

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

President's Message



President Ken and Foundation Director, Carol Devito auction a Sons of Norway mask for the S of N Foundation.

Hilsen Polar Star Lodge!

It is fall and we look forward to food, fun, football and changing weather. We hope to see all of you at our Lodge family and friends Høstfest. Even though we will miss hosting a large event for the public, it will provide an opportunity to share our accomplishments and our great food with each other!

Vi sees!
Your President
Ken Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anderson Farm
Fish Bowl

Saturday
October 23rd

3:30-6:30

Adults: \$15.00

Kids: 12 and under free

Polar Star Culture
Showcase

November 7th

1:30

See page 3 for details

SAVE THE DATE!!!

MARCH 6, 2022

STOUGHTON

NORWEGIAN DANCERS

PERFORMANCE AT

CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

YORKVILLE, IL

Sponsored by

Polar Star Lodge

Polar Star Newsletter Deadline

Will be the 14th of every month.

Please submit all articles to Barb Johnson

at barbjjohnsonb@aol.com

Follow us on facebook @

Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

Norway Museum Webiste

www.norskmuseum.org.

Polar Star Website

www.polarstarlodge.com

October is Sons of Norway Foundation Month



October is Foundation Month! This is a time to celebrate the Sons of Norway Foundation and the value it brings to our members and their communities.

1. Building the heritage of the future
2. Sustaining the link to contemporary Norway
3. Committing to life-long learning and service
4. Demonstrating compassion for those in need
5. Funding innovative individuals and opportunities
6. Fostering a cohesive community of generosity

The Sons of Norway Foundation was founded in 1966 to support our members and now offers a wide range of scholarships and grants focused on promoting Norwegian heritage and culture, providing cross-cultural educational opportunities to our members, and supporting our communities through humanitarian aid. The Foundation gives out over \$130,000 in grants and scholarships every year, but we need the support of members like you! Our scholarships and grants can be a lifeline for students, families and lodges, and the economic effects caused by COVID-19 only increase the need for these vital opportunities.

Be a part of something bigger with the Sons of Norway Foundation—support our members and communities by donating today! Visit www.SofN.com/Foundation to learn more, donate or see different ways your lodge can get involved (virtually!) in Foundation Month.

Editor's Note: Polar Star Lodge has benefited from the foundation by receiving grant money for various programs and events. At our October meeting our lodge voted to make a \$1000.00 donation to the foundation to support the scholarship and grant programs.

Leif Erikson Day October 9, 2021

Polar Star members, Barb Johnson and Joni Kohler, celebrated Leif Erikson Day honoring their Norwegian ancestors at the Leland, Illinois Cemetery Walk followed by a tour of the newly opened Leland Historical Society Museum.



Polar Star Culture Corner

by Barb Johnson

Polar Star Culture Showcase

November 7, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.



I joined Polar Star Lodge in 2006 to learn more about my Norwegian heritage. Fifteen years later my kids tease me that I have become a “professional Norwegian”. I actually think that is probably true. I have loved learning about the history and the culture of my ancestors. I have also loved the Sons of Norway Culture medal program that has provided me with the incentive to earn medals and to introduce all of you to the same opportunities. Our November meeting will be devoted to recognizing all of our Polar Star members who have earned medals. Please plan to wear any medals that you have earned and bring in any completed projects to display.

The Polar Star Potluck will begin at 1:30 featuring our favorite Høstfest food items that we will share with each other during the potluck. Please provide your own table service. **Go Further Your Cultural Skills...**

Want to take your culture skills to a new level? Members who have completed multiple units can earn special recognition.

A Master of Cultural Skills is someone who has completed multiple units. Finish all three parts of any three units for the bronze level, all parts of six units for the silver level and all parts of nine units for the gold level.

Editor's Note: The following article completes the requirements for Karen Oswald to earn her Handanger Culture Medal. Well done Karen!

Karen Oswald - Hardanger Cultural Medal Part 1 – Elective #1 – History of Hardanger Embroidery

(Published in the October 2021 Polar Star Lodge 5-472 Newsletter)

Hardanger embroidery (known in Norway as “Hardangersøm”) is worked with white cotton thread on even-weave linen or other cloth, using counted thread and drawn thread techniques. Hardanger is sometimes called whitework embroidery. Modern Hardanger cloth usually has 22 or 20 threads per inch. However, historically, Hardanger was worked on linen with a threadcount of 36 or more, such as displayed in the first picture below. Drawn thread technique means that the pieces are first worked on counted threads, and then some of the threads are cut or otherwise removed, leaving a network of loose threads and large holes. Various decorative stitches are then worked over the loose threads, creating a lacy effect and distinctive patterns. Some threads may be pulled tight to achieve a raised pattern. Traditional hardanger embroidery is geometric in form and based on several basic shapes such as squares, rectangles, triangles, eight-pointed stars, diamonds, etc., with the straight lines and angles softened with additional stitchery. The designs are never pictorial.

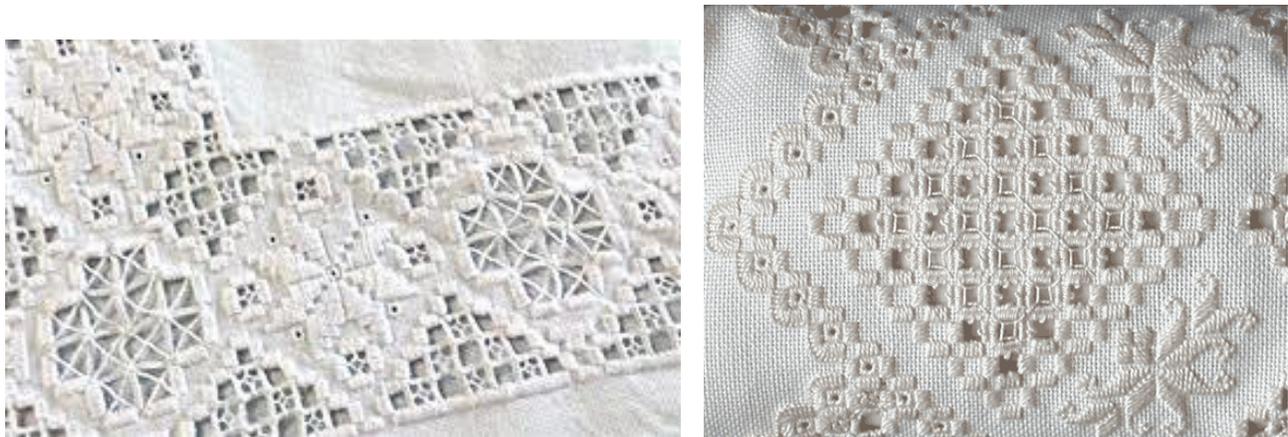


Hardanger work is often found incorporated into traditional Norwegian bunad blouses and aprons, bridal headcoverings (handaplagg), tablecloths, doilies, curtains, bedspreads, altar cloths and even some Lutheran pastor stoles.

Hardanger embroidery is thought to have its roots in ancient Persia and Asia, where stitches were worked on a fine gauze netting using silk threads, various colors, and even metallic threads. During the Renaissance, that technique found its way to parts of Europe, evolving into Danish Hedebo, Scottish Ayshire, Ruskin lacework, and Italian Reticella (reti means net). Traditional Norwegian hardanger seems to be almost a direct offshoot of Italian Reticella, with similar motifs and also worked white-on-white.

The basic technique was first seen along the west central coast of Norway, in Nordmore, in the late 1700s. This Norwegian form of embroidery flourished over southern Norway throughout the 1800s, but it was not until 1890 that it first became known outside of Norway, when representatives from a large thread company visited Norway and were introduced to the technique. Although the technique did not yet have a name, those companies copied the patterns and began to mass produce pattern books with some of the designs.

Hardanger gained its name and worldwide recognition in 1900 at the Paris Exposition, where a woman from the Hardanger district on Norway's southwestern coast won an award for an apron that she had made and embellished with a Hardanger embroidery panel. Located in a mountainous area at the head of the Hardanger fjord and because it was rural, remote and generally accessible only by boat, the area developed its own distinctive embroidery style and technique, still surviving as Hardanger embroidery today.



That said, Hardanger patterns continue to evolve and expand; an increasing number of contemporary designs are worked with colored, variegated, or specialty threads, and sometimes even include other types of needlework. However, traditional Hardanger embroidery is still white-on-white or cream-on-cream;



Polar Star Sports and Activities

by Jerri Lynn Baker



Congrats to everyone who earned the St. Francis cross for walking the St. Francis Way – a distance of 342 miles. Pictured L to R: Sports Director, Jerri Lynn, Frank Krawczyk, Karen Oswald and Diana Raimond. Not pictured: Joni Koehler, Carol Vigness, Richard Vigness, and Kelly Welin

Congrats to Karen Oswald for being the latest of our group to earn the coveted Idrettshelts Medal. Having earned all previous levels of the Gangemerke. Earning the Idrettshelt required Karen to complete double the distance of the enamel medal level. She joins the ranks with Jerri Lynn Baker, Frank Krawczyk, Barb Johnson, Diana Raimond, Carol Vigness and Kelly Welin!

It's not too late to request our online and virtual walk around Norway. Ask Jerri Lynn (loving mom@comcast.net) to send you the invitation with your email address. This a group effort for the miles.

Planning will begin soon for a Lodge "Ruck" in the spring. Start training! We will put food in our backpacks to carry on a one or two mile route and at the conclusion we will donate these items to St. Olaf's food pantry. Prizes will be awarded for the male and female who carry the most weight. However, there will be no requirement for the amount you carry. If you can carry 2 lbs. that is awesome! This is about helping our neighbors. More information to come later.

Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) Polar Star!



Karen Oswald October 30



Cole Johnson November 4



OCTOBER 16-31

- 19. Donna Kristensen
- 19. Emilia Todd
- 30. Karen Oswald

NOVEMBER 1-15

- 4. Cole Johnson
- 9. Gelaine G. Gallucci
- 9. Jean Kutrovatz

POLAR STAR 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

POLAR STAR JULETREFEST

SUNDAY, DECEMBERth 2021 pending virus safety

Tree trimming at 1:00 p.m.

POTLUCK BEGINS AT 1:30

January 2, 2022 : Norwegian American Women Masse Moro (“lots of fun”) in Oktober!



Thanks Scarlett for sharing your experiences at Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Youth Camp. Thanks to Dad, (Travis), and Grandpa Floyd for encouraging and supporting your love and enthusiasm for our Norwegian heritage!



Al Bergh, Zone 5 Director Connie Kross, Nancy Andersen and VP Frank Krawczyk discussing Sons of Norway Lodge Business

Sons of Norway
Polar Star Lodge 5-472
Regular Meeting, October 3, 2021

The lodge met in person in St. Olaf's Lutheran Church basement. President Ken Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:19 PM, following a 1:30 PM delicious Norwegian meatball and boiled potato pot luck luncheon.

Treasurer's Report: Carol read the Treasurer's report (copy attached).

Announcements:

- President Ken announced that our Polar Star booth at the 2021 annual Vasa Park Scandinavian Festival last month was a huge success. The income from our flea market tables and baked goods sales far surpassed income from past years.
- Vice President Frank reminded everyone to bring a food donation to each meeting, so we can help supplement St. Olaf's food pantry.
- October is Sons of Norway foundation month. Donations fund 16 different Sons of Norway scholarships, support many lodge cultural and community support activities, among other worthy activities.
- Polar Star will sponsor a presentation by the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers in spring 2022.
- With much sadness, Ken informed us that member Michael Lund recently lost his special needs daughter.
- Polar Star Lodge received a sons of Norway mask in recognition of our donations last year to the foundation. The mask was auctioned off, with the winning \$16 bid donated to the foundation.
- District 5 Representative Connie reminded us to let her know if we had items to bring up at the district meeting to be held this month. Connie also showed us the SOFN sweatshirts and aprons that are for sale, with proceeds going to the district.
- Al Berg made a motion that we make \$1000 donation to the Sons of Norway foundation. The motion was seconded and several comments made during discussion of the motion. Ultimately the motion passed, however with the caveat that the funds specifically go towards Sons of Norway scholarships.
- Barb explained the significant changes to the national policies and procedures for awarding cultural medals. There was much discussion about the changes, with those commenting expressing disappointment and dissatisfaction with the changes. Connie will report our concerns at the upcoming district meeting.

Medals/Pins/Awards:

- The pin for virtually walking to Norway and back was awarded to Al and Phoebe Berg. In addition, they also received Gangemerke pins – Al received enamel and Phoebe received gold.
- Idrettsmerke pins was awarded to Karen Oswald.
- Karen, Diana, Frank, and Jerri Lynn received an award for completing the St Francis walk.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 7, and will showcase the various Norwegian culture projects that we individually worked on during the 2020-2021 Covid year. Bring your projects to display during our meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Presentation: Following the meeting, Floyd Anderson's granddaughter Scarlett gave a very interesting presentation and slideshow telling us all about her attendance at Masse Moro, the Sons of Norway 5th District Youth Heritage camp this past summer. Her father Travis had attended Masse Moro when he was a teenager in the 1980s. He said that the camp (cabins, etc.) had changed very little since then. Scarlett and her father belong to a Sons of Norway Lodge in Indiana. Polar Star Lodge and their home Indiana Lodge sponsored Scarlett's attendance this past summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Oswald, Secretary

Cottages in the Woods



Cottages in the Woods is a unique event held in the historic Good Templar Park of Geneva, IL on Saturday October 16 and Sunday October 17, 10 am -4pm each day. Our Swedish stugas (cottages) will be open for visitors to see, with each offering a variety of delightful wares . Visitors will find handmade items as well as vintage and collectible items, and traditional Scandinavian arts of rosemaling, and dala maling. Treat your self to 3 Food Trucks and homemade baked goods . This family friendly occasion is a charming event for all ages. \$10 per person 12 and up. For the overall safety of our members and guests, masks will be required in all indoor spaces. Thank you for your cooperation.

Skjold Norwegian Heritage Fest

Saturday, November 13, 11:00-3:00 pm

**All Saints Lutheran Church
630 S. Quentin Road, Palatine, IL**

***Norwegian Bachelor Farmers at 11:30
Singing and playing guitar**

***Leikarringen Nordic Folk Dancers at 1:00 p.m.**

**Bake Sale
Norwegian folk crafts
Norwegian items for sale
Children's activities**

