

Norwegian Tracks

Norwegian American Genealogical
Center & Naeseth Library



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2026 Winter Book Study Announced

By Martha Frey, Book Study Leader

NAGC's big read in historical fiction for 2026 will be *The Bell in the Lake* by Lars Mytting. In Norwegian, its SØSTER-KLOKKENE.

Originally published in Norwegian in 2018, *The Bell in the Lake* has been recognized as worth reading by the 2025 Crossings & Connections conference and Vesterheim.

Librarian and NAGC Norwegian language student Kim Dahl suggested *The Bell in the Lake* because of its strong female character: Astrid Hekne. In 1879, this young woman lives in a mountain village in Gudbrandsdalen and yearns for modern life.

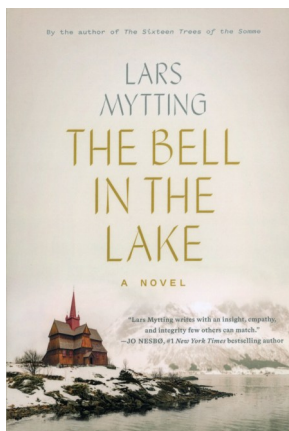
Astrid's "thoughts transported her to different places every day, and the only thing she knew was that she was searching for something, and that whatever it was, it was not in the village."

Astrid is an interesting character who may help you think about some of your ancestors in a new way.

The plot line in *The Bell in the Lake* includes bold plans for the old stave church in the village, with its Sister Bells. You will learn about church architecture, folklore, and religious history.

Author Lars Mytting also wrote the non-fiction bestseller *Norwegian Wood: Chopping, Stacking, and Drying Wood the Scandinavian Way*. Mytting has a gift for character development and nature writing.

The NAGC reading group is designed for those who spend the dark of



Reserve your
ticket for Friends
of NAGC Dinner
September 13—
Details inside!

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