

Solskinn Nyhetsbrev

June 2025 Newsletter from Solskinn Lodge



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Solskinn Lodge 6-150

Ord fra Presidenten



Summer is coming fast.

Thank you to all who attended our May 17th celebration. Thank you to our members who brought food to the event. We had a nice presentation on the May 17th celebration by Nancy and TJ, who provided the visuals. We have an event planned for June with the specifics coming soon. The board will assemble a schedule for next season, which is coming soon. We focus on some of the meals we all enjoy with some new topics for our program, including our lodge's 35th anniversary celebration this coming November.

Summer is a great time to do some genealogy research. Suppose you get stuck, contact TJ. He is an expert in family research. Maybe try a small Hardanger project. Contact Nancy; she can get you started. Maybe read a Norwegian, Nordic, or North American-Norwegian author. Miraim or I can help you select a book. Or try a simple Norwegian recipe. Check the recipe box on the Sons of Norway website or contact Nancy or Joy for suggestions. Even a simple cucumber salad known as "agurksalat" would be refreshing to enjoy on a hot desert evening.

I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Fraternally,
Luella

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June 28

**Cold Food Lunch
at the home of Nancy and Rex
28351 Via las Palmas
in Thousand Palms**

October 24 - 26

**Southern California
Kretsstevne**



Happy Birthday

Birthdays May 2025 - July 2025

Lise Fleming	June 1
Steinar Johansen	June 6
Lorna Albertsen	June 8
Anders Hanson	June 12
Emel Mehlum	June 15
Ronna Clymens	June 19
Thordis Moe	June 25
Rex Seawright	June 25
Miriam Hendrix	June 26

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
Sharon Cohen	Aug 27



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

Norwegian Flag Days, Holidays and Days of Observance

June 7	Pentecostal Eve (Pinseaften)	
June 7	Dissolution of the union	F
June 8	Pentecostal Day (Pinsedag)	HF
June 9	Pentecostal Monday	H
June 23	St.John's Eve (St.Hans Aften)	
June 24	St.John's Day (St.Hans Day)	
July 4	Queen Sonja's Birthday (1937)	F
July 20	Crown Prince Haakon's birthday (1973)	F
July 29	Olsok (see page 4)	F
Aug 19	Crown Princess Mette-Marit's birthday (1973)	F

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Solskinn Lodge

Website: solskinn.sofn6.org
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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

June 28	Cold Food Lunch in Thousand Palms
August	Summer Break
September 27	Baked Potato Bar "Potatoes in Norway"
October	see below
November 22	Celebrating Solskinn Lodge's 35th Anniversary
December 20	Christmas Party
Oct 24-26	Southern California Kretssteve at Banning Stagecoach KOA Campground & RV Park. The campground is a short distance south of I-10 in Banning, 25 miles west of Palm Spring.

BOOK CLUB

June 2025 Book

The Axe
by Sigrid Undset

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, June 19 at 4PM

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 Christine Ritter

ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, August 21, 4 PM

September 2025 Book

Canceled

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

June 2025

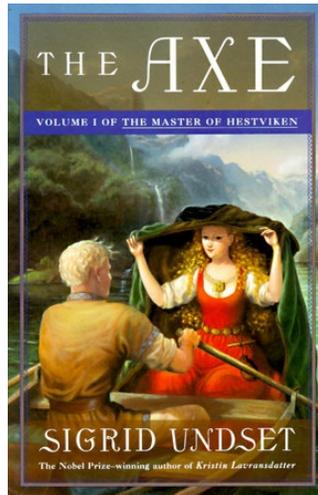
The Master of Hestviken is a tetralogy about medieval Norway written by Sigrid Undset. It was originally published in Norwegian as two volumes *Olav Audunssøn i Hestviken* and *Olav Audunssøn og Hans Børn*, from 1925 to 1927. Hestviken is a fictional medieval farm on the East side of the Oslo fjord. The series is set partly during the Civil war era in Norway, in which period the Bagler faction frequently established themselves in the nearby Viken area. It's inspired by the summer cottages located in Hvitsten, near Drobak. In the 1920s, Sigrid Undset resided there for a brief period.

Written in the direct aftermath of Undset's conversion to the Catholic Church, the tetralogy presents in a clearly favorable light the Medieval Church with its institutions and rituals; the saintly Bishop

Thorfinn of Hamar as well as nearly all priests and monks appearing in the four books are positive characters. The series' central theme is also preeminently Catholic: the tragedy of Olav, a deeply pious and upright man, who

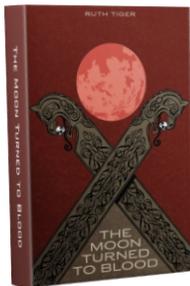
feels himself damned and cut off from God because of his unconfessed sin - having secretly killed his wife's lover. Yet he cannot bring himself to confess that deed, as doing so would expose his beloved wife's infidelity and destroy her good name, as well as exposing the illegitimacy of her son. Commentator Margaret Wide noted that "A modern reader is likely to feel that Olav judges himself far more harshly than he deserves - and it can be surmised that so would have a reader of Olav's own time. And surely a God as merciful as Christianity conceives Him to be would forgive Olav for a sin committed for the most understandable and honorable of motives, and expiated many times over."

Sigrid Undset's biography is found in Newsletter for May 2025



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.

Early in the morning, before work each day, I write. My new novel, "Signs of Life," is a story of love and survival during the Great Pestilence, the plague that struck Europe during the 14th century. While traveling to Norway and exploring my Norwegian heritage, I was told a family story about a young woman from that period who intrigued me. The story stuck with me, becoming a short story and now a full novel. "Signs of Life" is based on this family lore, the tale of a



young woman caught in the plague's devastating aftermath, along with all the pain and courage of those who lived through this turbulent time.

A Restoration history

Kendall is a town in Orleans County, just west of Hamlin in Monroe County, in New York State, United States. The 2010 census recorded a population of 2,724.

The first settlers arrived circa 1812. The Erie Canal opened in 1825, creating a ready market for wheat and lumber and making the way easier for more settlement. The first Norwegian immigrant community in the United States began at the Kendall Settlement in 1825. They settled in a body along the lakeshore in the northeast part of town. Norwegian-American pioneer leader Cleng Peerson subsequently founded a settlement in the Fox River Valley of Illinois in 1834, near the community of Norway, Illinois.

OLSOK

Olsok (lit. 'Olaf's Wake' or 'Olaf's Vigil') is a national day of celebration on July 29 in the Nordic countries of Norway and the Faroe Islands and also in the provinces of Härjedalen in Sweden and Savonlinna in Finland.

King Olaf II Haraldsson of Norway is remembered as Rex Perpetuus Norvegiae, the Eternal King of Norway. July 29 is traditionally the date of King Olaf's death at the Battle of Stiklestad, north of Nidaros (Trondheim), Norway, in 1030. King Olaf's martyrdom at Stiklestad appears to have contributed decisively to establishing Christianity throughout Norway. King Olaf was canonized in Nidaros Cathedral on 3 August 1031 following the efforts principally of Bishop Grimketel.

Until the Lutheran Reformation in the 16th century, Olsok was a major church feast in the Nordic countries. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw a renewed interest in Olsok, particularly in Norway. The Roman Catholic Church in Norway recognizes Olsok as a major feast nationwide. In contrast, the Lutheran Church of Norway recognizes the day principally in Nidaros Cathedral and other churches. Starting with the 900th anniversary of Stiklestad in 1930, July 29 has been an official flag day (Olsokdagen) in Norway.



Saint Olaf of Norway, by Pius Welonsky (1893) in Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso, Rome, Italy

In the Faroe Islands, Ólavssøka is also recognized on July 29. Ólavssøka is the biggest summer festival in the Faroe Islands and is commonly celebrated over several days. This tradition dates from when the islands were part of Norway during the Middle Ages. Within Sweden Olofsmässa ("Olaf's Mass") is recognized principally within the former Norwegian province of Härjedalen.

Within Finland, Pyhän Olavin Päivä (St. Olaf's Day) is celebrated principally at Savonlinna, site of Olavinlinna ("Olof's Castle"), since St. Olaf is the patron saint of the site.

Grimketel (died 1047) was an English clergyman who went to Norway as a missionary and was partly responsible for converting Norway to Christianity. He initiated the beatification of Saint Olaf. On his return to England, he became Bishop of Selsey and, for a time, Bishop of Elmham. He was accused, by some, of being guilty of simony.

Christmas Quilt

Tickets are \$1 each.

The drawing will be held at the Christmas Social.

The quilt was made by Luella Grangaard



Norwegian History

Harald Hårdråde

Harald Sigurdsson (born c. 1015 – died 25 September 1066), also known as Harald III of Norway and given the epithet *Hardrada* in the [sagas](#), was [King of Norway](#) from 1046 to 1066.

He unsuccessfully claimed the [Danish throne](#) until 1064 and the [English throne](#) in 1066. Before becoming king, Harald spent 15 years in exile as a mercenary and military commander in [Kievan Rus'](#) and chief of the [Varangian Guard](#) in the [Byzantine Empire](#). In his [chronicle](#), [Adam of Bremen](#) called him the "*Thunderbolt of the North*".^[3]

In 1030, the fifteen-year-old Harald fought in the [Battle of Stiklestad](#) alongside his half-brother [Olaf Haraldsson](#). Olaf sought to reclaim the Norwegian throne, which he had lost to Danish king [Cnut](#) two years previously. Olaf and Harald were defeated by forces loyal to Cnut, and Harald was forced into exile to Kievan Rus'. Thereafter, he was in the army of Grand Prince [Yaroslav the Wise](#), becoming captain, until he moved on to [Constantinople](#) with his companions around 1034. In Constantinople, he rose quickly to

become the commander of the Byzantine Varangian Guard, seeing action on the [Mediterranean Sea](#), in [Asia Minor](#), Sicily, possibly in the [Holy Land](#), [Bulgaria](#), and in Constantinople itself, where he became involved in the imperial dynastic disputes. Harald amassed wealth in the Byzantine Empire, which he shipped to Yaroslav in Kievan Rus' for safekeeping. In 1042, he left the Byzantine Empire, returning to Kievan Rus' to prepare to reclaim the Norwegian throne. In his absence, the Norwegian throne had been restored from the Danes to Olaf's illegitimate son, [Magnus the Good](#).

In 1046, Harald joined forces with Magnus's rival in Denmark, the [pretender Sweyn II of Denmark](#), raiding the Danish coast. Magnus, unwilling to fight his uncle, agreed to share the kingship with Harald, since Harald would share his wealth with him. The co-rule ended abruptly the next year as Magnus died: Harald became the sole ruler of Norway. Domestically, Harald crushed opposition and outlined the unification of Norway. Harald's reign was one of relative peace and stability,

and he instituted a coin economy and foreign trade. Seeking to restore Cnut's "[North Sea Empire](#)," Harald claimed the Danish throne and spent nearly every year until 1064 raiding the Danish coast and fighting his former ally, Sweyn. Although the campaigns were successful, he was never able to conquer Denmark.

Not long after Harald had renounced his claim to Denmark, the former [Earl of Northumbria](#), [Tostig Godwinson](#), brother of English king [Harold Godwinson](#), pledged his allegiance to Harald, inviting him to claim the English throne. Harald assented, invading northern England with 10,000 troops and 300 longships in September 1066, defeating the English regional forces of Northumbria and Mercia in the [Battle of Fulford](#) near [York](#) on 20 September. Harald was defeated and killed in a surprise attack by Harold Godwinson's forces in the [Battle of Stamford Bridge](#) on 25 September, which wiped out his army. Historians often consider Harald's death the end of the [Viking Age](#).

His first wife:

Elisiv of Kiev (born c. 1025 – died c. 1067) was a princess of Kiev and the queen consort of Harald III of Norway.

Elisaveta was the daughter of the grand prince of Kiev, Yaroslav the Wise, and his consort Ingegerd Olofsdotter of Sweden, the daughter of Olof Skötkonung and Estrid of the Obotrites. Elisaveta was the sister of Anastasia, who married the future Andrew I of Hungary, Anne who married Henry I of France, and possibly Agatha, wife of Edward the Exile.

His Second wife:

Tora Torbergsdatter (born 1025 – year of death unknown: 1066) was a Norwegian royal consort. She was the mother of two kings of Norway.

Tora Torbergsdatter was born on Giske in now Møre og Romsdal county in Norway. She belonged to the Giskeætten, a powerful family from Giske in Sunnmøre. She was the daughter of Torberg Arnesson of Giske (ca. 1000–1050) and his wife Ragnhild Erlingsdatter (992), maternal granddaughter of Erling Skjalgsson and his wife Astrid

Eiriksdatter, and paternal niece of Finn Arnesson and Kalv Arnesson.

Tora married King Harald Hardrada of Norway in 1048. Politics and alliance-building can largely explain the marriage. The chiefs of the Giske family played a key role in Norwegian power politics. The relationship between Tora and Harald Hardrada created strong ties with the royal family. Tora became the mother of both King Olav Kyrre and King Magnus II Haraldsson.

Famous Norwegian

Henrik Arnold Thaulow Wergeland (17 June 1808 – 12 July 1845) was a Norwegian writer, most celebrated for his poetry but also a prolific playwright, polemicist, historian, and linguist. He is often described as a leading pioneer in developing a distinctly Norwegian literary heritage and modern Norwegian culture.

Though Wergeland only lived to be 37, his pursuits covered literature, theology, history, contemporary politics, social issues, and science. His views were controversial in his time, and his literary style was variously denounced as subversive.

He was the oldest son of Nicolai Wergeland (1780–1848), who had been a member of the constituent assembly at Eidsvoll in 1814. The father was himself pastor of Eidsvold, and the poet was thus brought up in the very holy of holies of Norwegian patriotism. Wergeland's younger sister was Camilla Collett.

Henrik Wergeland entered the Royal Frederick University in 1825 to study for the church and graduated in 1829. That year, he became a symbol of the fight for the celebration of the constitution on 17 May, which was later to become the Norwegian National Day. He became a public hero after the infamous "battle of the Square" in Christiania, which came to pass because any celebration of the national day was forbidden by royal decree. Wergeland was, of course, present and became renowned for standing up against the local governors. Later, he became the first to give a public address on behalf of the day, and thus he was given credit as the one who "initiated the day." His grave and statues are decorated by students and school children every year. Notably, the Jewish community of Oslo pays their respects at his grave on 17 May, in appreciation of his successful efforts to allow Jews into Norway.

In 1829 he published a volume of lyrical and patriotic poems, *Digte*,



første Ring (poems, first circle), which attracted the liveliest attention to his name. In this book, we find his ideal love, the heavenly Stella, described as a Wergeland equivalent to Beatrice in Dante's poem *Divina Commedia*. Stella is based on four girls Wergeland fell in love with (two of whom he wooed) and never got close to. Stella's character also inspired him to undertake the great epic *Skabelsen, Mennesket og Messias* (Creation, Man and the Messiah). It was remodeled in 1845 as *Mennesket* (Man). In these works, Wergeland shows the history of Man and God's plan for humanity. The works are platonic-romantic, and is also based on ideals from the enlightenment and the French Revolution. Thus, he criticizes abuse of power, and notably evil priests and their manipulation of people's minds.

At the age of twenty-one, he became a power in literature, and his enthusiastic preaching of the doctrines of the French July Revolution of 1830 made him a force in politics also. Meanwhile, he was tireless in his efforts to advance the national cause. He established popular libraries and tried to alleviate the widespread poverty of the Norwegian peasantry. He preached the simple life, denounced foreign luxuries, and set an example by wearing Norwegian homespun clothes. He strove for enlightenment and greater understanding of the

constitutional rights his people had been given. Thus, he became increasingly popular among ordinary people.

Recently, his early poetry has been reassessed and more favorably recognized. Wergeland's poetry can be regarded as strangely modernistic yet contains elements of traditional Norwegian Eddic verse. In the pattern of the classical 6th-11th century Norse poets, his intellectual forefathers, his writing is evocative and intentionally veiled, featuring elaborate kennings that require extensive context to be deciphered. From early on, he wrote poems in free style, without rhymes or metre. His use of metaphors is vivid and complex, and many poems are long. He challenges the reader to contemplate his poems repeatedly, as do his contemporaries Byron, Shelley, and even Shakespeare. The free form and multiple interpretations especially offended Welhaven, who held an aesthetic view of poetry as appropriately concentrated on one topic at a time.

Wergeland had a hot temper and fought willingly for social justice. At the time, poverty was normal in the rural areas, and serfdom was common. He was generally suspicious of lawyers because of their attitude towards farmers, who were considered inferior, and he often fought lawyers and jurists in the courts, who could legally take hold of small homesteads. Wergeland made great enemies for this, and in one case, the judicial problem lasted for years and nearly left him bankrupt. The quarrel had started at Gardermoen, which was, at the time, a drill field for a section of the Norwegian army. His nemesis, the procurator Jens Obel Praëm, would be cast as the devil himself in his plays.

This article about Henrik Wergeland; is taken from Wikipedia, English edition.

There is more to read.

Food section

Nancy's Pickle Dip

Ingredients

- 1 container (8 oz) chive and onion cream cheese spread
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp dried dill weed
- ½ of a 10 oz jar of dill pickle relish
- Chopped fresh dill

Beat cream cheese spread and sour cream until smooth. Add other ingredients and blend. Cover and refrigerate. Top with fresh, chopped dill, if using. Serve with pretzels or chips. (Nancy had doubled the recipe for the Syttende Mai social.)

Many Norwegians recipes use Kefir.

Kefir is a fermented milk drink similar to thin yogurt made from kefir grains, a specific type of mesophilic symbiotic culture. It is prepared by inoculating cow, goat, or sheep milk with kefir grains.

Kefir is a typical breakfast, lunch, or dinner drink consumed in countries of western Eurasia, particularly the Caucasus.

Soured milk (Surmelk) denotes a range of food products produced by the acidification of milk. Acidification, which gives the milk a tart taste and unpleasant smell, is achieved through bacterial fermentation or by adding an acid, such as lemon juice or vinegar. The acid causes milk to coagulate and thicken, inhibiting the growth of harmful bacteria and improving the product's shelf life.

Soured milk produced by fermentation is more specifically called fermented milk or cultured milk. Traditionally, soured milk was simply fresh milk left to ferment and sour by keeping it in a warm place for a day, often near a stove. Modern commercial sour milk may differ from milk that has become sour naturally.



Almond Tart

In its native Norway, this gluten-free “success tart” is a common sight at celebrations ranging from weddings to office birthday parties. Moist, fragrant almonds are found in the sponge and generously spread across the top and sides, making a delectable dessert suitable for any occasion. When Norwegians settled in the Upper Mississippi region, they brought this taste of their homeland with them, and today, this Norwegian culinary treat can be found in local bakeries throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Ingredients

Vanilla Cream Filling

- 2 whole vanilla beans
- 2⅛ cups sugar
- 1¼ cups heavy cream
- 15 medium egg yolks
- 2⅓ cups unsalted butter

Sliced Almonds

- 1–2 cups sliced almonds

Sponge

- 1.5 cups egg whites
- 4¾ cups powdered sugar
- 6¼ cups extra fine almond flour

Vanilla Cream Filling

Slice vanilla beans lengthwise; scrape out seeds. Add sugar, heavy cream, and vanilla seeds to a pot, boil, strain over egg yolks, and combine. Chill in the refrigerator overnight. Whip in butter until smooth; set aside.

Sliced Almonds

Preheat the oven to 340°F (170°C). Spread the almonds on a dry cookie sheet and bake for 4 minutes. Shake the pan to shift the almonds every minute to check for slight browning and a fragrant aroma; remove from the oven and immediately pour onto a room-temperature plate. Set aside, leaving the oven on to bake the sponge.

Sponge

Whip egg whites and powdered sugar until stiff peaks form. Sift in almond flour and mix carefully until just combined. Place mixture in spring form pan lined with parchment paper; bake 30 minutes. Let cool completely in the pan before removing sides and slicing into three horizontal layers. Layer vanilla cream filling between sponge layers, then cover top and sides of cake with remaining filling and sliced almonds.

Prep time: 20 minutes.

Cook time: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Makes 8 servings.

From Viking River Cruises

Lodge Social May 17, 2025

the story about May 17



Nancy in action.

All about Syttende Mai
She won a kransekake and shared
with everybody.
Only crumbs left.



Lodge Social May 17, 2025



Hot Dogs and Pickel Dip



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.*