



SOLSYD LODGE No. 603 Zone 4
Lethbridge, Alberta

KALENDER

January 15: Dinner at 6:00
with meeting to follow.

February 19: Dinner at 6:00
with Norwegian Bingo to
follow.



Gratulerer Med Dagen

January: Arnold Follinglo, Dorothy Follinglo, Alfred Isele, Millie Isele, Laurie Megyes, Cecil Nesmo, Barry Olson, Marilyn Richards

February: Lillian Anderson, Herman Gom, Betty Lambert, Marlene Thurlow

MEMBERSHIP PINS

Several members received pins at the December meeting to celebrate their Sons of Norway membership.

New Member Pins

Enid Gom
Herman Gom
Magna Goerke
Vern Flexhaug
Dwain Velve

Five Year Pins

Sandy Brunelle
Jim Drain
Laurie Megyes
Marilyn Perl
Marlene Thurlow
William Thurlow

Ten Year Pins

Jeffery Depratu
Maurice Larson

Fifteen Year Pin

Marilyn Richards

Twenty-five Year Pins and Certificates

Alfred Isele
Mildred Isele

Godt nytt år alle sammen! Happy New Year to All!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New Year.

It is amazing to think that we are now already a quarter of the way through this century. 2025 may be a year of unexpected surprises considering our political, economic and environmental circumstances. We will just have to make the best of whatever comes our way.

Solsyd Lodge will carry on as always, adapting to change as need be. Our transition for meals to Bert's AG out of Picture Butte has gone quite smoothly for the most part. Please don't hesitate to share ideas or suggestions about making things better.

Some highlights of 2024:

- The visit to our trees at Legacy and Henderson Parks in June is something we will do again this year.
- The BBQ in June was certainly, thanks to volunteers like Dwain and Roelof, a success.
- The Canadian Sons of Norway Foundation month fundraiser in October was a resounding success too thanks to the hard work of Marilyn, Magna and Edith.
- A visit from curator, Andrew Chernevych, of the Galt Museum where Solsyd Lodge as of November, 2024 has an archive file started.
- The Christmas party with singing and games was a nice way to kick off the Christmas season. Thanks to Jean for introducing the Christmas music we sang and for inviting a pianist. Thanks to Edith who took the dry food donations and \$200 cheques to Food Banks at the University and Lethbridge Polytechnic. The students are most thankful for your generosity.

So for 2025, I hope you are looking forward, as am I, to Norwegian bingo in February.

- We are working on a plan to make playing Norwegian Whist better for different levels of skill and experience in March.
- We hope to include a cribbage tournament sometime this winter.
- Millie has agreed to help those interested with Hardanger before a meeting closer to spring.

Survey results have been sent to Red Deer for consideration for the Aspelund Sons of Norway Lodge Sports/ Cultural weekend in June. The activities our members would like to see offered are: whist, cribbage, golf, nature walk, bocce ball, horse shoes, and axe throwing.

We are group members of (SAEA) Southern Alberta Ethnic Association this year as agreed at our April 2024 meeting. More information to follow at our January business meeting.

2024 was a fairly good year for Solsyd Lodge; however, no new members joined, and we were deeply saddened to lose Ardis Dahl, Marion Belle, Faye Cain and Victor Hansen.

Wishing each of you all the best for the year to come,

Sharon.

2024 OFFICERS FOR SOLSYD LODGE 4-603

Lodge President	Sharon Prenevost prenevsh@telusplanet.net
Lodge Vice President	Edith Olson bandeolson@shaw.ca
Lodge Secretary	Jean Sokvitne jean.sokvitne@sim.org
Lodge Treasurer	Arnold Follinglo arnoldfollinglo@gmail.com
Lodge Editor, Webmaster	Marilynn Christie marilynn.christie@gmail.com
Lodge Cultural Director	Bev Jestin jestin4@telusplanet.net
Lodge Membership Director	Candis Done donnes@telus.net
Lodge Event Coordinator	Magna Goerke catzfaces.magna@gmail.com



ROMJULA

In Norway there is a special word for the period between Christmas and the New Year. It is called romjula (ROHM'yuh'lah). For most modern-day Norwegians, romjula means vacation time—or at least shorter workdays than usual. It means that families have an opportunity to spend some time together in addition to the often-hectic Christmas holidays. It means that people—that is, those who live south of the Arctic Circle—have an opportunity to enjoy the very few hours of light that a Nordic midwinter day can offer. Unless you have experienced a Scandinavian winter, you don't know what a difference a few hours of daylight can make!

Norwegian children spend most of that time outdoors, trying out Christmas presents such as skates, skis, sleds and similar winter equipment. Families go skiing together, taking advantage of the Christmas snow and their holiday leisure time. It is becoming more and more common for families who own cabins to go to their cabin for the holidays. For years, a Norwegian's idea of the perfect Christmas setting has been out in the country—to get back to one's roots and traditions and a simple, contemplative lifestyle. Maybe in the future, Norwegians will yearn for a Christmas in a little cabin in the woods, on the hillside or by a mountain lake, especially as an increasing number of Norwegians lose their direct ties to a family farm or a special rural district.

But Norwegian city dwellers have brought some of the old farm traditions with them into the city. Christmas foods such as porkribbe, torske and lutefisk still hold their own against turkey and other fashionable foods. The traditional sheaf of grain set up for birds is still found in every second backyard in Norway. And still, Norwegian children get excited in the romjula period because they can dress up and go julebukk (YUH'leh'book). They band together in giggling ecstasy, disguised by masks and strange clothes, working hard to change their voices in order not to be recognized by the neighbours and friends they visit.

The fact that romjula, to a large extent, has become vacation time in Norway is very much in line with the old tradition that romjula was a time for fun and play and parties.

But especially in earlier times, there were certain social rules to observe. Under no circumstances was the Christmas peace to be disturbed. All living beings were to be well provided for. Crime committed during the holiday season was subject to especially severe punishment. No work involving turning wheels was allowed. This had to do with the pre-Christian belief that the turning of wheels might hinder the turning of the sun around winter solstice.

Southeastern Norway has a delightful romjul-tradition which is adopted from Sweden. In Romjula the "star boys" make their rounds. Groups of boys dressed in white and wearing tall pointed hats go around from house to house, carrying an illuminated star on a long stick. In some areas it is common that the star boys sing a certain traditional song. In other areas they recite a traditional verse. But in modern Norway, the star boys' tradition has to a large extent been overpowered by the julebukk tradition. Maybe today's Norwegian kids think it is more fun to dress up for incognito visits, giggle a lot and make a racket. Or maybe the fact that the julebukks are entitled to a treat has something to do with it.

Whatever tradition people prefer, Romjula is a time for great fun. The period doesn't last as long as it used to, though! In the good old days, romjula ended on the twelfth day of Christmas. Since New Year's Day marks the end of romjula as it is perceived today, you only have a couple of days left to enjoy it. So have fun!