

NORTH STAR



NEWS

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February 2019

A Gender Perspective on Sami mittens

Adapted and translated from sosiologen.no

February 6th is Sami National Day in Norway. You may have seen the beautiful knitting Sami people wear that can be very different than traditional Norwegian knitting patterns. Behind the beautiful colour combination patterns, are there some deeper meanings in regard to gender in Sami culture?

At the Sami Witness exhibition in Tysfjord, displays of mittens in red, yellow, green, blue, black and white can spark curiosity about which patterns were meant for men or women. In the western world clothing stores often show clear differences in colours presented in clothing meant for boys or girls – in a way constructing gender differences in clothing by what is made available.

Theorists Thomas Laqueur, Michel Foucault and Judith Butler argue that gender is a historical and cultural product that is constantly changing. The concept pair sex / gender is used in gender research, where the term gender is used for the socially constructed gender, while sex is the biological gender. Butler is concerned that gender is not a "being", but a "doing". We produce gender through gender staging, something we do without being conscious.

Is gender similar in a Sami society? The exhibition consisted of Sami pattern knitted mittens, with over 100 different patterns including work and dress pieces. Nordvall Falck from Jokkmokk claims that men used to wear pink and women often used blue in older times. Neither pattern nor colors mark the "gender and gender" in the knitted mittens, because it is something that belongs to our contemporary performance, according to Falck.

Falck further shows in his work with pattern knit that today we think that pink and red are best suited to girls and women, but that is because we are influenced by norms prevailing in the society we live in today, while it is a foreign thought in the older material. According to Falck, red, pink, yellow, blue and green are not "gender markers", nor are the patterns, but the same pattern is used by both women and men. Is the Sami community to a lesser extent a gender-divided society?

NEXT MEETINGS!

- REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7 AT 7:00PM (1900HRS) AT BOWEN PARK (ACTIVITY ROOM #1)
- 50/50 DRAW FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE AT A COST OF \$1 PER PERSON, PROCEEDS TO CHARITY.

SOCIALIZING

- REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Brothers & Sisters.

I hope you are all well and getting out enjoying our nice winter weather.

Our January meeting started with a wonderful potluck dinner, what a nice way to start the year. If you would like to host a coffee get together, just give Jim Breivik a call and he will notify members by e-mail. Tim Hortons would be a good place to meet.

I would like to challenge members to attend the Chinese New Year Celebration. This year it's at John Barsby school, February 2nd. from 4-7pm, tickets are \$25 each for adults, free for children under 6 years, and \$12.50 for children 6-11. Contact Swan MacIquham 250-729-9948 for tickets. It's a combined celebration of Chinese New Year and Robbie Burns Birthday, a very interesting party.

Our next meeting is Thursday February 7th at 7pm. Please plan to attend, you are welcome to bring a guest. I would like to wish Jim, Rosie, Maren and Dahlia a wonderful trip to Norway visiting their family.

Happy Valentines ♡

Fraternally

Ida Pedersen

President



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

As one of the 92 lodges across all of SON who met their 2018 recruitment goal, North Star Lodge will receive the following from headquarters:

- \$100 cash card – Sponsored by our Financial Services department. Your lodge can buy what it likes with this cash card.
- First access to a fun new cultural program – You'll receive 3 Sons of Norway Mystery Night plays and promotional materials on a thumb drive. (Cleverly written just for Sons of Norway by Ted Birkedal, a member of Bernt Balchen Lodge in Anchorage, Alaska). These humorous plays can be used in many ways to entertain your lodge and your community.
- 2018 Founders Award Certificate – To recognize your lodge's achievement in meeting the recruitment goal. Plus achievement certificates to recognize individual recruiting members of the lodge.

Good work everyone!

Jim Tore Breivik

Membership Secretary & Vice President,
North Star Lodge 7-063.

Publicity Director District 7.

Vice President District 7.

2019 LODGE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Ida Pedersen	250-758-2306
VICE PRESIDENT	Jim Tore Breivik	250-758-7576
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jim Tore Breivik	250-758-7576
SECRETARY	Rosie Barlak	250-758-7576
ASSIST. SECRETARY	Elisabeth Vikran	778-441-2740
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CULTURAL DIRECTOR	Linda Harvey	250-751-1435
COUNSELOR	Arvo Paivarinta	250-758-5816
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FOUNDATION DIRECTOR	Arvo Paivarinta	250-758-5816
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1 YR TRUSTEE	Lillian Hope	250-758-1095
2 YR TRUSTEE	Gabriel Gabrielsen	250-753-5256
3 YR TRUSTEE	Kjell Garteig	250-756-4934



JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The January 3, 2018 North Star Lodge regular business meeting started at 7:00 pm with 10 members present.

It was noted that no executive meeting was called prior to this meeting as President Ida had been sick.

Minutes were read and approved as read. Regular meeting business took place.

Updates were given:

- Gabriel Gabrielsen will present the school bursaries June 11, 2019 at the Port Theatre
- Sign up sheets were sent around for 2019 meeting refreshment volunteers and getting to know Norway presentations

Motions were carried that:

- The 2019 social schedule be accepted.
- That a Children's Christmas party will be held in 2019, chaired by Rosie.

SOCIAL REPORT

Greetings!

Thanks to all who came out to our Pot Luck Kick Off! We enjoyed wonderful food and good company!

I need volunteers for the Getting to Know Norway program. Remember, you can speak about anything that is Norwegian and bring pictures, artifacts, maps or books. Let us try to enhance this program as much as possible this year. It was suggested that I sent in the prototype of this program to head office as it could have potential for other lodges.

I have the activity schedule to hand out. Please keep it handy for your monthly check on activities. For those of you who did not get a schedule, one will be sent out to you (please see last page of this newsletter) or I may have extra copies at the next meeting.

In February we are doing something somewhat special. The activity is entitled: Our Hearts Are In Norway. Please make hearts and bring them to the meeting. We will exchange hearts as you know; Valentine's Day is close by. These hearts can be made out of any material. They can be knitted, crocheted, made out of wood, paper or cloth. The sky is the limit. Can you remember making hearts in Norway as a child? Keep in mind that we want a Norwegian flavor in these hearts. It will be fun to exchange "hearts" with our friends. Please start now to make one for exchange! Only one!!! Do you have any "heartfelt" stories of your childhood?? Think about that too!

Joan Sorensen and Linda Harvey are bringing lunch food for after the meeting on February 7th. Hearts could be the theme then too!

Linda Harvey
Social/Cultural Director



a little in English...

Researchers Find Large Amounts of Coins, Hairpins and Pearls Under the Floors of Old Churches

From SON newsletter files

Small treasures tell a dark story about Norway's medieval culture

Archaeologists have found more than 20,000 coins, beads and hairpins under the floorboards of old Norwegian stave churches. A total of 10,286 of the coins are from between 1180 and 1320 A.D. In the Middle Ages, there were likely thousands of stave churches in Norway. Today, 28 stave churches remain standing. In addition, Norway probably has a few hundred other churches with roots in the Middle Ages. The coin findings in these churches reveal how widely coins were being used in Norwegian settlements 800 years ago.

One gender on either side

In the Middle Ages people stood during church. Only the old and infirm got to sit on benches along the sides. Presumably there was also a clear division between the sexes. Women stood on the north side of the sanctuary and men on the south side.

"When we investigated where in the church rooms hairpins, beads and other objects associated with women were located under the floorboards, we found that more than 95 percent were below the north side of the sanctuary," says Svein Harald Gullbekk, an archaeology researcher at the University of Oslo.

Thus, Gullbekk confirmed the strict division of medieval churches, where women had to stand on the side that people connected with the dark and cold forces in nature. The men stood on the south side



litt på Norsk...

Forskere har funnet store mengder mynter, nåler og perler under gulvet i gamle kirker

De små skattene forteller en mørk historie om middelalderkulturen i Norge

Arkeologer har funnet flere enn 20 000 mynter, perler og nåler under gulvet i de gamle norske stavkirkene. Hele 10 286 av myntene er fra årene 1180 til 1320. I middelalderen fantes det antakelig over tusen stavkirker i Norge. I dag er 28 stavkirker bevart. I tillegg har Norge antakelig et par hundre andre kirker med røtter i middelalderen. Myntfunnene i kirkene avslører hvor utbredt mynter var på bygda i Norge allerede 800 år tilbake.

Kjønnene på hver sin side

I middelalderen sto folk oppreist i kirken. Bare gamle og syke fikk plass på benker langs sidene. Antakelig var det også en klar inndeling mellom kjønnene. Kvinner på nordsiden av kirkerommet og menn på sørsiden.

– Da vi undersøkte hvor i kirkerommene det var funnet nåler, perler og andre kvinnerelaterte gjenstander under gulvet, så fant vi at mer enn 95 prosent lå under nordsiden av kirkeskipet, sier Svein Harald Gullbekk, forsker i arkeologi ved Universitet i Oslo.

Slik fikk Gullbekk til fulle bekreftet den strenge inndelingen i middelalderkirkene, der kvinnene måtte stå på den siden folk forbandt med de mørke og kalde kreftene i naturen. Mennene hadde plass på sørsiden.



Oslo Plans to go Carbon Neutral by 2030

From SON newsletter files

Norway has plans to stop the sales of gas and diesel-fueled cars in the next four years, and the city of Oslo is working toward an ambitious goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. Here are a few of the initiatives currently underway in Oslo that will help the city meet its impressive goal.

Since transportation makes up the largest part of the city's carbon footprint, Oslo is promoting electric cars by creating new "low-emissions zones" where only electric cars can drive. The city is also removing parking spaces to add 40 miles of bike lanes. To promote biking even more, the city is providing grants for electric cargo bikes.

Businesses are also working diligently to support this initiative. Construction companies are purchasing new electric-powered equipment, and will have to comply with a zero emissions standard for new building construction sites.

A computer data center in Oslo pumps heat from servers into a heating system that heats approximately 5,000 apartments in the city. A newly built office space is encouraging their employees to go carbon neutral by including space for 500 bikes and 10 electric car charging stations.

If all goes according to plan, Oslo will be leading the way for other cities striving toward a carbon neutral environment.



Dream of a trip to Norway this year?

Member discounts are available on fjord and river cruises, guided tours and auto and hotel rentals.

Save on your travel in North America, Scandinavia and beyond. Learn more from your local lodge's cultural director or log in at sofn.com and go to Member Resources.

LANGUAGE CLUB

Hello language interested members! We are learning a lot in our language game club. Thank you to those who have come out to participate so far. It really is a lot of fun. New participants are always welcome. The game allows people to start at the English or Norwegian level at which they feel comfortable, so it is easy for new participants to join at any time. We are also welcoming guests at these games, so if you know someone who might like to try it out with us, just give us a heads up so that we bring enough snacks.

Please email rbarlak@island.net or call 250-758-7576 if you are interested in joining our Language Game club. This will ensure we bring enough games and snacks for all who are interested in playing.

Where: Study Room 1, Vancouver Island Regional Library – Nanaimo North Branch, 6250 Hammond Bay Road.

When: 6:00-7:50pm, the first and third Tuesdays of every month.



A Heartwarming, Sweet Treat

From SON newsletter files

In Norway, heart-shaped vafler (waffles) are served for dessert or as a treat. Why not make them for your loved ones this Valentine's day or any time soon? If you do not have a heart shaped waffle iron, they are fairly easy to find online (e.g. Amazon) or at a specialty kitchen store.

Ingredients

- 6 eggs
- ½ Cup sugar
- 1 Tsp. ground cardamom
- 1 ½ Cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 Cup sour cream
- ½ Cup melted butter
- 3 Tbsp. butter for frying

1. Mix eggs, sugar, and cardamom together in a big bowl.
2. Add in flour, baking powder, and salt.
3. Mix these ingredients and beat in sour cream and butter until the batter is smooth. Let the batter sit for about 20 minutes before you
4. being making the waffles.
5. Heat up the iron and brush some of the butter of the surface, you are now ready to make waffles.
6. Pour 1/4 cup of the batter in the iron and wait for the waffle to become light brown.
7. Take it out (watch out, it's hot!) and serve it warm.
8. Top with jam, whipped cream, or sour cream. Try different toppings, or make a waffle sandwich.

https://www.sofn.com/norwegian_culture/recipe_box/baked_goods_breads_and_desserts/vafler_waffles/



Trailblazer was Known for Preserving Svalbard's Nature

From SON newsletter files

Norwegian botanist Hanna Resvoll Holmsen (1873 – 1943) is known for paving the way for women in both academia and polar research. Often working alone, Hanna would take expeditions to Svalbard to study the archipelago and its historic sites and fossils. She crossed glaciers, climbed mountains and walked miles of shoreline to document arctic plants and fossils. Her efforts to preserve nature in Svalbard is why she is recognized as Norway's first nature and environmental conservationist.

Hanna was independent, resourceful, passionate and continuously pushed boundaries. She became the first woman to attain a doctoral degree in botany in Norway and the first female lecturer in phytogeography (the study of the geographical distribution of plants). She was also an accomplished photographer, and the first to capture Svalbard's plants in color.

Hanna was truly a pioneer for women of her time. As such, she was recently honored through art by Anne-Karin Furunes, displayed at the Fram Centre, Tromsø.





SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Have not heard of any new events in the health of our members. We must be staying healthy or at least maintaining the status quo. Do hope nobody is missed. Sonja will be away "from her desk" the last week of January so please call Irene. Again, we wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

Please call Sonja (250-756-2406) or Irene (250-585-3372) if a member you know is ill or needing a visit.

- Please remember to submit any newsletter submissions by February 15 for the March issue.
- WANTED to buy: Lefse Grill. If you have one you no longer use, please contact rbarlak@island.net or call 250-758-7576.

Norwegian coffee break Do you like to go for coffee? Well so do a lot of other members! Let's meet up. Anyone can decide when and where to have the next "kaffe pause" - just let us know and we will make sure we let all those interested know the details. Call 250-758-7576 or email: j-t-brei@online.no with a location and date so we can let members know.



Please note our lodge member Sonya Jenssen leads a club called Comox Valley Viking Suns (not a SON club), which holds Norwegian related events in the Courtenay area. If you are interested seeing what they offer, check out: <http://www.comoxvalleyvikingsuns.com/events/>

Now in and available to purchase! Norwegian-English Language board game "NEW AMIGOS" (imported from Norway)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kassidy Pedersen Kempf	3
Lillian Hope	4
Elaine Myers	5
Sighild Olsson	8
Inger Bloodsworth	9
Sonya Jenssen	10
Roy A Johnson	15
Kjell Garteig	21
Liam Furuness	28



A fun family game to learn Norwegian. This is a great gift for all ages and skill levels. Share the Norwegian language, improve your skills in Norwegian or English! \$60 + shipping (if applicable) Phone Rosie 250-758-7576 or email: j-t-brei@online.no



FACTS (social interaction is beneficial, SON puts on some great cultural events, the below schedule should be posted somewhere you can see it so you don't forget to attend) AND FUN (it's all about fun - and often food, and it is more fun if you join us too!):

SONS OF NORWAY North Star Lodge SCHEDULE FOR 2019

January 3	Pot Luck
February 7	Our hearts are in Norway "Valentines"
March 7	New Amigos – Norwegian game
April 4	Getting to Know Norway (Easter)
May 2	Show us your hobby work: samples please
May 17	17 Mai celebration
June 6	Getting to Know Norway
June 11	Presentation of North Star bursary (Port Theatre)
July 1	Canada Day BBQ
September 5	Velkommen Tilbake dinner 6:00 p.m.
October 3	Getting to Know Norway
November 7	Elections & Norwegian Jul Craft 6:00 p.m.
November	Lutefisk Dinner
December 5	Life in Norge at Christmas time
December	Serve lunch at Fairview School
December	Afternoon Juleselskap (Coffee & Norwegian Desserts)
December	Children's Christmas Party

Remember: Summer luncheons or picnics in the park
SUGGESTION: Call Jim and arrange a KAFFE PAUSE

Answers to January 2018 Facts and Fun: 1d, 2a, 3true, 4a, 5true, 6false