



# The Norden Club of Lincoln

www.nordenclub.com

Our 75th Year

December 2022

- Next Meeting Dec 4, 2022
  - Hillcrest Country Club
  - Smorgasbord starts at noon
- 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  
joantwne@gmail.com**

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## Norden Club Officers & Committees

President	Ted Ericson
Vice President	
Secretary	Sandy Hanson
Treasurer	Ron Nielsen
Membership	Kendra & Ken Hartwig
Courtesy	Kendra & Ken Hartwig
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

## THE NORDEN CLUB PRESENTS THE ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN SMORGASBORD DINNER & PROGRAM

The public is welcome!  
**SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 2022, NOON – 3:00 P.M.**  
**HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB**  
**9401 O ST., LINCOLN, NE**

Noon: Social Time with Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar  
12:45 p.m.: Authentic Scandinavian Dinner & Program

**PROGRAM**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY CHORUS**  
**DIRECTED BY WANDA MANDIGO**  
**ACCOMPANIED BY NANCY ANDERSON**

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 PRESENTS THE  
ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN  
SMORGASBORD  
DINNER & PROGRAM**



**Denmark is our featured country this year.**

The Norden Club of Lincoln was founded 75 years ago by and for Americans of Scandinavian heritage (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden).

The public is welcome!

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**Norden Club Foundation Silent Auction**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS NOV. 25**

Paid Members = \$35; Nonmembers = \$50

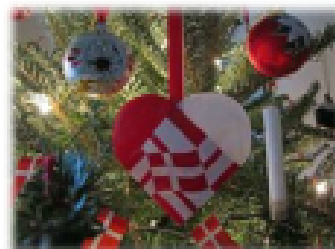
Children 5-12 years = \$20, under 5 Free.

Mail Names of Attendees & Check to:

**Norden Club**

**5015 NW 7<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68521**

Reservations can be emailed to Ron Nielsen  
at: [nielsenron48@gmail.com](mailto:nielsenron48@gmail.com).



For more information call: 402-477-0065

## Treasurer's Report

Current Balance, Wells Fargo Account is \$8,990.97 and Cash on Hand is \$120 for a Total Balance of \$9,110.97. There were expenses of \$252.71 for newsletter costs, pie, and use of the church facilities since the last report from July 7, 2022. Dues received have been \$215.00, and pie donations have been \$70.00.

We currently have 101 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 [nielsenron48@gmail.com](mailto:nielsenron48@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thanks. Ron Nielsen



## President's Corner

Dear Norden Club Members,

It is mid-November, and it is snowing and 34 degrees as I write this letter. (And Phyllis and I are in Kansas at our farm 250 miles south of Lincoln. I think it is colder with more snow in Lincoln.) We continue to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as we move into the Holiday Season.

Please get your reservation in to the Annual Scandinavian Smorgasbord Dinner on Sunday, December 4 at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln. A notice was sent out on November 8 with the details. Our feature country this year is Denmark. The program

will be provided by the "Lancaster County Chorus". They are directed by Wanda Mandigo and accompanied by Nancy Anderson.

There will also be a Silent Auction to benefit the Norden Club Foundation. The committee is working very hard to provide you with our first Christmas Dinner since 2019.

At our most recent Board Meeting we approved recognizing Del and Ingrid Stats as Lifetime Members of Norden Club. We appreciate all the years they have been members and the service they have provided to Norden Club. They have helped preserve for the

benefits of others the best in cultural heritage of Scandinavia.

As we continue to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022. If you have any recollections of the early years, or stories about the founders or early members, please contact Phyllis Ericson at 402-499-6594 or

[Phyllis.ericson@gmail.com](mailto:Phyllis.ericson@gmail.com). You can also send a note to her at 4130 N 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Circle, Lincoln, NE 68504

Until Next Time. God Dag!

Ted Ericson, President

Norden Club of Lincoln

## Thank You !!! Mary and Gene Brass

The members of Norden Club want to offer our sincere thanks to Mary Brass for her tireless effort to promote the goal and day to day operation of our club. Mary's boundless dedication and loyalty is to be commended. We are lucky to have been the recipient of her and Gene's effort to further the work of the group. Mary most recently served as Courtesy and Membership Chair and her "shoes" will be difficult to fill. Thank you Mary and Gene from the bottom of our hearts!

## MYTH OR MARVEL

### The Origins of These Popular Norse Figures May Not Be As Ancient As You Think

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

**Frigga (Myth)** – Queen of Asgard and wife of Odin, mother of Thor (and in Marvel movies, the adoptive mother of Loki). Frigga is the family peacekeeper.

**Skurge the Executioner (Marvel)** – The Asgardian supervillain and Master of Evil member was a Marvel creation, invented as an antagonist to Thor.

**Heimdallr (Myth)** – We first meet Heimdallr in *Poetic Edda*. In *Prose Edda* he and Loki are predicted to kill one another during the events of Ragnarok.

**Amora the Enchantress (Marvel)** – Often aiding Loki in his plots of trickery, the Enchantress is not a goddess, though many familiar stories and traits are assigned to her.

**Laufey the Frost Giant (Myth)** – Though Laufey appears in both tellings, he is portrayed in comics as the father of Loki and as his mother in Norse myths.



## Foundation News

### Holiday Greetings!

With a change in weather and dropping temperatures, we can certainly see that fall is here. We hope for a few more warm sunny days until winter becomes official on December 21. This is always a special time of year when plans are being made with family and friends to celebrate the season. Many of us can agree that Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's are our favorite holidays. I always start with a holiday check list. It keeps me motivated and organized.

Many of our Norden members have spent several months planning this year's December "Danish" Smorgasbord to be held on Sunday, December 4. This is a special Norden celebration that I have attended every year, for many years. It's a definite "must do" holiday activity for me. The event is full of holiday spirit and holiday cheer. We celebrate the Scandinavian ways, remembering

our traditions and our pride in our ancestry.

As we come together for the Smorgasbord, the Norden Foundation will hold our fundraiser of the year. Because of COVID-19 it's been three years. All of our activities will happen within the large dining room at Hillcrest. The Foundation will have several tables of auction items set up along the southeast wall of that large room.

We always welcome your donated Scandinavian items. Without fail, we have a nice variety of unusual items, some old, some new. It proves to be interesting and fun to me, and why not shop for Christmas. If you have any questions, you can certainly call me at 402-423-0023; and, leave a message if necessary. We can pick up items at your home, or you can bring them with you on December 4. If you wish to make a cash donation, we will have a place for

that. Donations are always welcome. The funds raised at this event are used strictly for grant and scholarship recipients. Our recipients in-turn have provided a variety of programs to Norden. We have enjoyed many visual yet educational experiences through their presentations providing a great learning experience for all of us. We are thankful for your thoughtfulness and support!

The holiday season is officially upon us! For some this may be a time for grieving and sadness as we remember those loved ones who are no longer with us. Yet, we look forward to 2023 and a new year for Norden Club. Happy Holidays to all of you from all of us! The Norden Club Foundation: Jan Lingren, Len & Arlene Nelson, Karyn & David Glenn, and Joan Tomlinson White

Joan Tomlinson White  
President Norden Club  
Foundation

## News from the Museum of Danish America

*Email From the Museum of Danish America, November 1, 2022*

### GET READY FOR JULEFEST!

– Julefest is an annual celebration held in the Danish Villages of Elk Horn-Kimballton (Iowa) on the Friday and Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving.

The Museum of Danish America is inviting you to enjoy the current exhibitions, live piano music, and festive decorations at the museum on Friday, November 25, and Saturday, November 26, as part of the annual Julefest celebration.

Begin celebrating the holiday season during Julefest with the

Museum of Danish America! Visit our Design Store stocked with gifts for the entire family: beautiful jewelry, décor, Danish spreads and treats, and of course, the annual Keepsake Ornament and Christmas Cards.

Also, you'll have a chance to enjoy our brand-new exhibition *40 Years of Collecting*, which will open on November 25. It will remain open through much of our anniversary year.

The museum's Genealogy Center on Main Street will be open both

Friday and Saturday. Visit Bedstemor's House on Friday or Saturday afternoon.

**Admission during Julefest is FREE!**

Museum of Danish America, 2212 Washington Street, Elk Horn, IA, Friday and Saturday 10-4

Genealogy Center, 4210 Main Street, Elk Horn, IA, Friday 10-4/ Saturday 10-4

Bedstemor's House, 2105 College Street, Elk Horn, IA, Friday and Saturday 1-4





## Membership Report

We want to welcome our newest members who attended the September meeting. Welcome to Dr. John (Danish) and Dr. Susan Andersen (Swedish) Wunder of Lincoln. John presented the most interesting and enlightening program at that meeting. Also

joining were Susan's sister and her husband, Barbara Andersen (Swedish) and Mark Rock of Omaha. Please introduce yourselves to these newest members and make them feel at home with the Norden Club. Now this from another newsletter by member Mary

Brass." Remember- everyone is welcome at Norden club. Are you Irish or German? Are you French or Italian? Close enough! If someone does not have Scandinavian heritage do not worry! We simply put an American flag on their nametag."  
Kendra Hartwig

## VIKINGS A TO Z (Continued)

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

**S - Sunstone:** Through still controversial amongst archeological experts, many believe that the sunstone mineral was used as a tool for navigation by seafaring Vikings. Due to its storied ability to locate the sun, even in an overcast sky, it would have been particularly alluring during summer months, when certain northern routes never went completely dark.

**T - Traders:** Though best known for their conquests, the Vikings were extraordinary merchants, trading throughout Europe and all the way to Central Asia. In exchange for their honey, tin, wheat, wool, fish, fur, and walrus ivory, they received in return exotic items like silk, spices, jewelry, and wine.

**U - Utgard:** An Anglicization of Jotunheimr, Utgard is the home of the giants in Norse mythology. Many of the most famous Norse stories occurred in this land. It was where Thor battled and defeated the giant Geirrod, and where the god of

thunder lost his hammer. This was also the setting for the abduction of Idun and the spot where Odin sacrificed his eye.

**V - Valhalla:** Countless Viking warriors took to battle with the reassurance that, should they die, they'd find their way to Valhalla, the hall of the dead for heroic warriors. In the *Grimnismal* poem, Valhalla has 540 doors, to be used as a mass exit in case of the final battle.

**W - Wessex:** The kingdom of the West Saxons was of particular interest to the Vikings. An Anglo-Saxon kingdom between 519 and the unification of England in the early 900s, Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings here in 878.

**X - Marks the Spot:** Viking treasure hunting remains popular even today as loot can still be found, particularly throughout Scandinavia. In April of 2018, hundreds of silver coins, pearls, and jewelry from the

era of the Danish King Harald Bluetooth were found by amateur archeologists (one of them just 13 years old) using metal detectors on the German Island of Rugen.

**Y - York:** Known once as Jorvik or Scandinavian York, Norse warriors dominated the city and surrounding area between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. Since merging the Crown in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Duke of York title has been reserved for the second son of the reigning king or queen - (Today the second son of the reigning King is Prince Harry.)

**Z - Zealand:** The large Danish island of Zealand is credited to the efforts of the goddess Gefjon. The story, related in both *Prose Edda* and *Heimskringla*, conveys how she is given as much land as four oxen could plow in a single night. Employing four oxen sons, the plow cuts so deeply that Gefjon moves an entire piece of Sweden out into the sea, creating Zealand.

The doctor said I need to eat more fish... 🐟🐟🐟



**I don't understand why people have to "get ready" for bed. I'm always ready for bed.**

**My wife just stopped and said, "You weren't even listening, were you?"**  
**I thought to myself... "That's a pretty strange way to start off a conversation."**

**I JUST FIRED MYSELF FROM CLEANING MY HOUSE. I DON'T LIKE MY ATTITUDE & I GOT CAUGHT DRINKING ON THE JOB.**



## Courtesy Report

As new Courtesy chairs we would like to introduce ourselves. We have been members of Norden Club since 2016 when our grandson was in the Santa Lucia parade. I accompanied him and was enchanted by the entire celebration.

Ken and I moved to Lincoln in 1978 when Ken entered Engineering School at UNL. He retired from the Nebraska Department of Roads just five years ago and the Nebraska Air Guard 20 years ago.

I graduated from UNL with a Bachelor of Music in Education in 1972 having taught in Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln and Raymond

Central High School. Additionally I taught at SCC for nine years in the High School - GED/ABE department. Ken and I have been married for 52 years and have four adult children and thirteen wonderful grandchildren.

Since joining Norden club I have served as songleader and on the Smorsgasboard committee.

Our Scandinavian heritage needs more examination on both of our parts. Our children are from 20-30% Danish with another 9-20% Swedish according to Ancestry.com. Yes! There can and likely will be a variance between full siblings.

On the topic of courtesy I have been investigating E-cards and as of yet have not utilized the service.

I have sent a thank you card to Dr. John Wunder for his enlightening message at the September 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 the family please contact:

Kendra Hartwig, Courtesy Chair  
402-483-4902

## FROM CHIEFDOMS TO KINGDOMS

**The kings of Denmark emerged as the most powerful force in Scandinavia as chiefdoms gave way to organized states.**

*From: "The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings", John Haywood, copyright 1995.*

When Scandinavia emerged from its prehistoric period at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the Danes were politically the most advanced of the Scandinavian peoples. The kings of Denmark dominated an area far larger than modern Denmark; their overlordship was recognized over much of what is now southern Sweden and as far north as Vestfold in Norway. Kings were chosen from a single royal family, but a member of that family could aspire to the kingship. As a result, succession disputes were common. Unsuccessful claimants often went into exile to pursue a career as Viking leaders in order to win wealth and reputation to make a fresh bid for the throne. This destabilized the Danish monarchy, and its authority collapsed in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Shortly before 900 Harold Finehair

(d. c930), a king or chieftain in Vestfold, exploited the collapse of Danish power to make himself master of most of southern Norway. Harald is traditionally seen as the founder of the Norwegian kingdom, though his control over the powerful Jarls of Hladir in the Trondelag remained weak. By the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century Danish power was reviving under King Gorm (d. 958) and his son Harald Bluetooth (958-87) re-established Danish control over Norway. Harald was baptized in 965 and became the first Scandinavian king actively to promote Christianity. Harald's successor Svein Forkbeard increased the wealth and authority of the monarchy by leading a series of well organized and successful raids on England, culminating in his conquest of the country in 1013. By leading the raids himself, Svein largely prevented any other Viking

getting enough wealth and prestige to challenge his throne, though in 995 a Norwegian Viking, Olaf Tryggvason, did temporarily establish himself as king of Norway. He lost his kingdom and his life at the Battle of Svold in 1000.

The history of Sweden in this period is less well known. The Svear and the neighboring Gotar people appear to have had a close relationship, and by 975 Olaf Skotkonung was described as king of the Swear and Gotar. The two peoples were not securely united until the 12<sup>th</sup> century, however. The Svear kings also collected tribute from Finnish areas east of the Baltic. Danish influence was not as strong as in Norway, but Olof, whose nickname "Skotkonung" means tributary king, acknowledged Svein as overlord.



# Cat's Letters to Santa

*From: "Cat's Letters to Santa", Compiled by Bill Adler, copyright 1995.*

It's the Christmas Season so what better way to observe the holiday by writing a letter to Santa. Even Cat's write letters to Santa.....Right?

Dear Santa:

I could really use a few more lives. I lost one the other day on the balcony railing. A few months back I misplaced one in a tight spot behind the refrigerator. If you could replace these two, I promise to be more careful with them. Mehitabel

Dear Santa:

I'm not asking for anything for myself, but I think that little fish in the tank is very lonely since his companion mysteriously disappeared. Could you send a dozen or so playmates? The really colorful ones with the wavy fins that stick out of the top of the tank are the easiest to scoop up with a paw – um, I mean they're the kind that other fish like for company.

Selflessly yours,  
Snowball

Dear Santa:

Do you have an exercise video for cats? Everybody says I'm a fat cat.

Your friend, Sheldon

Dear Santa Claus:

This is the last letter I am writing to you. I don't believe in Santa anymore. I am not a kitten now. I am a cat.

Cindy

Dear Santa:

Do you have a book on what to name your cat? There are five kittens in the house and they call all of us Tabby.

Thank you, Tabby #3

Dear Santa Claus:

I would like you to take the dog to the North Pole and not bring him back until next Christmas.

Jerome

Dear Santa Claus:

I hope you leave me something for Xmas. I have been a good cat all year.

Love,  
Sly

P.S They left you milk and cookies but I drank the milk

Dear Santa:

I'd like a couple of new houseplants this Christmas. I particularly like those spider plants, with those enticing little parts that dangle down. And could you send the plants in macrame hangers? As for length, they should hang just high enough to be a challenge but not so high that I have no chance to make them come crashing down.

Tarzan





Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Genealogical Society

Refreshments

Open to the Public

**LIBRARY**

**OPEN HOUSE**

Come to celebrate our new location and see the resources in our collection

See [LLCGS.info](http://LLCGS.info) for more information

SATURDAY DEC. 3, 2022	TIME 2-5 PM	2900 O Street Lincoln, NE
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Come meet old friends and meet new friends. The Lancaster County Genealogical Society has a new library location!! We have moved our entire collection from the Union College library to our new space in the lower level of the AAA building at 2900 'O' St. Easy parking and elevator access. Come see us, this Saturday, Dec 3, 2-5 p.m.

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See you Saturday!! **Phyllis Ericson**



**Open House to Celebrate New Location of the LLCGS Library**

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society is celebrating the new location of our Genealogy Library with an Open House on Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Our new location is 2900 "O" Street, Lower Level Suite 2, Lincoln, NE. Our collection of 8,000 genealogy books and

magazines will be available for research again with volunteers to help visitors begin or expand their family trees. In addition to the books and magazines, come see the scanners, online resources, maps, and original records that are available. The library also has resources to research other counties, states, and countries.

Our mission is *Preserving the Past for Future Generations*. LLCGS was founded in 1975 as a volunteer-run organization dedicated to promoting genealogy, engaging members, and preserving records. Our website is at <https://llcgs.info>. For further information, email [contact@llcgs.info](mailto:contact@llcgs.info).

Whether you have Lancaster County connections or not, we invite you to join us in exploring your family history so that you can write, share, organize, and preserve the legacy of your family.

