

Sons of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Meetings on the first Sunday of the month – Potluck at 1:30 p.m.
St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery, IL

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President's Message



President Ken with grandson, Nels Johnson

Hilsen Polar Star Lodge!

I certainly miss seeing all of you at all of our summer events and hope that all of you are well and staying safe. Sheltering in has allowed me the time to review all off our membership information and have discovered that our lodge has fallen behind in recognizing our members for their "milestone" years of membership. I plan to use the August meeting program time to celebrate our members with length of service pins, and other awards that we have earned. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the August picnic!

Your President
Ken Johnson



"My Corona" genser



"jentene"

Send pictures of your Sheltering In projects and hobbies to barbjohnsonb@aol.com

Upcoming Events

Polar Star Family Picnic

August 2

1:30

Location TBD

See page 2

Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month.
Please submit all articles to Barb Johnson
at barbjohnsonb@aol.com
Follow us on facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

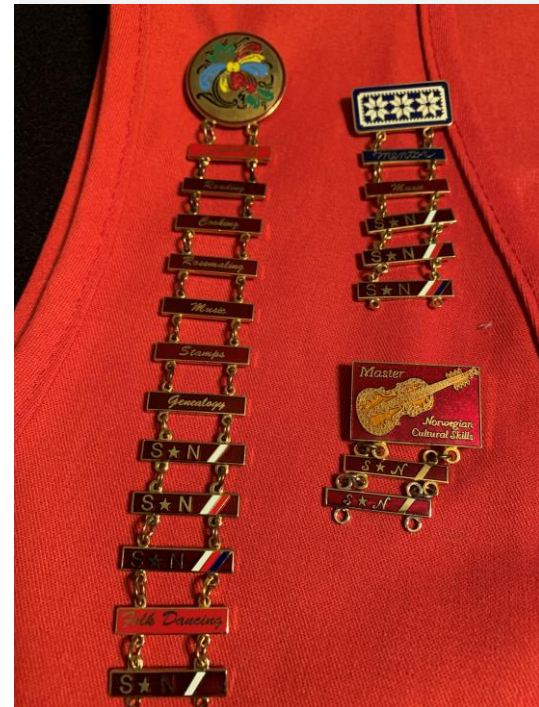
Membership News

Culture Medals earned in 2020

Polar Star Social Distancing Picnic August 2, 2020

1:30 p.m.

We are hopeful that Polar Star will be able to get together for a family picnic in August (location TBD). The event will be a pack your own lunch, lawn chairs and blanket/table event.



Karen Oswald – Knitting !
Diana Raimond – Literature 1
Barb Johnson Literature 2 & 3
Ken Johnson Literature 3
Richard Vigsnes – Literature 1
Jerri Lynn Baker Literature 1
Frank Krawczyk – Literature 2 & 3
Carol Devito – Literature 1

Polar Star Virtual Walk from Norway to St. Olaf

by Sports Director and Polar Star "Shield Maiden" Jerri Lynn Baker



Polar Star walked a total of 837.46 miles in April and 1208.74 miles in May!!!

We have now walked OVER HALF WAY back to St. Olaf's church in Montgomery! We are doing an amazing job! The top five walkers were:

Jerri Lynn at 228.51 miles

Kelly Welin at 148.84 miles

Diana Raimond at 115 miles

Joni Kohler at 95 miles

Richard Vigness at 77.25 miles

Congrats to everyone who is helping us get home! Every single mile counts as well as those tenths!!

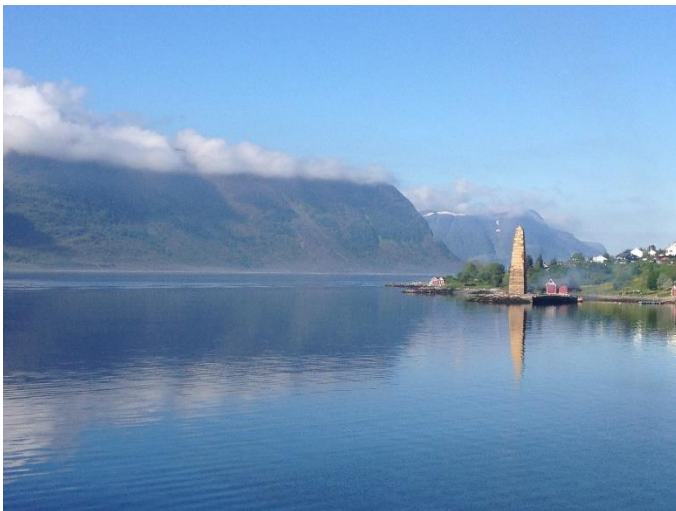
Norwegian Midsummer

June 23rd

On Midsummer Day, Norwegians remember the birth of John the Baptist and they celebrate the summer solstice.

Midsummer's Eve is often referred to as "jonsok", which originates from Norse and means, "vigil for Jon". In earlier times, people believed that "witches" and other supernatural spirits were strong on Midsummer Eve since the sun turns on that day. People would gather herbs and make a bonfire to keep the witches away.

Modern Norwegians celebrate Midsummer with friends and family with a barbecue followed by playing games and relaxing much like Americans do on the 4th of July. After eating and fun for hours, everyone goes together to watch the lighting of the bonfires.

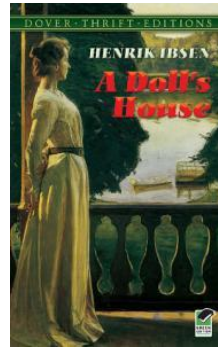
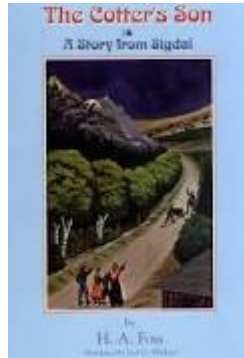
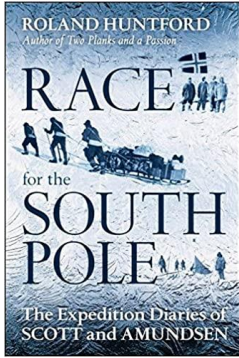


Editor's note: left - Ålesund Norway bonfire tower taken on 6/20/15 from the MS Kong Harald

Polar Star Culture Corner

Covid-19 Edition

Editor's note: Our members continue to use the "sheltering in" time to read and complete the requirements for the Literature Culture Medals. This space is devoted to their book reviews (Elective #4)



"Race for the South Pole" The Expedition Diaries of Scott and Amundsen

by Roland Huntford reviewed by Phyllis Benson (Barb's mom)

Race for the South Pole was an utterly fascinating account of Roald Amundsen's plans and journey to the south pole. The day by day diaries of Roald Amundson and Robert Scott were presented together as well as journal entries by members of Amundson's crew. The accounts were well written and really interesting. There were times when the crew members did not agree with what was done, but it was a story of cooperation. The strength of Norwegian character is evident. Amundsen planned well for this trip learning from people living in Arctic regions about survival and made plans for stashes of food. His plans served him well.

Roald Amundson was active exploring the polar region when I was a small child and I remember reading and hearing of his activities. I also remember reading about him when he was lost and never found. I was in the first grade. I am always interested in exploring new places and things as now exploring space which is another fascinating subject.

I loved this book and of course would recommend it to others.

The Cotter's Son, by H.A. Foss reviewed by Phyllis Benson

Torsten Hovland had the richest most beautiful farm in Sigdal Valley. He was a mean selfish man who had had a lovely, caring and giving wife and a beautiful daughter who like her mother was a good person. Torkil Haugen was his cotter who did all of the work and he and his wife lived in a poor hovel on the property. Torkil and his wife had a son, Ole, the same age as Hovlands daughter, Maire. The two children played together from the time they were "tots" and became close friends as they grew older. It made no difference to Marie that she was from a rich privileged family and Ole was from a poor cotter's son. He father had her mate selected for her – an ill-tempered drinking buddy of his - and this became a real problem. I won't spoil the story for someone else by telling the ending, but there is a surprise!

I learned from reading this novel that one can overcome all obstacles if determined enough. Ole emigrated to American and was eventually very successful, while Marie's father and the man her father wanted her to marry became hopeless drunks. I didn't realize that there was such a class distinction in Norway at the time this novel was written. I got the feeling that the poor people were treated like slaves with no real hope of improving their lives.

I would certainly recommend *The Cotter's Son* to anyone who is interested in Norsk life and I'm sure it will be enjoyed by all.

Review of "A Doll's House"

A Play by Henrik Ibsen

Review by Frank Krawczyk

This review of "A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen is not based upon "seeing" the play but upon "reading" the play, a different experience and a satisfying one. The play was written in 1879 and was critical of society's view of women. As such it was not well received by viewers because it pointed out the lack of freedom and respect afforded women by their husbands and fathers alike. The lead character, Nora, likes and consumes macaroons, and must hide

that fact from her husband, Torvald, because he doesn't want her to have them. Torvald also chides her about the value of money and considers her, incorrectly, as a spendthrift. Furthermore, Nora's husband uses pet names for her that is a diminutive form such as sparrow and the like.

As the play progresses it becomes obvious that Nora borrowed money for her husband's illness to be cured using the forged name of her father. The holder of the bond she forged, Nils Krogstad, who lent her the money, demands her help in retaining his job under threat of telling her husband where the money came from. It soon becomes obvious to Nora that her husband thinks of his desires above and beyond the importance of Nora's desires and needs. In reflection Nora believes she is not so much loved and owned. This play contains treachery, deceit, dominance, lies and unrequited love. I highly recommend that if you cannot "see" this play you read it.

Karen Oswald – Literature Part 3

Elective # 11 Review a Film: "The Snowman"

"The Snowman" was written by Jo Nesbø, one of Norway's most popular crime fiction writers. The book was published in 2007 and the movie released in 2017, with Martin Scorsese as executive producer.

The story opens in the early 1980s with a married woman having a fling with her lover while her child waits in the car. Mother and son then raced away in the car leaving behind a snowman outside the house. The story then moves to 2004, where most of the rest of the story takes place.

The main character is Harry Hole, Oslo crime squad's lead detective. He has several personal flaws and a history of alcoholism but is a brilliant detective with keen intuition. In 1992 a series of murders of kidnapped women began in Bergen. The killer became known as The Snowman since each murder happened during the first snow of the year. In 2004 a letter from the Snowman taunts Harry to investigate the snowman serial killer cold cases. He is joined by Katrine Bratt, a sharp, talented recruit who transfers from the Bergen police department. Michael Fassbender and Rebecca Ferguson were ideal casting; they gave compelling, believable performances.

One of the main themes is infidelity. Each of the murdered women had secrets and each came from a family where a child is raised by an unsuspecting non-biological father.

The character development is strong; most seem to struggle with one or more personality disorders. Portrayal of the story is rich in detail, with graphic accounts of the crimes and grisly displays of crime scenes. Along the way, several people come under suspicion and there are many twists to the story. There are trails of breadcrumbs, but not so obvious as to rush the story. (I'm

purposely not going into great detail on plot lines or plot twists so as not to spoil the story for future readers.)

The cinematography is gorgeous. Norway's expansive scenery and harsh winters are showcased and are absolutely breathtaking. The scenery alone is worth the price of admission.

I have read the book as well as viewed the movie. The book was highly readable, and the movie highly watchable. For both the tension starts at the beginning and doesn't let up throughout. However, it is worth knowing that there are several very significant plot differences between the book and the movie. (Again, I'm purposely not going into detail on those differences so to not compromise the story for future readers.)

In summary, I totally enjoyed both book and movie. However, as with so many books made into movies, I recommend reading the book first. But having said that, I so enjoyed immersing myself in the movie's spectacular Norwegian winter scenery.

Karen Oswald – Literature Part 3

Elective # 4 Book Review for Lodge Newsletter

"A Happy Boy" was written in 1859/1860 by Bjornstjerne Bjornson, composer of the Norwegian national anthem "Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Lande" and recipient of the 1903 Nobel prize for literature. Bjornson is generally considered to be one of the "great four" Norwegian writers.

It is a small book (less than 100 pages), but a sweet and heartwarming read. It is a story about the peasant life of Eyvind Thoresen Pladsen, son of a houseman (tenant farmer) on a small Norwegian farm.

The story begins when four-year-old Eyvind meets and becomes fascinated with young Marit Knutsdatter, granddaughter of Ole Nordistuen, owner of a neighboring gard (farm). This coming of age story follows Eyvind and his friendship with Marit through his childhood, adolescence, and into early adulthood. From their first meeting, Eyvind and Marit develop a warm friendship and eventually fall in love, complicated by stations in life: farm owners versus farm workers. Marit's grandfather wants her to marry a middle or upper class man, so he tries to keep them apart.

We hear about Eyvind's hard-working parents and learn about his close friendship with his schoolmaster and mentor, Baard. Eyvind grows up industrious, yet kind to others. He is a smart boy who quietly takes the steps necessary to achieve his goals of being happy and successful.

Under Baard's mentorship and by his parents having frugally saving money, Eyvind successfully passes an important entry exam and is able to go away to an agricultural college. The entire time he writes secret letters to Marit, with poetry and songs sprinkled throughout. Once back home again, he uses his newly acquired knowledge to earn an area-wide reputation for successful tenant farm maintenance. Marit's elderly grandfather was getting less able to keep up the farm and came

to realize that Eyvind could take good care of the farm and would also be a loving spouse for Marit. He then sanctioned both their marriage and Eyvind's joint ownership of the farm.

This was a satisfying read and a very enjoyable ending to this simple book: love and hard work will win out. "A Happy Boy" is a happy book.

As I read the last pages of this book, I realized and actually felt that I had a very personal connection. My 5th great-grandmother Else Ahlsen was the daughter of my 6th great-grandfather Ahl Larsen, owner of the Korsæet farm in Ostfold, Norway just outside of Halden. Else married Daniel Nilson in the late 1700s, and Lars gave them a portion of the farm, splitting the original farm between she and her three brothers into the Nord, Sor, Ost, and Vest Korsæet farms. I have visited that farmland twice, once in 2000 and again in 2017. It hasn't been in possession of my family for many many years and the six farm buildings are sadly in serious disrepair, but it is still a beautiful, serene piece of rolling farmland overlooking Lake

Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday)



Polar Star Members!

15-30 JUNI

- 21. Jim VanWinkle
- 21. Delilah Vacik
- 23. Roald Berg
- 25. Jeanne Leifheit
- 26. Richard Hatteberg
- 29. Harold Broten

1-15 JULI

- 5. Linnea Vann

Polar Star Midsummer Culture Quiz

Norwegian Language remains a 2020 Culture Goal for our Lodge. Our Language Warriors have not been able to meet but we thought it might be fun to offer our membership a chance to learn the basics of the Norwegian language and culture through a little quiz (with prizes of course). Just complete the quiz, mail it to Barb Johnson at 501 West Ridge, Yorkville 60560. All entries must be postmarked by June 30th.

1. The Norwegian language contains three additional letters to their alphabet. What are those letters and are they consonants or vowels?
2. There are eight key question words in Norwegian. What do they mean?
a. Hvor c. hvem e. når g. hvor mye
b. Hva d. hvorfor f. hvordan h. hvor mange
3. Midsummer in Norway is held on June 23rd to celebrate whose birthday?
4. "På norsk" . What does this mean?
5. "Hva heter du?" What does this phrase mean?
6. Hot dogs and ice cream are favorite foods at a Norwegian Midsummer picnic. How would you say "hot dogs and ice cream" in Norwegian.
7. Midsummer Eve is often called "jonsok". What does this mean?
8. Midsummer falls in the month of June. What is the Norwegian word for June?
9. What is a bål in Norway?
10. Norway is known as "midnattsolens land". What does this mean?
11. What is the Norwegian name for the Summer Solstice?
12. What is the name of the Polar Star Language group?
13. Women in Scandinavia often wear a head piece made of flowers to celebrate midsummer. What is the Norwegian word for flower wreath?
14. Raspberries and Strawberries are favorite summer fruits. What are the Norwegian words for:
a) raspberry b) strawberry c) fruit
15. What is the origin of Norwegian bonfires?
16. Which Polar Star member will celebrate their 68th birthday on Summer Solstice?
17. The tallest bonfire on Midsummer was held in 2016. What is the norwegian name of that bonfire and how tall was it?
18. Many of the bonfires in Norway can be seen along the western coast. What is the Norwegian word for "coast"?
19. What is the Norwegian work for "language"
20. What skal du gjøre i sommer?

POLAR STAR 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2020 PROGRAMS 1:30 p.m. (unless listed)”

AUGUST 2nd – Polar Star Family Picnic

OCTOBER 4th - Program TBA

NOVEMBER 1st - Høstfest

December 6th - Juletreffest



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VASA PARK SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL

Has been **cancelled** for

Sunday, September 13th, 2020



