

Hvite Fjell Nyheter

Volume 17 Number 10

October

September 25, 2009

Lodge Calendar

October 6 Meetings

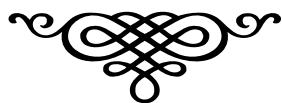
- 6:00 Board Meeting
- 7:00 General Meeting
The program for the general meeting is a "Member or Guest Show and Tell" program. Barbara Dimmitt, who is going to the Rosmaling Seminar at Camp Norge the weekend of Sept. 26th and 27th, will be showing and talking about the bowl she painted. Other members are invited to bring any Norwegian crafts and do show and tell about it.

Host and hostess are Andy and Connie Anderson.

November 3 Meetings

- 6:00 Board Meeting
- 7:00 General Meeting
The program for this meeting has not been determined.

The Hosts for this month will be announced.



President's Message



Hai!

This month, my news is personal: I am going to try my hand at rosemaling! I have long admired this art form, but never got around to tackling it. I hemmed and hawed and procrastinated, but when I noticed that this year features the 50th Rosemaling Seminar at Camp Norge (September 25th and 27th), I told myself, "What better time to start?"

By the time I actually called to make a reservation, though, the classes were full! – EXCEPT for the beginners class. It seemed I was destined to learn (well, at least to be exposed to) this traditional Norwegian decorative art at last. At the top of the next column is a photo of the bowl the beginners will be attempting to duplicate.



Beginner's project - Rosemaling Seminar at Camp Norge, Sept 2009

If you are viewing the Nyheter in paper form, you can't see the beautiful blue background color (cobalt or a bit brighter, perhaps?) of this sample, which was painted by the teacher of the beginners' class, our fellow member Cheryl Seath from Bishop, California.

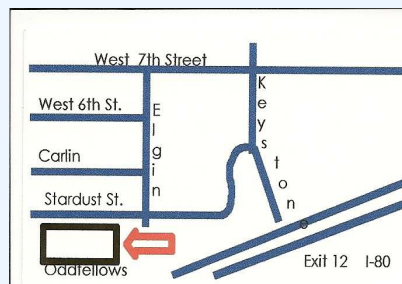
By the time you receive your Nyheter, however, this should be available on our website, www.hvitefjell.com. There, those of you with Internet access can see the design in living color. Other designs are featured on Camp Norge's website at www.campnorge.com.

On Labor Day weekend, one of our newer members, Sara Jerpseth, and I went to Camp Norge for the festivities. We met Penny Joseph Knudsen, who is the organizer of the Rosemaling Seminars at Camp Norge. It was quite a treat to watch Penney work with a picnic table full of youngsters and help them to paint a small

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Lodge Contact Information

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 The official web-site of Hvite Fjell Lodge is www.hvitefjell.com



Hvite Fjell Lodge meets at the Oddfellows Hall in Reno at 7:00pm the first Tue of every month except for July, October and December. Visitors are welcome.

Hvite Fjell's telephone number is (775) 746-1200

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wooden oval. Her delight with their progress and her love of rosemaling were infectious. By the way, Penney also painted the magnificent rosemaled panels in the new social hall at Camp Norge. They absolutely light up the room with a floral freshness that will be even more uplifting during the winter. No wonder Norwegians developed rosemaling!

I have few illusions about my ability to duplicate the elegance of Cheryl Seath's sample bowl. However, I am determined to elbow aside my usual (Norwegian??) perfectionism and just enjoy making the effort!

There were no rooms available at Camp Norge by the time I made my reservation for the Rosemaling Seminar. Therefore, I am going to pretend my Subaru Outback is an RV and park it in one of the RV slots. Not really roughing it, but close enough for me.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this month's *Nyheter*, and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Tuesday, October 6, if you can make it. (Check out the details elsewhere in this issue.) Who knows? I might even be brave enough to bring my bowl for "Show and Tell!"

With enthusiasm,

Barbara Sande Dimmitt

Gratulerer med dagen i oktober

Ed Corbett. oktober 31
Barbara Dimmitt. oktober 24
Julane Hanson. oktober 18
Richard Michaelson. . . oktober 29
Gerald Olson. oktober 11
Erika Root. oktober 20
Sidney Root. oktober 20

God Bedring Get Well Soon

Eileen Bianchi Ellen Hoel
Alf Stousland Ruth Stousland
Billie Watne

Adopt-a-School Program

Hello, everyone. School's in session and our lodge will partner with the WCSD (Washoe County School District) for an "Adopt-a-School" type program. It'll be different as we can individually choose the school or area we want to volunteer at. If you have a grandchild or know a teacher at a particular school, or just want to be close to home ~ they will meet your needs.

Tutors are needed for elementary through high school students in Reading & Math. It will be 1/1 or possibly a small group. They may need office help, so let them know what you can do. They're asking for a commitment of 1 hour/week and at least one semester for tutoring, and 2 hours/week for office work.

Upcoming training for Math & Reading are in October, January, February, & March. If you're available to attend the October training that would help. READ & SUCCEED will be on Wednesday, September 30th or Thursday, October 8th from 5:15-7:15pm at the WCSD Admin Bldg, 425 E. 9th St. MATH PATHS will be on Thurs, Oct. 15th, same time & place. Register by calling Helen at 851-5655 or by sending an e-mail message to hstudwell@washoe.k12.nv.us.

I have forms to complete ~ you can complete them & return to me or take care of them at the training. Please bring a picture ID and contact info for two references. A background check is also required, which will take up to two

weeks. You can specify your preferences on the Volunteer Survey. I also have kits for Math activities.

Some tips to remember when tutoring:

- Get a school calendar, so you will know their schedule.
- Be flexible at first, as you might be asked to tutor someone else or help out somewhere else than planned.
- Never be alone with a student "in a basement closet", bathroom, or anywhere off-campus.
- Have fun!

There may be some other future projects: Career Day, Speaker's Bureau (a resource for teachers classrooms, youth, etc. on Norwegian culture or other topics), and lastly a Book Drive. I'll keep you posted on these and let me know if you have any ideas. It will be a great way to help students, while having a presence in the community. We may even attract some new members!!

For additional information,, please contact Sara Jerpseth at 786-9834 or sunphire2005@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you. Happy Tutoring!! Manga Takk!!

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE SENIOR SAMPLER HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

October 7 & 8, Sat. and Sun.
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

1701 Vasser Street
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 324-2003

Free Parking Free Admission
Senior Sampler Gift Shop

Providing supplemental income for
senior craftsmen and artisans

Norwegian Customs

Grace, before and after meals is one of the oldest Norwegian table customs. This is one of the most familiar:

I Jesu navn gaar vi tilbords,

Spise og drikke paa dit ord,

Dig till aere, oss till gavn,

Saa faar vi mat I Jesu navn.

In English it would be:

In Jesus name, we come before Thee

To eat and drink according to Thy word

His the honor, ours the gain

And we are served in Jesus' name.

At the end of the meal a short prayer of thanks is also expressed.

In many older homes, especially in the country, the Bible is kept on a small shelf near the dining nook. From this Bible with its brass enforced corners and clasp, grandmother or grandfather would read a verse or chapter before meals.

Guests as well as members of the household never failed to express their thanks at the end of a meal, with the traditional "Takk for Maten." (Thanks for the food).

Food is always treated with reverence, prepared with painstaking care and served attractively. Table decorations play a major part in serving. No matter how simple the meal to be prepared for holidays, guests or even everyday dinner for the family, much thought is given to the setting of the table. Good damask table linen, or an inherited embroidered table cloth, good china, cut glass and silver. Candles are placed in holders of silver, brass or decorated pottery. Whenever possible, cut flowers are used if not a plant, or simply a few green branches are used to decorate the table.

Hand painted or embroidered centerpiece or "runner" which corresponds to the season of the year, or to the type of party given, is also used to grace the table. Small silk table flags fastened to miniature brass or polished wood stands are used on special occasions such as Independence Day or during the summer months.

Christmas

The most important holiday of all - Christmas - really begins with the month of December. No spot is left untouched when the house cleaning program starts.

About twenty days before Christmas, the baking schedule starts in the larger

households and country homes. Usually the crullers, "fattigmann" (poor man's treat) and "hartshorn" are made, then the cookies and "horns". Last of all, but perhaps the most important the "Julekake" or Christmas bread is made, a few days before Christmas.

December 23, known as "Little Christmas Eve", the holiday spirit begins to pervade the house. This is a whole day before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, the Christmas bread and coffee is served for breakfast, Church is attended in the afternoon. The evening is celebrated at home with a festive dinner; table decorated with candles, pine branches, stars or dancing dwarfs (Nisser) which compares with our Santa Claus.

The tradition is that people believed these little dwarfs (Nisser) lived under the barns and farm buildings to protect the animals and household from "bad luck. The Jule Nisser was never forgotten at Christmas and a large bowl of porridge was placed in the barn on Christmas Eve. By so doing, it was to insure friendliness for the coming year. Gradually, the "Jule Nisse" was transformed into the Christmas Man who brought the gifts. These little "Jule Nisser" or dwarfs are used as table decorations, cut from paper, arranged in groups, holding hands and dancing.

The traditional Christmas dinner varies depending upon the locality, but one which will be found almost everywhere is the dish of rise soup, a custom which has been handed down from generation to generation.

As darkness falls on Christmas Eve, church bells begin to ring, chiming out the Christmas carols, then it is time for lighting the Christmas tree which has been beautifully trimmed with tinsel, ornaments of heart shaped baskets, chains, stars, "Nisser", fish nets. Most of the decorations have been made at home. Father lights the small wax candles and tiny firecrackers sending out shooting stars. A circle is formed and everyone joins hands and as they walk around the tree they sing Christmas carols such as, Silent Night, I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, Beautiful Is The Blue Heaven. In the barn sits the "Jule Nissen" with his Christmas porridge.

Then Christmas packages are distributed and coffee comes to a daintily set coffee table with cookies, cakes and candles. A tiny glass of Christmas cordial or a glass of good wine is served for the occasion and used as a toast in wishing each one a "Merry Christmas" (God Jul).

The farm animals are never forgotten. The horse gets a special portion of oats, cows a lick of salt, the dog a bone, even the tiniest creatures are not forgotten. A sheaf of wheat

is fastened to the top of the roof to give shelter and food to the birds on Christmas Eve. This custom is also carried to the four corners of the World by Norwegian ships out at sea before the holidays.

December 25 is considered "First Christmas Day". This day is reserved for church and quiet meditation at home. Second Christmas Day is for family reunion, Third Christmas Day for dances and parties for the young, or festivals for the children. This usually ends the festivities in the city, but in the rural communities they keep on until New Year and sometimes until the Thirteenth Day of Christmas which ends the holidays.

Christmas has changed somewhat in Norway, but many still keep these traditions.

There are other holidays, Easter, 17th of May or Independence Day and Mid-Summer Fest. Christmas is the one holiday to which much thought and preparation is given; preparing for the birthday of the Christ Child.

Dagny Shervheim, President

Valkyrien Lodge No. 1

This article was taken from "Kitchen Secrets of the Daughters of Norway"



Did you hear about the Norwegian burglar who broke into the Elks Club? He was apprehended because he signed the guest book.

During a Christmas program, the Norwegian kept signing LEON LEON LEON. The person next to him whispered in his ear that he was holding the book upside down.

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