



**SOLSYD LODGE No. 603 Zone 4**  
**Lethbridge, Alberta**

**KALENDER**

May 17: Syttende Mai celebration at 11:00.

June 19: BBQ dinner at 6:00. Bring your own plates, cups, glasses & cutlery.

**Gratulerer Med Dagen**

May: Faye Cain, Carol Johnsrude, Hanna Odland, Peter Pohn, Joyce Vik

June: Marilyn Christie, Linda Drain, Enid Gom, Roelof Heinen, Diane Josephison, Sharon O'Sullivan Forner

July: Sandy Brunelle, Jim Drain

August: Jeffrey Depratu, Jean Sokvitne, William Thurlow

**SYTTENDE MAI**

We will be celebrating Syttende Mai on Friday, May 17th at Lethbridge City Hall. The flag raising will be at 11:00 am. Anyone interested in getting a face painting of the Norwegian flag are asked to be there at 10:30.

We will be going to Legacy Park and Henderson Lake Park for ceremonies after the flag raising.

The RCMP Veteran's Honour Guard will be in attendance.

Members attending are asked to wear their Sons of Norway vests.

We will be having lunch at Smitty's after the ceremonies. Members are responsible for paying for their own lunch.

We will consider the celebration on May 17 as our May meeting. We still plan to meet in June at Parkbridge Estates.

**REMINDER**

Solsyd Lodge members are asked to please bring their own plates, cutlery, drinking cups and glasses to future meetings.

We will be having a new caterer in the fall and this is easier than having to wash dishes for a crowd.



Millie Isele teaches members Swedish weaving.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I imagine like me, you are hoping for a wetter than usual Spring particularly after the crops are in the ground!

Thank you to everyone who played Norwegian Whist in March. For some members, this was a new experience. What good sports you are! Thanks to Millie and those who tried Swedish weaving in April. You are to be commended for giving it a go. We look forward to seeing your finished pieces.

Our Lodge voted to join the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association (SAEA) with a group membership costing \$50 per year (starting in January 2025, the beginning of the SAEA year).

Hope you can join in the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Magna for designing trimmings for the oak tree in Legacy Park and the Norwegian Maple in Henderson Park and for making badges commemorating the day. I think we are all looking forward to seeing how our trees have grown over the last couple of years. See details of the celebration Marilyn has highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter.

At our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, we plan to barbecue hamburgers. Thanks to members who have volunteered to bring salads. A reminder to bring your own tableware (plate, cutlery, mug, napkin). We are hoping that if you have not had a chance to share your Norwegian heritage story, you might take the opportunity to do so at this meeting. If you are uncomfortable about reading, we would be more than pleased to help.

We do not meet over the summer. In September, since the Isele and Pohn families will no longer be preparing our meal, we have asked Doug from Picture Butte Bert's AG Foods to cater. The September meal will be a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. The cost of the meal is \$20. You probably don't need another reminder to bring your own tableware (plate, cutlery, mug, napkin). We got the message that no one wants to wash dishes for 30 plus people!

Marilynn is thinking that by September we will have enough material to take to the Galt Museum for Andrew to make a start on the Sons of Norway archives. If you have pertinent pictures, newspaper clippings or other print material or would want to donate artifacts, please bring them to a meeting in the next couple months. Thanks to all those who have contributed so far.

Wishing everyone a fun filled, relaxing summer. See you at City Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> resplendent in red vests or bunads!

Sharon

You may have heard of the parable of the Good Samaritan, a person who helps a stranger in trouble, expecting nothing in return. With the cold winters and many remote areas in Norway, getting assistance quickly can be a matter of life or death.

As in many countries, helping one's fellow human is simply considered the right thing to do. But in Norway, it is not just a matter of virtue— everyday Norwegians are legally obligated to help their fellow humans in distress or danger, in a law called *bistandsplikt* – the duty of care. According to the *Store Norske Leksikon* (snl.no), “anyone who fails to help a person who is in obvious danger of losing their life or suffering significant damage to their body or health can be punished with a fine or imprisonment for up to 6 months.”

Norway's *hjelpelikten ved trafikkuhell*, the obligation to help in the event of a traffic accident, requires all Norwegian drivers to stop and render aid to people and animals at the scene of a crash. Drivers can incur fines and even lose their license if they pass an accident without helping out.

In January, perhaps the most dramatically Norwegian example of *hjelpelikten* played out in the nation's capital. A couple was on a date and parked their Tesla along the harbour to enjoy the view of sunset over the *Oslofjord*.

Everything went awry when the driver inadvertently hit the accelerator while thinking he was in park. The car shot over a barrier into the fjord, and rapidly began to sink. The panicked occupants managed to exit the vehicle, treading the icy January waters, and scrambling onto the car's roof.

Having watched the improbable scene unfold from afar, a guest on a nearby mobile sauna alerted skipper Nicholay Nordahl to the emergency, who hastily set course for the distressed couple. Just as the car had submerged completely, sauna-goers wearing towels hauled the drenched and shivering motorists out of the water. Thankfully, the rescuers could immediately warm up the pair by placing them in the sauna.



Magna Goerke, Laurie Megyes, & Marlene Thurlow along with other members make decorations for Syttende Mai.