



SONS OF  
NORWAY

May June, 2006

# NEWSLETTER *Service*

Dear Lodge/District Editors:

We are pleased to provide the latest edition of the Newsletter Service. This complimentary service is printed six times each year and may be used as a supplement to your lodge newsletter. The Newsletter Service provides a variety of information, including current news and culture related articles. The Newsletter Service is also available on the Web at [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com), under the "Members Only" section. We hope you enjoy this issue and find its content to be beneficial.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eivind J. Heiberg'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Eivind J. Heiberg

*A Little in English...*

## **Hurrah – for what? On the meaning of the Syttende Mai celebration**

Syttende Mai is Constitution Day – the Constitution that was ratified by the National Assembly at Eidsvoll in 1814, and has through some changes seen us through to today.

As a symbol the Constitution represents also two great themes, national independence and political freedom – democracy and the rights of citizenship. Norwegian patriotism of the 1800s tied these two aspects together as the idea "Norwegian freedom." Later on this concept of freedom took on new meanings, for example international peace work.

Syttende Mai is also a family day, but the difference from all other Norwegian holidays is first and foremost this: it is the only day the most important events take place out in the public space rather than in the four walls of the home. Syttende Mai has become a day for the children, even though it was not originally. The children's parades became a big success from 1870 on, and have become the most popular event on Syttende Mai. And with the children in the city center, many other things follow: ice cream, soda and sausages.



*Litt på norsk...*

## **Hurra - for hva? Om innholdet i 17. mai-feiringa**

17. mai er Grunnlovsdagen - Grunnloven som ble vedtatt av Riksforsamlingen på Eidsvoll i 1814 og som med diverse endringer har fulgt oss til i dag.

Som symbol representerer Grunnloven også to andre store temaer, den nasjonale selvstendigheten, og den politiske friheten – demokratiet og borgerrettighetene. I norsk 1800-tallspatriotisme, blir de to aspektene samlet i forestillingen om "den norske friheten". Seinere har frihetsbegrepet fått nye betydninger, for eksempel internasjonalt fredsarbeid.

17. mai er også en familiedag, men til forskjell fra alle andre norske festdager ikke først og fremst det: Det er den ene dagen da det meste og det viktigste foregår ute i det offentlige istedenfor enn innenfor hjemmets fire vegger. 17. mai har blitt en dag for barna, selv om det var ikke det i utgangspunktet. Barnetogene ble en stor suksess fra 1870 og framover, og har vært det mest populære innslaget på 17 mai. Og med barna i sentrum følger isen, brusen og pølsene.



## Lost in Translation?

Translating is a tricky job. When converting even a simple message from one language to another, the translator has to think about the context and the connotation of the words he or she chooses. If the original is slangy or informal, the translation should be too. The task is even harder when dealing with artistic writing. To translate an entire novel or screenplay the translator has to be something of an artist in their own right.

With so many considerations, it's easy for a translation to go wrong. The problems are even worse when deadlines are pressing. Here are a few titles of American films translated into Norwegian. Play translator and see if you can figure out if there's something funny about how these titles turned out. You can find the answers elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Movie Name

1. The Onion Field: Patruljebil 6Z4 svarer ikke
2. The Maid: Hjelp, jeg er hushjelp!
3. Volunteers: Hjelp, vi får hjelp!
4. Spinal Tap: Hjelp, vi er i rockebransjen!
5. Airplane: Hjelp, vi flyr!

Here are the answers to the Lost in Translation game:

1. Patrol Car 6Z4 is Not Answering
2. Help, I am the house help!
3. Help, we are getting help!
4. Help, we are in the rock industry!
5. Help, we are flying!

## *Have You Had A Financial Checkup Lately?*

If not, contact your fieldstaff representative today to set up an appointment to discuss your financial needs at no cost to you.

*This is a benefit of membership.*

## Språk og kultur / Language and Culture

nærgående (adjective) nair-GO-en-eh

There's no way to sum up the meaning of the Norwegian adjective *nærgående* with just one word in English. To say that someone is *nærgående* is to say that they are a little obnoxious, too personal, or too interested in other people's business. The person who tells you their whole life story in line at the supermarket? You could call them *nærgående*. The nosy neighbor who asks how much you paid for your new car? *Nærgående* again. Translated literally, *nærgående* means "close-going" and the fact that it's used to describe such people shows that in Norwegian culture, it's polite to maintain a little more personal distance than what most Americans are used to. While Americans are generally accustomed to making small talk with total strangers, that's much less common in Norway. For example, while many Americans (especially Midwesterners) are known for greeting strangers passing on the street, the Norwegian custom is to walk by without saying a word or exchanging a glance. Even clerks and waiters – to make a broad generalization – rarely go out of their way to chat with their customers. But it's not that Norwegian society is unfriendly, it's that the standards of when it's appropriate to be friendly are a little different. If you meet an acquaintance on the street in Norway, the general expectation is to stop and have a fairly involved conversation. For Americans, to tell a friend "we should get together some time" doesn't necessarily call for making a plan. For many Norwegians, it sounds like an invitation. Friends and family are treated with special attention in Norway, and if you've ever spent a holiday with Norwegian relatives, you know what that means. And that's not *nærgående* at all.



*A Little in English...*

## Folk belief and superstition on St Hans Eve

On time a year a one dances around a bonfire, picks flowers and feels at one with nature. It's St. Hans Eve. Many Norwegians celebrate St. Hans Eve with big bonfires and parties out in the open air.

The name St. Hans comes from the biblical John the Baptist who was born June 24th. St. Hans Eve is also celebrated here in Norway on the evening before. For the most part we call it St. Hans Eve, but "midsummer's eve" is used as well. For our Swedish neighbors this day is almost as important as Syttende Mai is for us Norwegians. The parties often get quite wild, and so their midsummer's eve is always held on the weekend.

The tradition of setting a bonfire, especially along the coast, was originally a heathen practice. A long time ago it was typical to believe that the flames would keep the witches away. According to folk belief witches were especially active on midsummer's eve. They might be out to collect ingredients for their witchcraft activities, or they were on their way to witch meetings at Troms Church or Blokksberg in Harzen.

*by Leni Aurora Braekhus, [www.nesteklikk.no](http://www.nesteklikk.no)*



*Litt på norsk...*

## Folketro og overtro på St. Hansaften

Én gang i året danser man rundt bålet, plukker blomster og føler seg i pakt med naturen. Det er St. Hansaften. Mange nordmenn ferier St. Hansaften med store bål og fester ut i friluft.

Navnet St. Hans kommer fra den bibelske Johannes Døperen som ble født den 24. juni. Sankthansaften feires altså her i Norge kvelden før. Vi kaller det stort sett Sankthansaften, men ordet «midtsommeraften» forekommer også. For våre svenske naboer er denne dagen nesten like viktig som 17. mai er for oss nordmenn. Feiringen kangå ofte vilt for seg og «midtsommerafton» legges derfor alltid til helgen.

Tradisjonen med å tenne bål, særlig langs kysten, var opprinnelig en hedensk skikk. For lenge siden var det vanlig å tro at ilden skulle holde heksene borte. I følge folketroen var heksene spesielt aktive midtsommernatt. De kunne for eksempel være ute for å samle ingredienser til sine trolldomsaktiviteter, eller de var på vei til heksemøter ved Troms Kirke eller i Blokksberg i Harzen.

*Av Leni Aurora Braekhus, [www.nesteklikk.no](http://www.nesteklikk.no)*



## Share your Celebration with Viking Magazine

Even though the celebrations of Syttende Mai have come to a close, the memories do not have to end. Readers of Viking magazine can enjoy images of your lodge's 2006 festivities in upcoming issues. Here are some photo tips and guidelines that will help keep our magazine and membership looking picture perfect.

1. When choosing a photo, look for interesting shots which include members enjoying an activity, small group photos, performances and action shots. Avoid large group photos.
2. Avoid sending blurry, pixilated or small photos. Please send photos that are at least 3" X 5".
3. Send your photos to your district publicity director. Avoid sending photos directly to Sons of Norway Headquarters. If you would like to send a digital photo submission, please check with your district publicity director first. Their contact information can be found on the District Happenings pages.

### Sons of Norway Annuity Interest Rates

(Effective January 1, 2006)

\$2,000 - \$9,999 . . . . .	3.15%
\$10,000 - \$24,999. . .	*5.00%
\$25,000 - \$49,999. . .	*5.20%
\$50,000 - \$99,999. . .	*5.45%
\$100,000 and over . .	*5.55%

*New certificates with an initial deposit of \$10,000 or more will be credited an additional 1.25% first year interest rate bonus over the current declared interest rate. The rates above reflect the 1.25% interest rate bonus. Certificates in the state of Oregon are not eligible for the 1.25% interest rate bonus but will receive a 1% interest rate on all certificates. Interest rates are effective January 1, 2006 and are subject to change.*



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Contact your local Field Rep or refer to the "Connections" Page in Viking magazine.

1455 W. Lake Street  
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## Språk og kultur / Language and Culture

The Norwegian language situation is unique in Western Europe. Norway, a country of only 4.6 million people, has two official languages and more than 80 officially recognized dialects. The reason why such a small number of speakers have so many different versions of their language is that until fairly recently, Norway's steep mountains and deep valleys kept communities of people isolated from each other. Now with increased mobility and the development of mass media like television, radio and the internet, some researchers are beginning to worry that the Norwegian dialects are beginning to slip away as they have in the other Nordic countries. Influence from the mass media can change the vocabulary of a dialect, but experts are concerned that it can also affect syntax – sentence structure – the inner workings of the language. For example, the standard Norwegian sentence Hva heter du? ("What are you called?") in Northern Norway is expressed Ka du hete? (literally, "What you call?"). If nothing is done, the unique qualities of Norway's dialects may be lost forever.

Now a "dream team" of linguists from all over Norway are trying to map out, document and analyze the Norwegian dialects. Called, ScanDiaSyn, this group will focus on how syntax varies from place to place in Norway. Their research will be compiled into a database and made available on the internet. The project promises to be another important effort in Norway's long målstrid (language struggle) that continues to define the Norwegian language – and, to no small degree, the Norwegian people.