

Solskinn Nyhetsbrev

July/August 2025
Newsletter
from Solskinn Lodge



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Celebrating 130 Years

1895-2025



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Solskinn Lodge 6-150

Ord fra Presidenten



We had a wonderful event at Nancy and Rex's home. I have to say I was surprised 24 members showed up on a hot day in June.

Thank you to our chefs, Nancy, Joy and myself and TJ for bringing beer and water. Also thanks to Nancy for her presentation on the Restauration.

It is difficult to believe that 52 people with addition of a baby on the way were able to sail on that small "sloop" for 3 months. Not only were there people, but food, supplies and trunks with the belongings of those heading for a new life.

July 1-4th I had the honor to represent Sons of Norway for the sail away of the ship. I was able to get onboard to represent a check on behalf of Sons of Norway and the Foundation. There will be articles in the Viking, E-post and the District Newsletter, for you to learn more about my official visit. Here I am going to share some of by personal experiences.

I was in contact with Eilert Lunde the president of the Ryfylke Lodge in Stavanger. He set up all the events for us to attend. But in addition he was my tour guide and is now my friend. On the way from the airport we stopped to visit Sverd I fjell (the three swords in the rock). We visited where their lodge holds their meetings. The next day we went to the Maritime museum where there was an exhibit of the Restauration and to the Kings house. Later that day I had dinner with his lodge board and his family. I also had the opportunity to enjoy local fish and, shrimp and fish soup.

I was so honored to meet his family, board and see old friends. What an amazing experience.

Fraternally,
Luella

In this issue

- Page 1 Ord fra Presidenten
Upcoming events
- Page 2 Birthdays, Social Calendar
- Page 3 Book Reviews
July 2025, The Moon Turned to Blood
Aug 2025, A Woman in The Polar Night
- Page 4 A Viking Story
Camp Oldfjell
- Page 5 The Restauration History
- Page 6 Lars Larsen Geilane
- Page 7 Lentil salad with Egg
Norwegian Waffles
- Page 8 Lodge Social, June 28, 2025
- Page 9 Lodge Social, June 28, 2025
Lodge Officers
- Page 10 Back Page. Mailing page

Upcoming Events

September 27

Restauration The Journey - Part2

**Baked Potato Bar
"Potatoes in Norway"**

October 24 - 26

**Southern California
Kretsstevne**



Happy Birthday

Birthdays July 2025 - September 2025

Tone Chaplin	July 1
Donna Leander	July 2
Luella Grangaard	July 15
Stanley Halverson	July 28
Joanne Ibsen	Aug 5
Frida Ann Jorgensen	Aug 14
Joy Rogers	Aug 21
Esther Ethridge	Aug 22
Nancy Madson	Sept 1
Janet Halverson	Sept 2
John Strom	Sept 3
Constance Fleischner	Sept 9
Bobby Hendrix	Sept 12
David Moe	Sept 17
Corinne Murphy	Sept 27



H An official holiday.
Similar to federal holiday.
F Official Flag Day.

Norwegian Flag Days, Holidays and Days of Observance

July 4	Queen Sonja's Birthday (1937)	F
July 20	Crown Prince Haakon's birthday (1973)	F
July 29	Olsok	F
Aug 19	Crown Princess Mette-Marit's birthday (1973)	F
Sept 8	Stortingsvalg Parliament Election	F

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Solskinn Lodge

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Sons of Norway

Website: sofn.org
Facebook: Official Sons of Norway Facebook Group

Sons of Norway, District Six

Website: sofn6.org
Facebook: Sons of Norway District Six

Social Calendar for 2025

Always a Saturday. Social at 11:00 AM

Cost General Cost
 Members \$10.00, Guests \$15.00

SAVE THE DATES

August	Summer Break
September 27	Restauration the Journey - Part 2 Baked Potato Bar "Potatoes in Norway"
October 24-26	Southern California Kretsstevne at Banning Stagecoach KOA Campground & RV Park. The campground is a short distance south of I-10 in Banning, 25 miles west of Palm Springs.
November 22	Celebrating Solskinn Lodge's 35th Anniversary
December 20	Christmas Party

BOOK CLUB

July 2025 Book

The Moon Turned to Blood
by Ruth J Tiger

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, July 17 at 4PM

August 2025 Book

A Woman in The Polar Night
by Christiane Ritter

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, August 21, 4 PM

September 2025 Book

Canceled

Want to join? Send an email to Luella: morongo2@verizon.net

July 2025

Medieval Norway, 1349: Astra, a farmer's daughter, is awaiting a betrothal offer from the manor lord's son, and Kjell, a hunter with a violent past, has come to sell his furs before returning to his hideout. Their worlds both collapse when the first bubonic plague tears their worlds apart and threatens their survival. They each must travel a road of loneliness, fear, and loss. Where will their paths lead, and how will they find hope again? Based on stories passed down in the author's family, *The Moon Turned to Blood* is a story of intrigue, tragedy, and survival.



I am a special-need educator, and my first novel, *The Away Place*, draws from my experiences working with individuals with significant disabilities. I am currently working as the Program Director for an Early Learning Center in the public schools.

Ruth Tiger has been a life long traveler and writer, publishing the book *The Away Place* in 2009 based on her work with individuals with severe disabilities. The idea for *The Moon Turned to Blood* came from a visit with relatives in Norway who told her two compelling family stories that had been passed down from Medieval



times. Years of research and several trips to Norway led her to create a fictionalized story of plague, death, and love. Ruth is a retired speech-language pathologist.

August 2025

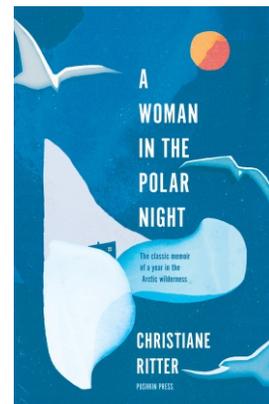
A book about Christiane

There are lots and lots of classics of Polar literature of course, but very few of them, and certainly not until very recent times, have been written by women. Because the women were the ones who stayed at home, looking after the household and worrying about their explorer husbands. In fact, this book has some similarities with that modus operandi, except Christiane is waiting for her husband in the northern part of the Norwegian island of Svalbard, and the household is a two-room hut, shared by them plus a younger hunter, Karl, that is heated by a broken unreliable stove and buried in snow they have to dig themselves out of half the time, and their dinners are constructed of oats and seal meat.

On the seals: yes, there is quite a lot of hunting in this book. I know we all got

a bit concentrated on whether the whale museum in the last book was a hunting museum, but I have to say this is a book with a lot of hunting in it. There's even the worry of having a house-arctic-fox around the place, who will eventually be trapped for his fur, however much Christiane tries to save him (because of who I am and who a lot of my readers are, I will say here that he gets through OK). So there's hunting to make sure they have food, and trapping to get furs to sell to keep themselves going, and that's not going to appeal to everyone – it didn't appeal to me, of course, but I was able to read it as part of a particular – very particular – situation in which it is understandable. I did enjoy more the tales of finding a tiny bit of ancient dried yeast so they could make bread.

Christiane Ritter (born 13 July 1897, in Karlsbad, Czech Republic – died 29 December 2000, in Vienna, Austria) was an Austrian painter and writer. She is best known, in English, for her book *A Woman in the Polar Night* about her stay on Svalbard in 1933. Originally published in 1938, and translated into English in 1954 by Jane Degras, her book is one of the few accounts written from a female perspective detailing life outside civilizations before the 20th century.



Norwegian Viking History

Landnámabók records Geirmund as son of King Hjör and a “dusky woman of the East”—likely a Nenets or Komi noble. Nicknamed Heljarskinn (“skin like Hel’s shadow”), he embraced outsider status. In the 890s he equipped shallow-draft riverboats to raid Bjarmaland (White Sea), where Slavic annals note a “black Northman” taxing ivory hunters.

Archaeologists at his Icelandic estate Geirmundarstaðir uncovered 180 walrus tusk off-cuts and a cache of Arabic dirhams dated 894-903—physical proof of Arctic loot turned global cash. His saga lists eighty húskarlar on payroll, an absurd entourage for rural Iceland but plausible given the hoard.

Geirmund slept in chainmail and boarded windows to thwart night assassins. When he drowned off Skagafjörður (Northern Iceland), divers later recovered his sword sheathed in silver-mounted walrus ivory—the material that built his fortune. Geirmund’s tale upends stereotypes: Vikings weren’t a mono-ethnic horde but a multi-continental network where a “Black Viking” could become Iceland’s richest tycoon.

Bjarmaland (also spelled Bjarmland and Bjarmia) was a territory mentioned in sagas from the Viking Age and in geographical accounts until the 16th century. The term is usually understood to have referred to the southern shores of the White Sea and the basin of the Northern Dvina (Finnish: Vienanjoki) as well as, presumably, to some of the surrounding areas. Today, those territories comprise a part of the Arkhangelsk Oblast of Russia, as well as the Kola Peninsula.

According to the Voyage of Ohthere (c. 890 CE), the Norwegian merchant Ottar (Ohthere) reported to king Alfred the Great that he had sailed for 15 days along the northern coast and then southwards, finally arriving at a great river, probably the Northern Dvina. At the estuary of the river dwelt the Beormas, who unlike the nomadic Sami peoples were sedentary, and their land was rich and populous. Ohthere did not know their language but he said that it resembled the language of the Sami people. The Bjarmians told Ohthere about their country and other countries that bordered it.

Later, several expeditions were undertaken from Norway to Bjarmaland. In 920, Eric Bloodaxe made a Viking expedition, as well as Harald II of Norway and Haakon Magnusson of Norway, in 1090.

Hjorr (Hjör) Halfsson (815-January 878) was a nobleman of the Old Kingdom of Norway and the last petty king of Avaldsnes during the late 9th century AD. In 872 AD, he and his Mongol wife Ljufvina attended King Harald Fairhair's althing at Alrekstad, Norway, where Hjorr was the first nobleman to (albeit politely) object to Harald's ambition of uniting Norway under one crown. He said that he did not wish to be Harald's subject nor his enemy, and that he and his family would seek a greener shore. His son Geirmund Hel-hide participated in the Great Heathen Army's invasion of England.



Camp Oldfjell

The District Six craft camp for adults, held at Camp Norge from September 20 through September 23, is open to all 18-years of age and older. Click here to view the Course Catalog.

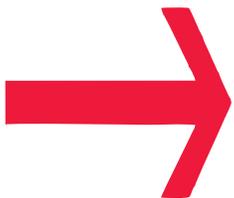
Register here: <https://sofn6.org/camp-oldfjell/>

Savings for RV and Tent Campers

In door accommodations for Camp Oldfjell are \$25.00 per day per person. There is no accommodation fee for RV and Tent Campers.

Popular classes tend to fill fast, the sooner you register, the better chance you have of getting the classes you want. Also, accommodation requests are considered in the order they are received.

You may address question about Camp Oldfjell to:
Bruce Fihe - Cultural Director, District Six, Sons of Norway
culturaldirector@sofn6.org



The Restauration History

Why did Norwegians emigrating to America in 1825? From Nancy's note on June 28, 2025

Smallpox was a significant health threat in Norway during the 18th century.

While data specifically on the 1780 smallpox situation in Norway is limited in the provided search results, it's known that smallpox inoculation was practiced in Norway, as it was in other European countries during this time. A smallpox epidemic occurred in the autumn of 1769 in Denmark-Norway, resulting in the deaths of over 1,000 children.

Data from neighboring Sweden indicates that smallpox was a leading cause of death in the late 18th century, particularly among children, with severe epidemics occurring at least once per decade. This suggests that smallpox was likely a common and potentially devastating disease in Norway as well. Infant mortality rates in Finland and the Arctic parts of Sweden and Norway were high before the 20th century, which can be partially attributed to diseases like smallpox.

Religious prosecution
Inheritance
Farm divisions
Crop Failures
Tithes & Taxes
Bark & Blood



Population in Norway

Year	Pop.
800	80,000
1000	200,000
1500	250,000
1665	440,000
1769	723,618
1801	883,603
1825	1,051,318
1835	1,194,827
1855	1,490,047
1875	1,813,424
1885	1,951,429
1895	2,097,328
1900	2,242,995
1910	2,390,402
2025	5,601,000 est.

<https://crossings.norwegianamerican.com/>

Except for Ireland, no other country contributed a larger percentage of its population to the American immigration between 1825 - 1925 when more than 800,000 left Norway.

In preparation for the 2025 Bicentennial of the ship's voyage, a replica of the Restauration was built at Jørn Flesjå's small wooden shipyard at Finnøy in Ryfylke, Norway. The replica was launched in 2010 and is now used for education and charter excursions in Rogaland. It sailed from Stavanger on July 4, 2025 and planned to arrive in New York Harbor on October 9, 2025. Also in October 2025, Mindekirken in Minneapolis will dedicate a model church ship of the Restauration to hang in the sanctuary.

Our lodge president and International Chair Luella Grangaard was present at the launch on July 4.

Constitution Article 2 [Religion, State Religion] Also called the Jew Article

- (1) All inhabitants of the Realm shall have the right to free exercise of their religion. But...
- (2) The Evangelical-Lutheran religion shall remain the official religion of the State. The inhabitants professing it are bound to bring up their children in the same.

Jesuits, Jews and Monastic orders were not welcome to Norway

2. Den evangelisk-lutterste Religion forbliver Statens offentlige Religion. De Indvaanere, der bekjende sig til den, ere forpligtede til at opdrage sine Børn i samme. Jesuitter og Munkeordener maae ikke taales. **Jøder ere fremdeles udelukkede fra Adgang til Riget.**

Quakers in Norway

The first Quakers in Norway emerged from returning prisoners of war who had been exposed to Quakerism in British prisons during the Napoleonic Wars.

These returning prisoners initiated silent Quaker meetings for worship in Stavanger and Oslo, leading to the formal founding of the Norwegian Society of Friends (Kvekersamfunnet) in 1818.

The Society faced legal challenges and persecution, including issues related to burials, which led to significant emigration of Norwegian Quakers to the United States, particularly to Iowa and other settlements, during the 1820s.

Famous Norwegian

Lars Larsen Geilane

Lars' father was Lars Svensen Helland from Gjesdal and his mother was Maren Einarsdatter from Nedrebø in Bjerkreim. In the spring of 1772, his father was granted a place on the homestead Geilane under Kannik in Stavanger. This homestead was located on the east side of Breiavatnet. Together, the couple had eight children, and Lars Larsen Geilane was the youngest. He was baptized on September 27, 1786.

When his father Lars died in 1804, his mother took over the homestead and ran it until 1807. Lars Larsen then took over the homestead, on the condition that he would provide his mother and his deaf sister Siri with housing and food. In the same year, however, Lars took a job as a carpenter on the brig "Ole Smith Plough".

Geilane was not long in Stavanger before he returned to England. Here he spent a year in service with Margaret Allen, mother of the Quaker missionary William Allen. She had also visited the Norwegians in the prison. Geilane was back in Stavanger again no later than 1816. Some sources claim - probably incorrectly - that Geilane remained in England when most of the prisoners returned home, without taking along his short stay in Stavanger.

The first Quaker congregation was founded on August 29, 1818, at a meeting in Lars' farmhouse in Geilane. Both Lars and Elias Tastad were among the members who registered to join the new congregation. In total, four men and four women were members. Elias Tastad was elected as leader. This was the first religious community in Stavanger outside the state church.

The early Quakers faced many difficulties and were often in conflict with the authorities, partly because they wanted nothing to do with the mainstream church, wanted to use their own rituals, and did not pay clerical taxes.

In 1819, Geilane tried to get carpentry



work in England, but when this was unsuccessful, he returned to Norway.

Once in the United States, Lars remained in New York to sell the sloop and its cargo of iron, while Martha and her daughter traveled on to Kendall, New York. With the sale successfully completed, Lars traveled up the Hudson River to rejoin his family. The winter meant that the canal had frozen over again, so Lars had to skate over forty Norwegian miles before he reached Kendall and could celebrate Christmas with his family.

The following year, in 1826, the Geilane family was able to move to Rochester, New York, and settle there. As a carpenter, Lars was able to take work as a boat builder on the Erie Canal. Together with Ole Johnsen Eide, he was eventually able to start his own shipyard and become a wealthy man. Ole was Martha's half-brother. The family was able to build themselves a large and beautiful house in Rochester.

Many Norwegian immigrants were given temporary lodgings in Martha and Lars' house, before most of them moved on. In a letter to Elias Tastad from Martha Geilane, dated Rochester on October 11, 1837, she asks Tastad to discourage people from emigrating if they cannot

feed themselves "because they all come to us, and we cannot help so many". Lars also wrote a letter to the editor to Stavanger Adresseavis, dated December 15, 1837, emphasizing that it was important for emigrants to have enough money to travel to the United States and to be able to speak English. At one time, the family had twelve people living with them, because language difficulties made it difficult to find them work.

The Geilane family eventually had eight children, all of whom received a good education. One son was named Elias Tastad in 1830.

Geilane died in 1845 in an accident while on his way to New York on a canal boat he was selling. It was said that he fell overboard and drowned or killed himself, but his family did not believe this and believed he had been murdered.

Legacy

At the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first organized emigration to America, in 1975, Alfred Hauge wrote a prologue about Lars Larsen Geilane. This was performed in Bjergsted and begins with: "Step forward, Lars Larsen Geilane, step forward...". The City History Association in Stavanger has erected a memorial plaque for Geilane at Kongsgaten 52, a house located in the old Geilane homestead.

Translated from the Norwegian Wikipedia



Summer Food



Lentil salad with eggs

Make a delicious lentil salad with baked sweet potato, lentils and lots of delicious greens. The creamy egg yolks work as an extra dressing. If you cook more eggs than you need, you'll have prepared the next day's lunch at the same time.

How to do it

1. Cut the sweet potato into small cubes. Drizzle with a little oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast on a baking tray lined with baking paper for 15 minutes, or until tender, at 200°C.

2. Boil eggs for 8 minutes and cool them under cold running water. Peel the eggs and cut them in half.

3. Rinse lentils in a colander and drain well.
4. Cut the onion and radish into thin slices.
5. Add the sweet potato, lentils, red onion, radishes and arugula to a salad.

6. Whisk together balsamic vinegar and olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Serve the lentil salad with eggs and dressing. This dish can be served with wholemeal bread or rolls, which will increase the calorie and nutritional content.

Ingredients

10 oz sweet potato
1 tablespoon neutral oil
1/4 tsp salt
2 eggs
1 can (10 oz) of green lentils
1 red onion
1 bunch of radishes, 8 oz
1/2 pack arugula

Dressing:

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1 clove finely chopped garlic

Norwegian Waffles



Norwegian waffle irons aren't just special because of the heart shapes of the waffles, but they also make a thinner waffle than Belgian waffle irons. So you really will need a Norwegian waffle iron to make authentic Norwegian waffles.

Ingredients

3.5 tbsp butter
2 eggs
1/4 cup sugar
2 and 1/2 cups milk
2 cups flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp cardamom
1 tsp baking powder

Instructions

Melt the butter in a small bowl. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together eggs and sugar. Add half of the milk and all the flour, salt, cardamom, and baking powder. Whisk batter until it's smooth. Add the rest of the milk and the butter to the batter. Whisk again until smooth. Optional: let batter rest for 30 minutes. Heat waffle iron and brush with butter each time before adding the batter. Add about 1 dipper full of batter to the iron and cook until light golden brown.

When waffles are still warm put butter on and sprinkle with sugar, or put on a few slices of brown cheese.

Lodge Social June 28, 2025



Lodge Social June 28, 2025

Luella in Norway

Nancy's Notes

Reasons for Emigration
 1. Economic
 2. Adventure
 3. Amerika Fever
 4. Religious Freedom

Hans Nielsen Hauge
 Religious Reformer
 Women, Youth, Laity
 - Imprisoned
 Lars Larsen Jeilane
 Napoleonic Wars
 British Prison Ships
 Quaker Religion of Peace
 End of War 1814
 1816 1st meeting 30 norwegians

Change laws
 Persecution Fines
 English Quakers
 2 groups - Haugean Luth Quakers
 Cleng Pearson
 1821 - 1824
 Sent back - buy Land



Solskinn Lodge Officers 2025

Board of Directors

President	Luella Grangaard	760-285-9430
Vice President	Terje Berger	760-799-6660
Counselor	Ulf Lokke	760-808-5403
Secretary	Tone Chaplin	760-408-9170
Treasurer	Nancy Madson	760-238-8819

Program Directors

Social Director	Nancy Madson	760-238-8819
Assisting Social Director	Joy Rogers	760-821-3497
Cultural Director	Luella Grangaard	760-285-9430
Sunshine	Joy Rogers	760-821-3497

Support Positions

Book Club	Luella Grangaard	760-285-9430
Editor, Webmaster	Terje Berger	760-799-6660
Photographer	Miriam Hendrix	
Musician	Terje Berger	

Insurance Professional

James Donovan, FIC, CSA	Cell: 760-276-5529
	Office: 760-440-9905
	jdonovaninsure@gmail.com

Solskinn Lodge, #6-150
Terje Berger
52705 Avenida Obregon
La Quinta, CA 92253



Mission Statement

*The mission of
Sons of Norway
is to provide quality insurance
and financial products to our
members, promote and preserve
the heritage and culture of
Norway, to celebrate our
relationship with
other Nordic countries.*