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2021 Event Schedule

TO BE
ANNOUNCED AT A
LATER TIME

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Next Monday is May 17, and normally we would celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day this Saturday. Soon vaccines may be available for all ages, and everyone will be able to obtain protection from the pandemic. We hope to meet in October and December. It has been a long year, and it will be wonderful to get together again.

When the Constitution was signed on that date in 1814 in Eidsvoll, Norway was declared to be an independent nation, even as Norway was under Swedish rule. This made celebrations awkward, and the day was transformed into a day for children to celebrate. After 1844, under King Oscar I, the day could be celebrated freely. Around 1870, the children's parade began, first by boys only, and then in 1899, girls could join in. While the day began to celebrate the Constitution, in the 20th c. it included the royal family.

Children of all ages take part in parades, and the day is the culmination of celebration by seniors graduating from high school. They wear uniforms indicating their field of study, eg. Red for continuing with higher education, Blue for those headed for business, white for medical and social studies, black for engineering and green for agriculture. They exchange cards with funny pictures and many children collect them. There are traditional songs (we sing, Yes, we love this Land), and traditional foods such as hot dogs, and ice cream, basically anything you like! This is a day to wear the national costume or bunad. According to

Scandinavian Heritage Society P.2

The Nordic Page (my source) this term originated in the 20th c., but reflects a national interest in the traditional garments in the Nordic countries, and other countries as well. In Norway, especially, people don their bunad for special events and celebrations, even galas and formal occasions.

A major celebration of the 17th of May takes place in – Stockholm! Thousands of Norwegians and Swedes celebrate together! There are many celebrations in the US as well. For awhile, no other flags could be displayed; since 2007, the Sami people (recognized as indigenous to Norway) have been able to display their flag as well.

Perhaps many of our members have been watching Atlantic Crossing, (on KET) which focuses on the Norwegian royal family during WW II. It is a fascinating view on the tensions and challenges of the time.

Iceland is undergoing a volcanic eruption of Fagradalsfjall mountain in the southwest. Twice as powerful as it has been in the past, the discharge is increasing. This has been going on for several weeks, with no indication of the end. Generally compared to other eruptions, the intensity is said to be limited.

Cruises will resume this summer, and Icelandair is planning to offer service to 6 US cities: Boston, New York, Seattle, Washington D.C., Chicago and Denver. Once when I travelled by that line, I noticed that the captain and crew waited along with everyone else for their luggage. When I asked about it (thinking they should be entitled to get their bags first) the crew member said, "The customer comes first!"

There is an amusing article in The Local se called, Why do Swedes and Danes insist on pretending they speak the same language? by Richard Orange. He notes that Swedes and Danes try to speak to each other, each in his or her own language, and end up nodding and smiling, but failing to understand about half of what the other is saying. Why not use English, he muses. It has to do with cultural identity, and comprehension varies according to one's exposure to the other language. The rate of understanding, Mr. Orange says, is about the same as between Italians and Portuguese and Italians and Spaniards.

By the way, a Swedish politician, Peter Helander, is trying to get recognition for "forest language," or Elfdalian, as proposed by the Council of Europe. The language is a remnant of Old Norse and is said to resemble Icelandic. When a colleague broke in to say only Swedish could be spoken in the chamber, he replied that this is a form of Swedish, currently regarded as a dialect. Yet it is mutually unintelligible with Swedish, and lacks the letters C, Q, X and Z. A bilingual

Preschool is teaching it to children, but not many under 18 can speak the language. (Do you remember when growing up wishing you had a special secret language with friends? Pig Latin was too easy; Goose Latin spoken quickly was pretty effective. Elfdalian sounds intriguing! Here is a sample:

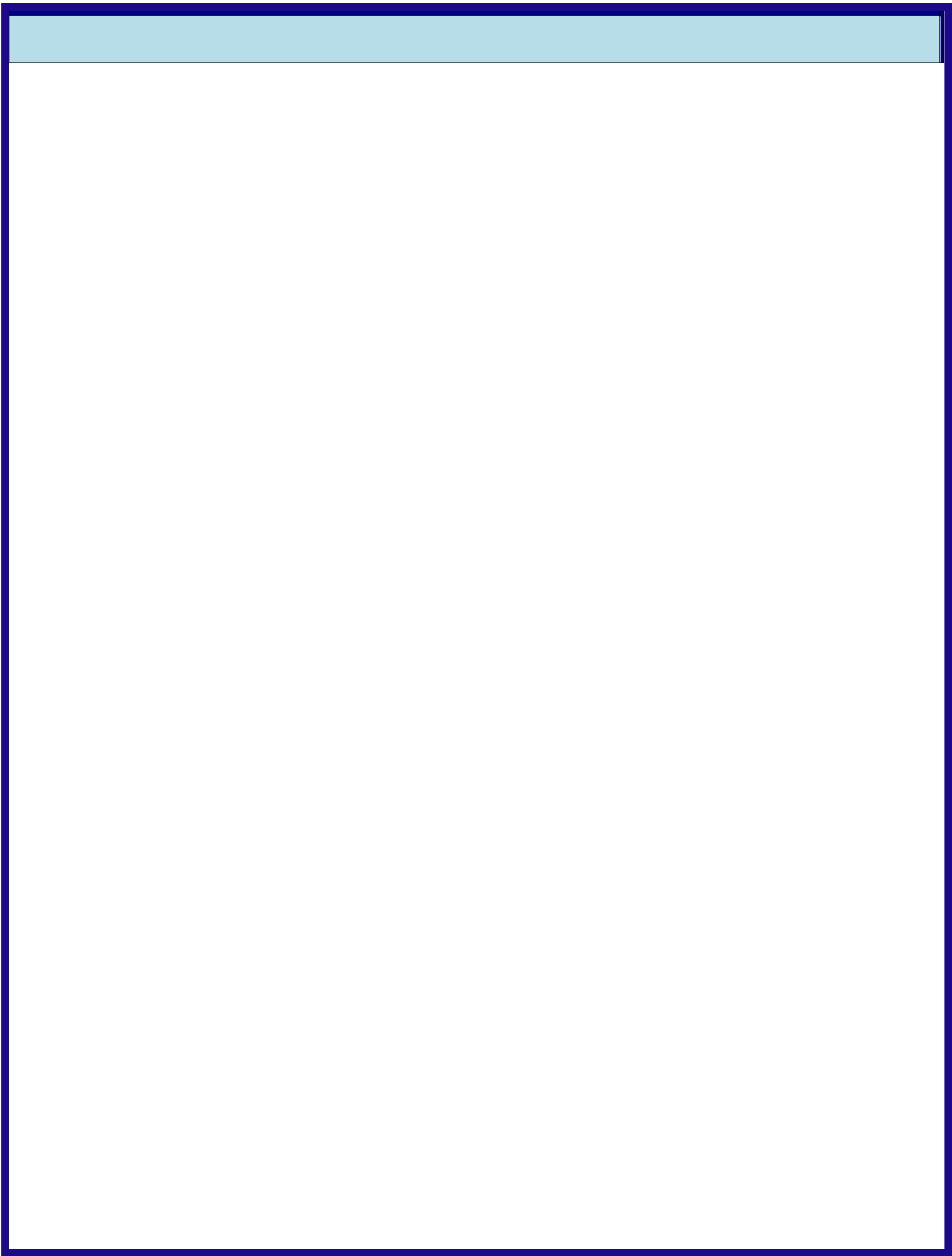
Tjar(2 dots over a) tokk fer- Thank you very much.
Sjaums I morgy (o over the a)- See you tomorrow
The article gives help with pronunciation as well. Good luck!

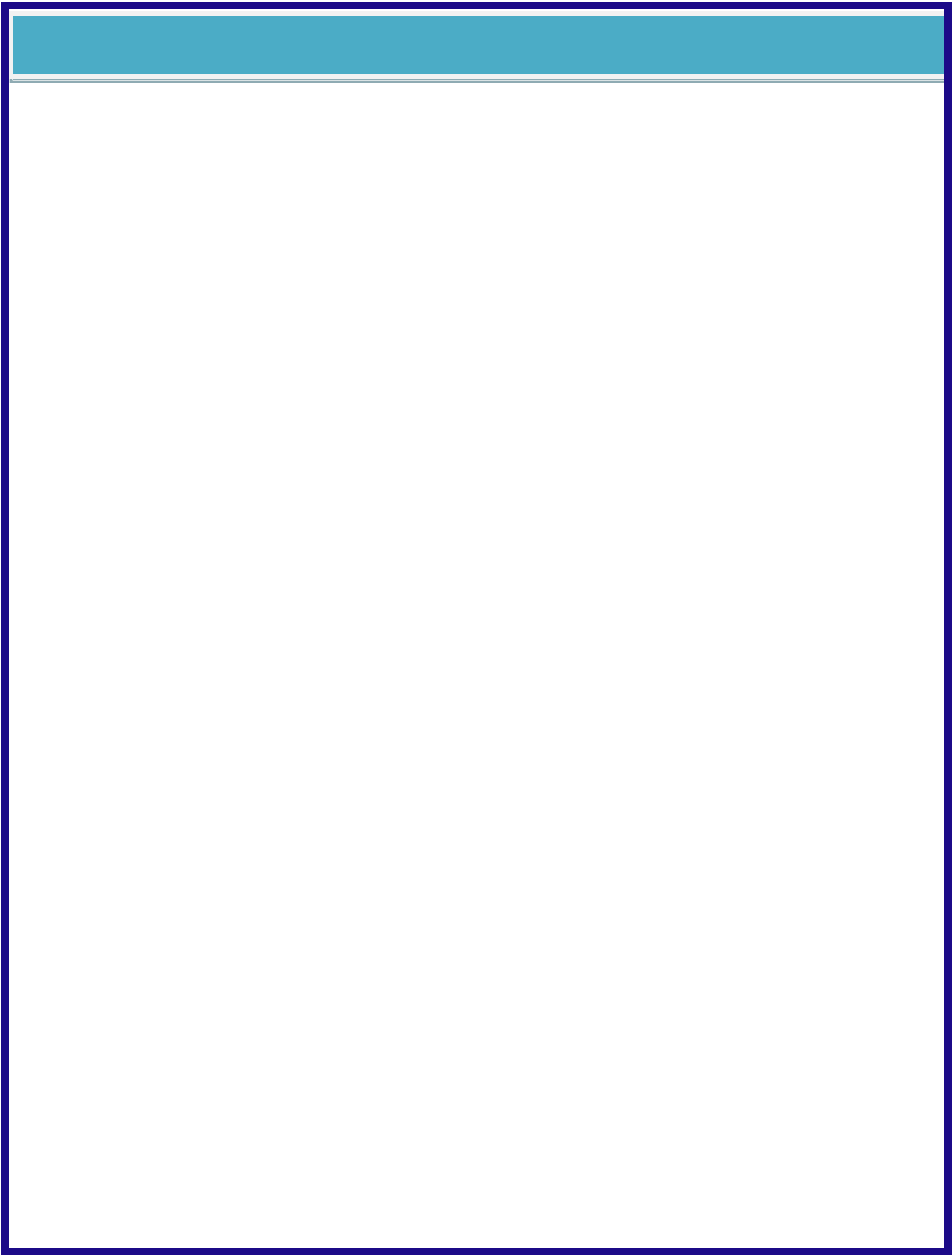
There is also an article on the Southern Swedish dialect. My cousins are from Malmo, and speak Skanska (o over the a) or Scanian. Emma Lofgren provides a list of 17 dialect words to survive in southern Sweden! (March 17)

The Helsinki Times reports that researchers in Finland may be on the path to discovering the cause of Parkinson's Disease. Kari Murros, an adjunct professor professor of Neurology at the University of Helsinki and Per Saris, professor of food microbiology published their findings in the journal Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology. They indicate that the cause of the disease could stem from hydrogen sulfide that is produced by intestinal bacteria. This process can then spread to the brain. Their findings might make it possible to identify patients who are developing the disease much earlier and lead to effective treatment! The article in the Helsinki Times is from May 10, 2021.

The website, WWW.SHSKY.ORG, is in the process of being updated. Please take a look and give me your comments. We have added newsletters, and photos, and hope to add a legacy section of photos for members who are no longer with us. My collection is not complete so if you have favorite ones that you would like to see added, please let me know. You can send photos to santafe2.ak@gmail.com

Also, we want to add a few photos of each country that are not subject to copyright. If members are willing to share personal photos from the different countries that we may post, that would be wonderful. Kisha Geijer has kindly agreed to continue to host the website and to maintain our domain name. We appreciate that so very much and give Kisha heart-felt thanks for setting up the website originally so beautifully.





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