



LODGE BROOKLYN 3-243

Dear Members and Friends of Lodge Brooklyn,

As we move through these winter months, I would first like to thank everyone who joined our recent Zoom meeting. It was wonderful to see such strong participation and to hear thoughtful conversation centered on growth and progression for our Lodge. Your ideas, engagement, and willingness to contribute are what keep Lodge Brooklyn vibrant and forward-looking.

This winter has certainly made its presence known. Personally, I measured nearly three feet of snow at my home, and the cold and icy conditions have reminded us all that February is not yet ready to loosen its grip! I hope everyone is staying warm and safe as we navigate the season.

At the same time, we have had much to celebrate. Norway's extraordinary success at the Winter Olympics filled many of us with pride. Watching Norwegian athletes excel on the world stage is always a powerful reminder of the heritage and traditions we share.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming meeting dates. We are organizing a mix of Zoom gatherings and in-person meetings to accommodate as many members as possible. Whether online or face-to-face, your presence and participation matter.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Lodge Brooklyn. Together, we carry our traditions forward — in every season.

Warm regards,

Kimberly Breiland, President

**SAVE THE DATES
LODGE BROOKLYN
FUTURE MEETINGS
AND EVENTS**

MARCH MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2026
7 PM
via Zoom, RSVP

APRIL MEETING

Sunday, April 19, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM
Sporting Club Gjøa, Brooklyn

SYTTENDE MAI PARADE

Sunday, May 17, 2026
1 PM
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn

JUNE BBQ

Sunday, June 14, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM
Sporting Club Gjøa, Brooklyn

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!



THIRD DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; SPRING 26

Spring is almost here and I hope the winter we had is over, and everyone can enjoy nice spring weather for a change. Lodges will be celebrating spring with St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinners and Easter dinner celebrations.

The Third District is getting ready for the district convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia, June 4th to 7th, at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. I hope your lodges will send your full delegation to the convention so they can hear and vote on resolutions and other matters that come up. Remember your delegates are your lodge's representatives to the district meeting (convention), so if you want a say in what is happening at the convention, you should be sending delegates.

Going forward after the convention is the Third District Youth Camp which is from July 26th to August 1st, so if you have children that would like to attend camp, please send in an application which can be found on the Third District Website or contact District Vice President Katie Brink.

Following Youth Camp, there is Cultural Camp September 16th to 20th. For more information, contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson.

Speaking of Cheri Johnson, as I have done in some of my past president's messages, when I highlighted some of the Third District Board members, I am introducing Cheri Johnson to everyone now. Cheri has been a member of the district board since the 2024 convention and has been the perfect person for the Cultural Director's position. Here is what she has to say about herself in her own words.

It is my pleasure to be involved in the Sons of Norway as Cultural Director of the 3rd District and President of Bla Fjell Lodge in Salem, VA near Roanoke. When I was a

teenager, in a suburb of Chicago, I wanted to be an archeologist because I loved studying cultures of people. I ended up as a Special Needs teacher for 38 years, a profession I loved very much.

During those years I was fortunate to be an exchange teacher through our United States Gov't to Russia, Sweden, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and The Netherlands. At night I taught classes at Roanoke College, UVA, and Radford University in Special Education and Global Studies. My Lutheran church needed a missionary, so I made seven trips to Central and South America to teach children alongside a medical team. 20 years ago, I became interested in my ancestry. My Norwegian and Austrian grandparents shared their past with me, and I found myself tracing my roots to Telemark, Norway, the Heddal Church, and Vienna, Austria.

Deep down I knew I had the "Viking Spirit" to travel.

I feel very blessed because my wonderful husband, Don of 45 years, and my three children, Theresa, Scott, and Tiffany have supported these endeavors. I loved having my youngest daughter, Tiffany, accompany me on several exchanges and missionary trips.

I love my position as Cultural Director in SON. I work with wonderful and talented people and can share in the joy of learning about our Nordic countries. Our Bla Fjell Lodge has two Adopt-a-Schools, where I share lessons on the Vikings, Sami of the Northern Cap, and all the Nordic Countries. This is my 20th year at Bla Fjell Lodge, and I love sharing Cultural programs with fellow members, colleagues, and our satellite Lodge, Hardrada, in Charlottesville, Va. My Virginia friend, Katie Brink, and I have worked with the Youth Camp at Koinonia in New York and started a Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for adults and children. We are all learning from each other and enjoying our love of Norway. I love doing research on many countries, reading, and trying cultural recipes to



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT. — LODGE BROOKLYN HAPPENINGS

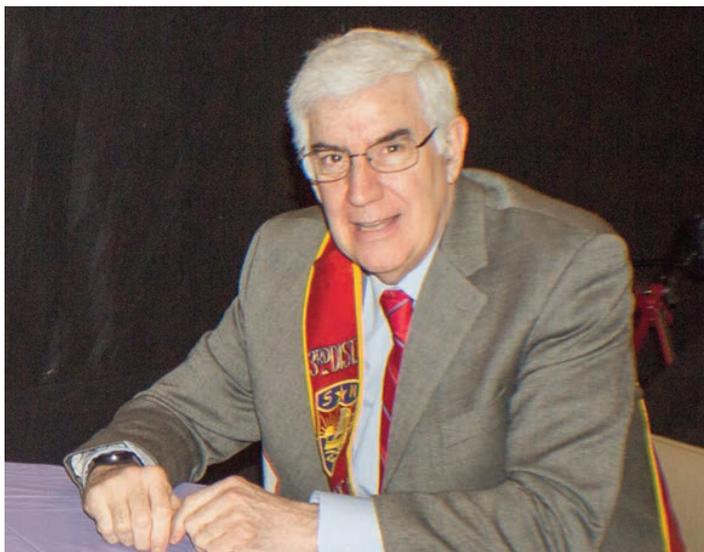
share with my 74 Cultural Studies students at Cornerstone Classical Academy one day a week. They love it too.

Thank you, Stephen Helmold, for giving me this opportunity to share my cultural experiences with 3rd District, all my Nordic friends, and fellow lodges. Please consider coming to our Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for fellowship, fun, the beach, and the “joy” of learning with each other from talented instructors in September 2026.

Thank you, Cheri. Karen and I, and the rest of the district board, are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Cheri. She has been tremendous in her position, and is always willing to step up to the plate and lend a hand to help out.

Until my next message in May, Karen and I and the rest of the district board would like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a very Happy Easter.

Fraternally,
Stephen Helmold



Stephen Helmold, *Third District President*

MARCH LODGE MEETING —Your Voice Is Needed—

Our next Lodge Brooklyn meeting will be held **Monday, March 16 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom.

To receive the Zoom access information, please email Kimberly@LodgeBrooklyn.org.

Our February meeting was held via Zoom on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 7 PM, and it was wonderful to see such a strong and varied turnout. We were pleased to welcome first-time Lodge Brooklyn members, reconnect with longtime members, and greet friends from Manhattan as well as several members from neighboring lodges. It was a productive and engaging evening. We discussed upcoming meeting dates, explored ideas for future events, and had a thoughtful and thorough conversation about the upcoming Convention. Dates for our future meetings are currently being finalized, and we look forward to gathering again soon.

INQUIRY

We have received a request through our Facebook page. I am sharing in hopes that someone will be able to help this gentleman in his search.

“Around 1935, there was an organization in Brooklyn called “Stavanger.” This “Stavanger Association” was responsible for publishing a songbook in Stavanger (Dreyer?) in 1935 titled *Songs and Ballads from Rogaland*. The book included two songs about Sandnes — one from the 50th anniversary celebration in 1910, written by my grandfather Thorvald Oftedal (music) and L.O. Nygaard (lyrics), and another for the 75th anniversary in 1935, “Song to Sandnes,” written by two of my grandfather’s brothers, Sven and Jakob Oftedal.

LODGE BROOKLYN HAPPENINGS

It is the latter that I am interested in — the lyrics are included in the songbook, but the melody is not.

I would therefore like to get in touch with the Stavanger Association, if it still exists in some form, and perhaps has archival materials.

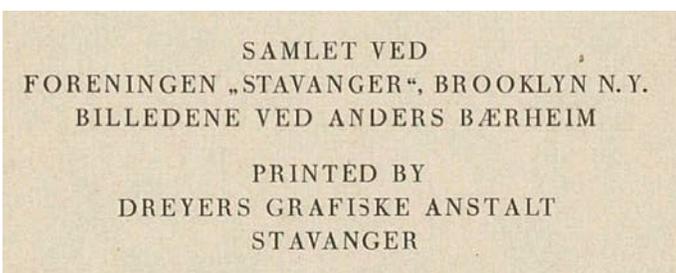
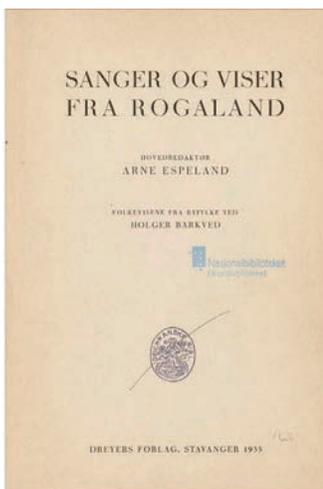
This is where you come in! Do you have any information in your archives about such an organization?

[Click here for a link to the book.](#)

I would be grateful for any assistance. 😊

Kind regards, Tor M. Hetland”

If anyone can help with this matter please email Kimberly@LodgeBrooklyn.org.



IN MEMORIAM

As I have been reviewing and updating our membership records, I discovered that several of our longtime members have passed in recent years and were not formally acknowledged in our newsletter. While their deaths occurred some time ago, their connection to Lodge Brooklyn remains meaningful, and we pause now to honor their memory and the role they played in our shared history.

We respectfully remember:

Olav B Hansen of Borhaug (January 13, 2008)

Mary Utvik of Norwood, NJ (September 22, 2014)

Gustav A. Jensen (November 19, 2015)

Johan Jacobsen of Port Charlotte, FL (July 13, 2016)

Harold Andersen of Boca Raton, FL (June 2, 2019)

Synnove Froysti of Dover, NJ (April 2, 2022)

and, I believe **Mildred Lundegard** of Hudson, FL, but I can not find final information, I did find that her husband, Bjarne died 02-09-2011 and that her son, Bjorn died 11-28-2021. If anyone has information on Mildred it would be greatly appreciated.

May their memories be a blessing, and may we continue the fellowship they helped sustain.

BY-LAW COMMITTEE

As I have been reviewing our Lodge Brooklyn records, I noticed that our current by-laws were last updated in 2003. We also have earlier versions from 1923, 1959, and 1965 — a wonderful reflection of our long and proud history. However, much has changed over the years in how we operate, communicate, and gather. It may be time to thoughtfully review and refresh our by-laws to ensure they reflect our present-day needs while honoring our traditions. I would like to form a small committee of members willing to help with this



LODGE BROOKLYN HAPPENINGS

effort. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to: Kimberly@LodgeBrooklyn.org. Your voice and perspective would be greatly valued.

COLLEGE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Norwegian Children's Home Association of New York, Inc. is offering a college grant opportunity for eligible students for the 2025–2026 academic year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and residents for at least one year, between the ages of 17–23 (for first-time applicants), and enrolled in or accepted into a full-time undergraduate or bachelor's program at an accredited American college or university. In addition, applicants must have a minimum of 25% Norwegian ancestry. This is a wonderful opportunity to support higher education while honoring our Norwegian heritage. **Deadline is April 15** for all applications. **Please click here for application details and instructions.**

TRE GANGER HURRA FOR NORGE HIP HIP HURRA!

What a Winter Games it was for **Norway!** At the **2026 Winter Olympics**, Norway once again showed the world its extraordinary strength in winter sports, finishing at the very top of the medal table with an astonishing **18 gold medals and 41 medals overall** — the most ever won by a nation at a single Winter Games. A special cheer goes to cross-country skiing superstar **Johannes Høsflo Klæbo**, who made history by winning **six gold medals in one Olympics!** What an incredible display of talent, determination, and national pride. Heia Norge!

CONVENTION

- Kimberly Breiland is Lodge Brooklyn delegate
- Delegate registration mailed in with payment
- Convention journal ad created and payment mailed

CONVENTION, YOUTH CAMP, & CULTURAL WEEKEND

- Upcoming events are happening within the Third District, the **2026 Sons of Norway Third District Convention** happening June 4 - June 7, 2026 taking place in Virginia Beach, the **Third District Sons of Norway Youth Camp** happening July 26 - August 1, 2026 taking place at Camp Koinonia in Highland Lake, NY, and the **Third District Cultural Weekend** which will be taking place in September of this year, of course we will update you with more information as we receive it. Information can also be found on the Third District website: 3dsofn.org.

GENERAL

- D17 filing completed and submitted to home office
- 990-N filed with IRS
- Please remember to save stamps and postcards for the **Tubfrim** program. We will be collecting all contributions at our next in-person meeting. When cutting the stamps out, leave a 1/4" margin around the stamp.



**CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD
APPLICATION**

**SONS OF NORWAY
Zone 1 Scholarship Fund Award
APPLICATION**



NOTE: All information will be held in strict confidence. No application will be considered unless all questions are answered. Please print or type. Barbara Ruth Kristiansen will email you a note to say she received your application.

ELIGIBILITY: 1) Either the scholarship applicant or his parent/guardian must be a member in good standing of a lodge in **Zone 1** For at least two years prior **to** the date of application **by March 15, 2026** and remain so for the remainder of the term.
2) All applicants should intend to be **FULL TIME** students seeking post-secondary **UNDERGRADUATE** education. Either for a college/university or a Trade School.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The following must be in the hands of the Scholarship Committee person below before by March 15th deadline.

- 1) **This Application completed clearly and legibly.**
- 2) **Most recent Official Transcript of scholastic record. (Student copies will not be acceptable.)**
- 3) **Two letters of reference from non-relatives, at least one of which must be from a former or present teacher.**
- 4) **Short essay (no more than 2 pages) introducing yourself and your involvement in the Scandinavian Heritage and /or Sons of Norway**
- 5) **Copy of current membership card. (either with your family membership – or your own)**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Your E-mail Address _____

Check 1 box or both if applicable. Applicant is a member of a Sons of Norway lodge Parent is a member.

Name of Lodge you are a member of: _____

Father's and/or Mother's or legal Guardian's Name: _____

Name of Lodge the Parent/ Guardian are a member of: _____

<u>Schools attended by Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date of Graduation</u>
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Indicate Activities, Honors, Clubs, Other: _____

List any other Grants, Scholarships you will be awarded 1 _____

College, University, Institution to be attended (If known) _____

Course of Study: _____ Length of Course: _____ Admission Date (if known): _____

Remarks: _____

<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Father, Mother, Guardian's Signature</u>
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<p>Date and Sign above and Return this application and additional material requested to:</p> <p>You will be emailed a note back your application was received.</p>	<p>Barbara Kristiansen 871 70th Street Brooklyn, NY 11228 mormor46@verizon.net</p>
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MISS NORWAY CROWNING ANNOUNCEMENT

THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN 17TH OF MAY COMMITTEE OF GREATER NEW YORK, INC.

Parade held in Brooklyn on Sunday, May 17, 2026
Parade Theme: "Our Legacy Continues"

Join us for the 67th Annual Crowning of Miss Norway of Greater New York

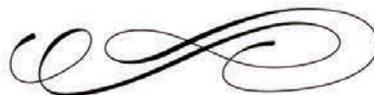
We are excited to welcome back Little Miss Norway and Junior Cadets
to this year's Miss Norway of Greater New York event!

To add your child's name to the list, please contact Arlene: ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com.

**Saturday, March 28, 2026
2 PM**

Arthur Nilsen Banquet Hall
Norwegian Christian Home and Health Center
1250 67th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219

\$25 per Adult
\$10 per Child (12 years of age and younger)
Children under 3 years old are free



Light refreshments served

Please email Arlene Rutuelo for reservations or questions at ArleneRutuelo@gmail.com

Sponsored by The Norwegian-American 17th of May Committee of Greater New York, Inc.
www.17THOFMAYPARADECOMMITTEE-BROOKLYN.ORG



**COME AND SUPPORT
THE PARADE!**



**NORWEGIAN DAY
PARADE FUNDRAISER**

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

GJOA CLUB •

850 62nd STREET, BROOKLYN

**4-8 PM • \$25 PER PERSON
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS • CASH BAR**

**PARK IN BAY RIDGE AND
UBER TO THE GJOA CLUB.**



LODGE BROOKLYN MEETING & EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY



MARCH MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2026
7 PM
via ZOOM

Virtual meeting for members of Lodge Brooklyn. An invitation with details of zoom link will be emailed when you RSVP. [Click here to RSVP.](#)



APRIL MEETING & MEMORIAL

Sunday, April 19, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM
Sporting Club Gjoa, Brooklyn

- Requested donation of \$15 SON members, \$20 all others, children under 12 free
- Memorial service
- Food and raffles



SYTTENDE MAI PARADE

Saturday, May 17, 2026
1 PM

“Our Legacy Continues”

Parade will start at 85th Street marching along 3rd Avenue turning up 75th Street to 5th avenue to 67th Street. [Click here for more info.](#)



JUNE BBQ

Sunday, June 14, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM
Sporting Club Gjoa, Brooklyn

- Requested donation of \$15 SON members, \$20 all others, children under 12 free
- BBQ food, raffles, and fun!



NEWSLETTER BOOSTERS

Your donation is a voluntary act which helps pay for the publication and distribution of our Lodge newsletter.

Member	Amount	Date

If you would like a printed version of this newsletter snail-mailed to you please send \$25 to cover the cost of



GRATULERER MED DAGEN

- Olav B Hansen March 8
- Stephen Sabaugh March 8
- Synnove Froysti March 19
- Arne Larsen March 19
- Katherine Stromsland March 20
- Ragnhild Wallstedt March 20
- Lucas Bourbon March 22
- Avelline Burke-McLoughlin April 2
- Greta Gustafson April 9
- Hailey Louise Papa April 9
- Daniel Sayani April 11
- Kimberly Breiland April 14
- Oddbjorg Olsen April 16
- Bertram Hauk Okpokwasili IV April 28
- Corinne Alexis Hall May 2
- Sigrun Larsen May 5
- Sophia Adannia Okpokwasili May 6
- Peter C Johansen May 8
- Daniel E Johnson May 12
- Oleander Burke-McLoughlin May 14
- Robert P Travis May 14
- Signe Sabaugh May 15
- Janet G Faaland May 18
- Martina M Leonard-Fossum May 18
- Charlotte Bourbon May 29
- Leo Bourbon May 29
- Inger L Fisher May 30

Advertise in the Lodge Brooklyn Newsletter!
This space is available — \$50 for 8 issues

For more information contact
Kimberly@LodgeBrooklyn.org



SONS of NORWAY

Robert McKeever, CLU
Financial Benefits Counselor
www.SONSOFNORWAY.com

Phone: (800) 561-1492
Cell: (631) 672-5340
Fax: (631) 863-2204
eMail: Bob@rmclu.com



APPELSINKAKE



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- 3/4 cup soft butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons orange juice, divided
- 1-1/3 cups flour
- 1-1/2 tspn baking powder
- 3 ounces dark chocolate (70%), finely chopped
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- Candied orange peel for garnish
- Heat oven to 350 degrees. In the bowl of a stand mixer using the beater attachment, or in a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat butter and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, until thoroughly incorporated. Beat in the orange zest and one-third cup juice.
- In a medium bowl, sift together flour and baking powder. With the mixer running, slowly add the flour mixture until combined to form the cake batter. Fold in chopped chocolate.
- Place the batter into a greased and floured 9-inch Bundt pan, smoothing the top of the batter. (The batter will come slightly less than halfway up the sides of the pan.)
- Bake cake until puffed and lightly browned on top and a toothpick inserted comes out clean, 45 to 55 minutes. Remove from oven and cool in pan on cooling rack, then remove from the pan. Finished cake will be about 3 inches tall in the center.
- Icing: In a medium bowl, sift powdered sugar. Add remaining 2 tablespoons orange juice and whisk to form the icing.
- Drizzle icing over cooled cake, garnish with candied orange.
- Candied orange peel is generally available at gourmet and cooking supply stores, as well as at select well-stocked markets.

LODGE BROOKLYN

EST. NOV. 22 1923

At Lodge Brooklyn, we celebrate the rich traditions of Norwegian and Norwegian-American culture while fostering a community that is fun, friendly, and welcoming. Our gatherings are a place to share memories, make new ones, and enjoy each other's company. We hope you'll come experience it for yourself at an upcoming meeting.

OFFICERS

President: Kimberly Breiland
 Vice-President: Sigrun Larsen
 Secretary: Gyda Arber
 Treasurer: Elaine Breiland
 Publicity Director: Kimberly Breiland
 Membership Chair: Alice Svege

BECOME A MEMBER

Contact: Kimberly Breiland
 via Phone: 917-523-3266
 via e-Mail: Kimberly@LodgeBrooklyn.org
 via web: [Click here](#)

