



**SONS OF  
NORWAY**

## **Desert Fjord Lodge**

**6-133, Scottsdale, Arizona**



**January 2012**

### *Heritage & Culture Program*

#### *The Northern Lights & Silent Auction*



The Vikings believed the ghostly lights in the sky were reflections from the shields of Valkyries, mythical maidens. Nordic fisherman saw them as a sign of an abundant herring catch. The indigenous people of Lapland called them “fox tails”. Today, we know them as aurora borealis (Northern Lights) and can explain them with science...but

they're still just as magical! Thanks to the northerly climate and latitude, Norway is an ideal place to view these brilliant illuminations, the results of solar flares and charged particles in earth's atmosphere.

Best months to experience the Northern lights are from October to March, with peak visibility from December to February. Tromsø boasts some of the highest levels of Northern Lights activity on earth, making it the perfect destination to spot the Aurora Borealis

At this month's Heritage and Cultural Meeting we will have the special opportunity to learn about the Northern Lights from Per Aannestad,, Professor Emeritus at ASU. Read more about Professor Aannestad on page 3.

We will also have a Silent Auction; see page 4 for details.

### **ATTENTION! Business Meeting Date Change**

In order that board members may attend Knut Erik Jensen's concert on Jan 12th, the Business Meeting has been moved to **Friday, Jan 13th**. Time and place will remain the same: 7 pm at Granite Reef Senior Center.

#### **DESERT FJORD LODGE SEPTEMBER MEETINGS**

***Genealogy Group*** Sat, Jan 7, 10:30 AM, @ GRSC<sup>1</sup>

***Business meeting*** Friday, Jan 13, 7pm @ GRSC<sup>1</sup>

***Heritage & Culture meeting*** Friday, Jan 20, Masonic Lodge<sup>1</sup>

Menu: Rømmegrøt<sup>2</sup>, Flatbread with plenty of cold-cuts, Lingonberry juice, dessert; coffee, water.<sup>2</sup>

*Adults - \$9*

*Ages 16-21 - \$6*

*Ages 4-16 - \$3*

#### **Reservations to**

Phyllis Bergo

480-812-9762

phyllisbergo@gmail.com

<sup>1</sup> Locations: see back page

<sup>2</sup> Sour cream porridge

## NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN: SETTING A COURSE AND DIRECTION FOR DESERT FJORD

Ross Berg  
President, Desert Fjord

Get out the sextants, check our position, and set a new course! We are on a journey -- not as perilous as Amundsen's expeditions we heard about last month, but...? Knowing the sea, a Norse *skipet kaptein* and the crew must recognize the influences of magnetic variations, tidal currents, and crosswinds and alter course accordingly. Still, we must keep our destination firmly in mind.



*The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries...*

### The risky part—Setting a New Unknown Course...

The *skipet kaptein* knows that every movement of the ship's rudder has a bit of risk. Over a year ago, we decided to alter our course and fulfill our mission from a different point on the compass. The mission "...to promote and preserve..." remains the same. But the course has changed.

For most of the life of Desert Fjord we followed the traditional rituals of the earliest SON lodges. Some of the agenda and content of meetings dated back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century—over 100 years ago. But, there is nothing in the SON Constitution or Procedures that defines the content of the meetings. There is no requirement to sing birthday wishes or have drawings as incentives to attend meetings or even to sing the three national anthems. For the most part, what we do is our own making.

A new generation of Norwegian-Americans is flowing into the Sons of Norway and it doesn't take many meetings before they start asking us what is relevant or interesting about some of the meeting content. They have been quite vocal in surveys about their earnest desire to learn about Norway and our culture but they don't want to listen to discussion on usage of funds or changes to Rules and Policies at every meeting. They have told us they would rather come to a separate Business Meeting or vote by email—like they do in their business life. Some have children. They want their children to learn about Scandinavian and other cultures but that will not happen if they fall asleep before we get to the program. We have not been "meeting friendly" to the younger generations.

At the urging of many of our SON leaders, your Board of Directors decided to alter course. Some told us we were sailing into risky waters. This year we issued the command, "Right standard rudder, all ahead flank!" Out on the high seas now, with a new bearing:

We moved almost all business to the monthly Business Meeting. All members are invited to attend. You can vote on issues and express your opinions. Well attended (more so than ever in the past) we plan most of the lodge events and review our assets and budget in those meetings. If you would like to become an officer in Desert Fjord, attending the Business Meeting is a good place to meet future close friends.

We reformatted the "social" and renamed it a Heritage and Culture Meeting.

We restructured the H&C Meeting to be a celebration of our "Norwegian Soul" filled completely with topics of Norwegian history, current events, traditions, legacies, beliefs, principles and travel. And much more. But not business.

We made the dinner into a supper—smaller and simpler, less expensive, and easier to serve and clean up. It just makes sense. Best of all, it has a hint of Norway. From out of this beautiful Sonoran Desert, Berit and Gil manage to bring us a taste of Scandinavia. How nice to have this much-needed variety in our lives that everyone can afford in these difficult times!

So we are now one year into our journey. Our destination is the same but the course is different. We left buoy markers along the way and so we can still return to the old ways. But the majority of people have told us they like what we are doing with the meetings and how we are doing it. Please call me or Ed Bergo if you would like to make some additional recommendations on how to arrive at our destination: "...to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway...". We will still sing the National Anthems at a special event or when the mood strikes us—just ask at a meeting and we'll do it!

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Watch The Posten for details*

January

- 1 Et velsignet Nyttår!
- 7 Genealogy Group
- 12 Knut Erik Jensen concert
- 13 Business meeting
- 14 Mesa Lodge Genealogy Group
- 20 Heritage and Culture Meeting
- 20-21 Family History Expo in Mesa

February

- 4 Genealogy Group



Our January Guest Speaker

**Per Aannestad**

I received my undergraduate degree in astronomy from the University of Oslo, Norway, and my graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. My postdoctoral years from 1971-1975 were spent first at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York and later at Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, studying the far-infrared sky via balloon observations. From 1975, I was a Professor of Physics and Astronomy at ASU, until I retired in 2004. My research interests were the physics of the interstellar medium, interstellar dust, and star formation. I am currently the Director of the ASU Emeritus College Academy for Continued Learning.

My interest in the Northern Lights was formed from growing up in Kongsberg, Southern Norway and watching these Dancing Curtains of Colored Lights occasionally during the dark, winter skies. I have also witnessed their even more striking appearances from the island of Andøya near Tromsø, where there is a rocket range for studying the lower part of the Earth's atmosphere. I was then co-teaching a class in Space Technology and the student project was to launch their own rocket and get measurements of temperature, density, etc. It was a special bonus to experience the Northern Lights from where the Lights are generally the most prominent.



**Knut Erik Jensen**

**Piano concert**

**Scottsdale**

**January 12**

Knut Erik Jensen is a wonderful friend of the Desert Fjord Lodge. In the past four years, he has performed 3 concerts in Scottsdale. This coming January, the concert will be performed at the Steinway Store on North Scottsdale Road

His concert will include Edvard Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, which is based on eighteenth century dance forms. It was written in 1884 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Danish-Norwegian humanist playwright Ludvig Holberg. The suite is a piece of nineteenth century music which makes use of musical styles and forms from the preceding century. This suite is not as famous as the music from Peer Gynt, but many critics see them as equal.

He is also preparing to play *Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition*. This suite is Mussorgsky's most famous piano composition and has become a showpiece for virtuoso pianists. An exhibit of over 400 Viktor Hartmann works was displayed in the Academy of Fine Arts in Saint Petersburg, Russia in February and March 1874. Mussorgsky lent works from his personal collection to the exhibit and viewed the show in person. Fired by the experience, he composed *Pictures at an Exhibition* in six weeks. The music depicts an imaginary tour of an art collection.

**Coming next month:  
Torsk Dinner & Norwegian Dancers**

**DON'T MISS IT!!!!**

**Desert Fjord Silent Auction  
January 20, 2012**

This year's Silent Auction is a fundraiser to replenish our Operations Account. This will allow us to continue a strong Cultural Skills program and to help us pay for meeting rooms and storage rentals.

**If you haven't participated in a Silent Auction, the directions are quite easy.**

1. Bring an item you may have receive as a small gift, which you will never use, and you'd like to donate to Sons of Norway.
2. Bring the item (unwrapped) to the Heritage and Cultural Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Assign an amount of value for the item.
4. Fill out the form available at auction table.
5. When all the items are in place, **everyone will have a chance to shop!!!**
6. Pick an item to bid on, fill in your name, and amount bid.
7. At the end of the silent auction time, the highest bidder pays the amount bid and takes the new treasure home.

**ITEMS ALREADY DONATED**

Paoli Soleri Casting Bronze Windbells

3 piece BBQ Tool Set

Premiere Collection of 6 small bottles of perfume

Slatkin & Co. Toasted Almond Scented Candle in metal stand

Rhinestone Heart Journal

Dela Fete Note Card Set

National Geographic Atlas of the World (6<sup>th</sup> Edition, hard cover)

# Minutes of Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133 Meetings

Jennifer Loomis, Secretary

## Business Meeting – 8 December 2011

1. Granite Reef Senior Center. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Ed Bergo. Attending (10); Sharon Clunk, Jan Johnson, Roger Espeland, Ed & Phyllis Bergo, Berit Miltun, Floyd Downs, Jen Loomis, Gil Witsoe, Astrid Hansen.
2. Minutes of November meeting approved
3. Officers' and Committee Reports
  - a. Treasurer
    - i. Treasurer's report discussed
    - ii. 2012 proposed budget was presented and reviewed. Official proposed budget to be presented next month
    - iii. Discussion on Convention fees for the 5 attendees
  - b. Cultural Directors
    - i. December Heritage and Cultural meeting – Christmas carols with piano accompaniment, cookie exchange, stories
    - ii. January program – Northern lights; silent auction (bring things to donate for auction)
    - iii. February program – Norwegian dancers
  - c. Social Directors
    - i. December – potluck, dessert and coffee
    - ii. January – romegrot with Flatbread and meat
    - iii. Knut Erik Jensen concert Jan 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. at Steinway in Scottsdale
    - iv. February – Torsk; price to be determined
  - d. Membership
    - i. Monthly membership activity report reviewed and discussed.
    - ii. Discussed about putting a little blurb in the POSTEN about new members
  - e. Posten articles due to Carol by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Sunshine Report (acknowledged the death of Lee Erdahl)
4. Vacant positions – still looking for someone to be in charge of lodge keys, outside storage area, opening and locking up lodge
5. Communications
  - a. Ski for Light
  - b. District 6 – Convention – June 7-8-9 in Mesa @ Hilton
6. New Business
  - a. Possible new additions to the library
  - b. Asking Masonic Lodge about the possibility of storage area in the lodge to get rid of outside storage area.
7. Next Business Meeting is Jan 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. at Granite Reef Senior Center
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

## Our Norwegian Heritage & Culture: Genealogy

### Family History Expo

in Mesa, Jan 20-21, 2012

Once you have registered you can access pdf files of the handouts!

### **LinkedIn for Genealogy?**

Many people use LinkedIn for business networking, but it is also useful for Genealogy. A few useful groups, and some recent topics and discussions from them, are:

#### **Digging Up Family Roots**

Beyond the Arrival Date: Extracting more from Immigrant Passenger Lists (from Archives.com)

#### **Genealogical & Historical Research**

Old-fashioned jobs, old-fashioned illnesses

Genealogy and Illnesses

An unfamiliar search engine recommended: [www.mocavo.com](http://www.mocavo.com).

Reading for evidence—includes a 1-page handout of “the ninja reading rubric” — by a college history teacher. Original blog post on wordpress.

#### **Genealogy... Beyond the Brick Walls**

People post their brick walls and others gives suggestions

### **What will happen to your research and heirlooms when you are gone?**

This was the discussion topic at our last Genealogy Group meeting, and was also a discussion on one of the LinkedIn groups. Here is a horror story from LinkedIn:

A “woman had been an active member [of a genealogical society] for 15 years and an avid genealogist for 30 years. This women had an entire room in her home dedicated to her research. Her work filled volumes. She had papers, books, and vital information stacked on bookshelves and in boxes floor to ceiling. All was well organized, but the total volume was overwhelming. When this women passed, her children came in, took one look, and threw 30 years of research into the garbage.”

Don't let that be YOU! Make your plans NOW.

A few suggestions:

1. Papers in order are of more value than boxes of loose papers, so organize them!
2. Share stories with your family to build interest, so they will want to know more.
3. Share the fruits of your labors (and start NOW) — with family, local historical societies, genealogical societies, etc. (Bonus points for making multiple copies and sharing it more widely — the more copies there are, the less chance the work will be lost.) The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is one such repository. History of our Norwegian immigrants can be shared with Sons Of Norway or a Nordic History society/ museum. (talk with them ahead of time!)
4. Include instructions IN YOUR WILL

An unusual application of Family History: become a Generational Changemaker!

Check out <http://www.familytreequest.com/> and learn how your family history can help you and your family to live happier lives now and in the future by drawing on wisdom from your family's past.

# What's Happening in Our Lodge

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Floyd Downs, Membership Secretary

Brevity is a welcomed attribute during a busy holiday season. Thus I note once again that Affiliate Members are an important part of our Lodge Membership. At the December Meeting longtime Affiliate Members Lyle and Kay Nelson renewed their membership status along with Sissel Liknes who joined anew. All are members of Overtro Fjell Lodge of Mesa. We welcome their participation.

Also our website, our hotline, and our own members continue to bring us new recruits. I have just spoken by phone to two people interested in joining us. Hopefully they will be present at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to be introduced to you. Once I know more about them I will let you know in a future column.

Finally, you are reminded of our Membership Retention Fund that can assist members currently under financial stress to meet their SON dues extensions. All such requests or referrals are strictly private and anonymous as are the names of those who volunteer funds to support the MRF. I can be contacted about this in person during a Desert Fjord meeting, by phone at 480-816-3875 or e-mail at [LD2AZ@aol.com](mailto:LD2AZ@aol.com).

## January 2012 Birthdays

Douglas O Beischel	1
Kathleen A Gabrielson	3
Jackson B Loomis	7
Erik Sundholm	10
Ariana M Williams	12
Colton Stringer	14
Debbie Gannon	15
Beth D Vander Schaaf	16
Floyd L Downs	21
Anders Flaaronning	21
Carolyn Manning	22
Penelope J Anderson	23
Annika M Clunk	25
Roger H Hauge	25
Francis Oden Mitchell	26
Reidun J Daeffler	27
Sharon T Clunk	28
John Schirtzinger	28
Sydney Reinhart	29

### Sports Medal Program

The Sports Medal Program is for all ages and physical condition. There are 5 categories, and 4 levels in each.

- "Ganmerke" (Walking)
- "Idrettsmerke" (Sports & Fitness)
- "Skimerke" (Skiing)
- "Sykkelmerke" (Bicycling)
- "Svømmemerke" (Swimming)

Talk with Tyler Soine at the Social meeting for more information on this program, or go to our website: <http://www.desertfjord.org/>

Check out our Library catalog at the next Social meeting or browse on our website: <http://www.desertfjord.org/library.pdf>

## Web Sites

SON Arizona State

[www.sofnaz.com](http://www.sofnaz.com)

SON District 6

[www.sofn6.com](http://www.sofn6.com)

SON International

[www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)

Nordmanns-  
Forbundet

[www.aznorseman.org](http://www.aznorseman.org)

Camp Norge

[www.campnorge.com](http://www.campnorge.com)

Children's summer  
camp

see Camp Troll Fjell  
at Camp Norge site

Norse Federation

[www.norway.com](http://www.norway.com)

Official Norway site in  
the US

[www.norway.org](http://www.norway.org)

## Genealogy sites

### Norwegian

Digital Archives

<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no>

Norwegian Ancestry

[www.norwegianancestry.com](http://www.norwegianancestry.com)

/

Norway Heritage

[http://www.norwayheritage.com/  
snitz/](http://www.norwayheritage.com/snitz/)

Norwegian Farm Names

[http://www.dokpro.uio.no/  
rygh\\_ng/rygh\\_form.html](http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_form.html)

Warsailors (WWII)

[http://www.warsailors.com/  
index.html](http://www.warsailors.com/index.html)

### General Research

Roots Web

A free service of Ancestry

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Social Security

Death Index

[http://search.ancestry.com/search/  
db.aspx?dbid=3693](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693)

This can give you US  
death dates and places.

FamilySearch:

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

Mesa Regional Family  
History Center

<http://www.mesarfhc.org/>

### A Lasting Gift

Viking Voyager is a children's life insurance for children who are 17 or younger. This could be for a son or daughter, niece or nephew, grandchildren or great grandchildren. You can elect a small annual payment or as most do a onetime single premium payment for a life insurance of 10, 15, or 25 thousand dollars. It is a very small price to pay for a benefit that is needed when your loved one is in their young adulthood life. Make this one of the best ever gifts you make by contacting our FBC's Sherrill Bartley at [602.291.1111](tel:602.291.1111), email [shrrillbecker@aol.com](mailto:shrrillbecker@aol.com) Or Jary Welker at [602.275.2404](tel:602.275.2404), email [welkerfg@gmail.com](mailto:welkerfg@gmail.com).

### Lost at last month's dinner:

A stainless steel serving spoon with a black handle; it is of great sentimental value to the owner. Please check and see if it might have gotten mixed up with your things, and contact Jan Johnson, Berit Miltun or Carol Kendall if you find it.

### OTHER ARIZONA LODGES

**Nordic Pines** 6-167 Flagstaff [site](#)

**Overtro Fjell** 6-153 3rd Sat.@11 Fountain East Clubhouse, 303 S. Recker Rd, Mesa [site](#)

**Sola** 6-168 3rd. Tues. 7 PM Faith Lutheran Church 2215 S. 8th Ave. Yuma [site](#)

**Sol Byer** 6-134 3rd. Sat. Noon Elk's Lodge, 10760 Union Hills [site](#)

**Trolldalen** 6-139 4th Thurs. 6:30 Am.Legion Post 7, 330 W. Franklin, Tucson [site](#)



# SONS OF NORWAY

## Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133 People & Places

Mailing address:  
Desert Fjord Lodge 6-133  
P.O. Box 1716  
Scottsdale, AZ 85252-1716  
voice mail: 480-422-4334  
website: [www.desertfjord.org](http://www.desertfjord.org)

### Posten

#### Our monthly newsletter

Posten Editor: Carol Kendall  
Submit your articles to  
[carol.kendall@gmail.com](mailto:carol.kendall@gmail.com)  
By the 15th of the month

### All are welcome to attend our Regular Meetings<sup>1</sup>

**Heritage & Culture Meeting**  
Third Friday each month, 6 PM  
Dinner and a program  
Scottsdale Masonic Lodge  
2531 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Scottsdale AZ 85252

480-946-1072 (use only during meeting time.)

<sup>1</sup> All days and times subject to change for holidays and special events.

### Business Meeting

1 week prior to Social Meeting  
on Thursday at 7 pm.

### and

### Genealogy Group Meeting

1st Saturday of the month,  
10:30 am to 1 pm

Both of these at  
Granite Reef Senior Center  
1700 N Granite Reef,  
Scottsdale, 85257

		Foundation	Ed Bergo
President	Ross Berg	Historian	Carolyn Soine
Vice-President	Ed Bergo	Librarian	Clarence Nelson Elizabeth Lenci-Downs
Secretary	Jennifer Loomis	Marshals	Mike Opoien
Treasurer	Patricia Burger	Photographer	Janis Johnson
Membership Secretary	Floyd Downs	Greeters	Floyd Downs
Counselor	Sharon Clunk	Posten Editor	Carol Kendall
Social Directors	Berit Miltun Nellie Lokken Gil Witsoe	Reservations	Phyllis Bergo
Cultural Directors	Janis Johnson Phyllis Bergo Jana Peterson	Schools and Scholarships	Ed Bergo (acting)
Auditors	Sherrie Loomis Astrid Hansen	Sports	Tyler Soine
Boutique	Ali Berg-Anderson Shirley Ouren Mike Opoien Janet Lendle	Sunshine	Carolyn Soine
		Tubfrim	Lois Ripley
Database & Ref. Manual	Roger Espeland	Trustee	(1yr) vacant (2yr) Roger Espeland (3yr) Knut Haldorsen
Distribution	Gil Witsoe	Webmaster	Roger Espeland