Mine Kjaere Søstre Fra Lodge Prez  
(My Dear Sisters From Lodge President)  
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This week I returned to work, first time since my husband passed. After the first day, I felt more like myself and proud I had gotten past first day jitters. I can honestly say it really feels good to be able to take care of others. I didn’t pick Nursing, my Mother did. She was a very strong Norwegian Mother. In my family of 21 cousins, the majority are either Nurses, Teachers or Engineers. Definitely not by accident. I received a new update on my Ancestry.com, So now 89% Norwegian and no Swedish. Also, it showed a Cluster (grouping of relatives) in the very farthest northern point of Norway. I have had clusters in the Hardanger region, with Bergen and Stavanger, but this is the first time I have seen Iceland and the Northern tip identified. It is exciting and I hope we educate and inspire our children, grandchildren and other Scandinavians to want to look into their connection with their ancestors.

In reading our latest Dotre, I am enjoying getting to know each of our Sisters from the other Lodges. There are commonalities along with very unique individuality. My experience within our Sisterhood, has given me a lot of pride, energy, gratefulness and a strong sense of belonging. My time as President over these

(Continued on page 2)
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last six years have given me so much. I really can’t find the words to express my profound gratitude. I have needed you my Sisters and you have been there. I’m celebrating my 70th birthday this week and I have received the most wonderful gifts of Norwegian baked goods such as kringle, Sugar Cookies (Grandma Fransdal’s recipe) and Kransekake. I cannot imagine a more perfect Birthday, one that brings the tender memories of growing up!!!

I hope each of you had time to watch (above). With their beautiful music and contagious enthusiasm. Margaret Dewey and her daughter, making Krumkake at home (on front and below left). For me, I loved how beautifully Margaret shared family memories as a child, preparing for Christmas. That was the special ingredient she added. Our Sister Astrid Fisher was showing her gorgeous Rosemaling (below). Not only is Astrid a wonderful artist but she is a wonderful teacher, with unbelievable patience. Who wouldn’t experience success in her class. Our Sisters Danielle Carlson and her Sister Jessica Bethke are such talented young women, they shared making Rosettes, while including previous Viking Festival events our Hulda

the Virtual Viking Festival videos, I sent out to you. A big thank you to our Sisters, in the Damekor, Lynne Bradley, Pat Hensley, Danielle Carlson and Melissa Resnick

Garborg Lodge participated in. Including handmade crafts and our cookies. Our Sister Judy Lucas’s son, James, was responsible for putting all this together. He did an outstanding job and we are so grateful to have been a part of this creative masterpiece called the Virtual Viking Festival 2020.
Hello to all…Hope everyone has managed to stay well during these unprecedented times. We have been trying to stay home but cabin fever has set in, sure wish we could socialize again. We did manage to get away for a few days camping at Pismo Beach, we used to go there when our boys were young so that brought back some good memories, and of course we stopped on our way home at Solvang to get some pastries and some their wonderful Cardamon bread. Looking forward to seeing everyone again when we can.

Diane Teeter—I thought this would be fun to print.

Attached (at left) is the coat of arms one of my ancestors used. 260663. Gyrid* BÅRDSDATTER Torsnes(766) (902) (776) was born about 1425 in Torsnes gård #36, Jondal, Hordaland, Norway. She was christened about 1425 in Hardanger, Norway. She died after 1497 in Lydvo gård #37, Voss, Hordaland, Norway. Gyrid and her sister, Herbert, were the heirs of a very large estate in and around Hardanger. A probate was held on 4 Mar 1497 to distribute property at 43 different farms between the two sisters (including the farm Bratte in Shetland). The total value of this estate has been estimated at 84 laupar. They appear to have been descended from several prominent families of the lower nobility (lågadel), which is roughly equivalent to the "landed gentry" of England. Several of these families died out in the 1400's, which resulted in a great deal of property passing to Gyrid and Herborg's parents, Bård Sigurdsson Torsnes and Gyrid Torbergsdatter Store Brandvik. The 1497 probate was held after several court cases which confirmed that the two sisters were the rightful heirs to the property in question.

From Grandma - Nathalie Taylor

I found it (right) during my COVID-19 sorting. It was in a box of things that belonged to my grandma Paulina.

It's made out of linen. The Swedish and American flags are painted. It looks like she was going to do something with it but never finished it because the words are not painted yet.

Grandma Paulina Wallinder left Sweden in 1891 at the age of 16. She was orphaned at age 9, and raised by relatives. She came to Vancouver, Canada alone, and lied about her age. She told them she was 18 so she could travel alone. She came to North America to join her father's sister. I have no idea how she ended up in the U.S., Tacoma, Washington.
Geiranger, Norway
By Lucette Moramarco

At Geiranger Fjord, a motorized floating pier came out to meet the ship. A replica Viking ship was also in port. Farms perched on the steep mountain while hotels and large homes occupy an adjacent hill. August 2013