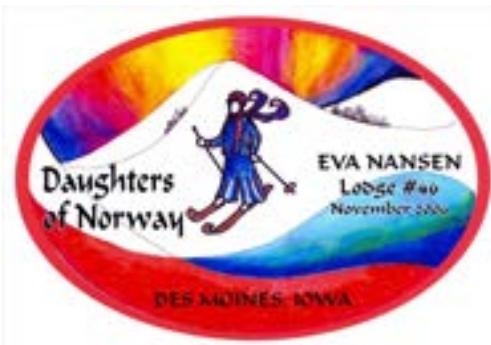

January 2026 Newsletter Eva Nansen Lodge 46 NO

Lee Ann Bakros, Communications chair
<don.eva.nansen.lodge46@107948566.mailchimpapp.com>
Reply-To: don.eva.nansen.lodge46@gmail.com
To: Kirsten <dofnorway@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 3, 2026 at 11:23
AM

January 2026 Lodge Newsletter



What's inside:

January program,
December photos, new
member initiation, &
more!

Programming

January Meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026

6:30 PM: Social time

7:00 PM: Program followed by business meeting including new member initiation

Where: Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Ave, Clive

Our January program will be an Introduction to the Daughters of Norway Grand Lodge and Eva Nansen Lodge #46 Websites by sisters Ann Hanigan Kotz and Kay Sacquitne

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

- Jan. 6, 2026: Introduction to the Daughters of Norway Grand Lodge and Eva Nansen Lodge #46 Websites by sisters Ann Hanigan-Kotz and Kay Sacquitne
- 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, 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

If you missed our December activities, you missed a lot!

Our December meeting was our annual potluck, with great conversations, good food, and a gift exchange. We also installed our 2026 officers.





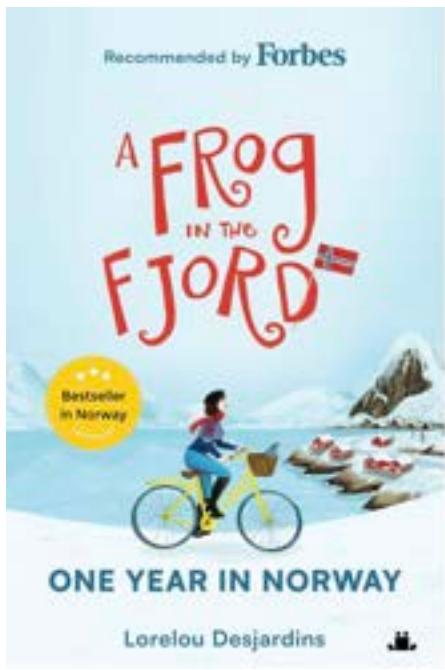
Later that week, sisters decorated our tree for Christkindlmarket where we also sponsored rosemaling.



And on Friday, sisters provided Norwegian sweets for the cast and crew of *Frozen* at The Des Moines Community Playhouse. The theatre's volunteers were overwhelmed with one sharing on Facebook, "My daughter Ingrid loved these treats! Her favorite was the kringla. Thank you so much!!"



Scandinavian Book Club



Our Scandinavian book club meets at 2:00 PM, Sunday, Jan. 18, at Franklin Avenue Library, 5000 Franklin Ave, to discuss *A Frog in the Fjord* by Lorelou Desjardins.

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.

- 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](#).

January Birthdays

Happy birthday from
your lodge Sisters to
you!

Janet Albanese

Anne Charlson



Ashley Cory

Mildred Heiderscheidt

Kathy Roat

Kathy Schmitt

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.

Norwegian Minute



Childhood in Norway

This month, our book club will discuss *A Frog in the Fjord* by Lorelou Desjardins, a French native living in Norway. Desjardins, whose latest book is entitled *How to Be Norwegian*, has a blog in which she writes about her life.

A recent post began: “I live in Norway and have a child who is 5 years old. One day I picked up my son from kindergarten and he came running toward me shouting ‘Mum, today I learned how to use an axe!’”

While Desjardins was initially concerned, she concluded, “The Norwegian ideal of childhood is not about achievement but about experience. Not about being good – but about being capable. It’s not always easy for us foreigners to grasp. We who come from cultures where children must be tidy, polite, and protected, must learn to let go. To trust that learning also happens when things hurt a little and when clothes get ruined.”

You can follow Lorelou Desjardins on her website, www.afroginthefjord.com.

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.

Bits and Pieces

1. Email February **newsletter articles** no later than Friday, Jan. 23, 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. Look over the list of items available in our lending library.
4. Take a moment to LIKE us on Facebook and see what is happening.
5. 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.

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

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).

 Share  Share

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

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