a member of the Daughters of Norway lodge in Aberdeen where I grew up, but never knew she was a Grand Lodge officer.

Our class came to the realization that the women who developed these cookbooks and presented to everyone a glimpse of their roles and lives, were often the foundation of their families, both at home and within their churches. They used and re-used the recipes, often leaving remarks beside them. You could see how much they cherished providing for their families. We, in turn, cherish their memories. I understand now why I have collected more cookbooks than I will ever need. I will look at them with "new eyes" and understand that all women who use their cookbooks are offering not only nourishment, but love, caring and concern to those they serve. What a wonderful legacy of hospitality to leave our loved ones.

By Ellen Campbell

Sunday Church Service at *Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirke* (The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church)

The Invocation at the opening of the 2014 Daughters of Norway Convention Business Meeting on Friday, July 18, was given by Pastor Kristin Sundt, Grand Lodge Chaplain (member of Pauline Fjelde #51), and pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis. When I heard there was a Norwegian Lutheran Church close by, I made a point of talking to Pastor Sundt and inquiring if there might be a way I could arrange for a ride to church service on Sunday morning. As it turned out, there were about seven or eight delegates interested in attending church service at the Mindekirke so on Sunday morning, Eileen Bianchi, Janet Ruud, and I got a ride to church service from one of the parishioners at the church. Others got a ride from another parishioner.

Although the service was entirely in Norwegian, the bulletin included an English translation, so I was able to follow the service very easily. Of course, Janet had no problem, being able to speak Norwegian (uffda).

There was a busload of Norwegians, most from Bodø, who also attended church service. After the service we were all served a light lunch which included small sandwiches, coleslaw, fresh cherries, Kringle, lemon cake, and even *Riskrem med rød fruktsaus*. (They just called it a "coffee hour," but it was much more than that!)

Although many foreign language churches converted to English-only services after WWI, there were a few who saw the need to preserve their heritage, especially in their place of worship. The Norwegians were especially eager to have a church service in their native language and they founded Mindekirken in 1922. After several temporary locations, the cornerstone for their present church was laid in 1929.

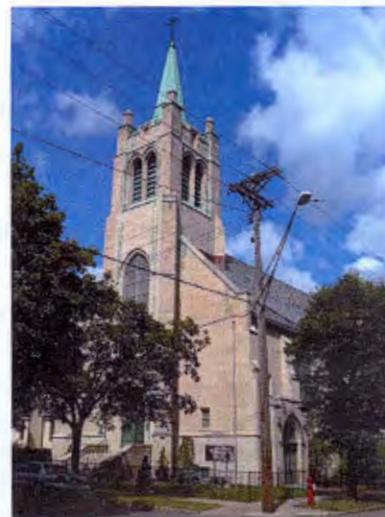
Mindekirken remains true to its original mission as a living church in Norwegian, but has become so much more to those who belong and visit by being a lasting and tangible link to their past and current cultural identity, as well as being a guide in their spiritual lives.

The rectangular-shaped building made of grey Indiana Limestone, is designed after northern Norwegian churches, but having an arch-shaped roof of slate-slab, with the steeple at the south end. Within this steeple are a set of chimes and a church bell. Entering the church at the south entrance, which is also the main entrance, and after passing through the front vestibule into the sanctuary, one's attention is immediately attracted to the beautiful stained glass windows and the altar painting "He Is Risen".

For more information see the Church's web site: www.mindekirken.net

I feel very fortunate that I was able to attend church at such a beautiful place and fortunate too that Pastor Sundt found Kris Gordahl, the very generous woman who was willing to take us from our hotel to church and back!

By Mardy Fairchild



Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirke



Saturday Luncheon and Memorial Service

The Saturday Luncheon on July 19 was a wonderful salad, with artisan rolls and raspberry trifle. There was no program during lunch as we reconvened to the Minnetonka ballroom for the Memorial Service for our deceased members from July 1, 2012, through July 18, 2014. The service was conducted by Pastor Sundt. A candle was lit and a carnation placed in a vase in honor of each of our deceased members. It was a solemn and beautiful service in remembrance of our dear sisters.

By Diane Nelson



Sunshine Report



Please keep the following sisters in your thoughts and prayers during illness.

Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss was hospitalized in Valley General in Renton this summer with pneumonia.

Judy Earle has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. She is getting chemotherapy every three weeks.

We remember two Embla members:

HELEN GARNER

Helen was born in Drammen, Norway on January 19, 1923 and passed away on August 16, 2014, at the age of 91 in Gig Harbor, WA. Helen taught school in Norway before coming to USA in 1946. After raising her children, she became a librarian at Pacific Lutheran University and University of Puget Sound. She loved gardening, traveling, and playing bridge. Helen became a member of Embla on October 7, 2006. Helen's mother Clara (Nielsen) Anderson joined Embla on June 5, 1949 and was Embla president 1970-1971.

SIGRID SOWELL

"Sig" was born on July 12, 1916, in Rosedale, WA and passed away on July 3, 2014, at the age of almost 98 in Tacoma, WA. She majored in PE and Norwegian at UW and received her Master's Degree in ED from CWU. She was 100% Norwegian and taught the language at both Stadium and Lincoln High Schools. She was a delightful, funny, and caring person who celebrated 25 years of membership in Embla this year. She joined on April 6, 1989.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these Embla sisters.

By Marilyn Mahnke

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