



The Norden Club of Lincoln

www.nordenclub.com

Our 70th Year

May 2017

- Next Meeting: May 15
@ First Lutheran Church

- Call For Reservation by Thursday, May 11

Dorothy Ekblad
402-488-6313
Ron Nielsen
402-477-0065

Presidents Corner

Dear Norden Club friends:

I hope you were able to join us in March for our dinner meeting.

Patrick Linafelter, the 2016 Norden Foundation Scholarship recipient, had an excellent program on his studies at the Lulea University of Technology in Lulea, Sweden. Many thanks to him for his presentation.

During the meeting, Dorothy Ekblad reviewed the book prepared during the 60th anniversary of the Norden Club. By a show of hands, the members expressed interest in preparing an updated version for the club's 70th anniversary. At the board's meeting on March 28, Phyllis Erickson graciously offered to spearhead the preparation of an updated version. You will have an opportunity to contribute

your family's stories for the book.

Additional details are provided in this newsletter.

For the May 15 dinner/meeting, we have again contracted with The Eatery to provide roast beef with demi-glace gravy, real red-skinned mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls. We requested banana cream and toasted coconut pies, so you should have a choice.

Please make your reservation by calling Dorothy Ekblad (402-488-6313) or me (402-477-0065) by noon on Thursday, May 11.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Ron Nielsen
President

Norden Club Officers & Committees	
<i>President</i>	Ron Nielsen
<i>Vice President</i>	Del Stites
<i>Secretary</i>	Sandy Hanson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ray Friesen
<i>Membership</i>	Mary Brass
<i>Courtesy</i>	Mary Brass
<i>Historian</i>	Dorothy Ekblad
<i>Name Tags</i>	Terri Heckman
<i>Newsletter</i>	Len Nelson
<i>Song Leader</i>	Kendra Hartwick
<i>Pianist</i>	Kristina Hanson
<i>Librarian</i>	Dorothy Ekblad
<i>Web Master</i>	Len Nelson

Webmaster Desires?

I am looking for someone who has an interest in helping or taking over our web site. I will be glad to work with anyone who is interested. We use a program called Word Press and it is quite easy to use it to maintain the site. Contact me: Len Nelson: lennelson@windstream.net or phone me at 402-489-2290.

Smorgasbord Update

Planning is taking place for the December 11, 2017 Smorgasbord honoring the country of Denmark this year. We have reserved the Hillcrest Country Club for that date. Last year's event was a truly elegant, gala affair and we wish to make this year's

smorgasbord just as terrific. We were notified by Hillcrest that the catering charge per person would increase by \$10 this coming year. The board will meet and discuss ways that we might be able to mitigate that increase.

We are seeking volunteers to

assist in publicity, decorating and providing recipes for the event. If you are willing to help the club, would you please let Ron Nielsen know at 402-477-0065.

Foundation News

We have mailed out our Foundation Scholarship packets to various schools, churches, organizations, and individuals who might be interested. The "Neighborhood Extra," a Saturday supplement to the Lincoln newspaper printed an article about the Foundation in March. Thank you Editor Dennis Buckley, for publicizing our scholarship and grants opportunities. As a Norden Club member, please spread the word!

You are certainly welcome to apply for a grant or scholarship for your own Scandinavian project. For example, a language school, seminar, Road Scholar class or trip. Maybe you have wanted to publish your family immigration story and need some help to do it. Do you have a relative or friend who may be interested? Google www.nordenclub.com. Look for the Norden Foundation tab. Scroll down for information on our 2017 Foundation Scholarship and Grants

mailing. Download the cover letter and application. Fill out the application and mail it to us. Please note: all application materials must be postmarked by May 1, 2017.

The work of the Foundation has come a long way! Our dedication and support will continue to give financial aid to those who take that first big step and dare to dream.
Norden Foundation President
Joan Tomlinson White

DANISH SISTERHOOD OF AMERICA

When Danish immigrants first came to this country, it was their wish to promote friendship and Danish heritage. The Danish Sisterhood of America organization has been in existence for 134 years, with many Lodges across the USA and Canada. Today, the monthly meeting of the Lincoln

Danish Sisterhood Lodge #90 consist of Danish history, traditions, food, ancestry, social activities and many more topics. This is a wonderful way to connect with your Scandinavian heritage and meet new friends. Women, men and children welcome. We would like to hear

from you, please contact Ingrid Hansen, phone [402-488-9389](tel:402-488-9389), (please leave a message), her email: ingellings@gmail.com. Joan's phone is: 402-423-0023.

Did You Know??

It's official. Everyone in Iceland is related. Every member of the 300,000 population derives from the same family tree, according to genealogy website islendingabok.is. *Íslendingabók* claims to be the only genealogy database in the world

that covers a whole nation. More than 95 percent of all Icelanders born since 1703, when the first national census was taken, are registered into the database and half of all Icelanders who have lived on the island from the

settlement in 874 until 1703. Source: <http://icelandreview.com/stuff/views/2007/02/08/iceland-family-tree>

Ole and Sven Interview Foundation Treasurers

Today, Norden Club members Ole and Sven are interviewing the Co-Treasurers of the Norden Club Foundation, Len and Arlene Nelson.

Ole: I sure enjoyed dat program at our last meeting by that Patrick fellow. I tink dey said he was a

Foundation Scholarship winner. Vat duz dat mean?

L & A: Patrick was a successful applicant last year for the \$1000 scholarship. He applied the money toward a semester studying in Sweden. Our winners agree to give

a program at Norden Club as part of the scholarship offer.

Sven: How can I help vit raising scholarship money?

L & A: You can make charitable contributions, donate items to the silent auction, and buy Younkens booklets.

Membership Report

Hooray! Spring is here! During April and May, we can see Mother Earth's renewal with the birds singing, trees budding, flowers blooming, and lawns becoming lush green again. It is a happy time of year. Speaking of renewal --- have you renewed your Norden Club membership for 2017?

According to our membership records, there are currently 37 blank boxes next to names of both couples and single members. The Norden Club Board

assumes that you still want to belong and share in the fun fellowship of your Scandinavian friends!! I have been writing reminder notes, so it would save time and the cost of postage if you could possibly please pay your Norden Club annual dues now.

Our next dinner – program meeting at First Lutheran Church is Monday, May 15, 2017. Please do not wait that long to send a check to our fearless Treasurer! Check-in at the meetings goes so much

smoother for those who have already paid their annual dues. And their dinners are less expensive.

Before you forget and get busy with other things, please send either \$18.00 for a couple or \$10.00 for a single member to:

Ray Friesen, Treasurer
9841 North 143rd Street
Waverly, NE 68462

Thank you for your cooperation,
Mary Brass, Membership

Summer Road Trips

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival—Omaha, Nebraska-- June, 2017

Celebrate the Scandinavian tradition of the summer solstice at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in Omaha. This family-friendly event features a massive program of live entertainment provided by Viking re-enactors, musicians specializing in traditional Scandina-

vian tunes, folk dancers and children's musical groups. At its core, the festival strives to inspire guests to take a moment to connect with community members, spend time in nature and pause to take note of the little joys in life.

The 65th Annual Swedish Festival in Stromsburg, Nebraska— June 16-18, 2017.

Visit the Swedish Heritage Center in Oakland, Nebraska

Tivoli Fest and Julefest in Elk Horn, Iowa—May 26-28, 2017. This year's theme is aebleskiver.

Shell Creek Valley Days— Newman Grove, Nebraska—June 2-4, 2017. Celebrate your Norwegian heritage.

Courtesy Report

The following cards were sent during the month of March, 2017: Vaughan and Mary Bowen – Get well wishes to both. Thinking of you card sent to Verla Youngquist. A thank-you card was sent to Doug and Karen Lind-Olson for serving as greeters at the door for every meeting for many years. Janet Harms received a thank-you card for being the Norden Club pianist for many years and Ozzie Gilbertson received a thank-you card for being the Club song leader

for many years. When asked exactly how long each of these faithful members have served as door greeters, pianist, and song leader, none could remember the number of years. We have a member who would like to attend the Norden Club meetings but cannot drive herself. She lives at the Savannah Pines Apartments, 3900 Pine Lake Road. Her phone number is 402-488-5554. She would be very grateful to any member willing to drive her to a

meeting. We like to recognize important events in our Norden members' lives. If you know of any member who is having a special anniversary, special landmark birthday, or achievement recognized by community, illness, or death in family, please contact:

Mary Brass Courtesy
Chairman
402-483-0035
marycbrass@gmail.com

Our May Program



American Folk Music

by Bill Behmer and Gwen Meister

This presentation is a brief overview of Anglo-American folk music, including 500-year-old British Isles ballads and American folk songs over the centuries. Gwen Meister and Bill Behmer describe the “folk process” as they accompany themselves on mountain dulcimer, autoharp and other traditional instruments.

Bill Behmer

Contact and Biographical Information

- (402) 326-6368 (Cell)
- wbehmer@windstream.net

Bill Behmer has been playing American folk music for more than 40 years and was a founder of LAFTA, the Lincoln Association for Traditional Arts. He received a Mayor’s Arts Award from the Lincoln Arts Council for his volunteer work promoting old-time folk music. Bill plays the mountain dulcimer, harmonica and autoharp. He is a three-time Midwest dulcimer champion. He’s done extensive research into the history and playing styles of the dulcimer and other American folk instruments.

Gwen Meister

Contact and Biographical Information

- (402) 416-8807 (Cell)
- gmeister@windstream.net

Gwen Meister is a folklorist with a master’s degree in cultural anthropology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She sings, plays the autoharp, and performs on various rhythm instruments, among them Irish drum, spoons and limberjacks. Gwen was folk arts coordinator for the Nebraska Arts Council in Omaha for more than four years. Now she is executive director of the Nebraska Folklife Network in Lincoln, a statewide non-profit organization that creates educational materials on Nebraska’s ethnic cultures for use by classroom teachers across Nebraska. Gwen works closely with both newer immigrant groups and established ethnic and other community organizations in her work of documenting, promoting and presenting the cultural traditions in Nebraska.

Volunteers Needed—Opportunity to Serve the Club

There are several new opportunities for members to serve one another for the good of the club. We have learned that a couple members would enjoy attending our meetings but no longer drive themselves. If you would be willing to offer someone a ride who wishes to attend, would

you please let me know.

Some members may need assistance in preparing their family stories for the upcoming anniversary book. Not everyone has email or access to a computer. We are wondering if there are members who would be willing to help others write and submit their

stories. It would be a great chance to get to know each other, and probably hear some great stories!

If you are willing to serve the Norden Club, would you please give Ron Nielsen a call at 402-477-0065. We thank you in advance!

The Heritage and Ancestry of our Members

In honor of the 70th year of the Norden Club and in recognition of our current members we are going to create a book of biographies to supplement the book that was created for the 60th anniversary of the club. All members are encouraged to submit a current biography even if you were in the 60th anniversary book. Please submit a short 1 page biography about your Scandinavian Heritage and Ancestry and your association with Norden Club. Questions are only suggestions to consider when writing your story. You may submit one photo to add to your page. Please tell Who – What – When and Where about the photo. Other drawings, flags etc. may be added by the editor.

Stories and photos (and questions) need to be emailed to Phyllis Ericson at Phyllis.ericson@gmail.com no later than **June 15th 2017** for inclusion in the book. You may select print or PDF copies of the book, available in September 2017.

Your Name

Your association with Norden Club

How long a member?

What do you enjoy about belonging to Norden Club?

Your Ancestry

Ancestor names, where born and lived in Scandinavia (Village, City, Province and Country)?

When and why did your relative(s) immigrate? (If known.)

From what port did they sail? What ship? What port was their port of entry, if known? (Ellis Island, New Orleans, etc.)

Did they have family or friends here to help to them?

Where did they settle?

Occupation? Work ethic?

Family, children

Community and church involvement?

Other interesting facts about your family.

Your Scandinavian Heritage

How did your family celebrate and honor your heritage growing up?

What Scandinavian traditions do you continue? or a favorite memory you have growing up Scandinavian.

Scandinavian Genealogy - Searching for Nebraska Scandinavian Church Books

One of the biggest challenges for many Scandinavian Americans is to discover the parish of origin for their Swedish ancestor. To get started, the Scandinavian American church books are one source that may provide some clues. Some Swedish church records are available on microfilm at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at the Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and some are in the manuscript collection at the Nebraska State Historical Library, Lincoln, NE.

Many Scandinavians who immigrated to North America joined a Scandinavian American church. While most of these congregations were Lutheran, there were also Swedish Covenant, Swedish Methodist, Swedish Baptist, Swedish Mission and other free churches. Many of these churches kept detailed records. Many may include the names of ancestors, e.g.

membership rolls, ministerial acts, minute books, transfer and moving papers. Of special interest are original records in Swedish, Danish and Norwegian.

ArkivDigital's online library includes many Swedish American church books from Kansas and a few from Missouri and Oklahoma. If one's Swedish ancestor settled in these areas, these books can be helpful in determining where your ancestor came from in Sweden.

Now it is Nebraska's turn. I am helping to coordinate a digitization project of Nebraska's Scandinavian church records (Swedish, Danish & Norwegian). We will be making a list of Scandinavian churches, both current and historical. The ArkiDigital film crew will be in Nebraska this summer.

I need your help. We want to include all the Nebraska Scandinavian church records we can locate. If you know of a

Scandinavian church in your home town or anywhere in Nebraska please let me know the name of the church and location. Also any names of people at the church or town that could be contacted to help locate these church records would be helpful. Records of discontinued churches need to be located and digitized also.

This will be a great opportunity for Scandinavian churches to have their valuable historical records preserved for future generations. The church will receive a free copy of their digitized records for safe keeping. And best of all these records will be available to Scandinavians around the world as we help families reconnect with families. Phyllis Ericson, 402-499-6594, Phyllis.ericson@gmail.com

May 2017

The Norden Club promotes fellowship among Scandinavian-Americans and their descendants and helps preserve for the benefit of the United States the best in the cultural heritage of Scandinavia.

The countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden make up Scandinavia.



The **Norden Club**

of Lincoln
Since 1947

6000 S 77th St
Lincoln, NE 68516

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We hope to see you on May 15

The meeting is at First Lutheran Church. Cost is \$16 per person for members & first time guests (\$21 non-members). We look forward to seeing you there. Dinner at 6:30 with program to follow. Our program will be Traditional Folk Music presented by Gwen Meister and her husband Bill Behmer. Doors open at 5:30. Dinner at 6:30 of roast beef, mashed potatoes and green beans, roll, and cream pie.

Call for reservations by Thursday, May 11

Dorothy Ekblad—402-488-6313 or Ron Nielsen 402-477-0065

Cancellations need to be made by noon Thursday May 11. Norden Club is charged for all dinners that are reserved. We appreciate you calling early if you know you can or can not attend.