

FREYA LODGE
SANTA ROSA, CA

CULTURAL EVENTS:

- **February 18, Genealogy Presentation.**
- **March SoN Financial Benefits Awareness**
- **April Presentation on Snowshoe Thompson**
- **Norway Day April 30, May 1 in San Francisco**
- **Rosemaling Seminar at Camp Norge April 30-May 1**

2011 OFFICERS

President

Pamela Stutrud Groth
707-778-8120

Secretary

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707-795-8852 / 707-528-1876

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707-894-1807

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Marit Barca
707-495-0448

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Karen Larson
707-996-9889

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Lis Barca
707-495-0448

Freya Forum

FREYA FORUM

FEBRUARY 2011

Ord fra presidenten

I heard about a book once called, "Don't Hug me, I'm Norwegian". I've been searching for it for years and I've never found it! Maybe it really doesn't exist?

However, after our smashing lutefisk and meatball dinner yesterday, I want to hug everyone! I got busy in the kitchen and had a limited view of the dining room, but from all accounts, our dinner guests were very pleased with our efforts. I even got

hugged more than once as a result! Our dining room was beautifully setup and our food service was excellent. We had lots of help and we all worked very hard. It was a gratifying and successful event that I am proud to be a part of.

The Food Network channel had contacted Sons of Norway International seeking lodges having L&M dinners between January and March

but we were not sought out. It's too bad; they don't know what they are missing! It is the coming together of good friends and good food that one has to experience in person. It's like what Mary's pizza shack used to say....if you've been here, you know. I'm looking forward to many more events like this one.

Med vennlig hilsen,
Pamela Stutrud Groth

Royalty among the Lutefisk

An annual tradition at Freya Lodge is the crowning of our King and Queen of Lutefisk.

This honor is bestowed on the earliest to RSVP for the Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner. Getting your RSVP in early ensures you a seat for the dinner, we sold out again this year and a number of late requestors had to be turned away. But a prompt reply also helps the event committee get a count and make the

needed arrangements for food and beverage without the need for last minute shopping at higher prices.

This year's winners were member Richard Elken, pictured right, and his daughter Leslie Kozad. We thank them for their continuing support of Freya Lodge and for being part of the fun.

Look for more photos inside.



Camp Trollfjell Scholarships

Camp Trollfjell is Sons of Norway District 6 Language and Heritage Camp for kids at Camp Norge in Alta, California. It is a wonderful way for our children to learn about their Norwegian heritage through dance, song, art and fun!

The dates for Camp Trollfjell this summer are July 10 to 23, and the cost remains the same as last year, \$750 per child for the two weeks. The camp is open to children between the ages of 8 and 13 who

have parents, grandparents or great-grandparents who are members in good standing.

Further information and application forms are available at

www.campnorge.com/camper_application.pdf, or from Freya Lodge Scholarship Chairperson, Sandra McConnell. Camp applications must be submitted with a \$375 deposit per child prior to May 1st.

Applicants who are descendants of Freya Lodge mem-

bers can apply for a scholarship to help with the cost of the camp. The amount of the scholarships will be determined by the funds available in the scholarship fund and the number of applications received.

The applicants for scholarship should send a letter telling about themselves and stating why they would like to go to camp. The letters should be mailed to Sandra McConnell, 6 Autumn Leaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 no later than April 10th.

Gratulerer med dagen

February

Karol Anderson
Lorraine Benson
Harald Bratlien
Leila Dehzad
Winston Ekren

Barbara Fernandes
Wayne Hare
Olive Hatlen
Loren Hovland
Marian Kelly
Marion Larsen
Chance Mathieson

Heather Oehm
Phil Rhodes
Hans Skalagard
Leeann Terrell
Marie Valvik



Ditt og Datt

John Hill reports he is becoming more comfortable with the idea of retirement. He and Laurel Powers have been busy taking courses at SSU and coming up on February 18, they will be participating in the 'Fred Wiseman Walk'. This event, which will include walking a bus ride or two, and museum tours, will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Air Mail flight, piloted by Fred Wiseman between Petaluma and Santa Rosa.

Bill Rhodes sent a note thanking everyone at the Lutefisk dinner who sang Happy Birthday to his dad, Peter who turned 91 that day. The Rhodes clan turned out in force and filled a table with family and friends.

The Norway Day Festival will be held on April 30 and May 1, 2011. The venue, as usual, will be the historic Fort Mason Center in San Francisco's Marina District.

A wide variety of vendors are expected. The genealogy room will be open with computers and experts on site to help with research. A wonderful assortment of entertainment, including the Nordahl Greig Leikarring, will be on hand as well. If sufficient interest is shown we may once again arrange a bus trip for members. For more information on Norway Day 2011, please visit the festival website at norwayday.org/.



Karen's Column

Our lodge is off to a good start for 2011!

A big thank you goes out from me to all of the wonderful volunteers that worked so diligently to make our Lutefisk and Meatball dinner a huge success! Our dinner was a sell out and even after we had filled all the reservation spaces, we still had more calling in hopes to secure a seat at the dinner. That is great! I hope that we can do this again next year and I think that having this event in January is the perfect time. Just remember though to read your Forum and be sure to get your reservations in on time. If we get more help and a dishwasher for our kitchen, maybe we can think about having a second seating for next year. Will have to see how our finances go and it will largely depend too, on how many volunteers from our lodge come forth to work. It was nice to see new helpers this year and not just the ones who are always there - still appreciate all of you though. Tusen takk to all who made this event great!

Now onto our activity for February and, oh yes, Happy Valentine's Day to all. On February 18th, at 7 pm at Freya Lodge, our President, Pamela

Stutrud Groth, will present a talk on Norwegian Genealogy. Pam has been studying how to do research on genealogy and has gained a wealth of knowledge on the subject. Come and hear how to start researching your own family history. Learn about digital archives, parish records, census records and where you can find web resources. You will hear about Bygdelags and Bygdeboks and additional resources to help you research your Norwegian Genealogy. This should be an interesting and informative meeting. Mark your calendars now, February 18th at 7pm, and be sure to attend.

Activities continue and for March, we are hoping to have Carl Ingvoldstad, a Financial Benefits Counselor representing Sons of Norway, come and speak. Come and listen - see what our Sons of Norway has to offer all of us regarding financial benefits and investments. More information to come in the March Freya Forum so mark your calendars now, March 18th, and we will have more information coming to you soon.

Our calendar is filling up fast. Keep checking your Freya Forum to be informed of our events. At our meeting in

April, we are planning to have a presentation on Snowshoe Thompson, a Norwegian who played a very big part in keeping our mail going to California through sleet and lots of snow. Then, just around the corner in May, we will be celebrating Syttende Mai. Many suggestions about activities have been received and if there is something special that you would like to see happen at our lodge, please let me know ahead of time. If you have a talent to share, I am interested in hearing from you.

Again, thank you to all who made our last event a great way to start our new year! To all the volunteers, cooks, servers, dishwashers, greeters, announcer, those who helped to set up and to clean up for the Lutefisk and Meatball dinner, to our ticket girls for the raffle, our raffle organizer, and last but not least, to my husband Terry, the bartender, Tusen Takk! See you at the next meeting on Feb. 18th, 7pm. Come and learn how to find out more about your Norwegian Genealogy. See you there.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Med vennlig hilsen,

Karen Larson



Find us on
Facebook

Look for Freya Lodge #62, Sons of Norway,
Santa Rosa CA.

District 6 Scholarship News

Latest news on
scholarships.

The 6th District will award three \$1,000 scholarships to members in good standing, their children or grandchildren who are Unge Venner members in any lodge in the 6th District. They must attend a 4 year accredited college or university in the USA as a full-time undergraduate in their sophomore, junior or senior year and have a grade point average of 2.5 or better on a scale wherein A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1.

When an applicant is deemed worthy of a scholarship (recommended by the 6th District Scholarship Committee and approved by the 6th District board) the funds will be jointly paid to the applicant & to the institution he or she is attending.

Applications must be submitted to the scholarship committee by April 1 of the application year.

Also just announced, the 6th District will offer a scholarship to a 2 week Concordia Language Camp Summer Session at The Norwegian Village or

“Skoggjorden” in the amount of about \$1700, for a camper over the age 13.

The applicant must be a Heritage or Unge Venner member of a 6th District lodge. Applications must be submitted to the scholarship committee by May 1 of the application year.

Visit the website

www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org for information & applications for the Norwegian Village or “Skojorden.”

The applicant must also apply directly to and meet all requirements of Concordia Language Camp.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship for the Concordia Language Camp may get the district applications from members of the scholarship committee.

For more information please contact Carolyn

Dahl, Chairman,
13361 East 35th Place,

Yuma, AZ 85367

PH: 928-335-1801, e-mail,
KA6LSK@arrl.net

Henrik Ibsen Lodge of San Francisco, the oldest lodge in District 6, is once again accepting applications for the Peder P. Johnsen Scholarship. This program was established to recognize students of Norwegian ancestry for academic excellence and involvement in the community.

Scholarships are awarded to deserving students who are residents of Northern California studying full time at accredited colleges and universities. Freshman, undergraduate and graduate students are eligible and a GPA of 2.7 or better is required.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2011. Applications and additional information may be obtained by writing or calling:

Jo Ann Wentker
650 Upland Drive
San Francisco, CA 94127
(415) 587-9210

Membership

Welcome New Member

Lisa A. Neisingh

Thank you for renewing:

Wayne Hare

John Hill, Jr.

Barbara Lund

John Lund

Peter Meirick

Laurel Powers

Vivian Ronning

**Remember to tell a friend
about Freya Lodge.**



Hall Association Update

The Hall Association Committee met on January 23, 2011 and reports the following: Committee members met with insurance broker to go over building and liability insurance policy. The broker proposed a policy that covered the hall and liability over and above what any renters might carry plus volunteer auto use. The policy is with Travelers Insurance which Sons of Norway International has its insurance with. A motion was MSP to accept the new policy. Sons of Norway liability insurance covers the selling of alcohol at Lodge events, as such we will be able to continue serving

alcohol at select events without additional insurance premium. Hall improvement projects approved but yet to be performed will be put on hold temporarily until we are sure we have the funds to cover projects already in progress. The Hall roof was inspected and is in good condition and should not need repair anytime soon. The Hall is in possession of a couple Norwegian oil paintings that were donated. A referral for a local appraiser is being looked into and Marit Barca will be contacting a friend in Norway who is an art dealer. Freya Lodge/ Norway Hall will have a new mailing address by

the first of February. The new address will be: Sons of Norway, Freya Lodge P.O. Box 6558 Santa Rosa, CA 95406 There is a need to ensure that Lodge and Hall expenses are distinguished and kept separate from one another. The committee has proposed a resolution to Lodge by-laws resolving this matter be presented to the Lodge Board. President Pamela Stutrud Groth will carry the proposed resolution to the next meeting of the board.

Submitted by the Committee



Lutefisk Photos



Finding Family

In 1954, my maternal grandmother, Louise Christianson, was mortally injured in a car crash on a lonely stretch of Route 66 near Barstow. I was three years old. From Louise came my Norwegian ancestry and with her premature

death I lost the opportunity to learn first-hand about my Norwegian genealogy, since my mother knew little or chose not to say much about

such things when I was a boy. My grandmother left few heirlooms since a few years before she died her home burned to the ground.

So I grew up hearing that I had some "Scandinavian" blood, but little else. Much later, my father, whose only claim to Norwegian blood might come from some Vikings who "visited" his English ancestors, said to me: "Did you know your great grandfather lived in Mill Valley? His name was Christianson." It wasn't until I was past age fifty that I decided to follow up on this lead. Then, too, it turned out my mother knew more than had she let on and her older brother knew even more. I checked Internet family trees and was shocked to find Louise listed, along with her father and others

in my Christianson family tree.

With this came an explosion of knowledge. Some names in the Christianson family tree are unusual like Janse, Enwall, Quam, Berven and Tjernagel. Using Internet "People Search" I was to locate and phone living relatives with these and other surnames. Given my upbringing, it was a surprise to discover that most of these Norwegian-descent relatives were very interested in and proud of their heritage. Some had tons of old family photos and documents. A highlight was a visit to a relative in Des Moines who had the original Norwegian "passport" document of some relatives dating from 1850. Not only that, she had the hand-sewn wallet the document had been in when the ancestors boarded the America-bound sailing ship. Another new-found relative loaned me a pile of letters written by my Norwegian great-great grandparents. They were still in their original envelopes.

I was invited to stay on two occasions at the home of a "new" relative at his home in Minnesota. He had whole rooms full of archives on our mutual Norwegian ancestry. Talk about kid in a candy store. From him and others came tales of hardship and death: Death from malaria at the

village of Chicago in 1839, from cholera in the Fox River Valley in 1849 and on the battlefields of the Civil War, where Norwegian immigrants outdid themselves trying to prove their loyalty to their new country. I lost direct ancestors to such deaths, but their children survived so here I am.

Now, when I read sagas of the Viking kings, I have a special interest because I know I am descended from them, and I know much about the lives of the many generations between them and me. Unlike many cultures, the Norwegians have kept meticulous records enabling one to connect back several hundred years. One can learn of mundane taxes paid in butter and grain or of frightening fist fights and even attempted rape. Norwegians, thanks to their storytelling abilities and record keeping leave us with a sense of our ancestors as living, breathing human beings not really any better or any worse at living their lives than we do now, but with bigger challenges and much more sorrow. By knowing our ancestors we know ourselves better and when we do I think ultimately we find contentment with who we are.

Submitted by Phil Rhodes



‘Emma’ and ‘Lukas’ most popular baby names

Norwegian parents were most likely to name their baby girls “Emma” last year, while “Lukas” emerged as the most popular name for baby boys. Both names also topped the list of names most frequently chosen in 2009.

State statistics bureau SSB could report this week that 465 girls were given the name “Emma,” while 552 boys were named “Lukas” or “Lucas.”

The next most popular names for girls in Norway were Linnea, Sara, Sofie and Nora, followed by Ingrid, Thea, Emilie, Ida and Maja to round out the top 10.

The most popular names for boys, after Lukas, were Emil, Mathias, William, Magnus, Markus, Jonas, Kristian, Oliver and Alexander.

It would appear that more Norwegian parents are avoiding

names involving the uniquely Norwegian letters of “æ, ø” and “å,” which often cause problems and confusion in e-mail addresses and other aspects of a globalized society. Both of the most popular names are also easy to pronounce, both in and out of Norway.

From News In English.no

Have you sent a friend request today?

The average Facebook member has 130 friends and is connected to 80 community pages, groups or events.

The growing popularity of social media is a growing trend that is difficult to ignore. Teens and young adults were the first to spend time socializing on line, but their elders have been dis-

covering the benefits. Statistics show that adults over age 50 are the fastest growing category of social networkers. Millions around the world share common interests, connect with family or find long lost friends every day.

The Freya Lodge Facebook page, begun a year ago, has 39

members now and is growing. The more we can spread the word about our lodge and what we are doing the more we can grow. If you are on Facebook please be sure to check it out. We post many more photos of lodge happenings there than space in the Freya Forum will allow, so be sure to check in.

Statistics show that adults over age 50 are the fastest growing category of social networkers.

Events around the District

Victory Lodge #43 will celebrate it's 69th anniversary with a luncheon on February 19th at Trancas Steakhouse in Napa. \$20 covers all. Contact Marge Severson by Feb. 14 to RSVP at (707) 265-8373.

Bjørnstejerne Bjornson Lodge #14 will hold a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at their hall in Oakland on March 4 as well

as a pancake breakfast and white elephant sale on March 6. Contact Nancy Eikeberg to RSVP for the dinner at (510) 530-3721 or by email to nceikeberg@comcast.net

Olav Lodge #82 will host a potluck dinner on March 4 and a Smøgasbord on April 2. Both events will be in San Rafael. For more information contact

Marlene Arild at (415) 454-3190.

The 53rd Rosemaling Seminar will be held at Camp Norge April 30—May 1. For more information and the application please visit the camp website at www.campnorge.com/Rosemaling.html. A flyer will be in next month's Freya Forum.



PAMELA STUTRUD GROTH, PRESIDENT OF FREYA LODGE PRESENTS

Norwegian Genealogy

2011

Two dates; two locations.

*Saturday, January 15
at 1:00 pm*

Sonoma County
Genealogical Society
Finley Community Center
2060 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

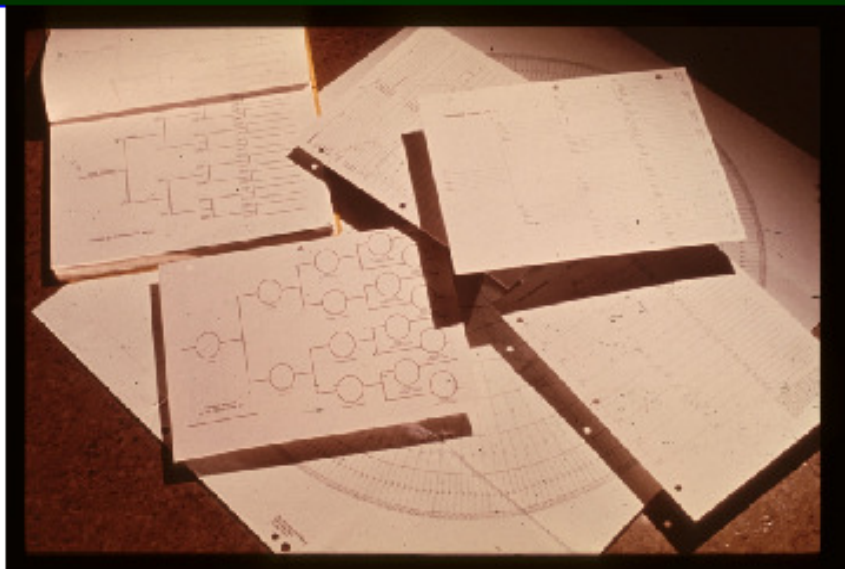
*Friday, February 18
at 7 pm*

Freya Lodge
Sons of Norway
Norway Hall
617 West Ninth Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

More information : 707-778-8120

www.freyalodge.org

Free Admission



- Learn about...
 - Digital Archives
 - Parish Records
 - Census Records
- Web resources
- Local and U.S. resources
 - Bygdelags
 - Bygdeboks



Living Your Norwegian Heritage

Camp Trollfjell

*Language & Heritage Youth Camp
@ Camp Norge in Alta, California*

www.CampNorge.com
(link to Camp Trollfjell for
Camper & Counselor
Applications)

Registrar: Sharee Frost
sharee@theunion.net
530-478-0980



Camp is July 10-24, 2011

\$750/child

Ages 8-13 (at the time camp begins)

Scholarships are available—check with your local lodge

Daily Activities Include:



Rosemaling
Viking History
Crafts
Folk Dancing
Language Lessons
Foods of Norway
Building Lasting Friendships

Freya Lodge, Sons of Norway

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E-mail: adskfranknpig@hotmail.com

Web site: www.freyalodge.org

Culture, Community, Camaraderie

**Presentation on
Norwegian Genealogy
February 18, 7:00 PM**

Anne Marie Eskilsson
REALTOR®, SRES



CPS
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