

Tree Dedication – May 17, 2024

Judith Hammer and Susan Hammer Schneider

Judith's (right in picture) tribute to Susan:

Tusen takk for this honor, our very own family tree at Sverdrup Park. I am proud (but not too proud) to introduce (though she needs no introduction) my little sister Susan. But first:

I have something for Show and Tell. This is a gathering for Syttende Mai almost one hundred years ago. It is the Per Sivle Lodge at Simcoe, McHenry County, ND. Our grandfather Edvard Hammer was among the attendees. Our great-grandparents Hendrik and Grethe joined this lodge upon returning to their prairie homestead after a couple year's respite back to North Trondelag.



We're farm kids, grew up on a small, diversified farm and went to school in Bergen, ND. Does it surprise you that our basketball team was the Bergen Vikings?

We were "churched" at Voltaire's Hjerdal Church, chartered in 1909 as a Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. There's never been a Thanksgiving or Christmas without lefse in our lives. Norskies through and through, we have both attained Golden Member status in the Sons of Norway.

Our great uncle Clarence gifted Susie with a membership to Per Sivle and, after freshman year in college, she skedaddled off on her first of five visits (so far) to the "Old Country". She traveled with our Auntie Olga and Great Aunt Marit that first trip, a Sons of Norway Charter Flight.

In 1977, Norway was her honeymoon destination. In 1980, our parents, her husband and first born and little Old me made the journey. It was a remarkable and moving experience to be with our father when he met his aunts and cousins for the first time. His mother was a Norwegian national so English was his second language. But, just like that his Tronder dialect came back to him, and he proved to be an adequate translator. To celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary in 2002, the Schneiders too their entire family to Norway. Last year, Susie and her son Kael had a grand time celebrating the 17th of May with relatives in Levanger.

As for Susie's bona fides: she has

- Served as Cultural
- Been a Delegate to District Convention
- Lodge President

- Lodge Trustee
- Currently chairs Sverdrup's Sox and Mittens Drive
- She's a Baker-Par-Excellence of all delectable Norwegian pastries, lefse, krumkake, kransekake, rosettes, smorrebrod, and has in the past taught Scandinavian baking classes here in Bismarck.

But now, enough about her, let's talk about me.

Susan's tribute to Judith:

My sister transferred her SoN membership from the Edvard Grieg lodge in Glendale, California when she returned from the Coast and took up residence in Bismarck.

- Was Cultural Director at Edvard Grieg Lodge of Glendale, California
- Serves as Membership Secretary and Lodge Librarian here at Sverdrup
- She will be a Delegate to the District Convention here in Bismarck next month
- Participates in Sverdrup's Language classes

Judith's self-ascribed humanities scholar, on a lifelong pursuit of studying the Norwegian language and hopes to realize her dream of visiting Norway again someday soon. To quote a Rodney Nelson poem, It's good to be Norsk!

Tusen Takk! Og Hurra for Syttende Mai!