

St. Pauli News in Detail



ANNUAL MEETINGS

ST. PAULI CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Thursday, January 7, 2021
8:00 pm



ST. PAULI CONGREGATION

February 7, 2021

Return your paper ballots to the church between 10 am - Noon

IMPORTANT: Designated persons must submit their organizational reports to Erin Rondorf no later than

January 11th for inclusion in the St. Pauli Annual Report. The booklets *and ballots* will be mailed to voting members of the congregation by January 22nd.

Submittals can be made in electronic (Word or Excel) or typed paper formats. Please email to Erin Rondorf at erin.rondorf@gmail.com, or mail to her at 12017 135th Ave NE, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.

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St. Pauli Handbook

The 2021 handbooks will not be printed until we know more about how COVID-19 vaccinations are

progressing in our region, and what the Minnesota and Synod guidelines will be.

We are all looking forward to being in worship together and there is hope as we begin a new year. (See article in this newsletter.)

Email Contacts

Email contacts are an immense help in getting messages out to our members. If yours is missing or it has changed, please contact Faye Auchenpaugh at auchenpaugh@gmail.com

If you know someone who would like to receive email notifications for our newsletter, whether they are members or not, send those addresses to Faye as well. Marisa Benson sends a group email notice after she has posted the newsletter on our website.

And if you want to look at current or past issues, they are all available on our website (historicstpauli.org) under "News and Events."

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January Milestones

Birthdays

Jan. 13 Noah Haugen
Jan. 17 Erin Rondorf

Anniversaries

Jan. 3 Jim and Jan Strandlie

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Bathroom Renovations

Bathroom renovations are underway and should be completed by the middle of January.

Minutes of the Church Council

October 15, 2020

Agenda approved as written.

Opening Prayer

Secretary's Report for September 17, 2020 not available.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance End of Aug 2020:	\$16,456.04
Sept Revenue:	\$2,290.00
Sept Expenses:	(\$4,595.51)
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Checking Account Balance End of Sept 2020:	\$14,150.53

Other Account Balances End of Sept 2020:

Education Fund	\$799.89
Edward Jones	\$70,553.96
Memorial Fund	\$12,494.17
Mission Grant	\$3,431.89
Savings	\$36,546.54

Total Account Balances End of Sept 2020: \$137,976.98

Cemetery Assoc. Balance End of Sept 2020: \$58,957.60

Motion by Virginia Anderson, second by Craig Folkedahl to approve as written. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Keep all in our prayers

Other Reports:

WELCA Report: Virginia and Ron Anderson delivered to Grand Forks the 15 personal care kits, 23 quilts and 12 baby kits to Grand Forks for Lutheran World Relief.

Old Business:

- Arlo Rude is making the metal frame for two signs to go at the church and cemetery. Installation postponed until spring.
- A two-wheeled wheelbarrow will be purchased to use in tending the flowers.
- Carpet on the front step will be delayed until spring with the possibility of finding another supplier.
- Arlo Rude will continue to arrange for snow removal.

New Business:

- Remodeling of the bathroom continues with the vanity top purchased from Lowes in Grand Forks and expected delivery in November.
- The St. Pauli Amended Constitution submitted to the Synod was approved.
- The annual meeting including the proposed constitution and terms of office for the council was discussed. Ivette Garrett will contact the Synod to solicit advice on how to proceed if Covid-19 restrictions are still in effect.

Lord's Prayer. Adjournment motion by Craig Folkedahl and seconded by Pastor Carl. Motion carried.

Attendance: Virginia Anderson, Wade Benson, Craig Folkedahl, Ivette Garrett, Pastor Hansen. Absent Erin Rondorf

Ivette Garrett, Acting Secretary

November 19, 2020

The St. Pauli Church Council met on Thursday November 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm at St. Pauli Church. Board Members present: Ivette Garrett, Virginia Anderson, Wade Benson, Pastor Carl Hansen. Absent: Erin Rondorf and Craig Folkedahl.

The meeting was called to order by President Garrett. Pastor Carl's prayer wasn't given due to immediate agenda attention. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Secretary's report for October 15, 2020 was sent in, no corrections. Motion to approve: Wade, Second, Pastor Carl. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance End of Sept 2020:	\$14,150.53
Oct Revenue:	\$1,815.00
Oct Expenses:	(\$1,710.69)
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Checking Account Balance End of Oct 2020:	\$14,254.84

Other Account Balances End of Oct 2020:

Education Fund	\$799.96
Edward Jones	\$69,883.25
Memorial Fund	\$12,999.93
Mission Grant	\$3,432.18
Savings	\$36,551.20

Total Account Balances End of Oct 2020: \$137,921.36

Cemetery Assoc. Fund Balance End of Oct 2020: \$59,215.37

Motion to approve: Ivette, Second, Pastor Carl. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: Council thanked him for doing a good job presenting us with sermons each Sunday. There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service Nov. 25, on Channel 3 at 7:00 PM in place of regular area church service.

Report of members in sickness or distress: Edna Rondorf is doing well after her fall and surgery. We'll know later as to her placement for rehab. Evie Johnson will have knee replacement on January 29th. No news to report on Gavin Bugge or Eunice Grove.

New member interest: None to report

Other Reports:

- WELCA group will have an advent brunch Dec. 5 at the church with only WELCA members attending due to COVID restrictions. Masks and social distancing required.
- Nothing to report from the Board of Education.

Old Business:

- Arlo Rude will monitor snow plowing as in the past. Bathroom remodel is delayed due to the fact Lowe's cannot promise the vanity top until approx. Dec. 15th.
- The wheelbarrow, rake and sprayer hose attachment were purchased and stored in church shed. Virginia and Ronnie Anderson trimmed and cleaned the church flower beds for fall.
- Notices on Constitution approval will be presented in church newsletter.

New Business:

- We are required to hold an annual meeting each year. St. Pauli's is scheduled for February 7, 2021. How it will be held remains to be determined.
- Suggestions were given on a Nominating Committee for next year's council.

- A new TV was purchased for the basement to accommodate overflow at funerals and other church activities where needed.
- Year end: Secretary of State notification registration will be checked out by President Ivette to see what is required of St. Pauli.

Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn: Pastor Carl, seconded Virginia Anderson. Meeting adjourned.

Virginia Anderson, Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report for November 2020

Checking Account Balance End of Oct 2020:	\$14,254.84
Nov Revenue:	\$1,640.00
Oct Expenses:	(\$4,576.35)
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Checking Account Balance End of Nov 2020:	\$11, 318.49
Other Account Balances End of Nov 2020:	
Education Fund	\$1,100.05
Edward Jones	\$73,313.03
Memorial Fund	\$13,000.14
Mission Grant	\$4,432.53
Savings	\$36,555.71

Total Account Balances End of Nov 2020: \$139,719.95

Cemetery Association Funds End of Nov 2020: \$59,156.12

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2021: Hope at the end of a brutal year

Minnesota Public Radio, December 31, 2020, 5:30 a.m.

Minnesota is seeing real signs of improvement heading into 2021 following two months of spikes in new cases, hospitalizations and deaths. But even as vaccinations begin and case counts recede, officials still caution the pandemic is not over yet.

Here are Minnesota's COVID-19 statistics as of December 31, 2020, 5:30 am:

- 5,262 deaths (66 newly reported)—Among those who have died, about 65% had been living in long-term care or assisted living facilities; most had underlying health problems
- 413,107 positive cases (2,019 new), 395,679 off isolation (96%)
- 5.5 million tests, 3 million people tested (about 52% of the population)
- 6.6% seven-day positive test rate

Known, active cases of the disease continue to fall and are now near 12,000. This is a level not seen since late October and is part of an overall slowdown in caseloads since the late November, early December peak. Hospitalization trends have also improved significantly over the past two weeks.

The dreadful news: More than 2,800 Minnesotans have died from COVID-19 complications during November and December alone. That's more than half of all pandemic deaths, with December the deadliest month by far.

People in their 20s still make up the age bracket with the state's largest number of confirmed cases. The number of high school-age youth confirmed with the disease has also grown. Although less likely to feel the worst effects of the disease and end up hospitalized, experts worry youth and young adults will spread it to grandparents and other vulnerable populations.

It's especially concerning because people can have the coronavirus and spread COVID-19 when they don't have symptoms.

In Minnesota and across the country, COVID-19 has hit communities of color disproportionately hard in both cases and deaths. That's been especially true for Minnesotans of Hispanic descent for much of the pandemic. Even as new case counts ease from their peak a few weeks ago, the data shows people of color continue to be hit hardest.

Distrust of the government, together with deeply rooted health and economic disparities, have hampered efforts to boost testing among communities of color, officials say, especially among unauthorized immigrants who fear their personal information may be used to deport them.

Similar trends have been seen among Minnesota's Indigenous residents. Counts among Indigenous people jumped in October relative to population.

In Pennington County, we have had 828 confirmed cases, 77 probable cases, and 14 deaths.

Nearly two weeks into Minnesota's vaccine distribution program, about 38,000 people have received their first shots.

Many hospitals started vaccinating their front-line workers the week of December 21, with a few starting days before that. Long-term care providers started vaccinating residents this week, with nearly 600 vaccinations given so far.

The state is on track to have received 250,000 doses by the end of Thursday, December 31. Despite questions about the pace of vaccinations, state officials said that vaccination was actually proceeding more quickly, but that the data is delayed and incomplete at this point.

Pastor Carl's sermon for January 3, 2021

2020!! Phew!! Good riddance!!

In my 77 years of life, I have never experienced a year like 2020. A mysterious, quietly rampaging virus has turned our world and our lives upside down. Instead of coming together as the social beings that God has created us to be, we are instructed to stay apart so that we may not infect others, nor be infected by them. We are told to distance ourselves, when we were made for community with one another. While we know that is the right thing to do, we long for the day when we may again gather in person and make a joyful noise to the Lord.

One of the things that I have been doing during our time apart from one another is reading. I am drawn to books about the past and how that past informs and illuminates the present. Dr. Robert Putnam is one of my favorite authors. He has written several books that perceptively analyze what has made America tick at different periods in our history as a nation. He describes those periods as "Me" or "We."

As I read and re-read Putnam's book "The Upswing," I started thinking about you – the people of St. Pauli. I have served 8 parishes over 54 years of ordained ministry. One congregation I can accurately describe as a "me" congregation, while still others are "we congregations, and still others are a mixture of both.

I can say with great assurance that St. Pauli is a "we" congregation. There is a sense of community at St. Pauli that sings out "we are all in this together" doing the Lord's work. I am eagerly looking for the day when we can once again gather in person for worship and make a truly joyful noise to the Lord. In the meantime, let us continue to uphold one another in prayer and reflect upon these wonderful words from the Gospel According to John.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fulness we all have received, grace upon grace. The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has even seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." Amen.

John O'Donohue

Editor's Note: My brother-in-law Kevin made me aware of John O'Donohue and this poem. The article following will help you gain insight into this poet and poem that is so appropriate for our times.

**“This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.**

**Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.**

**If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.”**

— John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

John O'Donohue was born in 1956, into a native Gaelic speaking family, on the farm inhabited by previous generations in the Burren Region of County Clare, Ireland. As the oldest of four children, he learned to work alongside his parents and uncle, developing a close kinship with the wild landscape, framed by an ethereal view of a limestone valley and the beckoning waters of Galway Bay. This valley was the shell of John's soul, forging a deep and powerful connection with the elements shaping him. He was educated at the local primary school, alternating his studies with the farm chores of tending livestock, raising crops and carving peat for fuel. John later described the profound influence of his childhood home as, "A huge wild invitation to extend your imagination...an ancient conversation between the land and sea."

At age 18, John entered the University of Ireland in Maynooth, studying English Literature, Philosophy and Theology. During these formative college years, he recalled feeling his "mind awakening - an exciting, frightening and lonely experience," and began writing in poetic form. John was ordained into the priesthood in 1982, completing a MA in the same year. In 1986, he began his doctoral studies at the University of Tübingen in Germany and was awarded his PhD in Philosophical Theology in 1990. John wrote a provocative dissertation on the German philosopher, Hegel, later



commenting, 'Hegel struck me as someone who puts his eye to the earth at the most unusual angle and manages to glimpse the circle toward which all things aspire. He sticks to the hard edge of what is absolutely real, while encouraging this rich imagination that allows you to glimpse how dualities and contradictions actually entwine around each other.' John's insights into the Self as an unfolding journey of consciousness, memory and spirit reconciled our contradictory human existence as both Individual Person and Person in Relationship to Other. The prestigious journal, *Review of Metaphysics*, commended John's dissertation for, "...breaking new ground in our thinking about consciousness with a richer and deeper notion of Personhood."

Following his rigorous academic studies, John returned to Ireland in 1990, to resume his priestly duties. He began to recognize an affinity of non-dualism between Celtic consciousness and the rhythms of Hegel's thought. Straddling his native folk world and the adopted Germanic culture of a primary architect of 20th century thought, proved a rich source of creativity. During these years, John also began working on a post-doctoral dissertation on Meister Eckhart, a 14th century German mystic and philosopher. Eckhart's ideas became a primary and profound influence, offering invitation and companionship for John to venture further in his own exploration.

John's writings emerging from this period of study and reflection illuminated with deep and critical compassion our innate human hunger to belong within the physical and mental landscapes that we mysteriously inhabit. In 2000, John retired from public priestly ministry, living in a remote cottage in Connemara. He devoted himself full-time to writing and a public life of speaking and advocating for social justice, while inspiring the powerful in society to engage in meaningful change.

John's legacy directs our search for intimacy to crucial thresholds: tradition and modernity, past and future, life and death, the visible and the invisible world. At the heart of John's awakened beliefs was the premise that ancient wisdom could offer desperately needed nourishment for the spiritual hunger experienced in our modern world. John is fondly remembered by an international readership as one who could blend critical analytic thought with imaginative evocation, enabling

people to release themselves from the false shelter of the familiar and repetitive to become agents of transformation and change.

"Our world is facing so many crises ecologically, economically, and spiritually. These cannot be overcome by isolated individuals. We need to come together. There is incredible power in a community of people who are together because they care, and who are motivated by the ideals of compassion and creativity." John O'Donohue

Just two days after his 52nd birthday and two months after the publication of his final complete work, *Benedictus: A Book of Blessings*, O'Donohue died suddenly in his sleep on 4 January 2008 while on holiday near Avignon, France.

Skijoring: A Thrilling Nordic-inspired Winter Sport

If you're looking for a unique way to enjoy Nordic-inspired outdoor winter fun with friends and family, consider skijoring! Blending elements of dogsledding and waterskiing, this thrilling sport involves being towed on skis behind a horse, dog or other animal—or in some variations, even a motor vehicle.

The origins of skijoring

Like many other popular winter sports, skijoring (from Norwegian *skikjøring*, or “ski driving”) has deep historical roots. For hundreds of years, similar techniques were practiced in Norway by Sámi and other peoples as a form of transportation, usually involving a sled towed behind a reindeer or horse for travel through snowy Nordic regions.

Scandinavian immigrants in the early 19th century brought the idea to North America and incorporated influences from dogsledding. Since then the activity has evolved, with a variety of inventive twists to make it a more exciting sport for participants and those watching the fun. For example, in North America, riders wear skis or snowboards and are often towed behind a horse, rather than dogs or reindeer. There are creative variations of skijoring too. Some add a rider for the horse, while others use teams of dogs or a snowmobile, motorcycle or small car for fast-paced adventure in the snow.



Ready to give it a try?

There are many resorts and skijoring organizations in Canada and the United States that offer lessons. And for those who would rather enjoy the thrills as a spectator, Skijoring is growing as a competitive sport that offers many opportunities for family viewing fun. There are hundreds of popular festivals and competitions around the world that feature Skijoring. From Tromsø in Norway to Calgary in Alberta, Canada, and several areas in the United States (including Colorado, Montana, Wisconsin and the Dakotas) you can find a place to watch the action.

The American Kennel Club says it is “The Best Winter Dog Sport Ever.” While dog sledding races like the Iditarod might get most of the press, dog sledding isn't the only winter sport that humans and dogs enjoy together. You don't need to own a team of Northern breed sled dogs to enjoy this simpler offshoot of dogsledding.

Skijoring requires one to three dogs, a pair of skis, and a pulling harness. Most outdoor winter enthusiasts already have at least two of those, and quality pulling harnesses and belts are available online for under \$75. If you love cross-country skiing as much as your dog loves running through the snow, then you and your dog might have what it takes to try skijoring this winter.

Unlike dogsledding, most skijoring races are short. They usually run anywhere from 5 to 20 kilometers, which means almost any breed of dog can skijor without fear of surviving for days in the frozen tundra. Skijoring organizations recommend skijoring with dogs over 35 pounds for canine safety reasons, and German Shorthaired Pointers, Greyhounds, German Shepherds, Dalmatians, Border Collies, and Golden Retrievers are just a few of the breeds seen at skijoring competitions in the States.

Regardless of their breed, your dogs need to love to run, consistently obey their training, and respect other dogs if you wish to compete with them in a race. Dog races, just like other canine events, are full of strange people and dogs. The last place you want to be in the middle of a dog fight is on skis.

Finding Skijoring Competitions

Watching and participating in winter dog sports is both exhilarating and a little chilly. Bundle up this winter and see if there are any local skijoring races near you. (http://sleddogcentral.com/schedules/race_schedules.htm)

Most dogsledding races hold skijoring races alongside traditional dogsledding and weight pulls, and if you are serious about skijoring, then races are a great place to connect with other enthusiasts and learn more about this up and coming winter sport.



Inside the Deichman

An ocean for learning, a meeting spot, and an open space

Tove Andersson, Oslo. Published in the *Norwegian-American* newspaper September 1, 2020 · Updated October 24, 2020



*The newly opened Deichman library on Oslo's waterfront is an innovative cultural center, much more than just a repository for books.
Photo: Erik Thallaug / Fotofolk*



The library is a sky, each cloud is a book, the library is an ocean, each book is a wave. – Lars Saabye Christensen

Looking up at the glass facade opposite the Oslo Opera House, six floors containing literature, reading and study areas, stages, a movie theater, and workshops for young and old—all this may seem overwhelming to venture into. Outside the entrance, a family of three is watching, not yet prepared to enter. That fear is unfounded.

“We aim to redefine what a public library can be,” says Knut Skansens, the library director and head of the agency first founded in 1785 that operates 22 public libraries all over Oslo.

Oslo's new flagship library, Deichman Bjørvika, is an extension of the 235-year-old history of the public library in Norway's capital. It is perfectly located between the Opera House and Oslo S (Oslo Central Station). The excitement around its opening engaged the entire city, as 1,000 schoolchildren filled the streets of Oslo as they helped move thousands of books from the old main library.

Inside, you will not find the traditional rows of books but a look into the future, what a vibrant library can be. The library offers reading, relaxation, activities, and learning: how to play the piano, how to record a play, or how to use a 3D printer. In addition, you will find movie stations, music stations, audio studios, a mini cinema, a games room, and a small stage. A magazine, the view, and a glass of wine at the roof café will also do for some.

New horizons

We are about to enter nearly 156,077 square feet of space, with more than 450,000 books, films, and CDs. It is an innovative, architecturally visible, and accessible public library, with escalators bringing visitors from floor to floor. Each floor has its own distinctive character, all the while with a breathtaking view. Starting at the cinema downstairs, free family films are shown, and a range of children's books, many in English, are available to explore.

While the second floor consists mainly of departments for children and fiction, the third is aimed more at older youth. Let's pause for a minute. Here we find hands-on activities: a workshop with access to 3-D printers, sewing machines, vinyl cutters, textile printers, large format printers, and tools such as drills and laser meters. Both the fourth and fifth floors have lots of study and reading places as well as a multilingual collection, Scandinavian artistry, and the Future Library section.

What will the world look like 100 years from now? The art project “Future Library” unites the future, literature, and the environment. In Nordmarka, the forest close to the city center and frequently used by the city's inhabitants and visitors, 1,000 trees have been planted to become printed books in the year 2114. Each year, an established author will submit a text to the project “Future Library.”

Margaret Atwood, David Mitchell, Sjón, Elif Shafak, and Han Kang have already written texts for the Future Library, while Karl Ove Knausgård will present his text on Sept. 5. Each year, a new author will write a text, and in 2114, these texts will be published. In the meantime, you and your descendants will be able to see and reflect on the manuscripts in Deichman Bjørvika's Future Library room. "Neither I, nor anyone else in Deichman, know who the next year's invited writers are," says Jørn Johansen, communications manager.



Photo: Einar Aslaksen

The new Deichman library is situated on the Oslo waterfront in between the Oslo Central Station and the iconic Opera House.

Some skepticism

We meet a young Swedish-Norwegian family outside, Axel and Kjersti, who are looking up at the building, not yet convinced. "We just came from sunbathing in the Oslo Fjord! We love our local Deichman library, but I am not fond of the facade here in Bjørvika. Too much glass and concrete, yet the much-criticized Munch building behind the Opera is cool," Axel says. Kjersti disagrees; she finds the area lively and interesting and hopes it will continue to be as vibrant as on this sunny day in Oslo. They will visit the new library, but for now the two and their little baby, too young for the experience, are looking up and imagining what it is like inside.

But Axel is wrong about the façade: the library is not made of glass. Almost 1,200 tons of recyclable reinforced steel supports 28,252 cubic feet of environmentally friendly concrete in the three shafts, but the facade material is made from fiberglass-reinforced plastic (GFRP) filled with mineral wool insulation. If they could only have a peek inside, they would discover that the books are mostly arranged on the walls, while easy-to-use screens are placed everywhere for the borrowers to find books and even get the info sent by e-mail. A couple passing us on the third floor are checking out the sound studio for recording, while a boy wants to try the DJ system. The smell of old books, the tiny study places some of us recall are gone.

Decidedly different

We ask Director Skansen to explain how the library redefines what a public library can be. "Library development is about creating a sustainable public space for people's interactions with each other, with content and with tools, thereby helping them become active participants in their communities. This requires a new type of public space that is attractive and non-institutional—somewhere between the personalized and the public. These spaces offer people the chance to take on a new and more

important role as volunteers and resources for their communities and for each other. The new Deichman Bjørvika Library is the embodiment of our overall vision. We aim at a society in which all people feel at home, find affiliation, feel a positive commitment to their communities and their own lives—and have unlimited access to books," he says.

And this is how we feel in this welcoming, open space, with a variety of seating areas available everywhere, for one or a group, for the elderly and the young. Whether you prefer open spaces and views of the fjord or more secluded and quiet nooks or mezzanines, there is a study room for you.

The library is a forest, each reader is a tree who borrows light, who borrows rain. The library is a circus.

– Lars Saabye Christensen

The library is a forest

At the opening on June 18, prominent guests including H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, the mayor of Oslo, Marianne Borgen, and governing mayor of Oslo, Raymond Johansen, were present to listen to Lars Saabye Christensen reading his opening speech, as music filled the huge room. "Finally, the people of Oslo and visitors to the city can come and start using the library. We are looking forward to showing people this building, of which we are proud. I hope people will also feel pride, because this library is first and foremost their building," said Skansen.

As we wander around, we can hear many languages. Two girls speaking Portuguese tell us that they are studying in Oslo, an American with his girlfriend tells me he is local, and the "Other languages" section also shows us that the library is for all of Oslo's population.

Our interest sparked by the linguistic cacophony, we ask what the library has to offer to non-Norwegian visitors. "Deichman

Bjørvika holds a rich collection of books, movies, and music in a total of 137 different languages. In addition, we offer the free download of 7,000 newspapers and magazines from 70 countries via the Press Reader app. From the library, users can also access various types of databases and dictionaries,” our guide tells us.

In the fiction area, we recognize the author of 19 titles, Jan Ove Ekeberg, who is currently working on the fifth and last book in the Viking series *Den siste Vikingkongen* (The Last Viking King). “It is my first time here, but I am really impressed, both by the architecture, the light, and the way the library allows you to mingle, yet still find quiet places to work,” says Ekeberg, who has spent five hours in the library.

Ekeberg, a TV anchor for 23 years with a master’s degree in political science from the University of Minnesota, became a full-time writer in 2016. He tells us that the characters and events in his books are historical and as authentic as can be, thereby the series gives the reader a chance to learn about an important period in Norwegian history, so far available in four languages, with an English version forthcoming. Viking history not only appeals to adults but is a natural theme on the downstairs level.

The library is a castle, the library is a station, the library is a city, the library is a sky, each book a cloud.
– Lars Saabye Christensen

Play and learn—at any age

An old Viking grave and some mysterious objects have “strayed” into the cellar. There is a playroom filled with children, hiding spots, areas for watercolor painting, and a mystery chamber for children between age 6 and 15, an “escape chamber” for solving mysteries during the summer months. Deichman wants to contribute to a society where everyone, young and old, feels a sense of belonging, ownership, and commitment, toward both the community and their own lives. No matter why you come here, you will leave with something.

“At Deichman, we aim to give our visitors a trust for their future, built on a foundation of knowledge and experiences we offer,” says Skansen. As he said during the opening ceremony, “The library has become a house that offers an abundance of light, air, and spectacular views. There is a generous ceiling here—in every sense of the word. The library is a democratic and cultural bedrock. The library is the opposite of echo chambers and exclusion. The library is a vaccine against one of the challenges of big cities: loneliness. This will be the children’s library, the adults’ library, a library for the city’s east and west, a library for all of Oslo.”

The library is high, the library is low. The library is a door, where you do not meet yourself but another—that shows us who we can be. The library is a road. The library is you, the library is you. – Lars Saabye Christensen

The library is a door

“It has been great to walk around the library and watch it filled with people. The citizens of Oslo have really taken over the building that is theirs,” says Merete Lie, department director for Deichman Bjørvika. Nonetheless, as people wait to stream in, numerous control measures for the pandemic have been put in place, which means that, among other things, only 1,000 people can be in the building at the same time for now.

It is easy to believe Christensen while slowly walking around and discovering new things the entire time. The architectural firms Lund Hagem and Atelier Oslo designed the building, a unique structure that excels in energy efficiency and using technology to create a new type of library space. The library will endure as an important contribution for the enrichment and strengthening of Oslo’s position as a city of culture, and it is within walking distance to the new Munch Museum and SALT art & music, a cultural village of architecture and music, a lot of fun, not only by the fjord but in the fjord itself.

A splash made us aware of a sauna floating outside the Opera House and a family jumping into the fjord. The sauna is available on a drop-in basis or can be rented for a sauna experience and a refreshing swim in the fjord. Nearby Sørenga has opened a 53,820 square foot. new sea bath with beach, grass, and a wooden jetty, lit and ready for nighttime swimming. The new waterfront promenade stretches over 5 1/2 miles—and you can, of course, borrow a book to take along with you!

Final impressions

As we leave the library, we meet a family from Bergen on “Norgesferie,” a “holiday in Norway,” an expression the coronavirus pandemic has made popular. “No, we haven’t visited the new library yet, but it looks great!” they say.

With two youngsters, the family certainly has something to discover while in Oslo, a place to spend hours, but for now they are having fun climbing into the 7.7-yard-high sculpture “Creation from Iddefjord,” created by the 79-year-old American artist Martin Puryear. A step inside away, they may someday climb even higher, as they discover a new world of wonder and learning that is Oslo’s new Deichman Bjørvika Library.



Photo: Erik Thallaug / Fotofolk / Deichman Bjørvika

At the new Deichman, you will find more shelves lined with books. Here a young visitor experiments with music production on the drums.

The Back Page

How do Court Recorders Keep Straight Faces????

These are from a book called "Disorder in the American Courts" and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you kidding me?

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town, I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning

pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral...

And last:

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.