

# Aftenposten

Traveling across Norway

Wednesday-Saturday, 11-14 October 2017

JA, VI ELSKER  
DETTE LANDET

*"Ja, vi elsker dette landet ..."* is the opening line of Norway's national anthem, which is the theme of this newsletter from our vacation trip. The poetic translation into English is provided in italics at the top of each picture caption in these pages. The translation is of complete sentences, so it doesn't necessarily match the Norwegian words on each page. But in English, the anthem begins: "Yes, we love with fond devotion ..." You can hear the anthem's first three verses (the newsletter covers only the first) as broadcast by NRK, the national TV network, for the annual 17<sup>th</sup> of May celebration in 2014, which is Norway's Constitution Day, on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/jrrmhLwXrRQ>. The soloist is Sissel (Cecilia) Kirkjebø of Bergen, Norway's most famous singer, who sang the Olympic Hymn at the opening ceremonies of the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, which I covered. Sissel's performance in her bunad (formal dress) representing her home county of Hordaland at the Olympics can be seen at <https://youtu.be/MZVcgYOfjeA>.

SOM DET STIGER FREM,



*"This our land that looms"*  
On the Nærøfjord.

# FURET, VÆRBITT OVER VANNET



*"Rugged, storm-scarred o'er the ocean"*

Sunset in Bergen, the country's first capital and now second-largest city, from Fløyen, one of seven mountains surrounding the city.

# med de tusen hjem.



*"With her thousand homes."*

Touring Måihaugen, Norway's largest outdoor museum, in Lillehammer, where I covered the 1994 Winter Olympics and heard this anthem more than any other. Anders Sandvig, a dentist, created the museum in 1904 to preserve local culture by buying structures throughout the Gudbrandsdalen Valley and moving them to this site. These are sod-roofed houses and barns still occasionally seen in Norway. The sod is weather-proof and provides insulation.

# ELSKER, ELSKER DE OG TENKER



*"Love her, in our love recalling"*

The Garmo Stave Church at Maihaugen, built in the early 1200s and last modified in 1731, is one of only a dozen or so surviving stave churches in Norway of the thousands built following the country's conversion to Christianity. In summer it is still used for services and Saturday weddings.

# PÅ VÅR FAR OG MOR



*"Those who gave us birth."*

Our friend Hanne Elisabeth Hovden and her two sons, Olav, 2, and Per, 4, in Oslo, the capital and largest city with about 600,000 people. With a regional population of about a million, one in five Norwegians lives here. You will meet Hanne and Eli Beate Presthus Nilsen in my next newsletter.

# OG DEN SAGANATT SOM SENKER



*"And old tales, which night, in falling"*

A friend of Eli's dining in one of the historic warehouses – this one 300 years old – on Bergen's *bryggen*, or wharf.

# DRØMMER PÅ VÅR JORD.



*"Brings as dreams to earth."*

The village of Hole, pronounced hoo-leh, where we stayed in the Sundvolden Hotel, the cluster of large white buildings at the lower center of this shot. The original hotel, built in 1648 and which now houses the restaurant, was where the king spent the night when he traveled between Bergen and Oslo. This view, from a hike we did with Hanne, is called "Kongen's Utsikt," or King's View. The lake is Tyrifjorden, one of Norway's largest freshwater lakes.