



The Norden Club of Lincoln

www.nordenclub.com

Our 72nd Year

September 2019

- Next Meeting: Sept 16 @ First Lutheran Church. Doors open at 6:30. Program 7:00

- Reservation not needed

Free Special Program, No Meal, No Reservations, Bring Friends



Contact Information

President—Del Stites:

**402-830-6679 or
nordencluboflincoln@gmail.com
or delstites@gmail.com**

Foundation —Joan Tomlinson

**White: 402-423-0023 or
joantw@inebraska.com**

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Norden Club Officers & Committees

President	Del Stites
Vice President	Cyndi Mattson
Secretary	Sandy Hanson
Treasurer	Ted Ericson
Membership	Mary Brass
Courtesy	Mary Brass
Historian	Phyllis Ericson
Name Tags	Ingrid Stites
Newsletter	Len Nelson
Song Leader	Kendra Hartwick
Pianist	Kristina Hanson
Librarian	Phyllis Ericson
Web Master	Len Nelson
Foundation President	Joan Tomlinson White
Advertising & PR	Terri Heckman
Past President	Ron Nielsen
Reservations	Ron & Karen Nielsen

ALERT

New Change:

No Meal (Dessert only)
No Charge (Freewill offering)
No Reservation (all invited)

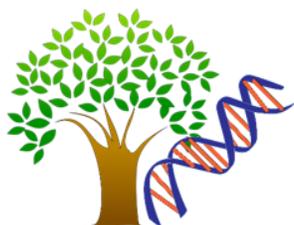
This time only (Sept 16)

Special Program

See Program Details on Page 2

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.



DNA – CLUES TO YOUR HERITAGE

NORDEN CLUB
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019



PHYLLIS ERICSON, GENEALOGIST
AND PAST PRESIDENT

The Norden Club's past president and local genealogist, Phyllis Ericson, will present our third program of the year on Monday, Sept. 16, 7 pm at First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th St. The presentation is free and the public is welcome to attend. This will not be a normal dinner program, however refreshments and a variety of desserts will be provided by the Norden Club board and committee members. A freewill donation is suggested.

Over one thousand years ago, the Vikings were a dominant force in the world. Were they our ancestors? Did you inherit Viking DNA? Today, are your DNA results protected? Should you worry about the police using DNA evidence to catch criminals?



In this program we shall answer these questions and more:

Find out how to make sense of your DNA results.

Discover how DNA can predict ethnicity.

Learn how DNA can connect you to cousins and reveal recent relatives.

Decide which DNA test and testing company is best for you.

Whether you have or haven't taken a DNA test, this program is for you and what it can tell about your family history! We hope you will join us for this informative Sept. meeting.



Welcome. I suspect most of us are looking forward to Fall after those steamy, early August days. I hope you are now looking forward to Nebraska Football and this autumn's Norden Club events. The Norden Club Board decided to try something different for our September 16 meeting.

September 16 Quarterly Meeting

Instead of our usual supper-program, this quarterly meeting, like our Rune Stone meeting this spring, will involve a presentation and coffee and cookies rather than a meal. Former Club President, Phyllis Ericson, an authority on Genealogy, will speak on DNA and our heredity and genealogy. There will be no cost for the evening, and it is open to the public. Doors will open at 6:30 with the presentation at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are not required.

Election of New Club President

At the September 16 evening meeting we will also need to nominate and elect a new club president. It has been my pleasure to serve the Club these past two years, but I think it is time to pass the baton on to a Lincolnite. I will

continue as President through the remainder of 2019.

September 28 Excursion to Danish and Swedish Museums

Later in the month, September 28th, we will have a fall carpool excursion to visit the Museum of Danish America, the Danish Windmill, the Danish Table (Café); all in Elk Horn, IA. Then we will drive to Stanton, IA to visit the Swedish Cultural Center and Museum. As your president I have wanted to have at least one activity outside of our Quarterly meetings. We will leave from First Lutheran at 8:00 a.m. that Saturday. See the announcement in this newsletter about contacting Terri Heckman and arranging the carpool seats.

Annual Christmas Smorgasbord

Mark your calendar now for our annual Christmas Smorgasbord. Sunday, December 8, noon, Hillcrest Country Club. This year we will be focusing on things Swedish. This will include our traditional Lucia Pageant. The Christmas committee chose Iona Stites to be this year's Lucia. She is daughter of members Kirsten Stites and Dominic Blaney, and Ingrid and my granddaughter. At

the September 16 meeting, we will be soliciting additional volunteers for the Christmas committee.

Many hands make light work!

2020 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

Big changes are afoot for the 2020 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. Since Father's Day is late next year, (June 21), so the 2020 Midsummer Festival will be held Sunday, June 14 from noon-4:00 p.m. The Festival Committee has decided to move the Festival into a new venue... The Steppe Center, just off I-80 in LaVista (118th and Harrison Street). It is only a couple of turns off the Interstate. It is air conditioned, senior citizen friendly, spacious, 200 paved parking stalls, and about the same cost as the Elmwood Park Pavilion. Besides the uneven ground at Elmwood, lack of parking, having to set-up and take down tents, transporting chairs and tables, the hot weather, iffy rain possibilities, and the City of Omaha's decision to close the Pavilion at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays, the Festival Committee think they have made a good selection. Pencil the Festival in now.

Best. Del Stites, President

2019 Norden Club Schedule

Regular Meetings:

Monday, September 16, 7:00 p.m. Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, December 8 Doors open 12:30 p.m. Christmas Smörgåsbord

Danish Fall Excursion — September 28. (See article on page 6)

Executive and Committee Meetings

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 p.m., First Lutheran, Room 7



Foundation News

In June, we had the opportunity to partake in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Omaha. Midsummer is now held on the weekend closest to the summer solstice. After a long cold winter this is the coming of summer. The celebration takes place around a maypole trimmed with garlands of flowers, erected as part of various European folk festivals. Parading of the maypole kicks off the opening of the festival followed by Scandinavian music, booths representing Scandinavian organizations, a Viking encampment, games for children, a variety of ethnic foods, and Scandinavian dancers, just to name a few. The Scandinavian colors abound in costumes, flowers, the Nordic flags flying in the wind. It was an enjoyable afternoon strolling the grounds and immersing oneself in Scandinavian culture. For this 2019 season, the Norden Club Foundation awarded the Paul & Sylvia Burklund Grant-in-Aid in the amount of \$500, to the Omaha Festival.

Another festival sprang up this summer for the first time in Nebraska. Named the Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival, the brain child of Lincoln native Erik Higgins who now lives in Denmark. His wish was to showcase the diversity and traditions of musical culture in Lincoln, our state, and folk traditions from all over the globe. For this Festival, Erik brought together local and

international musicians to perform classical repertoire and folk traditions. The Festival lasted seven days. We Scandinavians, were particularly interested in The Nordic Workshop offering Scandinavian Fiddle Dance music. Many from the audience learned the Scandinavian dance steps, then proceeded to dance on the dance floor, great fun. The Northern Lights Concert served as the Festival Finale. Scandinavian musical arrangements were performed with flute and bass instruments. Lincoln truly enjoyed this festival of international and local folk music, international classical chamber music, and a vast array of educational workshops.

Along with other donors, the Norden Club Foundation awarded this Festival a \$1000 grant-in-aid.

The last award for 2019 is the \$1,500 Dorothy Ekblad Scholarship given to Blake Kinnaman, a University of Omaha student majoring in IT Innovation.

He is currently studying this fall semester, continuing into the spring semester at Lulea University of Technology in Lulea, Sweden.

Several of us had the opportunity to meet Blake at the Omaha Midsummer Festival in June. In order to pursue this educational experience, Blake carefully saved every dollar he earned so that he could make his dream come true.

He was extremely grateful for this scholarship gift from the Norden Foundation.

We are pleased to support these scholarship and grant recipients by providing additional financial resources to help make these dreams a reality. Our awardees promote Scandinavian culture in various ways and we in turn enjoy their presentations to the community and to Norden Club.

We look forward to meeting our latest recipients, awaiting their presentations to Norden in 2020.

As Scandinavians we are proud of our heritage. It is up to us to keep our culture alive and well.

From storytelling to passing on family heirlooms, we share our history and traditions with each new generation. Today we are learning more details of our lineage through DNA testing and ancestry research then we could ever imagine.

Amazing!

Thank you for your many contributions and being a good friend to the Norden Foundation!

Joan Tomlinson White
President, Norden Club Foundation

P.S. Please note the Norden Foundation "Silent Auction" and "Store" will be held at the December Norden Smorgasbord.

Keep us in mind, we are always in need of Scandinavian items. Please call me at 402-423-0023, if you have questions, or need someone to pick up your donation. Thank you!



Hello Norden Club friends! We hope you had a nice summer and

are enjoying cooler temperatures. We have a fun, informative meeting planned for Monday, September 16, 2019, at 7:00 pm. Our own Phyllis Ericson is an expert on genealogy.

In July, 2016, the Nebraska State Genealogical Society named Phyllis the “Nebraska Genealogist of the Year” award. She was president of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society from 2009 – 2012. She was also director of programs and education.

A 30-year genealogical researcher and family historian, Phyllis Ericson has addressed many statewide societies and groups, taught genealogical classes, and provided programs and media spots. She published a book *The Larsen Family – Danish Pioneers to*



Membership Report

Marion County, Kansas, 1875. Come and learn what Phyllis has to teach us!

Our newest member of Norden Club is Mary Holoun of Bellevue. Mary worked as a nurse at the Omaha Veterans Administration Hospital for 30 years. She is Norwegian and has been to Norway 3 times. She is also a member of the Sons of Norway in Omaha. Let's all greet and welcome Mary Holoun to our next meeting, September 16!

Let's also welcome Pamela Freudenburg to Norden Club. Pamela is blessed with the Heritage of all 3 countries – Norway, Sweden, and Denmark – in her genealogy. We look forward to knowing both of these ladies better.

If you would like to bring a guest to any Norden meeting, please feel free to do so. Just make your reservations so that we have an accurate headcount

on meals. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ethnic background. No written requirements are necessary.

Annual dues are inexpensive -- \$25.00 per couple, or \$15.00 per single. We appreciate those members who keep their membership paid. For those of you who have NOT paid annual dues, please send your check to our Treasurer, Ted Ericson.

Ted Ericson, Norden Club Treasurer
4130 North 42nd Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

If you do not know if you have paid current dues, please contact Ted: 402-499-6594
As you know, the best way to bring in new members is by word of mouth.

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

Courtesy Report

The following cards were sent this summer to comfort our members. A sympathy card to Phyllis and Ted Ericson for the loss of Phyllis's father, Clyde Larsen, 93. A memorial service was held in Burns, Kansas, on June 29, 2019.

During August, a get-well wish was sent to Kendra

Hartwig after surgery. A get-well card was also sent to Dick White after his surgery.

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 the

community, illness or death in their family, please contact:

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



NORDEN CLUB FALL EXCURSION



Want to travel to Denmark and Sweden on **Saturday, Sept. 28**? Then come with the Norden Club on our fall excursion to the *Museum of Danish America* which costs \$5 for admission and the *Danish Windmill* in Elk Horn, Iowa. We'll eat lunch at the new, *Danish Table* restaurant which serves American, European, and Danish foods. Then on to the *Swedish Heritage Cultural Center* in Stanton, Iowa which has a \$5 admission price. Both museums have gift shops to browse.



We will carpool to Elk Horn and Stanton and leave from the First Lutheran Church parking lot in the morning, an exact time yet to be determined. The only cost will be sharing gasoline, your lunch in Elk Horn, and admission to the museums.

So you know how much car time is involved; it's a 125 mile trip from Lincoln via Int 80 and takes approximately 1 hour and 50 mins to Elk Horn. Then a 50 min trip to Stanton, Iowa after lunch. After getting our

Swedish fix we have an hour and 45 min. trip back to Lincoln from Stanton. This is not open to the general public, but friends/family of Norden Club members may accompany a member.

There will be sign-up sheets at the Sept. 16th program meeting *or* email Terri at: terrijheckman@yahoo.com to make a reservation. If you live in the Omaha area there will be a separate departure location and time. Please email Del Stites at: delstites@gmail.com. We need to know how many will be attending for driver availability for carpooling. **The deadline for signing up is Sept. 23.** Vikings! To the boats!



Danish Table restaurant



Greenland 4-Sale, Not!



Since President Trump had floated the idea of buying Greenland, whether that included buying its 57,733 people or not is not clear, there has been renewed attention to the island. Is Trump's interest the minerals under the ice or was he, too, taken in by the misnomer "green-land"? Perhaps he wants to take options on the effects of global warming?

The World Almanac and Book of Facts states "Greenland, an island between the North Atlantic and the Polar Sea, is separated from the North American continent by Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. Total area is 836,330 sq. miles (*think Alaska plus Nebraska*), about 80% of which is iced-capped. The average thickness of the ice cap is 1,000 ft. Scientists point to accelerated melting of Greenland's ice sheet in recent years as evidence of global warming. About 88% of the population in 2010 were Inuits. Under the 1953 Danish constitution the colony became an integral part of the realm with representatives in the Folketing (Danish legislature). The Danish parliament, 1978, approved home rule for Greenland effective May 1, 1979. With home rule, Greenland's place names came into official use: Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), Nuuk (the capital city)."

For further information: naalakkersuisut.gl