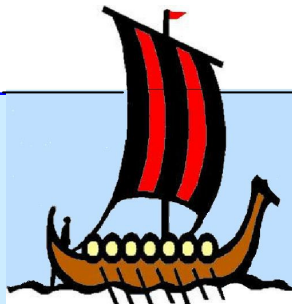


# Valhall



# Viking

May 2009

Phone: 619/469-9779

Number 5

1912—2009



**VALHALL  
LODGE**

Meetings at 7:30 pm  
first Monday of the month  
at the  
**East San Diego  
Masonic Temple  
7849 Tommy Drive  
San Diego, CA  
92119-1799**

[www.lodgeofvalhall.com](http://www.lodgeofvalhall.com)  
[www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)

**Next Business  
Meeting:  
May 4th**

**Newsletter  
deadline:  
May 15, 2009**

**May Social  
Syttende Mai  
May 17th**

## *Beskjed Fra Presidenten – Are You Satisfied?*

Are you satisfied with our Lodge? Your chance to tell us what you like and don't like is coming soon! See the article on page 3 about our **new Lodge Satisfaction Survey** coming to a mail box or email box soon. Help make a great lodge even better.

During our April Business Meeting the membership voted to have a combined meeting and social and not have a separate April social. The April Social is rotated each year between the Ladies of Valhall and a social committee assigned the previous year. This year the Ladies of Valhall graciously volunteered to host the combined meeting and social. The food was outstanding and the desserts even more so. Tusen Takk to the LOV for coming through in April.

Our Charter was draped and obituaries were read for three members of the lodge who passed away: Erling K. Karlsgodt, Margaret R. Wertz and Dean Hurst. Our prayers are with there families in the time of sorrow.

I had the opportunity to attend the documentary film about Vidkun Quisling introduced by Valhall member, Oddvar Hoidal, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, San Diego State University and hosted by The Norse Federation. The film was preceded by a delicious buffet served by Norse Federation members. Oddvar was a commentator and consultant on the film and provided valuable insight and answered many questions about Quisling and the period covered. It was one of the most interesting films I have seen. Tusen Takk to The Norse Federation and Oddvar Hoidal.

One of my most pleasurable duties as President of Valhall Lodge was presenting Centes Wheeler with a Golden Membership Certificate and pin. Edlbjorg Backous also earned a Forty Year Certificate and pin but unfortunately, was not in attendance at the meeting.

Our next business meeting is on May 4th at 7:30 PM; come say hello. I look forward to seeing you there!

Vennlig Hilsen,  
*Rick Hausvik*



# SYTTENDE MAI

A DAY TO CELEBRATE WITH VALHALL LODGE  
SONS OF NORWAY # 6-25

**SATURDAY MAY 16, 2009**

**Musical entertainment by the San Diego Mannskor  
With the Singing Ladies of Valhall**

## **MENU**

Poached Salmon, Meatballs w Gravy  
Fish Balls w Shrimp White Sauce  
Green Salad, Cole Slaw, Cucumber Salad, Fruit  
Red Potatoes, Eggs, Cold Cuts, Breads  
Cream Cake and Coffee

**SOCIAL HOUR 5:00 pm**

**DINNER 6:00 pm**

Program following Dinner

**Adults \$17.50**

Reservations made after May 13

\$20.00 at the Door

**Children and Grandchildren of Valhall Members 12 and  
under FREE**

**Students who are MEMBERS OF Valhall Under 25 FREE**

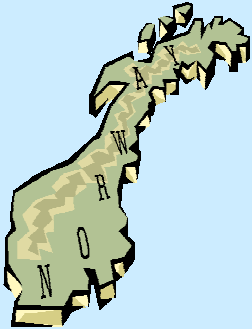
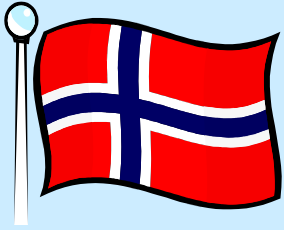
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**SEND RESERVATIONS TO Judy Sawyer**

5443 Forbes Ave San Diego, CA 92120

(619) 583-0859 or email [jperidot@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jperidot@sbcglobal.net)

**Deadline May 13, 2009**



## Lodge Satisfaction Survey

I have been mentioning a Lodge Satisfaction Survey for about three months now and we are getting closer to the final product. If all goes as planned you will be emailed or mailed the Lodge Satisfaction Survey within the next couple of months.

This survey asks a few questions about your participation or non-participation in Valhall Lodge and why. It is not an attempt to badger you into coming to lodge meetings or socials. It is merely a tool to help the board members identify the lodge membership's reasons for attending or not attending lodge functions. We can talk about ways to possibly modify our activities and offerings at the lodge to improve the lodge.

We are one of the largest lodges in California and also in the entire Sons of Norway organization. I would like to know if we are meeting the desires of our membership and if not, if there is something we can do to improve. My goal as Vice President last year was to increase membership, but more importantly increase attendance at lodge functions by making them more attractive to all age groups and interests.

As President, that goal is still the same and I need your help to accomplish the task. When you receive your Lodge Satisfaction Survey, please respond to it in a timely fashion, so we can get as much data as possible about what you want your lodge to be. The Board of Directors will use the information to make the lodge events what you want them to be. I thank you all in advance for your cooperation in completing the Lodge Satisfaction Survey.



## Lodge Officers for 2009

President	Rick Hausvik	619-579-5447
Vice-President	Duke Johnson	858-459-8818
Counselor	Helga Moore	619-298-0390
Secretary	Amelia Seeto	858-712-6876
Assist. Secretary	Judith Johnson	858-459-8818
Financial Secretary	Aprell Waymire	619-276-3809
Treasurer	Don Lesney	619-465-3686
Social Director	Loreen Cook	619-588-4170
Asst. Soc. Dir.	LaVonne Coover	619-264-9486
Cultural Director	Sven Olsen	760-735-6171
	Joyce Olsen	760-735-6171
	Ingrid Lindgren	858-277-3376
	Lou Coover	619-264-9486
Marshal	Don Balmer	619-466-2179
Asst. Marshal	Ron Thomas	619-749-9967
Greeter	Lou Coover	619-264-9486
Greeter	Raymond Johnsen	858-459-5430
Historian	Jim Wolner	619-692-9584
Librarian	Kay Wolner	619-692-9584
Musician	Joyce Olsen	760-735-6171
	Ragnhild Amble	619-465-7425
Editor	Arlene LaBree	858-271-8709
Circulation Editors	Dean Seiler	858-455-6798
Foundation Director	Charles Gorder	619-287-3559
Publicity Director	Judy Sawyer	619-583-0859
Trustee (1 years)	Chris Hausvik	619-890-5447
Trustee (2 years)	Ingrid Lindgren	858-277-3376
Trustee (3 years)	Everett Shogren	619-287-6056
Youth Director	Ellen Spitzer	619-444-9077
Sports Director	Neal Cook	619-588-4170
Auditors	Allen Johannesen	858-452-1797
	Thelma Johannesen	858-452-1797
	Reg Becker	619-562-4403
Corporation Directors		
	Don Lesney	619-465-3686
	Sigurd Stautland	619-299-9237
	Aprell Waymire	619-276-3809
Corporation Officers		
President	Ola Brevig	858-756-1167
Vice President	Allen Johannesen	858-452-1797
Secretary	Everett Shogren	619-287-6056
Treasurer		



# Congratulerer Med Dagen!



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Juanita Griebel
- 1 Edward Schaffroth
- 4 Susan Hansen
- 4 Dale Roybal
- 6 John Steen
- 7 Louis Amundson
- 8 Jessica Hartenberger
- 11 Carleen Stoskopf
- 13 Debra Hausvik
- 14 Amelia Seeto
- 15 Cynthia May
- 16 Arlene LaBree
- 16 William Stedham
- 22 Mary Fry
- 22 Mary Kay Olson
- 22 Marie Olson-Weir
- 24 Centes Wheeler
- 25 Mary Conklin
- 25 Arnette Scherl
- 29 Marvin Holm
- 30 Magnhild Gilbertson
- 31 Rhona Gorder

And a Happy Belated Birthday to Dean Seler, whose birthday was April 22st.

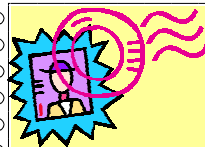


## Welcome New Members

Tonje Bjerke Nilsen  
6475 Daylily Dr  
Carlsbad, CA 92011-1267  
760.244.9212  
tonje@2nje.com

James Duggins  
965 Prospect St., Apt 209  
808.778.0913

Ulla Hardin  
Harbor Ct, #1903  
66 Queen St  
Honolulu, Hi 96813-4410



## TUBFRIM

Save stamps for  
TUBFRIM

Cut cancelled stamps off  
envelopes  
leaving  
1/4 to 1/2 inch  
around the edges.

Deliver stamps  
to any lodge meeting.  
Ellie Balmer,  
Tubfrim Chairman

In Special Recognition of  
**Golden Membership**

Sons of Norway Awards  
Certificates of Appreciation  
and Pins  
to the following members for  
their long and faithful service

**Janet Bishop**  
**Mabel Birdsell**

Congratulations to both of you!  
**Valhall Lodge 6-025 –**  
**Sons of Norway**

## Hello Valhall Members:

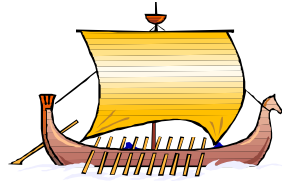
For those of you who know Andy and Janice Christensen, they have moved to Belmont Village Senior Living, 13075 Evening Creek Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. Janice misses not being able to come to Valhall this year because Andy has dementia.

If you would like to send a card to Andy and Janice, I know they would greatly appreciate it.

Aprell Waymire  
Membership

# Happy Mother's Day

## Ladies of Valhall LOV notes..



**Next Meeting:** May 2, 2009 at Denny's on Navajo Drive

**Hostesses:** Mari Rem, Eldbjorg Backous, and Mary Fry

We had a fairly short and sweet meeting on April 5, after establishing that we were meeting at Denny's as regularly scheduled. Our hostesses were LaVonne Coover, Kay Pepper and Lydia Nyhammer, who provided us with P ske sweets and beautiful blomstene (Easter sweets and beautiful flowers).

We have three new members who will be receiving their pins in May. They are LaVonne Coover, Amelia Seeto, and Kay Wolner. We are so happy to have them joining our group. We are looking at ways that we can invite new and present female Valhall members to our meetings, hopefully to have them join us also.

Thank you to Ingrid Lindgren, Joyce Oen and Millie Wright who are heading up the Business meeting-Social for the April Valhall meeting. They are planning a delicious salad bar, and Susan Cody will make a P ske kake, and Tam Stautland will make krumkake for the desserts.

Helen Andrewsen shared information about her adopted granddaughter who will be playing in concert on April 10 at St. Andrew's church, and again on April 19 at Grossmont College, and invited any and all to come and listen to this very talented young lady.

Happy Anniversary was sung to LaVonne Coover and Jane Halleland. The drawing winners were Lorraine Tucker, Anita Reith, Anne Hoidal, Millie Wright, Amelia Seeto, Susan Cody and Juanita Griebel.

Susan Cody,  
LOV President



### Sons of Norway Mission Statement

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

### SERVICES DIRECTORY

#### Financial Benefits Counselor

Pat Kelly  
(818) 986-7199  
amlives@aol.com

#### Language Instructor

Erling Nyhammer  
(619) 448-4217

#### Telephone Committee

Helen Seiler  
(858) 453-3175

#### Sunshine Committee:

Chairperson, LaVonne Coover  
(619) 264-9486

#### Blood Bank Representative

LaVonne Coover  
(619) 264-9486

#### Video Presentations:

Needed: Volunteer to present videos before business meetings. Contact President Rick Hausvik.



## Minutes of the Valhall Lodge Business Meeting April 6, 2009

President Rick Hausvik called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

There were no guests or visitors in attendance.

The Charter was draped in honor of the passing of Valhall members Dr. Erling (Dade) Karlsgodt and Margaret Wertz. President Hausvik read brief biographies about Dr. Karlsgodt and member Dean Hurst. A Memorial in San Diego for Dr. Karlsgodt is pending later in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in Erling's name to Greater Polson Community Foundation, P.O. Box 314, Polson, MT 59860, the U. of Montana Foundation Excellence Fund, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, or a charity of your choice.

### **New Members**

Financial Secretary Aprell Waymire presented the following names for membership: Susan Turner by Kay Wolner; James Duggins, who transferred from central lodge; Ulla Hardin, who transferred from central and Tonje Nilsen, who joined online. Their applications were approved unanimously.

### **March Minutes**

There was an error in the March Business Meeting Minutes that were printed in the April 2009 Valhall Viking: In "Remarks for the Good of the Order" it reads "Golden Memberships for 50 years went to Allen Johannesen and John Rem." This is not correct; it should state 30 years. The

March Business Meeting Minutes as Amended were approved unanimously.

**Correspondence** – Secretary Amelia Seeto read a card from Lorraine Hurst and family thanking Valhall Lodge for the contribution to District 6 Scholarship Fund in memory of Dean. As a retired school teacher he was so thrilled to see monies go toward scholarships.

President Hausvik summarized a letter dated March 6, 2009 from John Lund, Sons of Norway Chief Executive Officer, to Financial Benefits Counselors that accompanied checks from Sons of Norway to Valhall Lodge representing a portion of annuities and insurance premiums paid by Valhall Lodge members for 2007 and 2008.

### **Committee Reports**

**Circulation** Editor Dean Seiler has extra April Newsletters if anyone needs one.

**Sunshine** Chair LaVonne Coover sent condolences to:

Thelma Hankins at the passing of her husband Don

Lorraine Hurst at the passing of her husband and Valhall Lodge member Dean

Carl Wertz at the passing of his wife and Valhall Lodge member Margaret.

Sunshine Chair Coover will send a condolence card to the family of Dr. Erling Karlsgodt.

**Blood Bank** Chair LaVonne

Coover read the following poem:  
Make a difference,  
Don't be shy.  
Give donating a try,  
Blood, that is.

It's easy, it's affordable.  
Contact the San Diego Blood Bank for a donor center or mobile unit near you. Tell them your donation is for Sons of Norway, Valhall and be sure to ask for a receipt. Donor receipts are redeemable for a non-catered social. Thanks for making a difference.

**Cultural Committee** Chair Sven Olsen reported that the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers gave an outstanding performance on March 31. The dinner served by Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Thanks to all Valhall members that opened their homes to the students.

**Social Director** Loreen Cook reported that LOV is hosting tonight's dinner; Ingrid Lindgren is the Chair. Our next social will be a Norsk Buffet for Syttende Mai on Saturday, May 16.

**Historian** Jim Wolner reported that he is going to reinstate showing videos, DVDs, from the library and Sons of Norway Headquarters' Lending Library.

**Publicity** Director Judy Sawyer reported that she has an article and some pictures to submit to The Viking.

**Corporation** President Ola Brevig reported that the Corpora-



# Minutes of the Valhall Lodge Business Meeting April 6, 2009

tion's Annual Meeting will be held in the Hall at 7:00 PM on May 4, 2009, just prior to our May Business Meeting.

**Trustee** Chris Hausvik reported that the Inventory Sheet is complete; Inventory is planned for May.

### Unfinished Business

President Hausvik has a few more official District 6 pins available for \$5 each. Proceeds benefit District 6. Please see President Hausvik to purchase your District 6 pin; he only has 6 remaining!

### New Business

Motion was made, seconded and carried to cancel April's social. There is a brochure listing District 6 Officers, Zone Directors, and Lodge Presidents along with their contact information that can be accessed at <http://www.sofn6.com/files/sofn6.com-district-6-brochure.pdf>.

If you do not have Internet access and want the brochure, please ask President Hausvik, Secretary Seeto, or any Board member. District 6 is seeking members with cultural skills that can travel to other lodges within the District and share their skills. Please see President Hausvik if you are willing and able or if you know someone that is.

### Financial Reports

Financial Secretary Aprell Waymire and Treasurer Don Lesney read their respective reports.

### Remarks for the Good of the Order

Vice President Duke Johnson presented Recruitment Certificates and Pins to the following members:

- Kennet Brevig (accepted by Ola Brevig)
- Judy Sawyer (2 members)
- Kari Nyhammer-Collins
- Kay-Ann Pepper
- Arlene LaBree
- Ola Brevig (3 members)
- Richard Hausvick(5 members)
- Sven Olsen

Centes Wheeler was presented with her Golden Membership Certificate and Pin for 30 years.

Secretary Seeto began to announce that there are raffle tickets for sale to raise money for another District 6 lodge when it was brought to her attention that it is most likely against District policy for a lodge to request that another lodge fundraise for them.

In this month's Viking Magazine,

Dan Rude's "Idea of the Month" is to make a list of five cultural skills you would like to study. See our Cultural Skills Coordinator Lou Coover to guidance and recommendations.

SKRUK has cancelled their 2009 tour; the economy just cannot support their tour at this time. They plan on trying to tour in 2011 or so.

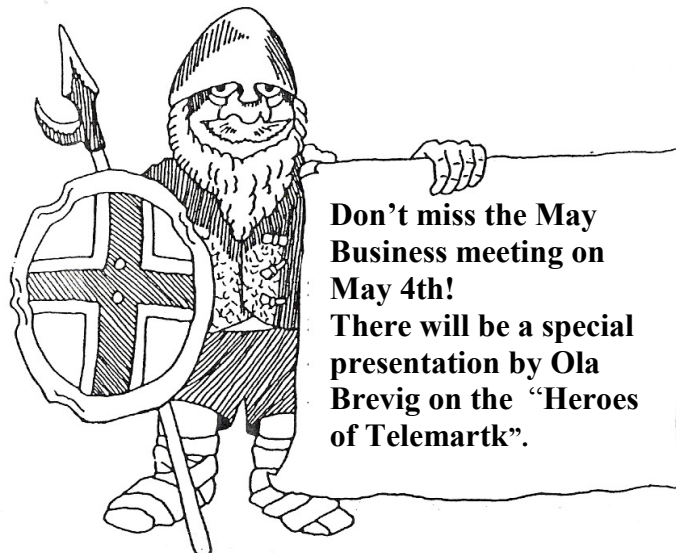
The next Board meeting will be April 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

The next Business meeting will be May 4, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

The next Social is our Syttende Mai Norsk Buffet on Saturday, May 16.

Vice President Rick Hausvik adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM. Members present: 46

Respectfully submitted,  
Amelia Seeto  
Secretary, Valhall Lodge



# Celebrate Norway's Constitution Day Sunday, May 17, 2009.



*hosted by:  
House of Norway,  
Balboa Park  
Hipp Hipp Hurra !*



## ***Morning:*** ***09:00 a.m.***

- The Norwegian flag will be raised by a Park Ranger at the Sefton Plaza. (west of the viaduct entrance to Balboa Park.)
- No ceremony will follow. Anyone is welcome to witness the event.

## ***Afternoon:*** ***01:30 p.m.***

- Start formation of the children's parade.

### ***01:45 p.m.***

- The parade moves around the outer streets, ending up with the flags secured on the stage.  
Participation is encouraged. Wear bunads. Bring flags and noise makers.

### ***02:00 p.m.***

- Greeting by HPR President Hannu Mikkonen, House of Finland.
- Greeting by President Eugenie King, House of Norway.
- Pledge of Allegiance by House of Norway Queen, Brittany Alvorado.
- United States and Norway national anthems by Thelma Johannesen.
- Remarks by Consul Gordon Kovtun.
- Scandinavian Children's Folk Dance Group directed by Oda Audish.
- San Diego Men's & Ladies Choirs perform, directed by Joyce Olsen.
- Piano concerts by Ryan, Reid & Riley Gilbertson.
- Youth band performance.
- Performing Folk Dancers of Balboa Park.
- House of Norway will serve refreshments following the program.
- Chairman – Consul Emeritus of Norway Oswald Gilbertson.



# Memorial Day Weekend

## May 23, 24, 25, 2009

### Camp Norge, Alta, California



The Recreation Center Board welcomes you to Camp Norge for a three-day camping experience at your own recreation center on Memorial Day Weekend. If you do not have a tent or RV, call the Manager (530) 389-2508 for a room.

We have planned the following activities for your weekend:

**Saturday**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Craft Fair in the Meadow
- Explore area on your own or just relax
- Dinner
- Bingo

**Sunday**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Horseshoes & other games
- Raffle drawing
- Dinner

**Monday**

- Breakfast

PRE-REGISTRATION OF YOUR MEALS IS NECESSARY TO ALLOW US TO PURCHASE THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF FOOD.

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2009. (Make check payable to Camp Norge)

Mail this form and check to Dale Baker, 9352 Castlemont Circle, Orangevale, CA 95662

#### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Meals you wish to purchase:

Saturday Breakfast – Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Dinner Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Breakfast Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Lunch Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday dinner is potluck. Please bring a dish to share and your own place settings**

Monday Breakfast Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to register for all the meals, you get a discount. Send a check for \$33 for each adult and \$16.50 for each child 12 years and under.

# Valhall Cultural Classes

## Woodcarving

The woodcarving group meets on every Tuesday of the month, from 9am to Noon. The class is being held at the *House of Norway* in Balboa Park. Everyone is welcome to join the group and enjoy conversation and carving.

Call Lou Coover before coming for time verification and more information at 619-264-9486.

## Rosemaling Classes

Informal *rosemaling* classes meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Call Carmen for location information. Come visit and learn about rosemaling and have fun learning how to *rosemal*. Classes are free for SON members, \$5 for non-members. No prior experience necessary. Everyone is welcome.

Contact instructor Carmen Cleary for more information at 619-442-0064.

## Norwegian Genealogy

### Next meeting May 14, 2009

During the past two meetings we spent time learning about Norwegian Farm Books (Bygdeboker): How and where to locate one. How to use one in our research for ancestors including language and the format used in these family farm books.

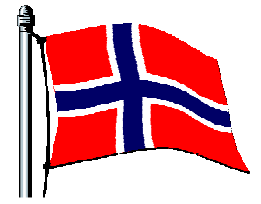
This month will focus on background information on the different types of farm groups and land ownership that you will encounter in a Bygdebok and Norwegian census records.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month (except July and December) at the Family History Center, 4195 Camino Del Rio South, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Everyone interested in Norwegian genealogy and history is welcome to attend our meetings. For more information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Dale Roybal at [tdroybal7@aol.com](mailto:tdroybal7@aol.com) or call 858 278 7521.

## Norwegian Classes

If you would like to learn how to speak Norwegian—classes are taught by instructor Erling Nyhammer.



Classes are held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in North Park.

For more information, call Erling Nyhammer at 619-448-4217 or email at [Enyhammer@cox.net](mailto:Enyhammer@cox.net)

## Cultural Skills at the House of Norway

Work on or get help with a knitting, embroidery or sewing project, learn how to cook up something new in the kitchen, obtain guidance or make progress on your Cultural Skills Award and spend time with other creative and talented people at the House of Norway located in Balboa Park on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome, a phone call is appreciated so they know how many to plan for.

**May 5** Cooking Demonstration:  
Lompe Baking

**May 12** Housekeeping

**May 19** Norwegian Needle Arts

**May 26** Norwegian Language Practice

For more information please contact Dale Roybal at 858-278-7521 or [tdroybal7@aol.com](mailto:tdroybal7@aol.com).



**HURRA  
FOR THE  
SYTTENDE MAI!!**

## Language & Heritage Camp

Camp Troll Fjell is held at Camp Norge in Alta California during the middle two week of July. Located in the Sierra Mountains east of Sacramento, Camp Norge is an ideal location for a summer camp. Campers learn about their Norwegian heritage and language as well as participate in all the traditional activities of a summer camp.

**Camp dates for this year are  
July 12 to 25, 2009**

Criteria for attending camp - ages 8 to 13 at time camp begins and a child, grandchild or great grandchild of a Sons of Norway District 6 member in good standing.

Camp cost is \$750 per child

For more information and to get applications go to our web site at [www.trollfjell.org](http://www.trollfjell.org) or [www.sofn6.com](http://www.sofn6.com)



**In Recognition of  
Recruitment of new members  
Sons of Norway awards a  
Certificate of Recruitment  
and a Bronze Pin to the following members:**

<b>Ola Brevig</b>	<b>3 New Members</b>
<b>Judy E. Sawyer</b>	<b>2 New Members</b>
<b>Kennet Brevig</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Kari Nyhammer-Collins</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Kevin De Nino</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Kari Karlsgodt Koskinen</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Arlene Labree</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Sven Olsen</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Kay-Ann Pepper</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Marie Olson-Weir</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>
<b>Myrtle Whitworth</b>	<b>1 New Member</b>

**Congratulations to all of you!**  
Valhall Lodge 6-025 – Sons of Norway

**In Recognition of  
Recruitment of new members  
Sons of Norway awards a  
Certificate of Recruitment  
and a Silver Pin to the following member:**

Certificate of Recruitment and Pin

**Richard M. Hausvik    3 New Members**

**Congratulations to you!**  
Valhall Lodge 6-025 – Sons of Norway

# Syttende Mai—The Seventeenth of May

Syttende Mai! The name sounds like a fanfare and is associated with flags, parades and marching bands—hoorays, ice-cream and balloons—salutes, parties, fireworks and patriotism. This description brings to mind the 4th of July celebration, but most of these-parade participants would be children, the hoorays would sound more like hurrahs, and people in the crowd would wear colorful folk costumes. The scene is Norway, the date May 17, and the event: the Norwegian Constitution Day.

The Norwegians have reason to celebrate. For more than 400 years their once-so powerful kingdom was the weaker partner in a union with Denmark. Norway became an insignificant state on the European map, exploited by autocratic Danish king

. Then came “The Year of Miracles”—1813—when the outcome of the Napoleonic wars broke up the established power structure in Europe. The Danish king, who had sided with Napoleon, was forced to cede Norway to Sweden. No one asked the Norwegians, who were outraged at the thought of their country being given away like a piece of Danish property.

Equally outraged was the heir to the Danish throne, who at that time was governor of Norway. He sided with Norwegian leaders and a constituent assembly was called. With the constitution establishing Norway as a sovereign state, European politicians would have to be more respectful in their wheelings and dealings with the country.

The constituent assembly met at Eidsvoll (Aids’vohl) in April–May, 1814. It was a young-crowd—most of the leaders were in their thirties. Conservatives or liberals, they were all nationalists, well-informed about the ideals of the revolutionary French and American constitutions.

It took the assembly of 112 one month to give Norway a constitution, establishing Norway as a sovereign state and a constitutional monarchy ruled by the principles of liberty and democracy. It was the most

liberal constitution in Europe at that time, and was clearly inspired by the ideals which were defended in America.

The document was signed on May 17—Syttende Mai—1814, and Norway finally had the fundamental law that later would carry the nation safely through all times of crisis.

The outcome of the swift Norwegian action early in 1814 was that Norway entered a union with Sweden in the fall of the same year—but not as a piece of land given away by the Danish king. Thanks to the Constitution, Norway had now become a sovereign state and an equal partner in the union. When this union was dissolved in 1905, Norway was well on the way to being re-established on the European scene. The Constitution of 1814 is the foundation of the growth of a society which today has one of the highest standards of living in the world—so Syttende Mai is certainly worth celebrating!

## Cultural Skills in Sons of Norway

The Cultural Skills Program is open to all Sons of Norway members, both through their lodges or as individual participants . The Cultural Skills Program offered by Sons of Norway serves a variety of purposes:

- To encourage active participation in both traditional and contemporary Norwegian-North American pursuits;
- To enrich the lives of members of all ages;
- To provide the basis for special interest clubs within our lodges; and
- To provide new reasons for people to join Sons of Norway.

Contact Lou Coover to find out what is required and how the lodge can help you pursue your Cultural Skills in the lodge and what the requirements are for getting a Cultural Skills Award.

Lou Coover at (619) 264-9486 or email [loucoover@aol.com](mailto:loucoover@aol.com)



**ERLING K. KARLSGODT  
1916 TO 2009**

Golden member Erling Karsgodt passed away at age 92 on March 22, 2009. Erling was born in Kenilworth, Kansas to Norwegian immigrants. He went to school in Norway. He met his wife Vernetta while in the Navy, stationed in San Diego. They wed in 1945 and lived all their married life here where he was a dentist..

Erling joined Valhall Lodge in April of 1971. He also attended the San Diego Fiskeklubben.

Erling is survived by his wife of 63 years, Vernetta, and three children, Kurt, Dr. Pear (Pat), and Kari Koskinen who is also a Valhall member. He also leaves his eight grandchildren. Valhall extends sincere condolences to his family and many friends. He will be greatly missed.



**MARGARET WERTZ  
1933-2009**

Golden member Margaret Wertz passed away on March 2, 2009 at the age of 75. Margaret was a long and faithful member of Valhall Lodge, having joining in 1973. Margaret was a member for 36 years.

Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

## Syttende Mai During the War

For more than 150 years Syttende Mai has been celebrated as a salute to tolerance and national unity. The day is truly a declaration of love to Norway's most important values of peace, freedom and equality. But how was the day celebrated during the German occupation?

The German authorities were quite clear over what this democracy-oriented national holiday meant for Norwegian loyalists, and put in place measures to fight and punish any rabble-rousers.

On the first Syttende Mai after the German invasion, all celebration or display of the flag was banned by the Germans. The flag was used as a visual protest against the occupation, so the Germans kept issuing new orders to solve the problem. Singing the national song was forbidden and any flags had to be hidden away.

In 1941 Syttende Mai was declared to be a normal workday in Norway, but it was nonetheless decided to allow flags to be flown from poles...but not at half mast, as many Norwegians decided to do as an expression of the country's tragic situation under German rule. Afterwards the Germans instituted dozens of new restrictions on the flag. In effect, it became forbidden to carry or wear the flag or its colors. In larger cities this meant that Syttende Mai was most commonly commemorated indoors.

## **Valhall Viking**

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## **Valhall Viking** **MAY 2009**

### **CALENDAR**

#### **MAY**

2 Sat Ladies of Valhall  
4 Mon Business Meeting  
4 Mon Corporation Meeting  
9 Sat Rosemaling  
14 Thur Genealogy  
16 Sat Social—Sytendde Mai Buffet  
23 Sat Rosemaling

Next newsletter is the  
June issue.

Deadline for the  
June  
Valhall Viking is  
**May 15**

E-Mail articles to:  
[valhallnews@san.rr.com](mailto:valhallnews@san.rr.com)

