

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Sunday, May 4
1:30 pm.
St. Olaf Lutheran
Church

See page 2 for details

Norsk Museum
Opening Day
June 7, 2025

Norway, Illinois
See flier on page 11

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
or at
www.polarstarlodge.com

Hilsen Polar Star!

In our Polar Star world, “April Showers” bring “May Flowers” that we will be seeing at all of our many upcoming Lodge and Syttendemai events.

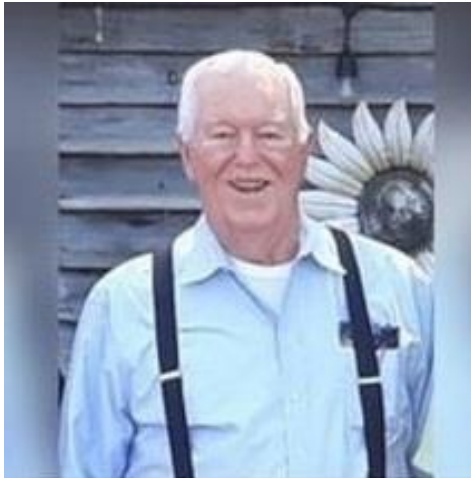
I hope that you will make plans to participate in Norwegian Constitution Day Syttendemai events the weekend of May 16-18 in Park Ridge, Illinois or In Stoughton, WI. Barb has included activity information from both locations on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.

Finally, just a reminder to register and volunteer to work at our October 3-5 Heritage Weekend.

Your President,
Ken Johnso

Polar Star Lodge
In Memoriam
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

May 4, 2025
St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Montgomery, Il.



Richard Hatteberg



Eleanor Bates



Don Danielson

May is the month that America remembers those who have died in service to our nation. Polar Star will devote our May Meeting to honoring Polar Star members and their loved ones with a Service of Remembrance Program led by Rev. Al Bergh.



Todd Skogen



Inger Langsholt

Potluck begins at 1:30 followed by The Service of Remembrance

Cleng Peerson April Lodge Event
Sunday April 27, 2025
at the Norway Community Building
Norway, Illinois

Cleng Peerson Lodge invites you to attend their May Lodge meeting and go home with a needle felted Viking. Learn how to needle felt with wool and a Viking shaped cookie cutter.



Snacks at noon and project at 1:00

Sons of Norway Book Club



Book Club Zoom Meeting - Eastern U.S. and Canada

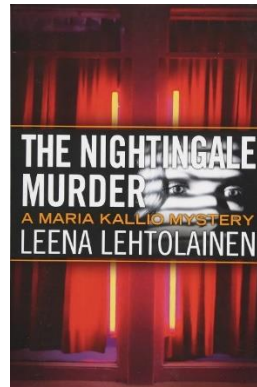
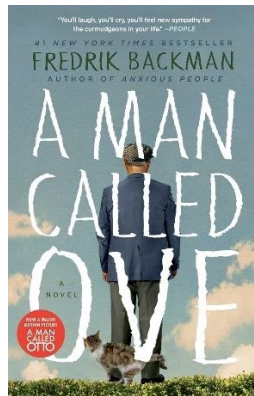
Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83896375420?pwd=K69cUH4rHRRhjNoFTjVzowHyYXR8bi.1>

Meeting ID: 838 9637 5420

Passcode: 936269

MAY 29TH BOOK SELECTIONS



Main Read: *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman

Mystery Read: *Nightingale Murder (Maria Kallio Mystery Book 9)*
by Leena Lehtolainen

I have read "A Man called Ove" and watched the Swedish movie of the same name and enjoyed them both. The American version of the movie is called "A Man called Otto" and stars Tom Hanks as Otto . It is also good, but I liked the Swedish version better.

Jerri Lynn Baker – Sports Director

“299 Miles or Bust”

It has been a long walk but Polar Star walkers are within 300 miles of their goal to walk the distance from New York to Norway Illinois

From our Sports Director.....

“At the meeting I said, anyone that could make it under needing 300 (299) miles of the required 836 would have their name in a drawing for some sort of prize I have laying around here. If you have a different total of miles completed thus far from what I have please let me know.

As of March 31 (Please give me some slack with my math skills. LOL

You guys with your partial miles are hurting my brain! LOL)

Barb has 546.4 miles, so she would have to log at least 38.45 in April

Richard and Carol have 437 miles, they would have to log 100 miles in April

Karen has 426.3 miles, so she would have to log 110.7 miles

Diana has 469.24 miles, she would have to log 67.76 miles

Nancy has 434.6 miles, she would have to log 102.4 miles in April

Floyd has 388.31 miles, he would have to log 148.69 miles

Kim has 326.8 miles (she didn't know about the challenge last August), so she needs 210.2 miles

Me (Jerri Lynn) has 536.4 miles logged. So I am under the required 299. In my defense for logging so many miles, I've got some big races coming up so I HAVE to get the miles done.

So a few of you have it in your sights to get to 299 this month, some of you it would be a phenomenal work of art to log all those miles. HOWEVER, the important thing to know is this is just an incentive to keep you all moving (maybe there will be a future challenge...) YOU ARE ALL DOING A GREAT JOB! There is no doubt in my mind that ALL OF US will log the 836 miles by October 31!”

Keep Moving!



Walk in the Syttendemai parade for extra miles

Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) Polar Star Members!



April 15-30

- .15 Brett Todd
- .19 Phoebe Bergh
- . 23 Jerri Lynn Baker
- .30 Diana Raimond

May 1-15

- .2 Andrew Nelms
 - .7 Ken Nordan
 - .12 Reagan Gryder
-
-

Graatuler med 90-årsdagen

Phoebe Bergh

April 19, 1935



Hip Hip Hooray!! Syttende mai Season is here!



Norwegian Constitution Day Luncheon Saturday May 17th – 11:00-3:00 p.m.

New Location: Old Orchard Country Club in Mt. Prospect, IL

Link for luncheon details, photos, reservations and online payment information:

<https://www.nnleague.org/banquet.html>

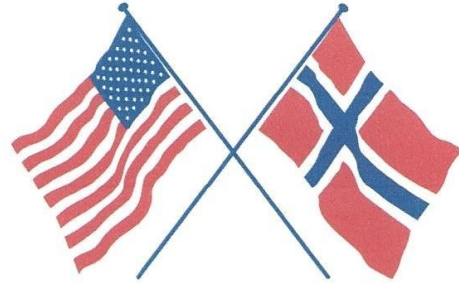
or

Mail your reservation and payment using the attached flyer.

New Earlier Deadline for Paid Luncheon Reservations: April 30, 2025



Norwegian
Constitution Day
Luncheon 2025



*The Norwegian National League
cordially welcomes you to celebrate Syttende Mai*

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Note the new location!
Old Orchard Country Club
700 W. Rand Road, Mt Prospect, Illinois

Meet & Greet 11:00 am • Luncheon 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Music by Swedish Folk
Raffle Benefiting Scholarship Program

Cost: \$70 per person

Paid Luncheon Reservation Deadline: April 30, 2025

Send to: Matt Nygaard, 4915 N. Winchester Ave, Chicago, IL 60640

Complete the following form and enclose a check payable to **NorCham Chicago**.



Name: _____ Filet Mignon and Chicken Combo or Grilled Salmon

Name: _____ Filet Mignon and Chicken Combo or Grilled Salmon

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would like to sit with: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Questions or more Information? Call Jill Crooker: (847) 825-2778

PARADE!

Celebrating Norway Day

**Sunday,
May 18, 2025**

Hodges Park Festivities
In front of Park Ridge City Hall

Noon - 3:00 pm

*Music – Vendors
Children’s Activities – Dancing
Scholarship Presentation*

Parade Starts at 1:00 PM

Talcott & Cumberland
to City Hall



Sponsored by the Norwegian National League

www.nnleague.org

We hope you'll be able to join us for one or both of these events. 😊
The Norwegian National League of Chicago



200 years of Norwegian Immigration

Please plan to march with Polar Star Lodge as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Restauration “Sloop” arrival in America. We will use this opportunity to promote our Norwegian Heritage Culture Weekend October 3-5 in Norway, Illinois. Bring a giant bag of candy to pass out and wear your Norwegian shirts



Join the PARADE! Celebrating Norway' Constitution Day on Sunday, May 18, 2025. Hodges Park Festivities In front of City Hall 11:00 - 3:00 pm Music – Vendors Children's Activities – Dancing Scholarship Presentation, Parade Starts at 1:00 PM Talcott & Cumberland to City Hall Sponsored by the Norwegian National League

2nd Annual

TASTE OF NORWAY BREAKFAST

Sat., June 4, 2016 7 to 11 a.m.

Norway Community Bldg. — Norway, IL

Right in Norway — Just West of Route 71 on 2603rd Road

Enjoy delicious home cooked Norwegian specialties such as FRIED KUMLA, Norwegian Waffles, Guma, scrambled eggs with chives, fried potatoes, fresh fruit and a whole bunch of desserts!



ADULTS

\$8 (Advance Sales)

\$9 (at the door)

CHILDREN (under 8)

\$5 (Advance Sales)

\$6 (at the door)

Phone (815) 343-5070

for more information & tickets or

Email: david7dog@yahoo.com

After breakfast – go over to the
NORSK MUSEUM for their
Season 2016
GRAND OPENING !!





Celebrate Norwegian Heritage at the Syttende Mai Festival!

Stoughton's Syttende Mai festival is a weekend-long celebration of Norwegian heritage featuring fun activities and cultural experiences for the whole family. Come join us for three days of parades, amazing food and drink, arts and music, athletic competitions, and kids' activities steeped in centuries of Norwegian culture.

The city-wide festival takes place every year on the weekend closest to Norway's May 17th Constitution Day, also known as *Syttende Mai*. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, Stoughton enjoyed an influx of Norwegians, and at one time, as many as 75 percent of its residents spoke Norwegian. These immigrants celebrated Syttende Mai unofficially, but it became an annual, city-wide tradition in the 1950s. The Syttende Mai Festival has been organized by the [Stoughton Chamber of Commerce](#) since 1953.

Editor's Note:

This is the link to the digital 2025 program with background information about all the events.
[Syttende Mai Festival - Stoughton Wisconsin](#)

"Today, Stoughton's Norwegian memories focus on a unique and exciting yearly celebration. But Syttende Mai is not just a glorification of the Norwegian heritage. It is a large-scale reminder of the richness of our pasts, of the immense value of all ethnic and national backgrounds to the history of our community, state, and nation."

From "A Brief History of the Stoughton Syttende Mai Celebration" by Stoughton Middle School Students, 1983

Geneva Viking ship tours open April 19

Public viewing of the Viking, a replica longship displayed at Good Templar Park, 528 East Side Drive in Geneva, OPENS Saturday, April 20.



Dave Nordin of Naperville, left, leads a tour of the Viking, a replica longship displayed at Good Templar Park, 528 East Side Drive in Geneva.
(Friends of Viking Ship photo)

Guided and self-guided viewing hours are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Guided tours end at 3:45 p.m. Viewing days continue May 17, June 15, 21, 22; July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20 and Oct. 18-19.

Parking is free. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$4 for teens 13-17 and free for kids 12 and under. Guided tours end at 3:45 p.m.

Tour guides recount the ship's history-changing story, discuss life on board and point out the skilled craftsmanship which allowed Viking ships to raid, trade and explore throughout the ancient world.

Displays of period photos and recreated Viking clothing, jewelry, tools and weapons are included.

The 78-foot-long Viking was built in Norway in 1893. A hardy group of 12 volunteers sailed it across the stormy north Atlantic to become a star attraction of the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition (World's Fair). The ship was modeled after the Gokstad, a 1000-year-old excavated burial ship of an ancient Viking king.

For more information, visit www.vikingship.us.

Article and photo Submitted by Al Benson

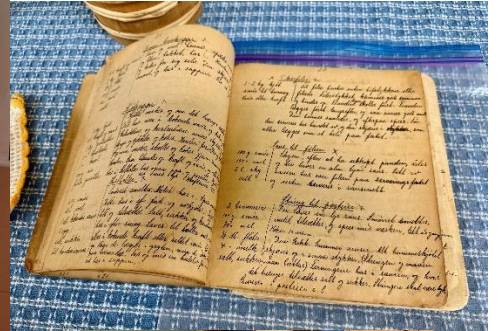
POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1:30 p.m. St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Montgomery, IL (unless listed)

MAY 4	Remembrance Service Hosts: Carol and Richard Vignes
JUNE 7	NORSK MUSEUM BREAKFAST
AUGUST 3	Polar Star Pioneer Piknik
SEPTEMBER 7	Scandinavian Days at VASA PARK
OCTOBER 3-5	Immigration Culture Weekend
NOVEMBER 2	HØSTFEST begins at 11:30 a.m.
DECEMBER 7	JULETFEST



Celebrating the Evolution of the Norwegian American Kitchen



Celebration Norwegian Heritage Culture Weekend

October 3-5, 2025

CALLING ALL POLAR STAR MEMBERS INTO ACTIVE VOLUNTEER DUTY !!!



The Planning Committee for the Heritage Weekend has been very busy completing plans for our scheduled event in October at the Norway Community Building in Norway, Illinois. The Committee encourages all of you to send in your weekend registration forms early to reserve your space. **The committee is also requesting members read the entire weekend schedule of activities and contact Karen Oswald with the following information by April 30th.**

1. Your name
2. What days you plan to attend the event?
3. What activities/presentations you definitely want to see or do?
4. What activities you want to volunteer for.

Please send the above information to: Karen Olson

Email: Ahsen@aol.com

Text: 630-204-9527

Address: 2857 Normandy Circle, Naperville, IL 60564-2820

Sons of Norway
Polar Star Lodge 5-472
Regular Meeting, April 6, 2025

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
1233 Douglas Avenue
Montgomery, IL 60538

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m., following a 1:30 p.m. delicious potluck luncheon of ham, scalloped potatoes, and various side dishes, salads, and desserts. The tables had beautiful Easter decorations. Kitchen hosts were Diana Raimond and Ed Hatteberg, and Jeanne and Craig Leifheit.

President's Announcements:

- Ken opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed everyone.
- Pledge of Allegiance was followed by singing of United States, Norwegian, and Canadian national anthems.
- Ken introduced visitor Jerry Frisbie from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is visiting our area to scout out locations for their Trondheim Lag 2026 annual meeting.
- There were no objections to the February meeting minutes.
- We plan to participate in the Park Ridge Syttende Mai parade (May 18), and the Geneva Swedish Days parade (June 22). Save the dates. We will advertise our Oct 3-5 Heritage Weekend at both events by handing out flyers to adults along the parade route. We will toss candy to the kids, so everyone should bring candy to our May meeting.

Treasurer Report:

- Carol read a summary of the monthly Treasurer's report (copy attached). Current checking account balance is \$3,474.14, and our total assets \$17,925.44. Motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and passed.

Sports Director Report: Jerri Lynn talked about our August 4, 2024 to Oct 5, 2025 Sloopier immigration virtual walk from New York City to Norway, IL, and reminded everyone to keep walking. She challenged walkers to come to the May meeting with only 300 miles or less left to walk.

Social Director Report:

- Nancy reminded about the Norwegian National League Annual Syttende Mai Banquet Luncheon on Sat, May 17, to be held at Old Orchard Country Club, with music group entertainment. Tickets are \$70.

Cultural Director Report:

- Barb reminded us about the Sons of Norway Zoom Book Club, and talked about the upcoming books.
- She also told us about the new Sons of Norway Zoom Norwegian language classes.
- The new Polar Star Textile club made died silk scarves last month, and in June will make woolen mittens.
- Barb is working hard on compiling our recipes in a Polar Star cookbook. Be sure to send your recipes to her. Also, each Polar star meeting, please bring the recipe for your pot luck dish on a 3x5 card (so anyone can photo it).

Heritage Oct 3-5 Weekend Committee Report:

- Karen asked everyone to please, read through the entire weekend schedule information and determine where they would like to volunteer. This is a big and important undertaking, and we will need everyone's help. Lots of volunteer opportunities will be available to all of us that weekend. We will all have fun not only attending, but also volunteering for a few activities ((but mainly to attend and enjoy!)).
- By the end of April, **all members** please call, text, or email Karen with your volunteer choices, and if you have any questions about volunteering. Her contact information will be in the April newsletter. There are so many things



that the committee has to commit to/arrange/purchase beforehand, so is very important that we make sure to have all jobs filled as soon as possible. The coming months will fly by before we know it!

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm, followed by a delightful, educational program: "Pioneer Food: Evolution of the Norwegian American Kitchen" presented by Nancy Andersen.

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 4: Polar Star Memorial Service.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Oswald, Secretary
