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**February 2026 Newsletter Eva Nansen Lodge 46 no**

1 message

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**Lee Ann Bakros, Communications chair**  
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To: Kirsten <dofnorway@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 31, 2026 at 4:30  
PM

## February 2026 Lodge Newsletter



What's inside:

February program,  
January photos, & more!

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## Programming



## February Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026

**6:30 PM:** Social time

**7:00 PM:** Program followed by business meeting

**Where:** Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Ave, Clive

Our February program will be Norwegian Bunads by Gina Nylund of Bunad Creations

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### Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Dates: Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month except November which is on the 2nd Tuesday. There are no meetings in June and July but June will have an activity.
- Times: 6:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM Program followed by a Business Meeting
- Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Ave, Clive

All programs are on our Facebook page so you can share the events with interested friends.

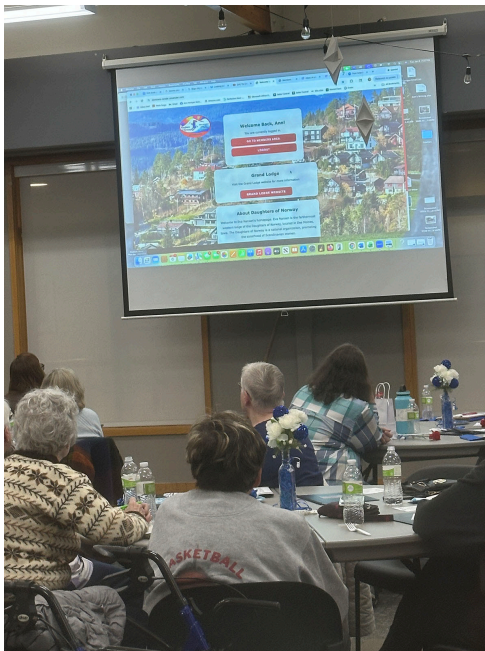
### Upcoming 2026 Programs

- Feb. 3, 2026: Norwegian Bunads by Gina Hyland, Bunad Creations

- Mar. 3, 2026: Weaving Bewitchment: Gerhard Munthe's Folk-Tale Tapestries by Laurann Gilbertson, Vesterheim Museum
  - Apr. 7, 2026: Tips and Resources for Researching your Heritage and Ancestry by Iowa Genealogical Society
  - May 5, 2026: Norwegian Hardanger Fiddler Informance by Eden Ehm of Decorah
  - Aug. 4, 2026: Scandinavian Women by sister Ann Hanigan Kotz
  - Sept. 1, 2026: How to Bake an Assortment of Norwegian Goodies by lodge members
  - Oct. 6, 2026: Christkindlmarket Des Moines History and Highlights by Suzanne Hull, founder/director
  - Nov. 10, 2026 (note this is the 2nd Tuesday due to the election): Eva Nansen Lodge #46 20th Anniversary Celebration
  - Dec. 1, 2026: Christmas Potluck
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**If you missed our January meeting, here's what you missed.**

In January, sisters Ann Hanigan Kotz and Kay Sacquitne took us through our lodge website and the national Daughters of Norway website. We also installed new members.







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## Scandinavian Book Club



Our Scandinavian book club met in January to discuss *A Frog in the Fjord* by Lorelou Desjardins. Raves all around.

The book club is open to members and non-members, and meets every other month at 2:00 PM on the third Sunday of the month at Franklin Avenue Library.

- Mar. 15, 2026: *Will and Testament* by Vigdis Hjorth - NOTE this is a change from *Berlin Poplars* due to the unavailability of that title
- May 17, 2026: *The Journey of Karoline Olsen* by Ann Hanigan Kotz
- July 19, 2026: *Giants in the Earth* by OE Rolvaag
- Sept. 20, 2026: *Kon Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl
- Nov. 15, 2026: *What We Leave Behind* by Barb Solberg

[Click here for a list of researched titles.](#)

Direct questions and suggestions to [Lee Ann Bakros](#).

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## February Birthdays





**Happy birthday from  
your lodge Sisters to  
you!**

Sharon Newman

Becky Patterson

Karen Tegtmeyer

Corinna Thompson

*May your birthday and every  
day be filled with the warmth  
of sunshine, the happiness of  
smiles, the sounds of  
laughter, the feeling of love,  
and the sharing of good  
cheer.*

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**Norwegian Minute**



## Norway and the Olympics

The 2026 Winter Olympics opening ceremony is Friday, Feb. 6. Norwegians have long dominated the Winter Olympics. Here are just some of the statistics:

- In the history of the Winter Olympics, Norway has won 405 medals, the most by any nation, with 148 of those being gold medals, also the most by any nation.
- Norway won 39 medals at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games, a record.
- Norway won 16 gold medals at the 2022 Winter Olympics, a record.
- Norway dominates cross-country skiing, biathlon, Nordic combined, and ski jumping.
- The most-decorated Norwegian athletes are Marit Bjorgen (cross-country skiing) with 15 total medals, 8 of them gold; Ole Einar Bjorndalen (biathlon) with 14 medals, 8 of them gold; Bjorn Daehlie (cross-country skiing) with 12 medals, 8 of them gold; and Johannes Thingnes Bo (biathlon) with 9 medals.
- Norway hosted the Winter Olympics twice: in Oslo in 1952 and in Lillehammer in 1994. Lillehammer is home to the Norwegian Olympic Museum.

Athletes to watch this winter include:

- Johannes Hosflot Kaebo (cross-country skiing) is contending for gold in six events giving him the potential to be the most-decorated Winter Olympian in history. Other skiers to watch include Heidi Weng and Milla Grosberghaugen Andreassen.
- The men's biathlon team has a strong lineup with Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold a top medal contender for the women.
- Aleksander Aamodt Kilde and Adrian Smiseth Sejerstad are the alpine skiers to watch.
- The Nordic Combined team is led by brothers Jens and Einar Luraas Oftedal.
- The ski jumping team is also a strong medal contender.

*Athletes to watch list generated by AI*

And in case you're wondering what Nordic Combined involves: It is an event merging ski jumping and cross-country skiing. It has been featured at every Winter Olympics since 1924 and is currently the only Winter Olympic sport with no women's events.

Click the image above to link to a short video about why Norwegians are so successful in the Winter Olympics.

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## Lodge Lending Library

**Did you know your lodge has a lending library?** We have more than 50 titles including fiction, mystery, mythology, children's books, history, rosemaling and hardanger designs, cookbooks, and travel booklets. We even have language and music CDs, a travel DVD, and a puzzle!

Each month, librarian Naomi Payer brings the items to the meeting so you can pick something out to take home.

[Click here to see our list of items.](#)

Want to check out an item or donate your item to the lending library? See [Naomi Payer](#) at one of our monthly meetings.

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## Bits and Pieces

1. Email March **newsletter articles** no later than Friday, Feb. 20, to [Lee Ann Bakros](#)
  2. **If you know of a Sister who is ill, having surgery, or experiencing other health issues**, inform Sunshine Chair [Alexa Mitchell](#).
  3. Take a moment to LIKE us on [Facebook](#) and see what is happening.
  4. View our [Daughters of Norway's Lodge webpage](#). Members can sign in through the Members Page. The username and password is in our monthly lodge minutes. Contact [Ann Hanigan Kotz](#) for access to our lodge's private, member-only website.
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# Eva Nansen Lodge #46 2026 Officers

## 2026 Officers

President: Ann Hanigan Kotz  
Vice President: Sheryl Farrand  
Judge: (vacant)  
Secretary: Kay Sacquitne  
Financial Secretary: Danette Kobolt  
Treasurer: Ann Campbell  
Cultural Director: Rebecca Butler Mona  
Marshall: Carol Lunde  
1-year Trustee: Bev Rosenbeck  
2-year Trustee: Irene Simonsen  
3-year Trustee: Vanna Johnson

## 2026 Non-elected Positions

Communications: Lee Ann Bakros  
Greeters: Cheryl Newsom, Lois Wergeland  
Librarian: Naomi Payer  
Musician: Lee Ann Bakros  
Scribe: Lisa Hamilton  
Sunshine: Alexa Mitchell



2026 Eva Nansen Lodge Officers: Vanna Johnson, Rebecca Butler Mona, Kay Sacquitne, Ann Hanigan Kotz, Danette Kobolt, Sheryl Farrand, Carol Lunde, Bev Rosenbeck, Irene Simonsen; not pictured Ann Campbell

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## About Eva Nansen



Lodge 46 was named in honor of famous Norwegian romance opera singer, Eva Helene Sars Nansen (born Dec. 17, 1859 in Christiania, Akershus, Norway, and died Dec. 9, 1907 in Lysaker, Bærum, Akershus, Norway).

Eva was the youngest of 21 children of Michael Sars and Maren Cathrine Welhaven. At age 28, she left for Berlin to study opera with a contemporary of Tchaikovsky. Eva knew Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg and she performed his music beautifully.

Eva was relatively short but very athletic and became a pioneer in mountain and cross-country skiing. She was a smart and practical woman and realized the need for women to stop wearing only dresses while practicing the sport. Thus, she became the first woman in Norway to wear “trousers” while skiing!

Eva married ski pioneer, famous Norwegian explorer and scientist, Fridtjof Nansen on Sept. 6, 1889. They were a very “modern” couple, both continuing their individual vocations after their marriage. Eva not only continued to sing in operas at home and in other parts of Europe and Scandinavia, but she also gave lessons when at home.

At the age of 49 (1907), Eva sang a final concert in a well-received performance in London. Not long afterwards that same year, Eva died suddenly of pneumonia. That left her



husband a widower with five relatively young children to raise: Liv (14), Kåre (10), Irmelin (7), Odd (6), and Åsmund (4).



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This is your official Eva Nansen Lodge 46 Newsletter emailed the first of each month to all Sisters.

**STAY SUBSCRIBED.**

All Sisters are welcome to submit news articles and photos to editor [Lee Ann Bakros](#).

**Our email address is:** [don.eva.nansen.lodge46@gmail.com](mailto:don.eva.nansen.lodge46@gmail.com)

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