

NORWEGIANS WORLDWIDE TUCSON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2020

SAVE THE DATE

2020

15 November 2:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING LINK

13 DEC 2:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING LINK



Link posted in email & our
webpage

www.norse-tucson.org

Our NEW Facebook page
is
Norse Tucson



WWW.norse-tucson.org

This **November 15th** our November Monthly meeting at 2:00 PM, we will be getting ready for Christmas JUL. It will be a head start on the Holiday Season. We will share Norwegian Christmas Traditions from our Ancestors in Norway and also our Pioneer American Norwegian ancestors and our families of today.



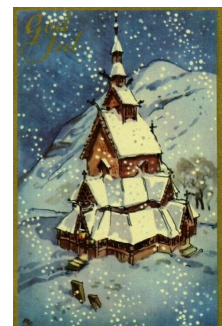
You'll also learn some Norwegian cooking for the holidays, lefse, cookies, and maybe even a Norsk Jul dinner. We'll also have our regular features News from Norway and other fun stuff to do for your Norwegian Jul.

JOIN US Sunday 15 Nov 2 PM

Next month on 13 December we will be doing a throw back for our club. Exciting NEWS !

We will be having a Norwegian/English Language Christmas Church Service. David Strommen, Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church of Salinas ,Kansas, will be delivering our Service & sermon. The program for that Sunday will be available online for you to download and print so you may follow along with words in Norwegian and English. We will also be singing Norwegian Christmas songs.

That Sunday will also include our regular meeting features, so stay after both Sundays in November & December while we are all able to visit with each other after the regular meeting just like we used to do while we met live in person. So grab your coffee cup and norwegian cookies while we say hi to each other after the meetings.



Stave Church

Thanksgiving in Norway

Although Norwegians do not typically celebrate Thanksgiving,



many American families with Scandinavian descent include things like lefse (or maybe lutefisk or feneår) in their Thanksgiving meal. Many families have lefse at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter actually. It's just kind of a dessert that ends up on most holiday dining tables.



Happy-Thanksgiving whether you are in Norway or anywhere else in the world.

takk-thank you

Norwegian lefse has a long history.

Here's what you need to know about this classic of Norway cuisine.

When writing in Norwegian, lefse is singular, lefser is plural.

The history of lefse

The story of lefse is intertwined with Norwegian history. Just as the Norwegian flatbread was developed as a way to store food over the harsh winter months, lefse served a similar purpose.

During the 19th century, the lefse was a popular way to store wheat or potato, which would otherwise be unusable. The lefse was stored in a dry state, much like flatbread, and would be soaked before use.

Norwegian pancake v Norwegian tortilla

The terms pancake and tortilla used often to describe the Norwegian lefse. Both are accurate in different ways, but neither offer a complete picture.

Lefse is often described as a 'Norwegian pancake' on American recipe blogs, and I understand why. It's a flexible food, and can be made thin like British pancakes or thick and fluffy like American ones. However, there are only eggs in certain kinds of lefse, and it's not considered a Norwegian breakfast food.

So, what's the tortilla comparison? Well, just like tortillas can be made from

flour or corn, lefse can be made from wheat or potatoes. The flexibility of how lefse is served and eaten also reminds me of a tortilla.



A Funny story I remember is when my mother-in-law was visiting Tucson from Minnesota in 1986, she was loading up her grocery cart with a dozen or more packages of large flour tortillas, when I asked her what she was doing, she said she couldn't believe the price of LEFSE in Arizona and she was going to tell all her Norwegian friends back home in Albert Lea, Minnesota. We have had a great laugh all these years.

Lefse in Norwegian-American communities

More than a hundred years ago, thousands of Norwegians left the country to pursue their dreams in the new world. Today, several million American citizens can trace their heritage back to Norway. As a result, many Scandinavian clubs and societies have sprung up all over the country to keep traditions alive.

But as with traditions from other countries, the American version has changed over time. Today, the lefse is considered a traditional celebration and Christmas food among Norwegian American communities in the USA. Its preparation often becomes a family activity ahead of the holidays.

It's also almost exclusively a potato-based product in the USA, simply because potatoes were the most commonly available crop to the Norwegian immigrants back in the day.

I've heard Roger Eggan say that serving lefse alongside lutefisk is very common at Christmas time. That's something you are unlikely to see in a Norwegian household.



But of course, there's no right or wrong here. It just serves to highlight the flexibility of the Norwegian lefse!

Where's da Lefse?

Lefse recipes: How to make Norwegian lefse at home



There is no one best lefse recipe. Do you want to make a thick, sweet lefse, or thin ones? With potato, or without? There are so many options, not to mention the countless 'secret' family recipes handed down through generations.

Our November we will have a LEFSE EXPERT teach you how to make Lefse- DIY Lefse, We will include several recipes and instructions on our webpage after the meeting.

In Norway, lefse of both the sweet and savoury variety are available in all Norwegian supermarkets. But here are several types of lefse common in Norway.

*Jølstralefse: A traditional recipe from Sogn og Fjordane region, now part of Vestland county.

*Potato lefse: For a potato-based version—and also one in English—try this American take on the lefse.

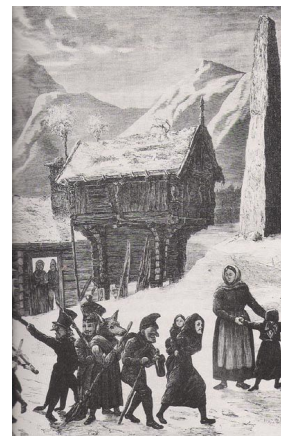
Finally- the festive season is upon us once again! Here's what you can expect to be served during the Christmas season in Norway.

For the main meal, Americans veer towards ham, roast beef, or goose. But Norwegians have totally different traditions for their Christmas dinner.

The most common popular dish Christmas Eve dish is ribbe, or seasoned pork belly. It's usually served with sauerkraut and redcurrant sauce. Pinekjøtt (dried sheep) is popular in the western counties, as is cod or other fresh fish.

**** JUL TRIVIA ****

Wicked Christmas Norwegians believe that Christmas Eve coincides with the arrival of evil spirits and witches. Logically, therefore, households will hide all their brooms before they go to sleep. Another tradition popular in Scandinavia is that of the



Christmas goat (Julebuk in Norway)

Remembering Nordic Fair



...Gretchen Carew



Thanks to Roger Eggan for sharing his photos of Nordic Fair
Tusen Takk Roger !



Nordic Fair was sadly cancelled this 2020 after 39

years of continuing annual years.

Taking part in the annual Nordic Fair, hosted by the Nordic Guild of Tucson., where you can find Scandinavian crafts & collectibles, enjoy ethnic foods and baked goods, and sit back and enjoy the sounds of Leikarring folk dancers of Tucson sponsored by Norwegians Worldwide Tucson chapter, the Aurora Borealis musicians!

A special recognitions and thank you to Gretchen Carew who has painlessly grew the Nordic Fair to what we enjoy year after year. It was with much thought and sadness that the 39th annual Nordic Fair had to be cancelled this 2020 due to Covid-19. There are already plans for a bigger Nordic Fair in 2021, so we will give all our support to Gretchen this coming year. If anyone would like to volunteer and maybe even sell your Scandinavian Crafts & gifts, please contact our webpage www.norse-tucson.org and connect with us for more details.

We are so happy to have Gretchen who was also a past President among our members. Tusen Tusen Takk Gretchen.

Can't wait for Nordic Fair 2021.

**We are always seeking
NEW Members and
volunteers for our
Norwegian Worldwide
Tucson Chapter.**

If you wish to join or volunteer for any of our many special causes. Contact us asap.

Volunteers Needed!



We also need to add to our Board and we look forward to having new volunteers, Please contact us at

<https://norse-tucson.org/contact-us/>

To PLEASE sign up at the link above !



Our Board has been meeting every month, even during this pandemic, but we are lucky to be living in the age of Technology, and we have been meeting via ZOOM. So when you volunteer, all you need to do is have an internet connection, until when the day comes back when we will all be meeting in person again. There are many

exciting things happening to our Club, as we need to grow in an age that is ever changing, and there hasn't been so much change as we have seen in this age of Covid-19. If you decide to join our club and become a board member right away, Our Board is welcoming and will assist you to become familiar with Norwegians Worldwide Tucson Chapter. We Need your ideas and help. Join us today.

Now We NEED to ask you something very important.



How can we make your club better? Our Board has been working very hard to make YOUR CLUB a club you want to belong to. Yet, our ZOOM Monthly meetings are seen by a small group of members. WHY? We are trying to understand why the majority of our members have not yet visited our New Webpage www.norse-tucson.org or attended our monthly Zoom Meetings.

Are you having trouble connecting to our ZOOM meetings? Do you not have access to something to watch our Zoom Meetings? Or, do

you just NOT like our ZOOM meetings?

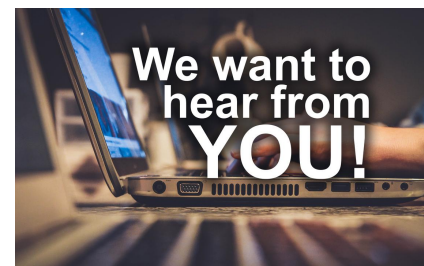
We would LOVE to be meeting in person again, but your Board has decided rather than just do NOTHING until the covid-19 pandemic is over and safe again to meet in person, your board has decided to do the extra work of having monthly ZOOM Meetings. WE are trying very hard to understand how we can make it easier and more friendly to attend. So we would love to hear from every one of our members and friends of Norwegians Worldwide, what we can do to help YOUR club be the Club you want to belong to.

You may use our contact form on our webpage or you may also comment on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NWWTucson/>

Or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorwegiansInTucson/>

Or even email us at NWW-Tucson@outlook.com



We want YOU to enjoy your club and WE WANT you to join us monthly, So lets all do our best to see you 15 Nov.



Norwegians Worldwide-Tucson Chapter

Contact Us

Norwegians Worldwide-Tucson

Larry Jensen – President
217 S Bella Vista Dr
Tucson, AZ 85745
520-301-9641
Email-NWW_Tucson@outlook.com
WWW. www.norse-tucson.org

VELKOMMEN TO YOUR NORWEGIAN CONNECTION IN THE DESERT.

We are the TUCSON, Arizona chapter of Norwegians Worldwide / Nordmanns-Forbundet. Our chapter is a diverse network of Norwegian-Americans, Norwegians living here in Arizona, and anyone with an interest in Norway and Scandinavia. Founded as a registered non-profit organization, our chapter has been connecting our community and promoting the rich national and cultural heritage of Norway for over 40 years.

Welcome to a community for Norwegian Americans, Norwegians living in Arizona, and anyone with an interest in Norway and/or Scandinavia. If you are looking to connect with your

heritage, practice your language skills, meet new friends, explore Nordic culture, and more -- drop us a line or stop by our next event! We host family-friendly events throughout the year celebrating Norway's rich cultural heritage and current events.

NORWEGIANS WORLDWIDE-TUCSON

Larry Jensen – President
217 S Bella Vista Dr
Tucson, AZ 85745

TO: