

The Desert Viking

Mar 2007

General Information about the Lodge

Sol Land Lodge holds a monthly meeting on the third Friday of the month. We have a potluck beginning at 6:30 PM. Guests are NOT expected to bring food, just to come and enjoy themselves. The general meeting or cultural activity begins about 7:30. We meet at the Kennewick First Lutheran, on 395 and Yelm. We have a **monthly board meeting** on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM also at First Lutheran. The current president is Jim Lande (582-0168), the secretary is Audrey Blegen (783-3387). They can supply you with names and phone numbers for other officers if you need them. If you wish to come to a meeting, but do not have transportation, give us a call and we can arrange it for you. If you are interested in membership, give one of us a call; we can tell you what we are all about and how to go about becoming a member

Next Meetings

The May meeting will be on the 18th, at the regular time. We will be visited by two Norwegian exchange students who will talk about Syttende Mai in Norway. Joe Molvik will be available with his reminiscences, too.

The June meeting will be June 15th.

Walla Walla is hosting the picnic this year, Aug 18th at Wildwood Park in Walla Walla. To arrange car pools, please call Jim Lande (582-0168).

Syttende Mai Picnic

The Walla Walla lodge has invited our members to celebrate Syttende Mai with a picnic in Walla Walla at Susanne Estes's home. It will be a potluck picnic beginning at 6:00 pm at 619 Clay street. If any are interested and plan to come, please bring your own lawn chairs. If you have questions

give a call (509-529-7144), or e-mail Kathi Goodwin (goodwika@charter.net)

On the meaning of the Syttende Mai celebration

Syttende Mai is Constitution Day - the Constitution that was ratified by the National Assembly at Eidsvoll in 1814, and has through some changes seen us through to today.

As a symbol the Constitution represents also two great themes, national independence and political freedom - democracy and the rights of citizenship. Norwegian patriotism of the 1800s tied these two aspects together as the idea "Norwegian freedom." Later on this concept of freedom took on new meanings, for example international peace work.

Syttende Mai is also a family day, but the difference from all other Norwegian holidays is first and foremost this: it is the only day the most important events take place out in the public space rather than in the four walls of the home. Syttende Mai has become a day for the children, even though it was not originally. The children's parades became a big success from 1870 on, and have become the most popular event on Syttende Mai. And with the children in the city center, many other things follow: ice cream, soda and sausages.



Lodge Notes

A committee has been selected to work on the scholarship changes. The members are Sarah Watson, Max Kreiter, Gene Tyssen and Ken Leaf.

A membership committee is being put together. The Vice President (Vernie Tiwater) is the Chairman and the Membership Sec. (Adah Knapstad) is the Vice Chair. We are thinking about having a membership drive dinner.

A nominating committee is being put together so we can have a full slate of candidates ready for elections this fall.

President Jim Lande has asked that all members think about goals they think would be beneficial to the lodge, whether short term or long. Adopt-a-School, dance group, cooking classes, work with B-F Museum, etc.

First Lutheran Church is presenting an organ concert to the public on June 1. We will be providing cookies and coffee for this concert. To sign up, please call Jacquie Sleeth (586-0097).

Nordic Fest Items

Jim Schlosser has raffle tickets ready to be handed out. Prize is once again, two tickets to Scandinavia on SAS, or \$500. To get tickets to sell, or to purchase them, call Jim (783-6263). Drawing will be at Nordic Fest, Sept 23.

We will have the boat at the B-F Fair this year. The fair runs Aug 21 - 25. We need people to man the booth each day. Workers will have free entry and probably free parking. We need people to work half days. Please call Joe Molvik (582-5820) to volunteer. Joe also needs helpers to help fix up the boat before then. Please call to let him know you will help, and to let him know when would be a good time for you so he can plan a work party.

Editorial Message

The lodge received a letter from a new member talking about her experience in visiting the lodge her first time. She had been introduced to the lodge by "a very good natured, pleasant person as we expected all Norwegians to be." She planned to become a member, and one year a daughter surprised her with a membership. "Several times I had a phone conversation with a very pleasant lady advising me of the meeting dates. I was finally able to attend my first meeting and from the moment we stepped in the door things did not go well....I received no welcome, no smile ... We took a seat at a table and not one single person spoke to us or introduced themselves. We kept watching for the gentlemen (we had met) but he never did arrive. When it came time to eat we took out place at the end of the line, we returned to our table and ate our meal in silence while those around us carried on conversations with others around us, all the while ignoring us. Towards the end of the meal ... I introduced myself, and my husband, to the couple across from us. They told us who they were and continued having a conversation with the others. ... We went upstairs to the meeting and nothing changed, no greeting, no introduction, no nothing. Needless to say I had no desire to return to another potluck, meeting or to remain a member of this particular group ... THERE WAS NO HOSPITATILY ... (I) felt like an intruder."

In a time when we are trying to increase our membership, we MUST be aware that we need to make those new members feel welcome. It will take some effort on our part, but it must be done. Many of us are "North Dakota Norwegians" who do not tend to jump into conversations with those we do not know, but we must work to overcome this tendency, or we will have no new people to talk to. If anyone has good ideas how we can go about doing this, please speak up. Perhaps let the membership committee know, or the president, or the social chairman. Better yet, just do it. We are very friendly people, so let's be sure everyone knows it.

Lodge Anniversaries

Two of our sister lodges will be having special anniversaries on the fall. Spokane lodge will be celebrating their 100th anniversary Sept 8th. More information will be given out when we get it. Walla Walla will be having a 10th anniversary dinner on Sept 15th. Tickets are \$20. Please call (509-529-7144), or e-mail Kathi Goodwin (goodwika@charter.net) for information and tickets.

Language Camps

If you looked at the District 2 page in your February Viking, you saw photos from the various language camps held in the district each year. It is time for applications to be sent in to the various camps. To see more information, or to download applications, please go to <http://www.sofncamps.com/>, where there are also links to pages for each camp. The lodge has given partial scholarships to language camps in the past.

Camp Trollhaugen	Camp Nidaros
Ages 13-15	Ages 9-12
Located in Easton, WA	Located in Gearhart, Oregon
July 1-14, 2007	July 15-28, 2007

Camp Normanna
Ages 9-12
Located at Lake Riley outside Arlington, Washington
July 29-August 11, 2007

Lodge Website

Erik Neilsen has set up a web site for our lodge. The address is www.Sol-Land.org. If you have ideas for him, please call Erik (371-8403).

Trollhaugen Items

The annual Steak Fry will be held Aug 4th. Tickets are \$14 until the July 30, \$15 after. call Audrey Blegen (783-3387). Chicken is available for those who prefer it. (children's meals for \$5). There will be games and activities for the entire family. They will start at 10 AM. Happy Hour (BYOB) starts at 2:30 and dinner at 3:30. If you wish to stay the night, you need to contact Trollhaugen to reserve a space. (509-656-9997).

The dates for the fall retreat are Sept 28 -30. Cost is \$95 if registered prior to Sept 10th, \$110 after that date. Many people signed up during the last retreat, so space is limited. Please call Ginger Fields (734-7876), Nancy Holter (375-0919), or Doreen Parker (360-538-0572) for more info or for applications. Sol-Land lodge does provide some partial scholarships to this event. Call Ginger or Nancy for more information.

Gig Harbor Lodge

Strictly Scandinavian Gifts and The City of Gig Harbor in participation with Healthy Harbor are presenting "A Scandinavian Journey" Friday July 13th, 2007 at 7 pm at the Gig Harbor City Hall. This is a FREE event to the public celebrating Gig Harbor's Scandinavian settlers and many in our area from the 5 Scandinavian Countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

World-renowned photographer, Russell Young, will present a visual slide presentation from his extensive collection. The colorful photographic impressions throughout this journey show the warmth, vibrancy, hospitality and humor of the Scandinavian people. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session detailing some of his experiences as a photographer in the field.

Russell Young and his Swedish wife Pia have lived and worked from Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. Young has photographed in twenty-five countries in the last 5 years and his work has appeared in numerous international magazines such as National Geographic Traveler. His fine art prints are in private collections and displayed in Museums and Embassies in North America and Europe.

Gig Harbor City Hall is located at 3510 Grandview St. Mr. Young will also be making his photographs available at the July 13th event and will also be at Strictly Scandinavian Gifts located at 7803 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor, WA on July 14th and 15th during the Annual Gig Harbor Art Festival.

This Free event has limited seating for 150 people. Please call (253) 851-5959 for directions or additional information. Those registering in advance will receive their name in a special drawing. For additional information about us visit us on-line at www.strictlyscandinavian.com, www.gigharborguide.com or www.ryworldimages.com.

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