

Solskinn Nyhetsbrev

November 2025 Newsletter
from Solskinn Lodge



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Celebrating 130 Years

1895-2025



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Solskinn Lodge 6-150

Ord fra Presidenten



What a wonderful event, the Southern California Kretsstevne, we participated in to raise funds for Camp Norge. This event is chaired and managed by our own Nancy Madson. The event took place in Banning at the Stagecoach KOA camp ground. Many lodges attended from

Zone 5 and Zone 6 as well as members, Teri and Jason Morken, from Solheim Lodge in Lodi, CA. They gave us an update on what is happening and the history of Camp Norge. We also had a number of our members bring food, do presentations and attend. From Solskinn Lodge we had Nancy Madson, TJ Berger, Ulf Lokke and his brother Tore visiting from Norway, Tone Chaplin, Joy Rogers, Miriam and Bob Hendrix, Corrine Bjerke, Frida Jorgensen and Ronna Clymens. Congratulations to the organizing committee on a great and successful event.

November will be our lodge 35th anniversary. We have 5 charter members of our lodge. I hope you will attend this event. Please get your reservations, food choice and money in soon. Since we are having it at a country club we must confirm reservations and food early. This will be a great event with good food, sharing of old memories and old photos. This event is on **Sunday, November 16 at 1:00, at Desert Princess Country Club not the hotel.** Please note: **different day, time and location.**

Our elections will take place at the November event. Please consider running for an office or encouraging someone new to participate as a director or officer.

Our Christmas dinner will be coming up soon also. Please mark your calendar for our Christmas celebration, December 20 at our usual time and location.

Fraternally,
Luella

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Upcoming Events

**Sunday,
November 16, 2025,
at 1 PM**

**Celebrating
Solskinn Lodge's
35th Anniversary**

Christmas Party

December 20, 2025

Solskinn Nyhetsbrev



Happy Birthday

Birthdays Nov 2025 - Jan 2026

Steven Van Nyhuis	November 19
Diane Elaine Farber	November 20
Carol Ellis	November 24
Kathy Regner	November 29
Jhan Schmitz	December 9
Jack Bjerke	December 21
Corinne Bjerke	December 24
Sammie Lee Lingle	January 10
Terese Olson Hartley	February 11
Donald Lee Lingle	February 16
Ulf Strandjord	February 23
Beryl Waldeland	March 4
Margit Chiriaco Rusche	March 14
Pat Reddick	March 17
Louise Selle	March 26



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

Norwegian Flag Days, Holidays and Days of Observance

December 25	Christmas Day Første Juledag	HF
December 26	Boxing Day Andre Juledag	H
January 1	New Year's Day	HF
January 21	Her Royal Highness Princess Ingrid Alexandra's Birthday	F

Editor for Solskinn Nyheter (Sunshine News)
Terje "TJ" Berger 760.799.6660
Send pictures, ideas, articles to
solskinn150@gmail.com

Solskinn Lodge

Website: solskinn.sofn6.org
Facebook: Solskinn Lodge, Sons of Norway 6-150
Email: Solskinn150@gmail.com

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

General Cost
Members \$10.00, Guests \$15.00

SAVE THE DATES

November 16 Celebrating Solskinn Lodge's
Sunday 35th Anniversary

December 20 Christmas Party

2026 Socials

January	Frokost Genealogy
February	Waffles Norwegian explorers Roald Amundsen and Fridjof Nansen
Mars	Fish (Salmon or Cod) Immigration
April	Fish Soup Viking presentation
May	Hot dogs and ice cream Bring your Norwegian flag

BOOK CLUB

November 2025 Book

Will and Testament a Novel
by Vigdis Hjorth

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 4 PM

December 2025 Book

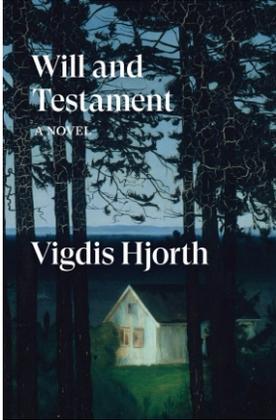
A Slave Tale
by Christian Haugaard

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 4 PM

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

November 2025



Will and Testament (Norwegian: *Arv og miljø*) is an absurdist fiction novel written by Norwegian author Vigdis Hjorth. It was written and published in 2016. In 2019 the novel was translated into English by Charlotte Barslund and published by Verso Books. *Will and Testament* tells the story of Bergljot, a woman living with a history of

sexual assault, as she gets caught up in family drama over an inheritance dispute that reignites childhood trauma. The novel received numerous awards but also received backlash for accused literary ethics violations.

Will and Testament is narrated by Bergljot who recalls the events leading up to and following her father's death through sporadic flashbacks.

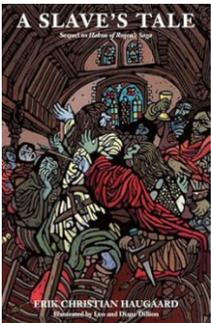


Vigdis Hjorth (born 19 July 1959) is a Norwegian novelist best known for English translations of *Long Live the Post Horn* (2012) and *Will and Testament*. She was longlisted for the National Book Award for Translated Literature in 2019 for *Will and Testament*, which had been recently translated into English. Her novel *Is Mother Dead* (2020), which was translated into English in 2022, was longlisted for the 2023 International Booker Prize. Her 2023 novel *Gjentakelsen* will be published in English as *Repetition* in March 2026.

Hjorth grew up in Oslo, and studied philosophy, literature, and political science. In 1983, she published her first novel, the children's book *Pelle-Ragnar* "I den gule gården", for which she received Norsk kulturråd's debut award. Her first book for an adult audience was *Drama med Hilde* (1987). *Om bare* (2001) is considered by experts as her most important novel.

Hjorth has mentioned Dag Solstad, Bertolt Brecht and Louis-Ferdinand Céline as important literary influences. Hjorth has three children and lives in Asker.

December 2025



A Slave's Tale, the sequel to *Hakon of Rogen's Saga*, is told from the point of view of a slave girl, Helga, who stows away on the longship when Hakon, the young Viking chieftain, sets sail for France on a voyage to return Rark, a freed

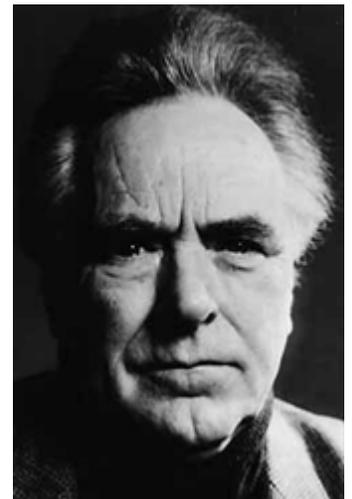
slave, to his homeland. The voyagers' journey is perilous--they narrowly escape capture by an invading fleet, and their ship is severely damaged by a storm. Upon reaching France--where the Vikings are now hated, not feared--only tragedy ensues.

Erik Christian Haugaard (1923-2009) was born in Frederiksberg, Denmark. He came to the United States in 1940 after fleeing the Nazi invasion of Denmark, and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force before the end of World War II. He attended Black Mountain College in North Carolina from 1941 to 1942. He also attended the New School for Social Research in New York City.

In 1963, he published his first book for children and young adults, *Hakon of Rogen's Saga*. The book was well received by readers and critics and was named an American Library Association Notable Book. His literary awards include recognition for his 1978 translation of *The Complete Fairy Tales and Stories of Hans Christian Andersen*. Haugaard married Myrna Seld in 1949 and together they had two children. They later lived in Denmark and Ireland. He died at Ballydehob in County Cork, Ireland.

Work papers of Erik Christian Haugaard are maintained in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi. The collection consists of material received from Erik Haugaard and Houghton Mifflin between 1967 and 1984.

The University of Minnesota collection of Erik Christian Haugaard papers contains production material, consisting of manuscript materials, for nine titles published between 1963 and 1995.



Norwegian History

Romani people in Norway

There are estimated to be around 4,000–10,000 Romani people in Norway. The Romani people were not recognized as one of Norway's five national minorities until the year 1999.

The small Romani minority in Norway suffered greatly during the World War II. After being denied entry to Norway in 1934, Norwegian Romani families had lived in Belgium and France, under strict state surveillance. With the German occupation of these Belgium and France in the year 1940, the majority of these Romani people later ended up in concentration camps in France, and were later sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Only 4 of the 66 Norwegian Romani people sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp had survived.

The Romani community in Norway are culturally and socially part of the Romanisael and northern Vlax Romani subgroups. The population of Romani migrants in Norway is unknown. An increasing number of Romani migrants have come to Norway. The majority have migrated from Romania. Due to previous assimilation policies, the Romani people in Norway are now primarily sedentary. The majority live in Oslo, with a population of more than 600.

Romani women were sterilized in Norway.

The first Romani people arrived to the country in the second half of the 19th century as a part of the second Romani diaspora, the emigration of Romani people from Hungary and Romania in around the year 1850.

The Romani originally arrived in Norway during the 1800s but were banned from the country from the 1920s until 1956.

Romanisael in Norway speak the Scandoromani dialect.

A small number of Romani families had come to Norway from France after 1954.



Vlax Romani varieties are spoken mainly in Southeastern Europe by the Romani people. Vlax Romani can also be referred to as an independent language or as one dialect of the Romani language. Vlax Romani is the second most widely spoken dialect subgroup of the Romani language worldwide, after Balkan Romani.

ROTIPA (Scandoromani)

Scandoromani is a Para-Romani dialect spoken by the Romanisael, a subgroup of the Romani people in Norway (c. 100–150 elderly Scandoromani speakers), and Sweden.

Subforms are referred to as:

The Norwegian Romani language or Traveller Norwegian (tavringsens rakripa, lit. 'Traveller's language'), Norwegian: romani or norsk romani (Norwegian Romani), in Norway (the Romani language of the Norwegian Roma is referred to as romanes in Norwegian);

The Swedish Romani language or Tavringer Romani, Traveller Swedish or Tattare, Swedish: svensk romani (Swedish Romani), in Sweden;

Like Angloromani in Britain and Caló in Spain, Scandoromani draws upon a vocabulary of inflected Romani. Much of the original Romani grammar, however, has been lost to the users, and they now communicate in Swedish or Norwegian grammar.



Little bit of Viking Saga



The appearance of **Halley's Comet in 1066** stands as one of the most iconic intersections between sky and throne. Medieval chroniclers called it the “hairy star,” believing it carried the breath of kings and the downfall of dynasties. The Anglo-Saxons saw doom; the Normans saw destiny. When Harold fell, many whispered that the heavens had chosen sides. The Bayeux Tapestry does more than record history — it records belief, showing how cosmic events could legitimize conquest. To a world still ruled by faith and fear, the comet was no rock of ice and dust — it was the handwriting of God in the night sky.

Hallgerd Höskuldsdóttir, known as Langbrók — “Long-Legs” — appears in the Njál's Saga, Iceland's greatest epic. She was famed for her beauty, intelligence, and temper — a woman who matched wits with men in a world that feared women's will.

Her story begins with marriages that end in blood. Hallgerd's sharp words and unwillingness to forgive drove her husbands into duels, and her alliances tore families apart. The feud reached its height when her final husband, Gunnar of Hlíðarendi, refused to slap her after an insult — saying, “I shall not strike her for the sake of her beauty.” Yet when he later faced death, Hallgerd refused him a lock of her hair to string his broken bow. He died beneath his own roof — betrayed by pride and vengeance.

To medieval audiences, Hallgerd was both villain and victim — a woman punished for power. To modern eyes, she's something else: the first Icelandic woman written as a force equal to men — for love, rage, and ruin.



Vikings were more than raiders—they were elite navigators of wind, tide, and sky. One lesser-known but plausible tactic from the sagas involves Viking warbands executing raids under total darkness—moonless nights with no sail raised, using only oars, star charts, and oceanic feel to navigate undetected.

These tactics appear in sagas like Orkneyinga saga and are supported by modern reconstructions of Viking navigation. Warriors trained to read the swell pattern of the sea, note the position of stars like Polaris, and even follow migratory seabirds or whale paths to find land.

During one such stealth raid—believed to have occurred in Ireland—Vikings reportedly entered the harbor silently before dawn, with sentries unaware until the longships scraped the shallows. There was no time to raise a cry. Fires erupted within minutes. It was over before it began.

Modern scholars believe such nighttime strikes—combined with long-range mobility—gave Viking fleets an edge no medieval army could match. The sea was their domain, but the night was their weapon.

Book Club Books

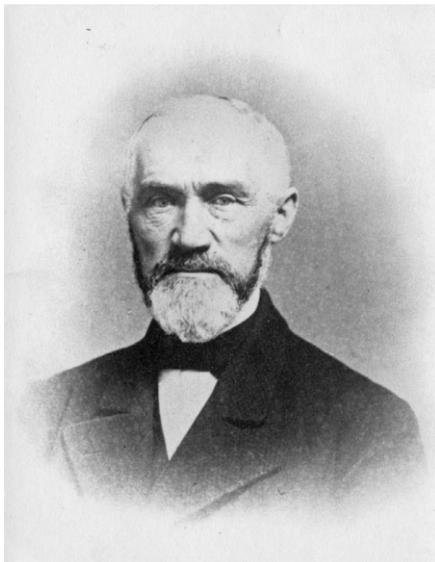
for 2026

January	The Reindeer of Chinese Gardens by Barbara Sjöholm
February	The Little Drummer by Kjell Ola Dahl
March	Muus vs Muus by Bodil Stenseth
April	The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven by Nathaniel Miller
May	Blind Goddess by Hanne Wilhelmsen, Book 1

Famous Norwegian

Peder Sather

(born September 25, 1810 – died December 28, 1886) was a Norwegian-born American banker who is best known for his legacy to the University of California, Berkeley. His widow, Jane K. Sather, donated money in his memory for two of the school's most famous landmarks. Sather Gate and Sather Tower, which is more commonly known as The Campanile, are both California Historical Landmarks which are registered National Register of Historic Place



Peder Sather married a second time, in 1882, the widow Jane Krom Read (1824-1911). Four years later, after her husband's death she donated money for the construction of Sather Gate and Sather Tower at UC Berkeley, both of which are named in his honor. She also created an endowment for the Sather Professorship of Classical Literature at the University. Sather's banking firm continued until being acquired by the Bank of California in 1910.

Peder Pedersen Sæther was born in Odalen, a traditional district in the county of Hedmark in eastern Norway, on the farm Nordstun Nedre Sæther (in what is now Sør-Odal Municipality). His parents were Peder Larsen and Mari Kristoffersdatter. Sæther was a fisherman before emigrating to New York City in about 1832. He entered the banking house of Drexel & Co. in Philadelphia and remained there until 1850.

Philadelphia banker Francis Martin Drexel offered to assist Peder Sather and his business partner Edward W. Church in establishing a bank in San Francisco. In 1850, Sather and Church moved to San Francisco and established the banking firm of Drexel, Sather & Church. From 1863, Peder Sather became the sole owner of the bank. He went on to become one of California's richest men. Upon his death, the Sather and Church banking firm was absorbed by the Bank of California. Peder Sather was a trustee of the College of California, which would later become the University of California, Berkeley.



We've been following the sailors of the modern Restauration across the Atlantic, taking a journey through 200 years of Norwegian migration. The next stop for the crew will be Wilmington, North Carolina.

Before the ship is welcomed in New York by Sons of Norway members, the public and Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, let's take a look at the most recent entry in our virtual logbook, that highlights a musical about a fictionalized crossing of Norwegian migrants, called Drømmen om Amerika – The American Dream.

A virtual Voyage with history at
<https://www.sofn.com/virtual-voyage/>



**Replica of Restauration
Model job by Ulf Løkke**

Berrie Food

Local berries are popular in Norway. Beside Strawberry and Raspberry, here are samples of other berries.

Red Currant berries are best in a bowl, sprinkled with sugar and vanilla sauce.

Black Currant is best as juice or jam.

Gooseberry is best as jam.

RIPS (Red Currant)

The redcurrant or red currant (*Ribes rubrum*) is a member of the genus *Ribes* in the family Grossulariaceae. It is native to western Europe. The species is widely cultivated and has escaped into the wild in many regions.



STIKKELSBÆR (Gooseberry)

Ribes uva-crispa, known as gooseberry or European gooseberry, is an Old World species of flowering shrub in the currant family, Grossulariaceae. Gooseberry bushes produce an edible fruit, for which it has been cultivated.

The gooseberry is a straggling bush growing to 1.5 metres (5 feet) in height and width, the branches being thickly set with sharp spines, standing out singly or in diverging tufts of two or three from the bases of the short spurs or lateral leaf shoots. The bell-shaped flowers are produced, singly or in pairs, from the groups of rounded, deeply crenated 3 or 5 lobed leaves.

The fruits are berries, smaller in wild gooseberries than the cultivated varieties, but often of good flavor. The berries are usually green, but there are red, purple, yellow, and white variants.



SOLBÆR (Black Currant)

The blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum*), black currant or cassis is a deciduous shrub in the family Grossulariaceae grown for its edible berries. It is native to temperate parts of central and northern Europe and northern Asia, where it prefers damp fertile soils. It is widely cultivated both commercially and domestically.

It is winter hardy, but cold weather at flowering time during the spring may reduce the size of the crop. Bunches of small, glossy black fruit develop along the stems in the summer and can be harvested by hand or by machine.

The raw fruit is particularly rich in vitamin C and polyphenols. Blackcurrants can be eaten raw but are usually cooked in sweet or savoury dishes. They are used to make jams, preserves, and syrups and are grown commercially for the juice market. The fruit is also used to make alcoholic beverages and dyes.



Southern California Kretsstevne, October 24 - October 26



Southern California Kretsstevne, October 24 - October 26



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.*