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For Save the Norse Home
May 26, 2026

Norse Home Saga

Introduksjon (Introduction)

This saga starts with a synopsis of the creation of the Norse Home (please refer to “Traditions of caring : a history of Norse Home,Seattle, Washington” by Rochester, Junius for the full story). Many things are left out here that demonstrate the extraordinary effort to create and maintain The Norse Home. The saga continues with the actions of 2024 to the summer of 2026, wherein the Norse Home was lost to the community, all residents expelled, and the building fenced off. At the end, we are collecting stories from people who lived there or worked for the Norse Home, or whose parents lived there, or who had any experience of the Norse Home, to get a sense of its special meaning to the Norse community.

Grunnleggelse (Creation)

(This is a synopsis from the book “Traditions of caring : a history of Norse Home,Seattle, Washington” by Rochester, Junius)

Timeline

- December 1932 The Sons of Norway Lodge #1 established a committee to create a home for the aged- a retirement home.

- 1933 The Daughters of Norway were invited to join the project.
- 1933 The "Old Folks Home Corporation" was formed with by-laws and stipulations about the purpose, membership and burdens of the retirement home.
- 1938 The name of the corporation changed to The Norse Home, Inc. and articles of incorporation were filed with the State of Washington. Sons and Daughters of Norway Lodges are invited to join the corporation. A Board of Trustees is elected.
- 1938 The real estate for the Norse Home was acquired on January 23.
- 1939 A deed was issued for the property on Phinney to the Norse Home, Inc. (September 6),
- 1940 The Nazis invaded Norway (April 9). The Norwegian community focused on war efforts and the fund raising efforts for the Norse Home were secondary to fund raising relating to the war
- 1941 A monthly publication- The Norse Home Review is produced
- 1941 Trygve Buschmann becomes President of the Norse Home corporation and asks Mrs. Inge Frodesen to take on the task of organizing Norse Home Guilds
- 1945 when the war ended, the efforts to create the Norse Home continued in earnest.
- Between 1944 and 1953 many fundraising efforts combined so that the Norse Home Inc. has raised $2,019,426.99
- 1950 August Buschmann estimates the cost of building and furnishing The Norse Home at $550,000
- 1951 on December 15, Architect Ed Mahlum presented the final building plans

- 1955 on December 10 at an icy ceremony, the ground was broken on the Phinney Ave site
- 1955 estimates for building the Norse Home are now between $700,000 and 1 million dollars
- 1957 on May 26, the Norse Home officially opened to residents
- 1958 FHA sends first check to The Norse Home for $103,873,79. They are expected to send more. The architect, Ed Mahlum has worked with Warren Magnuson and Henry Jackson and Eisenhower to push legislation to fund homes for the aged and secure funds for the Norse Home
- 2021 On September 20, The Norse Home announced that it was becoming an "affiliate" of the Bellevue-based nonprofit Transforming Age, which owns and operates 47 senior living communities
- 2024 On September 29, Transforming Age announced to the resident that they are being evicted. There were 80 residents (per KUOW 80 seniors scramble to find housing after Seattle assisted living facility announces closure by Amy Radil published Oct. 2, 2024)
- 2025 on June 18, Transforming Age, after evicting all the residents, closed the building

Statement of number, type of people served at opening

"The Home will provide "150 acceptable, ambulatory persons over 65 and over each with a double bedroom" and the most modern facilities of a model home for the aged - plus an infirmary". The article further discussed payment and says "From 39 to 50 rooms may be reserved for people who are unable to pay the founder's fee. " says

Mahlum. But Mahlum said that was contingent upon the financial health of the facility and clarifies “The Home will cater mainly to people of moderate means.”



N 50th and Phinney Ave N. May 9 , 1935 The Norse Home will be built on the left approximately where that streetcar is in the photo
Seattle Municipal Archives, CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons



Seattle. Views. From Phinney Ridge, roof of Norse home. Looking Northwest toward the Olympic Mountains. Photo taken by Roy Scully in 1960

Who is Trygve Buschmann?

Far north, in Alaska, is a town called Petersburg on the north of the Wrangell Narrows. It is named for a Norwegian American fisherman , Peter Thomas Buschmann, who established seafood saltories in Port Townsend, Bellingham, and Lummi Island in Washington State and then did the same at the location of that town. His son Trygve became a medical doctor and surgeon in Seattle. Trygve spent 15 years working on the Norse Home project as a board member and president of the board. Trygve described the purpose of the Norse Home as *"*...each and every one of us, whether a lodge member or not, has an obligation to the aged. Most of these old

people are honest, upright, hard-working individuals who have toiled faithfully at manual labor throughout the best period of their lives, and in spite thereof, in many instances are unable to provide comfortably for themselves in their declining years... We who have benefited from their labor and toil owe it to them to do what we can for their comfort and happiness in their old age." He further said, "Elder citizens often live in unpleasant circumstances and frequently their environment is lacking the association and companionship which means so much to these old people," and relating to the Norse Home, "...the only expense to the guests will be the cost of operation".

On May 1, 1944, Trygve Buschmann wrote a letter to the Sons of Norway lodges with the following points:

1. From the attack on Pearl Harbor (by the Japanese) the NORSE HOME project has been inactive.
2. This is the time to resume efforts to build a home for aged citizens.
3. NORSE HOME is a Sons and Daughters of Norway Institution
4. All lodges are invited to join the effort.
5. In Norway, every city of any size has a home for the aged.
6. Guilds have been formed by local women to support NORSE HOME.
7. The general fund drive was launched last week with a dinner at Seattle's Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Norwegian Hospital Association

The Norwegian Hospital Association was first formed in 1913 by six Norwegian women as a non-sectarian hospital. The Norwegian Hospital Association operated at

3515 Woodland Park Ave N. between 1922 and 1927 (this is 1.7 miles from the Norse Home site). Marie Pauline Lund (nee Vognild) (who also founded the Daughters of Norway Valkyrien Lodge) was one of those women and the first President of that group. The hospital may have originally been called Barnevene (Barnevene may translate to children's friend or children's heart blood, depending on the Norwegian dialect). Quoting from "Traditions of Caring" : "The Norwegian Hospital Association remained for many years the first and most consistent women's organization in support of Norse Home."

Norse Home Guilds

Before 1941, the Norwegian Hospital Association was involved with the Norse Home Project. After 1941, the Guilds were created. Between 1956 and 1958, the Norse Home corporation provided information relating to the FHA loan that was received. In the first few years, there were 19 Guilds with about 20 women each per Guild. New Guilds were added over the years.

In the 1980's and the 21st century, many of the women in those guilds had died, and no younger women had taken their place. The Guilds were a key fundraiser and contributor to the Norse Home

	Guild	Creator	Purpose	Formed
1	Sunroom Guild	Mrs. Ludvig Uri	Build and furnish a sunny recreation place at Norse Home	Spring 1941 (First Guild?)
2	Midnatsol Guild		Fundraising, bazaars and luncheons	

	Guild	Creator	Purpose	Formed
3	Sunset Hill		Luncheons and bridge games	1941, Third Guild
4	Solveig Guild	Mrs. Severin Andersen	Organized fundraising specializing in raffles	September 1941
5	Seterjenten Guild		Fundraising, silent auctions, Seterjenten Soup Supper. Provided Norwegian flags to fly over the building , funded the Concierges desk in the main lobby	1941, Fourth Guild
6	Inga Frodesen		Heart vafler (waffles) every Monday, Salmon Barbeque, bought the piano and the mural in the coffee lounge	1960
7	Woodlawn Guild		Luncheons and bridge games, Teas	1941
8	Ketchikan	Alvida Stamaa Larsen		March 13, 1947 (all members had lived in Ketchikan)
9	You And I			
10	Noronna			
11	Carleton Park			
12	Phinney			
13	Freya			
14	Synnove Solbakken			

	Guild	Creator	Purpose	Formed
15	Harmony		Gave an organ to Norse Home, hosting help, cookies, money	
16	Fagerheim			
17	Star			
18	Solglimt			
19	West Seattle Solglimt			
20	Four Leaf Clover			
21	Norse Home (Spokane)			
22	Femboringen	Halda Jules and Emma Varney	Fashion shows (J.C. Penny), Champagne suppers, musical evenings	September 18, 1978

Angrep (Takeover and Eviction)

Presbyterian Ministries, Incorporated, was founded in 1956 (per the Transforming Age history web page), and they describe it as a nonprofit/not-for-profit organization providing senior/retirement housing and services.

In 2005 (per the Transforming Age history web page, again, it says rebranded to its current name in 2016), it was renamed to "Presbyterian Retirement Communities Northwest". It is registered as a USA National Healthcare Provider for Assisted Living.

More information is needed here about the Transforming Age

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