***Newsletter Service***

**January/February 2025**

**JANUARY ISSUE**

**Nyttårsbukk**New Year’s Eve celebrations often include a countdown, gathering of family/friends, food, and drink. While this holds true in Norway, they also have a very unique tradition called *Nyttårsbukk.* On New Year’s Eve, Norwegian children visit houses in their neighborhood and sing New Year’s songs in exchange for candy, cookies, and oranges. Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? It’s almost like Halloween, but instead of saying “Trick or Treat” there is singing and instead of Halloween, it’s the last day of the year.    
   
Even adults participate in *Nyttårsbukk* by dressing up in fancy clothes, visiting friends and family, then getting treated to food and drink in return. What better way for kids to end the year than with a sweet little treat and adults enjoying a visit with family and friends. If nothing else, it’s a great excuse to essentially celebrate Halloween twice.

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**Nordic Literary Event at Library of Congress**   
   
The Library of Congress recently collaborated with the Nordic embassies in Washington D.C. to celebrate fiction and non-fiction works being published in those countries. Each embassy invited an author to represent their country at the forum, which was attended by Norwegian Ambassador Anniken Huitfeldt.

The authors in attendance included: Josefine Klougart from Denmark, Hanna Pylväinen from Finland, Hanne Ørstavik of Norway, Hildur Knútsdóttir from Iceland, and Moa Herngren from Sweden. During the separate panel events, two different themes were discussed.    
   
One theme dealt with the Nordic landscape, which featured heavily in the works of the Danish and Finnish authors. Pylväinen’s work, “The End of Drum-Time” and Klougart’s “On Darkness” both move beyond the usual assumption in their writings that the Nordic landscape is cold and forbidding.    
   
The second theme revolved around the keeping of secrets – both from others and ourselves. This theme is found in the other three authors’ work – Ørstavik’s “Ti Amo,” Herngren’s “The Divorce,” and Knútsdóttir’s “The Night Guest.”  During this panel, Norwegian author Ørstavik discussed her own longing for truth, being vulnerable, and emphasized the need for having a listener in your life. She also suggested that books can even fill these needs at times.

**Source:**

[**https://www.loc.gov/item/event-414353/live-at-the-library-a-celebration-of-nordic-writers/2024-09-26/**](https://www.loc.gov/item/event-414353/live-at-the-library-a-celebration-of-nordic-writers/2024-09-26/)

[**https://blogs.loc.gov/bookmarked/2024/09/10/we-go-nordic-on-september-26/**](https://blogs.loc.gov/bookmarked/2024/09/10/we-go-nordic-on-september-26/)

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**New TV Station**In Norway, there is a tv station called TV BRA (*TV Good* in Norwegian) that provides wonderful opportunities for people who are autistic or have disabilities. Not only do all the reporters of the TV station have a learning disability, but the program is made specifically for similar people in Norway.    
   
It is a one-hour long program that about 4,000 to 5,000 people tune into every week. The station covers topics unique to those with autism or learning disabilities, but also touches on news, entertainment, and sports.    
   
The founder of TV BRA, Camilla Kvalheim, felt that there were many untold stories and experiences that needed to be heard. She also stressed the importance of those with learning disabilities knowing about and understanding the news so that they can take part in society.    
   
The Norwegian government also agrees that TV BRA is important. Lubna Jaffrey, Norway’s minister of Culture and Equality, stated: “TV BRA takes on an important role by presenting news and current affairs in a way that’s understandable and inclusive.”

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**TRANSLATION**

**Dronning Sonja på besøk i Skien**

Dronning Sonja er Norges Husflidslags høye beskytter, og deltok denne helga på et arrangement på Telemark Museum og Ibsenhuset. 

Dronningen hadde pyntet seg med bunad fra Telemark for anledningen. 

Hun ble tatt i mot av statsforvalter Trond Rønningen, ordfører i Skien Marius Roheim Aarvold og visepolitimester Kathrine Stein. Ved museet ble hun ønsket velkommen av det Agnete Siverten, styreleder i Norges Husflidslag og Barbra De Haan, direktør ved Telemark museum. 

**Besøkende fra hele landet**

Sist uke arrangerte Norsk husflidslag et stort treff, kalt «Tekstilsymposium» i Skien. Det er en samling for alle som er interessert i og driver med tekstil kulturarv. 

– Folk har reist fra hele landet for å delta på dette, sier Helene Henriksen i Norsk husflidslag,  og legger til at de er veldig stolte av at dronningen vier to dager til programmet deres.

Fra onsdag til fredag har det blitt arrangert flere kurs i sjeldne tekstile teknikker på Telemark Museum. 

**Konferanse på Ibsenhuset**

Dronningen deltok på åpningen og også på det faglige programmet i helga. 

– Tekstilsymposium 2024 har Rødlista som gjennomgående tema. Med det håper vi å skape større bevissthet rundt levende tradisjoner, immateriell kulturarv og praksiskunnskapen knyttet til gjemt og nesten glemt husflidskunnskap, heter det i pressemeldingen fra Norges Husflidslag. 

Lørdag deltok dronningen på konferansen på Ibsenhuset, hvor hvor hun blant annet fikk høre foredrag om Anne Bamle og Rødtrøyebunaden.

**Excerpted from:** [**Varden.no**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.varden.no%2Fkultur%2Fi%2Fo39E1j%2Fher-ankommer-dronning-sonja-skien%3Ffbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2VOtUgyi5B88VJ6jRVhTCk94tg6ieDktJBsRWsmbJIuZgxFkKPHKdKZ5Q_aem_X2cj4Rxd2RY0e9AS4EB1mg&h=AT1u6hwbynVIKdo3k4VHoZxcFj7FzN3el2y8sfKIMs2iHwt2B_KXLhcthQ6a93n6v3V72C2BJh5N_dza5WzL3EBiORqRxwrxqmTXg6O_c0yRVQfwvXp3sIyLuJwDXcyaeA&__tn__=R*F)

**TRANSLATION**

**Queen Sonja Visits Skien**Queen Sonja is the High Patron of *Norges Husflidslag—*The Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association—and over the weekend took part in an event at the Telemark Museum and the Ibsenhuset. The queen wore a bunad from Telemark for the occasion.

She was welcomed by state administrator Trond Rønningen, mayor of Skien Marius Roheim Aarvold and deputy police chief Kathrine Stein. At the museum, she was welcomed by Agnete Siverten, chairman of Norges Husflidslag and Barbra De Haan, director of the Telemark Museum.  

**Visitors from all over the country**

Last week, The Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association held a large conference, called "Textile Symposium" in Skien. It is a gathering for everyone who is interested in and deals with textile cultural heritage.

"People have traveled from all over the country to take part in this,” says Helene Henriksen of the Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association, adding that they are very proud that the Queen has devoted two days to attending their event.

From Wednesday to Friday, several courses in rare textile techniques were offered at the Telemark Museum.

**Conference at Ibsenhuset**

 The Queen attended the opening and also the professional program over the weekend.

"The 2024 Textile Symposium has the Red List [a list that captures endangered craft techniques] as a running theme. With this, we hope to create greater awareness about living traditions, intangible cultural heritage and the practical knowledge linked to hidden and almost forgotten folk art and craft knowledge, says the press release from Norges Husflidslag.

On Saturday, the queen attended the conference at the Ibsenhuset, where she heard lectures about Anne Bamle and the Rødtrøye bunaden [bunad maker who developed the East-Telemark bunad with a red jacket], among other things.

**Soft Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies**   
   
Recipe source: <https://www.nrk.no/mat/store-myke-sjokoladekjeks-1.6914054> 

**Ingredients:**

* 160 g (1 and 1/3 sticks) butter at room temperature
* 200 g (1 cup) granulated sugar
* 150 g (heaping 3/4 cup) brown sugar
* 360 g (3 cups) flour
* 2 tsp. baking powder
* 1 tsp. vanilla sugar
* 1/2 – 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
* 3 eggs
* 350 g (or 1 3/4 cup) chocolate chips or chopped dark or milk chocolate
* 100 g (or 1 cup) oatmeal

**Directions:**

1. Mix together the sugar and butter in a food processor. Add the flour, baking powder, vanilla sugar and cinnamon and mix it together to a crumbly mass.
2. Add eggs and chocolate. Work the dough together quickly.
3. Form the dough into a thick sausage shape using baking paper. Let it rest in the fridge or freezer.
4. Cut the dough into 1 cm thick slices and bake at 180 ºC (or 350ºF) for 10–15 minutes.

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**FEBRUARY ISSUE**

**Viking Swords in Oslo Airport**In early September, a new exhibition was installed at Oslo’s Gardermoen Airport. This display consists of seven Viking Age swords that have been unearthed in various places in Norway. The project was a joint effort between the Historical Museum and Gardermoen. Each sword has additional information with it and there is a QR code that travelers can scan to visit the museum’s homepage.    
   
The hope is that the exhibition will promote cultural experiences in Norway since nearly four million people will likely pass by the display within the year. The director of the airport, Stine Ramstad Westby, is very pleased that they now have an Edvard Munch and Viking Age exhibition as those are two things that Norway is well-known for. A couple of the first passengers to see the display were asked their opinion on it and they shared the same sentiment; they immediately felt the culture of Norway when they saw it.

**Article photo for download:**

[**https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Viking\_swords\_closeup.jpg**](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Viking_swords_closeup.jpg)

**Catching Up with New Scandinavian Cooking**   
   
Chef Andreas Viestad is known for New Scandinavian Cooking, which revolutionized the cooking show by placing the food and its origins in the foreground of breathtaking Norwegian nature.    
   
A unique aspect of the show is that it is actually filmed twice- first in Norwegian for domestic tv—named [*En Bit Av Norge*](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=en+bit+av+norge)*—*A Piece of Norway. Then the entire show is re-shot in English for its worldwide viewers.   
   
Since its inception in 2003, New Scandinavian Cooking has been shown in over 130 countries. Viestad has toggled as host with chefs from Sweden, Denmark and Finland. In 2020, Norwegian Christer Rødseth became the host of Season 16.   
   
Hailing from Aurskog outside of Oslo and called “a young star in the cooking stratosphere” by culinary team Nortura Proff, Rødseth started cooking at age 9, inspired his grandmother. Now there is seemingly no end to the irons that Chef Rødseth has in the fire- he is a restaurateur in Oslo, appears regularly on Norwegian tv, wins international culinary competitions and has written several cookbooks.   
   
Find mouth-watering recipes on the [NSC website](https://www.newscancook.com/recipes-1) and gaze at photos on the show’s [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/newscandinaviancooking).

**Article photo for download:**

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**The Digitization of Norway**

Norway has its sights set on becoming the world's most digitized country by 2030. While that date seems far away, the work has already begun. This initiative is part of a new national digitization strategy that was created to set clear goals to achieve the digital Norway of the future. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre points to three main benefits that will result from this strategy: a simpler and safer everyday life, a more competitive business sector, and a more modern public sector.

The digitization initiative is a response in part to other factors, including a growing elderly population with a shrinking work force. Despite this, work tasks will continue to grow and the need to remain competitive in the global market will continue.

The strategy contains five core measures that planners say are vital to its success. Included in these measures are offering high-speed broadband services, education and training, building infrastructure around AI, faster processing, and safeguards in digital marketing and use.

The collaboration of Norwegian government leaders, private sector business, social, and research communities all know that this is an ambitious endeavor but are confident that the foundation that is now laid will result in success.

**Source:** [**https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/norge-skal-bli-verdens-mest-digitaliserte-lan/id3055039/**](https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/norge-skal-bli-verdens-mest-digitaliserte-lan/id3055039/)

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**TRANSLATION**

**Før gikk rebellene i bunad**

For hundre år siden kunne du bli spyttet på om du gikk med bunad i byen. Den gang betydde bunad opprør mot eliten og svenskemakten.

Det forteller Anne Kristin Moe, kulturhistoriker og konservator ved Norsk Folkemuseum. 

I samarbeid med forfatter og forlegger Laila Durán har hun nylig utgitt boka *Broderte bunader: hundre år med norsk bunadhistorie*. 

**Spyttet på**

På slutten av 1880-tallet begynte jenter på norske folkehøgskoler å bruke bygdeklær som symbol på norsk identitet. Det var en måte å gjøre opprør på.   
   
Reaksjonene var sterke. I byene ble jentene spyttet på, forteller Moe. 

Hulda Garborg var en radikal og ivrig forkjemper for det norske. Hun reiste land og strand rundt for å lære bort norsk folkedans. På reisene fikk hun mye kunnskap om norske folkedrakter. Dette var både hverdagsklær og høytidsklær, som var særegne for folk i et bestemt geografisk område. 

Garborg var datidens trendsetter. Nå begynte til og med byfolket å interessere seg for hvordan man kunne lage drakter inspirert av bygdeklærne, forteller Moe. 

**Kortreiste kjoler**

Hulda Garborg var opptatt av at bunadene skulle være et norsk alternativ til motekjolene fra Paris og Roma, som nå var blitt vanlige i Norge. 

Stoffene skulle være ull, og de skulle være vevd her i Norge. Fargene skulle være lagd av norske planter.   
   
For Garborg var det viktig at folk flest kunne lage bunadene selv. 

De vevde stoffene selv, farget garnet selv og sydde vanligvis drakten selv. Det tok lang tid, men det var overkommelig økonomisk. 

Etter krigen vokste det fram en ny bunadsideologi. Nå ble det svært viktig at bunaden var historisk korrekt og knyttet til lokale tradisjoner. 

Som oftest var den gamle folkedrakten i området den viktigste inspirasjonen for nye bunader. Der folkedrakten ikke kunne brukes, samlet man inn andre ting, som skjeer, øser og skap med rosemalinger, eller broderier fra sledeputer. 

**Excerpted from:**    
<https://www.forskning.no/historie-kulturhistorie-kulturpolitikk/for-gikk-rebellene-i-bunad/561690>

**TRANSLATION**

**Back When the Rebels Wore Bunads**    
A hundred years ago, you could be spat on for walking around town wearing a bunad. Back then, a bunad meant rebellion against the elite and Swedish power.

This is according to Anne Kristin Moe, cultural historian and conservator at the Norwegian Folk Museum.

In collaboration with author and publisher Laila Durán, she recently published the book *Embroidered Bunads: One Hundred Years of Norwegian Bunad History*.

**Spat On**

At the end of the 1880s, girls at Norwegian folk high schools began wearing village clothing as a symbol of Norwegian identity. It was a way to rebel.

The reactions were strong. In the cities, the girls were spat on, says Moe.

Hulda Garborg was a radical and ardent champion of all things Norwegian. She traveled around the country, teaching Norwegian folk dance. During her travels, she gained a lot of knowledge about Norwegian folk costumes. These were both everyday clothes and special occasion clothes, which were unique to people in a certain geographical area.

Garborg was the trendsetter of her day. Now even the city folk began to take an interest in how to make costumes inspired by the village clothes, says Moe.

**Locally Crafted Clothing**

Hulda Garborg thought that bunads should be a Norwegian alternative to the fashionable dresses from Paris and Rome, which had now become common in Norway.    
     
The fabrics were to be wool, and they were to be woven in Norway. The colors were to be made from Norwegian plants.

For Garborg, it was important that most people could make the bunads themselves.

They wove the fabrics themselves, dyed the yarn and usually sewed the costume themselves. It took a long time, but it was manageable financially.

After the war, a new bunad ideology emerged. Then it became very important that the bunad be historically correct and linked to local traditions.

Most often, the old folk costume in the area was the most important piece of inspiration for new bunads. Where the folk costume could not be used, other things were collected, such as spoons, ladles, and cupboards with rosemaling, or embroideries from sleigh cushions.

**Coffee Steak Rub**

From Viking magazine, March 2020   
   
The smoky aroma of coffee pairs beautifully with spices for this dry rub mix. Use it on beef steaks such as flank, hanger or ribeye. Let the rub sit on the steak for 1 hour or overnight before cooking. Makes 1/2 cup dry rub mix.   
   
2 Tbsp. finely ground coffee   
3 Tbsp. brown sugar   
1 Tbsp. kosher salt   
1 Tbsp. ground coriander   
1 1/2 tsp. caraway seeds, ground   
1 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper   
1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon   
1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger   
   
Mix all ingredients together and store in an airtight jar.   
It will last for 6 weeks at room temperature.   
   
**Dry rub tips from** [**Just Cook with Sally**](https://www.justcookwithsally.com/sally-uhlmann-blog/rub-rest-meat)**:**   
Apply your dry rub liberally and work it into the meat. It is called rub, not a sprinkle, for a reason. Once coated, I place the meat on a nonreactive dish, cover it with paper towels, and stick it in the refrigerator. The time air drying in the refrigerator aids the meat in developing a crispy exterior. Before cooking, use your fingers to wipe off excess dry rub and remember not to add any additional salt, either directly or in salty additions such as soy sauce or canned broth, unless it’s labeled low sodium.

After the meat has finished cooking, let it rest. This allows the juices to settle and the muscle to relax. Keep in mind that larger cuts of meat will continue to cook while resting. They can increase 5 degrees while resting, pushing them from medium-rare to medium. Use a meat thermometer and remove from the oven with the resting factor in mind. Steaks and smaller cuts of meat should rest 10 minutes, tented with foil. Larger meats, like a turkey or a standing rib roast, need 15 minutes to a half hour, tented. When you’re working out your meal timeline, make sure to account for rest time.

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