



The Norden Club of Lincoln

www.nordenclub.com

Our 75th Year

March 2022

- Next Meeting March 28, 2022
- Zoom meeting March 28, 2022
Zoom link active @ 6:50
- Business meeting and program start at 7:00

Please direct questions to Ted Ericson at
tedandphyllis72@aol.com.



Contact Information

President—Ted Ericson: 402-464-4682

or

tedandphyllis72@aol.com

Foundation —Joan Tomlinson White: 402-423-0023 or joantw@inebraska.com

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Norden Club Officers & Committees

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

March Program Via Zoom

“Tracing Our Ancestors, Denmark and Sweden, 2005, Then and Now”

Monday, March 28, 2022, 7:00 pm. (Link will go live at 6:50 pm)

**Speakers – Phyllis and Ted Ericson
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Details on page 4.

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ALLIGATOR IN A VEST?



AN INVESTIGATOR.

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.



President's Corner

Dear Norden Club Members,

It is now mid February, 2022. As I write this the Covid level has been reduced to a strong Orange level in Lincoln. Still too high to look at having meetings in person for Norden Club. It provides a measure of optimism.

But, we will have a March Meeting on the 28th via Zoom. Phyllis and I will be doing a presentation regarding our 2005 trip to Denmark and Sweden. We will also update you on some things we have learned,

particularly with all the DNA testing we can do now to find relatives in other lands, that we did not know about. Plus, I think you will really like the pictures we took. A link to the meeting will be forwarded about a week before the meeting.

We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to meet in-person at First Lutheran Church in Lincoln, for the May meeting. Our plan will be to meet in the Chapel of the church, which has nice seating and audio visual equipment. The program is to be

determined. We will advise regarding the program, once finalized.

Please check out the articles in this issue regarding Norden Club and our Scandinavian heritage. You might find some information you did not know. I did!

Until next time, God Dag!

**Ted Ericson
Norden Club President**

Treasurer's Report, December 31, 2021

Current Balance, Wells Fargo Account is \$8,982.18 and Cash on Hand is \$120 for a Total Balance of \$9,102.18. There were expenses of \$12.48 for newsletter costs and \$33.22 for new checks since the last report from September 29, 2021.

We currently have 80 paid members, including our Life Members. All memberships paid for 2020 and 2021 have been carried over as paid members in 2022.

Please contact me at 402-477-0065 or rnielsen2@neb.rr.com with any questions.
Thanks.

Ron Nielsen

Membership Request -- March 2022

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 & Membership Chairman.

402-483-0035 (please leave a message)



Foundation News

Dear Norden Club Members:

Due to the pandemic, we are entering yet another year of unprecedented challenges for the Norden Foundation and Norden Club, too. At this point in time, even though we aren't meeting in-person, we still keep busy with our ongoing Foundation responsibilities. As everything went virtual, we had to rely more and more on emails, phone calls, and Zoom calls to stay connected.

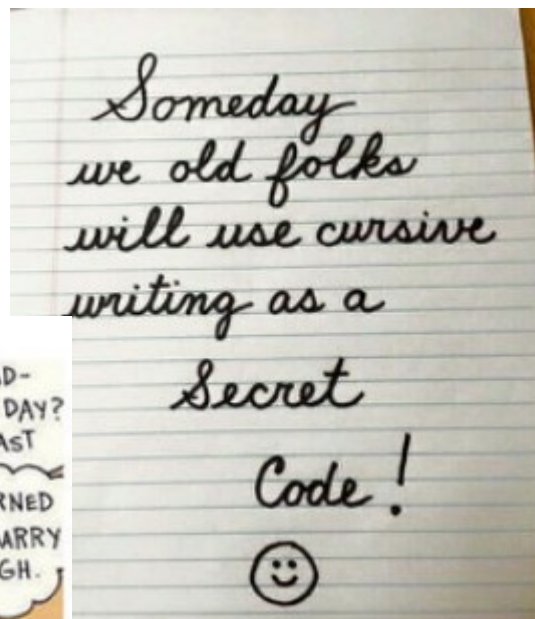
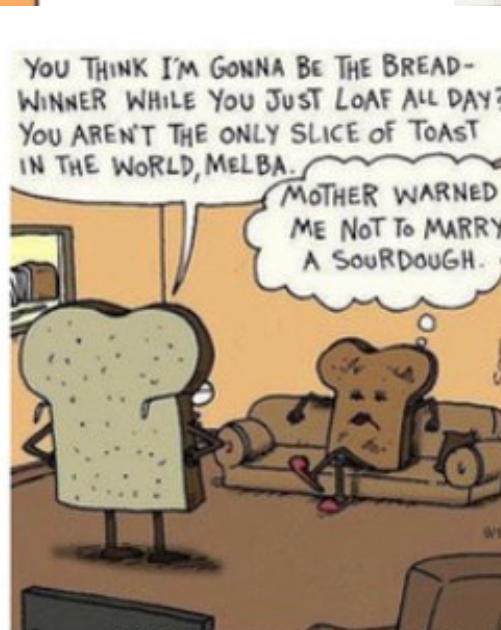
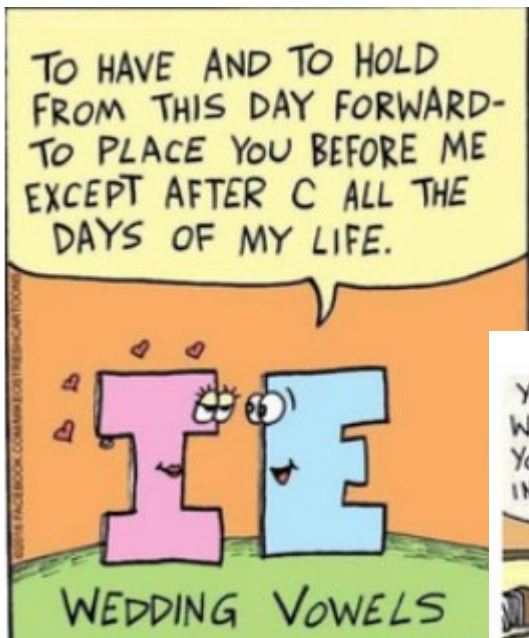
We continue to work on scholarships and grants that have provided much needed financial

support for our recipients. Due to COVID-19 delays, we currently have three previous recipients whom we hope to have as future guest speakers. They'll provide a program, and share their Scandinavian experiences including a slide presentation. We hope to see them soon. Coordinating logistics, such as travel plans and future COVID-19 conditions is a big challenge.

It is our hope that we have turned the corner on COVID-19. The latest news is that our risk counts are going down. Is it too early to celebrate? We look

forward to our Norden in-person meetings and our social gatherings. We have missed you! Each time a meeting is scheduled, we take into consideration the well-being of our membership and COVID-19 conditions. It is our hope that all of you are well, and we look forward to seeing you in the very near future. Thank you for your heartfelt support.

Joan Tomlinson White
President of Norden Club
Foundation





March Program Via Zoom

“Tracing Our Ancestors, Denmark and Sweden, 2005, Then and Now”

Monday, March 28, 2022, 7:00 pm. (Link will go live at 6:50 pm)

Speakers – Phyllis and Ted Ericson

Lincoln, Nebraska



Phyllis Ericson is a Certified Genealogist and former President of the Norden Club. She spent 40 years in Health Care with 25 at the Nebraska Community Blood Bank.

Ted Ericson spent 40 years primarily in Health Care with Sandoz/Novartis, Zoetis/Pfizer and MDS/Harris. He is the current Norden Club President.

PLEASE NOTE – This program will be via Zoom Teleconference. A link to the program will be emailed to the membership on about March 20. A reminder email will be sent out prior to the meeting.

We are conducting the first meeting in 2022 via Zoom and hope to finally start Person to Person meetings in May.

Please direct questions to Ted Ericson at tedandphyllis72@aol.com.



Norden Library Report, January 2022

Norden Club Library Policy

The Norden Club's library collection is reviewed periodically to ensure that the collection supports the purpose of the Norden Club - to promote and preserve the Scandinavian cultural heritage for current and future members.

The Norden Club library accepts donations, including printed and digital books and media, and makes no promises to the donor for their long-term retention. Materials that no longer meet the needs of the Norden Club and its members may be removed from the collection.

Withdrawn books and media are donated to other Scandinavian libraries, the Norden Club Foundation, or sold at Norden Club book sales. The proceeds from such sales are used for the benefit of the Norden Club. Books and media that are not sold will be disposed of at the discretion of the Norden Club board of directors.

Current Library Status, Jan 2022

Two bookshelf units at 1st Lutheran Church, with 8, 3-ft shelves = 24 ft shelf space.
Original collection (2000) =

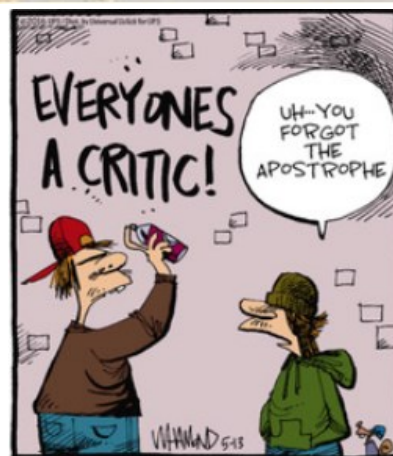
100 volumes.

Jan. 2022, catalogued items (LibraryThing.org) = 360 items.

Remaining work to do:

1. Remove unneeded books.
2. Add Identification Labels to spines of all books retained.
3. Organize and shelve books.

- Submitted by Phyllis Ericson, Librarian





Courtesy Report -- March 2022

A sympathy card was sent to Anne Johnson Rogers for the loss of her mother, Marie Johnson. Marie Johnson passed away in her sleep on January 23, 2022, after living a long and full life of 99 years. She was born on August 30, 1922, in Froslev, Denmark. Marie immigrated with her family from Denmark to Lexington, Nebraska, in 1926. Marie married Quentin Johnson on May 8, 1948. They had 2 sons, Eric and Wes, and 3 daughters Anne, Jean, and Ellen. Marie worked for the Archeological Center for the National Park Service in Lincoln, retiring in 2000. She also had a business, Johnson’s Greenhouse, and created flower arrangements and wedding flowers.

She was a member of the Rose Society, the Danish Sisterhood Lodge #90, as well as Norden Club. Marie was very helpful in translating Danish to English language for her Danish Sisters in Lodge #90. She could always give the dinner grace in fluent Danish.

A memorial service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ceresco, NE, on Saturday, February 5, 2022. Burial was at Grace Lutheran Church in Swedeburg, Nebraska. Marie is survived by her five children, 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ceresco.

* * * * *

A sympathy card was sent to Tracy Way for the loss of her mother, Sharon Krauter Seagren. Sharon Seagren passed away on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Sharon Krauter Seagren was born September 2, 1937, in Beatrice, Nebraska. She graduated from Claytonia High School in 1954. In 1958, Sharon graduated from Doane College. Her first teaching position was Walnut Junior High in Grand Island.

Sharon married Alan T. Seagren July 30, 1960. Sharon and Al both attended University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she earned a Master’s in Education. Al earned his Doctorate in Education. Sharon taught at Irving Junior High School while they lived in Lincoln. In 1963, Al became Principal of University High at UNL. They had one son, Eric, and one daughter, Teresa (Tracy).

Sharon Seagren returned to teaching in the 1970’s and taught physical education at McPhee and Brownell Elementary Schools. She retired in 1997. Sharon was a TeamMates mentor with Lincoln Public Schools. She also served on the YMCA Camp Kitaki Board and was a Girl Scout Leader. She completed several family histories and placed them in the Nebraska Historical Society.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at First Lutheran Church. Memorial contributions may be sent to The Alan Seagren Associate Professorship in Education at the University of Nebraska Foundation.

* * * * *

Noyes Art Gallery – Owner / Artist Julia Noyes – 119 South Ninth Street – Offered da Vinci art class on Saturday, January 22, 2022.

Julia Noyes, a Norden Club member, has a talent for getting the community involved in art appreciation. On Saturday, January 22, 2022, Julia hosted a Renaissance workshop focusing on the artistic life of Leonardo da Vinci. Artist and teacher Julia Noyes posed as da Vinci’s teacher, Verrocchio. She guided participants through six art techniques, including making a feather quill and using it with ink to study bones. The art workshop participants could imagine living in 15th century Florence, Italy as Verrocchio’s apprentices in his Italian art studio.

Julia Noyes offers interest-free-layaway, curbside pickup, free delivery, and installation. She also offers a one-time in-home consultation by taking artwork to a patron to view artwork in his/her personal space. Julia Noyes can be reached at her art gallery at 402-475-1061.

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 & Membership Chairman.

402-483-0035 (please leave a message)



Margrethe II, Queen of Denmark

Golden Jubilee on January 14, 2022

Margrethe II (Danish: [mɑˈkʁeʔtə]; Margrethe Alexandrine Þórhildur Ingrid, born 16 April 1940) is Queen of Denmark and commander-in-chief of the Danish Defence. The Queen marked her Golden Jubilee on January 14, 2022. Celebrations will take place later this year.

Margrethe is the eldest child of Frederick IX of Denmark and Ingrid of Sweden. She became heir presumptive to her father in 1953, when a constitutional amendment allowed women to inherit the throne.

Margrethe succeeded her father upon his death on 14 January 1972. On her accession, she became the first female monarch of Denmark since Margrethe I, ruler of the Scandinavian kingdoms in 1375–1412 during the Kalmar Union.

In 1967, she married Henri de Laborde de Monpezat, with whom she had two sons: Crown Prince Frederik and Prince Joachim.

Support for the monarchy in Denmark has been and remains consistently high at around 82%, as does Margrethe's personal popularity

At the time of her birth, only males could ascend the throne of Denmark, owing to the changes in succession laws enacted in the 1850s when the Glücksburg branch was chosen to succeed. As Margrethe had no brothers, it

was assumed that her uncle Prince Knud would one day assume the throne.

The process of changing the constitution started in 1947, not long after Margrethe's father ascended the throne and it became clear that Queen Ingrid would have no more children. The popularity of Frederick and his daughters and the more prominent role of women in Danish life started the complicated process of altering the constitution. The law required that the proposal was passed by two successive Parliaments and then by a referendum, which occurred 27 March 1953. The new Act of Succession permitted female succession to the throne of Denmark.

Constitutional Role

The Queen's main tasks are to represent the Kingdom abroad and to be a unifying figure at home. The Queen performs the latter task by accepting invitations to open exhibitions, attending anniversaries, inaugurating bridges, etc. She receives foreign ambassadors and awards honours and medals. As an unelected public official, the Queen takes no part in party politics and does not express any political opinions.

The Queen holds a meeting with the prime minister and the foreign affairs minister every Wednesday, unless she or the prime minister is outside of the kingdom.

After an election where the incumbent prime minister does

not have a majority behind him or her, the Queen holds a "Dronningerunde" (Queen's meeting) in which she meets the chairmen of each of the Danish political parties.

Each party has the choice of selecting a royal investigator to lead these negotiations or alternatively, give the incumbent prime minister the mandate to continue his or her government as is. The leader who, at that meeting succeeds in securing a majority of the seats in the Folketing, is by royal decree charged with the task of forming a new government.

Once the government has been formed, it is formally appointed by the Queen. Officially, it is the Queen who is the head of government, and she therefore presides over the Council of State (privy council), where the acts of legislation which have been passed by the parliament are signed into law.

In addition to her roles in her own country, the Queen is also the colonel-in-chief of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), an infantry regiment of the British Army, following a tradition in her family.

Excerpted from Wikipedia, January 27, 2022



A LONG REIGN OF TERROR

From: "The Complete Guide to The Vikings", Updated Special Edition, Centennial Entertainment, copyright 2021.

1000 B.C.: Before the Vikings were a blip on the radar of history, a Proto-Germanic people began to settle in what would become the modern countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. Originally farmers and fishermen, they start to develop the culture, language and customs that would eventually become synonymous with the Vikings.

787 A.D.: The Vikings start to test their strength, sailing from Norway to the Isle of Portland in the English Channel to attack and pillage the village. This is the first known Viking raid, and as such the villagers first assume, quite mistakenly, that their Norse neighbors arrived in peace.

793: Viking warriors sail to England to ransack a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne, the first raid on English territory. This greatly upsets the locals, who see the raid as a direct attack on Christian society.

794/795: The Norse continue their expansion, invading nearby Scotland and Ireland, including the isles of Skye, Iona and Rathlin. Many communities are forced to relocate further inland and abandon smaller islands and coastal towns and to acquiesce to the pagan pillagers.

810: The death of Charlemagne is a boon to Viking support: As Austrian professor and Germanist Rudolf Simek wrote, "It is not a coincidence if the early Viking activity occurred during the reign of Charlemagne," as he stoked anti-pagan sentiments.

841: Viking settlers begin spending winters in Ireland, founding the city of Dublin.

844: After a successful raid on Seville in Spain, the Vikings are quickly halted by a Muslim army.

852: Continuing their conquest, the Norse raid Wales for the first time.

(To be continued in the next Newsletter)

History and Legend of London Bridge

"The Largest Antique Ever Sold", Mary P. Martin, Route Magazine, December/January 2020

Scandinavians play a large role in the history of London Bridge, and in a famous nursery rhyme. From the above article is noted:

For nearly 2000 years, beginning with a wooden crossing believed to have existed in the first century A.D., London had a bridge that crossed the River Thames. In 53 A.D., Roman Legions built a pontoon bridge of timbers from nearby woods.

There is little further mention of (the bridge) until the reign of

King Edgar (959-975 A.D.), when there is reference to a bridge that was so broad, two wagons could pass on it. That bridge stood until 1014, when Danish pirates seized London. The British then enlisted the help of Viking chieftain Olaf Haraldson.

Olaf and his men covered their longships to protect themselves from spears and rocks being hurled from London Bridge, rowed up to the pilings and tossed stout ropes around them. They then rowed downstream, pulling the bridge and everything on it, into the water.

Olaf's minstrel composed new

verses for his master's saga, beginning "Stridsdjerv Brot Du Londonsbro". That phrase later translated into English as "London Bridge is broken down", and from this, the nursery rhyme evolved.

The London Bridge in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, is one of the successors to the bridge that was "broken down" by Olaf and his men. It was dedicated in 1831, and moved and rebuilt in Lake Havasu City in 1971. It is the second most popular tourist attraction in Arizona.



TYPES OF VIKING SHIPS

From: "The Complete Guide to The Vikings", Updated Special Edition, Centennial Entertainment, copyright 2021.

LONGSHIPS – Used predominantly as warships, longships were commonly named for the creature that stood on the hull, like the Snekke (the snake) and the Drekkar (the dragon). The easiest way to classify a longship is by counting the rowing positions on board – up to 18 pairs. Though used most often as a rowboat to achieve greater maneuverability and speed, the warships also sported sails for

open waters. Longships hulls were shallow-draft design, and up to 18 feet wide. Longship Sails have yet to be found intact, but accounts depict them as square in shape, made of wool cloth and measuring about 35 to 40 feet across.

KNARR – Merchant ships built for transporting heavy freight, knars were broader than longships and had a

larger, deeper hull to carry cargo. Instead of relying on oars, knar ships had less need for speed, and as such, heavily leaned on their sails for propulsion.

BYRDING – Smaller freight ships that were lighter than knars, byrdings were easier to maneuver, so were used for trading with territories accessible only by river.

VIKING TRIVIA

From: "The Complete Guide to The Vikings", Updated Special Edition, Centennial Entertainment, copyright 2021.

- What does the word "Viking" mean in Old Norse?
 - Warrior
 - Man in battle
 - Pirate raid
 - Seafarer
- Which of the following modern-day countries did the Vikings not reach in their travels?
 - Canada
 - Turkey
 - France
 - New Zealand
- What color were Viking-era carrots?
 - Yellow
 - Orange
 - Red
 - Purple
- Which day of the week is not named after a Norse god?
 - Saturday
 - Tuesday
 - Thursday
 - Friday
- Viking women were not allowed to:
 - Divorce
 - Own property
 - Work outside the home
 - Appear in court
- Which of the following was not an item commonly traded by the Vikings?
 - Furs
 - Tusks
 - Whale Oil
 - Seal fat
- Which is not a Viking drink of choice?
 - Beer
 - Vodka
 - Mead
 - Wine
- What current-day Olympic sport was a popular form of transportation and entertainment for Vikings?
 - Luge
 - Bobsleigh
 - Curling
 - Skiing
- What was the life expectancy of a Viking?
 - 20-30 years
 - 30-40 years
 - 40-50 years
 - 50-60 years
- The Viking sport of knattleikr is often reference in Icelandic texts. What modern-day sport is it most similar to?
 - Lacrosse
 - Soccer
 - Hockey
 - Petanque
- Which was not a standard piece of Viking arms?
 - Helmet
 - Mask
 - Shield
 - Sword

Answers On Page 10 (next page)



Answers To Viking Trivia on Page 9.

1.C, 2.D, 3.D, 4. A, 5.D, 6.C, 7.B, 8.D, 9.C, 10.C, 11.B

George Washington was of Norwegian descent, and he was well aware of it. He himself stated this fact at a banquet of the Scandinavian Society in Philadelphia in 1782.

At that banquet, Aksel Fersen was honored for his courage at the battle of Yorktown. Fersen was personally decorated by Washington, who expressed his pride in his own Norwegian origins.

Washington's ancestry, on both his father's and mother's sides, can be traced to Ragnvald Øysteinson, Earl of Møre and Rømsdal. In addition, his ancestors can be traced to Trond Haraldson, born 661, who was chieftain of Trøndelag.

Between 1030 and 1035 another ancestor, Torfinn Sigurdsson, moved to Yorkshire in northern England. One of his sons, Barndolf Torfinnson, lived near York. The family took on the name of a small village in the area called Wassington. The family name eventually changed from Wassington to Washington.

The rest, as they say, is history.

