



February Lodge Meeting

Antarctic Expeditions

Saturday, Feb. 17, Potluck at 5 PM followed by presentation

Norway House

3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA

www.norwaydc.org/directions

Join us for a fascinating talk by Robert “Bob” Benson who, in 1957, was a scientific member of the first group to winter-over at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Bob will describe that winter and relate it to the earlier achievements of Norwegians Roald Amundsen, who led the first expedition to the South Pole, Fridtjof Nansen, who was the first to cross Greenland on skis and designed the ship *Fram* which he used for a three-year icebound drift in the polar ocean, and Kristian Birkeland, whom many consider the first space scientist.

Bob will also briefly describe current research at the U.S. South Pole Station and his own research at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. For a NASA/Goddard research project currently being conducted in Svalbard, Norway, see page 4.

Non-members are welcome. Children’s activities can be planned during the presentation if you



South Pole, Summer of 1957, when the Amundsen-Scott Station was dedicated. Fewer souls stayed for the winter. Our speaker was one.

email hospitality@norwaydc.org prior to the meeting. Send questions about the program to programs@norwaydc.org.

Membership pins will be awarded to Mortimer and Gerd Datz (55 years each!), Jo Storaker (45 years), and Tom Skidmore (20 years). Congratulations and tusen takk for your many years of support!

Lodge Contacts — page 22

Join our Lodge — page 6

March 17 Lodge Meeting: Our speaker will be gifted folk artist and lodge member Tina Keune, who will share stories and photos from her recent tour through Norway, which focused on traditional arts, crafts, and hospitality.



Felted Wool Workshop: A few spots are still open for the workshop at the Lodge on Saturday, Feb 10, 9 AM to 3 PM. This year we’ll create trolls, concentrating on expressive faces and cunning hands. Cost, including all materials and a light breakfast and lunch, is \$45. Email programs@norwaydc.org to register. Non-members welcome.

Lodge Calendar

www.norwaydc.org/events

Lodge Contacts: See page 22.

Activities are open to non-members and are at Norway House unless otherwise noted. Directions: page 22 and www.norwaydc.org/directions.

Felted Wool Workshop

Sat., Feb. 10, 9 AM to 3 PM
Page 1

Feb. Board Meeting

Sun., Feb. 12, 6 to 8 PM
SON members may attend, make suggestions, and learn how Lodge decisions are made.

Feb. Lodge Meeting

Sat., Feb. 17, 5 PM
Antarctic Expeditions, Page 1

Reading Circle

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 to 9 PM
Blood on Snow by Jo Nesbø
Page 15

March Lodge Meeting

Sat., March 17, 5 PM
A Cultural Tour Through Norway
Page 1

Norw. Language & Conversation

Every Wednesday
Beginner 6 PM, Interm. 7 PM, Adv. 8 PM
www.norwaydc.org/language Page 21

Lakselaget Monthly Meeting

Sat., Feb. 3, 11:30 AM
Seasons 52 Grill,
7863 Tyson's Corner Center, McLean, VA
"Norway's North Rail Express," \$35 members,
\$40 nonmembers. RSVP to
lisaba785@gmail.com. Visit
www.lakselagetdc.org/calendar

Norwegian Church Service

Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 PM
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd.
Bethesda, MD
"Parable of the Sower." Sunday School in Norwegian for children during church, coffee hour following church service. All are welcome.
<https://nosokirken.org/kirken/events-kirken/>

American-Scand.Assoc. (ASA)

Mon., Feb. 19, 8 PM
St. John's Church
6701 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD
"The Global Refugee Crisis." The speaker, Joel R. Chary, is the Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council USA. <http://scandinavian-dc.org/events>. See page 17.

Edvard Munch at Met Breuer, NYC

Through Feb. 4, 2018
"Between the Clock and the Bed."
www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2017/edvard-munch. See page 10.

Norwegian Embassy Website

<https://www.norway.no/en/usa/norway-usa/news-and-events/>



SON Wash. Lodge on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/SonsofNorwayDC

Norw. Embassy on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NorwegianEmbassyinWashington/>

NOTE: You don't need a Facebook account to access these sites. Try clicking the links.

Other local events

Scandinavian Dance groups: See page 21 for meeting information for the Nordic Dancers, Mid-Atlantic Norwegian Dancers, and Scandia DC.



Welcome New Members! Velkommen!

Viktoria Aivaliotis, Herndon, VA
 Britt Callahan, Clifton, VA
 Caitlin Christianson, Reston, VA
 Julie Christiansen, Fairfax, VA
 Elisabeth Deason, Arlington, VA
 Carrie Douglas, Annandale, VA
 Bill Greer, Alexandria, VA
 Donald Grohman, Bethesda, MD

Richard Henninger Jr., Vienna, VA
 Katja Jacobsen, Fairfax, VA
 Harrison and Heidi Koczuk, Reston, VA
 Chad Krause, Arlington, VA
 Barbara May, Springfield, VA
 Edward O'Donnell, Fairfax, VA
 Ali Siddiqui, Lorton, VA
 Linda Sponsler, Fairfax, VA

Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

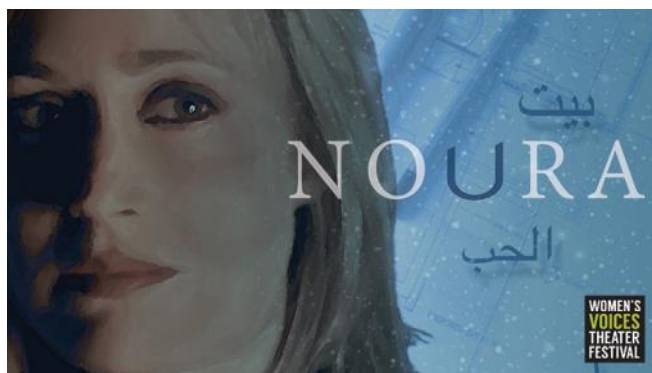
The Sons of Norway Foundation offers several academic and trade school scholarships starting at \$1,000 for members and children or grandchildren of members. This is a great SON benefit. The following scholarships have March 1, 2018 deadlines: the Astrid G. Cates/Myrtle Beinhauer Fund and the Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship. The Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship Fund deadline is April 1, 2018. Additional scholarships are offered. For more information and eligibility requirements visit www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/ or call (800) 945-8851.

Language Class Fee Reduced for Lodge Members

For the Norwegian language classes that meet at the Lodge Wednesday nights, the "lodge use" fee of \$5 per class is now waived for Lodge members. It was brought to the Board's attention that since members already pay dues to the Lodge, they should not be charged extra for using our building. The fee still applies to non-members. Do the math — if you attend classes regularly, you may come out ahead by joining Sons of Norway. For how to join, see page 6. For information on the language classes, see page 21.

Noura at Shakespeare Theatre Company — Group Tickets

Noura is an Arab-American adaptation of Ibsen's *The Doll House* and will be performed at the Lansburgh Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, February 6 to March 14. Excellent rates for groups of 10 people or more are offered. Check the website www.shakespearetheatre.org/events/noura-17-18. If you are interested in attending, please contact Christine Meloni at reading@norwaydc.org as soon as possible.



Cross-Country Skiing

If you are interested in an informal pick-up cross-country ski trek, contact Sports Director Greg Ovrebo at sports@norwaydc.org.

NASA in Norway

*By Lodge Member
Christine Foster Meloni*

*Reprinted with permission from
the Norwegian American
www.norwegianamerican.com*

What do Norway and Mars have in common? Surprisingly, quite a lot!

Two scientists from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, discussed their involvement in projects to find life on Mars at a meeting of Lakselaget, DC.

Svalbard: Mock Mars

Dr. Jennifer Stern, a Planetary Geochemist with a PhD in Geology, and Dr. Caroline Freissinet, an Astrobiologist with a PhD in Chemistry, have both participated in the Arctic Mars Analog Svalbard Expedition (AMASE).

Stern explained how scientists study Mars. First, they need to understand Earth and then they study Mars on Earth. "We go to places that are Mars-like," Stern said. "One of the places on Earth that shares characteristics with Mars is Svalbard, Norway."

Svalbard is a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, north of mainland Europe and about half-way between continental Norway and the North Pole. It is the northernmost settlement in the world with a permanent civilian population.

Svalbard is a stark land of snow, ice, and rock



AMASE scientists on the last night of their Svalbard expedition. Wardrobe inspired by alien hunters in the movie "Men in Black."

but also has volcanoes, glaciers, warm springs, and landslides dispersed across the terrain. Freissinet said that "this archipelago is ideally located to maintain a frozen soil all year-round, which is called the permafrost. This characteristic, in addition to the mineralogical composition, makes many sites in Svalbard good Martian analogs."

Stern and Freissinet had the exciting opportunity of working at Svalbard. Since they were there in the summer, they had daylight 24 hours a day. The air, however, was relatively cool with the temperatures in the 40s and 50s.

The Research Vessel *Lance* was their home and means of transportation while there. The *Lance*

(Continued on page 5)



Youth activities

Activities for children can be planned during the presentation portions of our monthly meetings. Email hospitality@norwaydc.org prior to the meeting if you plan to bring children, to ensure we have enough materials.

(Continued from page 4)

is a Norwegian vessel with a Norwegian crew. The scientists and researchers on board, however, came from many different countries and, therefore, formed a very international group. The AMASE project is a close collaboration between NASA and the European Space Agency.

Stern and the other geologists collected uncharacterized rocks in the volcanic area. They then analyzed them in their laboratories back on the ship. They made one particularly exciting discovery. In some of the Svalbard rocks, they found the same organic molecules that they had previously found when analyzing Martian meteorites.

Freissinet studied the content in organic molecules of the rocks and soil, and how the Svalbard environment may or may not preserve these compounds. She used instruments and techniques that are currently used on Mars onboard the Curiosity rover and the Mars Science Laboratory mission.

This technique involves the extraction of molecules from a solid sample by heat (pyrolysis) followed by a separation of the molecules by gas chromatography. The molecules are then identified by mass spectrometry. These techniques are the most powerful and reliable for characterizing the organic content of a solid sample, rock or soil, in a robotic mission.

This is why this technique is also used on the

comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko for the Rosetta mission, and is being developed further for the Mars Organic Molecule Analyzer experiment onboard the future ExoMars mission.

ExoMars is a large Mars rover mission jointly run by NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Russian space agency Roscosmos. Its purpose is to look for more complex organic molecules that

might be signs of Martian life, past or present, by drilling deep in Martian soil, where molecules are protected from destructive radiation. The rover is scheduled for launch in 2020.

Would You Go?

The question-and-answer period that followed the presentations was animated. The final questioner asked the two sci-

entists, who are so passionate about Mars, "Would you go to Mars?"

Without batting an eyelash, both women immediately and forcefully said, "No!"

Why not? They offered very practical reasons.

First, it would be a two-year commitment: nine months to get there, nine to get back, and six months on the planet.

However, with current technology, during that two-year trip to Mars and back, you would have received more than the lifetime recommended dose of radiation, likely causing cancer and ultimately death.



Svalbard's Martian-like landscape is perfect for testing rovers. Two AMASE scientists observe the ATHENA rover collecting a rock sample. Photo: Paulo Youse (NASA/JPL)

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

But, if you were to survive the trip and live on Mars, you would have to live at least 7 to 10 feet underground to avoid the surface radiation. NASA scientists who study human biology are studying ways to mitigate the effects of radiation damage to the human body.

Even if you did reach Mars alive and did find a suitable abode, you would have no way to return to Earth. No return means of transportation has yet been developed.

According to Freissinet, it is possible that the first humans to make it to Mars will establish a permanent settlement. If NASA foresees humans on Mars in the 2030s, however, the general plan has not yet been released.

The Future of Mars Exploration

Both scientists look to the future with excite-

ment. Freissinet summarized the quest for Mars as follows:

“The next step of Mars exploration is to bring back a sample to study with the very latest technologies developed in the laboratories down here on Earth. The Mars2020 mission is part of this plan.

“But nothing will be as good as having a human being trained in astrobiology and geology on the surface, able to truly explore. The next steps toward making human space travel to Mars a reality are happening now through work by NASA and its partners to make a safe and sustainable environment for humans to travel in space and on the Martian surface.”

Author’s Note: Many thanks to Dr. Stern and Dr. Freissinet for their invaluable assistance in the writing of this article.

Panoramic photo of Svalbard: Arnt Flatmo and Helge Larsen

Join Sons of Norway, Renew a Membership, Give a Membership

- ⇒ **To join as a new member** email Shelley Berg Mitchell at vp@norwaydc.org, call SON headquarters in Minneapolis (800-945-8851) or sign up online here: www.norwaydc.org/membership.
- ⇒ **If you need your membership number** or if your membership has lapsed, call 800-945-8851 or email database@norwaydc.org.
- ⇒ **Children 15 years of age or under** whose parent or grandparent is a SON member may sign up for a free Heritage Membership.
- ⇒ Dues—paid monthly or annually
- ⇒ Individual annual dues \$60
- ⇒ Family annual dues \$95 (all members reside at the same mailing address)
- ⇒ Your dues will be allocated between Washington Lodge, Sons of Norway Third District, and the international Sons of Norway organization.



From Lodge President Dave Brown

Hilsener/Greetings:

This January our 2018 Lodge officers were installed. I consider becoming the Lodge president an honor, and truly appreciate all the officers who were installed to help guide the Lodge this year. The Lodge is grateful to Kristin Stone for the wonderful officiating of the installation ceremony. She explained the duties of each officer to help members understand the responsibilities of each leadership position.

I am establishing a theme for this year to be **"GET INVOLVED. BE A VOLUNTEER."** 2018 is going to be a very busy but exciting year. Our biggest event is our Festival, and I am amazed at the enthusiastic volunteer effort that leads to a huge success each year.

However, we need volunteers for other activities in addition to the Festival. For example, we must maintain Norway House. For each monthly meeting, the floors need to be cleaned and tables/chairs set up before and after the meeting. We need volunteers to take turns coming early and staying after the meeting to help with this.

Your help is needed for all of our usual activities, but this year we have an additional event: our lodge's 75th Anniversary celebration. We are forming a committee to plan and organize this celebration and everyone's support will be needed.

I am asking every member to get involved by volunteering where you think you can help the Lodge or when asked to be on a committee.

Take it personally to make your Lodge the very best and a place you are proud to belong.

"GET INVOLVED. BE A VOLUNTEER."

We still need to fill our Youth Director and Publicity Director positions — please send an email to me at president@norwaydc.org if you are interested.

These committees need more members:

- 75th Anniversary — Bill DeRoche
programs@norwaydc.org
- Building & maintenance — Karon Plasha
house@norwaydc.org
- Hospitality (Kitchen/Lodge meeting set up)
— Susie Fosaaen hospitality@norwaydc.org
- Programs/Culture — Bill DeRoche
programs@norwaydc.org
- Membership — Shelley Berg Mitchell
vp@norwaydc.org

I would also ask you to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing president, Doris Goodlett, for her enthusiastic leadership in guiding the success of our Lodge. Fortunately, she will be continuing to provide guidance as the Board's Counselor. I am looking forward to a great year.

Dave



Tubfrim Contest — Win tickets to Norway

For every pound of stamps donated in 2018 you, or Washington Lodge, earns one entry in the 2018 raffle for an airline ticket to Scandinavia. Give your **used stamps from any nation** to Pat DeRoche, or leave them at the front hall table at Norway House. Tubfrim is a charity benefitting children in Norway. Visit their website www.tubfrim.no.

2018 3D Convention— Solicitation for Delegates

The Sons of Norway Third District (3D) Convention will be held June 6 – 10, 2018, in Hauppauge, New York, central Long Island. Our lodge can send up to 5 delegates. One of the main goals of the convention is to vote on changes to the by-laws governing 3D and its lodges, although like most conventions, it's also a great opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen fraternal bonds.

Before the convention, delegates will receive a packet with proposed by-law changes and may be asked to meet with other representatives from Zone 6 to discuss issues. This usually takes place in the Baltimore area.

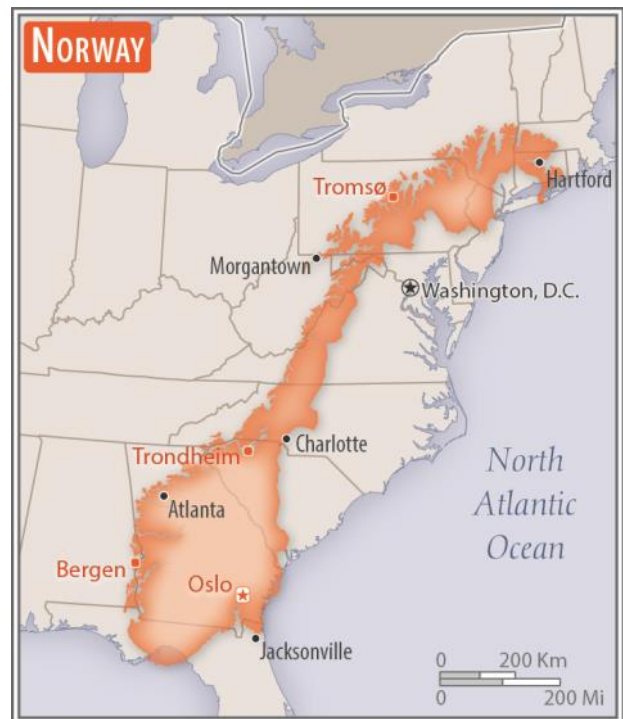
For more information on the Convention see <http://3dsofn.org/convention/>. Attendance at some events is optional, such as the golf outing on June 6 and the breakfast on June 10.

If you are a Lodge member and interested in representing our Lodge, please contact Dave Brown at president@norwaydc.org.

Here's a delegate job description from 3D:

What does a delegate do?

- represents and speaks on behalf of your lodge on District business, resolutions, proposed changes
- Third District business is discussed at the convention. Read the Bylaws and follow the discussion on proposed amendments
- The Bylaws are available on the Forms and Downloads page of the 3D website. To propose an amendment, check out Article IX District Sons of Norway Meeting and Convention
- Accepts your lodge's recognition and awards



SON 3D is comprised of all the U.S. East Coast states, and is larger in area than Norway Source: [CIA Factbook](#)

- Attends all delegate sessions, zone meeting and votes on behalf of your lodge
- May serve on a committee if asked to by the District President
- A delegate is the only member (along with current District 3 Board Members) who can run for the District Board
- Run for a delegate spot for the International Lodge Meeting if you are a benefit member or if you purchase a benefit product at the convention
- Learn about Sons of Norway by attending workshops, visiting displays and visiting with other members
- Bring back ideas, activities and enthusiasm that will benefit your lodge
- Report to your lodge about what you learned, business conducted and report on elections held at the convention
- Have a wonderful time and go home ready to carry out the mission of Sons of Norway!

Movie Review:***Sámi Blood****By Lodge member**Christine Foster Meloni**Reprinted with permission from the [Norwegian American](#)***DVD release on Netflix Feb. 13. Available for purchase on Amazon**

Elle-Marja, a 14-year-old Sámi girl who becomes painfully aware of the discrimination directed at her people, is the protagonist of *Sámi Blood*. Unable to accept the degrading treatment, she flees to the cultured university city of Uppsala in southern Sweden to try to forget her origins and immerse herself in Swedish society.

The film is written and directed by Amanda Kernell, a Swede with Sámi ancestry on her father's side. The setting is the Scandinavian Far North in the 1930s.

In the opening scene, Elle-Marja (played by Maj-Doris Rimpi) is seen as an older woman, a well-dressed, seemingly typical ethnic Swede. She has been informed of the death of her favorite sister and is reluctantly preparing herself to leave with her son and granddaughter for the land she abandoned so many years earlier.

When she arrives, she is visibly distraught. She becomes completely uncommunicative. She greets no one and pretends not



to understand the Sámi language. After attending the funeral, she refuses to attend the family gathering. Her son and granddaughter, however, are eager to go because they are curious about this indigenous, reindeer-herding community unknown to them.

The film then flashes back to the childhood of Elle-Marja (now played by Lene Cecilia Sparrok), who is sent, along with her sister Njenna (played by her real-life sister, Mia Erika Sparrok), to a boarding school for Sámi children. The primary lesson she learns there is that the Sámi people are inferior.

In fact, there are “scientists” at the school gathering data to prove their inferiority. They humiliate the children by measuring their heads and taking photos of them in the nude.

Elle-Marja is a bright, inquisitive student, and she seems to be encouraged in her studies by her teacher. But when she expresses her desire to contin-

ue her studies at a regular Swedish school, she is told that her brain is different and further education is out of the question. Moreover, she would probably die if she left her people. She has no choice. She must remain forever with her community.

This strong-willed girl, however, cannot accept this fate. She convinces her unwilling mother to give up a valuable silver belt so that she can finance her studies. She goes south where she is able to hide her roots and to create a new life, immersed in the mainstream culture. She remains there until her sister's death turns her world upside down.

The film flashes forward again. Instead of going to the family gathering, Christina (Elle-Marja has given up her Sámi name) goes back inside the church where her sister's casket remains. She knocks the top off of it and looks directly at her

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

sister's face. She says... no, you will have to view the movie to find out.

Does she feel regret at abandoning her family and culture? Guilt? Is she thankful that she left and created a better life for herself? Did she actually live a better life? Is she sorry that she never returned to save her sister?

The film ends with these questions hanging in the air. The viewer may be initially irritated that the screenwriter leaves out the entire chunk of Elle-Marja's life from the time she left her community until she

returns for the funeral. How did she live during these years? Was she well integrated into Swedish society or did she feel herself an outsider?

Perhaps the questions would have remained even if Elle-Marja/Christina's entire life had been revealed. The mystery and the ambiguity add to the haunting nature of the film.

The acting is excellent, particularly that of Lene Cecilia Sparrok, a South Sámi actor from Namsskogan, Norway. She attended a Sámi boarding school in Snåsa (Nord-Trøndelag County) and is currently learning the ropes in her

family's reindeer business.

The pace of the film is fittingly slow, giving viewers the time to absorb the emotions of the individuals and to experience the incredible beauty of the natural world—the mountains, rivers, and lakes of the Far North.

The film invites reflection on the historic mistreatment of an indigenous people. Americans will readily see similarities to the treatment of the Native American children in North America. The situation for the Sámi in Scandinavia has improved since the 1930s. There still remain, however, threats to their culture.

Lionel Charles Epstein, Munch Collector (1924 - 2017)



The *Washington Post* recently reported the passing of Lionel Charles Epstein, one of the major collectors of Edvard Munch's prints.

Mr. Epstein, of New York city, served in WWII, studied law at Harvard University, and practiced law in New York and Washington, DC.

He married his first wife, Sarah (Sally) Gamble in 1951. The couple employed Norwegian au pairs for their growing family and, while visiting the families of their au pairs in Norway, they viewed Munch's work in friend's homes and in museums.

They began collecting the artist's work in the 1960's. Mr. Epstein admired the portrayal of primal human emotions while Sally was drawn to the strong social themes.

An acquaintance of theirs, Alan Fern of the Library of Congress, received all the auction catalogs, and was able to direct the Epsteins to worthy pieces, usually reasonably priced.

Together, the pair formed the most extensive collection of Munch's prints outside of Norway, which is now a gift to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Mr. Epstein was knighted by King Olaf of Norway in 1979. He and Sally were divorced in 1983. He died on April 5, 2017, just two days shy of his 93rd birthday.

Edvard Munch's work was recently exhibited here at the National Gallery of Art, and a simultaneous show continues at the Metropolitan's Breuer, in New York, until February 4, 2018.

By Lodge member Tina Keune

Icelandic Sagas — Free Online Course

By Cultural Director Bill DeRoche

Starting March 1st, the University of Iceland will offer a free, online introductory course on three medieval Icelandic sagas. The instructor is Hjalti Snær Ægisson, a lecturer in comparative literature at the University.

In this course, you will learn about the *Eyrbyggja Saga*, *Njáls Saga* and *Grettis Saga*. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with an online community of Icelandic and international scholars, learners and others to explore these topics:

- the history of saga research since the 19th century,
- the fundamentals of Old Norse textual criticism,
- the benefits of exploring landscape and archaeological finds when reading the sagas,
- some of the most important character archetypes that recur in the sagas,
- the interplay of Norse mythology and Christianity in the sagas, and
- aspects of the supernatural in the sagas.

This is a self-paced “massive open online course,” or MOOC.

What is a MOOC?

A MOOC is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. In addition to traditional course materials such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, many MOOCs provide interactive user forums to support community interactions among students, professors, and teaching assistants.

What is edX?

edX is a MOOC provider. It hosts online university-level courses in a wide range of disciplines to



a worldwide student body, including some courses at no charge. It also conducts research into learning based on how people use its platform. EdX differs from other MOOC providers, such as Coursera and Udacity, in that it is a nonprofit organization and runs on the free Open edX open-source software platform. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University created edX in May 2012. More than 70 schools, nonprofit organizations, and corporations offer or plan to offer courses on the edX website. As of December 29, 2016, edX has around 10 million students taking more than 1,270 courses online. (Wikipedia)

What do I have to do take the class?

You must join EDX (which is free) and then sign up for the class. It starts on March 1st. You can sign up later but you will miss out on the discussions. Eventually (usually after several months) the class will be archived. At that point you can watch all the videos but cannot take the tests or enter into the discussions.

To join EDX you need to go www.edx.org and select register. You will need to have an email address. You enter your email address, your name, your nationality and your public user name. You may elect to provide additional information such as age and educational level. You go to “find a class” and enter “Iceland.” Then you select “audit the class.”

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Is it safe?

Nothing is 100% safe. I have been taking edX classes for four years and have found nothing that causes me concern. I have never been required to provide personal or credit card information. Most classes use standard internet protocols and avoid invasive programs (such as Java scripts) that may cause security concerns. They have been careful about distributing my email address. If you are concerned, you can set up a free Google mail account for the class and forward email from that Google account to your regular email account. At the end of the class you can delete the Google mail account.

Will there be a lot of dull lectures?

Universities only use their better lectures. I have found the quality of the lectures to be excellent. Also the teachers in this class are young and seem to have a lot of enthusiasm for the subject.

Why do universities provide free classes when regular college classes cost a small fortune?

Officially it is to promote universal education. I have noticed that universities offer classes that highlight areas in which they have an excellent reputation or outstanding teachers. Since most of the administrative functions are automated or given to low paid grad students, these classes do not drain the university's resources. Also many in the online population are in the 14-18 age group (potential students). So I suspect there is a mixture of altruism and self-promotion.

I am not sure I have the time.

This class will require 2 to 3 hours a week. Usually this will be about 90 minutes of short (5 to 10 minute) lectures plus tests. You can watch the lectures on your smart phone (iOS or android) or your computer. If you are auditing the class you can determine the level of your effort.



Contemporary Icelandic tapestry based on Njáls Saga. <https://guidetoiceland.is/connect-with-locals/regina/the-njals-saga-tapestry---njalurefill>

How hard are the tests?

This depends on the teacher. In general, the tests require close attention but are straightforward. If you are auditing the class, the tests are optional.

What If I don't like the material?

Then you drop the class. This is the advantage of a free class.

I have not taken any classes in years.

The nice thing about the MOOC format is that you set your own pace. In a classroom you probably could not tell your teacher "sorry but I was daydreaming during the last 5 minutes of your talk, would you mind repeating it?" In a MOOC you can start, stop and repeat the lecture at any time.

For more information about this specific course, see www.edx.org/course/medieval-icelandic-sagas-uicelandx-uoio001x.

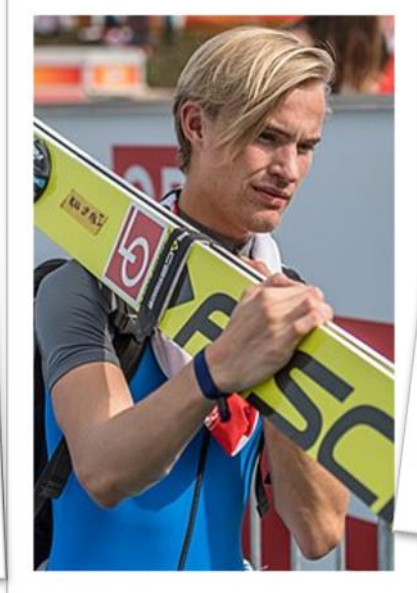
For a video description of the class, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfJgmgU21Zw&t=58s

Norway at the 2018 Olympics

Norwegian athletes should feel right at home at the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, February 5 to 25. Temperatures are expected to be the coldest since the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer. CNN predicts Norway will tie Germany for the most gold medals — 14 each. See www.cnn.com/2018/01/10/sport/winter-olympics-pyeongchang-2018-virtual-medal-table-russia-banned/index.html.



Here are a few athletes to keep an eye on. Clockwise from top: Marit Bjørgen — cross-country ski, the men’s curling team (the only Olympic team whose pants have [their own Facebook page](#)), Hege Bøkko — speed skating, Daniel-André Tande — ski jumping, Tiril Eckhoff — women’s biathlon, and Johannes Høsflot Klæbo — cross-country ski.



Book Review

Køpersund, 1942

By Lodge member Linda Warren

A version of this article first appeared in the November 2017 [Norwegian American](#)

In *Køpersund, 1942*, author David Andrew Westwood introduces Margrete Ehrdahl, a 20-year-old Norwegian beauty whose modeling career and home life are “eliminated overnight,” when a bomb explodes on a ferry near Narvik harbor in 1940.

Margrete and her family are swept into the burning water and her face is disfigured. In a convalescent hospital in Britain, with her lips “melted together,” Margrete hates what she sees.

A born problem solver, Margrete is at her worst when she cannot be at her best. Her struggle to “find a way to fight back” compels her to meet her obstacles with a blunt introspection devoid of sentimentality.

Margrete’s emotional transitions explode in response to traumatic circumstances. Caught by surprise on a London street during the Blitz, she is blasted onto her back but miraculously survives. Shell-shocked, she staggers up because “a baby cried somewhere. She went to find it.”

Fighting back becomes Margrete’s new normal. When she is accepted into commando training school in Scotland, she challenges the reluctant commanding officer to “give me the training you give the men, and we’ll find out if I can take it.” Soon, she is rappelling a 200-foot cliff of sheer

granite and using blunt honesty to batter her fear. She muses that she could describe this cliff as “possessing a ‘stark beauty.’ But the concept of beauty, taken for granted for all of her earlier life and now irrevocably lost, was now excised from her vocabulary.”

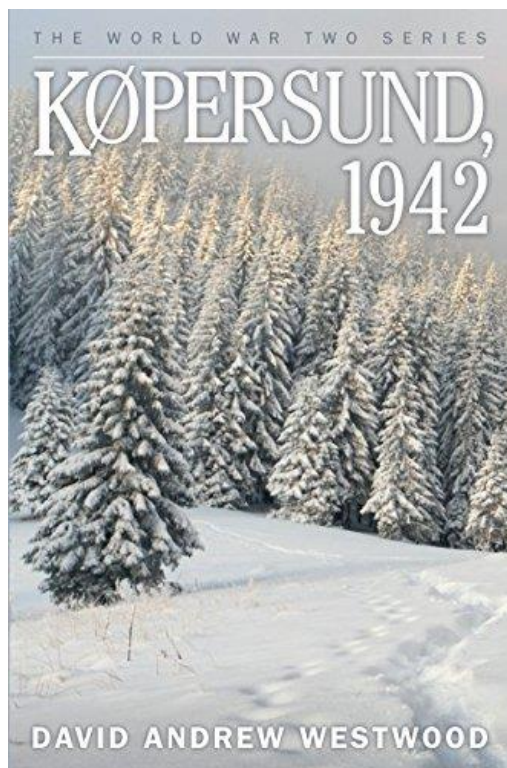
Humor is another weapon Margrete wields in her transformation. A male soldier notes her absence in the mess hall and asks, “Where’s the troll?” Margrete knows the men call her “troll” because of her disfigured face. She wants to hide in the barracks. Instead, she storms in and shouts: “Here she is. Got in any fresh children for dinner?”

Author Westwood keeps Margrete center frame in the complicated rescue sequences that follow. Leading the rescue at Grini detention camp in Bærum, Norway, Margrete outsmarts German guards to free British scientist Cresswell Bryce, called the British equivalent of Wernher von Braun, who has a secret weapon that might stop the Nazis.

Margrete’s partners in the Norwegian Resistance make their own journeys of transformation, some driven to seek revenge.

Ferske, grim-faced at sixteen, calculates how many Nazis he can kill with an “innocent” command. In 1945, with the Norwegians in control of *Køpersund*, he orders the German prisoners to run past the red flags marking live land mines. That way he will be sure, he says, that all the mines are destroyed.

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

When a prisoner protests that this is against the Geneva Convention, Ferske kills him. The surviving prisoners race into the field. They keep running, even when the body parts of a soldier who stepped on a live mine rain down on their heads.

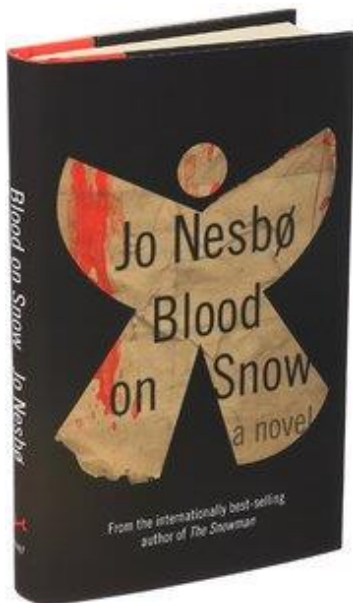
Ferske, once a laconic young man, represents a consistent theme in *Kjøpersund, 1942*. Appearances don't tell the whole story.

For a man literally blinded by the war, Bryce has

a clear vision of his future with Margrete. But she can't see it, believing their differences are insurmountable.

Bryce's logic has a mystical loop. He says, "I look normal, but I'm not; you don't look normal, but you are. Perfect match."

What is the future for Margrete and Bryce? Look to the epilogue, "September 1989. London, England," for the answer. Did Margrete's mission to fight back bring her victory, or love, or much more?



February 20 Reading Circle Selection: *Blood on Snow* by Jo Nesbø

The Reading Circle's selection for February is Jo Nesbø's *Blood on Snow*. Norway's King of Crime usually writes lengthy novels but *Blood on Snow* is a short novel (or perhaps a long short story). The protagonist is Olav, a contract killer for one of Oslo's powerful crime bosses. He is very good at his job until he loses his cool. It is an exciting read and the reader can't help but find Olav a sympathetic character.

Everyone is welcome. It is important to RSVP Christine Meloni at reading@norwaydc.org in case the date or location changes. For the complete list of 2018 reading selections and meeting dates, see www.norwaydc.org/reading/2018-book-selections.

Happy February Birthdays! Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Linda Cahow
 Jamie Cardillo-Lee
 Elizabeth Christianson
 Carla Danziger
 Karen Doty
 Charles Haberlein
 Ingrid Nygaard Hamso
 Jessica Hart
 Virginia Heyerdahl
 Sophia Jensen
 Ingebjorg Kaeppel

William Knutson
 Pierce LeHew
 Austin Skye MacSwan
 James McDonald
 David Musselman
 Charlotte Olson
 Rose-Marie Oster
 Aslaug Phillips
 Deb Torguson Pollio
 Maryanne Salm
 Cleetta Schrimper

Jo Storaker
 Berit Strawderman
 Gilbert Tellefsen
 Svain Ulvedal





Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg at a press conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last month. At the press conference it was announced that Ms Solberg will chair a high level panel on building a sustainable ocean economy.

a little in English...

Erna Solberg is one of the world's most powerful women

Forbes magazine is known for creating lists. Recently a list came out of the world's most powerful women. Forbes mentions 100 women who they think are the most powerful.

Prime Minister Erna Solberg is 46th. She appears before Beyoncé Knowles (50th place) and politician Hillary Clinton (65th place).

"Norway's Angela Merkel," writes Forbes. At the top of the list is Germany's leader. Angela Merkel is number one for the seventh consecutive year. She retains the position despite losing power during the election this year. Forbes calls her the actual leader of the European Union (EU).

In second place is Theresa May. She is Prime Minister of the UK. Third place goes to Melinda Gates, the wife of Bill Gates, founder of the software company Microsoft. Melinda Gates runs a large charitable organization that helps people in poor countries.

There are many different women on the list. Here are a few examples:

8th place: Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund

11th place: Indra Nooyi, head of the company PepsiCo.

15th place: Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan's first female leader

19th place: Ivanka Trump, businesswoman, Donald Trump's daughter

21st place: Oprah Winfrey, media queen

33rd place: Aung San Suu Kyi, leader in Myanmar

85th place: artist Taylor Swift from the United States

litt på norsk...

Erna Solberg er blant verdens mektigste kvinner

Magasinet Forbes er kjent for å lage lister. Nylig kom lista over verdens mektigste kvinner. Forbes nevner 100 kvinner som de mener er mektigst.

Statsminister Erna Solberg er på 46. plass. Hun kommer før artisten Beyoncé Knowles (50. plass) og politiker Hillary Clinton (65. plass).

«Norges Angela Merkel» skriver Forbes. Øverst på lista er Tysklands leder. Angela Merkel er

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

nummer 1 for sjuende år på rad. Hun beholder plassen til tross for at hun mistet makt ved valget i år. Forbes kaller henne den egentlige lederen av Den europeiske union (EU).

På andreplass er Theresa May. Hun er statsminister i Storbritannia. Tredjeplassen går til Melinda Gates. Hun er kona til Bill Gates. Han grunnla dataselskapet Microsoft. Melinda Gates driver en stor hjelpe-organisasjon. De hjelper folk i fattige land.

Det er mange ulike kvinner på lista. Her er noen

eksempler:

8. plass: Christine Lagarde, leder for det internasjonale pengefondet.

11. plass: Indra Nooyi, leder for selskapet Pepsi-Co.

15. plass: Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwans første kvinnelige leder

19. plass: Ivanka Trump, forretningskvinne, Donald Trumps datter

21. plass: Oprah Winfrey, mediedronning

33. plass: Aung San Suu Kyi, leder i Myanmar

85. plass: artisten Taylor Swift fra USA

Source: SON Newsletter Service

Attention Members — Record Your Volunteer Hours

The Lodge collects information on the time you spend supporting Sons of Norway activities, including activities like cooking for the potluck dinners at our monthly meetings, participating in Board and Festival planning meetings, etc. Please follow this link to record your hours: [Volunteer Hours Form](#) TUSEN TAKK!

American Scandinavian Association (ASA) Feb. Meeting: The Global Refugee Crisis Presented by Joel R. Charny, Norwegian Refugee Council Monday, February 19, 2018 at 8 PM

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world. At the ASA event on 19 February, Joel Charny, the Director of the Washington office of NRC (NRC USA), will describe the global situation for refugees and people displaced within their own countries; the challenges of responding to

the situation with the rise of nativist political movements and attitudes; and the lifesaving work of NRC, with particular focus on the Middle East and Africa. He will also describe the role of NRC USA as a Scandinavian institution in Washington and the wider United States.



See <http://scandinavian-dc.org/events>

St. John's Episcopal Church
6701 Wisconsin Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

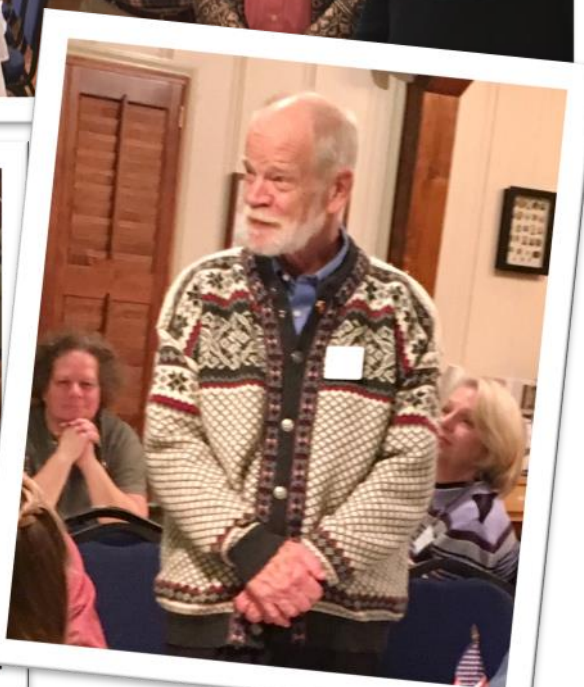


Care Committee

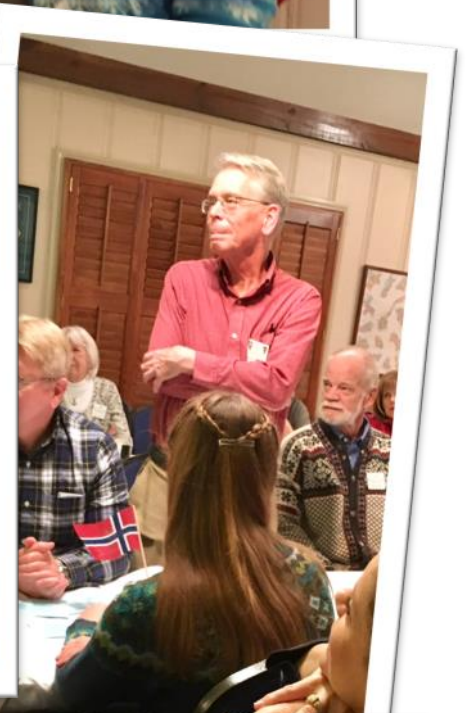
Please keep **Care Committee Chair Shelley Berg Mitchell** informed about members who are ill, undergoing surgery, recuperating, or homebound for an extensive period. She will send them best wishes from the Lodge as a whole. Contact Shelley at care@norwaydc.org

January Meeting

The 2018 Board was installed at the January meeting. At right are President Dave Brown, former President Kristin Stone, who performed the installation, and Vice President Shelley Berg Mitchell. Tusen takk to all who have stepped forward to help lead the Lodge. View all Lodge photos at www.flickr.com/photos/norwaydc/albums



More from January



3D President's Message:

fra Presidenten, Mary B. Andersen

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."
Winston Churchill

We have heard it all before – we can't do that, members won't like it; that will never work; we tried that before, but it didn't work.

My response is that old adage – if at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I am not sure who said it, but it has been traced back to Frederick Maryat, a novelist in the early 1800s.

I will give you a few examples of not giving up and trying something new. The 3D has sponsored a table at Scanfest in Budd Lake, NJ for the last three Labor Day weekends. The first time we were excited to be there, had a great location, had quite a few people to sign up for our mailing list. We were sure we would get new members. Well, it didn't happen. We did it again the following year, we had great displays, plenty of material but with the same result. The third attempt this past September, we changed our location. Instead of being in the entry area, we set up our table in the vendor area. Well guess what? Not only did we get people to sign the list for our mailing list, we gained at least 5 new members! Is it because we changed our location? Is it because attendees were used to seeing us at Scanfest? Or a combination of both?

I don't know but are we stoked for this year, you bet!

We have held a few events at LOV that were not lodge focused, the lobsterfest comes to mind. This year we tried a Summerfest which combined vendors and antique cars. The 3D sponsored a membership table. We learned a lot from this event and to our great delight, we gained two members!!!

As I read your lodge newsletters, I am excited and encouraged to see diverse activities including ice skating, hiking, kayaking, skiing, concerts, plays and volunteerism— all great events and better than sitting in a meeting!

As you plan your activities for 2018, do something different. Try something you tried before but may not have worked as you had hoped, maybe it was timing or maybe you just need to tweak it a little.

Don't let your enthusiasm wane! You are doing great even if you don't think so. I see it!

Happy Valentine's Day!

All the best,

Mary

*Land of Vikings Golf Tournament — Save the Date*

There will be LOV golf again this year. It will be on the usual first week end of May, with the golf taking place on May 5, most likely in the early afternoon at Golden Oak. Golfers are obviously important for this event, but if you don't play golf but would like to enjoy a fun week end at LOV, you are most welcome. And as usual, we also have the Kentucky Derby to look forward to. More information will follow.



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.

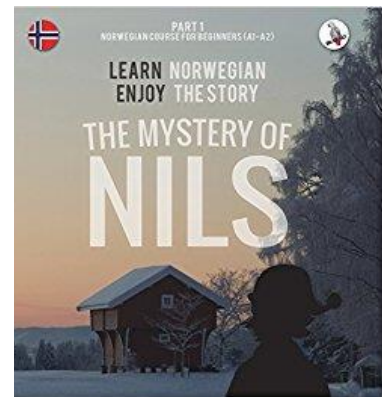
Norwegian Language Classes Every Wednesday at Norway House

Beginners 6-7 PM ♦ Intermediate 7-8 PM ♦ Advanced 8-9 PM

The textbooks for beginning and Intermediate classes are cleverly disguised as mysteries: *The Mystery of Nils — Part 1* for beginners, and *Mysteriet om Nils — Part 2* for intermediate. Both books are readily available from online sources. See www.norwaydc.org/language

Cost is a bargain \$10 per week to the Instructor. Students who are **not** Lodge members pay an additional \$5 per week to SON Lodge. If you skip a week you don't have to pay for it. The Lodge provides coffee and other beverages.

Contact the instructor, Nina Brambani Smith, at language@norwayDC.org for more information. Classes meet at Norway House, 3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA. [directions](#).



Local Folk Dance in February

Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC

Wednesdays, 7:30 PM
Highland View Elem. School
9010 Providence Ave., Silver Spring, MD

Nordic Dancers meet every Wednesday at 7:30 until June, with the exception of the week of Thanksgiving and December 20 and 27. Learn traditional dances. Newcomers welcome; no experience necessary. Contact Chris Kalke at 301-864-1596 or ckalke@verizon.net, or <https://sites.google.com/site/nordicdancersdc/>.

Mid-Atlantic Norwegian Dancers

Sat., Feb. 10, 6:30 PM potluck, 8 PM dancing
9512 St. Andrew's Way, Silver Spring, MD 20901
Norwegian-style house party. Live music. Begin-

ners, watchers, singles/couples welcome. Locations vary but usually are in the Silver Spring / Tacoma Park area of MD. (301) 270-4925 or <http://MAND.fanitull.org>

Scandia DC Dancing

Sat, Feb. 17, 7 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15
Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD

Recreational Scandinavian dance group. No partner needed! Live music. Fiddler Paul Carlson. \$10. www.scandiadc.ino/scandia-dc-events. Contact Linda Brooks or Ross Schipper at linda@scandiadc.org or 202-333-2826.



Directions to Norway House

3846 Meredith Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030
www.norwaydc.org/directions

On weekdays, a residential parking permit is required to park on Meredith Dr. You may park in the Christ Lutheran Church parking lot (entrance directly across the street from the Norway House).



From Beltway or I-66: From the Beltway, go West on I-66. Exit I-66 onto Rt. 123 (Chain Bridge Rd.) south toward Fairfax (Exit 60). Go about a half mile. Turn right on Rt. 50 west (also Rt. 29, Lee Highway, and Fairfax Blvd.). Just after the 3rd traffic light, turn right on Meredith Dr. (between a Merchants Tire store and a Mobil gas station). Norway House is on the right.

From Rt. 50/29: Go west from the Beltway about 5.33 miles. After crossing Rt. 123 (Chain Bridge Rd.), stay in the right lane. Just after the 3rd traffic light, turn right on Meredith Dr. (which is between a Merchants Tire store and a Mobil gas station). Norway House is on the right.

From far western suburbs: From I-66 East, take Exit 52, Rt. 50, east, toward city of Fairfax. Go about one mile. Turn left at Fairfax Blvd., which is where Rt. 29 joins Rt. 50 (which itself angles left). Turn left after a Mobil station onto Meredith Dr. Norway House is on the right.

Metro & bus: From the Dunn Loring/Merrifield Metro station (on the Orange Line), go to Bus Bay E. Take bus 1C toward West Ox Rd. and Alliance Dr. The bus will go down Lee Highway/Fairfax Blvd. (Rt. 50/29). Get off about 30 min. later at Meredith Drive (after Warwick Ave.).

Reusing Capital Viking Content:

Except as noted, newsletter content is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License.
www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

Lodge Leaders and Contacts

Lodge Website:

www.norwaydc.org

President: Dave Brown

703-378-5271 or president@norwaydc.org

Vice-President: Shelley Berg Mitchell

(703) 815-4367 or vp@norwaydc.org

Secretary: Jeffrey Jorgenson

703-503-3061 or secretary@norwaydc.org

Treasurer: Denise & Tim Bowden

(703) 815-1552 or treasurer@norwaydc.org

Financial Secretary: Henry Hansen

703-815-4945 or financial@norwaydc.org

Hospitality Director: Susie Fosaaen

703-861-4071 or hospitality@norwaydc.org

Librarian: George Edwards

703-220-1681 or librarian@norwaydc.org

Cultural/Programs: Bill DeRoche

304-725-2710 or programs@norwaydc.org

Newsletter Editor: Marie Hansen

703-815-3467 or editor@norwaydc.org

Webmaster: Bill DeRoche

webmaster@norwaydc.org

See the website for a full list:

www.norwaydc.org/officers/.

About Capital Viking

Capital Viking is published by Sons of Norway Lodge 3-428, eleven times per year.

Address Changes:

Did your email address, mailing address, or other information change? Please notify database manager Marie Hansen at database@norwaydc.org.

U.S. Mail:

Sons of Norway
 3846 Meredith Dr.,
 Fairfax, VA 22030

Find Us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SonsofNorwayDC>

Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit items by the 25th of the month to editor@norwaydc.org.