

NORSK MUSEUM

Norwegian Center Incorporation Newsletter

January 2021



In this issue:

- 2020 year in review
- 2021 what's coming up
- Docents— We love you!
- Events



Norsk Museum 2020 year in review

This was our year of great challenges and we met them head on.

New Changes in 2020



This historic church, on the National Register of Historic Places, now looks like a church from the inside too! Thanks to Fox River Lutheran Church.

“Heritage - be proud of it for you will be its legacy. It's your responsibility to carry on and learn your heritage. Otherwise, it will be lost.”

— **Kailin Gow,**
[Bitter Frost](#)

Restoration of our church cemetery



NORSK MUSEUM

January

Fox River Church donates altar exhibit.



Back wall repainted to complement the new church exhibit..



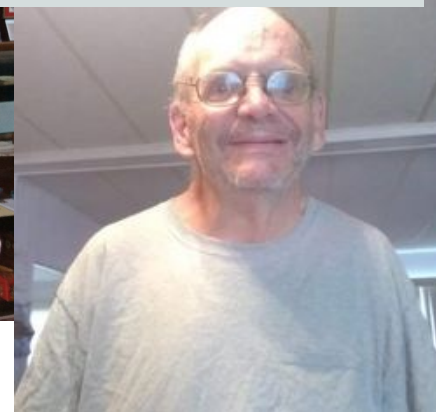
Kirk Douglas passes at 103. he wasn't Norwegian but starred in a classic movie, The Vikings



Ralph Johnson restores the front doors of the church



◇ Rick Larsen passes, a proud Slooper descendant.



NORSK MUSEUM

March

- Church gets a complete makeover for the new altar exhibit.
- Enlarged the dining area, thanks to Charleen & Linda!



August Klagstad – Altar Artist

A faithful Lutheran, Klagstad specialized in religious paintings. Today, Klagstad's altar paintings can be found in churches throughout the United States. His "sermons on canvas" have inspired generations of worshipers in Michigan and across the nation. August Klagstad was born in Modum, Norway on August 14, 1866, the seventh of nine children of Torger and Karen Klagstad. August's father was a farmer who tilled the worn-out Norwegian soil and struggled to provide for his growing family. In 1871, with virtually no prospects for a better future, his parents made a momentous decision—they would immigrate to America. On the 4th of July, 1871, the Klagstads finally arrived at their destination in Racine, Wisconsin.



In the fall of 1887, Klagstad left Manistique to attend the Northern Indiana Normal School (now Valparaiso University) in Valparaiso, Indiana. Klagstad obtained employment at a studio in Chicago and took art lessons on Saturdays. He studied at both the Art Institute in Chicago and the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. He later worked in art studios in New York and Boston and visited museums and art galleries throughout Europe. Klagstad's first altar painting was completed in Manistique in August of 1893 while vacationing from Chicago. His images were replicas of religious paintings by the masters which were well-known to church goers of his day. Klagstad added his own original colors and background details. During his long career, August Klagstad produced over 1000 altar paintings which were shipped to churches throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Norway, Australia and Africa. August Klagstad died in March of 1949 in Minneapolis at the age of 82, but his art lives on in communities large and small.



August Klagstad – Altar Artist
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New ceiling fan installed



Daughter, Susie wrapped in a lefsa blanket

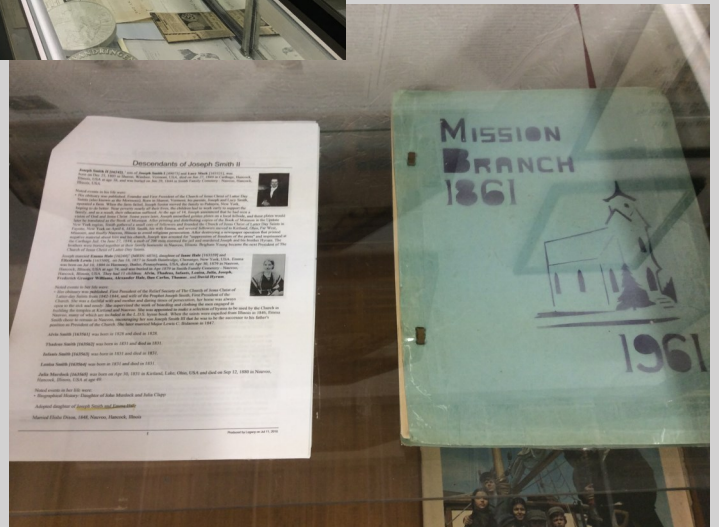
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April

- Hauge church records index project continues
- Create TikTok videos as part of a museum virtual tour
- ◇ Stained glass feature added



Fred Seville delivers three more display cases



Norway Temperance Association

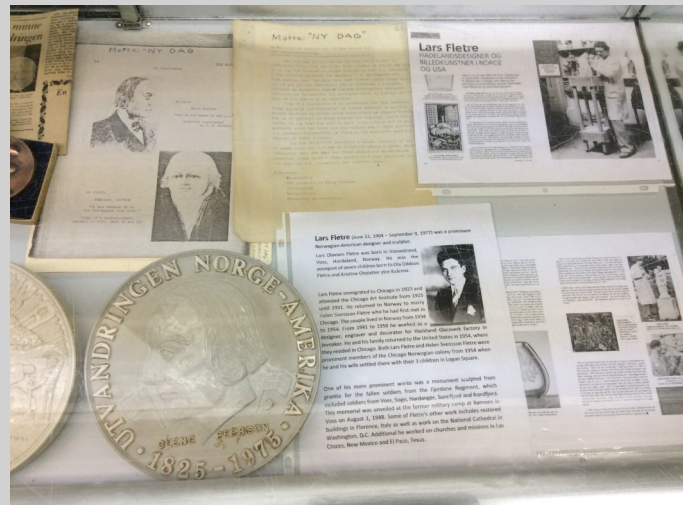
Join us for another meeting of the NORWAY TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION. Dinner includes Broasted Chicken and Pasta! Advance sales only! NO tickets to be sold at door!

DINNER THEATER

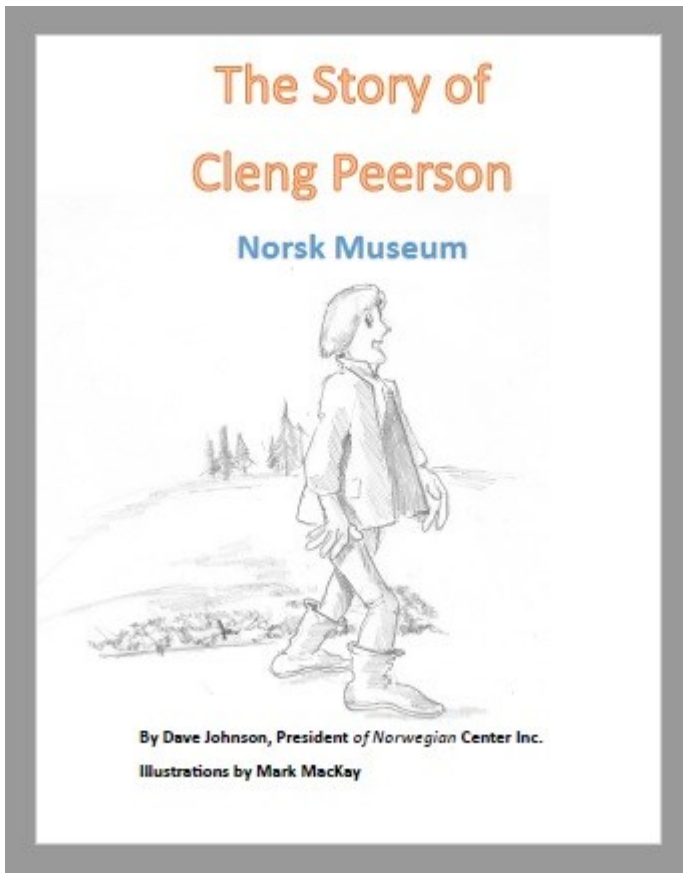
Wed. April 11th
Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
Norway Community Building
Norway, IL
3676 E. 2603rd Rd. Sheridan (Norway)

\$35
Per person

Norway Temperance Association
Dinner Theater
play canceled
due to COVID



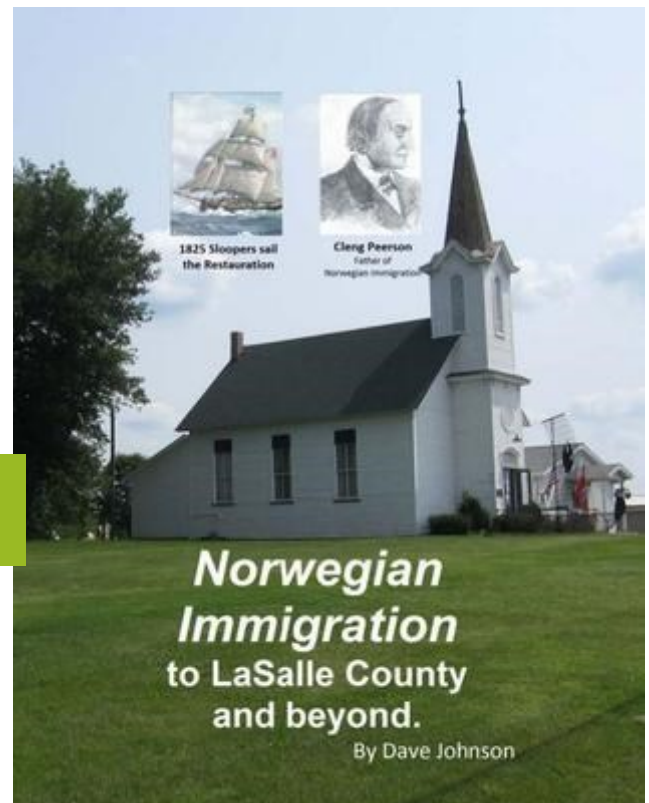
NORSK MUSEUM



Most visitors, when they first see our museum have never heard of Cleng Peerson or the Sloopers, especially if they are visiting from out of state. Most everyone who comes from Norway, Europe to visit us, want to see what we have on Cleng Peerson. This book is geared toward the younger reader. Local illustrator, Mark MacKay, has created 50 wonderful drawings, to help the reader better understand and enjoy the journey of Norway's greatest explorer since Leif Errickson.

The expected release is early 2021.

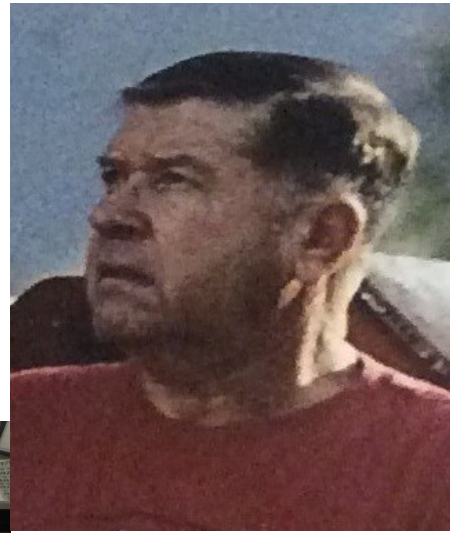
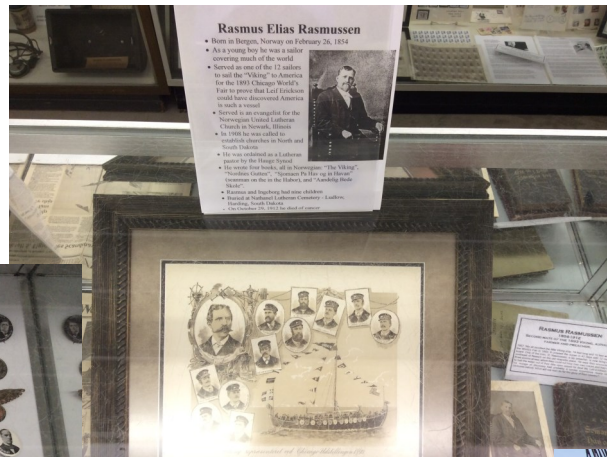
In its' forth printing! Now also available at the Norway Store.



NORSK MUSEUM

May

New exhibits created



Dick Davis created is work of art, the Viking ship iron sculptor, a popular photo-opt on the grounds.



New display cases provide a closer viewing of our smaller collections.

Cemetery continues resoration



NORSK MUSEUM

June

- ◇ Restored Memorial lighting
- ◇ Col. Heg statue beheaded in Madison, WI
- ◇ Visit Christiansen site at Gardner
- ◇ Steve Tanda paints and cleans church outside
- ◇ Final museum staging
- ◇ Cemetery restoration concludes

100 Years – Women Celebrate Right to VOTE



Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote.

1878 local news

Susan B. Anthony will deliver one of her inevitable lectures here April first, in the evening. It is hoped that there will be a full house, as these small towns cannot often afford such a "big gun" to lecture for us, on account of the expense. Our particular friend, Dr. Haskin, has been quite "under the weather" for some time, but is a little better at present. JAPONA.

At the close of the evening we were notified that Susan B. Anthony would lecture on the 9th inst. in this place, on the subject of "Woman wants Bread, not the Biskit." Well, what next?

Leland Thayer. The lecture by Miss Susan B. Anthony on Monday evening was quite a success as to numbers. It was really a very good address. A great many people, however, take exception to her ideas as regards woman's franchise.

Susan B. Anthony was invited to be here in April last Tuesday evening subject, "Temperance and Social Progress."

Margaret Larson [Slooper baby]

Oldest of the Larson family was "the Sloop baby", Margaret, born on the Atlantic in route to America. She married John Arwaster. John was raised on a farm near Lake Erie and was of English ancestry. He and Margaret started their life together on a farm near Brockport, New York. Soon they moved to Rochester, where John became Superintendent of Schools.

In 1837 the Arwasters moved to Chicago where John practiced as a physician. He also became a prominent publisher. In 1882 they moved to the nearby town of Western Springs. John and Margaret had nine children of which only the first was a boy.

John and Margaret Larson Arwaster were the organizers of the first Quaker meeting in Chicago. Margaret was an ardent women's suffrage worker and a friend of Susan B. Anthony. John Arwaster was only fifty-seven when he died in 1885 at the home of his son in Western Springs. Margaret lived thirty-one years longer — with her daughter Jane in Western Springs and with her daughter Mabel in LaPorte, Indiana. She was 91 when laid to rest beside John in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago.

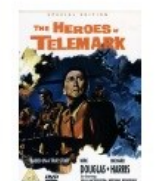
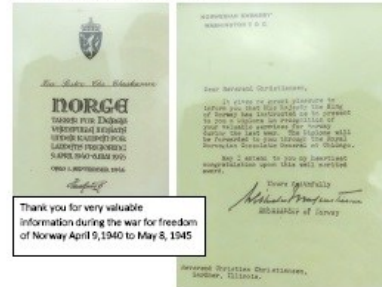
Opening Day canceled due to COVID

46th Annual
NORSK MUSEUM OPENING DAY
Sat., June 6, 2020 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Right in Norway — 3656 E. 26th St. Rd., Sheridan, IL 60551
Enjoy delicious home cooked Norwegian specialties, Norwegian Waffles, and a whole bunch of desserts!
Reassembling sales and demonstrations by Lynn Sove Maxson
Hardanger by Linda
Norwegian specialties by Enger
Kubb tournament!
Phone (815) 343-5070
Email: shirley7dog@yahoo.com
See all the new exhibits
NORSK MUSEUM GRAND OPENING!
www.NorskMuseum.org

Rev. Christian Christiansen 1859-1947

HE SAVED THE WORLD! GARDNER MAN SHOULD BE REMEMBERED

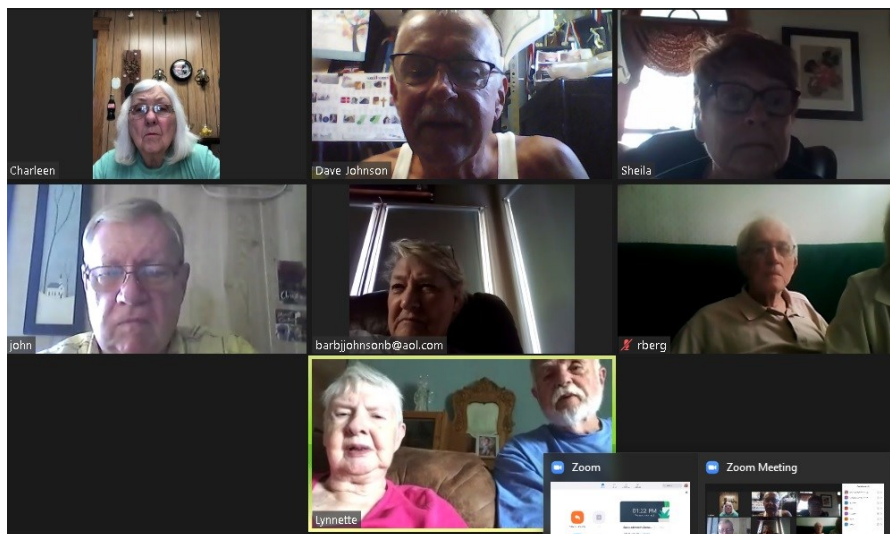
As Norwegians we proudly claim kinship with Norwegian humanitarian, the Rev. Christian Christiansen of Gardner Illinois. Born near Stavanger, at Sandnes, he came to intimately know the fjords, rivers and mountains of his childhood in his native land. As a young man he became a merchant marine and sailed the Atlantic nine times in that capacity before making the decision to make the U.S. his permanent home in 1881. Then, in America at the turn of the century he got the call to become a preacher. He attended a Lutheran seminary, first becoming a horseback circuit riding preacher before accepting a pastorate at a church in Gardner. Christiansen came to prominence during World War II when upon reading an article in the Chicago Tribune about the Nazi campaign to secure heavy water to aid in their effort to make an atomic bomb. Hitler was anxious to invade Norway as it offered him access to heavy water, or D2O, a key ingredient. The target plant was located near the village of Vemork in southern Norway, the terrain known well by Christiansen. He stated, "I can show them how to get up underneath and bring a warship in." He contacted the Navy. Two admirals, one from England and one from the United States, came to his home following church services on Sunday. On hands and knees they laid out a huge map on the kitchen floor and Christiansen using a red pencil drew an overway. The plant was under a mountain shelf, out of reach of Allied bombers and of battleships that couldn't navigate the narrow fjords. Within a week of their meeting the plant was destroyed. The British organized a successful commando raid in February 1943. Christiansen continued to work with the Norwegian underground, using his contacts with the military and family in Norway to rescue many of his countrymen from the Nazis. Humble man that he was, most of these details did not come to light until after his passing in 1947 - he considered his part in the war effort to be top secret.



The Heroes of Telemark (1965), starring Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris, tells the story.

Museum board meeting via Zoom

One-room school exhibit relocated



NORSK MUSEUM

Certain decent uniforms failed approval...

Restauration as it approached the famous cask off the coast of Madeira.



Dr. Herbert Zacharias Lund Jr. passed away February 1996. Herbert had visited Norway in 1967 and was also present for the Sesquicentennial celebrations and Royal visit in 1975 which he attended with his brothers.

But what really caught my attention was John's mention that his father had commissioned an oil painting of the Restauration. The painting depicted the Restauration as it approached the famous cask off the coast of Madeira.

Restauration was 300 miles off the coast of Africa with her occupants having exhausted their supplies of food and water when an object was spotted floating in the sea. Lars Larson was lowered in the ship's tender to retrieve what turned out to be a cask. Lars nearly lost his hand to a shark but eventually managed to secure a rope to the cask which was eagerly brought aboard. The cask was reportedly covered in barnacles and had obviously been at sea even longer than the Sloopers themselves.

The cask was quickly opened and found to contain Madeira wine. I realize it may seem rather incongruous that this ship of mostly Quakers would do so, but apparently at least the senior members of the crew became enough under the influence that the ship drifted aimlessly into the harbor of Funchal, apparently without command and without a flag to indicate her origin. Therefore, it was assumed the ship was a plague ship and her crew and passengers were dead or dying. With the cannons of the harbor fortress preparing to blow the Restauration and her 52 occupants out of the water, a German ship from Bremen anchored nearby attempted to alert anyone aboard Restauration of their impending demise, shouting, "Raise your colors!".

While the Sloopers unsuccessfully attempted to locate their Norwegian flag, Bertha Nelson ran to the prow of Restauration and, "disregarding the Immodest display of her legs, waved her bright calico skirt to prevent the cannon from being fired." Thus, the Sloopers arrived in Funchal on August 1st, 1825.

• Sheen Godkin of Sheen Godkin Photography



The Hauge Lutheran church records available from 1868 to 1917, when it merged with the Fox River Church. Richard Kendrick's mother was baptized here in 1876.

Descendant's of the church membership are located throughout the country, as Norway Illinois was the hub of Norwegian immigration.

RICHARD KENDRICK (KURVINK), '29,

Richard Carlisle Kendrick 1-11-1907 - 2-10-1987

Name: Richard Carlisle Kurvink
 Event Type: Baptism
 Birth Date: 11 Jan 1907
 Baptism Date: 6 Oct 1907
 Baptism Place: Elmore, Minnesota
 Father: John Kurvink
 Mother: **Julia C D (Dyvig) Kurvink**
 Church Name: Snitch Lutheran Church
 Church Location: Elmore, Minnesota

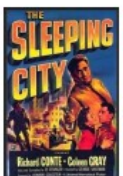


RICHARD KENDRICK (KURVINK), '29

Richard Kendrick, a retired actor, died at the Bellevue Hospital Center last Tuesday after suffering a stroke. He was in his early 80's and lived in Manhattan.

A native of South Dakota, Mr. Kendrick began to act in campus production as a student at the University of Michigan. He made his Broadway debut in 1933 when he played the juvenile lead in "Double Door." Mr. Kendrick appeared in comedies and other plays, as well as on television in the Kraft Theater and the Goodyear Television Playhouse.

- Filmography:
 Man on a String
 Inspector Jenkins-1960 [available on YouTube]
 The Investigator (TV Series)
 1949-1955 Kraft Theatre (TV Series)
 1955 Ponds Theater (TV Series)
 1955 Goodyear Playhouse (TV Series)
 1954 The Inner Flame (TV Series)
 1952-1954 Armstrong Circle Theatre (TV Series)
 1951 The Big Story (TV Series) Joe Garretson
 1951 The Philco-Goodyear Television Playhouse (TV Series)
 1951 Robert Montgomery Presents (TV Series)
 1950 The Sleeping City
 Dr. Dutra (uncredited) [available on YouTube]
 1950 The Ford Theatre Hour (TV Series)
 The Traitor (1950)



- (1932- 1959) Active on Broadway in the following productions:
 (1932) Stage Play: Camille [The Fate of a Coquette]. Drama (revival).
 (1933) Stage Play: Double Door. Melodrama
 (1936) Stage Play: A Room in Red and White. Drama.
 (1959) Stage Play: Golden Fleecing. Comedy.
 (1940) Stage Play: A Case of Youth. Comedy.

- (1949) Stage Play: Two Blind Mice. Comedy.
 (1937) Stage Play: Excursion. Comedy.
 (1936) Stage Play: Stage Door. Comedy

Richard's mother, Julie Christine Dyvig, daughter of Ole & Carrie Dyvig, was baptized at Norway Hauge Lutheran Church on 12/31/1876.

NORSK MUSEUM

Olof Gjovak passes. He embraced his Norwegian heritage and was a major Norsk Museum benefactor.



Old Norway cemetery dedication. Many thanks to the Dayton Bluffs volunteers!



The last Saturday in July, Norway Cruise Night is the place to drive.

11th Annual Norway Cruise Night



Music by:
3D Sound!

Sat., July 25th
3 to 7 p.m.

Cars
Trucks
Tractors
Motorcycles

Dash Plaques for the first 100

SPONSORS

Country Financial / Rick J. Passow
Holloway's Portable Restrooms
BIG JIM'S Collision & Restoration

All Proceeds to Benefit:

Sheridan American Legion
Serena Fire Dept.
Serena Lions Club
Norway Improvement League
Norwegian Center (Museum)

Only \$5 to register!
RAIN OR SHINE!

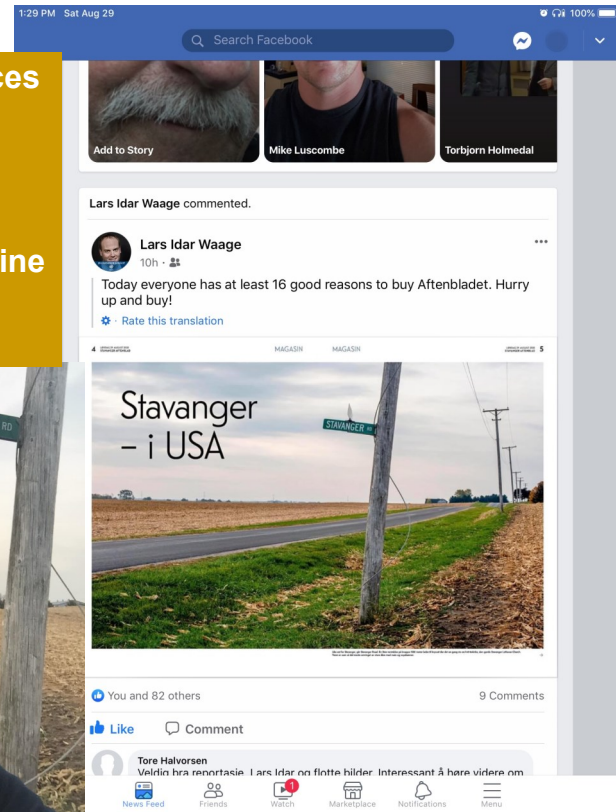
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Myrtle Duvick created these popular Norway Flag masks. The first batch quickly sold out. The second batch is now selling quickly too. Proceeds benefit the Norsk Museum and Helmar Church charities.

Lars Idar Waage introduces Stavanger Illinois to Stavanger Norway

Fantastic 16-page magazine gets published



Memorial roof is new again!

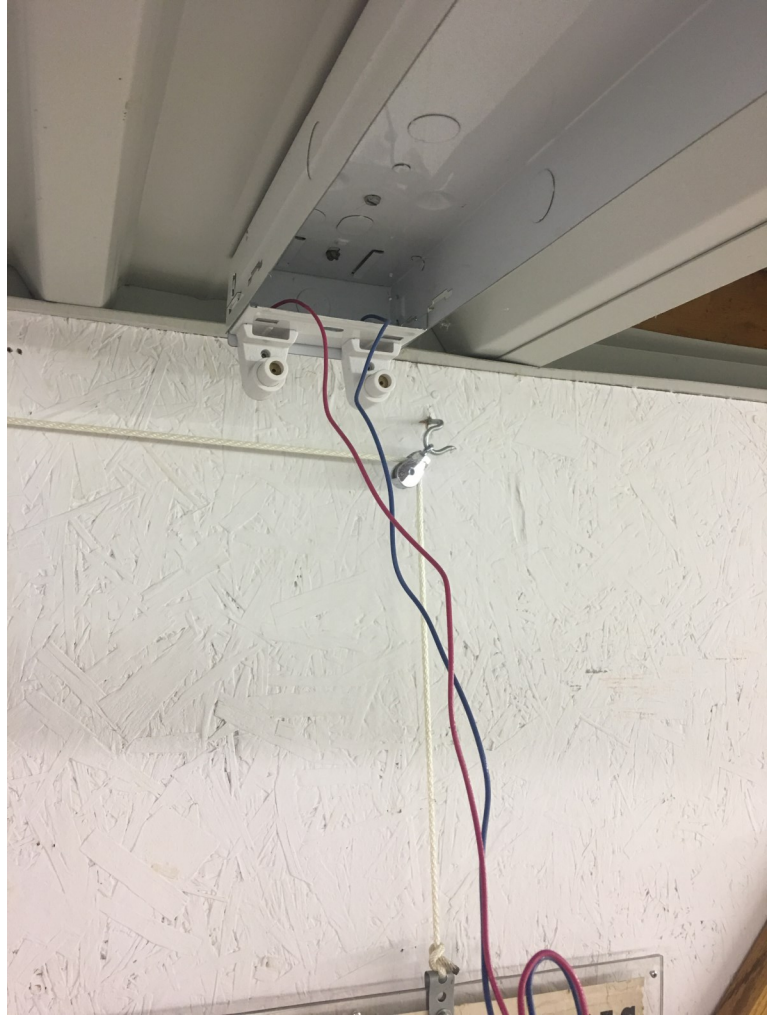
Thanks Pastor Troy and Ralph!



NORSK MUSEUM

Besides adding new displays, there are plenty of behind the scene repairs, maintenance and updates being performed.

- ◇ On the brighter side, the museum lighting is converted to LED to cut our energy costs.
- ◇ We hope to recoup our investment from reduced utility bills, with in a year or two.
- ◇ Three outside security yard lights need to be retrofitted to LED also, this Spring.



NORSK MUSEUM

October

Don Hall survived the 1918 Spanish Flu and the 2020 Covid, passes from natural causes at age 105. Viking strong!



Sloopers return to their roots. The first permanent Norwegian settlement in America. Gudmund Haugas was their Sloop ancestor.



NORSK MUSEUM

November

Smorgasbord canceled due to Chinese Corona flu.

Norsk Museum presents a
NORWEGIAN SMØRGÅSBORD
Sat., November 18th, 2017
Seating at 4:00 OR 5:30 p.m.
Norway Community Building
Norway, IL
ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY
For tickets or information please call:
815-308-5870
\$18 - Adults
\$7 - Children
(10 & under)
Carry Outs Available!
Sponsored by the Norsk Museum, Sons of Norway Polar Star and Cleng Peerson Lodges.
Proceeds benefit the Norsk Museum Building Fund

NORWAY

Dag Arne Danielsen of Bergen, Norway stands next to Ralph Johnson. Dag has helped many people all year long with his ancestry research expertise!
Tusen takk!





NORSK MUSEUM

COVID Binge-watch everything Norwegian

With the lack of Sons of Norway meetings and self-quarantining, what did you do this year?



[Netflix]

- Deanwood
- Fallet
- The Vahalla Murders
- Borderliner
- Bordertown
- Young Wallander
- Occupied
- Case
- Viking Destiny
- Troll Hunter
- Battle
- Kon Tiki
- Lilyhammer



[Amazon]

- New Scandinavian Cooking
- Wisting
- Viking Blood
- The Norse
- The Viking Sagas
- Traditions of Christmas
- The Norse: An Arctic Mystery
- Vikings Season 1-6
- Viking: The Berserkers
- Real Vikings
- Thor: The Dark World
- Valhalla Rising
- Oil – The Story of the Norwegian Oil Adventure
- The Vikings
- Vikings
- Thor
- Norwegian Ninja
- Erik the Viking
- Vikingdom
- Vikings: Legends at Sea
- The Vikings [1958]

Books:

The Fir Tree

The Little Match Girl

[EBAY]

- The Parson's Wife
- The Heavy Water War
- Crown Princess Martha: The American Story



NORSK MUSEUM

December

- ◇ Seasonal change for the boat-house window boxes.

About the book

by Chief Editor, Cindy Bauer

The Alpha Team is back! This time they explore little known facts about History's worst Blunders, a series of mistakes causing and leading up to a disaster or horrific event, where numerous lives are lost that could've been saved. In total, 32 Blunders! Six years of research has brought forth the truth about what really happened, the cover-ups and more!

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to:

Wounded Warrior Mentor Program. (The author is a mentor in the program.)

The book will be made available at [Amazon](#) and **all major online bookstores** everywhere.

Get your copy when it comes out and please, pass this information onto your contacts, too, so they can enjoy reading all about the history of these disasters that most people do not know.

Dr. Charles Toftoy publishes his latest book. He is the son of Major General Holger Toftoy "Mr. Missile".



NORSK MUSEUM

2021 plans / wish list

- ◇ Memorial roof and bronze plaque completed
- ◇ Stabbur project completed
- ◇ **Recruit more docents**
- ◇ Get article published in Viking magazine
- ◇ NTA Dinner theatre (3rd meeting of the Norway Temperance Association)
- ◇ Norway Temperance building donated to us??
- ◇ Teresa's Nordic documentary puts us on the map!!
- ◇ Strengthen ties between Stavanger Norway and our community
- ◇ Preparation for the Slooper 200th Anniversary
- ◇ Get the Cleng Peerson children's book published



Donations

- ◇ Polar Star lodge \$100 + volunteer hours = priceless!!
- ◇ Cleng Peerson Lodge (\$20,000 to date) + volunteer hours = priceless!!
- ◇ Verdandi lodge \$1250 (\$3,500 to date)
- ◇ Exelon volunteers \$700 (\$2,800 to date)
- ◇ Gjovik auto sales \$500 (\$2,000 to date)
- ◇ John Aaberg 74 books donated
- ◇ Birgit donates books
- ◇ Don Harsted donate \$50 ancestry
- ◇ Norge Krone donated by Askbjorn
- ◇ Sue Borsenuis donated for Norway Store exhibit
- ◇ Dennis Beckmann \$100
- ◇ Marti Borger \$100
- ◇ Charles Donelson \$40
- ◇ Gregory Drinam \$100
- ◇ Norway Store \$100 [plus selling many books and Norway Flag masks]

NORSK MUSEUM

100 in 2021!

- ◆ Wayne "Buck" Borchsenius
- ◆ Phyllis Benson



Happy Birthday!

NORSK MUSEUM



RuthAnn (Chapman) Dierzen, 78, of Newark passed away on December 31, 2020 at Cedarhurst in Yorkville, IL.

RuthAnn was born February 26, 1942 in Morris, IL, to Delbert and Eva (Perkins) Chapman.

She married her high school sweetheart, Floyd Dierzen on November 17, 1962 at the Newark Lutheran Church. They made their home in Newark where they raised their four sons, Louis, Ronald, John and Robert.

She was preceded in death by her husband Floyd on May 15, 2020 and her oldest son, Louis (Louie) Dierzen on May 23, 2017 and her parents Delbert & Eva Chapman.

After graduating from Newark High School she attended Cosmetology School, later she opened the Good Times in Newark so the kids in town would have a safe place to hang out. When her boys were older she went back to school to become a travel agent. Later on she was a substitute rural mail carrier, retiring in 2002.

RuthAnn had a passion for her family genealogy, doing extensive research in cemeteries across the country, interviewing relatives and even doing research in Salt Lake City.

She was a talented artist in the Norwegian folk art of Rosemaling, she took many classes even traveling to Norway to study under one of the best teachers. She was a founding member of the WOW's, a group of ladies who met weekly to paint and encourage each other, putting on a show each year displaying their art.

She and Floyd loved traveling in their camper, spending time visiting with friends everywhere they went. Like Floyd she loved aviation and was the first woman to solo at Newark Airport and watched many air shows in Oshkosh, WI.

Following a private service on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at the Gabel-Dunn Funeral Home in Newark, interment will be at the Millington-Newark Cemetery with Pastor Philip Chapman from Village Bible Church officiating.

Floyd Dierzen passes.

- His grandfather was baptized at the Norway Hauge church.
- When the Viking ship was donated to the museum, it was Floyd who custom modified the boat trailer to carry that Viking ship.
- We proudly enter our ship in parades throughout Chicagoland, pulling Floyd's trailer.

NORSK MUSEUM

Board members:

Dave Johnson [President]

Charleen Seville[Vice Pres]

Rich Gunderson [Treasurer]

Linda Anderson [Secretary]

Lynnette Johnson [Membership]

Roald Berg [plus NNL & Polar Star]

Wayne Borchsenius [Charter President]

Rob Borchsenius [plus NIL President]

Pat Hayes [plus Slooper past president]

Steve Tanda [plus NNL & Polar Star]

Laurie Gage [plus Cleng Peerson Lodge]

Lou Wise [plus Slooper past sec.]

Ed Hatteberg [plus Polar Star]

Ralph Johnson [plus Cleng Peerson Lodge]

Sheila Gunderson [plus Cleng Peerson Lodge]

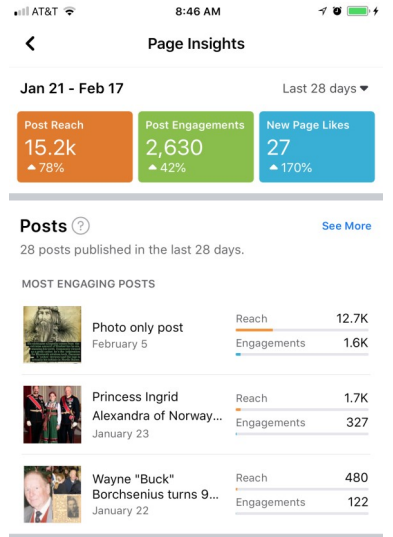
Mange takk to you our members, supporters who serve as docents throughout the summer, all the volunteers who man our fundraisers.

Special thanks of Sons of Norway lodges:

Cleng Peerson Lodge

Polar Star Lodge

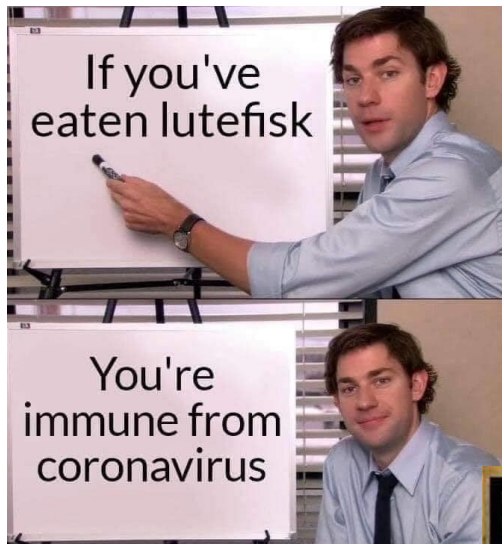
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NORWEGIAN BLESSING

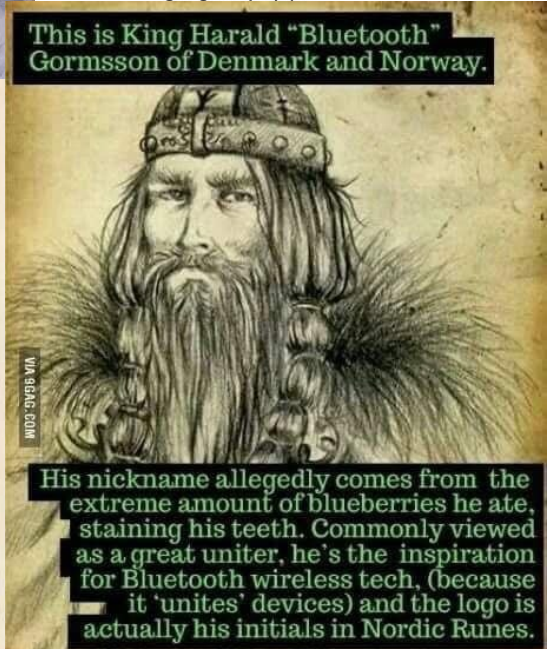
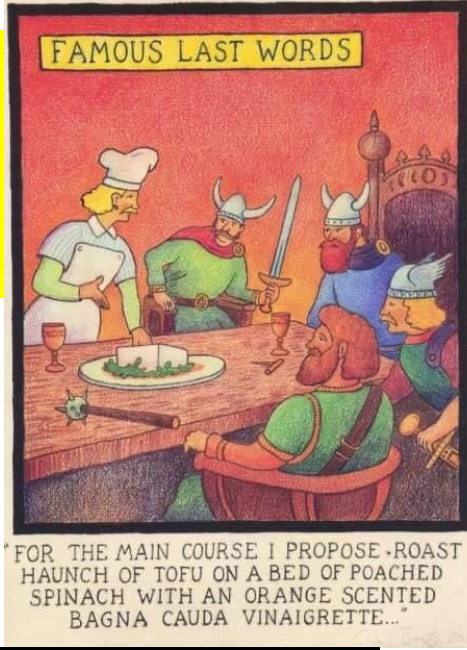
May da ruts always fit da wheels
in your pickup.
May yur ear muffs always keep out
da nort wind.
May da sun shine varm on yur lefse.
May da rain fall soft on yur lutefisk.
And until ve meet again,
May da Good Lord protect ya from
any and all unnecessary Uff Das.

dan holck



Norsk Museum on Facebook.

600 likes and growing. Sharing news from the past and present, honoring Notable Norwegians, learning language and fun.



Yesterday in geography - lessons

