



# Daughters of Norway

(Døtre Av Norge)

## Hulda Garborg Lodge #49



December 2025  
desember 2025

Founded August 29, 2009

**My Dear Sisters From Lodge President**  
Sheryl Zinsli [szinsli865@aol.com](mailto:szinsli865@aol.com)  
949-436-0071

Hello sisters,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I know that many were with their families enjoying the holiday. I was blessed with the presence of family from Oregon and Virginia for the holiday.

Christmas is drawing closer so I know many are starting their holiday baking. I'm going to be making lefse and several different kinds of cookies.

We canceled our November meeting due to the weather. Our next meeting will be our Christmas party at Margaret Dewey's home. Please look for an email with information. I hope to see many of you there to celebrate the season.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to be our Secretary for one year, if you're interested or want more information please contact me (949-436-0071) or Jody Winterstrom (760-695-2092).

Danielle Bethke is stepping down from the Cultural Director position. She has been our Cultural Director for many years and has done a wonderful job in that position. Our new Cultural Director will be Helen Westerlund-Davis.

Håper du og dine får en fantastisk julefeiring. God Jul og godt nytt år!  
*(Hope you and yours have a wonderful Christmas celebration. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!)*

Sheryl

*Below: Joy's Nissers on the farm. See more photos on p.4*



### Hulda Garborg Lodge #49

**Meets at Fallbrook Regional Health District  
1636 E. Mission Road • Fallbrook, CA 92028**

#### **Correspondence:**

Melissa Resnick, Secretary  
P.O. Box 3006 • Fallbrook, CA 92088  
[maresnick@aol.com](mailto:maresnick@aol.com)

**3rd Saturday of each month**

General Meeting 10:00 am  
**Program 11:00 am**

### **Happy Birthday!** *Gratulerer med dagen!*

♥ Julie 5 Dec. ♥ Kate 8 Dec.

♥ Cheryl 9 Dec. ♥ Sheryl 18 Dec.

♥ Kimberly 23 Dec. ♥ Paula 25 Dec.

♥ Amy 28 Dec.

### **What's Inside**

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## Glade Jul

Southern CA Dancetor  
*presents*

A program of Scandinavian  
Christmas Music

Temecula Music Teacher  
27649 Commerce Center Dr., Temecula  
Thursday, December 18, 2025  
7:00 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
580 Hilltop Dr., Chula Vista  
Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025

Admission Free

## 2026 Membership Dues

It is that time of year again. Your 2026 Membership fees are due in January.

Our goal is to have all membership payments received by January 31st.

**Checks for \$38 are to be made out to DON Hulda Garborg #49. Or you can make payment through Zelle to DON Hulda Garborg #49 .**

Thanks in advance for your prompt attention.

Payments can be made at our meeting or sent to

Margaret Dewey  
24089 Crowned Partridge,  
Murrieta, Ca 92562.

## Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 20th  
10:30-1:00

Margaret's home  
24089 Crowned Partridge, Murrieta

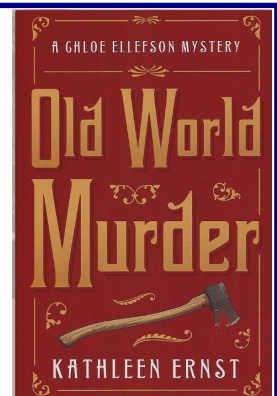
An invitation was emailed to all members.  
Please RSVP and sign up for a potluck item through the email or contact Margaret at [mjdewey20@gmail.com](mailto:mjdewey20@gmail.com) or 951-217-9268.

Hope you plan to join our time of celebration.



## BOOK CLUB -

Have you been reading The Old World Murder? We will get together via Zoom to share our thoughts & favorites about the murder at the Old World Museum on Tuesday December 9th 7:00 pm. So you still have time to finish the book!! Bring a cup of tea & some sweet treats to our Zoom & enjoy some fellowship. Zoom link will be sent out Monday December 8th.



Margaret Dewey [dwe3tmj@aol.com](mailto:dwe3tmj@aol.com) • 951-217-9268



## ***Why do they hide brooms in Norway on Christmas Eve?***

The Norwegians take superstition to a new level on Christmas Eve. It's said that on the day before Christmas, people across the country should hide their brooms in their closets, as evil spirits and witches awake on this night and will take them to ride across the country if they are not hidden.



*Both of these articles were submitted by Sheryl Zinsli*

## ***Advent Candles***

One tradition is observing Advent by lighting one candle each evening on the four Sundays of the Advent season. Light the first candle, which represents hope on the first Sunday! Light one more candle on each subsequent Sunday until all four are burning bright. The second candle represents peace, third is joy and fourth is love. Advent candles can be any shape, size, or color. Candles are often found in a row, or in a wreath usually crafted and handmade. Advent can be as simple, or as detailed as you like.



**Sweden's new edible road salt is saving birds from deadly dehydration. Made with beet extract and maize starch, it melts ice safely while feeding wildlife instead of poisoning them during brutal winters.**

Sweden just changed the way they salt winter roads, and it's saving thousands of birds every single year. When engineers discovered that traditional rock salt was poisoning wildlife during the harshest months, they did something incredible. What they came up with is so brilliantly simple, yet so effective, that other countries are now taking notice. This is what happens when innovation meets compassion. Discover how Sweden's innovative

solution is saving animals at <https://ifeg.info/.../swedens-groundbreaking-solution.../>



## Bunad for Sale

Rondastaka bunad for sale, does not include the headpiece. Call Joy if you are interested. There is a festdrakt for sale as well.

## Joy's Christmas Décor

Left: Jule Nisser Christmas

Below: left: Nisser big and small

Below right: Candles in the windows



Below left: Jule Goats with Nisser

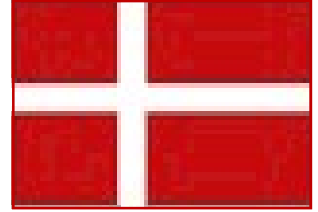
Below: Norwegian spinning wheel with Jule Nisser





# The Story of the Nordic Cross—One Design, Five Nations, A Shared History

Have you ever wondered why all the Nordic countries—Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland—have flags with the same off-center cross? Here’s the full story.



## 1. Denmark—The Beginning of It All

The Dannebrog, Denmark’s flag, is the oldest national flag still in use in the world.

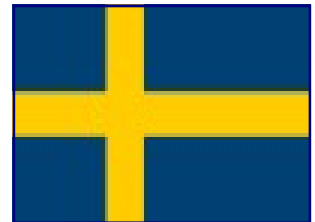
According to legend, it fell from the sky during the Battle of Lyndanisse (Tallinn, Estonia) in 1219, when King Valdemar II was fighting pagan forces.

The sudden appearance of the red flag with a white cross supposedly inspired the Danish troops to victory.

The white cross represents Christianity.

The red background symbolizes courage and strength.

This flag became the model for all other Nordic flags that followed.



## 2. Sweden—The Golden Cross on Blue

Sweden adopted its flag around the 16th century, inspired by Denmark’s design but using its own royal colors.

The blue comes from the Swedish coat of arms, symbolizing loyalty, truth, and the sky.

The golden cross represents generosity and light.

It’s said that King Gustav Vasa saw a golden cross in the sky against a blue background—and thus the Swedish flag was born.

## 3. Norway—Red, White, and Blue Freedom

Norway was under Danish rule for more than 400 years, so it used the Danish flag (the Dannebrog) for centuries.

After entering a union with Sweden in the 19th century, Norway sought its own identity.

In 1821, Fredrik Meltzer designed the Norwegian flag—red with a blue cross outlined in white.

The red and white honor the Danish connection.



The blue represents its link to Sweden and also the color of liberty.  
The combination of red, white, and blue reflected the ideals of freedom and independence—similar to the French and American revolutions.

#### 4. Finland—Lakes, Snow, and Independence

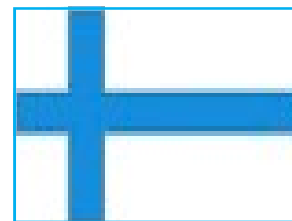
Finland, long ruled by Sweden and then Russia, gained its independence in 1917.

In 1918, it adopted a white flag with a blue cross.

The blue stands for the country's thousands of lakes and the sky.

The white represents snow and purity.

The flag perfectly captures the natural beauty and simplicity of Finnish identity.



#### 5. Iceland—Fire and Ice

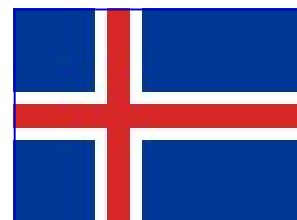
Iceland was under Danish rule until 1944, when it became fully independent.

Its flag was first designed in 1915, inspired by Norway's colors and the Dannebrog.

The blue stands for the Atlantic Ocean surrounding the island.

The white symbolizes snow and glaciers.

The red represents volcanoes and lava — the “fire” in the land of ice.



#### Meaning of the Nordic Cross

The off-centered cross represents Christianity, but it has come to symbolize much more:

A shared Nordic identity and brotherhood

Unity through diversity—five nations with unique cultures but a common heritage

Strength, cooperation, and peace across the North

From medieval battlefields to modern democracies, the Nordic Cross has endured for over 800 years—a timeless emblem of faith, freedom, and unity.

#### 6. The Faroe Islands — Red and Blue Amid Northern Seas

The flag of the Faroe Islands, known as Merkið (“the banner”), continues the proud Nordic Cross tradition.

It was designed in 1919 by Faroese students studying in Copenhagen—Jens Oliver Lisberg, Janus Øssursson, and Paul Dahl—as a symbol of Faroese identity while the islands were still under Danish rule.



*Continued on p. 7*

The flag features a red cross outlined in blue on a white background:

- White represents the foam of the Atlantic waves and the ever-present sea mist.
- Red recalls courage, vitality, and the warmth of the Faroese people.
- Blue symbolizes the ocean and the link to the wider Nordic world.

During World War II, when Denmark was occupied by Germany, British forces recognized the Faroese flag in 1940 to distinguish Faroese ships at sea.

It officially became the national flag when the Faroe Islands gained home rule in 1948.

Today, Merkið flies proudly as both a mark of independence and a tribute to shared Nordic heritage—a small nation carried by great seas, bound to its neighbors by the same enduring cross.

## 7. Greenland — The Rising Sun Beyond the Cross

While all other Nordic lands fly variations of the ancient cross, Greenland chose a different path—one that reflects its unique spirit and landscape.



Designed by Thue Christiansen and officially adopted in 1985, the Greenlandic flag is called Erfalasorput — “our flag.”

It features two horizontal bands of white and red, with a circle slightly off-center: the upper half red, the lower half white.

Each color and shape carries deep meaning:

- White stands for ice and snow—the eternal Arctic landscape.
- Red symbolizes the ocean and the warmth of the people who endure it.
- The circle represents the sun, half-risen above the horizon — a poetic image of renewal and balance between light and darkness.

Though it lacks the cross, Greenland’s flag still belongs to the Nordic story: its clean geometry, its devotion to nature, and its quiet strength echo the same ideals found across the North.

It is both a sibling and a statement — rooted in shared history, yet asserting a path of its own.

A symbol of a land that rises each day to greet the sun beyond the ice.

*Submitted by Sheryl Zinsli*

*In getting the flag images for the article above, I also found the two flags below: Aland Islands on left and Sami on right, which are not mentioned in the article. If anyone can give us*



*information on these two flags, we will put in the next newsletter. Suzy*