

# NHOH News

Volume 23 Number 1

Spring 2018

Published 3 times per year by: **Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag**

## **"Norway Evolving"**

**2018 Tre-Lag Stevne August 8-11**

**(It is one-week later than usual.)**

**Holiday Inn Convention Center  
1498 4<sup>th</sup> St. N.,  
Austin MN 55912**

**HI - Holiday Inn (promo code TLS) at 507-433-1000**

**DI - Days Inn ( promo code TLSG) at 507-433-8600**

**Special rates available until July 8.**

All rooms in both hotels except HI's 2 double beds come with a refrigerator and microwave. HI's breakfast has a daily \$10 restaurant voucher per room, and DI has a complimentary continental breakfast.

**Room rates:** HI: King is \$119.99, 2 Double beds \$124.99

Pool View 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is \$129.99, Poolside 1<sup>st</sup> floor \$134.99

**DI:** Queen is \$79.99 and 2 Double Beds is \$79.99

Norway ranks highest in standard of living, life expectancy, and education for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! And... is rated the "Happiest Country in the World." Average life expectancy is 82 years.

The 2018 Stevne will highlight the realities of **"Norway Evolving"** in many different areas. This year, we will have "Genealogy Arts and Crafts" – new ideas aimed at ensnaring the younger generations into the fun and joy of exploring genealogy.

Hi all ~ Austin is in far southern Minnesota along the Interstate and is the international headquarters of the manufacturers of Spam - with a wonderful museum -- besides having a lot of Norwegian connections.

We will have nearly 100 written materials along with internet resources and help to do your genealogy, plus, as always, a rich program of culture and history. I hope that you can join us! John Reindl, Genealogist

### **What's Inside?**

1. 2018 Stevne Info / and Pres. Letter
2. Officers/mbr info./Fylke reorganization
3. NHOH Book orders/Treas. Report
4. Genealogy Report – John Reindl
5. Oleana Factory story
6. Oleana con't/ Bydelag information
7. Oldest Norwegian Church – New York
8. Church con't/ Fellesraad & Norway House
9. Norway's abandoned farms/Hybrid Cruiseship
10. Trendy Norway Cuisine/ Necrology
11. NHOH Scholarship program
12. Membership application

## ***Fra Presidenten,***

After a weird winter with temperatures at the North Pole rising above freezing, arctic cold settling over Europe making even Norwegians recommend that people stay indoors due to the dangerous cold, and multiple Nor'easters in the U.S., it's about time for Spring to come. I'm ready. At least the February NHOH Board meeting didn't get snowed out.

The board is working to preserve the history of the lag by gathering all the material we can find and determine the best way to store them. We are creating a position of lag historian to help make certain we locate and preserve our documents, photos, and physical items so they will always be available for reference. For board members who house items in their homes we are defining how they need to keep their families informed of what items are NHOH property, so they are not destroyed if something happens to the member. We have heard some horror stories about families selling or throwing away lag records and bygdeboker.

We are also continuing to research a possible NHOH tour to Norway in 2019. It has been a long time since NHOH has sponsored a trip, and we would love to know if any of our members (and their friends or relatives) would be interesting in participating. You can email [nhohpres@gmail.com](mailto:nhohtpres@gmail.com) and let me know.

I recently took a class at the Vesterheim Folk Art school in Decorah, Iowa on preserving family heritage by writing their stories. It was a marvelous two-plus-days class that got me started on making my family's history more interesting. I applied to the lag for reimbursement of part of the class fee from the NHOH scholarship fund. Our scholarship program is a wonderful benefit to you, the members of NHOH. Look for the scholarship page toward the back of this issue to see how simple it is to apply for financial assistance for Norwegian heritage learning opportunities. (see page 11)

Hilsen fra **Joy Shong**



## WHO ARE WE?

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag includes 16 kommuner in the three districts of Nord-Østerdal, Sør-Østerdal, and Hedemarken/Hamar as follows:

### District 1:

#### Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal  
Folldal  
Os  
Rendalen  
Tolga  
Tynset

### District 2:

#### Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot  
Elverum  
Engerdal  
Stor Elvedal  
Trysil

### District 3:

#### Hedemarken and Hamar

Furnes  
Hamar  
Løten  
Nes  
Ringsaker  
Romedal  
Stange  
Vang



Please see previous newsletters for the fylke changes Norway is making. You will see both this old diagram across from the new one in the next issue of NHOH News.

**NHOH Newsletters are published three times per year – Spring, Summer, and Fall.** Members are welcome to send articles or news at any time of the year, and the editor will put them into the next newsletter, or one that is appropriate.

Issue	Submit by	Mailing Target
Spring	March 1	March 15
Summer	June 1	June 15
Fall	Nov. 15	Nov. 25

### NHOH Lag Officers & Directors

President: Joy Shong.....pres@nhohlag.org  
Vice-Pres.:Chris Falteisek.....chrisfalteisek@gmail.com  
Secretary:..Gay Kearin.....Chechon@aol.com  
Treasurer: Ron Helstad.....ronh@eacpas.net  
Membership: Dixie Hansen .....dx@dxhansen.com  
Director: .Gary Olson .....olson.gm33@gmail.com  
Director:..Gary.Flatgard.....flatgardmn@aol.com  
Director:..Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com  
Past-President: Dixie Hansen.....dx@dxhansen.com  
Editor: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com  
Genealogist:..John Reindl.....genealogy@nhohlag.org  
Web Master: vacant

## Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter.

Articles, photos and graphics relating to Norwegian history, culture, emigration and Lag activities, especially those with ties to the NHOH geographical area are invited. Articles may be historical in nature or may highlight current resources available to help members research their heritage. Articles about Norwegian/American community events of interest to our members are welcome.

**Policy on advertising in newsletter:** The Board approved that the newsletter editor will accept advertising related to Norwegian culture, heritage and genealogy. Eighth and quarter page ads will be sold for \$15 and \$25, with funds to help offset the cost of producing the newsletter.

**Send to Editor Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld by e-mail [SASLAX@aol.com](mailto:SASLAX@aol.com)**

### NHOH WEB SITE

### Wanted: A Webmaster

Photos taken at previous stevner are posted on the NHOH web site. Click on the "Stevner" tab to access available photos from all past stevner. For most, you can click on the image for a larger view. And if you want to copy or save it, right click on it to use browser commands. Our newsletters, genealogy information, photos, and scholarship information are there too.

## Membership Renewal Policy

**Members need to check the year next to their name on the newsletter address label, especially on the fall newsletter.**

**Reminders will be sent for expired memberships early in the year following the year of expiration, with a renewal deadline of Mid-March, prior to the spring newsletter.**

**Members who get their newsletters via e-mail will be sent a reminder.**

### Our NHOH Purpose

The Lag is organized exclusively for educational purposes. To the extent consistent with this general purpose, the specific purposes of the Lag are to help people learn more about the history, culture, and customs of the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken area of Norway and to aid in the preservation of that heritage; to teach and assist people in genealogy research; to gather immigration and settlement history and develop immigration data; to develop a library of resources, such as bygdebøker (farm histories) and Norwegian church, census, and probate records; and to encourage the research and writing of family, immigration, and settlement histories.



# Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

## Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005



This publication is still available for purchase.

Generously illustrated with 150+ photographs old and new, this 144-page book recounts the foundation of our lag, including our historic roots, our formative meeting in Madison, the establishment of our governing body, and a decade full of activities and stevner.

Later chapters include selected stories of emigration and settlement and articles reprinted from the NHOH newsletter. The book concludes with a full appendix of documents associated with our lag history as well as an every-name index.

Purchase a copy of the First Ten Years book for yourself and for the members of your family who share your Norwegian roots.



## Order Form - Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken - Highlights of the First Ten Years

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
NHOH Book	_____	\$22.50	\$_____ Includes shipping & handling US*
Total Enclosed			\$_____ Make check payable to NHOH
Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50			

Mail Your Order to: Joy Shong  
 523 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

## New Historical Research Book Available

Author Torbjørn Greipsland has written a book about Norwegian-American missionaries. The name of the book is **"To the Ends of the Earth. 1000 Norwegian-American Missionaries"** and Todd Nichol of NAHA encouraged him to write it. It is 340 pages, with 105 photos. Chapters include missions in China, Madagascar, India, Zululand, Swaziland, Alaska, and much more.

Jim Olson, who sells books about immigrants for years, will sell the book. Price is \$19.95 plus postage, but by ordering two or more, you get free shipping, and five or more, you also get a 10% discount. Contact Jim B. Olson at 3016 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sioux Falls, So. Dakota 57105 Or you can e-mail him at [jimolson@midco.net](mailto:jimolson@midco.net)



## NHOH Treasurer's Annual Report ending 2/17/2018

Checking Balance 10/28/2017 \$2,938.67

### Income:

Members	\$ 595.00
Donations-Gen.	\$ 210.00
Scholarship Fund	\$ 40.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$3,823.67</b>

### Disbursements:

Genealogy book	\$ 60.00
Newsletters	\$ 524.12
Donation	\$ 100.06
Meeting & Fees	\$ 95.45
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 779.63</b>

**Balance in Checking 2/17/2018 \$3,044.04**

Savings balance 2/17/2018 \$4,249.77

Interest Income \$ 1.07

**Balance, Checking & Savings \$7,293.81**

	Donations	Disbursements
2/17/2018 Genealogy Fd.	\$2,236.44	\$1,820.62
2/17/2018 Scholarship Fd.	669.00	-0-
Ron Helstad, Treasurer		

These are the March symbols on the primstav.



March 12



March 25

# Genealogy Report

By John Reindl, Lag Genealogist

Building upon Mike Wick's note about why we belong to a bygdelag, I would like to share why I find it valuable to belong to the Fellesraad -- to share information between the lag to make our organizations more effective.

As the genealogist for the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, I would like to share something that I have learned about the Norwegian National Library.

**According to the latest data from their web page, they have over 1.7 million books, of which nearly 500,000 are digitized.**

Most are not available to us directly, as they are generally available only to people with Norwegian Internet Service Providers. There is an exception available -- the National Library will at times grant temporary permission for researchers outside of Norway to have access. But, that is very hard to get and, once obtained, is not assured of renewable. Also, those books can only be accessed on-line.

However, as part of the digitized books, some 34,000 are available for access --and free download -- to anyone, anywhere. Most of these are probably not of great interest to the lag -- they include things like designs of sewerage systems, geological reports, traffic studies, summaries of census data, etc.

BUT, there are bygdebøker in among those 34,000 books and I find these to be very valuable. And, free to anyone to search and/or download. I have downloaded over 100 of them and am on the search for more.

My starting point is the Advanced Search form on the NB site:

Nasjonalbiblioteket

Nullstill Avansert søk Hjelp

### Avansert søk - Bøker

Alt Aviser Foto **Bøker** Film

**Søkestreng:**

Ingen av disse ordene:  Sett fraser i hermetegn: "Knut Hamsun"

Noen av disse ordene:  Sett fraser i hermetegn: "Knut Hamsun"

Tittel:

Fra dato:

Til dato:

Filtrer innhold: Nedlastbart

Forfatter: Digitalt Digitalt tilgjengelig

ISBN: Nedlastbart

Emne: Alt

Omtalt/Avbildet:



Nedlastbart means 'downloadable', and the challenge is to use meaningful words in the search fields, whether title, søkestreng, noen av disse ordene, etc. I am also finding that the Norwegian National Library is continuously expanding their collection, so I regularly check back to their web page.

So far, I have found the following number of books by fylke:

<b>Akershus</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>- Buskerud</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Hedmark</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>- Hordaland</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Nord-Trøndelag</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>- Oppland</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sør-Trøndelag</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>- Telemark</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Vestfold</b>	<b>11</b>		

In some cases, the books are quite old and perhaps new editions are available; In other cases, they are only a few years old.

What is especially nice about these books is that they are also searchable. So, for example, if I want to see who from the kommune of Ringsaker has moved to or from one of these areas, I can search the book electronically, rather than what I used to do -- borrow the book from the library and go through it by hand.

I would be glad to share the titles of these books with other lags so that you can find them on the NB site. Unfortunately, my email system puts a limit on attachments, so I cannot send the books to you with my email system. I find that downloads are relatively quick. I generally chose the high-quality form, but sometimes that causes a failure in downloading and the normal quality is satisfactory.

I hope that you find this information helpful. As a favor, I would appreciate knowing of any other downloadable bygdebøker as I am constantly expanding our lag's database of people from Ringsaker, for which we do not own any bygdebøker.

For the NHOH area, we have found books from other sources as well and have the following books:

Elverum, en bygdebeskrivelse, vol 1, 1909  
Løtenboka Corrections  
Rendalen. Dens Historie og Bebyggelse  
Stange bygdebøker Register, with links to the book on the internet  
Trysil-boka, Bind 1  
Veldre Bygdebok

Med vennlig og beste hilsen,

John, Genealogist  
Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

PS ~ I have also been working with others on finding information more readily on the Digital Archives site. In a meeting today, we learned some new and very powerful opportunities. If we can be of any help to the lag, let us know.

## "Norwegian Fairy-tale Couture"

**Oleana** celebrates a quarter century of beating the odds with high-quality clothing



Photo: Lori Ann Reinhall, Seattle-Bergen Sister City Association

*With its business slogan, "fair made," Oleana offers generous wages to its workers at its factory outside of Bergen and has been recognized for its innovative business practices—and employee retention is high.*

*Lori Ann Reinhall*

### The Vision

In 1991, three veterans of the Norwegian textile industry, Signe Aarhus, Kolbjørn Valestrand, and Hildegunn Møster, got together over a cup of tea in their hometown of Bergen and came up with what might have been seen as a mind-blowing idea. While most jobs in their industry were moving to countries with lower production costs, they had the vision to create a product line so unique, so beautiful, so high in quality that production could remain in Norway.

With the country in the midst of a banking crisis, most thought their concept was a mere pipe dream. But in 1992, after many hours of brainstorming and hard work, their vision became reality and their company Oleana was founded—and it has been a success ever since. With colorful designs based on traditional Norwegian knitting, the Oleana factory revived an entire community. With time, a popular boutique was established in a main shopping area in Bergen with a loyal local clientele and a bustling tourist trade.

Oleana is now one of the most profitable clothing manufacturers in Norway. With its award-winning couture and a business model that has never failed, it is the pride of Norwegian innovation. Today Oleana is sold around the globe, in specialty boutiques from Bergen to New York, Oslo to Aspen, Stockholm to Tokyo, Zurich to Seattle.

### The Design

At the heart of Oleana's success is its master designer, Solveig Hisdal, the creative genius behind the colorful patterns that have become a worldwide sensation. Hisdal joined the team in 1992, and she makes all final creative decisions. A demure, petite woman, she is a force to be reckoned with, having received the highest honors in Norwegian design.



*Solveig Hisdal's award-winning designs find their inspiration in traditional Norwegian textiles and the colors of nature.*

Hisdal takes her inspiration in the patterns found in the traditional weaving and folk costumes of Norway, its colorful bunads as well as the colors of nature. Further inspiration comes from a rich tradition of porcelain patterns whose origins go back to Asia as they came to Europe via the Silk Road. It is Norwegian tradition at its very best, all with a modern twist uniquely Oleana. **Photo courtesy of Oleana**

All materials used to create the sweaters, jackets, hats, scarves, and blankets are the highest quality natural fibers: merino wool, silk, cashmere. The raw materials in turn have a positive environmental effect. With wool that comes from farms in Norway, grazing sheep prevent areas from being overgrown with grasses and weeds, which helps to keep the earth in balance.

### The Économusée

When you come to Oleana's "factory by the fjord," outside of Arne, a short train ride from Bergen, you are impressed by an environment that is aesthetic, efficient, and ecological. I arrived there early one May morning with owners Signe Aarhus and Kolbjørn Valestrand, the sun glistening on the still waters of fjord. Aarhus explains that a key aspect of the Oleana dream was to create a workplace that would nurture creativity, happiness, good health, and wealth for all.

Workers are paid well (up to 100 times those in developing countries), and employee turnover is low. "It has always been about quality," Aarhus explains, adding, "We can't compete on prices." With its slogan "fair made," the company has always gone against mainstream free-market practices without losing money, and they have numerous awards for their innovative business savvy.

Oleana and its workers are at home in an old refurbished building with modern updates—it's clean, spacious, and light. The humming of state-of-the-art knitting machines is heard in the background. As you walk through the building, colorful placards tell of its history as the Arne Textile Factory, opening in 1876, closing in 1978, and its revival with Oleana in 1993. (con't. on next page)

The factory reopening had a significant impact on the town, and today tourists from all over the world visit. In fact, *Oleana has been designated as an "économusée," selected because of its commitment to quality and authenticity.* That means that artisans are committed to creating traditional yet contemporary products, while offering a unique experience to tourists. At Oleana, you can experience the production process from yarn to finished product and enjoy a cup of coffee or lunch with a view of the fjord. And at the end, you have the opportunity to shop for something beautiful in the factory store, all with a new appreciation for the work that has gone into it.

## The Celebration

As president of the Seattle-Bergen Sister City Association with a golden jubilee to celebrate, it seemed only appropriate to reach out to Oleana in 2017, the year of their silver jubilee. To set the ball in motion, I contacted Laura Almaas, their local representative in the Pacific Northwest and owner of Chalet in the Woods in Gig Harbor, a unique shopping venue that features the Oleana line, complete with a garden full of flowers and a pasture of fluffy white sheep.

Soon plans for a celebration in Seattle on Saturday, November 4, at the Washington Athletic Club started to take shape: "Oleana: Norwegian Fairy-tale Couture." For those lucky enough to attend, the new fall clothing line was presented against the backdrop of the Johnson Lobby with its Chihuly glass sculptures. A Norwegian-inspired luncheon was served, as guests were entertained by Nordic-inspired local harpist Beth Kollé. There were raffle prizes (including a one-year online subscription to The Norwegian American), and Laura Almaas was on hand to tell about her trip to Bergen for the Oleana celebration there. Finally, there was also the opportunity to try on and purchase the collection. Spirits were high.

## The Dream

I, too, had a dream in 2016, when I took over the presidency of the Seattle-Bergen Sister City Association: the dream to celebrate our 50-year jubilee in 2017 with renewed energy and meaningful exchange between the two cities—the dream of making a difference. With the support of the city governments of Seattle and Bergen, a growing roster of volunteers, and the help of talented artists and committed professionals on both sides of the Atlantic, this dream, too, has become a reality. In 2017 we were thrilled by enchanting art exhibits, world-class concerts, and elegant gala celebrations, and we even sent a citizen delegation to Bergen City

Hall, followed by an adventurous trip on the Hurtigruten up the coast of Norway.

With the closing event of our jubilee adventure, "Oleana: Norwegian Fairy-tale Couture" at the Washington Athletic Club on November 4, we were lifted to new heights as we continue on our journey.

For more information about the Seattle-Bergen Sister City Association, please email [seattlebergensistercities@gmail.com](mailto:seattlebergensistercities@gmail.com)

To learn more about Oleana and to preview the fall collection, visit [www.oleana.no](http://www.oleana.no), or check out [www.chaletinthewoods.com](http://www.chaletinthewoods.com).

This article originally appeared in the Nov. 17, 2017, issue of The Norwegian American.

To subscribe, call (206) 784-4617



NHOH Editor's note: It was a joyful experience for me to tour the Oleana factory in 2014 with a cousin from Bergen, where we purchased sweaters, hats, scarves, and more. This is a picture of a sweater I bought. You can buy the book about Oleana in both Norwegian or in English.



## What is a Bygdelag?



Bygdelag are organizations comprised of descendants of emigrants from Norway to North America. Every "Lag" seeks to preserve and strengthen bonds with its home district or community-of-origin in Norway.

Because groups usually hold meetings (stevner) once each summer, Lag publications continue to be essential communication tools in most groups. Except for wartime, these reunions have been occurring since several hundred people from Valdres met in a Minneapolis park in June 1899. Close to 1100 participants celebrated Valdres Samband's 100th year at the Norwegian-American Bygdelag Centennial, which also honored every subsequent "Lag" at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, July 29-31, 1999.

Stevne programs may feature a variety of Norwegian cultural and educational activities. Displays of Norwegian arts and crafts, consumption of ethnic foods, choral and instrumental music, books and readings, fiddlers and folk dancing, genealogy classes, noted speakers, video tapes, and Norwegian language in signs, songs or speech may be used.

Fun and fellowship—as well as help in tracing your ancestry and re-establishing contact with relatives are possible.

# 150 years of service with Our Saviour's Church

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 7, 2016· UPDATED OCTOBER 10, 2016

**New York's oldest Norwegian Lutheran Church  
celebrates a big milestone this October**

By Victoria Hofmo, Brooklyn, N.Y.



*A confirmation photo from 1951. Photo courtesy of Our Saviour's*

The oldest Norwegian Lutheran Church still operating in New York City, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this October. It was established in 1866, as the Norwegian Evangelical Congregation in New York, and it was a Pastor from Wisconsin who first came to serve the congregants, Ole Juul. He was successful in growing the membership, which included serving the burgeoning seamen's population.

Just four years later the church changed its name to Vor Frelzers Norsk Evangelisk Lutherske Menighed (Our Saviour's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church). By 1872, they were able to buy a house at 56 Monroe Street (Manhattan), and this building was transformed into a church and parsonage. In 1876, Pastor C.S. Everson was installed and under his leadership the church began holding services in Brooklyn, with a focus on ministering to the rapidly growing Norwegian population. By 1878, a church ministering specifically to the Norwegian sailors was established as a separate entity. Today it is known as the Norwegian Seamen's Church in New York.

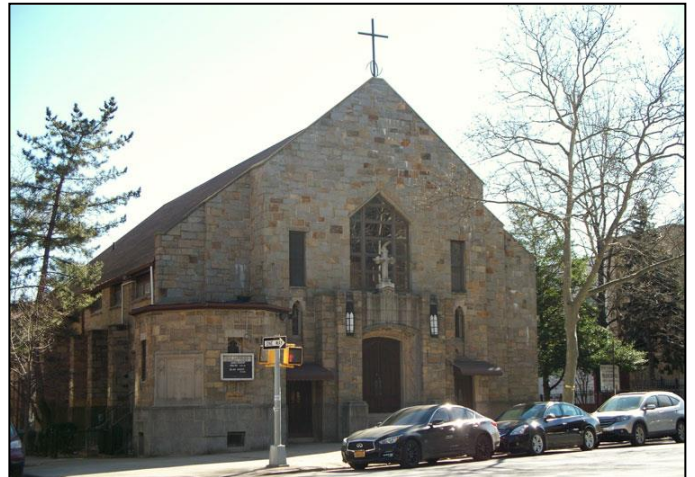
Mission based at its core, Our Saviour's continued working with the pastors of the Norwegian Seamen's Church to establish the Norwegian Relief Society in 1883, in support of Sister Elisabeth Fedde who had been called from Norway to care for the health of destitute Norwegians. It was from her tireless work that the Norwegian Deaconess Hospital, aka Lutheran Medical Center, was born. Elisabeth became a member of Our Saviour's and remained so until 1890.

By 1885, Our Saviour's had moved to Brooklyn, following the booming Norwegian population, dedicating its new home on Henry Street. Member Carl Michael Eger,

co-owner of the important Hecla Iron Works, deeded two properties (including his former home) on Pulaski Street and \$60,000 in care of the congregation, to establish a home for those in need. Working in tandem with Eger's sister, Catherine, the Michael Eger Norwegian Home of the Aged Inc. opened in October 1916 on his 73rd birthday and was known as Eger Gamle Hjem. Just 10 years later the need was beyond the original site's capacity and they relocated to a property in Staten Island, the former Aldrich Farm Community. Today it remains on that site, but has grown exponentially in the services it provides and in size. This October it will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

As the Norwegian population continued moving south towards Bay Ridge, the church purchased property on the corner of 80th Street and Fourth Avenue in 1924. Services were held in an old house on the site until the new church building opened in 1930. And this is where the church has remained to this day.

Today they have a very respected pre-school (founded in 1969), which has served up to 250 children. Their Upper Room, which was conceived in the original plans as a sanctuary but put on hold during the Depression, was finally completed in 1986, is now the home of the Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, which was born out of Salem Danish Lutheran Church. It is great fun to attend the church's popular Christmas Fair held each November, where there is a flea market and oodles of vintage Scandinavian goods, as well as beautiful



handiwork. They also offer luscious open-face sandwiches and desserts to tickle your tummy.

Lifetime member Sonja Nerjes was baptized at the 80th Street site. Her mother was confirmed at the Henry Street location, and her grandmother was married in the downtown building. Nerjes explained, "I found out about my mother and grandmother in the record books of Our Saviour's. They go back to 1866." I asked Sonja what she envisions for the church's future. "I see a more diversified congregation. We are looking for younger people."

The parishioners and community marked Our Saviour's momentous occasion on October 23<sup>rd</sup> with a special celebratory church service, which included Bishop Rimbo from the Metropolitan New York Synod followed by a formal dinner at Sirico's at 2:00 p.m.

A beautiful baptismal font lies front and center in Our Saviour's simple, serene sanctuary. It was given to the congregation in 1867 and has remained with the congregation for 149 years. This font is a wonderful reminder of who they are; a perfect symbol of their mission-conscious history from its inception to the present. For to me a baptismal font brings two things to mind: water and children. Our Saviour's mission work began with water, as they served the sailors who came to our shores in need, and today it is the children they serve by offering a caring place to learn.

So congratulations and thank you to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for all they have contributed to our city or had a hand in: The Norwegian Seamen's Church, Lutheran Medical Center (NYU Lutheran), Eger Lutheran Home and Services, and Our Saviour's Preschool.

*This article originally appeared in the Oct. 7, 2016, issue of The Norwegian American. To subscribe, call us at (206) 784-4617.*



## Fellesraad and Bygdelag Partner with Norway House

*by Elaine Hasleton, Fellesraad President*

Throughout the years Bygdelagenes Fellesraad and Bygdelag have worked with groups which have similar backgrounds. Fellesraad, as the umbrella organization over the twenty-nine chapters called Bygdelag, each based on a separate geographical area of Norway, was founded in 1916. Fellesraad serves as an advisory organization and manages cooperative projects for the good of all Bygdelag. It stands as a connecting link between Bygdelag.

Fellesraad and Bygdelag have now firmly established a partnership with Norway House. We sincerely thank all Bygdelag for the Lag funds which were contributed by Dec 31, 2017. As you may know,

those funds will be matched three times, including by Fellesraad. The combined amount of the Lag donations was \$19,885. Norway House is still accepting individual donations which will be matched twice, so I encourage all of us to contribute.

Perhaps one of the overarching reasons for this partnership is that it will give Fellesraad with Bygdelag and Norway House more visibility! In this modern age, visibility is key, especially on social media and with the younger generation. Heritage organizations are among those with declining membership. So, visibility for an organization is very important! With our financial contribution, we now qualify for a wall plaque of our bygdelag at Norway House which again provides visibility for us.

What are other partnering plans? The Fellesraad and Bygdelag names as partners will be added to Norway House's website and case statement, as well as their brochures. The latest Norway House newsletter was sent out a week ago, and shortly after that web analytics showed that 19 people had clicked on Fellesraad and went to our website. We want this type of visibility to continue and increase.

We look forward to doing joint programs together. Norway House will provide major publicity for these events. We have numerous Lag Genealogists who could teach classes at Norway House with a splitting of the funds taken in at such events.

The Norwegian Research Center/Bibliotek will become a center for genealogy down the road. Previous discussion has laid the groundwork for placing our Lag genealogical collections there. The Lag genealogical materials will contribute to the excellence of the Research Center and the Library.

These are some of the most current reasons we are partnering with Norway House. As we work together, more will evolve. Norway House is here to stay! We want the Fellesraad and Bygdelag to stay around as well!

**This link leads to the Norway House website Donation page for online donations "Donate to the Al Quie Fund" <https://www.norwayhouse.org/donate/>**

**But after calling Norway House just now, I confirmed that it's also possible for individuals to write checks and mail them to Norway House at their address – and they should write on the memo line what it's for, such as "Bygdelag Bibliotek Fund"**  
**Thanks Elaine, and Nancy Pickering.**



## Bygone Times Revealed in Norway's Abandoned Farms



Author and historian Øystein Morten has studied *ødegårder*—abandoned farms—at length. Fascinated by their vacant, fallen structures, Morten believes deserted farms have a particular allure and tell us something important about the places and the culture that Norwegians have moved away from. With photographer Pål Hermansen, Morten has published—[Norske ødegårder – Historien om stedene vi forlot](#)—("Abandoned Norwegian Farms - The History of the Places We Left"), a book featuring nine deserted farmsteads that offer a glimpse into the past through clues found in diaries, photos and artifacts. Some of the farms were left in the Middle Ages, others within the last two decades.

### What constitutes an *ødegård*?

This term originally applied to farms that stood vacant after the Black Death ravaged Europe in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. Roughly 60 percent of the Norwegian population perished as a result of the Plague. These farms, even ones that were later restored, were often permanently branded as *Ødegård* (or Old Norse variants Aunet or Øyjorda), with the old farm name lost to time. But *ødegårder* aren't all a result of the Plague. Since the 1970s, Morten writes, 115,000 Norwegian farms have ceased operation. By his count there are currently 30,000 farmsteads that are totally deserted, meaning no one lives or vacations there.

Sometimes the *ødegårder* can be tough to spot, as nature has almost completely reclaimed the land. In other instances, the silent buildings still appear eerily intact. To find suitable farms for his book, Morten contacted historians, municipalities and museums, got tips from friends and scoured Google. Morten compares abandoned farms to crime scenes, where he has to piece together their stories, by sifting through the desolate ruins. Traces of bygone times are found in

the [unraveled furniture](#), [leaning structures](#), [overgrown gates](#) or a coffee cup left on the counter.

[Mapcarta](#), an online searchable map that features past and present farms of Norway, reveals 427 entries with *Ødegård* in the name, 290 references to Aunet and 165 to Øyjord(a). Some entries refer to a hyphenated name, such as [Jelsnes-Ødegård](#), which reincorporates the farm's previous name, but still refers to its former deserted status.

Morten lives on an *ødegård* himself, and jokes that in 100 years village historians will write that "the houses on the farm were well-kept until Øystein Morten took over."

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## Electrified: The World's First Hybrid Cruise Ship



Norwegian cruise line Hurtigruten is investing in ships with a hybrid engine developed by Rolls Royce. The ships, constructed at Kleven Yards in Norway, are expected to launch in 2018 and 2019. The launch of these hybrid ships will be an important milestone in Hurtigruten's goal of sailing fully electric ships to the Arctic and Antarctic.

The ships will have the ability to switch between fossil fuel and electric power when they are traveling through environmentally sensitive areas. "To be able to sail using only electrical power is not only a great benefit for the environment, but it will also enhance the impact of experiencing nature for our guests. Picture sailing into a fjord silently, without any form of emissions," says CEO of Hurtigruten, Daniel Skjeldam.

The 20,000-ton hybrid ships are constructed for voyages in polar waters and can accommodate up to 600 guests. The first ship set to launch in 2018 will be equipped with an auxiliary electric engine which will reduce fuel consumption by approximately 20 percent, which amounts to more than 3000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The second ship, which launches in 2019, will be a full-fledged hybrid engine that can power the entire ship and cross-greater distances.

The 2018 and 2019 itineraries for "Roald Amundsen," Hurtigruten's first hybrid expedition ship, have been announced; you can now book your 16 or 18 night stay by visiting <http://www.cruisemapper.com/ships/MS-Roald-Amundsen-1455>.

Articles on this page from SON web news. Takk.

## Have fork will travel

If fish is your thing, then the ubiquitous haringhandels (herring stalls) and vishandels (fish stalls) will tempt you.

Photo: Cynthia Elyce Rubin



Strolling on Aker Brygge Wharf, one can encounter a roadside attraction. The sign says "Gelato så godt at det burde vært forbudt," or "Gelato so good it should be outlawed."

In Norway, you can walk your way around Oslo with the Culinary City Walk ([oslo.foodtours.eu](http://oslo.foodtours.eu)). Visit the city off the beaten track with an emphasis on New Nordic cuisine and its simple fresh ingredients. Oslo has become a new foodie hotspot. Mathallen ([Mathallenoslo.no](http://Mathallenoslo.no)), the food hall that introduces the visitor to trendy local and international dishes in myriad specialty stalls, is the starting point. Sample handmade knekkebrød, nibble on Norway's rich cheeses, and pause to try local honey. Sign up for the street food course at Kulinarisk Akademi. Then walk through different areas of the city, the new artist colony along the river, the old city center, and the docks where you sample a mixed plate of reindeer and fish, and then a final stop at a microbrewery, a new source of local pride with lots of local color to accompany a selection of craft beers. What better way to meet and greet?

Not only individual entrepreneurs are in on this. Full-service tour operators know a good thing too. Fifty Degrees North Nordic ([fiftydegreesnorth.com](http://fiftydegreesnorth.com)) offers a variety of tours with food components in Scandinavia. Nordic Capitals Gourmet includes three in-depth food tours. In Oslo, in addition to the walking tour, depending on the season, travelers can also head into the woods to collect wild blueberries and mushrooms. Ivy Thompson, the company's destination specialist, writes, "The foodie excursions are an exciting way to explore the essence of Nordic culture. Food has become important when showcasing the unique charm, tradition, and history of each country, a direct effect from the rise of the slow food movement. Enjoying local cuisine means to fully embrace everything the destination has to offer."

Cynthia Elyce Rubin, Ph.D., is a visual culture specialist, travel writer, and author of articles and books on decorative arts, folk art, and postcard history, who collects postcards, ephemera, and early photography. She is currently working on *Enorme Amerika: Norske utvandreres postkort, humor og rariteter* to be published by SpreDet Forlag in Oslo and is completing a manuscript on O.S. Leeland, Norwegian immigrant photographer who worked in South Dakota in the early 1900s. See [www.cynthiaelycerubin.com](http://www.cynthiaelycerubin.com)

This article originally appeared in the Jan. 26, 2018, issue of *The Norwegian American*. Thank you.  
To subscribe, visit SUBSCRIBE or call us at (206) 784-4617.

## Necrology

### Virginia Lucile (Swedeen) Sem

Virginia (Ginnie) Sem died December 29, 2017 in Roseville, MN. She was born July 9, 1941, in Minneapolis to Harley and Vergie Swedeen. She grew up with 6 siblings in Minneapolis. She graduated from Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis, in 1959. She worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for 8 years after high school. She later worked for Miniature Merchants, Bandana Square, St. Paul. She was active in miniature clubs and women's fellowship at her church. She was a talented seamstress who made her own Norwegian (Trønder) bunad.

On April 2, 1966, she married Gilmore Sem, Underwood, MN, at Riverside Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, the church from which she was confirmed. They lived in Lauderdale, MN ever since. In 1971, they adopted Sonya Su Sem.

Ginnie and Gil travelled extensively- in USA, Canada, and around the world in 1970 by way of the Tran-Siberian Railway, Yugoslavia, visited Europe and Japan several times.

Survivors include her husband; daughter Sonya (Robert) Welch; and siblings families. Her 2 tuxedo cats, Ole and Lena, miss her very much.

Preceded in death by parents, brothers Donald and Wilfred, and brother-in-law Richard Gibbs.

Memorial service was held on Saturday, January 13, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, in St. Paul. Ginnie's ashes will be buried at Messiah Cemetery north of Underwood, later this year. Memorials preferred to St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ or American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



### Lois Jean (Lokstad)

**Benish** (74), sister to Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018 at Winston-Salem NC.

She was born Sept. 7, 1943 at Thief River Falls MN, lived and went to school at Newfolds MN, graduating in 1961. She went to college in Moorhead MN, then taught science at Webster SD. She married Bob Benish there, and had one child, Bill (pictured above with his wife Robyn and Shirley). They moved to Hammond IN so Bob could go to the School of Optometry in Chicago, and after graduating they moved to Fairfax VA. "Lolly" worked as a programmer for Continental Assurance in Chicago, and as a systems analyst for the US Airlines later. Bob and "Lolly" divorced in 1975 and after living in Fairfax for 20 years, she was transferred to Winston-Salem to continue in her position with Sabre for USAir. After retiring from there, she decided to do more contract programming for Amtrack for another 4-5 years. She has lived at Tobaccoville NC in the country and loved her life there. At Christmas, she was hospitalized for 6 weeks, dying at a hospice center.

She will have two Celebrations of Life – March 31 at her home in NC and one in Newfolds this summer, where her ashes will be buried in the Lokstad family plots.

## NORD HEDMARK OG HEDEMARKEN LAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NHOH has a college scholarship and also Lag members, and members of their extended family, are eligible to receive scholarships to support learning in the Norwegian language, its culture and its history. They will be in the form of reimbursements for fees (tuition) and educational materials and are limited to one hundred dollars (\$100), per class. For more detailed information and to download the application form, visit our web site at: [www.nhohlag.org](http://www.nhohlag.org)

The two categories are outlined below.

### College Scholarship:

One, Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) scholarship will be granted to a graduating high school senior who will be attending a technical school, a four-year college, or a university in the 2018 - 2019 academic year. To be considered for this scholarship, perspective candidates must:

- Be related to a current NHOH Lag member
- Be graduating from high school in 2018
- Have been accepted by a technical school, a four-year college, or a university for the 2018–2019 academic year
- Submit an application form (see below) with all the required information and mails it to

#### NHOH Scholarship Committee by May 1, 2018

- All applications will be reviewed by the NHOH Board and the successful candidate will be notified by June 1, 2018.

### Norwegian Language, Culture, and History Scholarships

Scholarships, in the form of reimbursements, are available to members and to a member's extended family. They are designed to support learning in all aspects of the Norwegian culture and are not limited by age. Young students (elementary, middle school and high school) who attend a Norwegian language camp in the summer are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Members, who take classes in any aspect of the Norwegian culture, may apply for his scholarship.

Reimbursements are limited to fees (tuition) and expenses for educational materials, up to \$100. Expenses for mileage are not covered. While funds are limited, candidates may reapply for this scholarship a second time during the calendar year. To be considered for this program, a candidate must:

- Submit an application form (see below)
- Included a copy of all payments for fees (tuition) and related education materials
- Provides evidence in the form of a certificate-of-completion that the class/course was completed.

**Note:** In lieu of a certificate, a letter or note from the instructor is acceptable.

- Mail application form to: NHOH Scholarship Committee before the end of 2018.

**NOTE: If you have questions regarding the process for applying, please send your inquiries to Gary M. Olson at the following: [www.olson.gm33@gmail.com](mailto:www.olson.gm33@gmail.com)**

## Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Scholarship Program Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of NHOH? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please check appropriate line)

If you are related to a lag member, please state the person's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
and, explain your relationship to that person: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name (title) of the class you completed? \_\_\_\_\_

Address of the school where the class/course was taught? \_\_\_\_\_

How many days or weeks did you attended this course/class? \_\_\_\_\_

Expenses for the class/course (fees and educational materials)? \_\_\_\_\_

Please state the amount of reimbursement you would like to receive? \_\_\_\_\_

Include a certificate-of-completion or letter from your instructor stating that you successfully completed the class.

Name of high school you will be graduating from in 2018: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of school: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Include in your mailing the following:

- A copy of your letter of acceptance from the institution you will be attending in the fall of 2018
- A letter of recommendation from a high school faculty member — counselor, teacher, or administrator
- A short essay (two or three paragraphs) describing your career goals and how you would benefit from a NHOH scholarship. Sign and date your essay.

### Mail application form and all requested information to:

NHOH Scholarship Committee, Attention: Gary M. Olson, 2510 28th St., SE, Rochester, MN 55904

## Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, Editor  
215 Juniper Ln., Holmen, WI 54636



November 2017



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



### NHOH Lag Membership Renewal or New Memberships Form

Memberships include your spouse, so please include both names if applicable. Gift memberships welcome. Make check payable to **NHOH Lag** and send with completed form to:

**Dixie Hansen, NHOH Membership, 1411 Osceola Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Renewal ☐ Gift Membership ☐ New

#### Ancestors in Hedmark from kommune: (check all that apply)

☐ Åmot ☐ Alvdal ☐ Elverum ☐ Engerdal ☐ Follidal ☐ Furness ☐ Hamar ☐ Løten ☐ Nes ☐ Os  
☐ Rendalen ☐ Ringsaker ☐ Romedal ☐ Stange ☐ Stor-Elvdal ☐ Tolga ☐ Trysil ☐ Tynset ☐ Vang

If kommune unknown, list parish, town, or other geographic place \_\_\_\_\_

#### Volunteers Needed

The lag is only possible because of the work of many volunteers. Please consider volunteering for any of the following:

- Newsletter (contribute articles, assist with mailing, suggest topics for articles, etc.)
- Leadership (Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership, Board members)
- Genealogy / Web page
- Stevne (planning, registration desk, staff hospitality room, help lag genealogist in lab)
- Anything you think the Lag should provide as a service!

I would like to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter delivery preference: ☐ US Mail ☐ Online

Dues for Individuals/Couples: ☐ 1 year (\$10) ☐ 2 years (\$18) ☐ 3 years (\$25) **Total Dues** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genealogy Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

NHOH is an IRS 501(c)(3) educational tax-exempt non-profit organization