



Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

Garage Sale

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The results are in from the Sons of Norway garage sale this weekend. A grand total of **\$711.35** was raised for Vennelag Lodge after advertising expenses were paid. Thank you to the many members who contributed sale items, helped to organize the sale, volunteered at the event, brought food for lunches, cleaned-up on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, gave monetary donations, and promoted the sale by word of mouth in advance of our efforts.

A special thank you goes to Rita Schraepfer who hosted the sale and contributed many hours of preparation, prior to the sale. A note for next year's sale: *the fastest selling items were plants!* If you have a perennial garden and would consider thinning your beds, prior to our event next year, that would be beneficial! Barb Morkri, thank you for a wonderful idea!

Non-clothing items were donated to St. Vincent de Paul in Verona. Clothing items were delivered to the Mt. Horeb Area Community Clothes Closet where they will see use once again. You have made a difference for others.

(See more photos on page 7)

Upcoming Meetings

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, all lodge meetings are held at the at Mt. Horeb Community Center (MHCC), 107 N. Grove St., Mt. Horeb, WI, 53572

2016

May 12, 6:30 PM - Board meeting, Culvers, Mt. Horeb
 May 26, 6:30 PM - Potluck meal, Lodge meeting

June-No Vennelag Board or Lodge meetings
 July-No Vennelag Board or Lodge meetings
 August-No Vennelag Board or Lodge meetings

Sept. 15, 6:30 PM - Board meeting, Culver's, Mt. Horeb
 Sept. 29, 6:30 PM - Light lunch, Lodge meeting

May Meeting:

The May 26th meeting is a potluck, where all members bring food to share. The meal will be served starting at 6:30 PM, before the 7:00 meeting. We will celebrate Syttende Mai and be treated to a musical program by the **Ladies of the Fjord**. They will play traditional Norwegian Hardanger fiddle music and talk about costumes and customs.

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Ord fra presidenten



Kjærer Venner,

If April flowers bring May Flowers then we should have a beautiful month ahead! Vennelag has had a busy 2016 beginning with officer installations in February. Two excellent authors shared their expertise on ancestry and fishing, Deb Nelson-Gourley and Eric Dregni. An interactive game of Bingo, på Norsk, brought many smiles at our March meeting! As we look forward to the month of May, mark your calendar for a Syttende Mai party at our lodge, which will be held on May 26th. We will begin the evening with a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM. Our lodge business will be kept to a minimum to allow for our celebration. Please dress festively for this event. If you do not have a bunad, dress in the colors of the Norwegian flag, don clothing like a gnome or nisse, or wear your proudest Viking costume. The theme for the evening is enjoyment!

Joining us as guests of honor that evening will be: new members who have joined Vennelag in the last calendar year, youth who are earning membership certificates, members who have reached milestones, the Stoughton Syttende Mai royalty, and the Ladies of the Fjord Hardanger fiddle ensemble. Door prizes will be awarded. All is set for a wonderful evening made for celebrating the heritage of Norway. I hope YOU can join us for this fun-filled event. In addition, I encourage you to invite others who may have an interest in Sons of Norway membership. Vennelag will be offering a special price on new memberships that evening!

Ha det bra!

Cheryl

2016 INTERNATIONAL SONS OF NORWAY CONVENTION, TACOMA, WA



Innovative Leadership Conference

August 24, 2016

International Conference

August 26-27, 2016

This year's Sons of Norway biennial convention will be held at Hotel Murano in Tacoma, WA. All members are invited to attend. There will be numerous fieldtrips during the convention for your enjoyment. Delegates will conduct the business pertinent to the financial side of The Sons of Norway.

If your family would like to attend the convention, please go to SofN.com and follow the link there to register. The International Office is using a housing bureau for making lodging reservations. A special convention rate at the hotel is \$139.00 per night. You can call (877) 685-2950 toll free to make your reservation with a housing representative.

The Viking Ship *Draken Harald Hårfagre* Sails from Norway

On April 26, 2016, *Draken Harald Hårfagre*, the worlds largest Viking ship built in modern times, left her home port in Haugesund, Norway, and sailed off for a challenging voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean, bound for North America. At our April meeting it was brought up that interested parties could possibly go see the sailing ship when she stops at the following nearby ports: **Chicago**, July 27; **Green Bay**, August 5; **Duluth**, August 18, 2016. Several Norwegian American organizations are planning trips to see the ship. Are you interested?

MIDSOMMER CELEBRATION

With the demise of Little Norway comes the need to celebrate the Nordic festival of midsummer at a different location. This year I am offering my family's lake as a venue for this festive celebration. The 16 acre spring-fed lake is stocked with many species of pan and game fish. We do not allow boats, so all fishing must be from the shoreline. I would suggest arriving close to 3 PM in the afternoon and enjoy some time fishing. Little ones will be especially excited as our bluegills are hungry and quickly bite bait cast into the water. A hat would be helpful to shade yourself from the hotter afternoon sun. Please follow Wisconsin regulations and have your fishing license ready. This lake is a water of the state, and is supervised, on occasion, by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



In addition, the lake is surrounded by woods which are great for hiking and exploring. Bring your cameras to capture pictures of waterfowl and other wildlife that make the area their home. There are berry bushes for picking, and an abundance of plant life. I will lead hikes through the woods for those who are interested. A scavenger hunt will be held for the little ones.



A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. BYOB, a dish to pass, and your table service. Vennelag will provide lemonade and have coffee available. Folding chairs and tables are encouraged. Blankets will also work! Feel free to bring your portable grill. We are a bring-in, take-out property. All refuse must leave at the end of the night. A depository will be available for any charcoal.

As the sky darkens, a bonfire will be lit. Those so inclined may dance around the fire. Music will be provided on CD, unless someone would like to provide live music. As evening descends, we are often greeted by those who buzz and bite. Please equip your family with the proper mosquito/tick repellent, long-sleeved clothing, or other items that will make the evening enjoyable.



I have also invited members from other Zone 3 Lodges to join us. I look forward to having your families join mine for an evening of simple country enjoyment. The date has been set for Saturday, June 18, with a rain date on Sunday, June 19.

Cheryl

A Message from the Food Chairman

Even if the actual Syttende Mai has passed we will observe it on May 26th. With that being said, come dressed in your Norwegian clothes and bring a Norwegian artifact to put on the tables. Our colors for the evening will be red, white and blue.

May is a potluck, where all members bring food to share. The meal will start at 6:30 PM. Cake will be available for the meal. There will be a short business meeting starting at 7:00, and the program will be "Ladies of the Fjord" with our own Lora Lee playing Hardanger fiddle as a member of the group.

This will be the last Lodge Meeting until Sept 29th. September servers are Aldeen Fjelstad, Jean Grindle and Ann Walser.

October servers are Carolyn Johnson and Martha Martin. We need one more server for October, so contact me if you can serve.

Ann Walser

Vennelag has 139 Active Members (Includes Juvenile Members with active insurance)

A Big Welcome to Vennelag's Newest Members

Eric Albrecht	Olivia Cook	Samantha Kienast	David Oimoen
Lauren Albrecht	Donna Mae Corcoran	Brenda Martin	Kelly Skeels
Nathan Albrecht	Danielle Rae Dyreson	Colton Martin	Anna Tranel
Ty Albrecht	Ingrid Frank	Lydia Martin	Clair Tranel
Martin Amundsen	David Grindle	Samuel Martin	Ethan Tranel
Siri Amundsen	Jean Grindle	Nancy Myers	Natalie Waterbury
Nicolas Bray	Gerald Haglund	Jon Nygard	Whitney Waterbury
Madeline Cook	Ruth Haglund	Kathryn Nygard	



We Remember

Vennelag lost another longtime member when Janice Fredrickson passed away on Monday, April 18th. She and her husband Adolph were tireless workers for Sons of Norway. Janice offered her skills in the kitchen during the Kaffe Stue each summer. She prepared many cups of fresh fruit and helped with the søt suppe, as well. She had a winning smile and an easy-going personality that allowed her to make many acquaintances. Her son Rick and his wife Paula are members of Vennelag Lodge.

IMPORTANT DATES (Clip and Save)

- Board meeting May 12, 6:30 PM, Culver's, Mt Horeb
- Parade in Stoughton May 15, Arrive 12:30 PM, Parade Begins 1:30 PM
- Syttende Mai Party May 26, 6:30 PM, Community Center
- Mt. Horeb Frolic Parade June 12, Arrive 11:30 AM, Parade Begins 12 Noon
- Midsommer Celebration June 18, 3:00 PM Arrival, Dinner 6:30 PM, Bonfire 9 PM (see page 3)
- Midsommer Celebration June 19 Rain date, Same schedule as above
- Kaffe Stue Planning meeting June 29, 7:00 PM, Community Center
- Kaffe Stue Preparations July 15, Beginning at 1 PM, Community Center
- KAFFE STUE EVENT July 16, Early morning prep, 6:30 AM, serve 9 AM- 1:30 PM, Community Ctr.
- Camp Masse Moro Check-in July 17, 2 PM, Beaver Creek Reserve
- Masse Moro Concludes July 31, 10 AM, Beaver Creek Reserve
- Zone 3 Picnic August 7, 12 Noon, the Stoughton home of John and Darlene Arneson
- SofN Innovative Leadership Conference August 24, Tacoma, WA (open to all members)
- SofN International Convention August 25-28, Tacoma, WA
- Parade in Monroe September 18, Parade Begins 12:30 PM



ALL ROADS LEAD TO MARSHFIELD AND THE 2016 DISTRICT 5 CONVENTION



The District 5 Convention will be held at Hotel Marshfield, in Marshfield, WI from June 23-25, 2016. Delegates from our Lodge are: Nancy Kittleson, Rita Schraepfer, and Ann Walser. The delegates will represent all Vennelag members, as they vote on any new resolutions which are brought to the convention floor. Look forward to their reports in the fall when these ladies will summarize the actions of the convention.

As part of the convention, District 5 lodges have been asked to contribute Norwegian cookies for coffee breaks. Vennelag's portion is 15 dozen. We will share this duty with members from Myrmarken Lodge in Marshfield. If you are willing to make some luscious treats for this event, please let me know. I plan to make rosettes, but cookies of different varieties are needed, too. You may drop these items off at my home, 200 Beth Circle, Mt. Horeb, on Monday or Tuesday June 20 or 21. Please call me with any questions at: 608-219-4464. I will be delivering the cookies to Marshfield on Wednesday, June 22nd. Thank you for your assistance in helping Vennelag to meet its obligations.

Memories from our April Lodge Meeting

Author **Eric Dregni** presented a wonderful program and sold his books, *Let's Go Fishing!* and *Vikings in the Attic*.

Below: Eric and his father, Jay Dregni.



Below: **David Andersen** hands a symbolic \$1000 check from our Sons of Norway Lodge to **Destinee Udelhoven** of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society for The Driftless Historium project.



Ørkdal—Norway Tour

Sons of Norway members and people of the community have been inquiring about the proposed tour to Norway and Ørkdal next June for the re-dedication of the Stave Church from Little Norway. We are still waiting for specific information from the officials there regarding the exact dates, time, etc. Until we receive that information very little can be done to finalize and make a commitment on the itinerary, hotels and dates of travel.

We do know that we are planning on staying and touring Trondheim. We will have stays and city tours in Bergen and in Oslo. We are also planning to take you on the spectacular and breathtaking trollsteigen, cruise the Sognefjord and include many other attractions and features.

We want those who are interested in this tour to know that you haven't been forgotten or neglected. We will post the itinerary and details as soon as we get word from Ørkdal.

In the meantime, tell your friends and family about this exciting tour of Norway and I can be contacted at:

Chuck Morkri
nordic@tds.net
(608) 770-4521

Parade schedule ... Have Boat will Float!



Put your best Norskie foot forward and celebrate your heritage with us. Dress may be formal or casual; the important thing is that you enjoy yourself.

Bring your family and enjoy some fellowship with Vennelag members of all ages. Youngsters are welcome to bring a soccer ball or football for extra fun!

Bring your camera and capture some great family scrapbook moments!

Sunday, May 15, 2016, Stoughton Syttende Mai Parade, Line-up at Mandt Park, Arrive by 12:30 PM, Parade Begins 1:30 PM, Sandwich and water provided, Bring a snack to share.

Sunday, June 12, 2016, Mt. Horeb Frolic Parade, Line-up on Garfield Street behind the MH Middle School, Arrive 11:30 AM, Parade Begins 12:00 Noon, Water provided.

Sunday, September 18, 2016, Line-up at the Green County Fair Grounds in Monroe, Parade Begins 12:30 PM, Bring a snack to share. Water provided.

KAFFE STUE, 2016

As your president, I am proud to be organizing this year's Kaffe Stue, along with Jean Grindle who has offered to be co-chair. The Kaffe Stue is scheduled for Saturday, July 16, 2016, from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Following a debriefing meeting held last summer, the Vennelag Board of Directors along with interested members and the input from previous presidents, charted a new course. Decisions were made to change our event and hopefully make it more competitive with the other food offerings in town for Art Fair weekend. First, the menu was streamlined, eliminating repetitive choices. Second, heart waffles were moved to the fall breakfast menu where they are extremely popular. Some cookies, based on sales, were eliminated. Third, at the April Board meeting, the officers decided to re-examine our payment options and decided to offer a fixed-price charge, similar to that used with the Høst Frokost. Fourth, some work tasks have been broken into shifts, allowing our members a break and a chance to greet and enjoy a bite to eat with their family and friends. Lastly, the time schedule has changed to 9 AM- 1:30 PM.



Thank you to the many members who have already volunteered to work at this event, as well as those who have agreed to make a food donation. If you haven't been contacted yet, there will be opportunities to sign up at the May meeting! Remaining contacts will be made in June. If you cannot participate this summer, know that your monetary donation helps us to buy items such as meat, butter, bread, lemonade, and creamers, as well as helping us to purchase the paper products necessary for serving. *Takk for hjelpen* Vennelag in its efforts to share the heritage and culture of Norway through this outstanding food event.

Upcoming Deadlines

May 17 - Application for **Masse Moro**, District 5's heritage and culture camp for children ages 9-15.

Sons of Norway Garage Sale Photos



Photo by Stephen Sopcak 04/30/2016



Photo by Stephen Sopcak 04/30/2016



Photo by Stephen Sopcak 04/30/2016



Photo by Stephen Sopcak 04/30/2016

Lois Mueller's Rosemaling Class

The class met for 5 Saturdays in April and everyone worked through the frustrations of a new painter. There were many laughs and groans, but all have a some pieces to be proud of. Everyone had a good time getting to be friends and learning new techniques.

Photo of students taking the rosemaling class:

Front row: Jean Grindle

Back row: Tiffany Schwoerer
Carol Watkins

Absent when taking photo: Karen Eberhardt
and the teacher, Lois Mueller



Vennelag News

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
June 22, 2016**



Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email so the newsletter will be received by you in a timely manner. You may also make a change from/to receiving a printed mailed copy or to an email notification. Also, if you have information to be shared with all lodge members, contact:

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