



### Tree Dedication 2021

Claudia Berg

Presented by Audrey Solheim

A native of ND, Claudia was born and raised in Minot. Her parents were career city employees. She has a younger sister and brother. In junior high, after attending a candy striper convention at the University of North Dakota, it was the only college under consideration following high school graduation in 1970.

It was at UND that Claudia met Robert Matz and attended her first hockey game. She married Robert in 1976 and continues to follow UND hockey. After graduating with Masters of Fine Arts degrees Robert and Claudia moved to Bismarck where Robert started teaching art in the Bismarck Public Schools and Claudia began her career with the State Historical Society. She spent the next 39 years working across the state with over 100 county and local museums; the agency's state historic sites; and the development of programs and exhibits at the Heritage Center. After a decade as expansion coordinator and director it was time to retire in 2020.

Claudia grew up watching both grandmothers make lefse and cook lutefisk on Christmas Eve. Christmas memories include always using the everyday dishes and silverware because the lutefisk would tarnish the good silver. She continues to use her maternal grandmother's lefse grill, krumkake iron and sandbakkel tins.

All of Claudia's grandparents immigrated from Norway in the early 1900s. All came from Oslo, except one grandfather who immigrated from Kongsvinger in Hedmark. Everyone, including parents, aunts and uncles, spoke Norwegian, using it as their secret language.

Growing up surrounded by Norwegian culture, it wasn't until 2006, when she joined Sons of Norway, that Claudia's interest in her Norwegian heritage was rekindled. She thoroughly enjoys her involvement as lodge secretary and historian, assisting with the lutefisk dinner and other special projects.

Thank you, Claudia, for all you are doing for our lodge.