

OLD TRONDHJEM CHURCH

Historic
Trondhjem:
Telling a Story,
Preserving a
Treasure.

Spring 2021

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Historic
Trondhjem,
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HOW CAN YOU EXPERIENCE THIS TREASURE?

Come and Worship!

SUMMER WORSHIP

Trondhjem Lutheran Church will also hold some of its summer worship services at the Historic Trondhjem. Watch Facebook, the website and emails for dates and more information.

EASTER

Trondhjem Lutheran Church held their 7:00 a.m. Easter worship service at the Historic Church. We treasure this connection from our past to the present congregation, and value their engagement with us in this space. To view on line, go to: <https://youtu.be/uWCA7DzQOks>



Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

The board is looking at ways to hold the Ice Cream Social this summer. Watch for updates as the summer unfolds.

Rent the Facility

Do you have a wedding, family reunion, bridal or baby shower? Consider renting this Historic building. For more information email ReserveHistoricChurch@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



NANCY NORTON

A Message from President Nancy Halverson Norton

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope”, said First Lady and conservation activist Lady Bird Johnson. In this long year of covid isolation, it is beginning to feel like a time of hope as we move forward this Spring with vaccinations and safer access to one another. At this moment, however, we do not yet feel it is safe to hold our annual Syttende Mai celebration and business organizational meeting. As a result, you will see a proposed budget for our coming fiscal year elsewhere in this newsletter. The three Board Members whose terms expire in May have all agreed to stay on: Ramona Pumper, Dallas Berg and myself.

We are hopeful that we will be able to begin to hold events safely in the coming months. Trondhjem Lutheran Church taped their beautiful Christmas Eve service at the Historic Church this past December, and held a lovely Easter service here as well. Stay tuned as we contemplate some sort of a possible return to our Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social in mid to late summer. In addition, we already have a fall wedding scheduled at the Historic Church!

The Board of TCPS is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a second grant from Partners for Sacred Places Nordic Churches Project. This Phase 2 grant is awarded for the commission and creation of original Nordic folk art for our Historic Church and museum, and is detailed below. We will be hosting a rosemaling workshop and presentation in the coming year as part of this grant opportunity.

We appreciate the response to our financial appeal

last fall. With no events and few opportunities to bring in Members and visitors, we continue to need your help to fund the upkeep of our important historic structure and the attached gathering space. While our use of electricity and propane may be less at the moment, the repairs and regular, ongoing expenses of insurance, security and internet (to name a few) continue in spite of covid. We also incurred a costly repair to the flashing light outside over the road, necessary for safety when we have events here or in the cemetery. Please remember us as you make donations to the organizations you care about. We appreciate your support!

Proposed Budget 6/21-5/22

Contingency Building Repair	\$3,000.00
Electric	\$1,000.00
Events (Musicians, mis. Ex-	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$3,800.00
Internet	\$500.00
Lawn care, snow removal	\$2,000.00
Maintenance	\$600.00
Museum	\$500.00
Printing and Mailing	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$300.00
Propane	\$2,800.00
State Property Tax	\$100.00
Security System	\$800.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00
Technology	\$400.00
Website	\$400.00
	\$19,100.00

TCPS BOARD

Board of Directors

President - Nancy Halverson Norton
Vice President – Ramona Pumper
Secretary – Bonnie Pavek
Treasurer – Deb Simon
Board Members— Dallas Berg, Renee Fredrickson, Phil Bonham, Ann Pocker

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Museum – John Lindell
Publicity/Newsletter/Web—Ann Pocker
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Events & Programs—
Finance & Membership— Ann Pocker
Account/Auditor—Randy Halverson
Legal Advisor—Nancy Halverson Norton

THE ART OF ROSEMALING

Rosemaling at Historic Trondhjem

In 2018, Trondhjem Community Preservation Society was awarded a matching grant from the Nordic Churches Project at Partners for Sacred Places (<https://sacredplaces.org/our-work/projects/nordic-churches/>). With your generous help on the match, we were able to make much needed exterior repairs and paint our historic structure, as well as clean and restore our original altar painting and replace the historically significant “Eye of God” window.

The grant program in the second phase of the Nordic Churches Project was created to give organizations that participated in the first phase an opportunity to commission new works of folk art to “elevate Nordic folk traditions and to engage in projects with wide community appeal”. In consultation with the Board as well as John Lindell, our museum chair, we determined to make a grant application utilizing rosemaling in the Trondelag style, specific to the area of Trondheim, Norway.



Louise Bath is an award winning rosemaler, whose work can be viewed at: <https://louisebathrosemalingartist.wordpress.com/>. She has agreed to paint a 20.5 inch hand turned (by renowned wood carver Paul Loftness) bowl for our museum, as well as recreate a set of antique cupboard doors from an historic home in Trondheim (pictured below) in the Trondelag style of rosemaling. The bowl will be displayed in a case in our museum, and the doors will be hung on the wall in the entry from the historic structure to the social hall. This grant award also provides for an onsite rosemaling class (for a limited number of participants), followed by an open house and presentation on rosemaling by Louise Bath on a date to be determined within the next year. We look forward to hosting this special event, and to having these significant Norwegian folk art additions to our Historic Church!



SYTTENDE MAI: HOW NORWAY CELEBRATES ITS NATIONAL DAY

Every year on this day, Norwegians dress up, hit the streets and party. It's a day full of national pride, yet there are no displays of military power and no speeches from politicians. Norway's Constitution Day is all about the children.

The day begins with a breakfast, often shared with family, friends or neighbors depending on the household's traditions. Lavish buffets are common with scrambled eggs and smoked salmon the most common combo, along with a glass of something fizzy.

The lack of military parades is perhaps the most notable difference about Norway's Constitution Day compared to many other countries around the world. Instead, the main parade is full of children from local schools, often in marching bands. Proud parents watch on before joining a People's parade later in the day.

Joining the People's parade are Norway's high school graduates. Known as *russ*, wearing brightly-colored overalls. On May 17, they are likely to be taking it easy as the day marks the culmination of a

two-week period of partying that is seen as a rite-of-passage by most Norwegians.

While there is no military on show, the Royal Guard join in on the fun by picking dancing companions from among those out enjoying the festivities. The Royal Family spend hours on the balcony of the Royal Palace waving as the children march past, a tradition that was started by King Haakon and Queen Maud way back in 1906.

Norwegian children look forward to May 17 just as much as their birthday or Christmas, even though there are no presents to open. The reason is simple: children get to eat as much ice-cream and as many hot dogs as they like on May 17, even in the morning!

The clothing is another tradition on display on Syttende Mai. The vast majority of Norwegians will wear their *bunad*, a national dress that reveals where you were born. The *bunad* is the most expensive item of clothing most Norwegians own and it's meant to last a lifetime. So much so, that one Norwegian bank even offers 24-hour *bunad* insurance just for May 17.

History of Syttende Mai

Syttende Mai (May 17) is Norway's national holiday. This is the day the Norwegian Constitution was signed at Eidsvoll in 1814, declaring Norway to be an independent nation after more than 400 years under Danish rule. However, a brief war between Norway and Sweden in the following months led to a loose union between the two countries, with Sweden being dominant. Full Norwegian independence didn't come until 1905, but it is still May 17 that is celebrated as the country's official national day.

The celebration of this day began among students and others from early on. During the union with Sweden the King of Sweden and Norway was reluctant to allow the celebrations, and for a few years during the 1820s, King Karl Johan actually banned it, believing that celebrations like this were a kind of protest against the union.

Beginning in 1833 public addresses were held, and official celebration was initiated near the monument of former government minister Christian Krogh who had spent much of his political life curbing the personal power of the monarch. The first address was held by Henrik Wergeland, a Norwegian poet.

Henrik Wergeland is credited with making Sjøttende/Syttende mai a celebratory day for the children rather than a day of patriotic pride. Many believe the day demonstrates that the children, i.e. the country's future, are the patriotic pride. Flags and music dominate the day, and there are few military parades. To commemorate Wergeland's contribution, the russ in Oslo place an oversized hat on his statue near the Norwegian parliament, and the Jewish community place a wreath on his grave in the morning as a tribute to his efforts on their behalf.

The first children's parade was launched in Christiania, at first consisting only of boys. Although Wergeland made the first known children's parade at Eidsvoll around 1820, it was only in 1899 that girls were allowed to join in the parade for the first time.

Unique Facts about Syttende Mai

Constitution Day was celebrated for a long time on November 4th.

Because about a month following May 17, 1814, Norway was joined into a union with Sweden, which lasted for almost a century. Because of this some parts of the constitution had to be changed, including a clause that would hinder Norway's exit from the union. That was when the new national day became November 4th. When Norway became independent from Sweden in 1905, the celebration resumed on May 17th.

The first recorded Syttende Mai celebrations were in... Denmark.

The former interim king of Norway, Christian Fredrik, was sent into an internal exile to Denmark in 1815 to serve as a General Governor of Fyn. Danes liked what Fredrik had accomplished in Norway (and he would eventually become king of Denmark), so Fredrik arranged festivities for Syttende Mai in 1815. This was the first documented celebration of the Norwegian Constitution Day. Norway, now in a union with Sweden, would have quieter celebrations for the first decades of the 19th century.

Norway is not the only country celebrating independence on May 17th

The tiny Pacific island state of [Nauru](#), with 11,000 inhabitants, also celebrates its Constitution Day today.

Sausage, anyone?

Norwegians eat millions of sausages to celebrate their special day. While grilled sausage is preferred by most, the eastern part of the country is very fond of [Wienerpølser](#), or Wiener sausages. During Syttende Mai sausage sales jump almost 120%.

Other notable historical events on May 17th:

- 1792: The New York Stock Exchange was founded
- 1846: Adolphe Sax got a patent for a new instrument called the saxophone
- 1993: Rebecca Stephens became the first woman to scale Mt. Everest



IN MEMORY

The Trondhjem Community Preservation Society (TCPS) lost a loyal board member when Sandy Valek passed away unexpectedly at her home on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Sandra Marlene (Johnson) Valek was born November 7, 1943 in Northfield Minnesota, to Floyd and Carol (Sorensen) Johnson. She was raised in Little Chicago and was baptized and confirmed at Trondhjem Lutheran Church. She graduated from Northfield High School in 1961.

Sandy was an active member of Trondhjem Lutheran Church. She was the first female president of the Trondhjem congregation, was Sunday School superintendent, and taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She enthusiastically sang in the church choir. Sandy joked that her singing skills weren't what she would like, but someday she would have perfect pitch singing with the choir of angels in heaven. Sandy friended Trondhjem's musicians, students from St. Olaf College, and took several of them under her wing like a grandma. At the time of her death, she held the honor of being the longest member of her beloved church.

Sandy was a devoted TCPS board member for over 25 years and was active on the museum committee. She was excited to attend the first in-person TCPS meeting (since Covid) on the day of her passing. Sandy served for 30 years on the Trondhjem Cemetery board, attended Sons of Norway, and as an avid reader, was a member of several book clubs. Sandy loved her Scandinavian heritage, and one of her life's highlights was traveling to Norway and Denmark with her mom, aunt, and siblings to meet family and return to the places of her Grandparent's stories. Sandy was the family's baker of fladt brød (flat bread), the maker of søt suppe (sweet soup), and even enjoyed a good lutefisk dinner. Sandy was a quilter and made sure each of her siblings, children, and grandchildren had one specifically designed for them. She loved spending time in her flower garden and was a passionate protector of the environment she treasured. Sandy was a lively storyteller and her family's historian.

Sandy's deepest sorrow in life was the loss of her beloved son Scott. She joyously loved her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and rarely missed an event or an opportunity to hug them and

tell them she loved them.

When Sandy saw "The Optimist's Creed" at the Rev. Clifford Johnson's visitation, she hung it on her bedroom mirror, and tried to live it. Anyone who knew her, knows that she did indeed live it.

Optimist Creed

Promise yourself~

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success

of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



Survivors include her children, Corinne (Brian) Duncan of Lonsdale, Rick (Jennifer) Valek of Nerstrand; 5 grandchildren, Debra (Brad) Heaton, Isaiah (Jena) Duncan, Sarah Duncan, Derek (Tawnie) Valek, Raymond Valek; 9 great-grandchildren, Ameliana, Makayla, Aubree, Mackenzie, Kaleb, Mindie, Cohen, Thea, Waylon; her sisters, Bev (Dick) Hussey of Northfield, Barb (Al) Lentsch of Lilydale, Bonnie (Don) Pavsek of Northfield, Roxanne (Dick) Simon of Northfield, Deb (Dale) Simon of New Prague, Kim (Rod) Smisek of Lonsdale; her sister-in-law, Sherrie Johnson of Wisconsin; her former husband, Bob of Webster; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many many friends. She was preceded in death by her son Scott in 1991. her brother Harlan Johnson, her nephew Tyrone Johnson and her parents.

DONATIONS: NOVEMBER 2020-APRIL 2021

General Donations

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Dale & Betty Quist
Janet Janes
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Ardis Asp
Evonne Clay

Kim & Rod Smisek
John Lindell
Jenifer Aberle
Linda Storlie
Brenda Pflaum
Sondy Berg-Jensen
Sherie Swanson

Memory of Millie Berg & Edna Berg

Dallas Berg

Honor of Merle & Mavis Fossum

Carol Gemsey

Memory Peter & Lizzy Berg

Elaine Hernke

Memory of Great-Grandparents Daniel & Emelie Berg, Grandparents Mens & Edna Berg & Aunt Millie Berg

Carol Berg

Memory of Gloria Boyum

Don & Bonnie Pavek
Dallas Berg
Glen & Marlys Shirley
Arlys Wiese
Sandy Johnson Valek
Lyla Arneson Family

Memory of Percy & Millie Johnson

Jean Johnson
Peter Janes (nephew)

Memory of Irene Otte

Lee & Bev Topp

Memory of Elna & Sherwin Hansen

Arlys Wiese

Memory of Joyce Fossum Pflaum & Duane Pflaum

Sandra Lee
Merle & Mavis Fossum

Memory of Lee & Carol Fossum

Karin Fossum

Memory of Gene Heglund

Margaret Heglund

Memory of JK & Inga Johnson Family

Julie Nelson

Memory of Tyrone Johnson

Deb Simon

Memory of my Uncle Harlan

Darin Pavek

Memory of Donnie Quinnell

Brett & Bonnie Quinnell

Memory of Gordy Halverson

Maxine Halverson

In Memory of Burt Paulsen & Honor of Donna Paulsen

David Paulsen

In Honor of Megan (Berg) & Luke Cylbeason married at Historic church in 2006

Mark & Lynne Berg

Memory of Great Grandparents Daniel & Emelie, Grandparents Mens & Edna, Parents Arleigh & Deloris, Aunt Millie Berg

Mark Berg

Memory of Ray, Elva, Eldon & Randa Fossum

Susan Schwartz

Memory of Norman Halverson

Randy Halverson

Memory of Gordon & Barbara Halverson & Gloria Boyum

Ronald Halverson

DONATIONS CONTINUE

Memory of Harlan & Tyrone Johnson

Don & Bonnie Pavek
Rod & Kim Smisek
Dick & Roxanne Simon

Memory of Ancestors who belonged to Trondhjem Church.

Karla Miller

Memory of Gloria Boyum

Gay Halverson-Loesch
Don & Bonnie Pavek
Margaret Heglund
Ramona Pumper
Sara Pelstring
Maxine Halverson
Arlys Wiese
Imogene Nelson
Kaia Emerson-Pelstring (daughter)
Sarah Broin
Doug & Pat Fossum
Audrey Top
Dick & Bev Hussey
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Merle & Mavis Fossum

Memory of Darrell Wiese

Gay Halverson-Loesch
Don & Bonnie Pavek
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Lyla Arneson Family

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Lorraine Rovig

Memory of Russell & Evelyn Anseth

David & Pamela Dudley

Honor of Our Savior

Al Thorpe

Memory of Madalyn Petersen

Dallas Berg

Memory of Pastor Brent Christianson

Dick & Roxanne Simon

Memory of Barb & Gordy Halverson

Patti & Tom Murry

Memory of Richard & Thea Halverson & Harry & Myrtle Homeier

Glen Homeier

Memory of Ralph Arneson

Lyla Arneson Family



*Thank you for your
contributions
that help sustain this
beautiful, historic treasure!*



Trondhjem Community Preservation Society

Historic Trondhjem News
Trondhjem Community Preservation Society
PO Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046

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All Contributions are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please accept my gift of \$ _____

To be given in honor of: _____

To be given in memory of: _____

We will gladly send an acknowledgment of your gift to someone you choose. Simply write the name and address below, of where you would like an acknowledgement sent.

Return to Trondhjem Community Preservation Society (TCPS), PO Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046.

TCPS is a 501 C3 corporation and all contributions are tax deductible.