



# VIRGINIA VIKING

## SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Leonard Zingarelli Vice President: Mike Solhaug Secretary: June Cooper Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler



### The President's Corner

Our New Members Breakfast was a big hit. We had about 15 new members attend with a good number of others to make it a fun and enjoyable event. The buffet breakfast was also a big hit. If you look at our upcoming schedule, we enter into the part of the year that has us doing quite a lot of activities. In March, we visit the Edvard Munch Exhibit at

Chrysler Museum and we hold the Norwegian Lady Ceremony at the beach. The rest of the spring also includes lots of activities planned for you to pick and choose, although I recommend you attend most since they are all fantastic. The specifics of where and when will be sent out to the membership beforehand and also found in the lodge's Schedule of Events that is updated and sent out to all each month. You can also view our lodge's schedule by reading it in our Virginia Viking Newsletters (cut it out and place on your fridge), attached to my membership group e-mails once a month, and found on our web site (hrson.org) and Facebook page (Hampton Roads Sons of Norway Home-Facebook. Hope to see you at our next lodge meeting on the 19th of March. We have some great after meeting programs scheduled for you throughout the year. For example, the March program is titled "Celebrating the Sami Culture" by guest speaker Lill-June Jenssen. Don't miss it. LENNY

### Sons of Norway Whole Life Insurance

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with single or level premiums and guaranteed level death benefit.  
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no matter how long you live.

March 05, 2020

Board Meeting at Bayside  
Presbyterian Church  
at 7:00 pm.

March 14, 2020

Edvard Munch Exhibit special  
showing at Chrysler Museum  
for Lodge members at 10:30 am  
followed by optional lunch at  
the museum.

March 19, 2020

Membership Lodge Mtg Bayside  
Presbyterian Church 7:30 PM.  
Program is titled "Celebrating  
the Sami Culture" by guest  
speaker Lill-June Jenssen .

March 28, 2020

Norwegian Lady Ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup>  
Street, Virginia Beach  
At 1:00 pm, Reception to follow  
at the Virginia Beach Surf and  
Rescue Center on 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

April 2, 2020

Board Meeting at Bayside  
Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm

April 04, 2020

Fellowship Lunch, at Opus 9 on  
5143 Main St. Williamsburg, VA,  
time TBD

## Fra Presidenten, Kathy Dollymore, 3rd District President



First let me add my compliments to all the new and returning officers. You all are to be commended for accepting the responsibility for your lodges. Congratulations on your achievement and being a good model for people around you. March is the month that we see nature preparing to change. Daily we see Winter's last hoorah fighting Springs rebirth. There are also deadlines that become due at this time of year. This means it's time to act. March 1st is the deadline for each lodge requirement to submit their AFA (American Fraternal Alliance) Lodge activity report. Please do not take this form lightly, for it ensures that the order of Sons of Norway will keep it's not for profit status.

Coincidentally, this is also the time of year to complete your lodge Achievement form, which is used to help select the Lodge of the year and the Family lodge of the year. No matter the size of your membership, filling out this form is a good way to see how much you have accomplished over the year! Using the Lodge achievement form is also a great recruitment tool. It shows perspective members what your lodge does within the community and entices them to join. Demonstrating to a new person in your lodge that we have a lot of fun, is what will get people interested. When you bring a new person to a meeting, it is important that the Lodge show the new member the value in what you have to offer. Creating positive first impressions and the likelihood of creating a deeper connection to your lodge is worth every drop of energy. So, keep up the good work It is hard to believe that our 3D Convention is only a little over three months away. Coming up in June it will be held in Jacksonville. Delegates have been chosen to represent each lodge, resolutions are in the process of being assembled, and caucuses are soon to be organized. This is a great year to attend the Convention while we celebrate 125 years as Sons of Norway Organization. If you are thinking of traveling in June think of Jacksonville and come to the celebration. With that said, I would like to remind you to notify the District Secretary the names of your delegates. This is the lodge's opportunity to participate in district business. Delegates can meet and greet members from around the District. The delegate reporting form and list with the individual lodge delegate counts have been sent to the lodge presidents and secretaries. Please access the District website/convention information [3dsofn.org](http://3dsofn.org) for more details on the delegate and non-delegate rates and information on how to add your lodge to the convention journal.

### **Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) To the Following Members in March**

<b>Julia Abraham</b>	<b>Sarah Ammons</b>	<b>Larry Berg</b>	<b>Wilma-Fehrs Foss</b>
<b>Michael Fountain</b>	<b>Rosalind Gillett</b>	<b>Lynne Hudson</b>	<b>Vigdis Jolly</b>
<b>Kjersti Lee</b>	<b>Kyle Lindenberg</b>	<b>Lucia Liptakova</b>	<b>Kjell-Ove Skare</b>
<b>Tonya Snow</b>	<b>Barbara Stehlik</b>	<b>Kristine VanWerkoven</b>	<b>Odd Vinnelrod</b>
<b>Dana Fuqua</b>			



## INSIDE THE ‘DOOMSDAY’ VAULT

Deep in the bowels of an icy mountain on an island above the Arctic Circle between Norway and the North Pole lies a resource of vital importance for the future of humankind. It’s not coal, oil or precious minerals, but seeds.

Millions of these tiny brown specks, from more than 930,000 varieties of food crops, are stored in the Global Seed Vault on Spitsbergen, part of Norway’s Svalbard archipelago. It is essentially a huge safety deposit box, holding the world’s largest collection of agricultural biodiversity. “Inside this building is 13,000 years of agricultural history,” says Brian Lainoff, lead partnerships coordinator of the Crop Trust, which manages the vault, as he hauls open the huge steel door leading inside the mountain. It would be difficult to find a place more remote than the icy wilderness of Svalbard. It is the farthest north you can fly on a commercial airline, and apart from the nearby town of Longyearbyen, it is a vast white expanse of frozen emptiness.

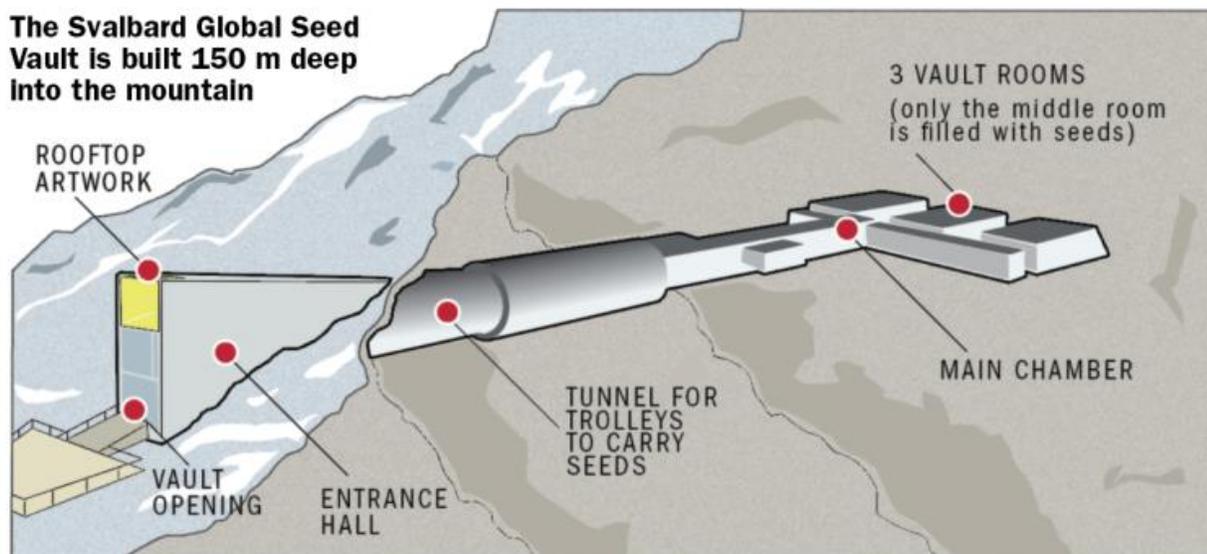
The Global Seed Vault has been dubbed the “doomsday” vault, which conjures up an image of a reserve of seeds for use in case of an apocalyptic event or a global catastrophe. But it is the much smaller, localized destruction and threats facing gene banks all over the world that the vault was designed to protect against—and it’s why the vault was opened in February, when TIME visited.

On this occasion, samples from India, Pakistan and Mexico were being deposited alongside seeds from Syria, many of whose citizens are living through their own apocalypse. “There are big and small doomsdays going on around the world every day. Genetic material is being lost all over the globe,” says Marie Haga, executive director of the Crop Trust. This past winter offered the gene bank a chance to redress the balance.

Near the entrance to the facility, a rectangular wedge of concrete that juts out starkly against the snowy landscape, the doomsday nickname seems eerily apt. It was precisely for its remoteness that Svalbard was chosen as the location of the vault. “It is away from the places on earth where you have war and terror, everything maybe you are afraid of in other places. It is situated in a safe place,” says Bente Naeverdal, a property manager who oversees the day-to-

day operation of the vault.

Its only neighbor is a similar repository buried away from the dangers of the world: the Arctic World Archive, which aims to preserve data for the world's governments and private institutions, opened deep in a nearby mine on March 27.



Source: Crop Trust

The entrance leads to a small tunnel-like room filled with the loud whirring noise of electricity and cooling systems required to keep the temperature within the vault consistent. Through one door is a wide concrete tunnel illuminated by strip lighting leading 430 ft. down into the mountain. At the end of this corridor is a chamber, an added layer of security to protect the vaults containing the seeds.

There are three vaults leading off from the chamber, but only one is currently in use, and its door is covered in a thick layer of ice, hinting at the subzero temperatures inside. In here, the seeds are stored in vacuum-packed silver packets and test tubes in large boxes that are neatly stacked on floor-to-ceiling shelves. They have very little monetary value, but the boxes potentially hold the keys to the future of global food security.

Over the past 50 years, agricultural practices have changed dramatically, with technological advances allowing large-scale crop production. But while crop yields have increased, biodiversity has decreased to the point that now only about 30 crops provide 95% of human food-energy needs. Only 10% of the rice varieties that China used in the 1950s are still used today, for example. The U.S. has lost over 90% of its fruit and vegetable varieties since the 1900s. This monoculture nature of agriculture leaves food supplies more susceptible to threats such as diseases and drought.

The seeds lying in the deep freeze of the vault include wild and old varieties, many of which are not in general use anymore. And many don't exist outside of the seed collections they came from. But the genetic diversity contained in the vault could provide the DNA traits needed to develop new strains for whatever challenges the world or a particular region will face in the future. One of the 200,000 varieties of rice within the vault could have the trait needed to adapt

rice to higher temperatures, for example, or to find resistance to a new pest or disease. This is particularly important with the challenges of climate change. “Not too many think about crop diversity as being so fundamentally important, but it is. It is almost as important as water and air,” says Haga. “Seeds generally are the basis for everything. Not only what we eat, but what we wear, nature all about us.”

There are as many as 1,700 versions of the vault, called gene banks, all over the world. This global network collects, preserves and shares seeds to further agricultural research and develop new varieties. The Svalbard vault was opened in 2008, effectively as a backup storage unit for all those hundreds of thousands of varieties. The idea was conceived in the 1980s by Cary Fowler, a former executive director of the Crop Trust, but only started to become reality after an International Seed Treaty negotiated by the U.N. was signed in 2001. Construction was funded by the Norwegian government, which operates the vault in partnership with the Crop Trust. The goal is to find and house a copy of every unique seed that exists in the global gene banks; soon the vault will make room for its millionth variety. It also works in tandem with those gene banks when their material is lost or destroyed.

At the end of one of the long rows of seeds inside the vault, a large and symbolic gap has only just been refilled. The black boxes there look like all the others in the vault, but they have had a long journey. The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is a global agricultural-research organization that had been based in Syria but was forced to flee its headquarters, just outside of Aleppo, because of the civil war. The organization evacuated its international staff in 2012, but some Syrian researchers stayed behind to rescue equipment and even animals.

But as the fighting intensified, they were forced to leave behind their gene bank, one of the world’s most valuable collections of seeds, containing some of the oldest varieties of wheat and barley. ICARDA re-established its headquarters in Morocco and Lebanon, and restarted the gene bank in 2015 using seeds from the Svalbard vault—the first-ever withdrawal there. Woken from their icy slumber, the seeds were planted in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley and in Morocco, and their offspring were carefully collected and processed to return to the vault. In late February, ICARDA returned the varieties of seeds it had taken out. “These seeds have come full circle,” Lainoff explains.

The gene bank in Aleppo was not the first to be threatened by war. Gene banks in Afghanistan and Iraq have been destroyed, along with their genetic material that wasn’t backed up in Svalbard. But it is not just armed conflict that threatens these valuable resources. Some have been hit by natural disasters, like the Philippine national gene bank, which was damaged by flooding from a typhoon and later a fire. But a lack of resources is probably the biggest threat facing the world’s gene banks.

Woefully underfunded, many lack the resources to properly store or protect the seeds they hold. The Crop Trust is now raising money for an endowment fund to ensure that the world’s 1,700 gene-bank facilities are able to continue acting as guarantors of global biodiversity.

You don’t need to look far to discover the sacrifices made to keep these kernels of reproduction safe. One of the most historically significant deposits of seeds inside the vault comes from a collection in St. Petersburg’s Vavilov Research Institute, which originates from one of the first collections in the world. During the siege of Leningrad, about a dozen scientists barricaded

themselves in the room containing the seeds in order to protect them from hungry citizens and the surrounding German army.

As the siege dragged on, a number of them eventually died from starvation. Despite being surrounded by seeds and plant material, they steadfastly refused to save themselves by eating any of it, such was their conviction about the importance of the seeds to aid Russia's recovery after war and to help protect the future of humankind. One of the scientists, Dmitri Ivanov, is said to have died surrounded by bags of rice.

In an age of heightened geopolitical tensions and uncertainty, the Svalbard vault is an unusual and hopeful exercise in international cooperation for the good of humankind. Any organization or country can send seeds to it, and there are no restrictions because of politics or the requirements of diplomacy. Red wooden boxes from North Korea sit alongside black boxes from the U.S. Over on the next aisle, boxes of seeds from Ukraine sit atop seeds from Russia. "The seeds don't care that there are North Korean seeds and South Korean seeds in the same aisle," Lainoff says. "They are cold and safe up there, and that's all that really matters."

*Taken from the Norwegian Embassy in Washington facebook site as a side note on the article above: "The Cherokee Nation is the first US tribe to be invited to deposit its traditional heirloom food crop seeds in the Global Seed Vault. The Seed Vault is a long-term seed storage facility housed deep inside a frozen mountain under the Norwegian permafrost. It is located more than 800 miles north of the Arctic Circle," writes GrrlScientist on [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com).*

*After a large deposit Feb. 25, 2020, the Vault is now up to more than 1 million unique varieties stored.*

## NEW MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST



# NORWAY WINS THE 25TH IKA/CULINARY OLYMPICS IN STUTTGART



Norway won the gold medal in the category National Teams. Photo: IKA/Culinary Olympics

“Bigger, better and for the first time in Stuttgart – once again, we have proven that the IKA/Culinary Olympics is the most renowned and important international culinary competition for chefs”, states Richard Beck, the President of the German Chefs’ Association (VKD). The German Chefs’ Association, Verband der Köche Deutschlands e. V., as the competition organiser congratulates all of the winners of the Culinary Olympics. “All participating chefs and pastry chefs were thrilled to represent their country and their profession. The newly launched Chef’s Table, a 7-course menu prepared by the National Teams, was particularly successful”, concludes Richard Beck. “The IKA/Culinary Olympics is also setting the food trends in the other categories for the next four years – i.e. for the Junior National Culinary Teams, Community Catering & Military Teams, Regional Culinary Teams and the individual exhibitors.”

Each individual participant, all passionate about their work, showed enormous talent and potential during the Culinary Olympics. In the Nation Culinary Teams category, team Norway finally won the competition and took home the Olympic gold medal. Team Norway convinced the jury of its skills due to its precision and artistic craftsmanship. Closely followed in second place by Sweden, who achieved the silver medal for their outstanding performance. In the National Culinary Teams competition, the bronze medal went to Iceland. The German National Culinary team reached the 6<sup>th</sup> place in the overall ranking.

Sweden was awarded a gold medal in the Junior National Culinary Teams category. The second place, and thus a silver medal, was won by Norway, while Switzerland was able to secure a bronze medal due to their cooking skills. The German Junior National Team has reached the 5<sup>th</sup> place.

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*Please join us for the Norwegian Lady Ceremony*



*129 years ago,*

the tragic shipwreck and dramatic rescue of the Norwegian Bark, *Dictator*, brought Virginians and Norwegians together.

*58 years ago,*

the Norwegian Lady arrived and stands as a testament to the friendship and sisterhood between Virginia Beach, Virginia and Moss, Norway.

*March 28, 2020,*

the annual ceremony brings together Norwegians, Americans and friends to commemorate this remarkable event in our local history.



**Norwegian Lady Ceremony**  
*Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 1:00pm*  
(25<sup>th</sup> St & the Oceanfront Boardwalk, Virginia Beach, VA)



*Supported by the Norwegian Lady Plaza Foundation, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Virginia Beach Fire Department, Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum, Sons of Norway 3-522, and the Norwegian NATO & Military Service Members*

Visit the Norwegian Lady Website: <http://thenorwegianlady.wordpress.com/>

*"I am the Norwegian Lady.  
I stand here, as my sister before me to wish all men of the sea safe return home."*

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO WE WOULD LOVE FOR SOME OF OUR MEMBERS TO BRING DESSERTS OR APPETIZERS TO THE NORWEGIAN LADY RECEPTION AFTER THE CEREMONY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT EITHER,**

**ASTRID GULAS AT 418-0026 OR MONA DENTON AT 377-2370.**



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# Virginia Viking

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