



# EMBLA NYHETER

EMBLA LODGE NO. 2, DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY

Tacoma, Washington

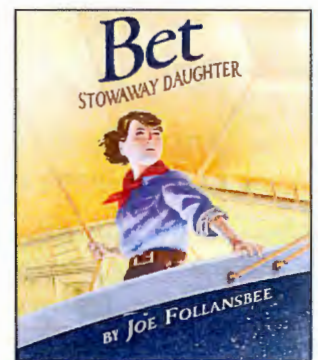
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## May Embla Meeting: Joe Follansbee

Join us this Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, for a program by Joe Follansbee, author of *Bet: Stowaway Daughter*, a book for young adults. The drama begins and ends in Seattle in 1932, during the Great Depression, but most of it takes place on a sailing ship in Alaska. The young protagonist, a thirteen-year-old Norwegian-American girl named Lisbet "Bet" Lindstrom shares her story of adventure, mystery, loyalty, and love in Follansbee's first novel. Bet takes huge risks to uncover evidence that will exonerate her sea captain father, who was convicted and imprisoned for a crime she refuses to believe he committed.



Follansbee's writing career includes countless freelance articles for print and online venues and five previous books, including three on media streaming. But most recently, maritime topics seem to captivate him. His book "Shipbuilders, Sea Captains, and Fishermen: The Story of the Schooner Wawona" is now a priceless treasure for Northwest maritime history fans, because the once beautiful three-masted Wawona ended up being demolished, in spite of the efforts of Follansbee and other preservationists. At least the extensive knowledge he gained enabled him to write detailed and technically correct descriptions of the ship on which young Bet stows away, making the story of her experiences all the more realistic.

Information in this article courtesy of Candace Brown's blog – Good Life Northwest  
<http://goodlifeww.blogspot.com>



### MINI-NORSK LESSON



Do you know the meaning of the following phrase?  
And, do you know when it is most commonly used?

*"Med vennlig hilsen"*

*Med vennlig hilsen* means "With friendly greeting," and it is pronounced "meh venn-lee hill-sen." You will find it as a closing at the end of a letter or note. (It's comparable to using "Sincerely" in English.) It is so common in Norwegian letters that it is often condensed to the letters "mvh". So now, if you get a letter, post card, or an email from a Norwegian relative or friend, and you see "mvh" at the end, you will know what it is!

AND, if you ever see the words *Hilsen fra...* (commonly found on Norwegian souvenir plates, etc.), it means "Greeting from..."

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Gratulerer Med Dagen!* Sisters of Embla Lodge #2!

At our April meeting we celebrated Embla's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday with singing, a lovely buffet including birthday cake, and our program was a private classical music concert held in the sanctuary. The concert was given by Paul Leary, (Barbara Leary's son) on the clarinet, and a pianist and cellist.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> I hope you can join us in the *Syttende Mai* parade in Ballard. There will be lots of flag waving, marching bands and floats to celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day! One can add that the day should be regarded as an expression of thankfulness for freedom, equality and brotherhood (the ideological basis for the constitution), and also on behalf of the circumstances that led up to the constitution. Among Norwegians, the day is referred to simply as *syttende mai* (meaning May Seventeenth), *Nasjonaldagen* (The National Day) or *Grunnlovsdagen* (The Constitution Day), although the latter is less frequent.

By historical coincidence, the Second World War ended in Norway nine days before that year's Constitution Day, on May 8, 1945, when the occupying German forces surrendered.

When Denmark gave Norway to Sweden with the treaty of Kiel, they met and authored a constitution for an independent Norway that was adopted on May 17, 1814 in Eidsvoll, Norway. It took nearly 100 years and much strife before Sweden granted Norway's independence in 1905. Two years later EMBLA was the second lodge formed to honor and protect our heritage.

A noteworthy aspect of the Norwegian Constitution Day is its very non-military nature. All over Norway, children's parades with an abundance of flags form the central elements of the celebration. The children make a lot of noise shouting "Hipp Hipp, Hurra!" singing, blowing whistles and shaking rattles. In addition to waving flags, people typically wear red, white and blue ribbons. Although a long-standing tradition, it has lately become more popular for men, women, and children to wear traditional outfits, called *bunader*.

The longest parade is in Oslo, where some 100,000 people travel to the city center to participate in the main festivities. This is broadcast on TV every year, with comments on costumes, banners etc., together with local reports from celebrations around the country. The massive Oslo parade includes some 100 schools, marching bands, and passes the royal palace where the royal family greets the people from the main balcony of the Royal Palace. The parade concludes with the singing of the national anthem "*Ja, vi elsker dette landet*" (typically verses 1, 7 and 8) and the royal anthem "*Kongesangen*."

One major *Syttende Mai* celebration occurs in Petersburg, Alaska, also known as "Little Norway." The town is a Norwegian settlement and strongly retains its roots. The festival occurs the weekend closest to May 17 and includes a parade, Leikarring dancers, herring toss, Norwegian pastries such as lefse, and even a pack of Vikings and Valkyries. I would love to try the herring toss! Maybe we could include at our Nordic festival on October 13. We are up for another busy year for Embla Lodge!

Sisterly, Karen

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## Daughters of Norway Website

How often do you visit our Daughters of Norway website, [www.daughtersofnorway.org](http://www.daughtersofnorway.org)? You will find a wealth of information there: local lodge news, convention information, photos from previous conventions, the history of our organization, recipes, a really terrific calendar of events, items that other lodges have for sale, genealogy resources, recipes, photo albums of bunads, and links to many other Nordic websites (and much much more)! And there is even more information in the "Members" section! You can find a list of Grand Lodge officers and their contact information, the Minutes of all Board meetings, past issues of the *Døtre av Norge* news magazine, contact information for other lodges, scholarship information, brochures, songs, jokes, and more. You need to have the User ID and Password to go to the Members Section, so if you need those, just contact any of our Embla officers. AND, have you sent a thank you to our website manager, Katie Allen? She has done a terrific job for the past several years, but she is going to retire. We need to show our appreciation! Her contact info is in every issue of the *Døtre av Norge*.

# UPCOMING EMBLA PROGRAMS

## June

You won't want to miss our June 7 meeting, when we will celebrate Sankt Hans (Midsummer) and hear from PLU student Sonja Ruud, who participated in a PLU "Gateway" semester program in Norway in the Fall of 2011. The program, based in Elverum, in the Hedmark region of Norway, was called "Challenges of Contemporary Society," and included classes on Norwegian approaches to conflict mediation, journalism ethics, democracy and development aid. The program concluded by attending the official CNN Interview with the Nobel Peace Prize laureates in Oslo. Sonja was able to travel a fair amount during the semester, both on class trips and on her own to visit relatives, and she enjoyed seeing different parts of Norway.



Sonja in front of Gustav Vigeland's fountain in Frogner Park in Oslo



Sonja found a "ruud" store!

Sonja says, "I had a great time getting to know my Norwegian family and spending time outdoors - hiking, skiing and cycling - and taking in the beautiful landscapes."

Sonja will graduate May 28 with majors in Global Studies and French. In addition to Norway, she has studied in Martinique and Cameroon. She has worked at the PLU Wang Center for International Education for the past four years, and next year, she will be spending a year in Spain teaching English.

## July

Watch for information about our Summer Luncheon (July) in the next issue of the *Nyheter!*

## HÅNDVERKERE (CRAFT GROUP) REPORT

The *Håndverkere* group continues to meet at Chris Engstrom's home on the third Thursday of the month, however, in May there will be no meeting, because that Thursday is *Syttende Mai!*

If you have any crafts you are making at home, please bring them to Chris. The next big event for our crafts will be the DON Convention in Bellingham in July.

Chris has signed Embla up to sell at the Scandinavian Fair in Bellingham on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Nordic Fest on Whidbey Island on November 10th. If you would like to help selling at either, please contact Chris.

The group is always looking for new items - come to a meeting or call Chris. Thanks!

By Chris Engstrom

# Tacoma Sister Cities International Film Festival



On Thursday, March 15, many of our Embla sisters and their families and friends attended the annual Tacoma Sister Cities International Film Festival. The doors of the Blue Mouse Theater in Tacoma's Proctor District opened at 6:00 p.m., and shortly after we were treated to the music of Nordic Exposure. They played many beautiful songs. Then we learned more about Tacoma's sister cities and the film festival. We also listened to a presentation and watched a slide show on the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize. At 7:00 p.m. the Norwegian film "Happy, Happy" began. It's an award-winning comedy/drama by Norwegian filmmaker Anne Sewitsky. The main character in the film was Kaja. Family is the most important thing to her, and she's an eternal optimist despite having a husband who puts her down and doesn't want to spend much time with her. The "perfect couple" moves in next door, and the two families (each family has a young son) begin spending time together playing games, singing in the church choir, etc. Lots of interesting things happen in this movie between the adults and the children. These things seem more shocking and sad than comical. Norway's definition of comedy is definitely different from America's, and this movie is not suitable for children. It really kept everyone's eyes glued to the movie screen though! And it was certainly thought-provoking.

By Julie Touchette



## Sunshine Report



We send healing thoughts to the following members who have been under the weather lately: Carmen Knudtson, Torun Parker, Lisa Ottoson, Karen Lynn and Shirley Peterson. Please keep them in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Also, our sympathy to Pat Koessler, whose husband Don passed away on March 2.

The following Embla members passed away recently.

Frida Tayet Gerla - turned 102 in February. She passed away on March 12, 2012. After graduating from PLU she became a teacher for 42 years. Perhaps one of you was in her class. Frida also taught Sunday School for 75 years. She became a member of Embla on October 7, 1976, with her sister Bergliot Hammerstrom, who is 103 and living in Lakewood.

Iona Dhaese - turned 92 in February. She passed away on March 18, 2012. She had a gift for music and played piano as well as being the Children's Choir director in her church. She wrote many skits which she also directed. You might remember the "Fashion Show" she directed at Embla's 100th Birthday Party. She also directed a skit on medieval Norway for St. Hans Festival in 2001 in which Embla members also participated. For 22 years she ran the Scandinavian Days (as you all know, Embla is now continuing the event as the Nordic Festival). Iona was a great lefse maker. She became a member of Embla on November 7, 1974 and was Embla President for the years 1978-1979.

Agnes "Squeak" Thoreson - turned 90 last August. She passed away on April 2, 2012. Aggie grew up in Wyoming, graduating Valedictorian from high school. She met her husband Thor in Wyoming while he was stationed in the Air Force. When they met, he was introducing Aggie to his friends and called her "Squeak" - you might ask why? We heard it was because he couldn't remember her name! Aggie became a member of Embla on November 17, 1979. She enjoyed making Norwegian crafts and performed with the Leikarring Dance Group.

Please keep the families of these members in your prayers and thoughts during this difficult time.

By Marilyn Mahnke

# MARCH MEETING NOTES



Before our business meeting began we heard a talk from Dr. Donald Mott, the 2011 Greater Tacoma Peace Prize winner. He shared slides of his trip to Norway for the Nobel Peace Prize and also of his work with China Partners Network, which helps children with neuromuscular disorders.

The Norwegian Heritage Festival: Julie Touchette and Melody Stepp represent Embla on the general committee and Chris Engstrom and Diane Nelson are in charge of the Embla members working on crafts and food. All members were encouraged to help out at this event.

Lisa Ottoson and Torun Parker volunteered to be on the Embla Scholarship Committee along with Sharon Groeneveld, Scholarship Chair. The deadline for applications is MAY FIRST. Applications for the Grand Lodge Scholarship are due by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Call Sharon if you need an application form.

The Daughters of Norway Convention 2012 will be held in Bellingham, July 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. All members are encouraged to attend the convention. In addition to paying the registration fee for each delegate, the lodge voted to subsidize each delegate's expenses (\$200).

Joan Anderson reported that 29 members have yet to pay their dues.

# APRIL MEETING NOTES



We began our evening with two entertainments. First, our own Janet Ruud shared with us a wonderful recipe for rum cake. I know we will all be making it soon! It was agreed that she should share this with the members at the Grand Lodge Convention in July. Then we were treated to a wonderful concert by Paul Leary and his trio Helios. The musicians on clarinet, cello and piano played a program of classical composers.

A Resolution of Sympathy was read for three Embla members, who passed away since our last meeting: Iona Dhaese, Frida Gerla and Agnes Thoreson. These sisters will be missed.

The April Hostesses were Julie Touchette, Elene Emerson, Shirley Peterson, Grace Bredeson, Marilyn Carlson and Kari Stackpole. Part of the meal was a beautiful birthday cake in honor of Embla's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday! Happy Birthday, Embla!

Janet Ruud reported that the Grand Lodge Board is proposing a revision of the whole Daughters of Norway Constitution for consideration at the convention. She also mentioned a proposal from the Nellie Gerdrum Lodge (convention host lodge) that would let a limited number of outside vendors sell Scandinavian items at the convention on Cultural Day.

**UPDATE since the April meeting!** The Nordic Festival will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at Edgemont Junior High School in Edgewood. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

By Sharon Groenevald

# SPRING COOKING CLASSES

Our Embla Lodge Spring Norwegian Cooking Classes at PLU began on March 13<sup>th</sup> in a snow storm, with only four braving the weather to attend. But our wonderful Norwegian cooks were there, and Janice Kelly made *Norske kjøttboller med poteter og dillsås*, (Norwegian meatballs with potatoes and dill sauce); Norwegian native Sissel Barrett made her world famous *Rødkal salat* (red cabbage salad); and Judie Miller made her grandmother's *Eple-Rosine Kake* (Apple-raisin cake).



Janice Kelly, Sissel Barrett and Judie Miller



Ellen Campbell Janet Ruud and Carla Teigen

On Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>, Ellen Campbell

demonstrated *Gule ertesuppe* (yellow pea soup), Carla Teigen from Solveig Lodge prepared her delicious *Boller* (rolls), and Janet Ruud demonstrated a delicious Swedish Nut Cake and told some hilarious jokes as well. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Groeneveld made *Lapskaus* (Stew) and Diane Nelson baked *Havremakroner* (oatmeal macaroons).

You don't want to miss these classes - they are fun, informative, and we all enjoy our lunch together.



Tasting the results

If you were unable to attend, you may get the recipes for only \$.25 at the next Embla meeting. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Fall 2012 Cooking Classes: Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. We all hope to see you there!

By Judith Willison

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Year We Were Famous

I have just read the charming book The Year We Were Famous written by Carole Estby Dagg, based on the true story of Helga Estby and her daughter, Clara, and their walk across America. This is the same story told in Bold Spirit written by Linda Hunt, but even if you have read Hunt's book, you will enjoy Carole Estby Dagg's delightful style of writing. Helga and Clara were Carole's great-grandmother and great-aunt and Carole had access to Clara's letters written home. Some of the story you will remember and some of the story will be new. Our Daughters of Norway lodge in Mountain Home, Idaho, is named for Helga Estby.

### Giants in the Earth

Right now I am about half-way through Giants in the Earth by O. E. Rolvaag, recommended to me by our new member Kristi Maplethorpe. Per Hansa and his wife, Beret, and three small children from Nordland, Norway, are part of a small Norwegian settlement just spending their first winter in the Dakotas. This book was originally written in Norwegian - much of it in native dialect - and translated into English. The author (fluent in both Norwegian and English) tried to literally translate the Norwegian idioms which are "well-nigh untranslatable" so that what you read has its true - intended meaning. Giants in the Earth is actually two books - Book I published in Norway in 1924 and Book II one year later, but they are now combined into one book.

By Chris Engstrom

# STEPPING INTO THE WORLD OF ROSEMALING



**Julie Ann Hebert speaking at the Western Rosemalers Meeting**

By attending the Western Rosemalers Association meeting, April 15<sup>th</sup> at PLU, we made a leap into the world of Rosemaling. In attendance were some of the most talented painters in our region, and to us novices, their work is awe inspiring.



**Marilyn Hanson at the Western Rosemalers Meeting taught a workshop at the SCC April 21, 22, and 24**

During her program, Julie Ann Hebert told of the earlier years of the group and had several pieces to display. In her class we have had the opportunity to meet or learn about Lois Clausen, Dena Iverson, Marilyn Hanson, Patricia Bergford and so many others. Seeing the workmanship of these talented artists has been a real boost to us humble beginners.



**Showing off our work: Judy, Dena, Julie Ann, Judy, Sarah and Melody**

By Melody Stepp and Sarah Callow



**Dena Iverson did a workshop March 22-24 at Julie's studio**

## DUES REMINDER

As of publication of this newsletter, 26 Embla members still have not paid their dues (\$30) for 2012. If you are one of them, you will receive a friendly reminder letter from our Financial Secretary, and we sincerely hope that you will send in your dues by June 30<sup>th</sup>, so that your name is not removed from our membership roll! Send to Joan Anderson, 29614 - 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Federal Way WA 98023. Call Joan (253-946-1629) if you have a question about your dues.

Embla sisters making cookies for the Norwegian Heritage Festival



Marilyn Mahnke



Harriet Swieso



Norma Borgford, Mardy Fairchild and Sue Bentz



Chris Engstrom

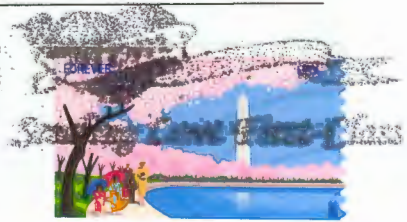


Diane Nelson

MANGE TAKK TO ALL OF OUR BAKERS!

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