

Folk Art School Fall Catalog 2025-2026



VESTERHEIM

Welcome to Vesterheim Folk Art School!

This summer schedule includes in-person and online classes from October 2025–March 2026 and offers a wide variety of options with a fantastic lineup of instructors. Registration opens on August 20, 2025 (Noon CT) at vesterheim.org/folk-art-school.

We plan to publish classes every six months. The next registration will include classes from April–September 2026 and will open on February 20, 2026 (Noon CT).

We look forward to connecting with you, both online and in Decorah!

A special thank you to the Dr. Eugene J. and Olive M. Nordby Family Eringdring Endowment for ongoing support of folk art education.

Vesterheim's online programming for 2025 is made possible thanks to generous support of the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Sons of Norway – Noreg Lodge 3-466.

Registration opens August 20, 2025, Noon CT at vesterheim.org/folk-art-school





Class Materials and Levels of Instruction

Some class prices include a kit of materials. For others, an additional materials fee may apply. Please see individual class pages at vesterheim.org/folk-art-school for more specific information. Class pages with detailed information will go live August 20 at Noon CT.

Vesterheim Folk Art School has classes for all skill levels including beginners! Beginner-friendly, skill-based classes are marked with a ★ icon. If you have any questions about the skill level required in a class, please contact folkartschool@vesterheim.org.

Online classes are recorded and students have access to those recordings for two weeks after the final class session.

Housing for In-Person Classes

Folk Art School staff members are happy to share helpful information about housing options specifically for Vesterheim Folk Art School students. Please email folkartschool@vesterheim.org to inquire, and we will send you a list of hotel discount codes, information about Airbnbs, and a short list of private homestay options. From campgrounds to homestays to traditional hotels, there are many housing options in Decorah!



National Exhibition

A special exhibition of contemporary folk art

Start thinking about the *The National Norwegian-American Folk Art Exhibition* in 2026! This summer exhibition at Vesterheim in Decorah, Iowa, showcases the self-expression of contemporary artists who create folk art rooted in Norwegian traditions. Artists submit work for evaluation by a team of judges, who offer feedback on their pieces and award ribbons to the very best work. The ribbons carry points that accumulate toward a Vesterheim Gold Medal. There are also awards for Best of Show and People's Choice. The exhibition is for artists of all skill levels to share and grow in their ability.

The National Norwegian-American Folk Art Exhibition occurs every other year. All the information you need to enter will be listed online in the spring of 2026! We look forward to seeing your pieces and sharing your artwork at Vesterheim!

Past/Present/Future of Folk Art

On alternate years, Vesterheim presents a themed folk art show that is open to a wide range of artistic expression. The 2025 show is titled *Past/Present/Future of Folk Art* and is open through January 11, 2026.

Artists featured in this show have created pieces that honor folk art masters of the past, draw inspiration from contemporary culture bearers, and explore what folk art might become in the future. Many of these pieces will be for sale both in person and online at store.vesterheim.org. Be sure to visit Vesterheim to vote for People's Choice Award.

Support for Past/Present/Future of Folk Art exhibit is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority.



On-Demand Classes

Vesterheim Folk Art School has launched a new model for folk art instruction – on-demand classes. When you register for an on-demand class, Vesterheim sends you a kit of materials in the mail, and you have online access for 90 days to a set of video tutorials taught by one of Vesterheim’s master instructors. Designed to be classes that you can take anywhere at any time, we hope that the addition of on-demand classes can make Vesterheim’s programming available to folks who have had schedule conflicts in the past.

Registration for two on-demand classes is open now:

- ★ *Norwegian Language for Travelers*
with Dr. Maren Anderson Johnson, \$95
- ★ *First Cuts: Scandinavian Flat-Plane Figure Carving*
with Vesterheim Gold Medalist Charles Banks, \$155

We have already filmed additional courses and begun conversations with instructors about teaching on-demand classes in rosemaling, weaving, jewelry, Nordic cooking, and more. We’re excited about the possibilities this new model offers!

On-demand classes at Vesterheim are supported in part by the Harlan and Connie Sanderson Endowment.



Rosemaling and Painting

Rosemaling classes are supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Susan and George Louthain and by the Wilma A. Anderson Endowment.

Linework and Strokework: Rosemaling Ornaments with Lise Lorentzen
Online, November 8 (9:30–11:00 am and 2:00–4:00 pm CT)
and November 9 (9:30–11:00 am CT), Non-Member \$155/Member \$140
Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Karl Hanson.

Count Your Blessings: Rosemaling a Harvest Basket with Patti Goke
Online, November 23 (9:30–Noon and 1:30–4:00 pm CT)
Non-member \$95, Member \$85

★ **Rosemaling Fundamentals: Strokework for the Beginner Painter** with Lise Lorentzen

Online, Three Thursdays, January 22–February 5 (4:00–6:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$170/Member \$155

Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Karen and Lynn Herche in memory of Karen's mother Gladys Niemann.

Kurbitsmåling a Dala Horse with Kim Garrett

Online, January 31 (9:30–1:00 pm CT) and February 1
(9:30 am–12:30 pm CT), Non-Member \$200/Member \$180

Rosemaling in the Style of Ole Heimvegsasen with Louise Bath

Online, Four Thursdays, February 5–26 (6:00–8:30 pm CT),
Non-Member \$190/Member \$170

Rosemaling on Clogs and Leather with Rachel Saum

In-Person, March 13–15 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$305/Member \$275

Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund in loving memory of Harold and LuVerne Rosenbaum.

Gudbrandsdal Style Rosemaling with Lise Lorentzen

Online, March 14–15 (9:00 am–Noon CT),
Non-Member \$170/Member \$155

Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Tina Keune.





Weaving and Fiber Arts

- ★ *Knitting through Norway (Webinar)* with Maree Hampton
Online, October 18 (1:00–2:00 pm CT), Free

Innvik: A Quilt Inspired by Historical Textiles with Mike Ellingsen
In-Person, October 25 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$130/Member \$95

Intermediate Hardanger Embroidery with Shan Rayray
Online, Four Tuesdays, November 4–24 (3:00–5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$180/Member \$165

- ★ **Norwegian Lommer: Historical Pockets (Webinar)** with Steph Anderson
Online, November 8 (2:00–3:00 pm CT), Free
Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Kate and Paul Scott.

- ★ **Beginner Knot Work** with Lawrence Straley
In-Person, November 15 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$130/Member \$95

Knit a Sophie Scarf with Maree Hampton

Online, Two Wednesdays, December 3 and 10 (4:30–6:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$65/Member \$60

Knitting Historical Norwegian Mittens with Steph Anderson

Online, Three Thursdays, December 4–18 (6:00–7:30 pm CT),
Non-Member \$140/Member \$125

- ★ **Wool Embroidered Heart Ornament** with Laura Berlage
Online, December 10 (3:00–5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$115/Member \$105

- ★ **Card Weaving** with Laura Demuth
Online, December 13 (10:00–11:30 am and 3:00–4:30 pm CT)
and December 14 (Noon–1:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$160/Member \$145

- ★ **Sewing a Historical Pocket** with Steph Anderson
Online, Four Thursdays, January 8–29 (6:00–7:30 pm CT),
Non-Member \$170/Member \$155

Knit a Fana Sweater with Susan Kolstad

Online and In-Person, Eight Saturdays, January 17–February 28 (10:00–11:30 am CT, Online) and March 7 (10:00 am–Noon CT, Online or In-Person),
Non-Member \$265/Member \$240

Nålbinding with Laura Demuth

Online, Four Fridays, February 6–27 (10:00–11:30 am CT)
and Saturday, February 7 (10:00–11:30 am CT),
Non-Member \$235/Member \$215

Fjord Horse: Introduction to Tapestry Weaving, Post-Level 2 Skill Builder
with Laura Berlage

Online, Seven Wednesdays, February 11–March 25 (6:00–8:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$420/Member \$380

Heritage and Language

- ★ **October Bokprat: *Sister Bells Trilogy* with author Lars Mytting**
In-Person and Online, October 1 (7:00–8:30 pm CT), Free

***Level 2 Norwegian Language* with Berit Skogen**

Online, Eight Tuesdays, October 7–November 25 (6:00–7:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$155/Member \$140

***Level 4 Norwegian Language* with Lianna Torres**

Online, Eight Tuesdays, October 7–November 25 (7:30–8:30 pm CT),
Non-Member \$155/Member \$140

- ★ ***Writing Family History* with Jim Johnson**

In-Person, October 25 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$130/Member \$95

*Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund
from Liz Platou and Aaron Schroeder.*

- ★ **November Bokprat: *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen**

Online, November 19 (7:00–8:15 pm CT), Free

- ★ **December TVprat: *The Commoners***

Online, December 17 (7:00–8:15 pm CT), Free

***Norsk i Sammenheng* with Berit Skogen**

Online, Four Mondays, January 5–26 (6:00–7:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$80/Member \$70



- ★ **Level 1 Norwegian Language with Berit Skogen**
Online, Eight Tuesdays, January 6–February 24 (6:00–7:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$155/Member \$140
*Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund
from Jane Kemp.*

Level 3 Norwegian Language with Lianna Torres
Online, Eight Tuesdays, January 6–February 24 (7:30–8:30 pm CT),
Non-Member \$155/Member \$140

- ★ **January Bokprat: *The Lost Village* by Camilla Sten**
Online, January 28 (7:00–8:15 pm CT), Free
- ★ **February Bokprat: *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* by Selma Lagerlof**
Online, February 18 (7:00–8:15 pm CT), Free
- ★ **March Bokprat: *Minnesota* by Jo Nesbø**
Online, March 11 (7:00–8:15 pm CT), Free



Music

***Lost and Found: Norwegian-American Fiddle Tunes – Favorites from
Bill Sherburne and the Highlandville Dance* with Beth Rotto**
Online, February 7 (1:00–2:30 pm CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30



Nordic Cooking

★ All classes in this category are beginner-friendly!

Vesterheim's Nordic Cooking programs are supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from the Oneota Community Food Co-op.

Scandinavian Fall Baking Favorites: Apple Cake and Homemade Apple Donuts with Kristi Bissell

Online, October 18 (10:30 am–Noon CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

Viking-Inspired Cocktails: Myth, Mead, and Mixology with Malina Bickford

Online, October 24 (7:00–8:00 pm CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

Cozy Up with a Bowl of Trønderlag's Iconic Regional Dish: Sodd! with Nevada Berg

Online, November 1 (10:00 am–Noon CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

Vesterheim's Nordic Cooking programs are supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Christine Tuve Burris and Dr. James Burris.

Seven Cookies of Christmas with Darlene Fossum Martin

In-Person, November 15 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),

Non-Member \$130/Member \$95

Pancake Tarta with Patrice Johnson

Online, November 15 (3:00–5:00 pm CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***St. Lucia Buns* with Kristi Bissell**

Online, December 6 (1:00–2:00 pm and 3:00–4:00 pm CT),

Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***Holiday Smörgås* with Patrice Johnson**

Online, December 13 (2:00–4:00 pm CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***Hyggelig Hot Drinks For Cold Nights* with Emily Vikre**

Online, January 23 (7:00–8:00 pm CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***Nordic Brunch* with Kristi Bissell**

Online, February 1 (10:00 am–Noon CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***Potato Dumplings* with Patrice Johnson**

Online, February 7 (3:00–5:00 pm CT), Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***Nordic Waffles* with Kristi Bissell**

Online, March 21 (10:00 am–Noon pm CT),

Non-Member \$35/Member \$30

***Waffle Sandwiches* with Patrice Johnson**

Online, March 28 (10:00 am–Noon pm CT),

Non-Member \$35/Member \$30



Knifemaking and Metalwork

- ★ **Forging a Bottle Opener** with Paul Nyborg
In-Person, March 27-29 (9:00-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$305/Member \$275

Woodworking

Woodcarving classes are supported by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from the Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust.

Figure carving and kolrosing classes are supported in part by generous gifts to the Vesterheim Annual Fund in Memory of Harley Refsal.

Cultural Connections series is supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Sons of Norway Noreg Lodge 3-466 of New Jersey.

- ★ **Chip Carving Ornaments** with Charlene Lynum
In-Person, October 18-19 (9:00-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$205/Member \$185

Dragonstyle Relief Carving with Becky Lusk
In-Person, October 30-November 2 (9:00-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$405/Member \$365

Ho-Chunk Black Ash Basket Making with Kim Crowley
In-Person, November 1 (9:00-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$130/Member \$95





★ ***Scandinavian Flat Plane Figure Carving: Ornament Carving***
with Charles Banks

Online, Three Wednesdays, November 5-19 (6:00-7:30 pm CT),
Non-Member \$225/Member \$205

Making a Distaff with Fred Livesay

In-Person, November 8-9 (9:00-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$205/Member \$185

★ ***Kolrosing for Christmas*** with Scott Johnson

In-Person, November 21-23 (9:00-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$305/Member \$275

★ ***Introduction to Himmeli*** with Mary Erickson

Online, Two Saturdays, December 6 and 13 (10:00 am-Noon CT),
Non-Member \$115/Member \$130

★ ***Cultural Connections: Norwegian Spoon Carving (Webinar)***
with Liesl Chatman

Online, December 14 (2:00-3:00 pm CT), Free

Beginner-friendly, skill-based classes are marked with a ★ icon.

★ ***Cultural Connections: Japanese Spoon Carving (Webinar)***

with Melanie Abrantes

Online, January 25 (1:00–2:00 pm CT), Free

Carving Basics: How to Sharpen Your Tools with Fred Livesay

In-Person, January 31–February 1 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),

Non-Member \$205/Member \$185

★ ***Figure Carving for Everyone*** with Rebecca Hanna

In-Person, Four Saturdays, February 7–28 (9:00 am–Noon CT),

Non-Member \$205/Member \$185

Scandinavian Flat Plane Figure Carving: Same Blank, Different Directions with Charles Banks

Online, Three Wednesdays, March 4–18 (6:00–7:30 pm CT),

Non-Member \$225/Member \$205

★ ***Introduction to Green Wood Working*** with Derek Brabender

Online, March 7 (9:30–11:30 am CT and 3:00–4:00 pm CT)

and March 14–28 (9:30–11:30 am CT), Non-Member \$225/Member \$250

★ ***Cultural Connections: Tlingit Spoon Carving (Webinar)***

with James Johnson

Online, Saturday March 21 (2:00–3:00 pm CT), Free

★ ***The Art of Kolrosing*** with Liesl Chatman

In-Person, March 27–29 (9:00–5:00 pm CT),

Non-Member \$305/Member \$275





Cultural Connections: Spoon Carving

This winter, Vesterheim will host a third series of cross-cultural webinars exploring traditional folk art techniques from multiple cultural perspectives, this time highlighting spoon carving techniques from around the world. The series includes webinars led by Vesterheim instructor, spoon carver, and kolroser Liesl Chatman, spoon carver and woodworker Melanie Abrantes, and Tlingit artist and carver James Johnson.

The cross-cultural series of webinars fosters perspective about the way Norwegian and Scandinavian handcrafts are part of a global community. We are excited about these programs and hope they create a forum for discussion around cultural practice and offer a platform for cultural exchange. The connections we make help spread awareness of the folk art traditions explored at Vesterheim. Join in as we learn together!

The Cultural Connections series is supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Sons of Norway Noreg Lodge 3-466 of New Jersey.

Youth and Family

★ All classes in this category are beginner-friendly!

Family Handcraft at Home: Recycled Stars Inspired by Birchbark

Weaving with Derek Brabender

Online, Starts November 1 (Available all month)

Non-Member \$40/Member \$35

Friluftsliv Klubb with Emily Ostermann

In-Person, November 4–December 16 (3:15–5:00 pm CT),

(No class on November 25), Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

Beginning and Intermediate Whittling Klubb with Rebecca Hanna and Steph Hughes

In-Person, Six Wednesdays, November 5–December 17

(3:15–5:00 pm CT), (No class on November 26),

Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

Norsk Skole with Emily Ostermann

In-Person, Six Thursdays, November 6–December 18 (3:15–5:00 pm CT),

(No class on November 27), Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

Rosemaling Klubb with Sally Stromseth

In-Person, Six Thursdays, November 6–December 18 (3:15–5:00 pm CT),

(No class on November 27), Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

Supported in part by a generous gift to the Vesterheim Annual Fund from Tina Keune.





Family Handcraft at Home: Kroting with Rebecca Hanna

Online, February 1 (Available all month), Non-Member \$40/Member \$35

Friluftsliv Klubb with Emily Ostermann

In-Person, Six Tuesdays, February 3-March 10 (3:15-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

Fiber Arts Klubb with Ivy Riggs

In-Person, Six Tuesdays, February 3-March 10 (3:15-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

***Beginning and Intermediate Whittling Klubb
with Rebecca Hanna and Steph Hughes***

In-Person, Six Wednesdays, February 4-March 11 (3:15-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

Norsk Skole with Emily Ostermann

In-Person, Six Thursdays, February 6-March 12 (3:15-5:00 pm CT),
Non-Member \$60/Member \$55

***FamilieTid: Chasing Loki: Stories from Norse Mythology (Webinar)
with Laura Berlage***

Online, February 8 (1:00-2:00 pm CT), Free

Family Language Adventure: All Things Royal with Lianna Torres

Online, Starts March 1 (Available all month)

Non-Member \$40/Member \$35

Find everything Scandinavian at Vesterheim's Museum Store!

Available only at Vesterheim!



Vesterheim Canvas Apron

Rugged and dependable with embroidered logo, adjustable cross-back tie, three pockets, leather accents, and heavy-duty accessories. Wear it to carve, paint, cook, or whatever needs to be done and look stylish while doing it. 29 x 26.5 inches.

VApron \$39.95



Cup with Rosemaling by Rachael Saum

These may be the comfiest stoneware cups ever. The simple addition of the indent for your thumb makes these so easy to hold. Individually wheel-thrown, colors vary slightly as each one is unique. Approximately 4 1/2 x 3 inches.

Rachael Saum is a full-time studio potter in Taos, New Mexico.

RS8125 \$30

Find us in scenic Decorah, IA or online at store.vesterheim.org



Box with Key Woodenware

This handmade basswood-covered box includes curved beveled decorative edges on the bottom and the lid, plus a lovely, pegged key that pulls out easily to open the lid! It's ready to decorate with paint or woodcarving. 8 1/4 by 7 by 4 1/4 inches.

44002 \$28



Harley Knife - The late Harley Refsal was central in this design. Made specifically for "Flat Plane Figure Carving," the two-inch blade is especially thin and flat for easy straight cutting in basswood. Includes a custom protective sheath. Light Hardwood, Medium Almond or Ash Hardwood, or Walnut Dark Hardwood.

HRN \$91.95



Dala Horse 2
4 x 6 inches
2004P129



Nisse Far
6 1/2 x 3 3/4 inches
1991P21



Java John
2 1/2 x 6 inches
HR127JJ

Harley Blanks

Each basswood blank is ready to carve in the flat plane style of the late Harley Refsal. Many more figure options, along with Harley's carving and pattern books, are available at store.vesterheim.org. **\$12 each**

Beginner-friendly, skill-based classes are marked with a ★ icon.



Save on class registration as a Vesterheim member!

Members receive discounted tuition on most in-person and online classes offered through Vesterheim's Folk Art School. In addition, members also enjoy:

- Unlimited free admission to the museum
- *Vesterheim* magazine, published twice a year
- Discounts on Museum Store purchases
- Access to members-only events and programming
- Vesterheim's monthly email newsletter
- Benefits, discounts, and admission privileges at over 400 partner and reciprocal institutions nationwide

Becoming a member is easy!

Click: Head to vesterheim.org/membership and view membership levels, then purchase online or print and mail in a membership form

Call: 563-382-9681

Visit: Vesterheim's Museum Store or admissions desk

Scholarships

Vesterheim Folk Art School is a place that fosters community. Whether in online or in-person programs, we strive to offer an inclusive space where people of diverse ages, backgrounds, and abilities can gather and celebrate handcraft traditions. Through story sharing, making, and learning as a community, we keep folk art alive and moving forward.

The Folk Art School offers several ways to provide financial access for all. Scholarships are supported by gifts to the Vesterheim Annual Fund.

- The Emerging Artists Scholarship Program helps to cover the cost of tuition and materials to study folk art at Vesterheim. Any artist between the ages of 18-40 is eligible to apply.
- Need-based scholarships are designed as a pay-what-you-can model. We encourage anyone with financial need to apply.
- Vesterheim also offers a local waitlist option. On a space-available, standby basis, any year-round resident living within 50 miles of Vesterheim can receive a 60% discount for in-person class tuition.
- In-person class tuition for full-time enrolled Luther College students and members of the Oneota Weaver's Guild is discounted 60% on a space available, standby basis.

Visit vesterheim.org/folk-art-school to learn more and apply. Wherever you are in your handcraft journey, Vesterheim is here to support you!

**Registration opens August 20, 2025, Noon CT
at vesterheim.org/folk-art-school.**

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Barbara and Dale Henning.*



VESTERHEIM

Norwegian-American Museum

P.O. Box 379, 523 West Water Street
Decorah, IA 52101



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