

Queen Sonja

Queen Sonja of Norway was born in Oslo on July 4, 1937. Her parents Karl A. Haraldsen and his wife Dagny were from the county of Telemark. Sonja lived in her childhood home in Oslo until the time of her marriage to Crown Prince Harald, now King Harald V of Norway.

After graduating from lower secondary school, she studied dressmaking and tailoring, first in Norway and later in France. In 1961, she graduated from upper secondary school, where her main subject was English. She later received a degree in English, French, and art history from the University of Oslo.

While still teenagers, Sonja and Harald both attended a summer camp for junior sailors at Hankø. In 1958, they met again at a private party and from then on their friendship deepened.

On March 19, 1968, King Olav V announced Crown Prince Harald's engagement to Sonja Haraldsen, and they married in the summer of that same year.

Sonja is very concerned about the disadvantaged in society, and frequently visits institutions for children, seniors, and the mentally disabled. Sonja has also shown a great interest in the Armed Forces. She holds the rank of Colonel in the Army and the Air Force and Commander I in the Navy.

The Norwegian Royal Family are avid sportsmen and outdoorsmen. Sonja's favorite hobbies include sailing and skiing. She does a great deal of hiking and skiing in the mountains.

King Harald and Queen Sonja have two children, Princess Märtha Louise, born in 1971, and Crown Prince Haakon Magnus, born in 1973.

—Excerpted from a NORINFORM article.

Know your benefits... **Nordic Classic**

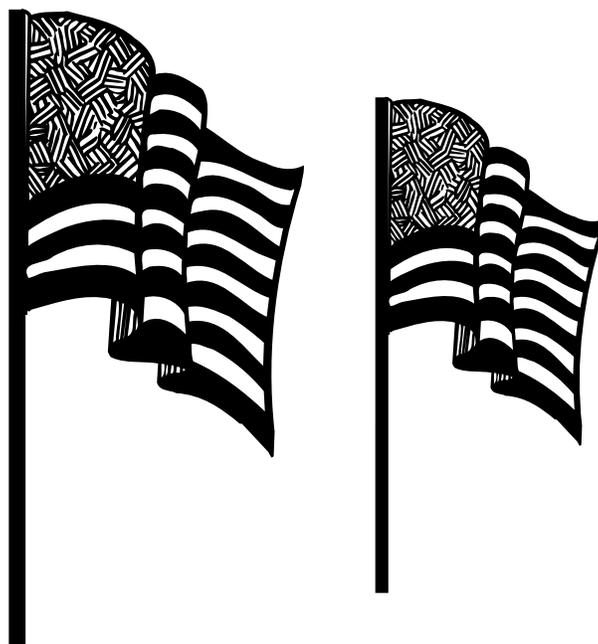
Interested in paying your international dues in a one time payment that provides a paid-up life insurance benefit? It's called Nordic Classic. To find out more, contact your local field staff representative and he/she will be glad to give you the details.

Newsbrief

She's a Her

"Experts" in Oslo have been deliberating on whether to allow a couple in the south of the country to give their little daughter the name Henne—which in Norwegian simply means "her." The choice of name is a weighty affair in Norway and it can take years for the Ministry of Justice to resolve a tricky case. In this instance, the parents were particularly persistent and the Ministry of Justice has had to give way, so Her it is, even if this gives rise to considerable confusion for the child.

—from Norway Now, Medio December 1999



Know your benefits... **Idea Bank**

Sons of Norway's web site has a special "members only" page which entitles members to download Sons of Norway's Idea Bank. The Idea Bank is filled with successful lodge programs (more than 60) that have been used by other lodges who wished to share their ideas with the rest of the Order. Topics range from skits to holidays and fund raisers. Log on to Sons of Norway's web site at <www.sofn.com>. Enter your seven-digit member number as the user ID and the first five letters of your last name as the password to gain access to the Idea Bank.

Happy 4th of July!

Happy 4th of July!

What do you know about the 4th of July?

- 1) July 4th commemorates:
 - a) The start of the American Revolution
 - b) Adoption of the declaration of Independence
 - c) The end of the American Revolution
- 2) The British king against whom the 13 colonies rebelled was:
 - a) George II
 - b) George III
 - c) George IV
- 3) Not included among the original 13 colonies was:
 - a) Vermont
 - b) New Hampshire
 - c) Rhode Island
- 4) The first battles of the American Revolution began on April 19, 1775, at:
 - a) Bunker Hill and Fort Ticonderoga
 - b) Marengo and Waterloo
 - c) Lexington and Concord
- 5) From December 1777 to June 1778, undergoing severe hardships, the Continental Army was encamped at Valley Forge in:
 - a) Southeast Virginia
 - b) Southeast New York
 - c) Northeast Pennsylvania
- 6) The formal independence of the United States was not recognized until 1783 by:
 - a) The Treaty of Ghent
 - b) The Treaty of Paris
 - c) The Treaty of the Hague
- 7) The Declaration of Independence was largely the work of:
 - a) Benjamin Franklin
 - b) Alexander Hamilton
 - c) Thomas Jefferson
- 8) The number of delegates signing the declaration was:
 - a) 77
 - b) 65
 - c) 56
- 9) The opening line of the declaration is:
 - a) "That these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states..."
 - b) "We, the People of the United States..."
 - c) "When in the course of human events..."
- 10) The Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national flag in:
 - a) 1775
 - b) 1776
 - c) 1777

Answers: (1) b, (2) b, (3) a, (4) c, (5) c, (6) b, (7) c, (8) c, (9) c, (10) c



Happy Canada Day!



Happy Canada Day!